

Seabird Island News

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Seabirds

Our islands have been experiencing damp, foggy, and windy weather, but we are keeping our spirits up as the season progresses! International Guillemot Appreciation Day was June 27th, and it comes with the exciting news that Eastern Egg Rock has found eight Black Guillemot chicks during their most recent productivity survey.



Eastern Egg Rock supervisor, Sarah Guitart, holds a newly hatched Black Guillemot chick. Photo: Eastern Egg Rock Instagram (@easterneggrock)

Puffins

Our favorite Puffin burrow is very lively, as 'Bucky' the puffling hatched on our Explore.org live cam on Wednesday! Watch Bucky at:

<https://explore.org/livcams/national-audubon-society/puffin-burrow-cam>

The crew of Eastern Egg Rock confirmed at least 88 active burrows, and have finally re-sighted their most elusive "Adopt-a-Puffin", MR767! Overall, researchers are reporting mostly white hake and Atlantic herring in puffin chick diets, a healthy sign so far this year!

Terns

The island research teams are reporting many hatching tern chicks of Common, Roseate, Arctic and Least Terns. A surprising observation of a one-year-old Common Tern (previously banded on Stratton) is now breeding in

a productivity plot. According to *Birds of North America*, one-year-old breeders are highly unusual.

Other Bird News

- Eastern Egg Rock's team banded five Leach's Storm-Petrels this week and have also spotted Bald Eagles several days in a row. Two Common Murres and at least one Razorbill are also frequenting the island.
- The Stratton Island team was surprised to spot a color banded American Oystercatcher nesting on the island that was banded in Georgia in 2016!
- Matinicus Rock has confirmed five Common Murre eggs and one chick- continuing the breeding that started there in 2019- after a 130-year absence.

Island Life

Along with International Guillemot Appreciation Day festivities, our islanders also celebrated a very Murre-y Island Christmas on June 25th this week! Gifts were exchanged, and candlelight feasts were enjoyed. Although it has been rainy, the increasing summer temperatures have prompted some researchers to jump into the ocean for a dip!

Matinicus Rock has also recently joined Instagram! You can keep up with their updates and see their photos at @matinicus_rockstars



In celebration of International Guillemot appreciation day, researchers created this bean and rice Guillemot. Photo: Outer Green Island team