

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

**Date:** 10/17/12

**Trip Leader:** Darrell Wilson

**Tide:** Very High; incoming

**Skipper:** George

**Birders who took part in the count:** Sally Menzel, Diana Collins, Sharon Harrow, Ray Zarins, Diane Zarins, Robert Waters, Cat Waters, Charlie Collins, Chuck Nichols, Eva Lydick, Joanne Stoecker, Chris Johnson, Richard Bradley, Amy Bradley, Ross Landry, and Keith Colmar.

**Comments:** Rail To Rail is a good way to describe the trip. Because of the high tide we saw 40 Clapper Rail and 11 Sora perched on logs and the top of the grass or Pickle Weed that they normally hide in. All of the mud flats were submerged so the shorebirds were bunched up in the ice plant on the island near PCH or on the salt dike near the Muth Center. Much of the vegetation has been cleared from the salt dike area so it was easy to see the large flock of Black-bellied Plovers in that area. Chris Johnson spotted 3 Western Meadowlarks there. As I write this I also realized that the Black Skimmer decoys have been removed from that area. We won't be tempted to count them anymore. There were small numbers of ducks in evidence and only 5 different species.

<b>Geese &amp; Ducks</b>	
American Wigeon	45
Mallard	17
Cinnamon Teal	6
Northern Pintail	3
Green-winged Teal	3
<b>Grebes</b>	
Pied-billed Grebe	5
Horned Grebe	1
Eared Grebe	8
Western Grebe	48
Clark's Grebe	1
<b>Pelicans &amp; Cormorants</b>	
Double-crested Cormorant	12
American White Pelican	1
Brown Pelican	2
<b>Hérons &amp; Egrets</b>	
Great Blue Heron	15
Great Egret	6
Snowy Egret	26
<b>Diurnal Birds of Prey</b>	
Turkey Vulture	3
Osprey	2
White-tailed Kite	2
Northern Harrier	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2
<b>Rails &amp; Coots</b>	
Clapper Rail	40
Sora	11
American Coot	65
American Kestrel	1
<b>Plovers</b>	
Black-bellied Plover	453
Killdeer	24

<b>Sandpipers</b>	
Spotted Sandpiper	3
Willet	167
Whimbrel	2
Long-billed Curlew	2
Marbled Godwit	74
Western Sandpiper	250
Long-billed Dowitcher	19
<b>Gulls &amp; Terns</b>	
Heermann's Gull	1
Ring-billed Gull	1
Western Gull	12
Forster's Tern	8
Black Skimmer	2
<b>Pigeons &amp; Doves</b>	
Mourning Dove	2
<b>Kingfishers</b>	
Belted Kingfisher	6
<b>Flycatchers</b>	
Black Phoebe	6
Say's Phoebe	4
<b>Crows &amp; Ravens</b>	
American Crow	6
<b>Starlings</b>	
European Starling	3
<b>Warblers</b>	
Common Yellowthroat	1
<b>Sparrows</b>	
California Towhee	1
Savannah Sparrow (Belding's)	8
<b>Blackbirds</b>	
Western Meadowlark	3