



Egg Rock Update

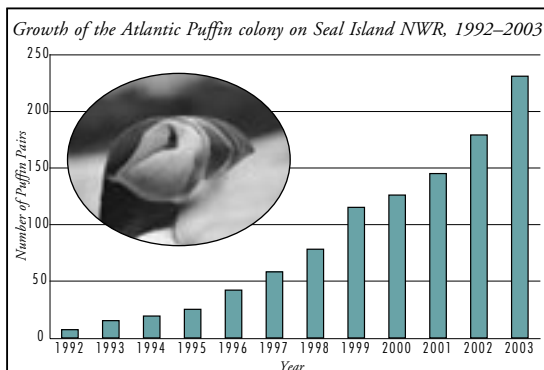
Newsletter of the Seabird Restoration Program
of the National Audubon Society

2003

30 YEARS OF PUFFIN RESTORATION YIELDS SUCCESS

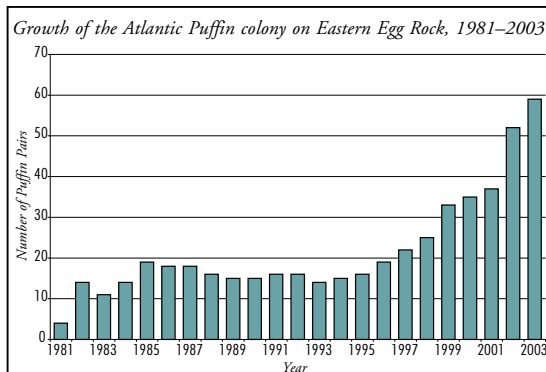
Seal Island NWR: 28% Increase!

The Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) puffin restoration project began in 1984 when the first of 950 puffin chicks were translocated from Great Island, Newfoundland. In 1992, seven pairs nested—the first puffins to breed on the island since 1887 when the original colony was lost due to excessive hunting for food and feathers. Although the restored colony was slow to start, its subsequent annual growth has been remarkable. This year the colony increased by 28% to 231 breeding pairs—an addition of 52 pairs to the 2002 total of 179. The number of breeding pairs is only one measure of success. Supervisor Carlos Zavalaga and his research team documented a record high count of 395 individuals on July 18th and about 3/4 of the pairs succeeded in rearing a chick (puffins lay just one egg per year).



Eastern Egg Rock: 13% Increase!

In our 30th year of working to restore the Egg Rock puffin colony, we tallied a total of 59 breeding pairs—a 13% increase since 2002. Egg Rock researchers led by supervisor Ellen Peterson tallied a record high count of 101 individuals and an impressive fledging success of 0.86 chicks per pair. All of the puffins in the Adopt-A-Puffin program returned this year. Since most of the Egg Rock puffins wear numbered leg bands, observers discover detailed histories about puffin mating habits. For example, puffins are typically very faithful to their burrow and usually to their mate from one year to the next. Puffin Y54 (a 26-year-old male transplanted



from Newfoundland in 1977) holds the record for retaining the same burrow for 22 years! The record for mate fidelity is held by EN 53 (a 24-year-old female transplanted from Newfoundland in 1979) and U02 (a male of unknown origin). They have nested in the same burrow for 17 years! This summer, researchers were elated when they discovered that Bi 76, a 23-year-old male translocated to Egg Rock from Newfoundland in 1978, was nesting. Even though he had been present at his burrow for the past six years, he could not attract a mate. However, this summer, researchers found him with an unbanded female and together they successfully reared a chick—his first in six years.

Matinicus Rock: Record High Count—256 Pairs!

From a low of just two puffin pairs in 1900, the Matinicus puffin colony has steadily recovered to 256 pairs this summer. This increase was due in part to birds translocated to Maine from Newfoundland. A few of these birds continue to nest at the island (five were sighted this summer). Among this group is White 52, the oldest translocated puffin who was 28 years old this summer.



STEPHEN WALKER

INSIDE

- AUDUBON'S MAINE COASTAL ISLAND SANCTUARIES
- SEABIRD RESTORATION WORLD-WIDE
- EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

1973–2003: THREE DECADES BUILDING

The Audubon Maine Coastal Islands Sanctuaries include 13 islands of which seven are actively managed sites that support 20 species of waterbirds with a total population of approximately 15,000 nesting pairs. The managed colonies are home to 95% of Maine puffins and 62% of the state's Razorbills. The islands are also home to 86% of Maine's endangered Roseate Terns, 67% and 65% respectively of Arctic and Common Terns and 65% of the state's Laughing Gulls. Each summer 18 seasonal staff, comprised of island supervisors and interns, work at Audubon's seven field stations and are actively engaged in all facets of research, monitoring and management, including the protection and restoration of colony sites. Resident field camps are established each summer in May and are occupied continuously through mid-August to insure that nesting species are protected. Without resident staff on the islands, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls would quickly exclude most other seabirds and the colonies would be vulnerable to disturbance by predators such as mink and owls, as well as by unsupervised human visitors. ❖



STEPHEN W. KREISS

JENNY ISLAND

Located in Western Casco Bay and owned by MDIFW, our program began on this 2-acre island in 1991. The rich waters of the New Meadow River attract large numbers of young herring and hake that nourish Common and Roseate Tern chicks. Interns reside in a tent camp in the midst of as many as 1,200 pairs of nesting terns.

OUTER GREEN ISLAND

This 5.5-acre treeless island, located five miles east of Portland, Maine, is owned by MDIFW. As the outermost island in Casco Bay, it is secure from seabird predators such as mink and owls that often visit more vulnerable inshore locations. The camp base is a 12'x12' expedition tent. The rapid colonization and high productivity of the island during the first two years of management bode well for the future of this island's seabirds.

EASTERN EGG ROCK

Alan D. Cruickshank Wildlife Sanctuary

This seven-acre, treeless island is owned by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW). The island is noted for being the first restored seabird colony in the world. All species that were historically present are now nesting here again, including 59 pairs of Atlantic Puffins and 163 pairs of Roseate Terns—the largest colony of this species in Maine. A tent camp was established in 1973; it is the first of our Maine field stations. The "Egg Rock Hilton" (a 12'x12' wood structure) was built in 1979. It has withstood many tropical storms and tides so extreme that seaweed was delivered to its doorstep.



STEVEN WALKER

Ross Island

A

B

A Duryea Morton Wildlife Sanctuary on Harbor Island

B Western Egg Rock

POND ISLAND NWR

Situated in the mouth of the Kennebec River, this 10-acre island was home to more than 300 pairs of Common Terns this summer and two pairs of endangered Roseate Terns. Interns use a 12'x12' expedition tent as their base camp. The program began in 1996 in cooperation with the Petit Manan NWR.



SCOTT HALL



STEPHEN W. KREISS

Bluff Island

STRATTON ISLAND

Phineas W. Sprague Wildlife Sanctuary

The island is owned and protected by Audubon, and has been managed by the Seabird Restoration Program since 1986; cooperating closely with the Prout's Neck Audubon Society. Stratton Island is home to several species that are at the northern or southern limit of their range, including Black Guillemots and American Oystercatchers. The island is home to Maine's most diverse heronry and one of the state's most important Common and Roseate Tern colonies. Thousands of shorebirds roost here during migration. A large expedition tent was donated by Moss Tents for use as a field staff base camp.



STEPHEN W. KREISS

AUDUBON'S MAINE COASTAL ISLAND SANCTUARIES

Little Duck Island



STEPHEN W. KREISS

Ten Pound Island

MATINICUS ROCK

This 27-acre island is part of the Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge. Audubon and its founders have worked to protect seabirds here since 1900. It is home to Maine's largest colonies of puffins and Razorbills. This year, 256 pairs of puffins nested, and the Razorbill colony increased by 25% to 211 pairs. Field staff live in the venerable granite lightkeeper's house constructed in 1846.



STEPHEN W. KREISS

SEAL ISLAND NWR

Our program began on this 65-acre, treeless island in 1984, in cooperation with the Petit Manan NWR. Once the largest puffin colony in mid-coast Maine, puffins were extirpated here by 1887 due to excessive hunting. The puffin restoration techniques developed at Eastern Egg Rock have been replicated and refined on Seal Island. The puffin colony is increasing by more than 20% each year and the island also hosts Maine's largest tern colony. A 12'x12' wood cabin serves as the field station.



STEVEN WALKER

*Want to see
puffins in Maine?*

**To Eastern Egg Rock
from New Harbor**

Hardy Boat Cruises
PO Box 326

New Harbor, ME 04552

(207)677-2026 or (800) 2-PUFFINS

e-mail: <Hardy@gwi.net>

www.hardyboat.com

**To Eastern Egg Rock
from Boothbay Harbor**

R.N. Fish and Son, Inc.

PO Box 660, 65 Atlantic Ave.

Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538

(207)633-3244 or (207)633-2626

www.capnfishboats.com

30TH ANNIVERSARY HONOR STONES

Place a stone at Eastern Egg Rock in honor of a favorite person. Engraved stones make unique gifts for special occasions or serve as memorials—and they add to puffin habitat! Audubon staff will transport the stones and photograph it in place. Your tax-deductible gift of \$1500 to Audubon will help protect Maine puffin sanctuaries.

Call us at (607) 257-7308

email puffin@audubon.org or write to

Project Puffin, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca NY 14850



Social Attraction Tech

Social attraction, the technique of encouraging seabirds to establish new nesting colonies through the use of decoys, mirrors, sound recordings and artificial burrows, was pioneered by Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program (SRP) at Eastern Egg Rock in 1973. The technique has been used worldwide in at least 12 countries for at least 39 seabird species by about 61 agencies and organizations. In addition, the technique has also encouraged nesting of colonial landbirds such as Purple Martin and rare species such as Black-capped Vireo that prefer to nest near each other.

While social attraction alone does not always result in new colonies, the chances of success increase with the translocation of chicks and removal or exclusion of predators. The importance of techniques for establishing or relocating colonies to habitat that is safer from predators, human disturbance and flooding is certain to increase as coasts become increasingly crowded by development. This often leads to a reduced number of nesting places where seabirds may compete for already-scarce fish, and become exposed to pollution, disturbance and predators. Here is a partial list of projects that have used or adapted SRP techniques over the last 30 years:

A Devil's Slide Rock and San Pedro Rock, CA
Common Murre; Brandt's Cormorant
Sponsors: USFWS; HSU; SRP

B Washburn, WI
Common Terns
Sponsor: WBER

Allouez Bay, Superior, WI
Common Terns
Sponsor: WBER

Duluth-Superior Harbor, MN
Common Terns
Sponsor: MDNR

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Sandusky, OH
Common Tern

Bay City, MI
Common Terns
Sponsor: ERS

C Montezuma NWR, NY
Black Terns
Sponsors: USFWS
Sponsors: ODNR; USFWS



Common Murre and decoys, Matinicus Rock, Maine.

Most of the decoys used in North American projects were created by Mad River Decoy <www.madriverconsulting.com/decoy> and Ducktrap Decoy <duck-trap.com/decoys.html>. Flamingo decoys are made by Byron Bodt <bodtdecoys.com>.

Most sound systems were built by Murremaid Music Boxes; 11 Audubon Road, Bremen, ME 04551. Email sschubel@tidewater.net.

D Ship Island, ME
Common Terns
Sponsor: USFWS

Seal Island NWR, ME
Arctic Terns, Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills
Sponsors: SRP; USFWS; CWS

Wooden Ball Island, ME
Arctic Terns, Atlantic Puffins
Sponsor: SRP

Matinicus Rock, ME
Common Murres
Sponsors: SRP; USFWS

Metinic Island, ME
Arctic Terns
Sponsor: USFWS

Eastern Egg Rock, ME
Arctic Terns, Atlantic Puffins
Sponsors: SRP; MDIFW; CWS

Old Hump Ledge, ME
Leach's Storm-Petrel
Sponsors: SRP; MDIFW

Pond Island NWR, ME
Common and Roseate Terns
Sponsors: SRP; USFWS

Jenny Island, ME
Common Terns
Sponsors: SRP; MDIFW

Outer Green Island, ME
Common and Roseate Terns
Sponsors: SRP; MDIFW

Stratton Island, ME
Common and Roseate Terns
Sponsors: SRP; PINAS

Seavy Island, NH
Common and Roseate Terns
Sponsors: NHAS; NHDFG

E Gannet Rock, Yarmouth, NS
Northern Gannet
Sponsor: TDE

Sheep Island, NB
Common Terns
Sponsor: GMBO

Machias Seal Island, NB
Roseate Terns
Sponsor: CWS

F Country Island, NS
Common Terns
Sponsor: CWS

● Torishima Island, Japan
Short-tailed Albatross
Sponsors: YIO; JWS



Short-tailed Albatross decoys among Laysan Albatrosses, Midway Island.

East Sand Island, Columbia R
Caspian Tern
Sponsors: OSU; USGS; CRITFC; RTR

Midway Island
Short-tailed Albatross
Sponsors: USFWS; SRP

● Kaohikaipu Islet, Oahu, HI
Laysan Albatross
Sponsors: SRP; USFWS; HDFW; HAS

Palmyra Atoll, Line Islands
Sooty Tern
Sponsor: USFWS

Jarvis Island, Line Islands
Phoenix Petrel
Sponsor: USFWS

Boondelbah Island, Australia
Gould's Petrels
Sponsors: NSWNPWS

Cat Island, Tasmania
Australasian Gannets
Sponsors: TDLPW

Tiritiri-Matangi and Ihumoana Islands (Bethell's Bea
Gray-faced Petrel
Sponsors: NZDOC

● Cuvier Island, Pycroft's Petrels and Little Barrier Island, Black Petrels
Sponsors: NZDOC

● Chatham Islands
Chatham Island Petrels; Chatham Island Taiko
Sponsors: NZDOC

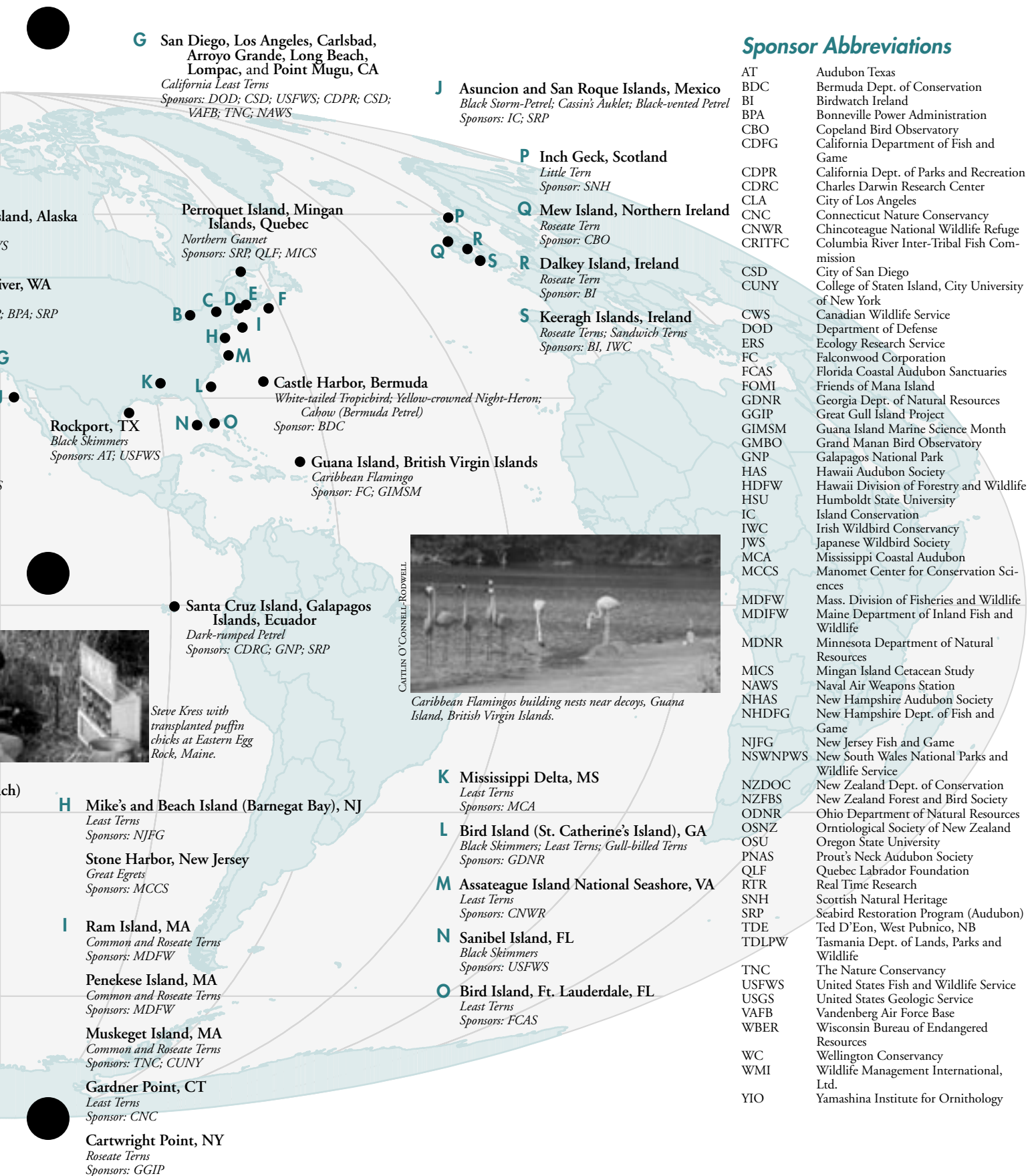
Maud Island
Fluttering Shearwaters
Sponsors: OSNZ; WMI

Mana Island
New Zealand Diving Petrels; Fairy Prions; White-faced Storm-Petrel; Australasian Gannets
Sponsors: NZDOC; WC; FOMI; NZFBS

STEPHEN W. KRESS

KRISTIN FITZGERALD

Techniques Used Worldwide



Sponsor Abbreviations

AT	Audubon Texas
BDC	Bermuda Dept. of Conservation
BI	Birdwatch Ireland
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CBO	Copeland Bird Observatory
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDPR	California Dept. of Parks and Recreation
CDRC	Charles Darwin Research Center
CLA	City of Los Angeles
CNC	Connecticut Nature Conservancy
CNWR	Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
CRITFC	Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
CSD	City of San Diego
CUNY	College of Staten Island, City University of New York
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
DOD	Department of Defense
ERS	Ecology Research Service
FC	Falconwood Corporation
FCAS	Florida Coastal Audubon Sanctuaries
FOMI	Friends of Mana Island
GDNr	Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
GGIP	Great Gull Island Project
GIMSM	Guana Island Marine Science Month
GMBO	Grand Manan Bird Observatory
GNP	Galapagos National Park
HAS	Hawaii Audubon Society
HDFW	Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife
HSU	Humboldt State University
IC	Island Conservation
IWC	Irish Wildbird Conservancy
JWS	Japanese Wildbird Society
MCA	Mississippi Coastal Audubon
MCCS	Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
MDFW	Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
MDIFW	Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife
MDNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
MICS	Mingan Island Cetacean Study
NAWS	Naval Air Weapons Station
NHAS	New Hampshire Audubon Society
NHDFG	New Hampshire Dept. of Fish and Game
NJFG	New Jersey Fish and Game
NSWNPWS	New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service
NZDOC	New Zealand Dept. of Conservation
NZFBS	New Zealand Forest and Bird Society
ODNR	Ohio Department of Natural Resources
OSNZ	Ornithological Society of New Zealand
OSU	Oregon State University
PNAS	Prout's Neck Audubon Society
QLF	Quebec Labrador Foundation
RTR	Real Time Research
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SRP	Seabird Restoration Program (Audubon)
TDE	Ted D'Eon, West Pubnico, NB
TDLPW	Tasmania Dept. of Lands, Parks and Wildlife
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geologic Service
VAFB	Vandenberg Air Force Base
WBFR	Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources
WC	Wellington Conservancy
WMI	Wildlife Management International, Ltd.
YIO	Yamashina Institute for Ornithology

THE 2003 MAINE RESEARCH TEAM

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EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Josephine Daneman Herz International Seabird Fellowship

A generous gift from Josephine Herz of Green Valley, Arizona has endowed a special fund to provide fellowships to professional seabird biologists from developing countries. The goal of the program is to provide on-site training in seabird restoration techniques by working with Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program.



SCOTT HALL

Carlos Zavalaga, a native of Peru, was the first recipient of the Herz Fellowship

The first recipient of the Herz Fellowship was Carlos Zavalaga of Lima, Peru. Carlos is a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina in Wilmington. His Ph.D. research is focused on studying the diet and foraging ecology of Blue-footed Boobies that nest in the Humboldt Current off coastal Peru. Carlos served as Island Supervisor on Seal Island NWR this summer. He learned about seabird restoration techniques and Maine seabirds, while supervising the field team.

Summer Puffin-Watching Tours

Rain and fog dampened the puffin-watching scene this summer, but a respectable total of 3,809 people came out on a total of 84 boat tours to Eastern Egg Rock. The tours this summer were led by veteran puffin watcher and education coordinator "Puffin Pete" Salmansohn, education intern Clifford Blizard from the State University of New York's School of Environmental Science and Forestry, and naturalist Tom Mullin of New Harbor, Maine.

Seabird Sue and Maine Schools

"Seabird Sue" Schubel, the Seabird Restoration Program's outreach educator, brought seabirds to the attention of 1,160 children in 20 Maine schools and libraries during the 2002-03 school year. All of the 70 classes learned about spectacular seabirds and 20 welcomed Sue for more in-depth instruction during as many as five visits per class.



SUE SCHUBEL

Students in Ms. Toolin's 3rd-grade class at Bowdoin Central School in Maine experience "blubber mitts," a classroom activity that demonstrates the insulation quality of seabird fat.



STEVE KRAISS

Puffin devotees who contribute \$100 or more (tax deductible) to the Seabird Restoration Program will receive a certificate of adoption for one Eastern Egg Rock puffin, along with a photograph and a biography of the bird. Adopt online at <www.projectpuffin.org> or call us at (607) 257-7308.

Seabird Watching on the Internet

This summer, viewers worldwide enjoyed intimate glimpses of terns and puffins on Eastern Egg Rock by visiting our website to watch the live-streaming video. The camera, an invention of Daniel Zatz of SeeMore Wildlife Systems, based in Homer, Alaska, is a weather-tight unit with a lens so clear that viewers in the mainland visitor center can read details on tern leg bands! Using signals transmitted via microwave, visitors to the Audubon center in Bremen, Maine could move the robotic camera in all directions, and zoom in for close views. Viewers at home could observe seabirds as if they were peering from windows in an island observation blind. The camera was removed from the island in mid August, but it will again return to our website in late May 2004.



Twelve months a year, you can explore Egg Rock through a virtual tour by visiting www.projectpuffin.org

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We thank the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) for permission and logistic support for our work on Eastern Egg Rock, Jenny Island and Outer Green Island; Stan Skutek, Brian Benedict and the staff of Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge for their continued cooperation with our studies on Seal Island, Pond Island and Matinicus Rock, which are administered by the Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge; and the Prout's Neck Audubon Society for their loyal support of our work on Stratton Island.

It is a special pleasure to acknowledge the following people for their generous assistance and gifts:

- Brad Allen & John Kenny, MDIFW
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- Rachel Bickel
- Camp Kieve, Nobleboro ME
- Casco Bay Keepers
- Robert & Amy Campbell
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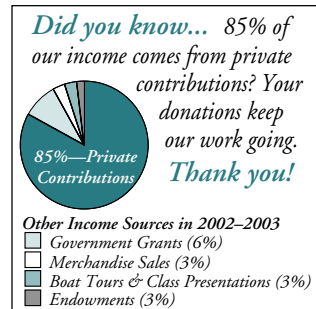
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- Lee Ann & RuthAnne Hoffner

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- Bill Scholtz
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- Clark Smith & Prout's Neck Yacht Club staff
- Helen, Chris & Emily Tupper
- Dr. Gerald Urquhart
- Daniel Zatz and SeeMore Wildlife, Inc.

2002-2003 CONTRIBUTORS

HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS



In memory of Velma Davis

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