

# Who Should I Call?

To report entangled or injured wildlife:

Marine Mammal Center: 415.289.7325

International Bird Rescue Center: 707.207.0380

To report an oil or chemical spill (call both numbers):

California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA): 800.852.7550

National Response Center: 800.424.8802

To report a wildlife disturbance:

California Department of Fish & Wildlife

CalTIP Program: 888-DFG-CALTIP (888.334.2258)

# People and Seabirds

**(** 

Human disturbance causes a change in an animal's normal behavior. In marine environments, such disturbances are typically caused by close approaches from the water, air or land.

Getting close to seabirds during the breeding season can:

- Scare birds off their nests
- Dislodge eggs and chicks from nest sites
- Allow predators to feed on eggs and chicks
- Lead to deaths when eggs or chicks are exposed to heat or cold
- Cause chicks to drown when forced to leave the nest too soon

## Learn More About Seabird Conservation



Seabird Protection Network
Gulf of the Farallones
National Marine Sanctuary
991 Marine Drive
San Francisco, CA 94129
415.970.5244
SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org

Point Blue Conservation Science 3820 Cypress Drive, #11, Petaluma, CA USA 94954 707.781.2555 www.pointblue.org



Printing provided by
SEABIRD PROTECTION NETWORK
Supported by Luckenbach Trustee Council



# SEABIRD AWARE



Share our Coast with Birds

# Raising our Seabird Awareness

Seabirds depend on a variety of marine habitats to survive. Seabirds spend most of their lives at sea but they must come ashore to rest, nest and raise young—often in great colonies. Although seabirds are highly sensitive to human disturbance during their nesting season, between January and September, it is important to keep our distance year-round.

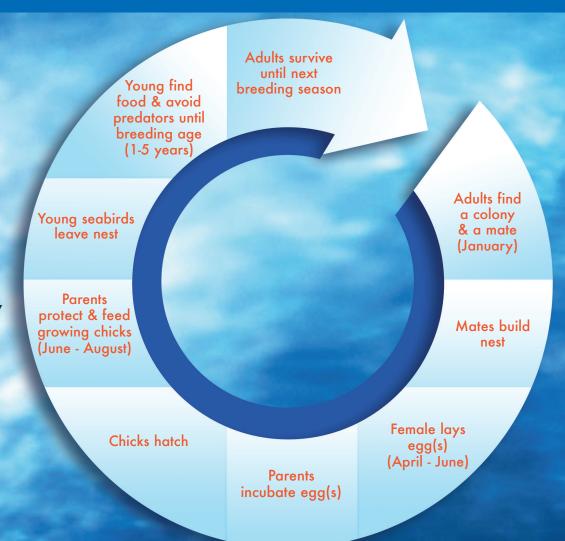


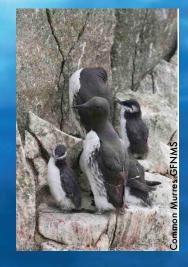
DOWNLOAD MAP AT: SEABIRD PROTECTION NETWORK.ORG

# SPOTLIGHT ON SEABIRDS OF OUR CALIFORNIA COAST

# The Life Cycle of Seabirds

Like us, seabirds need adequate food and safe places to rest, nest & raise young. Successfully completing this life cycle is critical to their long-term health and survival.





Seabirds face numerous threats in today's challenging environment, including:

- Destruction or damage to their habitats
- Disturbances during sensitive nesting, feeding and resting times
- Death and injury from fishing hooks, lines and nets
- Changing ocean conditions
- Dangerous contaminants in the ecosystem
- Food scarcity



#### Common Murre

HABITAT: Steep cliffs or rocky islets and islands (coastal and offshore).

PROFESSION:
A fish and krill
hunter. It uses its
strong wings to "fly"

underwater to depths of 600 ft! FUN FACT: Lays only one pear-shaped egg on bare ground that will not roll off even the narrowest rock ledge!

#### **Brandt's Cormorant**

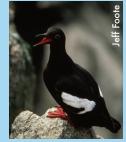
HABITAT: Steep cliffs or rocky islets and islands (coastal and offshore).

PROFESSION: A fish hunter, it propels itself with large, webbed feet.



FUN FACT: Unlike many other cormorants, these sleek seabirds flock together to communally hunt schools of fish.

## Pigeon Guillemot



HABITAT: Rocky coasts of islands, islets and mainland. PROFESSION: A fish hunter, its powerful wings allow it to "fly" underwater in pursuit of its prey.

FUN FACT: These striking birds nest and raise their young in rocky crevices on steep cliffs and have claws that enable them to climb rocks.

## Ashy Storm Petrel

HABITAT: Cliffs, bluffs and islets (coastal and offshore).

PROFESSION: Gathers small fish and krill from the surface in delicate flitting motions.



FUN FACT: Nests in rock crevices and flies in and out of nest sites under cover of darkness to avoid attracting predators.

# How You Can Help

Being aware of wildlife around you is the key to preventing disturbance.

- Stay 1,000 feet (3 football fields) away from colonies where seabirds rest and nest.
- If you see birds acting nervous (e.g. head bobbing, calling, fluttering or flying away) you are too close – move away.
- Visit www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa to find out about marine protected areas and Special Closures.

## Boating, Kayaking & Fishing

- Paddle, sail or motor <u>around</u> flocks of birds not through them.
- Do not feed wildlife or attract birds by throwing bait or fish scraps overboard.
- Recycle or dispose of plastics, fishing hooks and line in the trash – not in the water.
- Never dump oil, fuel, or other foreign substances into the water or drains.

## Coastal Hiking

- Stay on the trail one ill-placed foot can damage an underground nesting burrow.
- Pack out trash and never feed wildlife.
- Educate others about seabird-safe hiking.

#### Aircraft

- Noise and shadows from low-flying aircraft can scare seabirds, causing them to panic and fly, increasing the chance of a bird strike, nest abandonment or the death of young birds.
- A minimum of 1,000 feet altitude is required in National Marine Sanctuary prohibition zones in California. See FAA sectional charts for details.