

Seabird Island News

Volume 1

May 27, 2018

Seabirds

Researcher Training

Thirteen new Research Assistants, two International Herz Fellows (from Chile and Peru), two Education Assistants, and seven Island Supervisors completed training this week at Hog Island Audubon Camp.

Training included nest census techniques, forage fish identification, wing chord and weight measurements.

Training also covered practical aspects such as knot tying, bird handling, scope use, and rowing along with island first aid. Dr. Robert S. Steneck from the University of Maine examined a historical perspective of coastal Maine's

changing ecology as the keynote speaker and Seabird Sue highlighted the edible plants (e.g. nettles and algae) and marine life (such as mussels and periwinkles) found on our seabird islands.



Bird handling 101: (L-R) Mikayla Ockels, Cody Lane, Will Kennerley, Coco Fabor

Puffins

The Puffins are back! Our researchers and avid Puffin cam watchers alike have confirmed eggs deep in the rocky granite burrows on our islands – one egg per nesting pair. On 15 May, the Seal Island NWR puffin burrow cam revealed this featured puffin pair's egg. Now "Willie" and "Billie," are sharing incubation duties. Be sure to check out our live bird cams on Explore.org!

Terns

Tern courtship is in full swing as males entice females with gifts of small fish. Common Terns led the way with the first eggs of the season, but our teams on Stratton Island and Egg Rock teams report Roseate Tern eggs. The Stratton team is also watching over the first Least Tern eggs of the year and our team at Pond Island NWR discovered Arctic Tern eggs.

Other Bird News

- Black Guillemots are also getting into nesting action with active nests identified at Eastern Egg Rock.
- Migratory sightings by the sharp-eyed Seal Island NWR crew include Cape May Warbler, Palm Warbler and Gray-cheeked Thrush.



Jenny Island's kitchen with a view. (Photo: Huenefeldt)

Island Life

Our island researchers braved wet chilly weather, choppy seas and windy conditions in getting their gear out to the islands. Bird blinds are going up, rations are unpacked and the teams report that none of their tents blew away in recent winds and rain.

Our 45th Project Puffin season has begun!