Buller's or New Zealand Shearwater Puffinus bulleri

Buller's Shearwater nests on islands around New Zealand and migrates to the North Pacific, where it is sometimes abundant in fall along the coast of northern California. On the ocean off San Diego County, however, it is rare, with only about 16 records closer than San Clemente Island.

Migration: All but two of San Diego County's records of Buller's Shearwater range from 23 July (1981, eight 60 miles off San Diego, D. W. Povey) to 26 November (1994, one from shore at La Jolla, P7, S. Walens, G. L. Rogers, NASFN 49:100, 1995). The count of eight on 23 July 1981 is the maximum yet reported. Other than the one seen at La Jolla, the only fall record from shore is of one found dead along the Silver Strand (T9) 2 October 2002 (S. M. Wolf, SDNHM 50666).

Winter: Two winter records of Buller's Shearwater for



Photo by Richard E. Webster

San Diego County lie outside the species' usual seasonal pattern along the Pacific coast of North America. One was found dead on Black's Beach (O7) 19 February 1976 (SDNHM 39756), and another was seen from shore at La Jolla 21 January 1995 (A. DeBolt, P. A. Ginsburg, NASFN 49:195, 1995).