

# Seabird Island News

Volume 5

26 June – 2 July 2017

## Seabirds

### Puffins

Seal Island NWR started their dawn to dusk puffin-feeding watch this week and on June 30 welcomed new puffling, Conrad, to the Explore.org celebrity puffin pair, Willie and Billie. Find them at <http://explore.org/live-cams/player/puffin-burrow-cam>

### Terns

Most tern eggs have hatched and the islands are now packed with hungry chicks. Seal Island NWR and Matinicus Rock are both reporting plump tern chicks, largely due to an abundance of sand lance and small white hake. The Matinicus Rock team reported 70-100 feedings to a cluster of chicks in one 3-hour stretch!



Both Matinicus Rock and Stratton Island have had Common Terns bringing home as many as four squirming fish at a time. Perhaps they are taking lessons from puffins! On the more southerly islands of Stratton Island and Pond, however, chick weights dropped this week; tern keepers are hoping for improvement in the number of fish delivered to chicks. The team on Matinicus Rock also re-sighted an Arctic Tern that was banded in 1994, making it 23 years old!

### Other Bird News

At Matinicus Rock, an incubating Common Murre was discovered with its single egg. If it hatches, it will be the

first murre chick south of the Canadian border since the late 1800's when murrelets nested at Matinicus Rock. This nest is securely located and hopes are high for a chick.

*Striking out.* Razorbill chicks have just started to leave their rock burrows this week. They head to sea when just 18 days old (before their flight feathers emerge), leaving the island with their fathers to face the world.



*Matinicus Rock Razorbill chick*

*Gannet Concern.* Jenny Island and Eastern Egg Rock have each found Northern Gannets washed up dead on their shores. Approximately 100 Northern Gannets have recently been found dead along the coasts of Massachusetts into Maine. No obvious reason has yet been discovered. Read more [here](#).



*Egg Rock Guillemot Cake*

## Island Life

*Happy Guillic Day!* This year marks the 25th anniversary of the June 27<sup>th</sup> International Guillemot Appreciation Day. Started by island "Puffineers," the event gives guillemots the much-deserved recognition often reserved for their

charismatic puffin cousins. As if on cue, across the islands Black Guillemot chicks have begun to hatch. Each island team found their own way to acknowledge the guillemots, by displaying flags and creating edible tributes to these fascinating birds.