

# Seabird Island News

Volume 4

19-25 June 2017

## Seabirds

### Puffins

Eastern Egg Rock reports 68 puffin pairs feeding chicks so far. Seal Island NWR puffin chicks have started to hatch and now puffin watchers on Seal, Egg Rock and Matinicus Rock have started their dawn to dark feeding stints to track frequency and type of fish coming back to the burrows. This means being up and in a bird blind by 4:45 AM for the first 3-hour blind stint of the day until the last stint that ends at about 8:30 PM. For more photos of the science and life on Eastern Egg Rock, visit the new Egg Rock Instagram account @easterneggrock.



*Researchers at Matinicus Rock were delighted this past week to see puffins returning with beak loads of bite-sized sand lance—an excellent meal for newly hatched puffin chicks. Photo by Jean Hall*

### Terns

Most islands have reached peak tern hatch. Fenced plots permit researchers to recapture a sample of chicks and weigh and measure them. They also spend hours each day observing the kinds of fish being delivered to chicks. Eastern Egg Rock was thrilled this week to discover 101 federally endangered Roseate Tern nests—the



*Shannon Carvey's Pond Island NWR selfie with a Common Tern friend.*

most since 2009. Unfortunately, 25 Least Tern nests washed away in a super high tide at Stratton Island.

### Other Bird News

*Tube-nosed Traveler.* An adult Yellow-Nosed Albatross, a southern-hemisphere breeder, made Maine birding news during a one-day rest stop at Pond Island. It was the 7<sup>th</sup> confirmed state record.



*Photo: Shannon Carvey*

Not to be surpassed, the Stratton islanders spotted an immature Brown Pelican, the sixth state record.

*Cruising.* The Audubon-led puffin-watching cruises on the Hardy Boat (New Harbor) and Captain Fish (Booth Bay) are seeing many puffins with bill loads of fish as well as Northern Gannets.

## Island Life

Fog and rough seas made for some challenging landings and delays in supplies this week for island rotations. Several volunteers and two of our Herz International Fellows from Mexico have arrived along with a researcher from the New England Aquarium.

'Island Christmas' occurred this week with creative island gifts circulating among the islands. Culinary highlight of the week goes to the Seal Island NWR team for pineapple-weed cake!