Introduction:

In an effort to benefit the seabirds trying to nest there, Mink have been trapped off the islands SE of Vinalhaven.

There had been one mink caught on Otter during the spring of '98. Four mink caught during the spring of '97, three on Otter and one on Robert's. Two mink were trapped on Otter during the late summer of '95.

Mink traps were set on Otter, Roberts, and Carvers, islands, during the spring of '99. The first traps were set on the 9th of April, and were taken up on the 11th of May. No Mink were caught and there was no sign of Mink found.

Adult Guillemots attending the islands were counted in mid May. There was a total of about 500 adult Guillemots around the islands, Carvers, Roberts, Little Roberts' Otter and Lanes Nubble (AKA. Hay Island).

We Made A search for Guillemot nest sites in early August. Nest sites that have hatched chicks are easy to find as there is a characteristic guano pile. The number of such sites has risen each of the last three years.

This effort was supported by the Vinalhaven Land Trust , The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and The Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge.

Summary of Mink trap effort:

The of April 9th Eric Davis, Earl Hamilton and John Drury set traps on Otter, Roberts and Carvers. There was no fresh mink sign on the islands, traps were set in case mink showed up out there this spring.

There were eight mink traps set on Otter. The traps were checked the 14th , 20th, 26th . There was an adult Herring Gull caught in a set at the North end of the island found on the 14th that trap was not reset. The other seven traps caught nothing and were taken off the island on the 11th of May.

There were two traps set on the north western shore of Roberts these were checked on the same dates as those at Otter. The traps on Roberts caught nothing and were taken up on the seventh of May.

There were two traps set on the North east end of Carvers Island, they were checked the same days as those on Roberts. There was an adult black-backed gull in one of the traps when they were taken up on the 11th of May. The gull had been caught by the neck.

Search results,

On Carvers island in '97 we found only two successful sites, dead chicks at 10 sites and dead adults at 5 sites,. In 98 we found live chicks at 8 sites, 18 other sites that had chick guano where no chick was seen, and dead chicks at only two sites.

This year we found a total of 24 live chicks at 17 sites, and 24 other sites that had chick guano but no chick was seen.

A site with a guano pile is significant because it indicates the presence of a chick. At sites where only the guano pile was seen we know that the adults were successful in hatching a chick. Fledged guillemots of the year were seen on July 22, so many of the empty burrows may have fledged young.

As Guillemots lay two eggs even a site at which there is a dead chick may have fledged another.

98 was the first time in the last four years there were live Guillemot chicks found on Hay. There were 9 live chicks found at 5 sites and 8 total sites with chick guano in '98. In 99 there were 7 live chicks found at 4 sites and 13 sites with chick guano.

On Otter In '97 there were 0 live chicks seen and only 6 sites with chick guano found. In '98 10 chicks were found at 8 sites and there was a total of 17 sites with chick guano. In '99 there were 18 live chicks found at 14 sites and a total of 53 sites with chick guano.

On Roberts there were three sites with live chicks found in '97 and there were 5 sites with dead chicks, In '98 there were three sites with live chicks and no sites with dead chicks, a total of only four sites with chick guano in '98. In '99 there were 10 live chicks seen at 6 sites and a total of 18 sites with chick guano.

A partial search of little Roberts was made Aug 4, (see map) there were six live chicks found at four sites and a total of 8 sites with chick guano, @ half the shoreline was searched. There were Young Cormorants in the area not searched.

The total number of sites found at which Guillemot chicks hatched, for Carvers, Hay, Roberts and Otter was 12 in '96, 24 in '97, 58 in '98, and 123 in '99.

Adult Guillemot attendance at the Islands SE of Vinalhaven, three days in Mid May.

Roberts island

Date	time	Adult Guillemot
May 11	06:40	60
May 13	06:45	68
May 15	06:30	60
May 15	09:00	40

Little Roberts

Date	Time	Adult Guillemot
May 11	06:40	69
May 13	06:45	90
May 15	06:30	103
May 15	09:05	62

Otter Island

Date	Time	Adult Guillemot
May 11	07:20	200
May 13	07:20	193
May 15	07:25	147
May 15	09:20	131

Carvers Island

Date	Time	Adult Guillemot
May 11	07:00	142
May 13	06:56	156
May 15	07:00	106
May 15	08:45	120

Hay Island

Date	time	Adult Guillemot
May 11	07:05	46
May 13	07:10	51
May 15	07:15	31
May 15	08:30	30

Brimstone Island

Date	Time	Adult Guillemot
May 11	08:00	313
May 13	07:55	300
May 15	08:05	363

Little Brimstone Island

Date	Time	Adult Guillemot
May 11	07:35	93
May 13	07:42	101
May 15	07:51	84

Guillemot productivity on the Islands South East of Vinalhaven '95-'99

Island	Count Date	Total Live Chicks	Guano no Chick Seen	Sites W Dead Chicks	total Sites W Guano	Site w Dead Adult	Sites w Dead Eggs	May High Counts
Otter 99	5-Aug	18	36	5	**53**	1	7	200
Otter 98	5-Aug	10	8	2	**17**	0	1	101
Otter 97	8-Aug	0	2	4	**6**	4	3	78
Otter 96								120
Otter 95	3-Aug	0	0	2	**1**	6	6	200
Roberts 99	4-Aug	10	9	2	**18**	0	3	68
Roberts 98	5-Aug	6	0	0	**4**	1	5	52
Roberts 97	1-Aug	4	1	4	**7**	1	3	47
Roberts 96	3-Aug	0	0	0	**0**	1	4	110
Roberts 95	2-Aug	5	6	4	**13**	0	0	98
Hay 99	3-Aug	7	6	0	**11**	1	0	51
Hay 98	4-Aug	8	1	2	**8**	0	0	46
Hay 97	4-Aug	0	0	1	**1**	2	3	17
Hay 96	6-Aug	0	2	0	**2**	0	1	72
Hay 95	1-Aug	0	2	0	**2**	0	2	45
Carvers 99	3-Aug	24	21	4	**41**	3	3	156
Carvers 98	4-Aug	10	20	2	**29**	1	3	156
Carvers 97	4-Aug	3	2	9	**12**	3	3	147
Carvers 96	3-Aug	2	2	8	**10**	4	5	154
Carvers 95	1-Aug	9	5	4	**15**	4	1	99
Brimstone 99								363
Brimstone 98	7-Aug	61	46	0	93	2	2	
Brimstone 97	6-Aug	59	21	8	74		18	310
Brimstone 96	4-Aug	79	24	3	84	1	4	354
Brimstone 95								305

The count date is the date of the shoreline search.

The total live Chicks is the total number of living Guillemot chicks found on the island during the search of the shoreline.

Sites with Guano no chick seen, is the number of sites at which there were guano piles but no chick was seen, The young may have fledges or be hidden dead or alive.

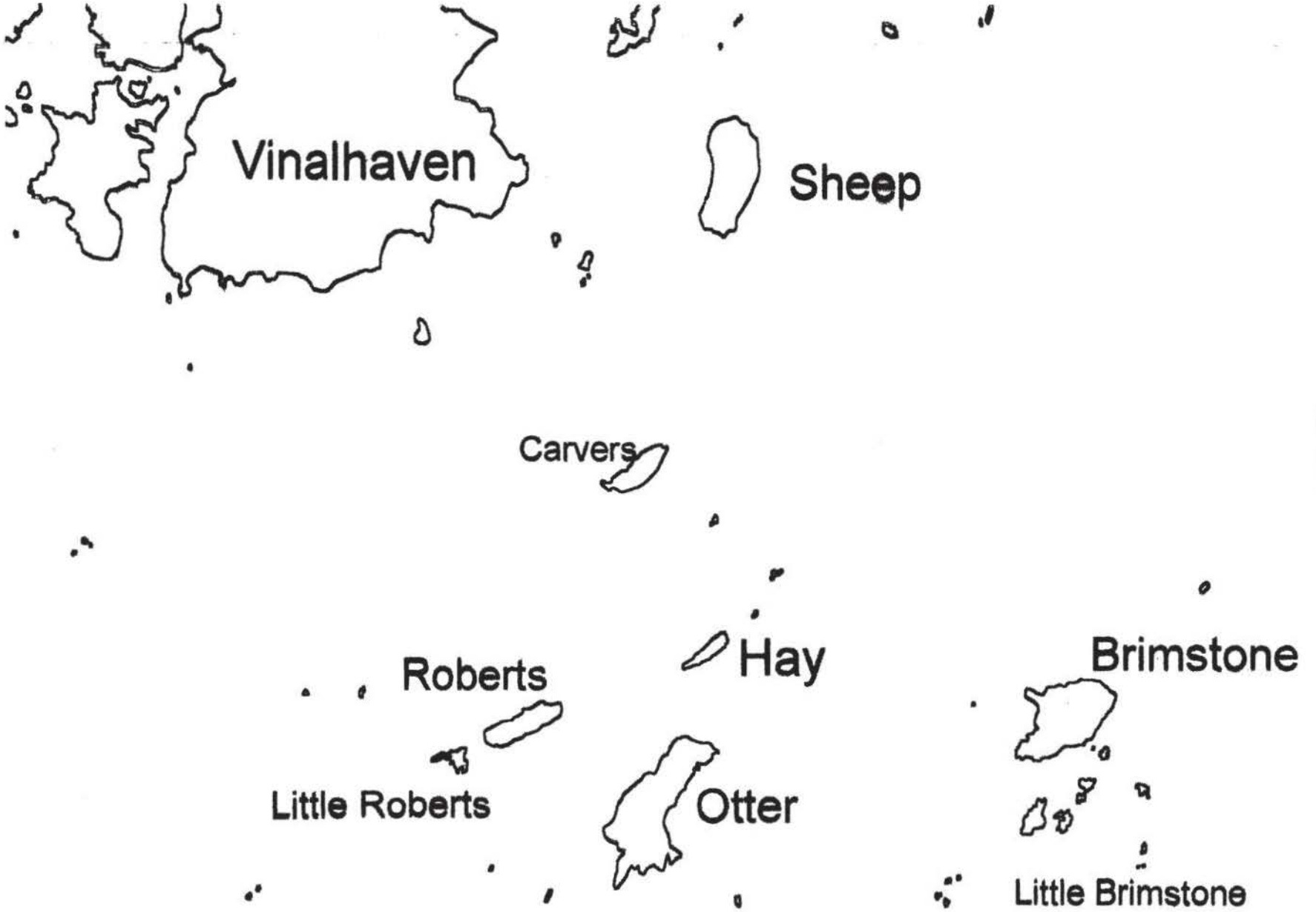
Dead chicks, total dead guillemot chicks found.

Total sites with Guano includes, sites with live chicks, Sites with dead chicks or just guano no chick seen. this indicates the number of sites that hatched young. The guano piles are conspicuous and make a good measure of the breeding effort.

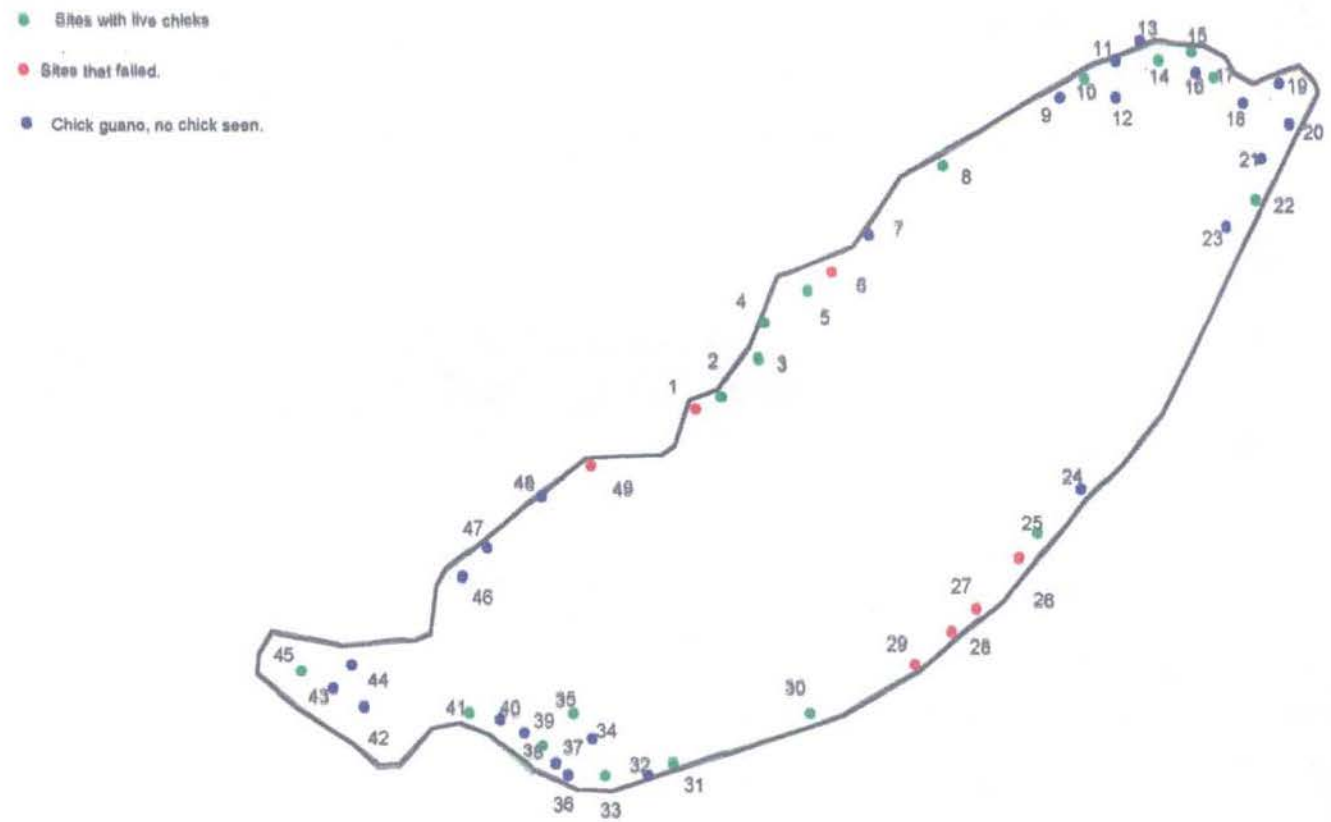
Sites with dead adults, the total number of dead guillemots found in nesting sites.

Sites with dead eggs, the number of sites at which this years dead eggs were found, this includes sites with one or two eggs, and sites that may also have had dead adults which would also be recorded in the dead adult column.

The High counts of adults were made in the middle of May


Vinalhaven
Sheep
Carvers
Hay
Roberts
Brimstone
Little Roberts
Otter
Little Brimstone
Guillemots SE Vinalhaven '99

Carvers island Guillemot nest sites, Aug. 3 1999.

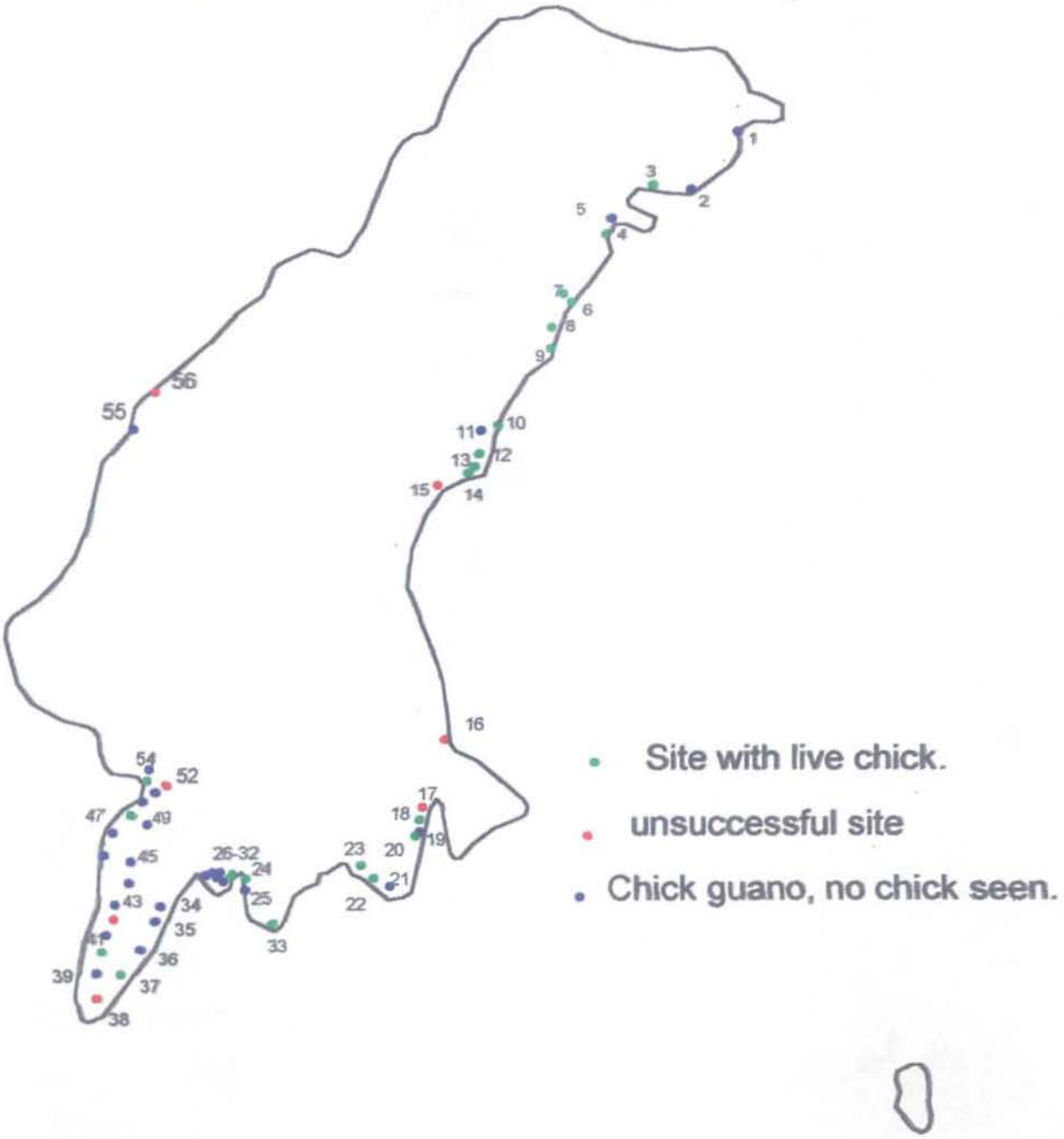


Carvers island Guillemot nest search results, August 3, 1999, five observers. Start 09:40 finish, 13:15.

Site #, (see map)

1, Dead Egg, and old egg shell, last years?
2, Guano, old dead egg, one 3 week old chick seen, there could be 2.
3, Guano, no chick seen, probable fledge.
4, Guano, one 3 + week old chick seen.
5, 2 chicks little guano, one 3 weeks old one 4 weeks old.
6, Kirn, dead egg, this years egg, no guano.
7, Egg shell. Guano, no chick seen.
8, Big Guano, two chicks 4 weeks old, ready to go.
9, Guano, no chick seen, can't see all the chamber, possible fledge, possibly a chick in there.
10, Guano, two 4 week old chicks and dead adult.
11, Guano, no chick seen.
12, Guano, no chick seen.
13, Guano, no chick seen.
14, Guano, two 4 week old chicks.
15, Guano, 1 chick seen.
16, Guano, dead chick.
17, Guano, One 4 week old chick.
18, Guano, dead chick, dead a while last years?
19, Guano, no chick seen.
20, Guano, no chick seen, Kirn, old guano?
21, Guano, dead chick, no other chick seen , could be there possible fledge.
22, Guano, big pile, 2 chicks 4 weeks old, ready to go.
23, Guano, no chick seen, possible fledge
24, Guano, no chick seen, probable fledge.
25, Guano, one 4 week old chick.
26, Guano, 2 dead chicks.
27, Egg shell, last years.
28, Kirn, dead adult, no guano, egg shell.
29, Dead adult, no guano, no egg, no chick seen.
30, One 10 day old chick, some guano.
31, Heard squealing, guano.
32, Guano, can't see chamber.
33, Guano, one 3+ week old.
34, Guano, no chick seen , probable fledge.
35, Guano, 3 week old chick.
36, Guano, no chick seen.
37, Guano, no chick seen.
38, Guano, one 4 week old chick.
39, Guano, no chick seen.
40, Guano, no chick seen.
41, Guano, one 4 week old chick.
42, Guano no chick seen.
43, Guano no chick seen.
44, Guano, no chick seen, could be in there.
45, Guano, two 4 week old, ready to go, force fledge.
46, Guano, no chick seen.
47, Guano, no chick seen.
48, Guano, no chick seen.
49, last years dead chick, no guano.

Otter Island Guillemot nest sites August 5 '99



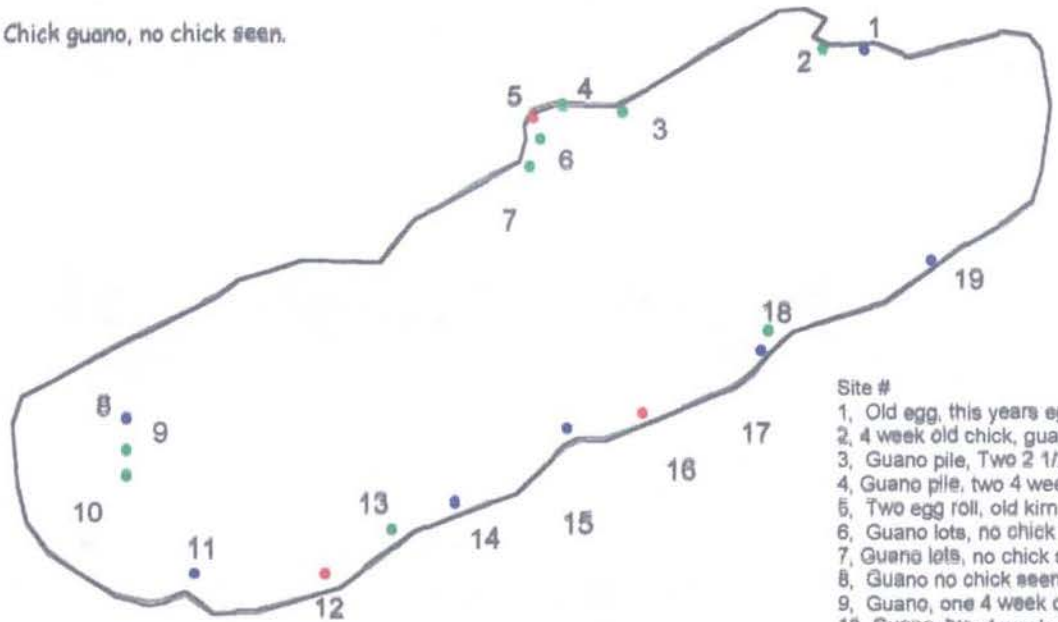
Otter Island Guillemot nest search results, August 5th, 1999, 6 observers,
Start at 09:25, finish 16:30.

Site number, (see map)

1, Guano, no chick seen.
2, Guano, no chick seen.
3, Guano, at least one 3+ week old chick,
4, Guano , egg shell, no chick seen.
5, Two, 4 week old Chicks.
6, Guano mucho no chick seen.
7, Two less than two week old chicks, egg shell.
8, Two four week old chicks.
9, At least one 2 week old chick.
10, Guano, no chick seen, probable fledge.
11, Guano no chick seen possible fledge.
12, Old Kirn, Guano, no chick seen, probable fledge.
13, Guano, 2 three week old chicks.
14, Guano, no chick seen, probable fledge.
15, Old Kirn dead adult last years.
16, Dead 4 week old chick.
17, Kirn, Guano, eggshell, dead 4 week old chick.
18, scrambling, at least 1, 4 week old chick.
19, Guano, Egg shell, no chick seen, possible fledge.
20, Guano, old Kirn, 1 live one dead 4 week old chicks.
21, Guano, No chick seen.
22, Guano no chick seen, probable fledge.
23, Guano, one 3 week old chick.
24, Guano a lot, no chick seen, probable fledge.
25, Guano, no chick seen.
26, Guano, one two week old chick.
27, Guano, one 4 week old chick.
28, Guano, egg, egg shell, no chick seen, possible fledge.
29, Guano, No chick seen.
30, Guano, No chick seen.
31, Guano, no chick seen.
32, Guano no chick seen.
33, Adult feeding, guano, egg shell, one 4 week old chick.
34, Guano, mucho.
35, Guano, egg shell, no chick seen.
36, Guano, egg shell, No chick seen, old Kirn.
37, Guano, one 4 week old chick.
38, guano, dead 4 week old, whole egg, old Kirn.
39, Guano egg shell, no chick seen.
40, Guano, One 2 week old chick.
41, Guano, egg.
42, Egg, no guano,
43, Old Kirn, Guano, no chick seen.
44, Guano, no chick seen.
45, Old Kirn, egg shell, guano, no chick seen.
46, Guano, no chick seen.
47, Guano, No chick seen, egg shell, egg.
48, Guano, egg, one 4 week old chick.
49, Guano, no chick seen.
50, Guano, no chick seen.
51, Guano, 2 egg shell, no chick seen.
52, 2 egg one broken, no guano.
53, Guano, no chick seen, probable fledge.
54, Guano, no chick seen.
55, Guano no chick seen.
56, Guano, dead 3 week old chick.

Roberts Island Guillemot nest sites
August 4, 1999

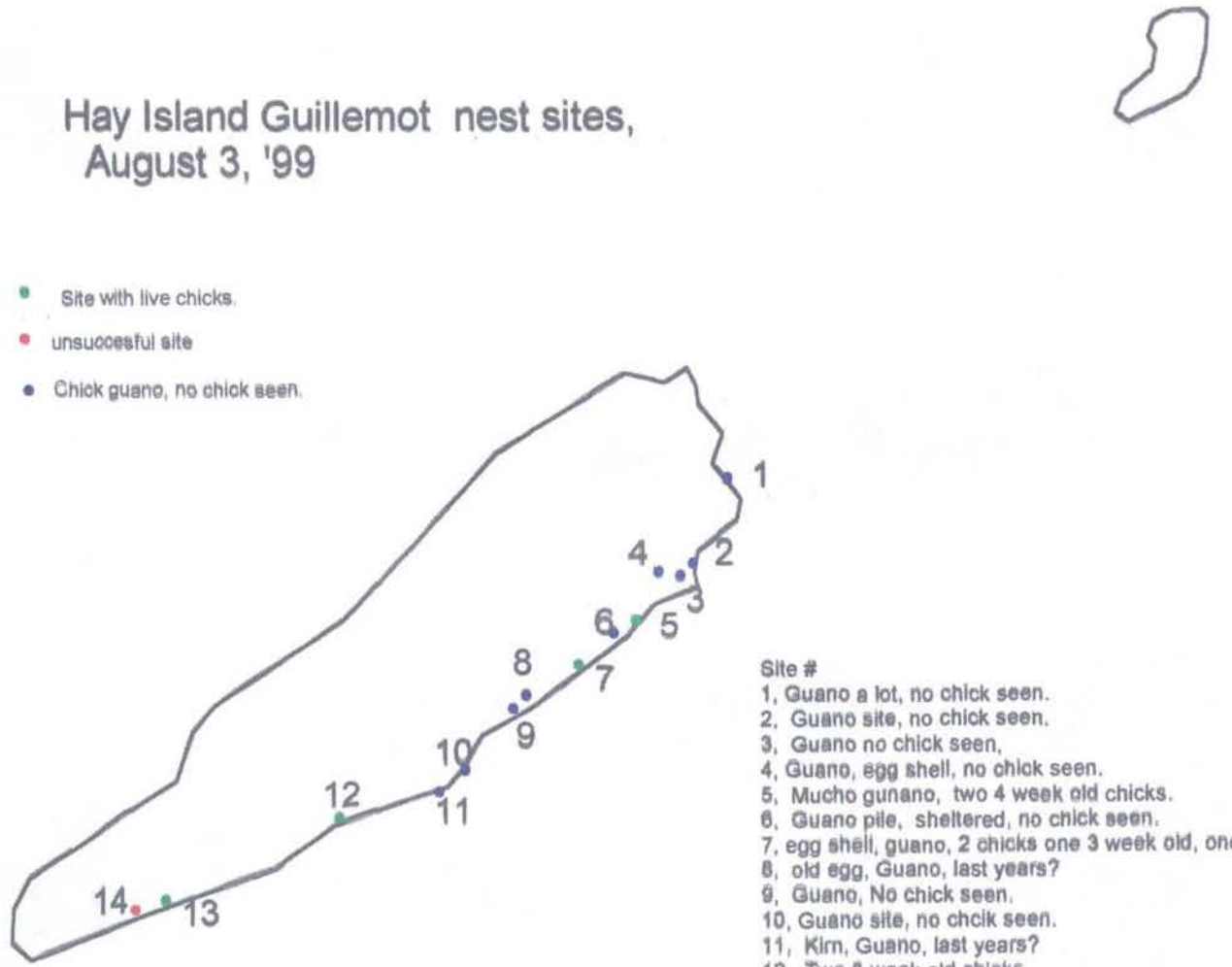
- Sites with live chicks.
- Unsuccessful site
- Chick guano, no chick seen.





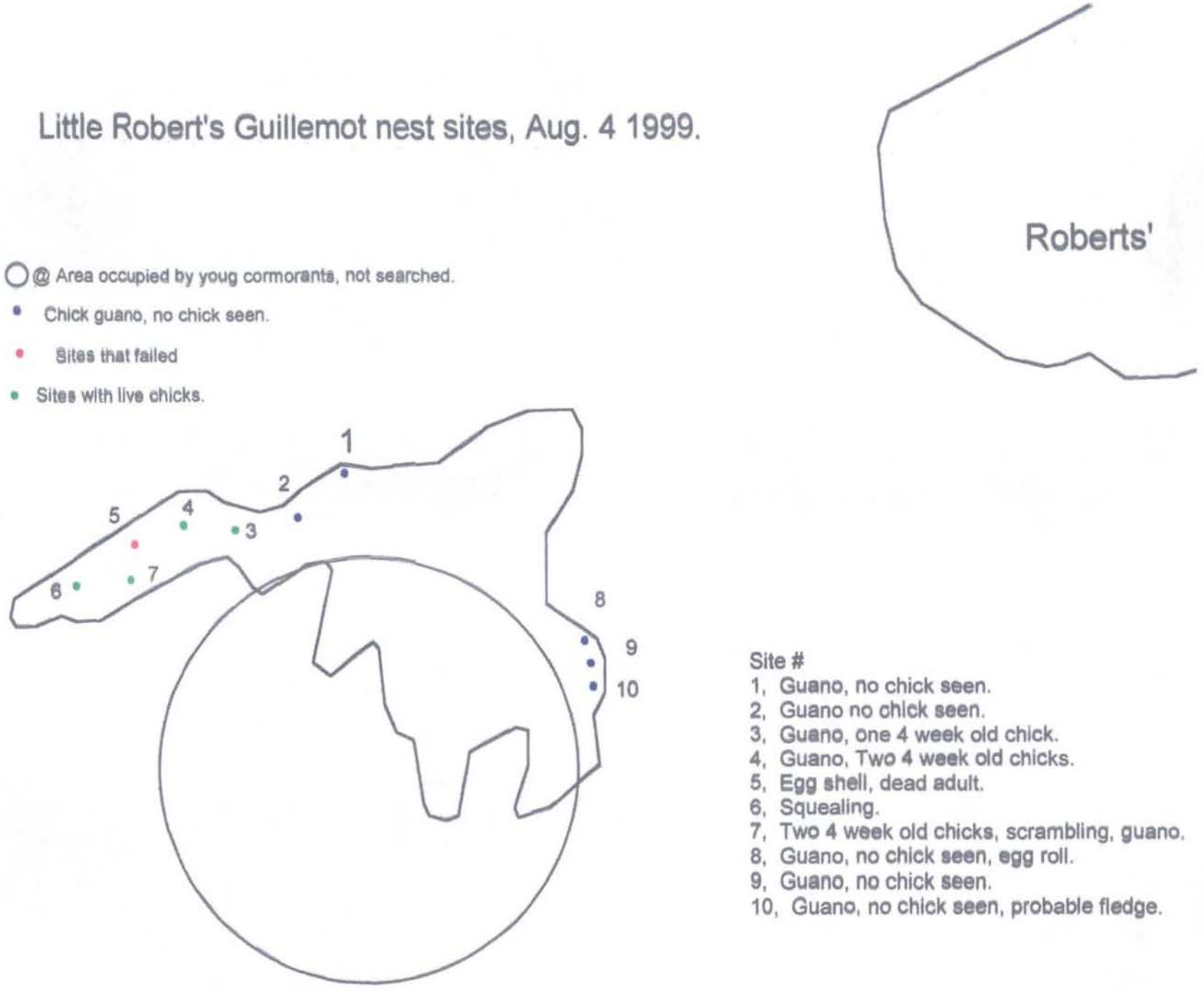
Site #
1, Old egg, this years egg, Kirn, Guano, old Guano.
2, 4 week old chick, guano.
3, Guano pile, Two 2 1/2 week old chicks.
4, Guano pile, two 4 week old chicks ready to go.
5, Two egg roll, old kirn, no guano.
6, Guano lots, no chick seen, probable fledge.
7, Guano lots, no chick seen, probable fledge.
8, Guano no chick seen.
9, Guano, one 4 week old chick.
10, Guano, two 4 week old chicks.
11, Guano, no chick seen, broken egg.
12, Guano, dead chick.
13, Guano, no chick seen, probable fledge.
14, Guano no chick seen, posseble fledge.
15, Old Kirn, Guano, possible fledge.
16, Old kirn, two dead chicks, little guano.
17, Guano pile, no chick seen.
18, Two 4 week old chicks, one seen out of burrow.
19, Guano, no chick seen, old Kirn probable fledge.

Hay Island Guillemot nest sites, August 3, '99



Site #
1, Guano a lot, no chick seen.
2, Guano site, no chick seen.
3, Guano no chick seen,
4, Guano, egg shell, no chick seen.
5, Mucho gunano, two 4 week old chicks.
6, Guano pile, sheltered, no chick seen.
7, egg shell, guano, 2 chicks one 3 week old, one 2 week old.
8, old egg, Guano, last years?
9, Guano, No chick seen.
10, Guano site, no chcik seen.
11, Kirn, Guano, last years?
12, Two 3 week old chicks.
13, Guano, one 2 week old chick, old Kirn, egg shell.
14, dead mummified adult.

Little Robert's Guillemot nest sites, Aug. 4 1999.



Site #
1, Guano, no chick seen.
2, Guano no chick seen.
3, Guano, one 4 week old chick.
4, Guano, Two 4 week old chicks.
5, Egg shell, dead adult.
6, Squealing.
7, Two 4 week old chicks, scrambling, guano.
8, Guano, no chick seen, egg roll.
9, Guano, no chick seen.
10, Guano, no chick seen, probable fledge.

PM

Accounting for Mink /Guillemot project on the islands Se of Vinalhaven during the spring and summer of '99

John Drury
Coastal bird surveys
Po. Box 102,
Vinalhaven, ME. 04863

April 9, set traps three people.	$250
April 14, Check traps	$120
April 20, Check traps	$120
April 26, Check traps	$120
May 11, Check traps/adult count.	$150
Boat counts of Adult Guillemot attending the islands	
May 11, Adult boat count	
13 Adult boat count	$120
15th Adult boat count	$120
Ground survey crew $140/day, 3 days.	$420
Ground survey boat and principal investigator. $250/day 3 days.	$750

	total field work	$2,170
Transcription Write up	$150/Day 5 days	$750
	total cost of project in '99	2,920
Expense from the project in '98 carried over to '99		$940.

The project was supported by The Vianlhaven Land trust ($1,500), The Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge, ($1,500), and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, ($500).