

State of California  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game

NOTE ON CORMORANT NESTING  
POINT LOBOS STATE RESERVE, MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA 1972 1/

by

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ABSTRACT

A cormorant nesting study conducted at Point Lobos State Reserve, Monterey County, California, indicated a peak population of 1,734 Brandt's cormorants and 36 pelagic cormorants during the 1972 nesting season. Produced were 414 Brandt's cormorant and 9 pelagic cormorant young. Of the 12 colonies observed, 1 failed to produce young. Observations were limited to 5 days between April 25 and July 14, 1972.

1/ Supported by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W54R-4 "Special Wildlife Investigations", California Department of Fish and Game.

## METHODS

Major nesting sites, on shore and offshore, were identified and delineated into 12 stations which could be observed with the aid of 10 x 50 binoculars. Of the 12 stations, 10 were located on ocean rocks offshore and 2 were on mainland cliffs facing seaward. Figure 1 is a map of Point Lobos State Reserve showing the location of the 12 stations. Five days were spent from April 25 to July 14, 1972 observing cormorant nesting. State Park regulations prohibited landing on offshore rocks to make nest counts and to collect eggs for pesticide residue determinations.

## RESULTS

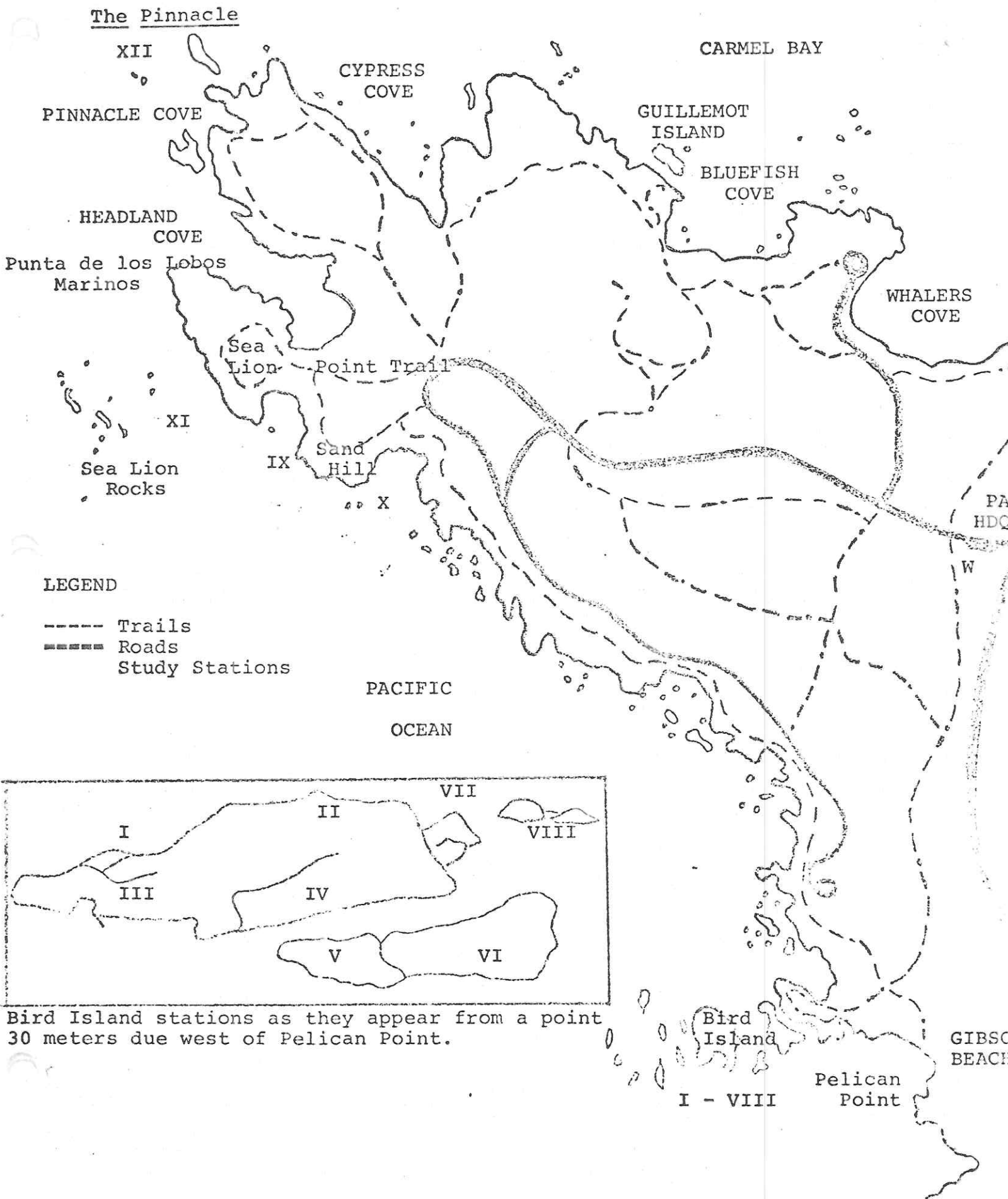
Table 1 summarizes the observations made of nesting Brandt's cormorants and pelagic cormorants. Peak counts of Brandt's cormorants occurred on May 26 when 1,734 were recorded. Thirty-six pelagic cormorants were observed on May 9. A July 14 count of young revealed 414 Brandt's cormorant and 9 pelagic cormorant chicks. This represents 24% and 5% of the peak populations of these two cormorant species.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to gather more fully information regarding cormorant nesting and reproductive success, it is recommended that:

1. Cormorant counts be resumed during the 1973 breeding season.
2. Permission be secured from the California Department of Parks and Recreation to gain access to the nesting sites and materials be collected for pesticide residues.

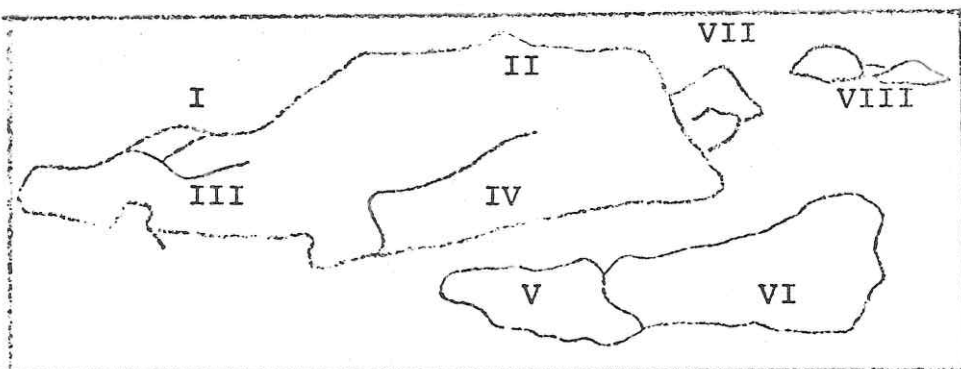
FIGURE 1  
 CORMORANT STUDY AREA  
 Point Lobos State Reserve



LEGEND

- Trails
- ===== Roads
- Study Stations

PACIFIC  
 OCEAN



Bird Island stations as they appear from a point 30 meters due west of Pelican Point.

I - VIII

Pelican Point

GIBSC BEACH

Table 1. Results of cormorant survey at Point Lobos State Reserve, Monterey County, California. Brandt's cormorant (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*) = COB; Pelagic cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*) = COP. Single letter codes indicate behavior noted at sample stations (B = breeding; C = courtship displays; F = feeding of chicks; N = nesting, many nests; N(x) = nesting, exact no. of nests; R = roosting).

Species Code	Station No.	Date and Count							
		25 Apr		9 May		26 May		27 Jun*	
		Adults	Adults	Adults	Adults	Adults	Chicks	Adults	Chicks
COB	I	313-B,C,N	322-B,C,N	383-B,C,N	302-F,N	41	27-F,N	116	
COB	II	144-B,C,N	196-B,C,N	237-B,C,N	139-F,N	13	0	7	
COB	III	364-B,C,N	457-B,C,N	518-B,C,N	333-F,N	27	57-F,N	206	
COB	IV	129-B,C,N	127-B,C,N	116-B,C,N	101-F,N	7	62-F,N	41	
COB	V	26-B,C,N	21-B,C,N	25-B,C,N	21-F,N	6	5-F,N	2	1
COB	VI	181-B,C,N	122-B,C,N	105-B,C,N	67-F,N	13	16-F,N	15	
COB	VII	56-B,C,N	89-B,C,N	136-B,C,N	116-N	0	18-F,N	13	
COB	VIII	58-B,C,N	50-B,C,N	48-B,C,N	56-N	0	17-F,N	14	
COP	IX	17-N(9)	30-B,N(11)	29-N(20)	9-N(6)	0	5-F	7	
COP	X	5-N(3)	6-N(3)	2-N(2)	3-N(3)	0	2-F	2	
COB	XI	25-R	51-R	41-R	31-R	0	36-R	0	
COB	XII	34-N,R	110-N,R	125-N	0	0	0	0	

\* First day chicks were noted.