

## RESTORING SEABIRDS

*I know  
I'm cute, but I have an  
amazing story, too!  
Check it out!*



**Take this brochure with you and watch this seabird come to life on your home computer!  
Visit [www.montroserestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.montroserestoration.noaa.gov) to download the 3D software.**

### What are DDTs and PCBs?

They are toxic mixtures of chemicals that breakdown very slowly in the environment. DDT was once a widely used pesticide in the United States. One of the largest DDT manufacturing factories, owned by the Montrose Chemical Corporation, was located in Torrance, CA. PCBs are a group of chemicals that are resistant to heat and pressure. They were used by many companies for making products such as paints and for cooling electronic parts.

### Where did they come from?

Most of the DDTs and PCBs contaminating the marine environment near Los Angeles came from companies that dumped their waste products into the local sewer system many years ago.

Wastewater from these factories was discharged into the ocean through pipes offshore of the Palos Verdes peninsula. Although releases of DDTs and PCBs ended in the 1970s, over 100 tons of these chemicals still contaminate the sediments and living organisms of the Southern California marine environment.

### How has DDT contamination affected the Seabirds?

In 1992, the Trustees funded a study of eggshell thinning and DDT/PCB contamination levels in seabirds of the Channel Islands. These studies showed that a suite of seabirds had eggshell thinning, so the following seabirds have become the priority for MSRP restoration efforts:

- Xantus's Murrelet
- Brandt's Cormorant
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Cassin's Auklet
- California Brown Pelican
- Western Gull
- Ashy Storm-petrel
- Pelagic Cormorant

### What is being done?

**Restore Seabirds to Scorpion and Orizaba Rocks** Located off Santa Cruz Island, these rocks are important for burrow-nesting seabirds in California. The goal is to restore the habitat for nesting seabirds on the rocks. Restoration efforts on Scorpion Rock include removing non-native plants and replacing them with native plants that the seabirds can build their burrows under. Efforts on Orizaba Rock include creating additional seabird nesting sites and attracting the birds to the new sites.

**Restore Seabirds to Santa Barbara Island** Santa Barbara Island supports California's largest colony of Scripps's Murrelets (a state-threatened species). The goal is to recover Murrelets and Auklets by restoring their nesting habitat. Non-native vegetation has been removed from several sites and replaced with native plants. Nest boxes have also been installed and vocalization playback systems are used to attract the birds to the restored nesting sites.

**Restore Seabirds to Baja Pacific Islands** U.S. and Mexico-based organizations are restoring nine seabird species on Coronado and Todos Santos Archipelagos, located off northwestern Mexico. Restoration activities include installing artificial nest boxes, using social attraction techniques and reducing human disturbance through outreach and education.