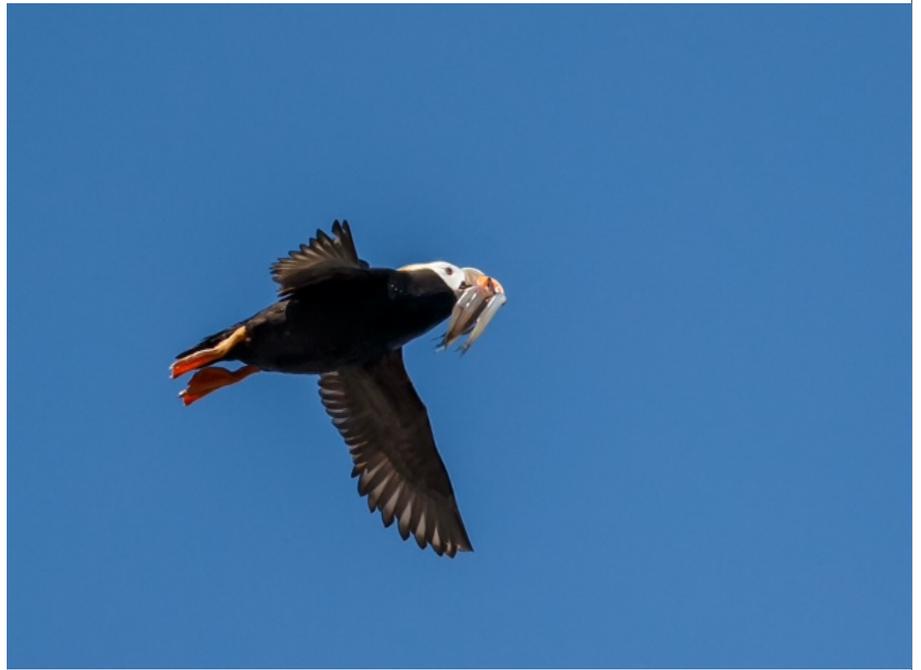


Tufted Puffin (seabird)



VERTEBRATE

Fratercula cirrhata

diet: squid, herring other small fish

size: about 35cm (14 in) about a football

Habitat: Burrows into soft sediment of Haystack Rock in large meadow on North to West slope. Burrows are dug to depths of 1.5 m (about 5 ft) with strong clawed feet and their stout bill.

Related to: Common Murres, Rhinoceros Auklets and Pigeon Guillemots

These seabirds are comical looking and have been nicknamed “sea clowns”. At Haystack, visitors have been known to call them toucans. Our small colony of puffins only come to the Rock for breeding season that runs April through August. The remainder of the time they live exclusively offshore (100 plus miles). These birds “fly” under the water to capture their prey. Look for their “football” shaped bodies as they fly around the Rock.

Fun Fact: Their bill has small hooks inside to hold crosswise small fish or squid and have been know to carry over 20!