

# Seabird Island News

Volume 11

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## Seabirds

### Puffins

Eastern Egg Rock has set a new record of 177 active puffin nests, surpassing the 2017 record of 172 pairs! Unfortunately, researchers on all three-puffin islands are finding lower feeding rates and slow growing puffin chicks with low body weights. This coincides with warmer than usual sea surface temperatures in July.

### Terns

Very few tern chicks now remain on the islands as most have already fledged as they head to South America.

### Other Birds

- The tube-nosed seabirds on our islands got some attention this week.

Eastern Egg Rock reports banding 30 Leach's Storm-petrel chicks, many of which were found nesting in sod burrows

originally built for rearing translocated puffin chicks in the 1980's. Like puffins, shearwaters nest underground and return to the same burrow year after year. Chicks were discovered in three burrows.

- "Gillie," the Black Guillemot chick who was star of our Guillemot Explore.org nest camera got some jewelry

this week. The research crew on Seal Island placed a numbered research band on Gillie and determined the fledger was in excellent health. Just a few days later, on 3 August, Gillie fledged under the cover of darkness. Our research crew is looking forward to searching for Gillie in a few years when 'he' reaches breeding age.

- Migrating birds continue to grace our islands. Eastern Egg Rock, Matinicus Rock, and Jenny Island are reporting Ruddy Turnstones by the hundreds. Other notable birds include Royal Terns, Sandwich Terns, and a rare sighting of a Brown Pelican.

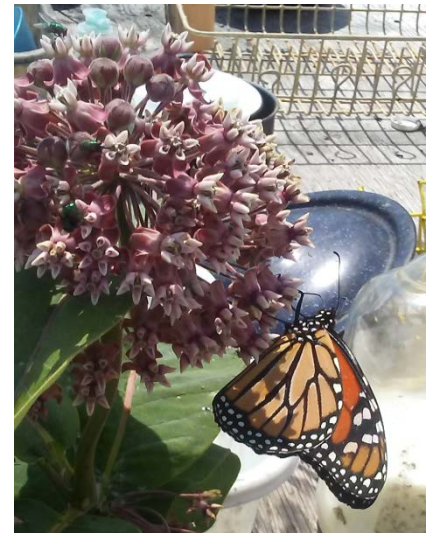


*Cody Lane holds a Manx Shearwater chick on Matinicus Rock. Photo: Sue Schubel*

## Island Life

With the seabird breeding at an end, our islands are closing for the season. Our research teams are preparing for the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group (GOMSWG) Conference this Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Seabird biologists from Massachusetts to Nova Scotia will 'flock' to Hog Island Audubon

Camp to share their research findings and experiences from the summer. Each island supervisor will have five minutes to share the highlights of their summer. Viewed together a big picture will emerge about food, weathers and predators.



*A Monarch butterfly visits milkweed "in" Jenny Island's outdoor kitchen. Photo: Jenny Island Team*