

Seabird Island News

Volume 2

5-11 June 2017

Seabirds

Puffins

The teams at Eastern Egg Rock, Matinicus Rock and Seal Island NWR have been keeping a close eye on their Atlantic Puffin populations. Beak-loads of fish are being delivered to three nest burrows on Egg Rock which indicates we now have 3 puffin chicks! The Egg Rock team has trapped and banded 25 puffins so far. Their measurements show health and sex of individual birds.



Photo: Eastern Egg Rock team with puffin friends. (by EER Team)

Terns

Island researchers are gearing up for the annual tern census to start 12 June and banding adult terns for future chick feeding studies. By now the birds have mostly settled down to incubate their nests of 1-3 eggs. Stratton island is particularly excited as they have so far identified 104 nests of the federally endangered Roseate Tern!

Other Bird News

- *Predators.* Peregrine Falcons have been harassing the seabirds on both Seal Island and

Matinicus, with evidence of an owl on Pond Island. An Eagle and a Merlin also visited Seal.

- *Roommate Wanted.* One of our researchers at Pond Island discovered a Common Eider was nesting under her tent platform. Clever *and* safer - lucky ducky!
- *Wow.* There were 621 Razorbills counted one-day last week on Matinicus Rock. They also continue to frequent Eastern Egg Rock. Several Common Murres were observed coming out of the rocks at Matinicus. Could they be nesting?
- *Highlights.* Fun birds sighted this week include a Black Tern, Black-legged Kittiwake, White-rumped Sandpiper, Bonaparte's Gull, and a camp frequenting Dunlin.
- *Rare.* Stratton Island confirmed two nests of Oystercatchers on nearby Little Stratton Island.

Island Life

After daily temperatures in the 40's with rain and drizzle the team has gladly welcomed the warmth to dry out tents & clothing, take a quick ocean dip, and most importantly, get a lot of work done in the bird colonies. Recording nesting sites, marking plots to track nest productivity and chick growth, catching and banding birds, and recording the diet are on their "to do" list!

Cold rainy days mean time to enter observational data into the computer, but it is also a chance to test culinary skills. Banana bread and burritos were a hit this week and Stratton Island baked bread in their Coleman folding oven and tried their hand at making a brick Pizza oven. Not to be outdone, the Seal Island NWR team showed their musical talents by putting on a great ukulele act to wish "Seabird Sue", our Assistant Sanctuary Manager a Happy Birthday.