

Seabird Island News

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Seabirds

This is a demanding period for parent seabirds as chicks are getting larger and needing more food. And as chicks become larger and more conspicuous, they are more appealing to predators. For chicks to reach fledgling size, parents must work hard and be ever vigilant. So far, most chicks are thriving and some are even testing new wings!



A proud Will Kennerley holds a newly hatched Common Murre chick on Matinicus Rock.
(Photo: Matinicus Rock Team)

Puffins

Our researchers are reporting many unbanded puffins on Matinicus Rock. It's great to hear that we have many new arrivals! But life is not easy for all puffins. Our Seal Island live camera showed puffin chick Bucky being bullied by another adult puffin. Thankfully, Bucky is still continues to grow and thrives on a healthy diet.

Terns

All of our islands are teeming with healthy tern chicks. Outer Green Island reports many strong hatchlings. On Stratton Island, the Least Terns look well fed, and they are beginning to join the Common Terns testing out their wings. Outer Green Island is already seeing the larger tern chicks successfully fledge. Soon most of the flock will be in the sky- and on their way to their winter home in Argentina.

Other Bird News

- The Matinicus Rock team has also counted at least five Common Murre chicks so far.

- Troppy, Seal Island's resident Red-billed Tropicbird, was chased by terns and flew into a tree. He appeared a little stunned, but Keenan rescued him and returned him to his burrow.

- The mysterious predator plaguing Jenny Island has been identified by the team –a Great Horned Owl. This owl was



"Who, me?" This well-fed Great-Horned Owl was captured and relocated, yet again, far from Jenny Island. (Photo: Jenny Island Team)

- previously caught and relocated from Jenny Island in 2011. The owl has now been re-captured and carefully relocated. The terns chicks are safe again... for now. Visits from Great Horned Owls are a threat at tern colonies not only because they can eat eggs, chicks and adults, but they can make the entire colony abandon at night- a response that protects adults but may cause wide spread loss of chicks following cold, rainy nights.
- Eastern Egg Rock team was surprised this week by a lone, very out-of-season Brant goose!

Island Life

Puffin Society members visited Egg Rock this week to see firsthand the success of this thriving seabird colony.

Two of our island supervisors, Keenan of Seal Island NWR and Will of Matinicus Rock, faced off in a test of their Salsa dancing skills. Will proved undoubtedly to be the superior dancer! They both benefitted from instruction by Andreinna Moran, Herz International Seabird Fellow from Ecuador.