

# Mendocino County Coastal Birds\*

---

Prepared by Mendocino Coast Audubon Society Members Dorothy (Toby) Tobkin and Richard Kuehn on Earth Day 04/22/07

**Coastal Birds\*** refers to bird species that frequent beaches, offshore rocks, and near-shore ocean waters. Rare birds that are regular visitors or residents are included, but accidental visitors (usually less than 10 records) are not. Also omitted are the two Storm-Petrels, Ashy and Leach's, which probably nest on a few offshore rocks. Because they are nocturnal in their comings-and-goings from their nest burrows and forage far out to sea, they are almost never seen from shore.

Abundance Codes: These refer to coastal habitats, i.e. beaches, rocks, and near-shore waters; not to general abundance in the county. For Tubenoses and Alcids, the codes indicate the abundance as viewed from shore with appropriate optics.

<b>C</b> = Common	this species is seen more than 90% of the time.
<b>FC</b> = Fairly Common	this species is seen 50 – 90% of the time.
<b>U</b> = Uncommon	this species is seen 10 – 50% of the time.
<b>R</b> = Rare	this species is seen less than 10% of the time.

## Other Symbols:

**v** = Intertidal and/or offshore rocks are preferred habitat. (Note that nearly all shorebirds will sometimes feed and/or roost on rocks, as will many gulls and some ducks. Also, Cormorants roost and nest on rocks and islands; Common Murres and Pigeon Guillemots nest on rocks and islands.)

• = confirmed as breeding on or near the coast

◦ = may breed on or near the coast

<u>Geese and Ducks</u>	<u>Winter</u> (Dec–Feb)	<u>Spring</u> (Mar–May)	<u>Summer</u> (June and July)	<u>Fall</u> (Aug – Nov)
Brant	U	U	R	U
Mallard	U	U	U	U
Greater Scaup	U	U	-	U
Harlequin Duck	R	R	R	R
Surf Scoter	C	C	U	C
White-winged Scoter	R	R	-	R
Black Scoter	R	R	-	R
Bufflehead	U	U	-	U
Red-breasted Merganser	FC	FC	R	FC
<u>Loons</u>				
Red-throated Loon	C	C	R	C
Pacific Loon	C	C	U	C
Common Loon	C	C	U	C
<u>Grebes</u>				
Horned Grebe	FC	FC	R	FC
Red-necked Grebe	U	U	R	U
Eared Grebe	C	C	U	C
Western Grebe	C	C	U	C
Clark's Grebe	U	U	R	U
<u>Tubenoses*</u>				
Northern Fulmar	R	R	-	R
Pink-footed Shearwater	-	-	-	R
Sooty Shearwater	R	R	R	U

\*Laysan Albatross, which usually forage far offshore, have not been included. The Point Arena Cove bird is an anomalous record.

<u>Pelicans</u>		<u>Winter</u> (Dec–Feb)	<u>Spring</u> (Mar–May)	<u>Summer</u> (June and July)	<u>Fall*</u> (Aug – Nov)
<b>Brown Pelican</b>		U	FC	C	FC
<b><u>Cormorants</u></b>					
<b>Brandt's Cormorant</b>	.	C	C	C	C
<b>Double-crested cormorant</b>		C	C	U	C
<b>Pelagic Cormorant</b>	.	C	C	C	C
<b><u>Hérons and Egrets</u></b>					
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>	.	U	U	U	U
<b>Great Egret</b>	.	U	U	U	U
<b><u>Hawks and Falcons</u></b>					
<b>Osprey</b>	.	R	FC	FC	FC
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	.	U	R	R	R
<b><u>Shorebirds*</u></b>					
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>		C	C	-	C
<b>Snowy Plover</b>	.	U	U	R	U
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>		R	U	-	U
<b>Killdeer</b>	.	C	C	C	C
<b>Black Oystercatcher</b>	.	C	FC	FC	C
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>		FC	FC	-	FC
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>		-	R	-	R
<b>Willet</b>		C	C	R	C
<b>Wandering Tattler</b>	√	C	C	-	C
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>	.	FC	FC	U	FC

<u>Shorebirds* continued</u>	<u>Winter</u> (Dec–Feb)	<u>Spring</u> (Mar–May)	<u>Summer</u> (June and July)	<u>Fall</u> (Aug – Nov)
Whimbrel	√ FC	FC	R	FC
Long-billed Curlew	-	R	-	R
Marbled Godwit	U	U	-	U
Ruddy Turnstone	U	U	-	U
Black Turnstone	√ C	C	R	C
Surfbird	√ FC	FC	-	FC
Red Knot	-	-	-	R
Sanderling	C	C	-	C
Western Sandpiper	R	C	-	C
Least Sandpiper	FC	C	-	C
Baird's Sandpiper	-	-	-	U
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	U
Rock Sandpiper	√ R	-	-	R
Dunlin	R	FC	-	FC
Short-billed Dowitcher	U	U	-	U
Long-billed Dowitcher	FC	FC	-	FC
Red-necked Phalarope	-	FC	R	U
Red Phalarope	R	FC	-	FC
<u>Jaegers, Gulls and Terns</u>				
Pomarine Jaeger	R	-	-	R
Parasitic Jaeger	R	-	-	R
Bonaparte's Gull	R	U	-	U
Heermann's Gull	-	-	FC	FC

<u>Jaegers, Gulls and Terns</u> <u>continued</u>	<u>Winter</u> (Dec–Feb)	<u>Spring</u> (Mar–May)	<u>Summer</u> (June and July)	<u>Fall</u> (Aug – Nov)
Mew Gull	FC	FC	-	FC
Ring-billed Gull	R	R	-	R
California Gull	C	C	U	C
Herring Gull	FC	FC	R	FC
Thayer’s Gull	R	R	-	R
Western Gull	C	C	C	C
Glaucous-winged Gull	FC	FC	U	FC
Black-legged Kittiwake	R	R	-	R
Caspian Tern	-	U	R	U
Elegant Tern	-	-	-	R
Common Tern	-	R	-	R
Forster’s Tern	-	R	-	R
<u>Alcids</u>				
Common Murre	C	C	C	C
Pigeon Guillemot	R	FC	C	FC
Marbled Murrelet	R	R	R	U
Ancient Murrelet	R	R	-	R
Cassin’s Auklet	R	-	R	R
Rhinoceros Auklet ◊	U	FC	U	FC
Tufted Puffin ◊	-	R	R	R

◊ *These 2 species nest on islets/ islands but are more often seen on the water.*

<u>Miscellaneous Species</u>	<u>Winter</u> (Dec–Feb)	<u>Spring</u> (Mar–May)	<u>Summer</u> (June and July)	<u>Fall</u> (Aug – Nov)
Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	U
Common Raven	C	C	C	C
European Starling	C	C	C	C
American Pipit	FC	FC	-	FC
Yellow-rumped Warbler	FC	U	-	FC
Savannah Sparrow	FC	FC	FC	FC
Song Sparrow	U	U	U	U
Brewer’s Blackbird	C	C	C	C