

Seabird Island News

Volume 3

June 10, 2018

Seabirds

Puffins

On June 4, Eastern Egg Rock researchers spotted the first puffin of the season carrying a beak load of fish back to its burrow. That only means one thing – a puffling! It was 37 years ago that a similar sighting indicated puffins were again breeding at Egg Rock.



Will Kennerley, Outer Green Island supervisor, and Lyanne Ampuero Merino banding Common Terns. Photo: Outer Green Island Team

Terns

Terns are becoming increasingly aggressive near their nests, which means their eggs will soon hatch. This coming week will be busy in Gulf of Maine tern colonies as our teams prepare for the annual nest count. Counting all nests of all Maine terns is a big undertaking, amounting to methodically walking through colonies to count the nests and egg numbers. This is the best way to measure population size.



The Common Murre egg discovered by researchers and some of the island's Common Murres. Photo: Matinicus Rock Team

Other Bird News

- The Matinicus Rock Island team discovered a Common Murre egg on a rocky ledge June 8th. Murres have not successfully nested on Matinicus rock since the 19th century, but they are trying to recolonize. Unfortunately the egg disappeared by the next day, likely taken by a gull or raven. However, ever hopeful, we are watching a spot where murres have been seen emerging from under a boulder pile.
- On June 7, the Seal Island NWR team heard their first Razorbill chick.
- The Seal Island NWR team worked to band Leach's Storm Petrels, banding 67 in just three hours!
- Birds of note this week include a King Eider spotted from Seal Island NWR as well as an Ancient Murrelet!

Island Life

Cold, rainy weather kept the researchers shivering and out of the seabird colonies for a day or so, but the week also entailed birthday celebrations, evening ukulele jams and camp oven cookies. Stratton Island even gathered and cooked up island periwinkles in a marinara sauce. Yum!