

Craveri's Murrelet *Synthliboramphus craveri*

Many of Baja California's seabirds disperse north after breeding. Some, like the Brown Pelican, Elegant Tern, and Heermann's Gull, become abundant along San Diego County's coast. Craveri's Murrelet, however, is rare, recorded only in late summer and early fall.

Migration: Craveri's Murrelet has been noted off San Diego County from 11 July (1972, two off San Diego, AB 26:906, 1972) to 13 October (1971, two seen 12 miles off San Diego, Jehl 1973). The only report from shore is of one in the surf at Border Field State Park (W10) 11 August 1981 (R. E. Webster). Laurence M. Huey collected two 10 miles west of Point Loma 28 August 1925 (SDNHM 9938-9). One found alive on a boat in San Diego Bay 23 September 2003 (SDNHM 50824) could have come aboard far offshore, as murrelets confused by the lights often fly onto ships at night.

Conservation: Whether because of the decreased productivity of the ocean off southern California or because



Photo by Joseph R. Jehl, Jr.

of problems on the nesting islands, numbers of Craveri's Murrelets off San Diego County appear to have decreased since the 1980s. The maximum seen off San Diego per day was 30 on 9 September 1972, but since 1980 the only report of more than four was of 12 off San Diego 10 September 1983 (G. McCaskie, AB 38:247, 1984).