

**The Amazing Seabirds  
of Cordell Bank  
National Marine Sanctuary**



NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARIES™

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Sanctuary Program



*“To the nearshore Pacific,  
its magnificent wildlife,  
its unpredictable moods,  
and its awesome magic.”*

– Rich Stallcup

from “Ocean Birds of the Nearshore Pacific”



This booklet was written  
by Rich Stallcup for  
Cordell Bank National  
Marine Sanctuary.

Cover Photo Credit:  
Michael Richlen/OCNMS

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Cordell Bank is a rocky underwater granite ridge that stands 43 nautical miles (80 km) north-northwest of San Francisco and about 18 nautical miles (33 km) west of the Point Reyes Lighthouse in Marin County, California. The elliptical shaped base is approximately 9.5 statute miles (15 km) by 4.5 statute miles (7 km) at its fifty-fathom curve. The highest point of Cordell Bank is only 120 feet (37 m)

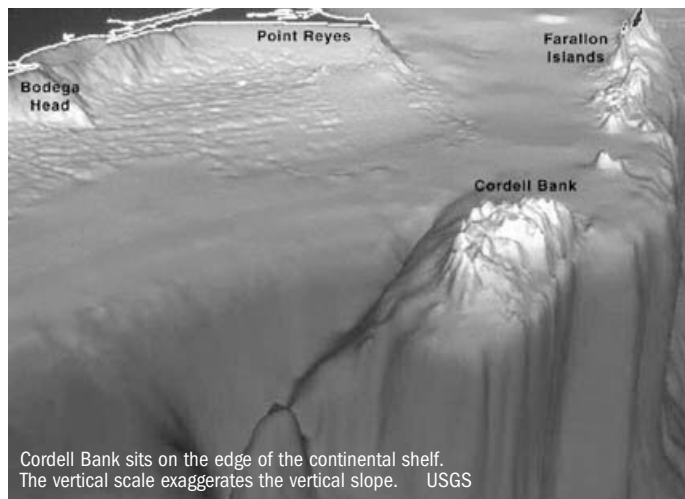


below the surface of the sea, and drops to over 12,000 ft (3658 m). The upwelling plumes that originate off northern Point Arena and eastern Point Reyes influence Cordell Bank. The powerful southbound California current collides into the Bank,

1 nautical mile = 1.15 statute miles (1.182 km)  
1 mile = 1.61 km miles 1 fathom = 6 ft 1 meter = 3.28 ft

drawing whirling acres of nutrients to the surface. This banquet of food makes Cordell Bank a major feeding spot for thousands of local and migratory seabirds and various marine mammals, some of which nest on the nearby Farallon Islands during the summer.

The surface waters above Cordell Bank are vulnerable to surface elements such as wind, and there is no protection from swells and storms that originate from the north and northwest. Between November and June, over half of the



scheduled pelagic wildlife trips are cancelled due to rough sea conditions. Regardless of the weather or sea conditions, a visit to Cordell Bank is an amazing wildlife adventure.

This booklet reveals the pelagic birds found in Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Accounts of sightings and stories are included in this compilation. Author, Rich Stallcup, is a longtime California seabird observer.

Many coastal birds such as loons, grebes, cormorants, pelicans, Brant, scoters, migrating shorebirds and migrant land birds are often seen on trips to the Bank, but their presence is incidental and are not considered within this booklet

*Enjoy birding in  
Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary*

## S P E C I E S   A C C O U N T S

**PROCELLARIIFORMES** (or tubenoses) include albatrosses, shearwaters, petrels, fulmars, and Storm-Petrels. All are able to drink and “desalinate” seawater. Birds in this group are truly oceanic. Aside from nesting localities, they never willingly go to land.

**ALBATROSSES** are huge birds and magnificent fliers. Albatrosses use lift kicked up by ocean swells to propel themselves between and over waves at great speed, on stiff, set wings. Of 14 species worldwide, five have been seen at Cordell Bank. This is more than any other place in the Northern Hemisphere.

**Shy Albatross** (*Thalassarche cauta*)

This species has been seen and thoroughly documented on several dates in 1999 and 2001. At least two birds were present and two different “races” (*T.c. cauta* and *T.c. salvini*) were noted. There are only four previous records north of the equator. Some seabird taxonomists consider these “races” to be separate species.

**Light-mantled Albatross** (*Phoebastria palpebrata*)

We found a single adult at Cordell Bank on July 17, 1994. It was the first of its species seen and photographically documented, north of the equator. Six hundred Black-footed Albatrosses were at the Bank that day. Birders on “chase trips”<sup>\*</sup> during the next few days could not relocate the bird.



<sup>\*</sup> “chase trip” is a birder’s term for a later effort to refind a particular rarity.

### Laysan Albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*)

Each season, this small, locally rare, white albatross is identified in the sanctuary. The highest visitation is October through April. As late as November, groups of up to 12 individuals have been counted on the water, but the species' presence is never assured.

Most of the world's Laysan population breeds in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and west to Bonin Island south of Japan, where the species is expanding its range and population size. In the late 1980's, Laysans made their debut as a nesting species in the Eastern Pacific at Isla Guadalupe and on the volcanic islands of Clarion and San Benedicto in the Revillagigedo Archipelago off Western Mexico.



Laysan Albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*) Andy Collins

### Black-footed Albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*)

By far the most common albatross in the national marine sanctuary, Black-footed Albatrosses have been recorded year-round. June through August generally has the highest number of sightings; on two separate years, and on single days, as many as six hundred individuals were counted. Fewer linger



Black-footed Albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*) Rich Stallcup

through winter and spring. It would be a surprise to visit the sanctuary and see no Black-footed Albatross at all.

### Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*)

Before 1900, Short-tailed Albatrosses were common near the West Coast of North America and regularly entered the San Francisco Bay. Now they are rare, with fewer than 20 sightings recorded in the Eastern Pacific, in the last 85 years.



Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) Rich Stallcup

**FULMARS** are medium-sized procellariids similar in structure and behavior to shearwaters. They are not as gregarious as shearwaters and only occur in groups when foraging on concentrated prey. Pacific Fulmars are different from those in the Atlantic and may be a separate species.

### Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

Unlike shearwaters, Northern Fulmars migrate to the Pacific off California from the north. Numbers in the sanctuary are greatest in winter from October into April when hundreds or thousands may be present. A few individuals usually spend the summer at Cordell Bank.



Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) Rich Stallcup

This is a polymorphic (multiple plumages) species with uniform gray plumage predominating in this area. Fulmars may also have light, double-light, dark, and mottled plumage. The surest way to identify the Northern Fulmar from other procellariids is by its large, round head, and short, thick, “cracked,” yellow bill.

**PETRELS (PTERODROMAS)** are small, to medium-sized procellariids, and are seldom observed over the shallow waters of the continental shelf. Most occurrences are over deep-water just west of the Bank’s highest point.

**Great-winged Petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera*)**

A single individual was observed and filmed over the north-west edge of Cordell Bank (780 ft) on July 21, 1996. What is thought to be the same bird was sighted again on August 24, 1996. The July 21 sighting was the first time this species was ever found north of the equator.



Great-winged Petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera*) Tony Palliser

**Murphy’s Petrel (*Pterodroma ultima*)**

This crow-sized, dark petrel occurs over deep-water in the sanctuary April through June. Some years they are more common than other years.

**Dark-rumped Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*)**

(*P.sandwichensis*)

The identification of the Dark-rumped Petrels in California has not yet been determined. One Dark-rumped Petrel was identified and photographed on August 24, 1996. Another

was documented over the 57-fathom spike at Cordell Bank on July 15, 2000. These are the third and fourth records of a Dark-rumped Storm Petrel in North American waters and the first documented records at Cordell Bank. This bird was recently split into two sub-species, the Hawaiian (*P.sandwichensis*) and Galapagos (*P.phaeopygia*) Petrel.

**Cook’s Petrel (*Pterodroma cookii*)**

This small, white-bellied petrel may be regular west of the 1000-fathom line in May/June and October/November. It may also be sighted at other times of the year. More deep-water surveys are needed to clarify the status of this and other Pterodromas.

**SHEARWATERS** are gregarious, medium-sized procellariids, commonly found in the sanctuary. Like most Procellariiformes, shearwaters glide on stiff-set wings down ocean troughs and over waves. They seldom rise more than a few feet above the surface of the sea. All species, except possibly the Manx Shearwater, nest on islands in the South Pacific or near the Equator. They typically amass off northern California in late summer and autumn to forage in the nutrient-rich waters.

**Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*)**

A single individual was seen by two boatloads of birder/naturalists just east of Cordell Bank on September 29, 2002. It was the first recorded Streaked Shearwater in the sanctuary and Marin County, and the 8th in California and the Northeast Pacific.



Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*) Alan McBride

### **Pink-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus creatopus*)**

Pink-footeds are common in the sanctuary late March through July. Some years they are also abundant through October. They are rare in winter. After the Sooty, the Pink-footed is the second most frequently seen shearwater in the Northeast Pacific and at Cordell Bank.

This is the largest of the “white-bellied” shearwaters. Their heavy, lumbering flight behaviors is similar to that of the “dark-bellied” Flesh-footed Shearwater.



Pink-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus creatopus*) Rich Stallcup

### **Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*)**

Generally rare in the Northeast Pacific, this large, all-dark species is regular at Cordell Bank. They are similar in size and flight behavior as Pink-footed Shearwaters. They have been



Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*) Alan McBride

recorded year-round in the California Pacific. 18 were conservatively estimated on a single-day cruise in October 1993.

### **Buller's Shearwater (*Puffinus bulleri*)**

Regularly seen in the fall, overall numbers of Buller's vary from year-to-year. Some years they are common in the sanctuary from late July into November. Other years they are scarce, even when upwelling and feeding conditions are optimal. As many as 7200 birds were seen near the Point Reyes Headlands in late September and early October in 1987.

Buller's generally nest in northern New Zealand November through March and spend the rest of the year around the Eastern and Central Pacific.



Buller's Shearwater (*Puffinus bulleri*) GFNMS files

### **Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*)**

The Sooty Shearwater is one of the most abundant birds off the coast of California in June through October. It is the most



Sooty Shearwater  
(*Puffinus griseus*)  
Rich Stallcup

frequently sighted Shearwater in the sanctuary April through November. Hundreds of thousands of these birds linger here in late summer along their annual circumnavigation of the Pacific, originating and terminating at nesting islands off Southern Chile and New Zealand.

Sooty Shearwater numbers are relatively low during the winter when the very similar Short-tailed Shearwaters are also common.

#### **Short-tailed Shearwater** (*Puffinus tenuirostris*)

This species is primarily a winter bird in near shore California. Short-taileds are so similar to Sooty Shearwaters, even experts can confuse their identification. Never common and seldom gregarious, Short-taileds are usually present in the sanctuary from mid-October into April.



#### **Manx Shearwater** (*Puffinus puffinus*)

Since 1998, there have been several photo-documented sightings of this Atlantic Ocean species in Monterey Bay and sight-records at Cordell Bank, indicating that this species may now be nesting somewhere in the Pacific.

#### **Black-vented Shearwater** (*Puffinus opisthomelas*)

In the fall, when the nearshore, north-flowing Davidson Current runs strong and warm, Black-vented Shearwaters appear north of Point Reyes and remain through early December. Because Black-vented prefer shallow near shore areas, there are few actual records within the deep-waters of the sanctuary. However, it is possible to sight this species dur-

ing the first (and last) five miles of a trip from Bodega Harbor.

Black-vented nest on islands off the coast of Western Mexico.



**STORM-PETRELS** are very small tubenoses. When compared to other seabirds they appear dainty and, perhaps fragile, but Storm-Petrels are at home on the open ocean and are able to survive monsoons and hurricanes. Mexican mariners call them “*la golondrina de la tempestad*” or “swallow of the storm.” Storm-Petrels forage largely at night when small, deep-water organisms move toward the surface. During the day, they form flocking roosts that can number into the thousands.

#### **Wilson’s Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanites oceanicus*)

Wilson’s Storm Petrel is primarily an Atlantic bird. On the Pacific Ocean, more sightings occur in Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary than the rest of the north Pacific combined. On November 3, 1985 the first multi-bird sighting of 25 occurred. That number increased to 45 by November 5th. Since that time, Wilsons have been regularly recorded during the summer and fall months.

#### **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma furcata*)

This is the sanctuary’s only gray-colored Storm-Petrel, and the only species that migrates to the California Pacific from



the north. While a few pairs nest on the Farallon Islands, they become more and more numerous northward to the Aleutians, the Gulf of Alaska, and on the Asian side of the Pacific. They occur irregularly at Cordell Bank June through November. A maximum of 200 birds rafted together in a homogenous flock in October 1992.

#### **Leach's Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)

This deep-water species nesting range is Baja, California to Alaska including Southeast Farallon Island. Individuals are occasionally seen in summer and fall at Cordell Bank or just west of the sanctuary. Most birds here have white rumps, with a dark divider. Dark-rumped examples have been identified in September. The species is most easily identified by unique, erratic, and three-dimensional flight behavior.

#### **Ashy Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma homochroa*)

A significant portion of the world's Ashy Storm-Petrel population nests on Southeast Farallon Island. Once ready for flight, most of the Farallon population form large (up to 5000 birds) roosts west of Cordell Bank until they begin to move south into Monterey Bay in mid-September.

Amazingly, it is possible to see over half the world's population of the Ashy Storm-Petrels at once. Often, several other storm-petrel species are mixed in, but the core is usually composed of "Ashys".

#### **Black Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma melania*)

Since Black Storm-Petrels are regular fall visitors as far north as Monterey Bay, it came as a surprise that the first sightings at Cordell Bank were recorded as late as 1985. The highest numbers are observed during warm-water years.

Black Storm-Petrels nest on islands off the west coast of Mexico, and on Sutil Rock, (about 150 birds) near Santa Barbara Island. They drift north and blend in with local "Ashys" in late summer. They retreat to warmer, more tropical waters in late fall.

#### **Least Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma microsoma*)

Like Black Storm-Petrels, Least Storm-Petrels move north during warm-water periods. Least, nest on islands off West

Mexico. However, unlike Blacks, they do not reach Northern California every fall and when they do, numbers are low.

**PHALAROPES** are sandpipers with lobed toes that allow them to take advantage of aquatic and marsh areas. Except for nesting on Arctic tundra, Red and Red-necked Phalaropes rarely walk on land. They spend most of their time on alkali lakes, ponds, and on the open ocean. Many spend the winter south of the equator. Unique to Phalaropes are their gender role-reversals during the nesting season, with the male taking the lead in tending to the young.

#### **Red-necked Phalarope** (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

Red-necked Phalaropes are commonly sighted at Cordell Bank. Up to 1000 birds a day are seen in the sanctuary April through May, and late July through October. Red and Red-Necked Phalaropes are frequently sighted together along bubble-lines caused by colliding currents or winds, and along the wake edges caused by big ships.

#### **Red Phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

This species is sometimes common late April to June and September. Occasionally up to 10,000 birds per day are seen in the sanctuary in October and early November.



**JAEGERS** and **SKUAS** are gull-like birds that have evolved a piratic foraging strategy, which involves bullying other seabirds into giving up their food. Often a no contact aerial chase is all the rough-stuff necessary, but sometimes serious mugging is



involved and extractions are not gentle. The three jaeger species nest on tundra in the Arctic and most winter south of the equator. The South Polar Skua nests on Antarctica and moves north to the California Pacific in fall, to bludgeon shearwaters that are common here at that time. During the nesting season, jaegers assume the hunting strategy of raptors; taking songbirds, voles and lemmings. Skuas pillage young penguins and bird eggs to feed young skuas.

#### **South Polar Skua** (*Stercorarius maccormicki*)

Skuas are large, thick-set, dark-brown birds with striking large, white outer-wing patches above and below. They are very aggressive and cunning birds. Skuas attack other birds (usually shearwaters) and quickly convince them to give up their food - even if thoroughly ingested! In October 1994, as many as 25 South Polar Skuas were counted when a large flock of shearwaters were attracted to an abundance of market squid.



South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*)  
Rich Stallcup

...In the beginning God gave man dominion over the fishes that swim in the sea and the fowl that fly in the air...only the skua did not get the message for she lived too far away.

— South Georgia Legend

#### **Pomarine Jaeger** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

The largest and heaviest of the jaegers, Pomarines are frequently seen between the coast and the continental shelf. This species has a twisted, elongated pair of central tail feathers. However, if a Pomarine loses its tail feathers, it can easily be mistaken for a Parasitic Jaeger. Seventy-five

Pomarine Jaegers were counted during a Cordell Bank survey in September 2001. A few remain to winter.



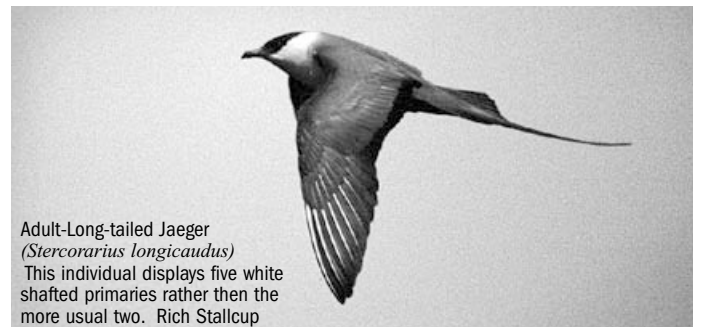
Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) Rich Stallcup

#### **Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

These medium-small sized jaegers, are coastal tern-pirates that mostly hunt in waters east of Cordell Bank. While passing through California and Mexico, they are usually found loitering around Forster's and Elegant Terns. Five Parasitic Jaegers were counted during a Cordell Bank survey in September 2001. Very few remain to winter.

#### **Long-tailed Jaegers** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

The smallest, most agile of the jaegers, Long-taileds are usually sighted offshore following Arctic Terns and Sabine's Gulls along the migration from Arctic to Antarctic waters. These species spend the northern summer in the Arctic and the southern summer in the Antarctic, spending the bulk of their lives in the light of day. One hundred-eighty Long-tailed Jaegers was the high count during a Cordell Bank survey (most, beyond the Bank and over deep water) in late August 2001. There are no winter records of Long-tailed Jaegers in the sanctuary.



Adult-Long-tailed Jaeger  
(*Stercorarius longicaudus*)  
This individual displays five white shafted primaries rather than the more usual two. Rich Stallcup

**GULLS** Ten species occur annually at Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Eight of these are land-based. Two, Sabine's Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake, are truly pelagic. A Red-legged Kittiwake was recently identified near Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary and doubtless has previously occurred, undetected. (See bar graph for Gulls following Species Accounts).



Black-legged Kittiwake  
(*Rissa tridactyla*) Ed Harper

**TERNS** Arctic Terns are commonly sighted in the sanctuary in spring (mid April to early June) and fall (early August through October). Common Terns seldom migrate through sanctuary waters. On August 26, 2001 a Sooty Tern was photo-documented 10.8 miles west of Tomales Point, Marin County. This rarity was a first for Northern California. One astounding record of a salvaged corpse in the Aleutians is the only more northerly record



Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisica*) Ed Harper

in the Pacific for the Sooty Tern. Three Elegant Terns were also seen (at the same sighting of the Sooty Tern) at the same time. While Elegant Terns are abundant in late summer and fall on the coast, they are rare offshore.

**ALCIDS** form a diverse family of surface-diving water birds. Eleven species plus one distinctive sub-species have been identified at Cordell Bank. Two species are occasionally abundant there.

At-sea census for Alcids is possible only during periods of calm conditions.

**Common Murre** (*Uria aalge*)

Even during hard times such as death from oil spills, population loss to gill netting, and reproductive failure due to El Niño conditions, Common Murres are resilient. They are sighted year-round along the coast of Northern California where many reside year-around. They prefer inshore waters and are uncommon in the sanctuary, which is entirely offshore.

**Pigeon Guillemot** (*Cephus columba*)

Guillemots breed along the Bodega and Point Reyes Headlands, and at Southeast Farallon Island. They prefer shallow, nearshore waters. They are rarely present offshore and are infrequent visitors to Cordell Bank.

**Marbled Murrelet** (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

While common in winter along the coast of Sonoma and Marin counties, Marbled Murrelets are seldom encountered more than 1-mile offshore. There is no specific sanctuary record.

**Xantus' Murrelet** (*S.h. scrippsi*) (*S.h. hypoleucus*)

This species is occasionally present at Cordell Bank June through November. It is rarely sighted in the sanctuary during the spring. Most individuals are the dark-faced northern race (*S.h. scrippsi*) but the southern, pale-faced sub-species (*S.h. hypoleucus*) have been seen in the fall. These birds, as well as Craveri's murrelet are almost always found in pairs and are difficult to spot on rough or choppy seas.

**Craveri's Murrelet** (*Synthliboramphus craveri*)

This species is occasionally present at Cordell Bank from June through November. Calm seas are best for locating

and identifying these small birds. The under wing pattern is crucial for telling Craveri's from the dark-faced Xantus' Murrelets (*S.h.scrippsi*).

**Ancient Murrelet** (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

Ancient Murrelets are present in winter months along the Central California coast and on offshore waters such as Cordell Bank. Some winter trips find hundreds, others find few or none. There are a few summer Ancient Murrelet records in California including one at Bodega Head June 25, 1995.

**Cassin's Auklet** (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*)

Cordell Bank is a critical foraging area for the Cassin's Auklet. The area is rich in krill and juvenile rockfish. A year-round breeding population of 17,000 resides on nearby Southeast Farallon Island. A one-day survey in August 1987 found an estimated 20,000 Cassin's in the sanctuary.

**Parakeet Auklet** (*Aethia psittacula*)

There is only one record for the sanctuary. Six were seen scattered above 10,000 fathoms west of Cordell Bank on December 10, 1994. Washed up specimens suggest this species may be regular in small numbers offshore California in mid-winter. Most California records have been over deepwater beyond the continental shelf.

**Rhinoceros Auklet** (*Cerorhinca monocerata*)

Rhinoceros Auklets are common at Cordell Bank November through March. There are only 1,500 nesting birds on



Rhinoceros Auklet (*Cerorhinca monocerata*) Robert Pittman

Southeast Farallon Island; however numerous wintering birds come from northern breeding colonies. A high count of 3,500 was made December 10, 1994.

**Horned Puffin** (*Fratercula corniculata*)

Horned Puffins are very rare, except perhaps, far offshore California in winter. The only records at Cordell Bank are in the months of January, June and July. Horned Puffins are not known to nest along the California Coast.

**Tufted Puffin** (*Fratercula cirrhata*)

Tufted Puffin are occasionally seen in the sanctuary. Generally, they are seen 5 to 10 miles west of Bodega Head and Point Reyes in late summer or fall. These birds are usually found alone. The high count on a one-day survey was 10. Twenty-five pairs nest on Southeast Farallon Island. There is no apparent winter influx from the north.



Tufted Puffin (*Fratercula cirrhata*) Ed Greaves



Red Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) Rich Stallcup

## Seasonal Status for Gulls at Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
Bonaparte's Gull	■			■		-			-		■			
Heermann's Gull 3						-		■			-			
Mew Gull	■				■					-		■		
Ring-billed Gull 2							■							
California Gull	■					■			■					
Herring Gull	■			-						-		■		
Thayer's Gull	■			-								■		
Western Gull 1	■													
Glaucous winged Gull 1	■				-						■		■	
Glaucous Gull	-				■						-		-	
Sabine's Gull				■		-			■			-		
Black-legged Kittiwake 4	■				-			-				■		

■ Abundant   ■ Common   ■ Uncommon   - - - Rare

### NOTES

- 1 From Mid-October through March the coast of Central California hosts hundreds to thousands of Western x Glaucous-winged Gull hybrids. These resemble Herring and Thayer's Gulls.
- 2 Ring-billed Gulls, abundant at estuaries along the coast, are surprisingly absent from pelagic waters such as those around Cordell Bank.
- 3 Heermann's Gulls are present in some years between November and January, but most years are absent during winters.
- 4 Black-legged Kittiwake populations vary greatly at Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Some winters they are common, while other winters they are virtually absent.

Chart by Rich Stallcup

## Seasonal Status of Selected Seabirds at Cordell Bank.

Current activity, water temperature, and upwelling conditions influence bird presence.

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shy Albatross						■			■			
Light-mantled Albatross							■					
Laysan Albatross	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Black-footed Albatross	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Short-tailed Albatross		■						■			■	
Northern Fulmar	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Great-winged Petrel ****							■	■				
Murphy's Petrel				■	■	■	■					
Dark-rumped Petrel						■	■					
Cook's Petrel					■	■	■			■	■	■
Streaked Shearwater									■			
Pink-footed Shearwater	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Flesh-footed Shearwater	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Buller's Shearwater	■	■				■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Sooty Shearwater	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Short-tailed Shearwater	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Manx Shearwater							■	■	■			
Black-vented Shearwater										■	■	
Wilson's Storm-petrel						■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Fork-tailed Storm-petrel	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Leach's Storm-petrel	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Ashy Storm-petrel				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Black Storm-petrel							■	■	■	■	■	■
Least Storm-petrel								■	■	■	■	
Red-necked Phalarope	■	■		■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■
Red Phalarope				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
South Polar Skua					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Pomarine Jaeger	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Parasitic Jaeger	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Long-tailed Jaeger				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Elegant Tern								■				
Common Tern				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Arctic Tern				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Sooty Tern								■				
Xantus's Murrelet				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Craveri's Murrelet						■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Ancient Murrelet	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Cassin's Auklet	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Parakeet Auklet												■
Rhinoceros Auklet	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Horned Puffin	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Tufted Puffin				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

■ Abundant  
 ■ Common  
 ■ Uncommon  
 ■ Rare  
 ■ Single Records

\* More frequent close to shore.  
 \*\* Irregular: sometimes many, sometimes few, or none.  
 \*\*\* Not present some winters.  
 \*\*\*\* Probably same individual seen on two different dates.

## Checklist of Birds in Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

### Notes

<b>Albatross,</b> Shy	
Light-mantled	
Laysan	
Black-footed	
Short-tailed	
<b>Fulmar,</b> Northern	
<b>Petrel,</b> Great-winged	
Murphy's	
Dark-rumped	
Cook's	
<b>Shearwater,</b> Streaked	
Pink-footed	
Flesh-footed	
Buller's	
Sooty	
Short-tailed	
Manx	
Black-vented	
<b>Storm-petrel,</b> Wilson's	
Fork-tailed	
Leach's	
Ashy	
Black	
Least	
<b>Phalarope,</b> Red-necked	
Red	
<b>Skua,</b> South Polar	

### Notes

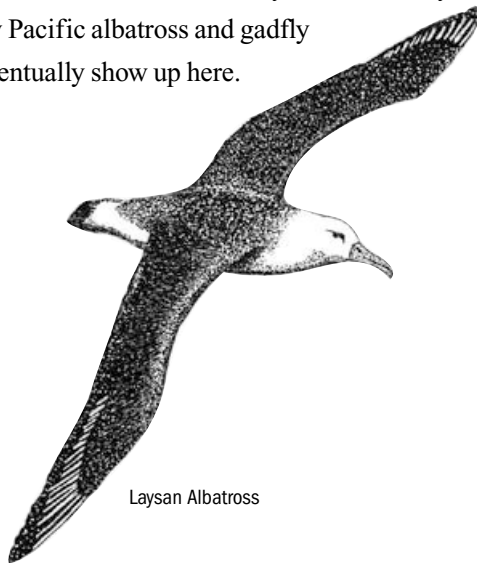
<b>Jaeger,</b> Pomarine	
Parasitic	
Long-tailed	
<b>Gull,</b> Bonapart's	
Heermann's	
Mew	
Ring-billed	
California	
Herring	
Thayer's	
Western	
Glaucous-winged	
Glaucous	
Sabine's	
<b>Kittiwake,</b> Black-legged	
<b>Tern,</b> Elegant	
Common	
Arctic	
Sooty	
<b>Murre,</b> Common	
<b>Guillemot,</b> Pigeon	
<b>Murrelet,</b> Xantus's	
Craveri's	
Ancient	
<b>Auklet,</b> Cassin's	
Parakeet	
Rhinoceros	
<b>Puffin,</b> Horned	
Tufted	

## Birds Expected to be Seen in the Sanctuary

The following partial list of species have been identified in neighboring waters (within 100 miles of CBNMS), but have not yet been sighted within the boundaries of the Sanctuary.

- Wandering Albatross** (*Diomedea exulans*)
- Mottled Petrel** (*Pterodroma inexpectata*)
- Stejneger's Petrel** (*Pterodroma longirostris*)
- Bulwer's Petrel** (*Bulweria bulwerii*)
- Cory's Shearwater** (*Calonectris diomedea*)
- Greater Shearwater** (*Puffinus gravis*)
- Wedge-tailed Shearwater** (*Puffinus pacificus*)
- Little Shearwater** (*Puffinus assimilis*)
- Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma tethys*)
- Tropicbirds** (*Phaethon*) Red-billed and Red-tailed
- Boobies** (*Sula*)
  - Masked, Nazca, Blue-footed, Brown, Red-footed
- Thick-billed Murre** (*Uria lomvia*)
- Long-billed Murrelet** (*Brachyramphus perdix*)
- Crested Auklet** (*Aethia cristatella*)

Given the amazing diversity of species of seabirds seen in Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, it seems likely that almost any Pacific albatross and gadfly petrel could eventually show up here.



Laysan Albatross

## Marine Mammals of Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

(based on sightings)

### Cetaceans

Common Dolphin	Sept.-April (Fall best)
Pacific White-sided Dolphin	Feb.-Nov.
Northern Right Whale Dolphin	May-Nov.
Risso's Dolphin	Mar.-Nov.
Orca (Killer Whale)	Feb.-Nov. (unpredictable)
Harbor Porpoise	All Year
Dall's Porpoise	Mar.-Nov.
Gray Whale	late Dec.-Jan. and Mar.-Apr.
Humpback Whale	April-Dec. (Aug.-Nov. best)
Minke Whale	July-Nov.
Blue Whale	Aug.-Nov. (Oct.-Nov. best)
Sperm Whale	Dec.-Feb. (rare) (deepwater)
Baird's Beaked Whale	July-Nov.

### Season

### Pinnipeds

Northern Fur Seal	August through March
California Sea Lion	All Year
Harbor Seal	All Year
Steller's Sea Lion	All Year
Northern Elephant Seal	All Year

### Season

The following marine mammals, have **not been observed, but could be seen** in Cordell Bank waters based on their known range, and stranding records on nearby beaches.

Northern Right Whale	Aug.-Oct.
Sei Whale	June-Oct.
Fin Whale	April-Oct.
Pygmy Sperm Whale	Aug.-Oct.
Dwarf Sperm Whale	Feb.
Cuvier's Beaked Whale	Aug.-Oct.
Hubb's Beaked Whale	March
Blainville's Beaked Whale	Oct.
Bottlenose Dolphin	June
Striped Dolphin	Aug.-Oct.
Short-finned Pilot Whale	June

## Seabird Viewing Guidelines and Federal Law

Under State and Federal law it is illegal to disturb and/or harass seabirds. Harassment may be interpreted as any action that modifies the behavior of any seabird. If you witness a violation of these laws, call the CalTIP hotline : 1 888-334-2258.

### Guidelines

- Let seabirds adjust to your presence and you will be rewarded with displays of interesting, natural behavior.
- Maintain a safe distance of 300 feet to avoid disturbing seabirds.
- To report live or dead marine mammals or sea turtles call the Marine Mammal center at 415-289-7325.
- To report an oil spill, boat grounding or sinking contact the USCG/Marine Safety office at 510-437-3073 or OSPR dispatch 916-445-0045 and the Sanctuary office at 415-663-0314.

### Tips While Fishing and Boating

- Boat around groups of wildlife rather than through them
- Never feed or attempt to pet wildlife
- Keep all food and bait covered
- Don't leave bare hooks or artificial lures exposed
- Use caution when casting; don't dangle bait or hooked fish
- Don't leave trash behind; Clean up after fishing
- Don't discard monofilament line; recycle it or dispose of it in appropriate containers



NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARIES

CORDELL BANK

### Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Location: 1 Bear Valley Rd, Pt. Reyes, CA 94956

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 159, Olema, CA 94950

P: (415) 663-0314 F: (415) 663-0315

[www.cordellbank.noaa.gov](http://www.cordellbank.noaa.gov)

### Credits: Rich Stallcup

Reviewed by: Debra Shearwater- [www.shearwaterjourneys.com](http://www.shearwaterjourneys.com),

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey- Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History [www.pgmuseum.org](http://www.pgmuseum.org),

David Wimpfheimer- [www.calnaturalist.com](http://www.calnaturalist.com), and Peter Pyle.

