

### **Pigeon Guillemot *Cepphus columba***

Though it breeds as close as the Channel Islands, the Pigeon Guillemot is only a rare vagrant to San Diego County. After fledging, most young birds migrate north, away from San Diego.

**Migration:** The first Pigeon Guillemots reported from San Diego County were two 50 miles off San Diego 1 September 1976 (R. L. Pitman, AB 31:223, 1977). From 1992 to 1996 the species was seen sporadically in spring at La Jolla (P7): one 14–17 May 1992 (D. W. Povey, AB 46:481, 1992); two 12–14 June 1992 (T. Clawson, AB 46:1178, 1992); one 19 April–13 May 1994 (S. Walens, NASFN 48:341, 1994); one 7 April–16 May 1995 (S. Walens, NASFN 49:309, 1995); one 15 April 1996 (S. Walens, NASFN 50:333, 1996). Juveniles were found dead on the beach at the Santa Margarita River mouth (G4) 25 June 2000 (B. Foster, SDNHM 50448) and within the Naval Amphibious Base on the Silver Strand (T9) 29 August 2003 (M. Sadowski, SDNHM 50801).



*Photo by Kenneth W. Fink*

**Taxonomy:** The California subspecies of the Pigeon Guillemot, *C. c. eureka* Storer, 1950, differs from other subspecies in its longer bill.