

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

Thursday, September 7, 2023

### Public Engagement

- There were 29 people on the beach during the shift and 6 were approached.
- 8 dogs were observed on the beach; 7 were initially leashed while 1 was unleashed though the owners leashed it happily when they heard about the birds.

### Counts

#### Saints Rest – Main Beach

- 445 “peeps” were counted roosting on the beach. Most were higher up the beach rather than being close to the water.
- Other birds included 4 Gulls, 1 Cormorant, and 1 Osprey.

#### Saints Rest – East Beach

- 235 shorebirds were counted on the beach including: 2 Sanderlings, 85 Semipalmated Plovers, 145 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 3 Least Sandpipers.
- Other birds included 2 Peregrine Falcons and 1 Osprey.
- Several large groups of “peeps” flew past the beach but I could not see where they went due to fog.

#### Flats

- An estimate of peeps feeding across the mud flats was 2,640.
- Other birds included: 100 Gulls, 10 Cormorants, 1 Great Blue Heron, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 7 Common Eiders, and 2 Black Ducks.
- After the Peregrine made a pass through the “peeps,” it went directly for the woods on the other side of the flats. Very shortly afterward, all but a handful of “peeps” left the flats (by 3:55pm).

#### Marsh

- 49 “peeps” were seen, most flying over the marsh from the beach area.
- Other birds counted included 3 Crows, 7 Great Blue Herons, 3 Gulls, 4 Great Egrets, 3 Cormorants, and 4 Greater Yellowlegs.

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