Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*

More typical of rocky coasts farther north, the Harlequin Duck is only a casual visitor to San Diego County. Here, in atypical habitats at the southern extreme of its winter range, the Harlequin Duck does not do well—several of the birds have failed to return north on their proper schedule. Our five-year atlas period, 1997–2002, saw a spate of Harlequin Ducks, 6 of the 12 recorded in San Diego County.


**Migration:** The Harlequin Duck's return to De Anza Cove 28 October 2001 is the species' earliest arrival in San Diego County. One on San Diego Bay 5 October 1983 had more likely summered (AB 38:246, 1984). The latter bird included, 4 of the county's 12 Harlequin Ducks have over-stayed their expected departure time in March. One found at Agua Hedionda Lagoon 31 December 1977 remained there continuously for over five years until last reported 28 February 1983 (AB 27:338, 1983).