

Table 15. Life History and Management Information for Selected Marine Birds Occurring off and along the North/Central California Coast

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Status in Study Area			Temporal Occurrence in Study Area			Major Food Items ³ / Feeding Type				
		Protection Status ¹	Estimated Trend in Abundance in Study Area ⁶	Estimated Relative Abundance at Sea ²	General Occurrence	Primary Months of Presence ⁵	Months When Breeding ^{5, 10}	Plankton	Fish	Cephalopods (squid, octopus)	Euphausiids (krill)	Benthic Invertebrates
Loons/Grebes												
Pacific Loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>		Unknown	Common	Seasonal	Mar-Apr, Aug-Sep			x			
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>		Unknown	Uncommon	Seasonal	Nov-Apr			x			
Western & Clark's Grebes	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis, A. clarkii</i>		Unknown	Abundant	Year-round	Nov-Sept			x			
Sea Ducks (Scoters)												
Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>		Stable	Abundant	Seasonal	Nov-Apr						x
Albatrosses/Petrels												
Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>		Stable	Common	Year-round	Mar-Aug				x		x
Laysan's Albatross	<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>		Unknown	Rare	Seasonal	Nov-Mar				x		x
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		Increasing	Common	Seasonal	Nov-Mar						x
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		Increasing	V. Abundant	Seasonal	Apr-Nov	x	x	x	x		
Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>		Stable?	Common	Seasonal	Apr-Nov			x	x		
Buller's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus bulleri</i>		Unknown	Common	Seasonal	Aug-Nov			x			
Black-vented Shearwater	<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>		Stable?	Uncommon	Seasonal	Aug-Nov			x	x		
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma furcata</i>	SSC	Decreasing?	Uncommon	Seasonal	Nov-Mar	x	x			x	x
Leach's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>		Decreasing?	Common	Seasonal	March-Sept	x		x	x		x
Ashy Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma homochroa</i>	SSC	Decreasing	Uncommon	Year-round	All	Apr-Dec	x	x	x	x	x
Black Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>	SSC	Unknown	Uncommon	Seasonal	Apr-Oct	x	x				x
Pelican/Cormorants												
California Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>	FE, SE	Increasing	Common	Year-round	Jun-Nov			x			
Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>		Decreasing?	Uncommon	Year-round	All	Apr-Sept	x	x	x		x
Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>		Increasing	Abundant	Year-round	All	Apr-Aug		x			
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>		Increasing	Common	Year-round	Mar-Sep	Mar-Sep		x			
Phalaropes												
Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>		Stable?	Common	Seasonal	Apr-May; July-aug		x			x	x
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		Stable?	Common	Seasonal	Mar-Aug		x			x	x
Gulls/Terns												
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>		Decreasing	Abundant	Year-round	All	Apr-Aug	x	x	x	x	x
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		Increasing	Abundant	Year-round	Nov-Mar	Apr-Aug	x				x
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>		Stable	Uncommon	Seasonal	Nov-Mar						x
Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>		Stable?	Common	Year-round	Jul-Nov		x				
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xerna sabini</i>		Stable	Common	Seasonal	Mar-Sep		x			x	
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		Increasing?	Common	Seasonal	Nov-Mar		x	x			
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>		Stable	Uncommon	Seasonal	Mar-Nov	Apr-Aug		x			
Elegant Tern	<i>Sterna elegans</i>		Stable	Uncommon	Seasonal	July-Nov			x			
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		Stable?	Common	Seasonal	Mar-Apr; Aug-Sept			x			
Alcids												
Common Murre	<i>Uria aalge</i>		Increasing	V. Abundant	Year-round	All	Apr-Aug	x	x	x	x	
Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cephus columba</i>		Stable	Uncommon	Seasonal	Mar-Aug	Mar-Aug		x	x		x
Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>	SSC	Decreasing?	Abundant	Year-round	All	Mar-July	x			x	
Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>		Stable	Common	Year-round	Nov-Aug	Apr-Aug	x	x	x	x	
Tufted Puffin	<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>	SSC	Decreasing	Uncommon	Seasonal	Mar-Sep	Apr-Aug	x	x			
Marbled Murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	FT, SE	Decreasing?	Uncommon	Year-round	All	Apr-Aug	x	x			
Xantus's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus hypoleucus</i>	FC, ST	Unknown	Rare	Seasonal	May-Oct			x		x	
Craveri's Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>		Unknown	Rare	Seasonal	Aug-Oct			x			

Notes

1. Management status categories are as follows: FE—federally endangered; FT—federally threatened; FC—federal candidate; SE—state endangered; ST—state threatened; SSC—state species of special concern.

Information on CA Species of special Concern 2006 was from Shuford and Gardali, 2006.

2. Relative abundance estimates at sea were based on: 1) the number of individuals tallied in the CDAS at-sea survey data (190-2001) and 2) expert opinion. The categories from the CDAS data set are defined as follows:

Rare – up to 100 birds; Uncommon – up to 1,000; Common – up to 10,000; Abundant – up to 100,000; and Very Abundant – up to 1,000,000.

3. Information on food items are mostly from Ainley & Sanger 1979, Briggs & Chu 1987, and Ainley & Boekelheide 1990.

4. Entries with question marks are best estimates from David Ainley or Gerry McChesney (USFWS).

5. Timing information is mostly from Cogswell, 1977 and Ainley and Boekelheide, 1990. Information on Caspian Tern breeding time was from Joelle Buffa, FWS, pers. comm. Updates for several species by Gerry McChesney.

6. Estimates on population status was based on analysis of the CDAS shipboard data sets from 1985-2001, and for birds that breed in the study area, a review of available colony data.

7. Months of presence and breeding in the study area are approximations, because timing is strongly influenced by the interannual variability of environmental conditions in the study area.

8. Information on population status and temporal occurrence refers only to birds and their activities in the study area.

9. Other threatened or endangered marine-related birds that occur in the study area but are not included in this table include: short-tailed albatross (FE), western snowy plover (FT, SSC), and California Least tern (FE, SE)

10. Time period when species breeds in or adjacent to study area (i.e., along the central California coast).

11. This table was developed by David Ainley of H.T. Harvey and Associates and Tracy Gill of NCCOS, NOAA, for NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program.

12. Table results based on analyses in report: NOAA NCCOS Tech Memo NCCOS 40. http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/products/biogeography/canms_cd/welcome.html