

Catalog of Oregon Seabird Colonies

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Table of Contents

List of Figures.....	iv
List of Tables	v
Acknowledgments	vi
Abstract	1
Introduction.....	2
Summary of Seabird Distribution and Abundance in Oregon	5
Methods	10
Boat and Ground Surveys	10
Shore-based Surveys	10
Aerial Surveys	12
Methods of Estimation	12
Species-Specific Methods	12
Cormorants	12
Common Murre	13
Pigeon Guillemot	13
Tufted Puffin	14
Small Nocturnal Burrow-Nesting Species	14
Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls and Hybrids	14
Caspian Tern.....	14
Maps and Data Tables	15
How to Use This Catalog.....	15
Colony Numbers and Names	15
Most Recent or Representative Estimate	15
Data Codes	15
Literature Cited.....	20
Catalogs	24
Area 195—Hoquiam.....	24
Area 219—Vancouver.....	32
Area 243—Newport	150
Area 270 North—Coos Bay	230
Area 270 South—Cape Blanco	270
Appendix A. List of People that Conducted Surveys Included in this Catalog	402
Appendix B. Lists of Active Colonies by Species.....	404
Appendix C. List and Description of All Oregon Seabird Colonies	449
Appendix D. Index of Named Oregon Seabird Colonies.....	476
Appendix E. Data Source Codes (Ref) for Catalog Tables	479
Appendix F. Archive Locations of Major Unpublished Data Sets.....	481

List of Figures

Figure 1. Abundance of 14 species of breeding seabirds in Oregon	4
Figure 2. Distribution of breeding seabirds in Oregon.	6
Figure 3. Map of Oregon coast landmarks.	9
Figure 4. Map of areas surveyed by boat during the 1979 and 1988 coastwide seabird surveys.	11
Figure 5. Diagram of the seabird colony data tables in this catalog.	16
Figure 6. Index to the location, name, and number of area maps used in the numbering system for Oregon seabird colonies.	17

List of Tables

Table 1. Seabirds breeding along the coast of Oregon.....	3
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Acknowledgments

This catalog is the product of many dedicated biologists and resource managers working along the Oregon coast over the past century, and in particular the past 25 years. The first Oregon coast-wide seabird colony survey was conducted by Robert L. Pitman, Michael R. Graybill, and Daniel H. Varoujean in 1979. In 1988, the second coast-wide survey was conducted by Roy W. Lowe, Jon B. Anderson, and Daniel R. Matthews. The 1979 and 1988 surveys were made possible with funding, staff and logistic support provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Oregon National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Refuge Manager Palmer C. Sekora was instrumental in insuring that both surveys were accomplished. Since 1988, surveys have been conducted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff of the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Roy W. Lowe coordinated seabird surveys from 1986 – 1999; David S. Pitkin assisted with surveys from 1993 – 1999 and coordinated surveys from 2000 – 2006.

The 1979 and 1988 coast-wide surveys did not include the Columbia River Estuary, but data were collected for these estuary colonies by Jim B. Atkinson, Alan C. Clark, Douglas A. Bell, and David A. Manuwal during comparable time periods. Since 1997, U.S. Geological Survey has been monitoring the seabirds of the Columbia River estuary. Daniel D. Roby, Kenneth D. Collis, and students and staff of the

Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit have monitored populations of Caspian Terns, Double-crested Cormorants, and other seabirds in the estuary. Janet Hodder provided data on Pelagic Cormorants from the monitoring project she and students of the University of Oregon's Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB) have conducted at the "OIMB Cormorant Colony" continuously since 1973. Many other biologists contributed data for specific species or colonies; a complete list of contributors is in Appendix A.

The catalog was assembled by Maura B. Naughton, David S. Pitkin, Khemarith J. So, Craig S. Strong and Roy W. Lowe. The databases were compiled and vetted by Craig S. Strong, Khemarith J. So, David S. Pitkin and Maura B. Naughton. Text sections were drafted by Craig S. Strong and Maura B. Naughton. Khemarith J. So and Mariana Lincoln developed and rectified the GIS colony location databases and Khemarith J. So produced the final colony maps and tables. Mary Anderson produced the maps for Figure 2. Laurie Litman, InfoWright, did the layout and design of the final catalog. Ramiel Papish created the artwork for the cover and throughout this catalog. Funding to compile this catalog was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Birds and Habitat Programs, Pacific Region, Portland, Oregon. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regions 1 and 6, provided the funds for printing.

Abstract

The rocky islands and rugged habitats of the outer Oregon coast and the low flat islands of the Columbia River estuary provide habitat for approximately 1.3 million nesting seabirds representing 15 species. Current and historical information on colony locations and estimates of breeding seabirds were compiled into databases, for all known seabird colonies in Oregon. A total of 393 colonies were identified, and maps and data tables for each colony are presented in this catalog. The data tables include counts of nests and

birds, where available, and estimates of the number of breeding birds for each species at a colony. Specific information regarding date, observers, type of survey, quality of the estimate, and source of the data are provided for each record. The geographic scope of this catalog encompasses seabird colonies in marine and estuarine environments. Marbled Murrelets, which nest solitarily in habitats distinctly different from the rest of the seabird community, are not included in this catalog.