

Pink-footed Shearwater *Puffinus creatopus*

The Pink-footed Shearwater nests on Chilean islands in the southeast Pacific and winters (in the northern summer) in the northeast Pacific. Though its numbers have declined, it is still fairly common off San Diego County. The Pink-footed has been affected less dramatically than the Sooty Shearwater by the decline in ocean productivity off California of the 1980s and 1990s.

Migration: Briggs et al. (1987) found the number of Pink-footed Shearwaters off southern California to increase sharply from March to May, then decrease sharply from September to November. In some years there are two peaks, in May and August or September. Though usually uncommon within 5 miles of shore, the Pink-footed Shearwater can be seen regularly from La Jolla (P7) in August and September if the wind is favorable (S. Walens).

Winter: From December to February the Pink-footed Shearwater is uncommon to rare. A count of three off San Diego 21 January 1984 was high for this season (G. McCaskie, AB 38:357, 1984). Probably because of winter storms driving the birds inshore, sightings from land are more frequent in winter than in summer. An example



Photo by Brian L. Sullivan

is one from Torrey Pines State Reserve (N7) 4 February 1999 (D. K. Adams).

Conservation: In the 1960s and 1970s the Pink-footed Shearwater was common to abundant off San Diego, with up to 6000 on 9 September 1972 (G. McCaskie). By the beginning of the 21st century the species could be rated only as fairly common. In its breeding range, consisting of only three islands, however, the Pink-footed also faces threats: introduced predators, degradation of habitat, and collecting of chicks for human food.