

# Seabird Island News

Volume 4

June 17, 2018

## Seabirds



"Feisty" Common Tern during this week's tern census as researchers comb the island nearby to count nests. Photo: Stratton Island Team

## Tern, Terns, and More Terns

Tiny tern chicks are hatching everywhere and this week marked the start of our Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group (GOMSWG) tern census window. Wind and extreme weather forced some quick scheduling but the preliminary numbers are coming in for Common Terns with **record high counts!**:

- Eastern Egg Rock: 1,016 nests (up from 886 in 2017)
- Jenny Island: 1,436 nests (up from 1,298 in 2017)
- Outer Green Is.: 1,553 nests (up from 1,434 in 2017)
- Pond Island: 1,065 nests (up from 942 in 2017)

Coming soon: Results from our Roseate, Arctic, and Least Tern counts. An early report by Stratton Island shows an increase in Least Tern nests by 26%.

## Alcids

At Egg Rock seven adoption program puffins were

sighted. Seal Island NWR reports the first Razorbill chicks of the year out of 30 active burrows!

## Other Bird News

- The Seal Island NWR King Eider was sighted again on June 13 and the Matinicus Rock team spotted a Black-headed Gull!
- The entire Laughing Gull colony at Eastern Egg Rock (1,800 pairs) has abandoned. This opens much new habitat for terns and relieves pressure on food deliveries to tern and puffin chicks as gulls take food and eat tern eggs. About 700 Laughing Gull pairs moved to nearby Western Egg Rock.
- The Seal Island NWR team pulled some late nights/early mornings, banding 145 Leach's Storm-petrels in just two nights!



Tern eggs starting to hatch as the annual census begins. Photo: Kress

## Island Life

The Outer Green Team cooked up some garlic butter periwinkles this week and Stratton concocted Buffalo Cauliflower "Wings". Egg Rock hosted teen birders from all over the country who were attending Hog Island Audubon Camp and shared the life of seabird biologists!