

Waterbird Counts in Select Redwood City Saltworks Ponds

Observations made during December 2009, January - April 2010, November - December 2010, and January - February 2011 by Matthew Leddy. Only ponds observable from adjacent public access were included; birds may use other ponds in the complex, but those ponds could not be observed. Counts were determined both in the field and/or from photos.

SUMMARY TABLE

Pond	Number of shorebird species observed	Shorebird species observed (* observed foraging)	Days birds observed foraging out of total observation dates	Number of other species observed	Other species observed (* observed foraging)	Highest waterbird count and date/ average count per observation
10	10	Willet*, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet*, Black-necked Stilt*, Whimbrel, Dowitcher*, Dunlin*, Western Sandpiper*, Least Sandpiper*, and Yellowlegs*	13 / 19	5	Forster's Tern, Canada Goose, Greater Scaup*, Northern Shoveler*, Bufflehead*	5,981 on 2/13/2011 Average = 2,262
7B	4	American Avocet, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover and Small shorebirds* (one or more species)	4 / 6			600 on 1/11/2010 Average = 162
7C	5	Black-necked Stilt, Least Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Canada Goose and American Widgeon	0 / 5	2	Canada Goose, American Widgeon	30 on 4/6/2010 Average = 12
8W	1	Small shorebirds* (one or more species)	1 / 1			50 on 1/11/2010 Average = 50
Crystallizer Pond 1	3	Semipalmated Plover*, Western Sandpiper*, Least Sandpiper*	3 / 4			2,100 on 11/27/2010 Average = 977
Crystallizer Pond 2	5	American Avocet*, Black-bellied Plover*, Dunlin*, Western Sandpiper* and Least Sandpiper*	7 / 7			550 on 12/17/2010 Average = 154

DATA TABLES

* = Some or all birds foraging
 # = Birds observed on pond levee
 Gull observations not included

Year:	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010
Month/Day:	12/22	1/1	1/11	1/11	1/11	1/15	1/23	1/30	2/7	2/7	2/14	2/14	2/14	2/14
Pond:	10	10	8W	7B	10	10	10	10	7C	10	7C	7B	10	
Willet	1000	1100			2000	1500	1200	2300		280				2000 *
Marbled Godwit	50	300			260	350	210	265		35				350
American Avocet	80	200			180	230	230	300 *		65		4		250 *
Black-necked Stilt		17			4 *		20	20 *	2 #					50 *
Dowitcher		20			70 *		20 *	45						90 *
Whimbrel														1
Least Sandpiper														
Dunlin														
Western and Least Sandpiper						120 *								
Dunlin, Western and Least Sandpiper							200 *							
Small shorebirds	10 *	300	50 *	600	300			75 *		40				
Black-bellied Plover									1 #					
Killdeer									2 #		1 #	2		
Yellowlegs														
Semipalmated Plover														
Forster's Tern		11				1		5						
Canada Goose									3		2 #			
American Widgeon									8					
Greater Scaup														
Northern Shoveler														
Bufflehead														
Total waterbirds	1140	1948	50	600	2814	2201	1880	3010	16	420	3	6	2741	

Year:	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010
Month/Day:	2/16	3/11	3/11	3/11	4/6	4/6	4/6	11/27	11/27	12/4	12/16	12/16	12/16	12/16
Pond:	10	7C	7B	10	7C	7B	10	CRY1	10	CRY1	CRY1	CRY2	10	
Willet	1250 *			1510 *			350 *		700					730
Marbled Godwit	310			50					750					150
American Avocet	250 *	10 #	8 *	530 *	28 #	14 *			120					
Black-necked Stilt	40 *		15 *	45 *										
Dowitcher	50 *			78			10 *							
Whimbrel				1										
Least Sandpiper					2 #									
Dunlin														
Western and Least Sandpiper								1900 *		1200	70 *	150 *		
Dunlin, Western and Least Sandpiper				880 *										
Small shorebirds	70 *													
Black-bellied Plover														
Killdeer														
Yellowlegs			1 *											
Semipalmated Plover								200 *		500				
Forster's Tern														
Canada Goose		2												3
American Widgeon														
Greater Scaup														
Northern Shoveler														
Bufflehead														
Total waterbirds	1970	12	24	3094	30	14	360	2100	1570	1700	70	150	883	

Year:	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011
Month/Day:	12/17	12/17	12/19	12/20	12/20	12/20	12/20	12/21	12/23	12/23	1/18	2/13	2/17
Pond:	CRY1	CRY2	CRY2	7B	CRY2	10	CRY2	CRY2	10	10	10	10	10
Willet						1360			1090	1700	1000 *	680 *	
Marbled Godwit						390			220	250	950	470	
American Avocet						150			225	100 *	355 *	380 *	
Black-necked Stilt									95	35 *	95 *	60 *	
Dowitcher						40					78 *	40	
Whimbrel													
Least Sandpiper					185 *			50 *					
Dunlin						15							
Western and Least Sandpiper		550 *											
Dunlin, Western and Least Sandpiper							50 *			3000 *	3500 *	300 *	
Small shorebirds	40 *		55 *	300 *									
Black-bellied Plover													
Killdeer													
Yellowlegs												2 *	
Semipalmated Plover													
Forster's Tern						1							
Canada Goose													
American Widgeon													
Greater Scaup											3 *		
Northern Shoveler													
Bufflehead													
Total waterbirds	40	550	55	300	185	1956	50	50	1630	5085	5981	1932	

Year:	2011	2011	2011	2011
Month/Day:	2/18	2/18	2/18	2/18
Pond:	CRY2	10	7C	7B
Willet		730 *		
Marbled Godwit		700		
American Avocet	2 *	310 *		
Black-necked Stilt		80 *		
Dowitcher		115		
Whimbrel				
Least Sandpiper				
Dunlin				
Western and Least Sandpiper	35 *			
Dunlin, Western and Least Sandpiper		400 *		
Small shorebirds				26 *
Black-bellied Plover	1 *		1 #	1 #
Killdeer				
Yellowlegs				
Semipalmated Plover				
Forster's Tern		2		
Canada Goose				
American Widgeon				
Greater Scaup		13 *		
Northern Shoveler		16 *		
Bufflehead		3 *		
Total waterbirds	38	2369	1	27



Source: BCDC Staff Report: Salt Ponds, 2005. Ownership of the South Bay Salt Ponds Figure 3

Photos Showing Redwood City Saltworks Pond Sites



Pond 10 February 14, 2010



Pond 10 January 15, 2010



Crystallizer Pond 1 November 27, 2010



Crystallizer Pond 2 December 23, 2010



Pond 7C February 7, 2010



Pond 7C March 11, 2010



Pond 7B April 6, 2010



Pond 7B March 11, 2010



Pond 8W January 11, 2010

A DVD with videos of shorebirds foraging on Pond 10, Crystallizer Pond 1 and Crystallizer Pond 2 is included with this document.

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Background:

B.A. Biology University of California, Santa Cruz

M.A. Ecology and Systematics, San Francisco State University

Thesis - *The Biology of Non-Breeding Sanderlings in Central California*

Graduate Student Assistant for US Fish and Wildlife Service - identified and quantified

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Currently Biology Professor at College of San Mateo