

2024 WATERBIRD MONITORING

Objective: We aim to document the presence and abundance of aquatic birds on Randall's Island

INTRODUCTION

Randall's Island is located at the junction of the East River, Bronx River, and Bronx Kill, creating an ideal ecosystem for birds who use water for hunting and nesting. The goal of the Natural Areas team was to assess the aquatic bird population around the island. The presence of these birds in the marshes serves as an important indicator of wetland health.

METHODOLOGY

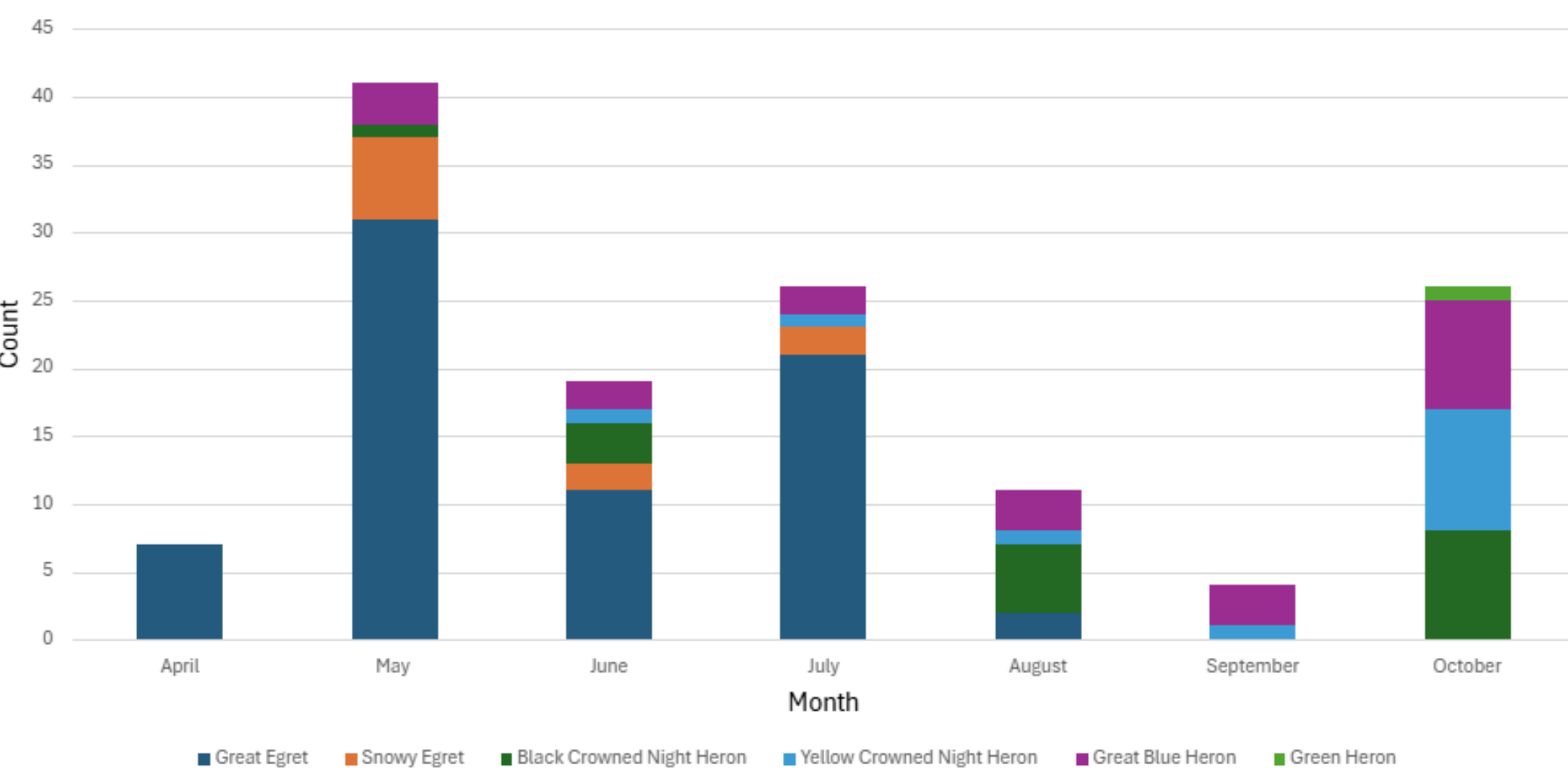
- Survey conducted over 16 weeks (April–October)
- Birds were observed for 10 minutes at each of the 9 sites
- Data collected includes birds identified, count, and average air temperature + wind speed



3,582 total birds identified!

RESULTS

Harbor Heron Species Over Sampling Season



Find more info at: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1293732>

Waterfowl

- Brant
- Bufflehead
- Canada goose
- Mallard

Wadingbirds

- Great egret
- Great blue heron
- Black crowned night heron
- Yellow crowned night heron

Seabirds

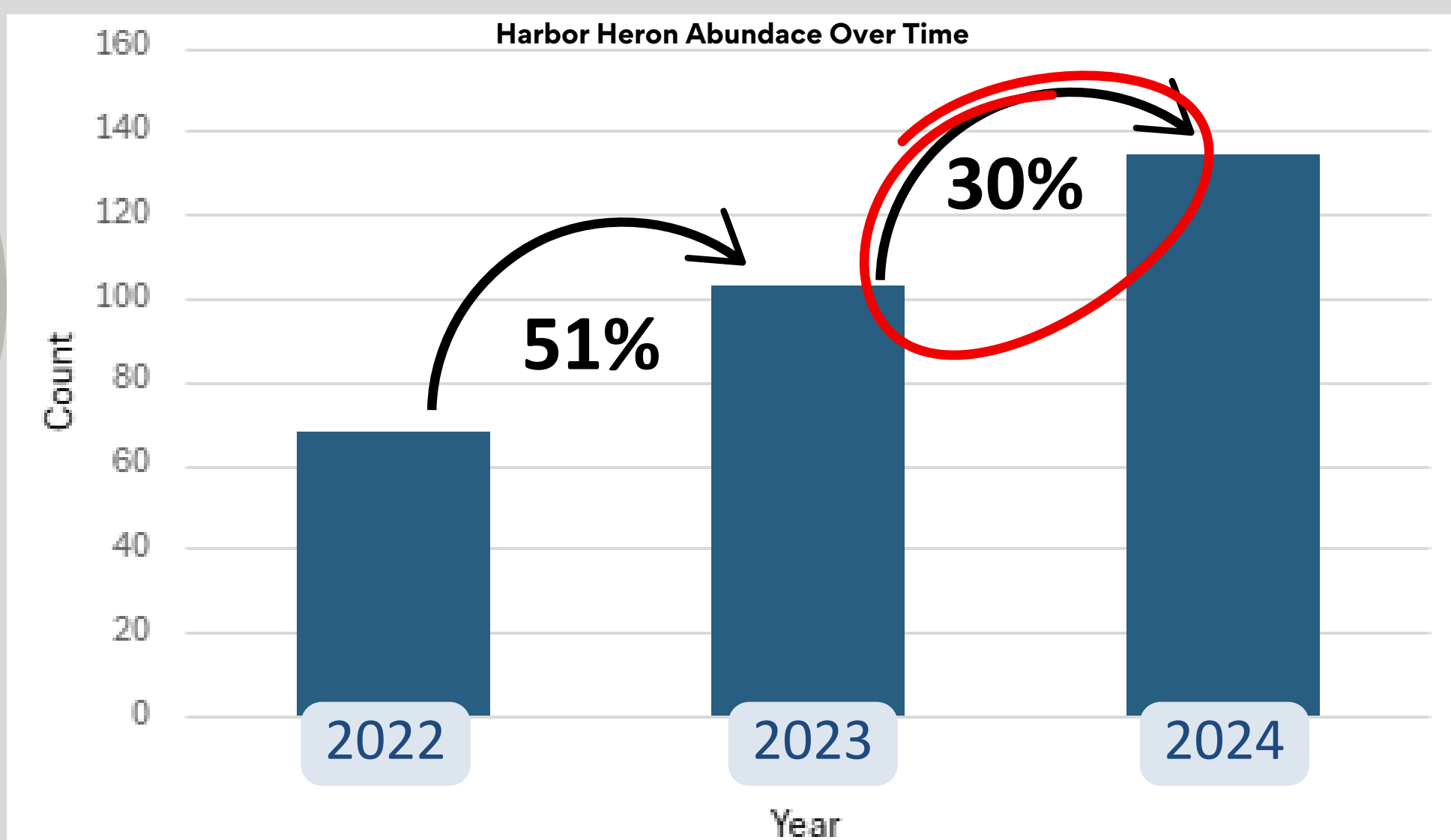
- Great black-backed gull
- Laughing gull
- Ring-billed gull
- Herring gull

Shorebirds

- Solitary sandpiper
- Spotted sandpiper



30% increase in heron sightings from 2023!



CONCLUSION

The waterbird monitoring revealed an increase in observed heron species abundance. This highlights the importance of functioning wetlands, which provide critical habitats that support population growth and biodiversity.