

Thank you Friends for another year of support for our refuge!



Annual Newsletter 2018

Wild Islands for Wild Life

2018 Managed Seabird Colonies Have a Successful Year!

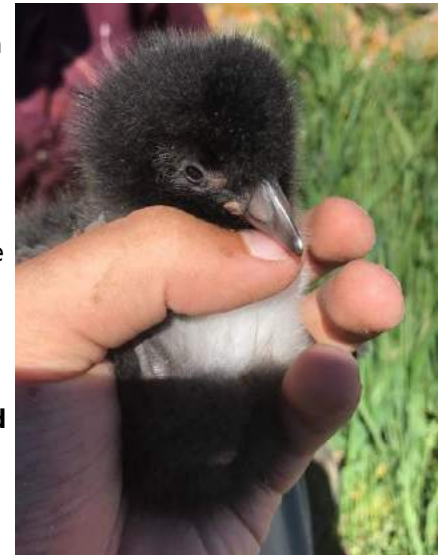
Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge actively manages six seabird restoration projects along the coast of Maine. Refuge islands supported 2,428 pairs of Arctic terns, which represents 96% of the Arctic Terns breeding in the lower 48 states. The Refuge also supports at least 967 pairs of Atlantic Puffins and approximately 640 pairs of Razorbills, representing 85% of each of those species breeding in the US. Arctic terns produced an average of 0.82 chicks/pair, while common terns produced an average of 0.80 chicks/pair. A decrease in food deliveries occurred in mid July resulting in the loss of many tern chicks. However, forage fish availability seemed to increase in early August. Puffin chicks that had stopped growing for several weeks quickly gained weight, and although they remained in their burrows several weeks longer than usual, they were able to successfully fledge. **Other highlights**

from the season include the first Common Murre chicks produced in Maine in over 130 years! The Refuge has several ongoing

research projects to help us understand where our birds go to find fish, and what species of fish are being consumed. Two of the satellite tags we deployed on common terns in 2017 continued to provide data on the birds' activities throughout the summer. We learned a tremendous amount about the annual migration patterns of common terns, and documented several terns migrating through hurricanes! - *Respectfully Submitted, Linda Welch USFWS Field Biologist*



USFWS intern Indira Rojas



The first Petit Manan Puffling of 2018
Photo Credit : Chris Gilbert , USFWS intern

** This report has been abridged for the newsletter. The unabridged version is available on our website*

A Note from Our Refuge Manager

As I reflect on the past year it has been one of drastic changes and uncertainty. One thing that gives me peace and gratitude is the constant and critical support that FOMCI provides to the refuge. Their efforts to provide special programs, run our gift store and art gallery, and greet our visitors, are vital to our Visitor Center operations and visitor experience. In addition the Friends raise funds to support refuge programs and land acquisition, and coordinate our volunteers. These are but a few examples of how the Friends support the refuge and the conservation of our coastal resources.

Thank you for your unwavering support and friendship!

Brian Benedict,
Refuge Manager Maine Coastal Islands NWR
Interim Superintendent Northeast Canyons and Sea Mounts
Marine National Monument



Brian enjoying a rare day in the field

To learn more about Brian's work with the Northeast Canyons and Sea Mounts Marine National Monument check out the gorgeous new website at : www.fws.gov/northeast/northeast-canyons-and-seamounts/index.html

Updates from the Refuge

MCINWR Gets a Deputy Manager

After almost two years without a deputy manager, MCINWR has received funding to support the position, and we are so delighted to introduce you to Eddy Edwards, the new Deputy Manager at MCINWR. Eddy relocated to Maine in the spring of 2018 to continue his 28+ year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He's stationed at Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge in Rockland, ME. Historically known as a waterfowl "geek" he's hoping to switch gears a little and work with the resource issues facing Maine's precious seabird and marine life. In his spare time you'll find him chasing just about anything that has a feather.



Eddy gets to know the locals

Reflections of an Island Intern



*"Black Guillemot"
Sketch by Nora Papain*

We all have dreams when it comes to our careers, and I believe that can be especially true in wildlife research. There are species we want to work with, places we want to work, and questions we want to research. For me, that place is Maine and those species are seabirds. Atlantic puffins have been my favorite bird since I began birding at 11 years old, and they were my introduction to conservation and restoration ecology. I had no idea that I could study birds for a career, or work to conserve them. I've been working with birds in some aspect since then: I began helping at nature camps at 13, I began volunteering with California least terns at 15, and I have worked with birds consistently since then. My goal was to, at some point, work with seabirds in Maine, and that was exactly what I got to do all summer. Even though it has been a goal of mine, working with the birds on Metinic Island wasn't the highlight of my summer. I most enjoyed working with the refuge staff, the refuge volunteers, and, most of all, the other seabird tech on Metinic, Nick. Conservation of species and wildlands requires an army of ad-

vocates, and it is rewarding to be able to work alongside so many passionate and focused people. From the refuge staff, who do everything in their power to assist us, to the volunteers who sent treats and support, it was an incredible experience to work for and with the refuge. It's comforting and motivating to be surrounded by others who are as passionate as you and work just as hard or harder to conserve the species you love. So while nothing can quite compare to black guillemot chicks screaming at you, or watching tern chicks practice flight, the best part of the summer was doing all of that with the support of the refuge and the Friends group.



"Male Eider" Sketch by Nora Papain

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. It means the world to the seabird techs, and your efforts translate to real conservation for the birds and their environment.

-Warm Regards, Nora Papain *USFWS Island Intern*

For more excellent writing and perspective on the research being done in MCINWR, check out the Island intern blog : <https://mainecoastal-islands.wordpress.com/>

News from the Friends

A Busy Year at the Visitor Center!



GRLT and FOMCI celebrate Aldo Leopold

In 2018 we brought a variety of excellent programming and activities to our local community in Rockland Maine, and we have had quite a successful year! Highlights include ***Owls of Maine*** presented by Chewonki's Traveling Natural History Program. Adults and children alike got to meet some of the magnificent nocturnal raptors of Maine, with a live demonstration and an educational talk about owls. We also hosted our second annual **Juried Art Show** in which 28 pieces by



"Carrying the Pearl" By Linda Shepard, 2018 juried art show selectee

local artists of all ages were shown in our gallery and accompanied by a lively opening reception. By combining efforts with other local conservation organizations we have been able to bring our mission to a much larger audience. We hosted two events in partnership with the Georges River Land Trust: a viewing of the film *Green Fire*, which celebrates the life and work of conservationist Aldo Leopold, and an Earth Day beach clean up followed by a lecture on micro plastics by renowned expert Abigail Barrows. In the summer, we partnered with Avian Haven to produce the First Annual **Flock Party**, a bird themed costume



Fabulous feathered party goes at the Flock Party! Photo Credit : Jesse Stuart

party held at Fog Bar and Café (a local hotspot on Main St. in Rockland, ME). With a DJ, dance party, awesome costumes, a raffle with excellent prizes, and even a signature cocktail, a great time was had by all, and **we raised over \$3200 to support bird conservation in Maine**. Flock Party II is in the works, so be sure to follow our social media, or sign up for our e-newsletter so you don't miss out! In addition to these great new events, we continue bringing quality programs to our visitor center throughout the year. For details about all of our programs find us online, and stay up to date by subscribing to our e-newsletter at :



Chewonki's Colleen Moureaux prepares to present a Barred Owl at the Visitor Center

www.maine.coastislands.org

Meet our New Board Chair



Carla Skinder, FOMCI Chair

The Friends held their annual meeting in October. At this meeting, we said goodbye to Charlie Walsh and Dick Tomeo, our Board Chair and Secretary, respectively. In keeping with our bylaws, their terms have ended, and after several years of dedicated service, both are moving on to other things. At this meeting, elections were held to fill those positions, and Carla Skinder became our new Board Chair. Originally from Natick, MA, Carla moved to Maine two years ago, and joined the board of FOMCI last year. As an avid kayaker, nature photographer, and enjoyer of the outdoors, Carla was attracted to the gorgeous natural environment in Maine, and the vibrant communities here inspired her to make it her home. Carla's passion for conservation has led to several unique career paths, including her time from 1971-'81 as the Program Director for Marine Mammal Stranding and Recovery with the New England Aquarium. In this

capacity, her responsibilities ranged from monitoring the entire eastern seaboard for reports of stranded marine mammals and deploying with the rescue team to assist in the recovery effort, to caring for the famous Maine resident Andre the Seal during the winter months when he was relocated to the aquarium. Since that time, she has traveled far and wide, from Namibia to Antarctica, photographing the inhabitants of the remote corners of the world, and sharing her work with the public. Carla has already been a great asset to FOMCI bringing her talents to the lecture hall, the art gallery, and even to the field, volunteering her time to assist USFWS staff with their fieldwork in our refuge. Her focus going forward is bring more programming for children to the visitor center, to work collaboratively with local schools and to reserve one of our gallery spaces to showcase the work of local students.



Carla's interest in birds has taken her all over the world, including to the Falkland Islands, where she encountered some curious Gentoo Penguins.

Welcome to FOMCI Carla!

Stay up to date on all the exciting activity at the Visitor Center!
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or check out our website www.maine.coastislands.org

Acknowledgements

2018 Friends of Maine Coastal Islands NWR Team

Board of Directors:

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Carla Skinder

Vice Chair

Penney Read

Treasurer

Jeanne Picicello

Pam Bryer

Kevin Adams

Don Johnson

Advisors:

Refuge Manager

Brian Benedict

Deputy Manager

Eddy Edwards

Staff:

Program Coordinator

Carney Doucette

Development

Joe Patterson

Special Thanks to :

Nature Store Manager

Carol Adams

Volunteer Coordinator

Sandy Latham

Come See us at The Visitor Center in Rockland Maine!

9 Water St
P.O. Box 1231
Rockland, ME
40841



Puffin Mural, Downtown Rockland, ME

For More Information :

www.maineoastislands.org
info@mainecoastislands.org
207-594-0600 ext. 5

or
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

2018 FOMCI Volunteers THANK YOU!

Carol Adams
Kevin Adams
Kim Bernard
Melissa Bronder
Maureen Cianci
Carney Doucette
Lynda Friedrichs
Carol Fritsche
Beth Goettel
Jane Hardy
Judy Hengerer
Don Johnson
Sandy Latham
Sharon Osborne
Jeanne Picicello
Nina Poole
Theo Pratt
Karyn Rizzo
Carol Rohl
Kem Ruklittikul
Carol Schull
Carla Skinder
Dick Tomeo
Charlie Walsh
Catherine Wiejaczka

Join us for these fun events in 2019!

["FLOCK PARTY II" Fundraiser for FOMCI and Avian Haven- April 27](#)

[Seabird Viewing Cruise with Bar Harbor Whale Watch - July*](#)

[Third Annual All Ages Juried Art Show - July 27](#)

Stay up to date on these and other exciting programs!
Subscribe to our e-newsletter at www.maineoastislands.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram

* exact date TBD

Thank you Local Businesses for Your Support!

The following businesses contributed items to our 2018 Fundraisers

Windjammer Angelique • Eric Hopkins Gallery

Acadia Indoor Golf • Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School
Art Loft • Bar Harbor Grand Hotel • Bufflehead Sailing Charters
Chase's Daily • Clementine • Coastal Café and Bakery • Curator
E.L. Spear • Eat More Cheese • Feed Store, INC • Fiore
Geddy's Restaurant & Bar • Heavenly Yarns • House Wine
Mariposa Energy Therapy • Rockland Ford • Side Country Sports
The Green Store • Rockport Blueprint • Huston-Tuttle

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



Interested in becoming a sponsor? Contact our development officer Joe Patterson at jpatterson@mainecoastislands.org