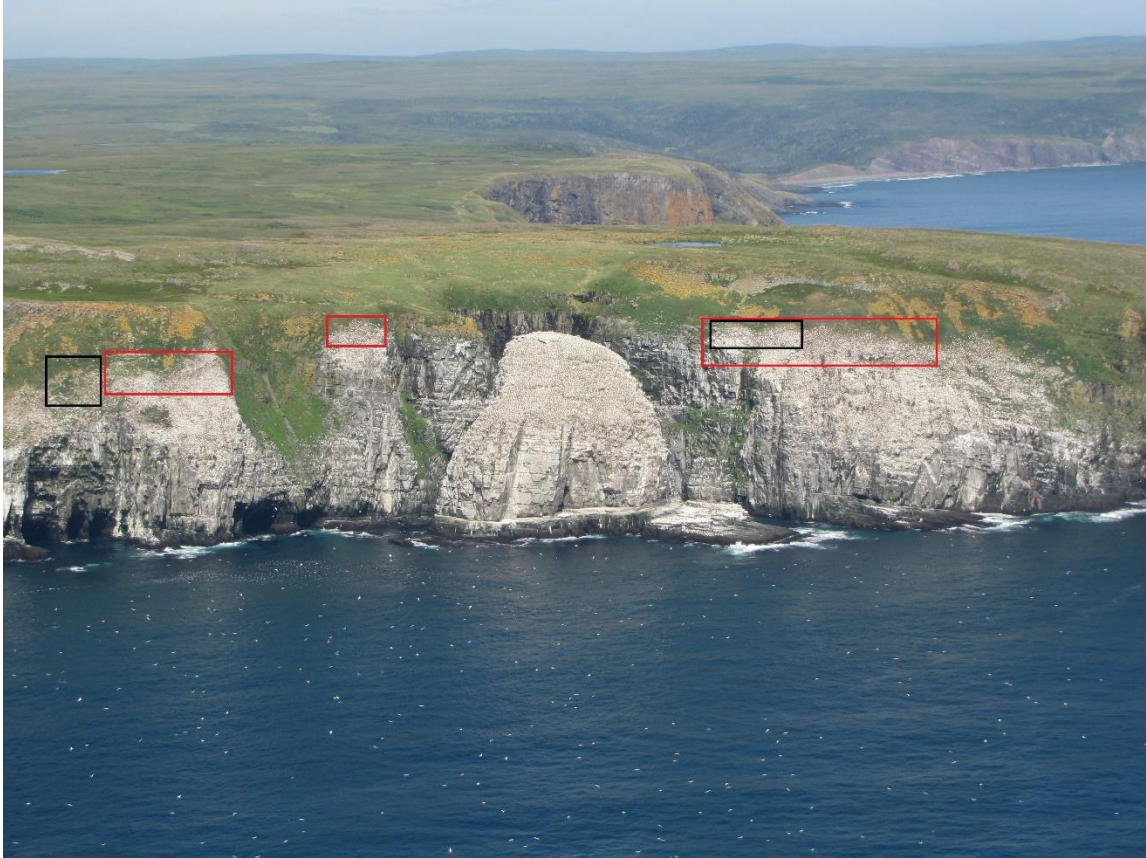


## Coyote Return to Cape St. Mary's

May 2019



Sites where Northern Gannets carcasses were found during September 2016 (red boxes) and during September 2018 (black boxes). On 4 May 2019, adult gannet carcasses were found to the right (east; red box) and left (west; furthest red box).

Coyotes have returned to the gannet colony at Cape St. Mary's. On a 4 May visit to Cape St. Mary's, we counted 18 carcasses of adult presumably breeding gannets above mainland nesting sites to the east of Bird Rock, and six adult presumably breeding gannets above mainland nesting sites to the west of Bird Rock.

This is the first documentation of kills of gannets by coyotes in the spring of the year. Previous documented kills included 68 birds (30 adults and 38 pre-fledgling chicks) that were found in September 2016, and 42 birds that were found in September 2018 (20 adults and 22 pre-fledglings; Montevecchi et al. 2019).

As in previous carcass examinations, gannets were killed by bites to the back of the head and neck and by cervical dislocation. However, unlike the previous kills in the fall, when three quarters of the carcasses were left intact, all of the spring carcasses were eaten completely – many with only the wings and legs remaining. Researchers were present during the fall kills, whereas researchers were not present before the kills on 4 May were found.

It is not known, if the predation will continue during 2019 but the situation is being monitored closely.

Montevecchi WA, Power K, White E, Mooney C, Careen W, Guzzwell L, Lamarre, J, Aeberhard M, Fiely, J (2018) Eastern coyote (*Canis latrans*) predation on adult and pre-fledgling Northern Gannets (*Morus bassanus*) nesting on mainland cliffs at Cape St. Mary's, Newfoundland, Canada. *Marine Ornithology* 47: 39-42.

[http://www.marineornithology.org/PDF/47\\_1/47\\_1\\_39-42.pdf](http://www.marineornithology.org/PDF/47_1/47_1_39-42.pdf)

Observers: Tony Power, Richard Elliot, Syd Cannings, Bill Montevecchi