

Seabird Island News

Volume 9

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Seabirds

Puffins

Eastern Egg Rock has set several new records this year. In a single day the Egg Rock Crew grubbed five puffin chicks, and now has a season tally of 163 active Atlantic Puffin burrows, surpassing last year's 150 burrow count! Seal Island NWR is also having an excellent puffin year, estimating 592 active burrows - surpassing the previous high of 568 pairs! Matinicus Rock notes their larger puffin chicks have already departed to sea. Early fledglings are an indication of sufficient food supplies.



Leach's Storm-Petrels forage off Matinicus Rock near a whale carcass spotted this week. Photo: Matinicus Rock Team

Terns

As July closes, most of our tern chicks have begun their migration and life at sea. Roseate Terns banded at Eastern Egg Rock and Stratton Island were observed after fledging at Pond Island NWR. Terns at Matinicus Rock have been on high alert recently with visits from Bald Eagles, Merlins, and Northern Harriers. Stay tough!

Other Bird News

Predator update. In other predator news, Pond Island NWR closed for the season with a mink at large. Unfortunately, it was only caught on

a night-vision camera, but we have hopes that post-season volunteers may still catch it and remove it from the island. Stratton Island has had luck rounding up muskrat suspects in their own predator watch. But, is one the decapitating carnivore?

Gussied Up Guillemot.

On Eastern Egg Rock, Black Guillemot chicks are molting their natal down and developing waterproof plumages.

Sightings. The Seal Island team sighted 3 Ruddy Turnstones banded in Delaware and Texas. The team also spotted three jaeger species in one day! Stratton Island's shorebird count found 313 Semipalmated Plovers, 570 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 86 Willets.



Black Guillemot chick on its way to adult plumage - still sporting a collar of down. Photo: Eastern Egg Rock Team



Steve Kress (right) visits the Stratton Island team.

Island Life

Blinds, weather stations, and landing signs were removed as Pond Island NWR and Outer Green Island closed. Zeke Smith and Wray Gabel presented their summer's work to Stratton Island supporters at Prout's Neck Audubon Society. Seal Island NWR might need more food – they've resorted to Spam and canned pineapple pizza...