

Sea & Sage Audubon UNB Monthly Boat Trip/Bird Count from aboard the Newport Sea Base Pontoon Boat

Date: 6/14/17 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** 0.0 ft. LOW TIDE at 7:22 AM; 3.6 ft HIGH TIDE at 2.23 PM. **Time of count:** 8:30 – 11:00 AM. **Skipper:** Robert Sloan. **The bird count was conducted by:** Sally Menzel, Sharon Harrow, Darrell Wilson, Mark Kincheloe, Chuck Nichols, and Nancy Kenyon.

Note: The dates of our 3 summer trips are not on the 3rd Wednesday of the month because the pontoon boat will be used by the Newport Sea Base for their summer activities on Wed.

Comments: It was a beautiful, warm sunny morning with a slight breeze rippling the surface of the water. The foreground was clear, but the Santa Ana Mountains in the distance were hazy. Terns were actively flying around calling their raucous cries and diving into the water, and large mullets were “jumping” out of the water. Mallards were swimming around followed by large families of ducklings. Since it was low tide, there were plenty of mudflats to check for shorebirds but there were few out there. One mudflat had 4 Black-bellied Plovers spread out on it. They were not in breeding plumage and blended in with the mudflat so well that it was difficult to even see them. The three Willets were not in breeding plumage either. We saw a Red-tailed Hawk giving chase to a Green Heron which luckily he did not catch. Most of the Black Skimmers were resting on mudflats, but a few were out flying. There were lots of Northern Mockingbirds, each one singing lustily, probably to defend his nest site from other birds. One Osprey was sitting on top of a pole by the Back Bay Science Center while the others were flying around. Savannah Sparrows were singing their high pitched songs from the tops of low bushes. We heard many of them but had difficult spotting them because they blended so well into their surroundings. Next month, we should be seeing some of the returning shorebirds still in their breeding plumage.

WATERFOWL	
18	Mallard
LOONS & GREBES	
1	Western Grebe
CORMORANTS & PELICANS	
4	Double-crested Cormorant
HERONS, EGRETS, IBIS	
8	Great Blue Heron
6	Great Egret
21	Snowy Egret
4	Green Heron
DIURNAL BIRDS of PREY	
2	Turkey Vulture
3	Osprey
1	Northern Harrier
1	Cooper's Hawk
2	Red-tailed Hawk
SHOREBIRDS	
4	Black-bellied Plover
2	Killdeer
3	Whimbrel
3	Long-billed Curlew
13	Willet
GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS	
16	Western Gull
11	Caspian Tern
15	Forster's Tern

3	Royal Tern
4	Least Tern
111	Black Skimmer
PIGEONS & DOVES	
5	Rock Pigeon
4	Mourning Dove
HUMMINGBIRDS	
1	Allen's Hummingbird
CROWS & RAVENS	
18	American Crow
1	Common Raven
SWALLOWS	
8	Barn Swallow
MOCKINGBIRDS	
8	Northern Mockingbird
SPARROWS & TOWHEES	
9	Savannah Sparrow
1	Spotted Towhee
FINCHES	
7	House Finch