



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



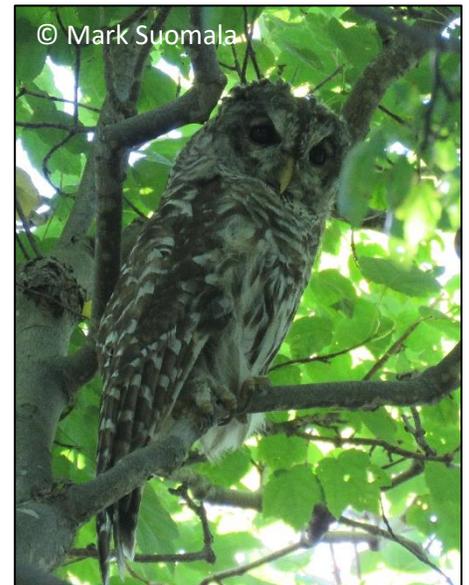
Appledore Island  
September 2-5, 2022

Trip leaders were Pamela Hunt and Mark 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!



If there's a bird to remember from this trip it might just be the Barred Owl that most of us ventured to see at the now-famous "Sneaker Tree" on Saturday. What's particularly amusing from my perspective (having been on both trips) was that we DIDN'T see it on the first one, despite recent intelligence from Jenn Seavey that she'd heard it the previous weekend. If a couple of you hadn't *heard* it from the dorms on Friday night we probably wouldn't have gone looking for it! Kudos to the initial search team of Mark, Peter, and Sue for finding the critter.

But there were other goodies to be had, and everyone enjoyed the evening and morning flight of Snowy Egrets (and the occasional Glossy Ibis) to or from their roost at the north end of the island. For those of us who opted for a closer look our final evening, the sight of 240 egrets coming in against the darkening sky is not one we'll soon forget! There was also the banding station, which drew its share of adherents over our stay, many of whom got to hold and release a bird after it had been processed.





Snowy Egrets coming to roost © Pam Hunt

Speaking of banding, another highlight came on our boat trip around the islands, where in addition to excellent looks at seals, cormorants, and an adult Northern Gannet, we found a couple of banded American Oystercatchers on White Island. It turns out these were banded as chicks on nearby Lunging Island this summer, and the person who banded them was glad to hear they were still around.



Banded oystercatcher N31 © Stephen Broker

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

We were also quite relieved that it didn't rain on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup>. Yes, it drizzled and was windy, neither of which was conducive to a final morning of birding (although a few of us did!), but these were far better than full-blown precipitation during our boat ride back to the mainland!

Thanks again for making this a great trip!

*Pam and Mark*

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

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

## Bird List

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

Canada Goose

Mallard

Common Eider

Surf Scoter

Rock Pigeon (Portsmouth Harbor)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

American Oystercatcher (three each on Duck and White Islands)

Semipalmated Plover

Whimbrel (flock of 11 at “Sunrise Point” on Sept 4, plus one on Duck Island during boat trip)

Ruddy Turnstone (on boat trip)

Sanderling (fly-by during egret watch on Sept 4)

Pectoral Sandpiper (in pond morning of Sept 5)

Least Sandpiper

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Spotted Sandpiper

Solitary Sandpiper

Greater Yellowlegs

Lesser Yellowlegs

Black Guillemot

Bonaparte’s Gull (large flock in Portsmouth Harbor on way in)

Laughing Gull (2 while watching egrets come to roost on Sept 4)

Ring-billed Gull (Portsmouth Harbor)

Herring Gull

Great Black-backed Gull

Common Loon (boat trip out to island on Sept 2)

Sooty Shearwater (fly-by toward Duck Is. the morning of Sept 5)

Northern Gannet

Great Cormorant

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Blue Heron

Great Egret

Snowy Egret

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Glossy Ibis

Cooper’s Hawk (seen by Pam only at Crystal Lake on Sept 4)

Bald Eagle (Portsmouth Harbor on way in Sept 5)

Barred Owl (the star of the weekend!)

Belted Kingfisher

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Downy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Merlin

Peregrine Falcon (on the bridge on our way in)

(Yellow-bellied Flycatcher)

“Traill’s” Flycatcher

Least Flycatcher

Eastern Phoebe

Eastern Kingbird

Yellow-throated Vireo (seen by Magill near tower on Sept 5)



Ned releasing a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

© Pam Hunt

Philadelphia Vireo (near Celia Thaxter's Garden on Sept 4)

Red-eyed Vireo

Tree Swallow

Barn Swallow

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Carolina Wren

European Starling

Gray Catbird

Northern Mockingbird

(Veery)

American Robin

Cedar Waxwing

House Sparrow (at dock in Portsmouth)

Purple Finch

American Goldfinch

Song Sparrow

Bobolink

Baltimore Oriole

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

Northern Waterthrush

Black-and-white Warbler

Tennessee Warbler

Common Yellowthroat

American Redstart

Cape May Warbler

Magnolia Warbler

Yellow Warbler

Canada Warbler

(Wilson's Warbler)

Northern Cardinal

