

**Marbled Murrelet** *Brachyramphus marmoratus*

The Marbled Murrelet is famed for its nesting habits unique for a seabird: it lays its egg on a bed of moss or debris in large trees in the rain forests of the Pacific Northwest. It is not highly migratory, however, so it is only a rare vagrant to southern California. There are only three records from San Diego County.

**Winter:** One was photographed in the Mission Bay entrance channel (R7) 29 November 1979 and seen again 3 December. Two at the Imperial Beach pier (V10) 15 December 1979 were photographed the following day (AB

34:307, 1980). One was on the ocean just beyond the breakers at Coronado (T9) 15 December 2001 (D. W. Povey).

**Conservation:** The Marbled Murrelet's dependence on old-growth forests prized for logging has put it in the center of political and economic controversy. The murrelet is listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game.

**Taxonomy:** With the recognition as a distinct species of the Marbled Murrelet's Asian counterpart, the Long-billed Murrelet (*B. perdix*), the Marbled Murrelet is left monotypic.