

Sample page

**Tufted Puffin** *Fratercula cirrhata*

Like its two relatives, the Atlantic and Horned puffins, the Tufted Puffin has a huge, laterally flattened, brightly colored bill. Puffins are compact seabirds that nest colonially (each pair in its own burrow), and otherwise spend the rest of the year fishing at sea. The Tufted Puffin is, marginally, the largest of the three species of puffins in the world. It ranges farther south than either the Horned or the Atlantic puffins.

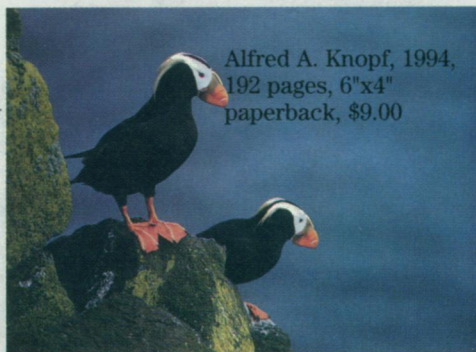
**Identification** 15-16". Adult in breeding plumage is unmistakable: huge, pale yellow and reddish-orange bill; black body; head black except for white face and distinctive straw-yellow plumes (or "tufts") extending back from behind the eyes. Winter plumage, bill is smaller, duller; lacks plumes. Told from other puffins by its dark underparts.

**Voice** Usually silent, growling sounds around nest site.

**Habitat** Nests on islands in cliff-top burrows, on sea slopes, or in rock crevices. Winters at sea.

**Range** Breeds from northwestern Alaska along coast to central California. Winters at sea throughout the North Pacific.

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