

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

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Public Engagement

- There were 31 people on the beach during the shift and 9 were approached. Most were interested to hear about the birds and all interactions were positive. Most others were too distant to be approached.
- 1 unleashed dog and 3 leashed dogs were observed on the beach.

Counts

Saints Rest – Main Beach

- 311 shorebirds were counted: 100 were flying flocks of “peeps”. 189 were Semipalmated Sandpipers, 21 Least Sandpipers, and 1 Dowitcher were observed.
- Other birds counted included 16 Gulls.

Saints Rest – East Beach

- No shorebirds were observed on the eastern beach. There had been a lot of raptor activity over the beach just as I walked that direction so this may have sent the shorebirds away.
- Other birds included 2 Bald Eagles, 2 Osprey, 2 Common Loons, 2 Peregrine Falcons, and 1 Belted Kingfisher. The Peregrines were both attempting to catch the Kingfisher which did manage to escape.

Flats

- An estimate of “peeps” feeding across the mud flats was 1500.
- Other birds included: 183 Gulls, 10 Great Blue Herons, 3 Cormorants, 1 Black Duck, 1 Merlin, 7 Canada Geese, and 1 Osprey.

Marsh – Before High Tide

- 601 “peeps” were seen along with some identified shorebirds: 21 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 15 Least Sandpipers.
- Other birds counted included 6 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Lesser Yellowlegs, 5 Savannah Sparrows, 3 Bald Eagles, 3 Osprey, 3 Cormorants, and 2 Black Ducks, 2 Harriers, and 1 Great Egret.

Marsh – After High Tide

- 264 “peeps” were seen, mainly flying up and down the stream in the marsh. 4 Least Sandpipers were identified.
- Other birds seen included 6 Greater Yellowlegs, 3 Lesser Yellowlegs, 3 Great Egrets, 5 Black Ducks, 1 Harrier, 1 Bald Eagle, and 2 Peregrine Falcons.

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