

# Seabird Island News

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## Seabirds

We are on the edge of our seats this week as some of our fledglings test their wings and begin their epic migrations. Ample food is helping chicks fledge with good body weights and frequent feedings.



## Puffins

Parent puffins are bringing home plenty of haddock, herring, and hake. The puffin boat tours to Eastern Egg Rock are seeing many more puffins than usual, with more than 200 seen on some trips. This is likely because of sufficient food in nearby waters, which means puffins have more time at their nesting islands. In addition, the class of 2017, an exceptionally big group of puffins, are making their first returns this summer, swelling the ranks of puffin numbers. We are also closely following our live cam star Bucky the puffin chick on Seal Island NWR. Watch his family life at [Explore.org](http://Explore.org).

## Terns

Chicks are beginning to fledge across all of our islands! Stratton Island has successfully completed all of their feeding studies and now turning their attention to removing invasive plants. Seal Island NWR has over 100 banded Arctic Tern chicks and Matinicus Rock has 175 of their targeted 200 Arctic Tern chicks banded. To top it all off, two unlikely siblings were discovered hatched on Eastern Egg Rock: a Black Guillemot chick side-by-

side with a Roseate Tern chick! The team is vigilantly watching this nest to see who is tending this unusual nest.

## Other Bird News

- Stratton Island's trend of good shorebird sightings continues with a Hudsonian Godwit and a White-Rumped Sandpiper.
- Seal Island NWR had an extreme rarity this week: a Wilson's Plover! It is the first record for Knox county and Seal Island.
- Researchers on Matinicus Rock are having luck attaching tiny GPS tags on puffins to discover their feeding places.
- The wayward Brant on Eastern Egg Rock has taken up residence for the time being.

## Island Life

Sarah on Egg Rock celebrated her birthday this week! And Zeke's Dad, JB Smith, visited Stratton Island on the Harvey Gamage schooner. The Island team and the Stratton Island crew hosted the Gamage's 31 students and crew, who had a great time hiking the island and getting to experience the nesting tern colony.



*Stratton Island researchers Zeke Smith and Nell Smith receive a visit from their dad, JB Smith, captain of the schooner Harvey Gamage. Photo: JB Smith*