



Saint John Naturalists Club
Shorebird Conservation and Education Project
Weekend Report for September 2-4, 2023

Saturday, September 2:

- Volunteers were Bruce Alcorn, Nancy Hamilton, and Ray Riddell. Erin Brown was the counter.
- 78 people were noted on the beach. 74 were engaged by the volunteers. All were positive with interest in the birds and their life cycle.
- 21 dogs were noted with 2 unleashed.
- 463 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 25 Least Sandpipers, 39 Semipalmated Plovers, 2 Sanderlings, and 1 White-Rumped Sandpiper were recorded on the main beach. Flocks of "peeps" totalling 189 birds were also counted. On the western end of the beach, 1 Red Knot was seen in non-breeding plumage.
- 2 Peregrine Falcons were seen hunting some of the shorebirds.

Sunday, September 3:

- Volunteers were Don Evans, Jan Lucy, Paul Mansz, and Maureen Boone.
- 37 people were noted on the beach. 32 were engaged by the volunteers. All were positive with interest in the birds and their life cycle.
- 7 dogs were noted with all leashed.
- 661 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 37 Least Sandpipers, 12 Semipalmated Plovers, and 10 Sanderlings were recorded on the main beach. Only 7 shorebirds were seen and not identified.

Monday, September 4:

- Volunteers were Maureen Boone, Nancy Hamilton, and Jan and Ray Riddell.
- 61 people were noted on the beach. 56 were engaged by the volunteers. All interactions were positive and interested.
- 23 dogs were noted with 2 off leash.
- 626 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 25 Least Sandpipers, 75 Semipalmated Plovers, and 7 Sanderlings were counted along with an estimated 50 "peeps" seen flying over and settling in the marsh. This included 5 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 37 Semipalmated Plovers on the east end of the beach. One Ruddy Turnstone was also seen.

This project was made possible with the support from our funders at the Environment and Climate Change Canada. We would like to thank our partners at Irving Nature Park and NatureNB.