

Seabird Island News

Volume 5

1-7 July 2019

Seabirds

It has been a hot and sunny week all over Maine, complete with hordes of mosquitoes, weeds, storms, and strawberries on our many islands. Despite the heat, our researchers performed many successful productivity surveys and feeding studies. So far, herring and white hake are abundant this year.

Puffins

Independence Day is not only a national holiday, but an important anniversary for Project Puffin. On July 4, in 1981, a puffin pair was discovered nesting at Eastern Egg Rock! This year many of the chicks are now several weeks old, ready for banding and looking very healthy.



At Stratton Island, a Least Tern sits atop a Least Tern egg and a Common Tern egg. Photo: Zeke Smith

Terns

Many of our tern chicks are already testing out their wings- preparing for their first flight! So far, islanders have observed limited mortality, and most of the chicks seem to have plenty of food.

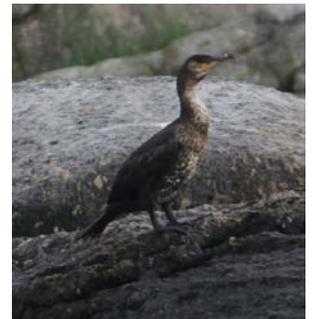
An unlikely surprise a Common Tern laid an egg in a Least Tern nest at Stratton Island and is acting parental around the Least Tern chicks. We are all looking forward to watching the remaining chicks grow!

Other Bird News

Passengers aboard the Hardy Boat Puffin Cruise had a spectacular view of a juvenile Great Cormorant loafing on Eastern Egg Rock. The young bird was seen resting with a flock of Double-crested Cormorants (also

juveniles), who seemed to enjoy the company of their much larger friend.

- Razorbills continue to fledge on Matinicus Rock
- Jenny Island's crew spotted a Peregrine Falcon roosting on Junk of Pork Island- surrounded by remains of terns.
- A Glossy Ibis was spotted on Pond Island
- Least and Royal Terns and several migrating shorebird species appeared at Seal Island
- Matinicus Rock had an Eastern Meadowlark and a Short-billed Dowitcher
- Eastern Egg Rock's team spotted a "bridled" Common Murre this week.



Juvenile Great Cormorant on Eastern Egg Rock. Photo: Aubrey Alamshah



Steve and Hannah Baird, father and daughter Project Puffin researchers. Photo: Keenan Yakola

Island Life

Steve Baird, the first supervisor of Seal Island NWR, and now a marine biologist for NOAA, returned this summer after 27 years to witness the spectacular increase in puffins where he worked for six summers following the

start of this project in 1984. He also enjoyed island time with his daughter, Hannah, who works there now as one of our researchers. All enjoyed the spectacular views of multiple fireworks displays on the mainland.