

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

Date: 5/18/11 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Skipper:** Tom Weiss **Tide:** medium

Birders: Bonny Ahern, Barbara Demory, Carol Freund, Sheila Harlow, Terry Hill, Chris Johnson, Karen & Ed Johnston, Nancy Kenyon, Chuck Nichols, Merle & Alice Whitney, and Darrell Wilson.

Comments: The weather was cloudy and cold, more like a winter day. It was quite evident that most of the regularly seen birds had left the area and flown north to their nesting grounds because there was not a single bird on any of the mud flats. The few shorebirds we did see were flying. The terns were active and noisy, flying up and down the channel and calling raucously. In recent months we have not had any Brown Pelicans, so it was nice to see 7 of them on this trip. Last month, the Osprey nesting platform at the Back Bay Science Center was inhabited, but today it was empty and the young Ospreys had apparently fledged. We saw one Osprey perched on the face of a steep slope above the bay which is not a usual location for this species. A Northern Harrier was observed carrying a stick. Since Harriers seldom nest here in the county, this sighting was of great interest to us and we wondered if the Harriers had found a good nesting site somewhere near the bay. The swallows were active, darting back and forth across the channel in pursuit of insects. We were surprised to see that a Say's Phoebe was still in the area. The wind picked up on our return trip, dropping the temperature considerably and making it difficult to hear any birds singing. The few birds we did see on our return trip were hunkered down.

Ducks	
4	Mallard
Pelicans	
7	Brown Pelican
Cormorants	
19	Double-crested Cormorant
Herons & Egrets	
7	Great Blue Heron
5	Great Egret
11	Snowy Egret
1	Black-crowned Night-Heron
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
7	Turkey Vulture
2	Osprey
2	Red-tailed Hawk
1	Northern Harrier
Sandpipers	
19	Willet
4	Long-billed Curlew
6	Marbled Godwit
3	Long-billed Dowitcher
Gulls	
4	Western Gull
Terns	
41	Caspian Tern
41	Forster's Tern
8	Elegant Tern
Skimmers	
51	Black Skimmer

Pigeons & Doves	
2	Rock Pigeon
1	Mourning Dove
Flycatchers	
1	Black Phoebe
1	Say's Phoebe
Crows	
5	American Crow
Swallows	
3	Tree Swallow
16	Cliff Swallow
9	Barn Swallow
Mockingbirds & Thrashers	
3	Northern Mockingbird
1	California Thrasher
Starlings	
3	European Starling
Warblers	
2	Common Yellowthroat
Towhees & Sparrows	
1	California Towhee
9	Savannah Sparrow
2	Song Sparrow
Finches	
3	House Finch