

# Seabird Island News

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## Seabirds



*Puffin love and the Eastern Egg Rock team. Photo: Derrick Jackson*

## Puffins

Our puffin islands have been buzzing with activity and new burrows were discovered by island biologists on Eastern Egg Rock, Matinicus Rock, and Seal Island NWR. Egg Rock is currently up to 163 active Puffin burrows! Will they reach last year's 172 record?

## Fledging begins

Many of the tern chicks on our islands have now transitioned into fledglings, meaning that they can fly, and have begun to leave the islands. As a result, several teams have begun closing tern nest productivity plots, used by biologists to determine the colony's nesting success.

In an unexpected twist, the team at Matinicus Rock found a recently hatched tern chick in a nest tended by both a Common Tern and an Arctic Tern!

## Other Birds

- The Seal Island NWR team sighted a group of more than 300 Great Shearwaters early in the week and Outer Green Island spotted a Bonaparte's Gull!

- Peregrine Falcons paid visits to both Egg Rock and Jenny Island. More notably, the team at Pond Island NWR team suspects mink predation of their terns.



*The Stratton Island team traded in field clothes to attend an auction of Pat Pratt's artwork organized by the Prout's Neck Audubon Society to raise funds for the island team's new boat motor. The old motor quit last year during a run to the mainland. Photo: Tiffany Huenefeldt*

## Island Life

Stratton Island has had a busy week! Zeke Smith and Jennifer Ryan presented the island's work for Prout's Neck Audubon Society and then hosted tours to the island all the next day. Later in the week, they represented the program at a fundraiser by the same Prout's Neck group, only to turn around the next day to motor alongside The Draken, the world's largest Viking ship, on its way to Rockland Harbor. Then they caught a rare Winslow Homer exhibit at his mainland studio which overlooks the island and while seawatching came across a dead 17-foot Minke whale floating near Stratton. Yes, there was plenty of pulling invasive plants, productivity work, and data entry. Work hard, play hard!