

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

Date: 10/21/15 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** 3.93 ft. low tide at 10:52 AM **Skipper:** Robert Sloan
Birders who actively contributed to the count: Darrell Wilson, Mark Kincheloe, Sharon Harrow, Chuck Nichols, Nancy Kenyon, and Karen Terry.

Comments: It was sunny and clear this morning and so bright that we had difficulty distinguishing the Western from the Least Sandpipers until the channel curved a bit and we weren't facing into the sun. We had a total of 4 Belted Kingfishers, one of which was being harassed by 2 crows which were chasing it; the kingfisher finally flew off. At the Santa Ynez Spit, we had 14 bird species, some at the water's edge and others meandering around through the tall grass and ice plant. There were 2 Brown Pelicans sitting up on top with only their heads and necks showing. We found our 1st Osprey at the Back Bay Science Center. Again, the shorebirds and egrets were spaced out along the shore in ones and twos, none of them jammed up together the way they are when the tide is high. Eared Grebes were in abundance all the way up the channel and in one spot, we saw 10 of them swimming together almost in formation. We enjoyed watching a Northern Harrier swooping low over the marsh, an American Kestrel perched on a high clump of vegetation, and an Osprey perched on a post further up the channel, absolutely stationary like a statue. Many of the ducks were back, especially the Blue-winged Teal and Ruddy Ducks. Large flocks of Western Sandpipers decorated the shoreline along with a variety of other shorebirds including Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlews, and Whimbrels. We heard 4 different Northern Mockingbirds singing from the hillsides and saw Mullet jumping out of the water. It was a wonderful morning to be out on the bay enjoying the birds on a beautiful fall morning.

Geese & Ducks	
14	Mallard
21	Blue-winged Teal
1	Cinnamon Teal
8	Northern Shoveler
4	Northern Pintail
13	Green-winged Teal
1	Lesser Scaup
5	Surf Scoter
48	Ruddy Duck
Grebes	
6	Pied-billed Grebe
34	Eared Grebe
36	Western Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants	
15	Double-crested Cormorant
9	Brown Pelican
Hérons & Egrets	
5	Great Blue Heron
14	Great Egret
61	Snowy Egret
1	Green Heron
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
1	Turkey Vulture
4	Osprey
1	Northern Harrier
1	Red-tailed Hawk
1	American Kestrel
Rails & Coots	
100	American Coot
Plovers	
151	Black-bellied Plover

1	Semipalmated Plover
8	Killdeer
Sandpipers	
3	Spotted Sandpiper
2	Greater Yellowlegs
154	Willet
3	Whimbrel
8	Long-billed Curlew
47	Marbled Godwit
1411	Western Sandpiper
134	Least Sandpiper
2	Dunlin
2	Short-billed Dowitcher
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
3	Heermann's Gull
23	Western Gull
1	Forster's Tern
Pigeons & Doves	
9	Rock Pigeon
1	Mourning Dove
Kingfishers	
5	Belted Kingfisher
Flycatchers	
2	Black Phoebe
1	Say's Phoebe
Crows & Ravens	
21	American Crow
Mockingbirds	
4	Northern Mockingbird (heard)
Towhees & Sparrows	
11	Savannah Sparrow