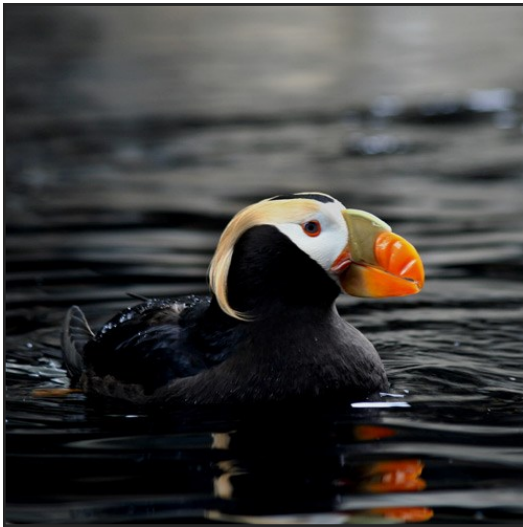


TUFTED PUFFINS

Scientific Name: *Fratercula cirrhata*

Description: The Tufted Puffin is a medium-sized, stocky, dark seabird with a rounded head. The thick, red-orange bill has a bright orange/yellow plate over the base. Their large webbed feet are orange; their eyes are ringed with orange. Males and females look alike, but males are usually slightly larger. The breeding adult is all black except for a white face and long golden plumes which curl over the back of the head and neck. The nonbreeding adult has a dark gray face with no head plumes. Tufted Puffins are the size of pigeons, but weigh nearly twice as much (1 kg, 2 lbs).



Range/Habitat: With the exception of estuaries, breeding colonies of Tufted Puffins can be found on islands and on mainland coastlines throughout the Pacific Ocean north to south from the Chukchi Peninsula in Siberia to the Channel Islands off southern California. They breed in colonies on islands with steep, grassy slopes or on cliff tops. During the winter they are mostly pelagic (live at sea).

Diet: Tufted Puffins dine mostly on small fish. They also eat squid, octopus, crab, jellyfish, and zooplankton.

Behavior: Tufted Puffins are active at their nest colonies during the day and can often be seen sitting upright on rocks. They dive and swim underwater using their wings to paddle and their feet to steer. Puffins can carry 5-20 fish at a time back to their nests. An average catch is about 10 fish per trip. Puffins' beaks are specialized to hold many fish. Their raspy tongues secure fish against spines on their palates while the birds open their mouths to catch more fish. Puffins are powerful flyers! They beat their wings 300-400 times a minute to achieve speeds up to 64 kph (40 mph)!

Nesting: Tufted Puffins form long term pair bonds to care for their offspring. They nest in burrows at cliff edges, on grassy slopes, or in rocky crevices. To prepare the nest site the pair excavates a burrow with their bills and feet. The protected burrow is 2-7 feet long with a nest at the end. The nest is usually lined with grass or feathers, but sometimes has no lining at all. The female lays one egg. Both parents incubate this egg for 6.5 to 7.5 weeks. After the egg hatches both parents care for the young for yet another 6-7 weeks until it is ready to leave the nest. The fledgling leaves its burrow at night and moves to sea by walking and fluttering its wings.



For more information search for "tufted puffin" on these websites:

- www.birdlife.org
- www.allaboutbirds.org

Updated May 2015

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Tufted Puffin is the largest puffin. It is characterized by long, straw-colored feathers which extend back from its crown.



- The Tufted Puffin nests mostly in deep burrows that it digs into ocean cliffs.
- A puffin can capture and hold multiple small fish crosswise in its bill, routinely 5 to 20 fish at a time, for delivery to chicks in the nest.
- Tufted Puffins form long term pair bonds to take care of their young.
- Puffins may dive deeper than 24 m (80 ft.) to catch fish.
- A puffin can dive for up to a minute underwater. However, most dives last 20 to 30 seconds.
- Puffins can live 20 years or more.



Haystack Rock is protected under U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as a seabird nesting colony and under Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife as a Marine Garden.



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Tufted Puffins



Tufted puffins (Fratercula cirrhata).