



Welcome to the... OREGON COAST BIRDING TRAIL

Birdwatching is one of the fastest growing outdoor recreational activities in the country, and in response the Oregon Coast Birding Trail was created for birding enthusiasts like you. The Birding Trail is a self-guided driving itinerary highlighting the premier locations for observing birds along the entire Oregon coast and into Northern California. Local birders, wildlife professionals and tourism specialists produced this comprehensive guide to 173 birding hotspots to help you make the most out of your birdwatching experience. For help in locating fabulous accommodations to meet any budget and advice on the best places to eat during your visit go online to www.visittheoregoncoast.com. For more information on the trail visit www.oregoncoastbirding.com.

Around every curve, the stunningly beautiful Oregon coast landscape will compete for your attention as you search for the more than 450 birds that have been recorded in its habitats. On the outermost part of the trail where land meets the sea, explore sandy beaches, coastal dunes, tidal estuaries, and rocky tidepools. From the mainland, view birds nesting on coastal islands. Join a boat tour to go farther west for pelagic birds on the open Pacific. Travel inland to round out your coastal birding experience where you can survey river valleys, freshwater lakes, marshes, and old-growth forest. Birdwatching on the Oregon coast is productive throughout the year, and it is exceptional during the seasonal drama of spring and fall warbler and shorebird migration. As hundreds of thousands of birds journey along the Pacific Flyway, you may see hundreds of one species fly by or stop to swarm over every available spot on the beach and offshore rocks. The next day they may be gone. So grab your binoculars, a favorite field guide, and the Oregon Coast Birding Trail guide, and make the Oregon coast your next birding destination.

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On the cover

Cannon Beach (PHOTO BY DAVID PITKIN)

(Birds: top to bottom)

Pigeon Guillemot (PHOTO BY WAYNE HOFFMAN)

Hermit Warbler (PHOTO BY DON MUNSON)

Black Oystercatcher (PHOTO BY RON GREEN)

The Oregon Coast Birding Trail wishes to thank everyone who submitted site nominations or assisted with other phases of this project. Special thanks is extended to the following individuals who donated extensive time to site nomination, review, and editing for without their help this guide would not have been possible: Range Bayer, Diane Cavaness, Dennis Comfort, Richard Cronberg, Judy Fleagle, Joel Geier, Dawn Grafe, Mike Levitt, Lois Miller, Rebecah Morris, Don Munson, Betty Nicholson, Mike Patterson, Tim Rodenkirk, Steve Shunk, Michelle Simper, Ann Vileisis, and Jennifer Wade. We would also like to thank all of the photographers who donated their beautiful images for use in the guide.

◀ Greater and lesser yellowlegs
(PHOTO BY RICHARD CRONBERG)

Using the Trail Guide and Maps

This is your guide to the birds and habitats of the Oregon Coast Birding Trail. The Trail is divided into three sections: North Coast, Central Coast and South Coast. For each section a master map indicates the main roads that will guide you between sites. We recommend you use GPS in conjunction with this guide to assist you in easily locating sites that are off of the main highways. Visit the trail website at www.oregoncoastbirding.com.

Site Descriptions

Each site contains directions on how to get to the site, some of the birds you can expect to see and in some cases a description of their habitat. The following abbreviations are used in the directions:

Hwy = highway

Rd = road

St = street

Dr = drive

Lp = loop

Alt = alternate

mi = mile(s)

MP = milepost

N, S, E, W = north, south,
east, west

L, R = left, right

Site Sponsors












Many sites have a sponsor listed below its description. This recognizes the private businesses, government

agencies, conservation organizations, chambers of commerce, and visitor and convention bureaus that provided financial and/or technical support to the Oregon Coast Birding Trail. We encourage you to patronize them as they are working together to make tourism sustainable along the Oregon coast. Site sponsorship does not imply responsibility for a site's cleanliness or safety, rather it demonstrates the significant financial contributions of these entities to the trail.

Services and Facilities

Icons following each site description indicate the presence of services and facilities at or near the site.

Key:

-  Trails available at this site
-  Camping available at this site
-  Restrooms available at this site
-  Fees required for day-use or parking
-  Lodging within 10 miles
-  Food within 10 miles
-  Gas/fuel within 10 miles
-  Important Bird Area
-  Access by appointment only
-  Accessed and birded by car
-  Restrictions
-  A blue icon indicates that the facility is accessible to those with disabilities.

Fees and Passes

Some birding trail sites require possession of a pass and charge a fee to use the area. Site descriptions with a \$ icon require a pass. The type of pass you need will depend on your length of stay and the number of sites you intend to visit that charge a fee. Passes can be purchased at most Forest Service Offices, State Park Visitor Centers and at the individual site. If your visit is short, it is best to purchase a single day use pass. For extended visits, consider the following passes:

Northwest Forest Pass – an annual pass honored at all National

Forest sites and trailheads in Oregon and Washington.

Pacific Coast Passport – a multi-agency passport that covers entry, vehicle parking, and day use fees at all State and Federal fee sites along the entire Oregon Coast.

America the Beautiful Passes – annual and life-long passports honored at all Federal recreation areas. Display your pass on the dash of your vehicle.

Oregon State Park Day-use Parking Permit – a 12 or 24 month permit good at any Oregon State Park that charges the parking fee.

Safety Tips

- **Beware of Incoming Tides.** Before birding sandy beaches and rocky intertidal zones consult a tide table, available at state parks and many private businesses. Incoming tides isolate rocks from headlands and the shore. Avoid the temptation of walking out to an interesting rock without knowing when the tide rolls back in, and stay off of coastal rocks and small enclosed beaches.
- **Watch for Sneaker Waves.** When birding sandy beaches, keep an eye on the ocean for sneaker waves, which appear without warning, often surge high up on the beach and can sweep people off of their feet and out to sea.
- **Use Caution on Jetty Rocks.** Jetties along the area where river mouths empty into the Pacific Ocean

are excellent birding locations. Use caution when birding jetties as high waves often sweep up and over the rocks.

• **Keep back from Cliff Ledges.** When birding coastal headlands assume that all cliff edges are unstable especially in wet weather; to be safe wear proper footwear, and stay on trails.


• **Drive Cautiously.** Many roads east of Highway 101 in the Oregon Coast Range are single-lane and require low speeds. Winter storms can cause trees or large limbs to fall onto roads blocking through access. Watch for approaching logging trucks, especially on blind curves, these trucks have the right-of-way, so use pullouts to allow them to pass safely.

Disclaimer

The sponsors and organizers of the Oregon Coast Birding Trail do not guarantee the safety or conditions at or getting to any site listed in this guide. They do not assume any responsibility or liability for injuries, etc., suffered as a result of activities associated with the use of this guide.

Sanderlings in surf PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER





American
Pipit

PHOTO BY:
RICHARD CRONBERG

Birding Ethics

The Oregon Birding Trails Working Group endorses the American Birding Association's Principles of Birding Ethics (excerpted and summarized below from ABA web page <http://americanbirding.org>). Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment must come first.

- Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites.
- Use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover when observing birds.
- Do not feed or attempt to attract birds in the wild using electronic bird call back.
- Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.
- Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and others.
- Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas.
- Respect the rights of private property owners.
- Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities.
- Leave no trace.

Bird Information Sources

For more detailed information on birding the Oregon coast, please contact the following:

Birding

- Oregon Birding Association – www.orbirds.org
- Audubon Society of Portland – audubonportland.org
- Audubon Society of Lincoln City – lincolncityaudubon.org
- Kalmiopsis Audubon Society – kalmiopsisaudubon.org
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – www.fws.gov/oregoncoast
- Oregon Birding Trails – www.oregonbirdingtrails.org

Injured Wildlife

If you find abandoned or injured wildlife, please report it to one of the following licensed wildlife rehabilitators.

- Wildlife Center of the North Coast – 503.338.0331
- Free Flight Bird and Marine Mammal Rehabilitation – 541.347.3882
- Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center – 541.745.5324

Travel Oregon

Oregon is famous around the world for its magnificent outdoor recreation which includes hiking, biking, golf, angling, river rafting and the fastest-growing activity, wildlife and bird watching. Birdwatching, in particular, brings visitors to all sectors of Oregon, benefiting our small communities and urban areas and promoting conservation awareness.

Check out our website at www.traveloregon.com or call 503.967.1560

GLOSSARY

Clear-cut – area where the entire stand of trees was removed in one cutting.

Conifer Forest – also called mixed conifer forest; containing any or all of the following: pine, fir, spruce, hemlock, Douglas-fir, cedar.

Estuary – The widened tidal mouth of a river valley where fresh water comes into contact with sea water and where tidal effects are evident.

Marsh – ecosystem of more or less continuously waterlogged soil dominated by rushes, reeds, cattails, and sedges, but without peat accumulation as its base.

Mature – usually defined in economic terms as a forest that has reached harvest age.

Migration – seasonal passage of animals from one region or climate zone to another for breeding or feeding, including annual north-to-south as well as high-to-low elevation movements, and annual movements in the opposite direction.

Mixed Forest – mix of deciduous and coniferous trees with a closed canopy.

Mudflat – A relatively level area of fine silt along a shore alternately covered and uncovered by the tide, or covered by shallow water.

Nesting – species occurs only during the spring and summer.

Old-Growth – forest that has not experienced intense or widespread disturbance for many years relative to the life spans of the dominant species.

Resident – species occurs year-round.

Riparian – habitat associated with the bank or edge of a watercourse, lake or other wetland.

Second-growth – Trees that occupy a land area after the first cycle of logging of a natural forest.

Wetland – seasonally or permanently waterlogged habitat, including lakes, streams and marshes.

Woodland – habitat with widely spaced large trees, the crowns of which do not form a canopy; often separated by grass or shrubs.

Adapted from Johnson and O'Neil, Wildlife-Habitat Relationships in Oregon and Washington, Oregon State University Press, 2001.

Bates & Jackson, Dictionary of Geological Terms, 3rd edition, American Geological Institute, 1984.)



Lesser Scaup
PHOTO BY:
RICHARD CRONBERG

Title Sponsors of the Oregon Coast Birding Trail

The Oregon Coast Birding Trail recognizes three organizations for their major funding and/or leadership contributions:



www.natlforests.org

The National Forest Foundation (NFF), chartered by Congress, engages America in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of the 192-million-acre National Forest System and administers private gifts of funds and land for the benefit of the National Forests. The NFF stands apart from similar organizations through its commitment to facilitating local involvement and encouraging grass-roots participation in forest stewardship. Areas of focus include community-based forest stewardship, recreation, wildlife habitat improvement, and watershed restoration.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov/oregoncoast

Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. Follow us at www.facebook.com/usfwsoregoncoast.



Oregon Coast Visitors Association
www.visittheoregoncoast.com

The Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA) is a regional destination marketing organization dedicated to increasing visitation to Oregon's 363 miles of coastline. We work in cooperation with a network of local chambers of commerce, visitor & convention bureaus, state & federal agencies and privately operated tourism businesses. OCVA assists travelers by using powerful trip planning tools such as the Official Oregon Coast Visitors Guide.

Tufted Puffin Sponsors (\$10,000+)

California Redwoods Birding Trail
www.californiareadwoodsbirdingtrail.org

Brown Pelican Sponsors (\$5,000)

Chinook Winds Casino Resort
www.chinookwindscasino.com

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce
www.florencechamber.com

Lincoln County Economic and Community Development
www.co.lincoln.or.us

Seaside Visitors Bureau
www.seasideor.com

Black Oystercatcher Sponsors (\$1,000+)

Audubon Society of Lincoln City
lincolncityaudubon.org

Audubon Society of Portland
audubonportland.org

Bureau of Land Management
Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area
blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/yaquina

Compass Rose Bed and Breakfast
www.compassroseportford.com

Convention and Visitors Association of Lane County
www.cvalco.org

Destination Newport
www.discovernewport.com

Economic Development Council of Tillamook County
www.edct.com/block.htm

Friend of Cape Meares Lighthouse and Wildlife Refuge
www.capemeareslighthouse.org

Friends of Haystack Rock
friendsofhaystackrock.org

Inn at Spanish Head
www.spanishhead.com

Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
kalmiopsisaudubon.org

Oregon Coast Aquarium
www.aquarium.org

Oregon Coast Magazine
www.northwestmagazines.com

Oregon Birding Association
www.orbirds.org

TLC Federal Credit Union
www.tlfcu.org

USDA Forest Service
Siuslaw National Forest
www.fs.usda.gov/siuslaw

WildSpring Guest Habitat
www.wildspring.com

Yaquina Birders and Naturalists
yaquina.info/ybn

Rufous Hummingbird Sponsors (\$500+)

AAA Oregon
www.oregon.aaa.com

Bandon Dunes Golf Resort
www.bandondunesgolf.com

Manzanita Merchants Association
www.exploremanzanita.com

Rockaway Beach Chamber of Commerce
www.rockawaybeach.net

Spindrift Inn
www.spindrift-inn.com

Toledo Chamber of Commerce
www.visittoledooregon.com

Photos by David Ledig / US Fish and Wildlife Service



**The Oregon Coast
is for the birds...**

**better grab
your binoculars.**



To receive free visitor information on fine dining, fabulous accommodations, and where to play while birding along the Oregon coast, contact **Oregon Coast Visitors Association** 1-888-628-2101 or visit www.VisitTheOregonCoast.com