

Engraved 53 (EN 53)



2010 Summary

Age: 31 years

On May 29th, within the first hour of her first observation watch for 2010, Island Supervisor Juliet Lamb was able to identify EN53 from the "Pru Tower" blind near Burrow #26—despite the fact that EN53 wears only a much worn US Fish & Wildlife Service band. Unaware of just how cooperative she was, EN53 walked around at the entrance of the burrow—turning around several times so that Juliet could read all the worn numerals of her US Fish and Wildlife Service metal band within minutes.

EN53's last known mate, AI26, was spotted on the nearby Runway Loafing Ledge on May 28th, but then not again until June 12th. That evening, the pair exited Burrow #26 together and just two minutes later, EN53 returned to the burrow with her beak stuffed with inch-long shiny herring. That single observation enabled Juliet to confirm that EN53 and AI26 nested together again and that their egg had hatched.

AI26 was EN53's mate in 2008. Unfortunately, no one was able to read his band in 2009. Now that AI26 is confirmed as her 2010 mate, we can say it was highly likely AI26 was her 2009 mate.

Until her puffling's last meal was delivered on July 20th, there were numerous sightings of EN53 and AI26 together at Burrow #26. Although the boulder-strewn island terrain is quite irregular, a flat rock rests at the entrance to Burrow #26; researchers dubbed it the burrow's "front porch." When not on the water, EN53 spent a good deal of her time standing, "loafing" and sleeping on the front porch, except for a 7:21 a.m. visit to the Runway Loafing Ledge on June 8th.

EN53's puffling was fed for 39 consecutive days, so we are confident it fledged from the burrow soon after the last feeding was recorded on July 20th. (By coincidence, this was also her final food delivery date in 2009.) Neither EN53 nor AI26 were spotted ashore after July 20th this year. It is not known how long puffin parents remain close to the island after their puffling fledges, but we do know that they provide no further care or guidance for the chick after it leaves the burrow. A puffling leaves the burrow at night and immediately enters the water.



Project Puffin

SEABIRD RESTORATION PROGRAM

EN53 will "winter" on the North Atlantic waters until April 2011. We look forward to her return for another successful nesting season.

Atlantic Puffin Engraved 53 (EN 53)

Transplanted from Great Island, Newfoundland to Eastern Egg Rock, Maine on July 21, 1979 with 99 other pufflings. Transplanted puffins were placed in sod burrows and fed thawed, vitamin-supplemented smelt three times each day until fledging. (A bird "fledges" when it leaves the nest on its own.)

Age at transplant: 17 days **Sex:** Female

Identification Bands

Left Leg: No bands

Right Leg: US Fish and Wildlife Service metal band **785-37053**

PREVIOUS BANDS:

Left Leg: E53 engraved in black on a white plastic band replaced 1989, then lost in 2001.

Fledged

from Eastern Egg Rock, Maine on August 21, 1979 during the mild, but foggy evening that preceded a bright, clear day. She spent the next two years at sea.

Pre-breeding Visits to Land

1982	visited Matinicus Rock 12 days
1983	8 days at Matinicus Rock and 3 days at Egg Rock
1984	1 day at Matinicus Rock and 25 days at Egg Rock
1985	2 days at Matinicus Rock and 36 days at Egg Rock

First Breeding

1986 season (7 years old—a late start for a puffin)

Mate(s)

1986–2005:	Unbanded 02 (U02), unknown origin, later trapped and banded
2006–2008:	AI26, a breeding age puffin trapped and banded in 2003
2009:	Likely AI26; researchers were unable to read his band numbers/letters
2010:	AI26

Nesting Location

In all years, Burrow #26, a rock crevice on the south shore of Eastern Egg Rock. This burrow is at the center of a cluster of eleven puffin nests on the south shore of the island. In 1986, Burrow #26 (also known as the "Tan Tenement") was directly under a large section of dredge pipe that washed ashore during a winter storm. The pipe was a favorite loafing spot for the puffins nesting on the south side. Subsequent winter wave action has moved the pipe another 20 feet further onto the island and away from the puffin burrows.

Nesting Success

A nesting season is considered successful if an egg was laid, it hatched, and the chick was fed for a minimum of 21 days. It leaves the burrow under cover of darkness and walks or flutters to the water. The puffling must now feed itself and guard against the dangers of the sea. If fed for less than 21 days, we assume the chick did not survive.



Project Puffin

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1986:	chick fed only 4 days
1987–89:	chick fledged
1990–99:	chick fledged
2000–05:	chick fledged
2006–09:	chick fledged
2010:	chick fledged