

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

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Public Engagement

- There were 14 people on the beach during the shift and 7 were approached. All interactions were positive with 2 groups saying they would go and take a look at the birds and one man detoured around the birds on his walk by actually leaving the beach for the road.
- 1 unleashed dog and 1 leashed dog were observed on the beach.

Counts

Saints Rest – Main Beach

- 1,081 shorebirds were counted including 265 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 7 Least Sandpipers, 44 Semipalmated Plovers, and 6 Sanderlings. The rest were 759 flocks of “peeps.”
- Other birds counted included 4 Gulls, 1 Great Blue Heron, and 1 Bald Eagle.

Saints Rest – East Beach

- A group of 20 “peeps” roosted at the far end of the beach.
- Other birds included 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Great Blue Heron, 2 Gulls, and 1 Turkey Vulture.

Flats

- An estimate of “peeps” feeding across the mud flats was 1500.
- Other birds included: 9 Black Bellied Plovers, 2 Dowitchers, and 13 Cormorants.

Marsh – After High Tide

- 674 “peeps” were seen with most flying out towards the mud flats and others foraging on the mud banks of the stream. Of the ones able to be identified, 2 were Semipalmated Plovers, 9 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 1 Least Sandpiper.
- Other birds seen included 7 Greater Yellowlegs, 3 Lesser Yellowlegs, 1 Great Egret, 8 Gulls, 1 Mallard, 1 Savannah Sparrow, 1 Osprey, 6 Great Blue Herons, 1 Cormorant, 1 Eider, and 5 Dowitchers.

Pocket Beaches

A: 2 Spotted Sandpipers – 1 was still in breeding plumage.

B: 13 Semipalmated Plovers, and 1 Sanderling. 13 Surf Scoters and 1 Common Loon foraged offshore.

C: No shorebirds observed. 6 Surf Scoters and 1 Black Guillemot foraged offshore.

D: 4 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 2 Semipalmated Plovers.

D/E: 1 Semipalmated Plover.

E: 1 “peep” flew past the beach. 4 Common Eiders and 1 Red Throated Loon foraged offshore.

Inaccessible Beaches: No shorebirds observed.

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