

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

**Date:** 11/14/12

**Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon

**Tide:** very high tide

**Skipper:** Eric Walker

**Tide:** very high tide (outgoing) – 8.34 am 5.95 ft

**Birders:** Charlie Collins, Deana Collins, Valerie Glass, Ellen Hammatt, Nancy Kenyon, Sally Menzel, Chuck Nichols, Pete Ridley, Cat & Robert Waters.

**Comments:** The tide was very high: 5.95 ft. at 8:45 AM. As a result there were no mudflats and only the highest points of land were visible above the water. Islands in the channel that are normally quite visible were submerged with only their tips showing. At the Big Canyon outlet, shorebirds were stretched out in a single long line in the cordgrass. We saw 2 crows harassing a Red-tailed Hawk in the air, one of the kingfishers was perched on the ground at the tip of a submerged island, at “Skimmer Island,” where there was a greater expanse of land above the water, a giant flock of Western Sandpipers & Black-bellied Plovers were at one end of the island, while a bunch of Turkey Vultures was at the other end. Three of the vultures were eating a large mullet. A white pelican strutted through the group of vultures. The pelican was so large, he dwarfed the vultures, making them look like coots instead of large Turkey Vultures. When a harrier flew over the shorebirds, the entire flock of ±600 sandpipers and ±120 plovers erupted from the sand, flying back & forth, their wings shimmering in the sunlight; it was quite a sight!

<b>Geese &amp; Ducks</b>	
65	American Wigeon
27	Mallard
6	Cinnamon Teal
7	Northern Pintail
2	Green-winged Teal
21	Lesser Scaup
62	Bufflehead
8	Ruddy Duck
<b>Grebes</b>	
4	Pied-billed Grebe
2	Horned Grebe
14	Eared Grebe
98	Western Grebe
<b>Pelicans &amp; Cormorants</b>	
1	American White Pelican
22	Brown Pelican
32	Double-crested Cormorant
<b>Hérons &amp; Egrets</b>	
9	Great Blue Heron
8	Great Egret
11	Snowy Egret
<b>Diurnal Birds of Prey</b>	
24	Turkey Vulture
2	Osprey
1	White-tailed Kite
4	Northern Harrier
4	Red-tailed Hawk
2	American Kestrel
<b>Rails &amp; Coots</b>	
3	Sora
52	American Coot
<b>Plovers</b>	
120	Black-bellied Plover
7	Killdeer

<b>Sandpipers</b>	
3	Spotted Sandpiper
740	Willet
2	Long-billed Curlew
282	Marbled Godwit
600	Western Sandpiper
26	Least Sandpiper
<b>Gulls, Terns &amp; Skimmers</b>	
5	Heermann's Gull
15	Ring-billed Gull
14	Western Gull
30	Forster's Tern
12	Black Skimmer
<b>Pigeons</b>	
7	Rock Pigeon
<b>Kingfishers</b>	
6	Belted Kingfisher
<b>Flycatchers</b>	
4	Black Phoebe
5	Say's Phoebe
<b>Crows &amp; Ravens</b>	
7	American Crow
2	Common Raven
<b>Starlings</b>	
2	European Starlings
<b>Towhees &amp; Sparrows</b>	
7	Savannah Sparrow