

Abstract for LEAP Presentation, October 17, 2014

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“No Stone Unturned: A Look Into my Summer with the Seabirds of Maine”

Have you ever shared a home with 2,000 birds? Are you dying to work with an endangered species? This past summer I did both while living and working on islands off the coast of Maine. I worked as a Research Assistant with the National Audubon Society's Project Puffin seabird restoration program, an opportunity that has left a lasting impression on me.

While on the job, I learned: how to differentiate an uncountable number of bird and fish species, how to identify and manage predators, how to band birds, how to operate a motorboat, and so much more. However, I also learned the importance of clear expectations, thorough training, competent supervision, and adaptability in an ever-changing workplace. This presentation will lead you on a journey through my summer as a seabird biologist.