



## Isles of Shoals Birding and Exploring with NH Audubon and the Shoals Marine Lab



Appledore Island  
August 31-September 2, 2022

Trip leaders were Pamela Hunt and Becky Suomala and the wonderful crew at the Shoals Marine Lab led by Executive Director Jennifer Seavey. Here's a reminder of just a few of the highlights!



After a hot summer, we were all relieved that our trip to Appledore came when it did, since island residents reported that recent heatwaves had even reached them seven miles out into the Gulf of Maine. So while it was warm, it wasn't oppressive, and a nice breeze was generally present (perhaps *too* breezy on Friday when we had to postpone the boat trip, but all ended well!). And just like the weather, one never knows what the birding will be like out on the islands, but all can agree there was enough to keep us busy!

Among the obvious bird highlights were the evening and morning flights of Snowy Egrets (and the occasional Glossy Ibis) to or from their roost at the north end of the island. On our first evening was the added bonus of an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron that perched in view long enough for everyone to get a good – if distant – look at it in the scopes. Another rarity was a Lark Sparrow seen by the banding station on Friday morning, and subsequently seen again in the path to Broad Cove. This bird had been present for a few days but not seen recently, and was also not seen by the trip that followed this one.



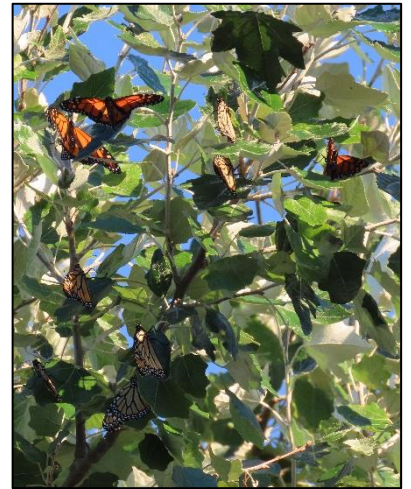
Snowy Egrets and a Glossy Ibis © Pam Hunt

For a trip ostensibly focused on songbird migration, another highlight was the perennial selection of shorebirds in the pool in the swale. We actually tallied six species here, and it was a great place to compare Least and

Semipalmated Sandpipers. If we count Spotted Sandpipers from Broad Cove, and turnstones, sanderlings, and oystercatchers from various boat trips, we tallied ten species. That's more than the number of warbler species (nine) seen in the wild!

If you add in the banding station however, the number of warbler species rose to 15, and these and the other species captured in the nets were a big draw to many participants. Some of you even got to hold and release a bird after it had been processed! The Monarchs roosting in the White Poplar outside the banding station were another treat enjoyed by those lucky enough to be there Friday morning.

When not birding, participants took in some of the educational options offered by the Shoals Marine Lab staff, including island history, sustainability, and a visit to Celia Thaxter's garden with the official garden steward. And of course there were our two evening programs on seabird restoration and bird migration. We certainly didn't go hungry, and especially enjoyed Thursday's lobster bake on the Kiggins deck just before a nice sunset.



Roosting Monarchs © Pam Hunt

Thanks again for making this a great trip!

*Pam and Becky*

For more information on NH Audubon and the Shoals Marine Lab, visit: <https://www.nhaudubon.org/> and <https://www.shoalsmarinelaboratory.org/>.

NH Audubon's "State of the Birds" report is available at: <https://www.nhaudubon.org/conservation/the-state-of-the-birds/>

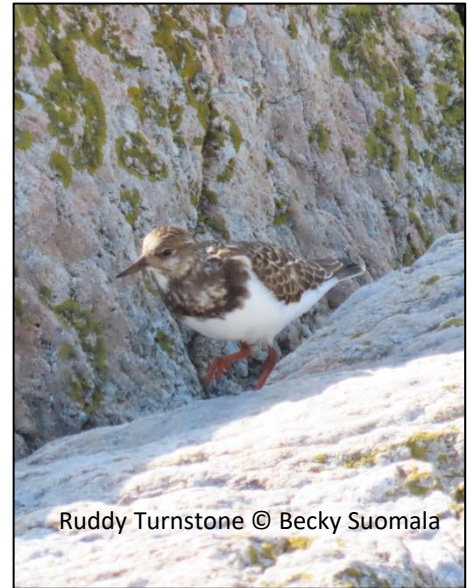


Gray Seals on Duck Island © Becky Suomala

## Bird List

(species in parentheses were caught in the nets but not observed by participants in the wild)

Canada Goose  
Mallard  
American Black Duck (seen by Becky only at Crystal Lake)  
Common Eider  
Rock Pigeon (Portsmouth Harbor)  
Common Nighthawk (three birds on the morning of Sept 2)  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
American Oystercatcher (south side of Appledore during boat trip)  
Semipalmated Plover  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Sanderling (fly-bys on trip out to Appledore on Aug 31)  
Least Sandpiper  
Semipalmated Sandpiper  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Black Guillemot  
Bonaparte's Gull (on trip out to Appledore on Aug 31)  
Ring-billed Gull (Portsmouth Harbor)  
Herring Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Common Loon (on trip back to mainland Sept 2)  
Northern Gannet  
Great Cormorant (during boat trip)  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
Black-crowned Night-Heron  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (adult at the roost the evening of Aug 31)  
Glossy Ibis  
Belted Kingfisher  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
American Kestrel (fly-by during safety talk on Aug 31)  
Merlin  
Peregrine Falcon (morning of Sept 2)  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
(Yellow-bellied Flycatcher)  
(“Trail’s” Flycatcher)  
(Least Flycatcher)  
Eastern Phoebe  
Eastern Kingbird  
(Warbling Vireo)  
Red-eyed Vireo  
crow species (seen over Portsmouth on way out of harbor)  
Tree Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Red-breasted Nuthatch



House Wren (old reservoir on morning of Sept 2)

Carolina Wren

European Starling

Gray Catbird

Northern Mockingbird

(Veery)

American Robin

Cedar Waxwing

Purple Finch

American Goldfinch

Chipping Sparrow

Lark Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Bobolink

Baltimore Oriole

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

(Ovenbird)

Northern Waterthrush

Black-and-white Warbler

Tennessee Warbler

(Mourning Warbler)

Common Yellowthroat

American Redstart

Cape May Warbler

(Northern Parula)

Magnolia Warbler

Yellow Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

(Black-throated Green Warbler)

(Canada Warbler)

(Wilson's Warbler)

Northern Cardinal



Two views of the Lark Sparrow: from directly underneath at the banding station and a little more typical shortly thereafter © Pam Hunt

