

## Black Oystercatchers



Bluffs at Point Cabrillo Light Station rise  
Above tidal mussels preserved by law  
Young Oystercatchers fledge on rocks I prize  
Amazed at their few needs, a pebble floor  
Incubated by parental warm breast  
Eggs hatch but survival counters long odds  
Marauding raven patrols never rest.  
Stuffed with bivalves, bright worms and amphipods  
Mottled gray-black fluff-ball chicks hide on rocks  
Mimicking their color, moving little.  
Airborne black specters scoop in waves of shocks  
Yet some young live to change not a tittle  
The number of Oystercatchers holds true  
In balance with predators, shore and you