

Reduce Night Lights



Black-footed Albatross Photo Eric Preston

LIGHTS & SEABIRDS

In the dark of night, seabirds use their keen senses and light from the moon and stars to navigate, find food, tend their nests, and avoid predators.

Mariners and scientists have observed that bright lights from vessels or land can attract and disorient seabirds, causing injury or death—especially on moonless or foggy nights.

HOW CAN BRIGHT LIGHTS AFFECT SEABIRDS?

- Drawn to or distracted by lights, seabirds can fly onto decks or land where they may be trapped, injured, or killed.
- Bright lights can illuminate nesting colonies on rocky coasts and islands, causing problems tending nests, abandonment of eggs or chicks, and increased predation by gulls or owls.
- Lights can distract birds from feeding, navigating, and other vital activities.

WHAT TO DO WHEN SEABIRDS ARE FOUND ON VESSELS:

First, darken area as much as possible to avoid attracting more birds and allow birds already landed to fly away. Use clean, grease-free towels and hands when handling birds. **UNINJURED BIRDS**—Gently cover bird with towel and place in clean, well-ventilated, covered box. Release birds into ocean at dawn or when area is darkened. **INJURED BIRDS**—Place bird in clean, well-ventilated, covered box. If possible, take to a wildlife rehabilitation facility within 24 hours (Northern CA—707/207-0380, ext. 110; Southern CA—310/514-2573).



Dan Barton

Bright lights attracted storm-petrels to this vessel off the coast of Alaska. Once decks were darkened, the crew returned the birds to sea.

Avoid attracting seabirds at night by reducing the number and intensity of lights.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Reduce the light on vessels and coasts!

- Use only navigation and safety lighting when anchored. If possible, use a source other than bright lights to keep a load on a generator at night.
- Use smaller or minimal wattage bulbs located close to work areas.
- Keep lights well shielded and directed downwards.
- Avoid shining bright lights directly at cliffs and islands where seabirds nest (see over for map).

Reduce Night Lights Project Partners: Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary; Island Conservation and Ecology Group; Natural Resources Defense Council; PRBO Conservation Science; and US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Learn more! Visit www.prbo.org/seabirdaware or call 415/868-1221, ext. 302

Seabirds Most Affected by Night Lights in California

Xantus's Murrelet



NOAA/USFWS/NIPS

KEY NESTING AREAS OF CONCERN—
Channel Islands NP.

STATUS—Rare and declining in CA. Small world population: breeds at only a few sites from southern CA to Baja California, MX.

DESCRIPTION—Plump, robin-sized; black with white belly; thin black bill.

DIET—Small fish and zooplankton.

Cassin's Auklet



Bob Boekelheide

KEY NESTING AREAS OF CONCERN—
Castle Rock NWR; Farallon NWR;
Channel Islands NP.

STATUS—Declining in CA. Breeds from AK to Baja California, MX.

DESCRIPTION—Plump, robin-sized; dark gray with light belly; white spot above and below eyes; bluish legs and feet.

DIET—Small fish; krill and other zooplankton.

Leach's Storm-Petrel



Joshua Boardway

KEY NESTING AREAS OF CONCERN—
Castle Rock NWR; Farallon NWR.

STATUS—Population trend unknown in CA. Breeds from AK to Baja California, MX.

DESCRIPTION—Sparrow-sized; dark gray usually with white rump patch; long, delicate wings; steeply sloping forehead; 'tube nose'.

DIET—Small fish; squid; krill and other zooplankton.

Ashy Storm-Petrel

KEY NESTING AREAS OF CONCERN—
Farallon NWR;
Channel Islands NP.



PRBO

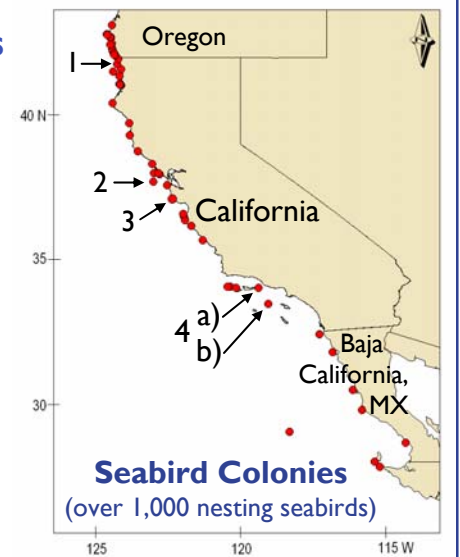
STATUS—Rare and declining worldwide. Small world range: breeds from central CA to northern Baja California, MX.

DESCRIPTION—Sparrow-sized; brownish gray; long, delicate wings; steeply sloping forehead; 'tube nose'.

DIET—Small fish; squid; krill and other zooplankton.

Reduce Night Lights around all seabird colonies (red dots), especially around these key nesting areas for light-sensitive seabirds:

1. Castle Rock, NWR
2. Farallon NWR
3. Año Nuevo Island SP
4. Channel Islands NP
 - a) Anacapa Island
 - b) Santa Barbara Island



Rhinoceros Auklet

KEY NESTING AREAS OF CONCERN—
Castle Rock NWR; Farallon NWR;
Año Nuevo SP.



Ron LeValley

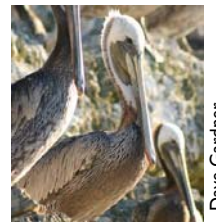
STATUS—Suspected declining in CA. Breeds from AK to southern CA.

DESCRIPTION—Pigeon-sized; grayish brown with white belly; large orange bill; breeding adult has horn and white plumes on face.

DIET—Small fish and squid.

Brown Pelican

KEY NESTING AREAS OF CONCERN—Channel Islands NP;
Gulf of California, MX.



Dave Gardner

STATUS—Endangered in US and CA. Breeds from southern CA to Baja California, MX.

DESCRIPTION—Large-sized; adult has dark belly and white head; young has white belly and brown head; long bill with pouch.

DIET—Fish.