

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

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Public Engagement

- There were 17 people on the beach during the shift and 1 was approached particularly because he was walking through the birds. He seemed interested in the birds but was unwilling to change his walking pattern.
- 2 leashed dogs were observed on the beach.

Counts

Saints Rest – Main Beach

- 859 “peeps” were counted roosting on the beach. Most were higher up the beach rather than being close to the water.
- Other birds included 7 Gulls.

Saints Rest – East Beach

- A much larger number of shorebirds were observed here than is usually present. 859 shorebirds were counted including 5 “peeps,” 790 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 60 Semipalmated Plovers, and 4 Sanderlings.
- Other birds included 2 Peregrine Falcons, 5 Common Eiders, and 1 Common Loon.

Flats

- An estimate of peeps feeding across the mud flats was 2,185.
- 3 Black Bellied Plovers were counted.
- Other birds included: 215 Gulls, 23 Cormorants, 4 Great Blue Herons, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Common Eider, and 5 unidentified ducks (too distant).

Pocket Beaches

- A: No shorebirds observed.
- B: No shorebirds observed.
- C: No shorebirds observed.
- D: 8 Semipalmated Plovers.
- Beach between D and E: 3 Semipalmated Plovers and 1 Spotted Sandpiper.
- E: 1 Semipalmated Plover.

- Seal Cove Inaccessible Beaches: 13 Semipalmated Plovers and 1 Spotted Sandpiper.

Marsh

- Only 12 “peeps” were seen flying down the marsh. It seems most had already gone to the beach.
- Other birds counted included 6 Crows, 3 Great Blue Herons, 11 Gulls, 1 Great Egret, 7 Cormorants, and 12 Savannah Sparrows.

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