



Seabird Island News

Volume 8

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Seabirds



A first glimpse of the historic Common Murre chicks at Matinicus Rock. Photo: Matinicus Rock Team

Murres!

The highlight of this week's news celebrates the discovery of four Common Murre chicks on Matinicus Rock. Murres last nested here in about 1887. The new colony extends the Common Murre's breeding range south of the Canadian border by more than 100 miles.



A Common Tern chick receives a high quality meal of Atlantic Herring as it reaches fledging age. Photo: Stephen Kress

Fledging begins

Terns are fledging! Pond Island NWR sighted their first tern fledgling on July 11th, Stratton Island tallied 40 Least Tern fledglings, and Jenny Island confirmed their first Roseate fledgling on the 16th. Seal Island and Matinicus

Rock both started their "Big Chick Round-Up," banding as any Arctic Tern fledglings as possible before they depart for their epic migration to Antarctica!

Island Life

This past week many of our islands spent time combatting invasive plants such as wild radish by hand pulling these persistent invaders before they dropped another crop of seeds. The Eastern Egg Rock team took time out, however, to welcome members of the Puffin Society for their annual trip to the island.



Outer Green Island camp after recent "microburst" storm. Tents, blinds and the cooking facility will have to be rebuilt. Photo: Outer Green Island Team

On July 10th, Outer Green Island was hit by a microburst storm with 66-mph winds. The island's rugged expedition tent toppled along with personal tents and all observation blinds. Fortunately, the research team and birds were uninjured. Our mainland staff and Falmouth Harbor Master quickly delivered supplies for rebuilding the camp. The incident left us with a fresh reminder about the risks and extreme exposure of living on these remote, treeless islands.