

Report created by Erin Brown, Shorebird Counter and Public Educator for the Shorebird Conservation and Education Project with the Saint John Naturalists Club.

Monday, August 21, 2023

Public Engagement

- There were 20 people on the beach during the shift and 4 were approached. Everyone was interested to hear about the birds and all interactions were positive.
- One leashed dog was observed on the beach.

Counts

Saints Rest – Main Beach

- 393 birds were counted: 337 were flying flocks of peeps. 31 were Semipalmated Sandpipers, 22 Least Sandpipers, and 3 Sanderlings were observed.
- 2 Osprey were observed flying from the direction of the marsh and out over the water. One came back carrying a fish.

Saints Rest – East Beach

- 2 groups of birds were observed roosting and totaled 58 Semipalmated Plovers and 25 Semipalmated Sandpipers.
- When returning to the main beach, 6 Semipalmated Plovers flew past and landed on the beach.

Flats

- An estimate of peeps feeding across the mud flats was 3000.
- 144 Black Bellied Plovers were counted.
- Other birds included: 96 gulls, 12 Great Blue Herons, 8 Cormorants, 20 Black Ducks, 2 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Peregrine Falcon, and 1 Osprey.

Pocket Beaches

- A: 33 peeps flew past toward the flats/marsh
- B: No shorebirds observed. A Common Loon was seen offshore
- C: 1 Spotted Sandpiper was seen. A group of peeps was heard behind me (seemed to be flying over the island). 5 Cormorants were observed offshore
- D: 7 Semipalmated Plovers and 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper were observed.
- Beach between D and E: 5 Semipalmated Plovers were roosting. 4 Surf Scoters swam past.

- E: No shorebirds observed.
- Seal Cove Lookout: 50 Peeps flew past going west.
- Inaccessible Beaches: 6 birds were seen roosting and due to distance it is assumed there were more birds than could be seen.

Marsh

- 155 peeps were seen. Smaller groups were flushed by my presence as I walked the marsh. A Peregrine flew low over the stream area and flushed a group of around 100 at one time.
- A group of 5 Greater Yellowlegs and 2 Lesser Yellowlegs were seen flying up from the marsh.
- Other birds counted included 2 Nelson's Sparrows, 3 Crows, 1 Gull, 1 Osprey, 1 Great Blue Heron, and 1 Peregrine Falcon.

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