



## SOUTH COAST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Protecting and Restoring at Risk Species and Ecological Communities on BC's South Coast

Published on *South Coast Conservation Program* (<http://sccp.ca>)

### Marbled Murrelet

*Brachyramphus marmoratus*

A member of the family Alcidae (auks), no subspecies are recognized in North America. Several species of seabird in a number of genera are referred to as “murrelets” in North America; Marbled Murrelet is one of only two members of the *Brachyramphus* genus for BC.



Adult on nest WA Dept. of Natural Resources



Chick Peter Halasz Wikipedia



Adult plumage Angus Wilson



Juvenile Gus van Vliet USFWS

## Characteristics

Marbled Murrelet is a chubby, “robin-sized” seabird (actually a small auk), with short neck and tail. The characteristic profile while swimming is for the tail and black bill to be tipped upwards. During the breeding season (summer), plumage on the back is dark brown with marbled light brown sides and stomach (camouflaging adults on the nest). Winter plumage becomes more distinct with the back darkening to black, and sides, belly, and wing patches becoming white along with a broken white collar. These colouration patterns also help to camouflage the marbled murrelet from predators on the open ocean as well as during underwater foraging. Juveniles have a similar size and body shape as adults but plumage has more extensive marbling that lasts over the winter until sexually mature.

## Status

<b>Global Status:</b>	G3
<b>Provincial Status:</b>	S3B, S3N
<b>SARA Status:</b>	Threatened
<b>BC List Status:</b>	Blue (Considered to be of Special Concern)

## Resources

### BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

### British Columbia’s Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

### Develop With Care Guidelines (see Lower Mainland Region section)

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

### Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC

Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

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**Source URL:** <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/marbled-murrelet>

## Links

[1] <http://www.sfu.ca/biology/wildberg/bertram/mamurt/links.htm>

[2] <http://murreletsurvivalproject.tumblr.com/>

[3] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[4] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[5] [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop\\_with\\_care\\_intro.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html)

[6] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>