

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

**Date:** 1/19/11 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Skipper:** Berkeley Green **Tide:** Very High!

**Birders who helped with the census:** Deana Collins, Carol Freund, Jan Gaffney, Sharon Harrow, Nancy Kenyon, Sally Menzel, Chuck Nichols, Darrell Wilson, and Jan Wilson.

**Comments:** We had an unusual change of weather at the start of trip. We started out in sunshine and then quickly encountered a large fog bank which enveloped us, changing the temperature from a mildly warm, sunny morning to a chilly gray damp one which got colder as the trip progressed. The tide was so high that all of the usual mudflats and shoreline areas were covered with water, with only the uppermost knolls of the land areas showing. There were large expanses of water covered with shredded bark and other pieces of dead plant material floating on the surface, "decorated" with bits of plastic, styrofoam cups, and other pieces of non-recyclable trash. The trash was also strewn along the shore. It was a very disturbing sight! We were thrilled to see an enormous flock of Black Skimmers emerge from a misty cloud; their wings looked thin and very graceful as they approached our boat. Later we saw a Peregrine Falcon dive through a flock of dowitchers in flight, darting this way and that in an attempt to catch one, but he was unsuccessful. The presence of the Peregrine was the probably cause of the restless behavior of the skimmers which appeared to be unable to settle in one place for very long. We saw an unprecedented SIX Belted Kingfishers. On the return trip after we had passed beneath the bridge and were approaching the main channel, we were joined by the ever inquisitive Heermann's Gull which each month meets us there, flying close alongside our boat and peering in at us, probably looking for a handout. This morning, he almost landed on the front of our boat but got spooked at the last minute by the sight of Sally's scope and tripod. It was a very interesting morning!

<b>Ducks</b>	
2	Gadwall
185	American Wigeon
31	Mallard
6	Blue-winged Teal
3	Northern Shoveler
12	Northern Pintail
20	Green-winged Teal
88	Lesser Scaup
146	Bufflehead
20	Ruddy Duck
<b>Grebes</b>	
1	Horned Grebe
13	Eared Grebe
11	Western Grebe
<b>Pelicans &amp; Cormorants</b>	
2	Brown Pelican
49	Double-crested Cormorant
<b>Hérons &amp; Egrets</b>	
7	Great Blue Heron
11	Great Egret
17	Snowy Egret
<b>Diurnal Birds of Prey</b>	
4	Osprey
4	Northern Harrier
1	American Kestrel
1	Peregrine Falcon
<b>Coots</b>	
150	American Coot
<b>Plovers</b>	
13	Black-bellied Plover
4	Killdeer

<b>Avocets</b>	
47	American Avocet
<b>Shorebirds</b>	
65	Willet
3	Spotted Sandpiper
2	Whimbrel
2	Long-billed Curlew
110	Marbled Godwit
77	Long-billed Dowitcher
<b>Gulls, Terns &amp; Skimmers</b>	
85	Western Gull
3	Heermann's Gull
10	Ring-billed Gull
77	gull species (distant flight)
11	Forster's Tern
3	Caspian Tern
111	Black Skimmer
<b>Doves</b>	
18	Rock Pigeon
1	Mourning Dove
<b>Hummingbirds</b>	
1	Anna's Hummingbird
<b>Kingfishers</b>	
6	Belted Kingfisher
<b>Flycatchers</b>	
1	Black Phoebe
4	Say's Phoebe
1	Cassin's Kingbird
<b>Crows</b>	
9	American Crow
<b>Sparrows</b>	
8	Savannah Sparrow