



Seabird Island News

Volume 5

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Seabirds

Puffins & Other Alcids

Atlantic Puffin chicks have now hatched at Eastern Egg Rock, Matinicus Rock and Seal Island NWR and Project Puffin researchers are looking to see what is on the menu for puffin chicks this year.



The first Black Guillemot chicks have hatched, signaling checks of guillemot nests to determine survival and growth of these puffin relatives. Photo: Steve Kress

Terns



A freak sand slide at Stratton Island buried several incubating Least Terns. Vigilant researchers noticed the trapped birds, excavated, and freed them. Some of the trapped birds were sitting on eggs, but none of the buried eggs survived. Photo: Stratton

Federally endangered Roseate Terns have hatched chicks. Eastern Egg Rock reporting their first chick on the 18th and Jenny Island and Stratton Island reporting their first hatchings on the 20th. The census completed on Stratton Island tallied 128 Roseate Tern nests – a new record high count for the island!

The Stratton Island team also reported 121 Least Tern nests despite discovering a weather induced sand-slide on 19 June that destroyed several nests.

Other Bird News

- The Eastern Egg Rock team visited nearby Western Egg Rock to conduct a census. They braved raspberry bushes and blister-inducing Angelica to count a whopping 614 Laughing Gull nests, 144 Herring and Great Black-backed Gull nests and 90 Common Eider nests.
- A Peregrine Falcon(s) continues to plague terns at Jenny Island, Pond Island NWR and Eastern Egg Rock; Pond NWR reported seeing a circling eagle and... deer on the island!
- The Stratton Island team confirmed two American Oystercatcher chicks.
- Eastern Egg Rock's Instagram account broke 500 followers this week! Check out the great pictures and info from our biologists at [easternegrock!](https://www.instagram.com/easternegrock/)



Great Black-backed Gull chick at Western Egg Rock. Photo: Egg Rock Team

Island Life

In another culinary foraging feat, Stratton Island cooked up stinging nettles with a blue cheese sauce. The Seal Island NWR team shared the fine art of SMORES construction with our international intern from Peru. All islands are preparing for this week's Island Christmas gift exchange!