The Cassin’s Auklet (Ptychoramphus aleuticus) is a small grey-brown bird with a white belly, a short tail and a distinctive white spot above each eye. This species is one of the most widespread alcids in the northern Pacific. For the majority of their lives, Cassin’s Auklets are found far offshore, at the outer edge of the continental shelf. During the breeding season, the birds dig burrows in the ground, nesting in colonies found on isolated islands. British Columbia is home to approximately 80% of the world’s population of Cassin’s Auklets.

This atlas page depicts active and historic Cassin’s Auklet colonies in terms of their relative importance, a value that corresponds to the number of "nest pairs" estimated at any one site during the most recent survey year. This value was compared to the total BC population that was determined by summing the estimated number of individuals at all colonies during the most recent survey year. Using these values, relative importance was determined as follows:

- **High**: colony has >5% of the species' total BC population.
- **Moderate**: colony has 1-5% of the species' total BC population.
- **Low**: colony has <1% of the species' total BC population.

These categories correspond with the 1% threshold that has been applied at global and national levels by Bird Studies Canada (and other groups around the world) to identify Important Bird Areas.

Sites have been included regardless of whether breeding had been previously confirmed at a particular site. Attributes for each site also include the date that breeding was last confirmed and the most recent survey results. Colony locations were buffered to represent some of the marine habitat used by these birds adjacent to each colony, based on the distances employed in the creation of the Canadian Wildlife Service’s Marine Bird Areas of Interest dataset.
Inset Map

1:500,000°

Note: The inset has been provided to illustrate the level of detail available in the data. The inset is for illustrative purposes only and does not imply any significance to this region.