

Updates From Tuckernuck

July 6 - July 19, 2026

Maria Pisciotta, Coastal Steward

The past couple of weeks have been busy on Tuckernuck! We've had our first couple of weekly education programs, which have been a lot of fun, and it's been exciting to share what's happening on the island. As the breeding season changes, it's been awesome to watch the birds change with it!



Mute Swan on a foggy morning



Piping Plover nest with one egg

More Piping Plovers are beginning to appear with their fledglings. At Bigelow's Point, a group of around 20 Piping Plovers is often foraging on the tidal flats. Several of these are chicks accompanied by their parents as they search for small invertebrates on the exposed flats during the falling tide. While many of the chicks are now quite large, one pair is still incubating a single egg. This is their third nesting attempt of the season, and they are still hoping for a successful hatch.

Over the past couple of weeks, I've seen all of the East Pond American Oystercatcher chicks take their first flights. In total, five fledglings have successfully fledged from this area. This is especially cool to see, since these are all from the first three nests that I found on Tuckernuck.



Oystercatcher fledgling

35 days old



Hungry Roseate Tern juvenile and adult

While Bigelow's Point has been a hotspot for post-breeding Roseate and Common Terns, several Common Terns are nesting on Whale Point. As juvenile terns begin to appear, increasing numbers of post-breeding birds have been gathering at Whale Point as well.

More young Roseate and Common Terns have continued to join the colony at Bigelow's Point. Observing them has become a lot more fast-paced as more adults are bringing in fish for their young. Recently, we saw two Royal Terns among them. This was especially cool since they were both still in breeding plumage.



Royal Tern in breeding plumage, behind Roseate and Black Terns



Common Tern deterring a Northern Harrier



Common Tern juvenile