

BIRDS OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS



CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICAN



WESTERN GULL



XANTUS'S MURRELET



ASHY STORM-PETREL



CASSIN'S AUKLET



BRANDT'S CORMORANT



PELAGIC CORMORANT



DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT



TUFTED PUFFIN



PIGEON GUILLEMOT



PEREGRINE FALCON



BALD EAGLE



RESTORING SEABIRDS AND RAPTORS TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

WHAT ARE DDT 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 Montrose Chemical Corporation, was located in Torrance, California. 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 THE DDT AND PCBs COME FROM?

Most of the DDT and PCBs contaminating the marine environment near Los Angeles came from companies that dumped their waste products into the local wastewater 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 BIRDS?

In 1992, researchers found eggshell thinning from high DDT/PCB contamination levels in seabirds and raptors of the Southern California Bight, including the Channel Islands. Based on this study, the following birds are a priority for restoration by the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program (MSRP):

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

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

MSRP is restoring seabird species on different islands and offshore rocks throughout the Channel Islands. These islands are vital nesting areas for many seabirds, but they are threatened by non-native plant and animal species.

MSRP has been restoring bald eagles to the Channel Islands with the release of 61 bald eagles on Santa Cruz Island between 2002 and 2006. To understand peregrine falcon populations on the Channel Islands, MSRP conducted an extensive survey in 2007.