

# NORTH COAST

The northern coast of Oregon stretches from the mouth of the historic Columbia River south to fog-shrouded Cascade Head, an area of broad tidal estuaries and rugged headlands that flank long stretches of sandy beach. This reach of coast includes the working port town of Astoria, the winter encampment of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery at historical Fort Clatsop, the charming arts community of Cannon Beach, and the town of Tillamook, home of famous cheese. Forty-three outstanding birding opportunities await you in some of the most enchanting scenery on the coast. Whether you are looking for Rufous Hummingbird and Blue Grouse amidst endemic wildflowers at Saddle Mountain, or Tufted Puffin nesting on Haystack Rock, you can find them here. Be sure to venture out to Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint to see a Peregrine Falcon aerie in late spring and summer. In Oceanside, get a close look at Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge, the oldest Refuge west of the Mississippi River and habitat for thousands of nesting Common Murre. Explore the Coast Range mountain streams at the Nehalem Fish Hatchery and Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground for bobbing American Dipper, and canopy dwellers Hermit Warbler and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

## 1. Gnat Creek Campground

From Astoria, take US 30/Lower Columbia River Hwy E 18 mi (near MP 78), turn N at Gnat Creek sign, and proceed to campground.

Campground offers mixed alder, second-growth Douglas-fir and Sitka Spruce forest with excellent opportunities to see Coast Range species, including Mountain Quail, American Dipper, and Hermit Warbler in the breeding season. Hiking trail to Gnat Ck. Fish Hatchery is 1.5-miles.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

## 2. Gnat Creek Fish Hatchery

From Astoria, take US 30/Lower Columbia River Hwy E 18.2 mi, turn R on Gnat Hatchery Rd to hatchery.

This hatchery boasts a show pond and public fishfood station with large rainbow trout and sturgeon. Two nature trails lead to Gnat Creek Campground and Barrier Falls, and wind through second-growth forest in the Nicolai-Wickiup Watershed. Birds include Hermit Warbler, American Dipper, Steller's Jay, Rufous Hummingbird, and Swainson's and Varied Thrush.



## 3. Ziak Wildlife Refuge

From Hwy. 30 in Knappa, turn N at flashing light then second R onto Knappa Dock Rd. Drive 1 mi, turn R on Ziak-Gnat Creek Ln. View birds from the road, the valley on both sides is part of the refuge.

Open floodplain and freshwater wetlands attract dabbling and diving ducks. Nesting birds are Purple Martin, Vaux's Swift, and Killdeer, migrating shorebirds are Semipalmated Plover and Western and Least Sandpiper. The owners keep Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, Emperor Geese, and maintain Purple Martin and Wood Duck nestboxes.



PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER

Western Grebes



#### 4. Twilight Creek Eagle Sanctuary

From Hwy 101 in Astoria, go E 7 mi. Turn N on Burnside Lp near MP 87, then 1 mi to observation deck.

View 35,000 acres of mudflats, tidal marshes, open water, and islands protected as the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge harbors large concentrations of waterfowl in winter, including Tundra Swan and Canada goose. Bald Eagle, Great Egret, and Great Blue Heron are seen year-round.



Sponsor: City of Seaside



#### 5. Astoria Sewage Ponds Overlook

From Hwy 30 in Astoria, N on 45<sup>th</sup> St, turn R on Cedar St, then L on 51<sup>st</sup>, turn R on Birch, then L on 53<sup>rd</sup> and follow ¼ mi to pullout. Continue past gate on foot.

Part of the lower Columbia River Ecosystem, these municipal sewage lagoons attract dowitchers, Dunlin and Spotted Sandpiper during migration and many duck species,

including Northern Shoveler, scaup and Wood Duck throughout the fall and winter, and on rare occasions Eurasian Wigeon, Common Teal, and Tufted Duck.



#### 6. Coxcomb Hill/Astoria Column

From Hwy 30 in Astoria, go S on 16<sup>th</sup> St, R on Jerome St then L on 15<sup>th</sup> St. Turn L on Coxcomb Dr and follow around to parking lot at the top.

The Astoria Column, erected in 1926 atop Coxcomb Hill, denotes the location of the first permanent American settlement west of the Rockies. Parkland, shrub-scrub and coniferous forest attract large concentrations of spring and fall migrating songbirds; early morning visits can produce hundreds of birds including Townsend's and Hermit Warbler, flycatchers, Western Tanager, and Black-headed and Evening Grosbeak. Hiking trails lead from Coxcomb Hill to downtown Astoria and the Irving Forest.



Sponsor: City of Seaside

#### 7. Astoria Mitigation Bank Wetlands

From Astoria, travel W on Hwy 101, turn S south on W Marine Dr (Hwy 202), then L on Alt Hwy 101, and stay as it makes an R curve at Miles Crossing. After 1 mi, cross Lewis and Clark River bridge; park at pull-out along the elk fence on R. Visitors must stay on diked trail system.

Freshwater and tidal wetlands attract many species of ducks in fall and winter and migrating shorebirds in spring and fall. Virginia Rail, Sora, and American Bittern are resident. In winter the area is good for Swamp, Lincoln's, Golden-crowned, Savannah, and Fox Sparrow.



#### 8. Warrenton Linear Park

From Hwy 101 in Warrenton, turn W on Harbor St, which becomes Fort Stevens Hwy (N), then R on 13<sup>th</sup> St to parking along street at the end. Trail heads S along dike.

Gravel trail system 2.5 miles long passes estuary, mudflat, and mixed forest offering views of a nesting Bald Eagle plus Rufous Hummingbird, and Northern Flicker. In winter watch for Bufflehead and American Wigeon, and in migration Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Western and Least Sandpiper, and Black-bellied Plover.



Sponsor: Oregon Coast Visitors Association

#### 9. Fort Stevens State Park

From Astoria take 101 S, turn E on Harbor St, which becomes Fort Stevens Hwy. Continue through the town of Hammond, then turn L on Lake Rd, turn R to enter park.

This popular park has beachcombing, lake swimming, trails, wildlife view-



PHOTO BY: WAYNE HOFFMAN

Harlequin Duck



PHOTO BY: KEVINSMITHNATUREPHOTOS.COM

Sooty Shearwater



PHOTO BY: DAVID LEDIG/USFWS

Peregrine Falcon

### BIRDING TIP

**Watch the tide.** Consult a tide table before birding beaches and estuaries. Shorebirds are best viewed during an incoming or outgoing tide. Use caution as some beaches may not be accessible at high tide.





BY: KEVINSMITHNATUREPHOTOS.COM

*American Dipper*

ing, a historic shipwreck, and military fort. Explore 9 miles of hiking trails and view American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Caspian Tern, and Northern Harrier. A viewing platform at Parking Lot C allows seawatching for Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, and alcids. Spring and fall bring in thousands of shorebirds. During irruptions in winter Snowy Owl are seen hunting the Columbia River South Jetty. Land birds include Wren Tit, Western Tanager, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Habitat restoration is occurring to encourage Western Snowy Plover to recolonize Clatsop Spit.



Sponsor: City of Seaside

## 10. Fort Clatsop Memorial

*From Hwy 101 at Warrenton, turn S on Marlin Dr, go 2 mi to Ft Clatsop Rd. October–April, parking allowed at Fort. May–September parking restricted to the Netul Landing, 1 mi S of fort with bus service.*

The memorial includes a replica of the buildings used during 1805–06 winter encampment of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The Fort-to-Sea Trail, which replicates the route members of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery may have taken, begins here and ends at Sunset Beach 6.5 miles to the west. The trail takes visitors through a varied landscape from shallow wetlands, coastal woods, a freshwater lake, and shorepine covered dunes. Birds include White-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk,

sapsuckers and woodpeckers, and assorted Coast Range species.



Sponsor: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

## 11. Sunset Beach State Recreation Site

*From Hwy 101 in Astoria drive S 10 mi Just S of Camp Rilea National Guard Facility turn W on Sunset Beach Ln and drive to parking lot.*

This 120-acre park marks the west trailhead of the historic Fort-to-Sea Trail. On the beach you will be treated to expansive views of Cape Disappointment and Ecola State Park. Watch for Brown Pelican, Western Gull, Common Murre, Surf Scoter, Pigeon Guillemot, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorant, Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Cedar Waxwing.



Sponsor: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

## 12. Cullaby Lake Wetlands Interpretive Trail

*From Hwy 101 S of Astoria between MP 13 and 14, turn E onto Cullaby Lake Ln, follow for ¼ mi, R onto Hawkins Rd to parking lot.*

Easy 1.5-mile loop trail through forested wetlands and lakefront. Osprey, Bald Eagle, Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbird, Violet-green and Tree Swallow, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee. Other activities are swimming, boating, picnicking, and volleyball.



Sponsor: Oregon Coast Visitors Association



PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER

*Surf Scoter*



## 13. Necanicum Estuary

*From Hwy 101 at Gearhart, turn W at light on Pacific Way, then L onto Cottage Way. Turn R on F St, then L on Wellington to parking lot at end.*

Tidal estuary and active sand dunes make this one of the best sites on the north coast to watch shorebirds during migration in April and September, including Western Sandpiper, Whimbrel, yellowlegs, Semipalmated Plover, Dunlin, and Long-billed Curlew. Large flocks of Western Gull and American Crow use the open flats all year. Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting use the dunes in fall.



Sponsor: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## 14. Saddle Mountain State Park

*From Hwy 101 in Seaside, go S to Hwy 26 E for 10 mi, turn L on Saddle Mtn Rd and drive 7 mi to parking.*

The last ice age created open meadows with endemic wildflowers at Saddle Mountain, one of the highest peaks in the Coast Range. A rigorous 3-mile hike to the top can bring views of Vaux's Swift, Calliope and Rufous Hummingbird, Hermit Warbler, Hammond's Flycatcher, Blue Grouse, and Varied Thrush in spring and summer and occasionally Gray-crowned Rosy Finch.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

## 15. Jewell Meadows Wildlife Management Area

*From Astoria, drive 28 mi SE on Hwy 202 to refuge. From Hwy 26, go N on Hwy 103, 9 mi to Jewell, W on Hwy 202 1.5 mi to refuge.*

Jewell Meadows is managed to provide winter habitat for Roosevelt elk. Open pastures along the highway offer elk viewing in winter and spring. Good viewing of Rufous Hummingbird, Band-tailed Pigeon, Red-breasted Sapsucker, and California Quail. Western Bluebird use nest boxes at headquarters and House Wren and Calliope Hummingbird are seen here irregularly.



Sponsor: City of Seaside

## 16. Lee Wooden/ Fishhawk Falls

*From Hwy 101 S of Seaside, take Hwy 26 E. Take R exit for 103/Fisher Falls Hwy and follow 9 mi to Jewell. Take 202 W to park entrance near MP 25.*

Meandering trail through 47-acre county park goes through second-growth Douglas-fir and riparian forest and offers excellent opportunities to see Hermit Warbler and American dipper.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

## 17. Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground

*From Hwy 101 S of Seaside, take Hwy 26 E for 20 mi, turn S on Lower Nehalem Rd; proceed 5 mi to campground (open June–September).*

Beautiful views of the Nehalem River and second-growth Douglas-fir forest make this an easy place to look for breeding Hermit Warbler, American Dipper, and Common Merganser. You can also expect Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warbler in summer and Gray Jay, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, and Steller's Jay year-round.



## 18. Nehalem Falls Campground

From Hwy 101 in Nehalem, go S 1.5 mi to Hwy 53, turn E and go 1.3 mi to Miami Foley Rd, turn S, then turn E (L) on Foss Rd, and go 7 mi to campground on L.

Trails within the campground provide access to Nehalem Falls and old-growth Douglas fir, western redcedar, western hemlock, and sitka spruce forests where you might see American Dipper, Hermit Warbler, and other expected coast range species. Camping available May to October.



Sponsor: Spindrift Inn



PHOTO BY: WAYNE HOFFMAN

Red-necked Grebe

## 19. Seaside Cove

From Hwy 101 in Seaside, turn W on Ave U, then turn L on Edgewood Dr, and proceed to public parking at the rocky beach.

A popular spot with surfers, Seaside Cove has a mix of sandy and rocky beach. Watch the ocean in winter for Harlequin Duck, Common Loon, Western Grebe, and Surf and Black Scoter. Year-round are Common

Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, and Pelagic Cormorant. Winter storms occasionally blow in Northern Fulmar and Red Phalarope. Whales, harbor porpoise, and harbor seal are present.



Sponsor: Friends of Haystack Rock

## 20. Tillamook Head Trail

From Hwy 101 in Seaside, turn W on U Ave then L on Edgewood Dr, past Seaside Cove and Seltzer Park to the parking lot at the end of Sunset Blvd.

A winding 4-mile trail through sitka spruce and western hemlock forest, which leads to Indian Beach in Ecola State Park. In the forest are nesting Wilson's and Hermit Warbler, and residents are Varied Thrush and Spotted Towhee. And keep your eyes open for Brown Creeper, Swainson's Thrush and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Also good for watching whales and harbor seals.



Sponsor: Oregon Parks & Recreation Department

## 21. Ecola State Park

From Hwy 101 in Cannon Beach, go N 2 mi to Ecola State Park, follow signs to park entrance, proceed to Indian Beach parking lot. Hike short trail W to viewing deck.

Visited by Lewis and Clark in 1806, this park reveals the pristine beauty of Pacific Northwest rainforest and offers panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, Chapman Point, and Cannon Beach. The coastal scenery provides a dramatic backdrop to see 50,000 nesting Common Murre along with Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorant,

Black Oystercatcher, Pigeon Guillemot, and in winter Harlequin Duck and Surf Scoter. Watch the ocean for Marbled Murrelet.



Sponsor: Friends of Haystack Rock

## 22. Clatsop Loop Trail, Ecola State Park

From Hwy 101 in Cannon Beach, go N 2 mi to Ecola State Park, follow signs to park entrance, proceed to Indian Beach parking lot. Walk north to trailhead.

This route was blazed by American Indians and followed by the Corps of Discovery in 1806 to seek out a beached whale near Cannon Beach. The trail goes north to the Feldenheimer Forest and Seaside through lush riparian and sitka spruce forest. A short, 2-mile loop trail winds back to the parking area. Connects to the Tillamook Head Trail (21) that leads to Seaside. Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Wrentit, and Varied Thrush are resident; Violet-Green Swallow



PHOTO BY: KEVINSMITHNATUREPHOTOS.COM

Hutton's Vireo

and Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warbler breed here in summer.



Sponsor: Friends of Haystack Rock

## 356 species of birds

have been recorded in Clatsop County, located on the North Oregon Coast, making for a birdwatcher's delight year-round.

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### 23. Cannon Beach Settling Ponds

From Hwy 101 in Seaside, go S and take the first Cannon Beach exit. Go straight at the stop sign and continue as it makes two R-angle turns. At next stop sign go straight on Spruce St, then turn L onto 2nd St, continue to viewing platform on R and parking lot.

Rich in bird life, the Cannon Beach settling ponds and the adjacent Little Pompey wetlands attract Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Black-capped Chickadee, Wilson's Snipe, Marsh Wren, Violet-green Swallow, and Rufous Hummingbirds.



Sponsor: Friends of Haystack Rock

### 24. Haystack Rock at Cannon Beach

From Hwy 101 in Seaside go S, and take 2nd St exit, follow to Hemlock St, turn S (L) and use public parking lot on corner of Hemlock and Gower St. Public walkway across from the parking leads to the beach and Haystack Rock.

Best accessed at low tide, Haystack Rock is part of Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The base of this 235-foot monolith is full of rocky intertidal-zone. Invertebrates are interpreted in spring and summer by the Haystack Rock Awareness Program. The best place on the coast to see Tufted Puffin from April to August, the rock also hosts breeding Western Gull, Pelagic Cormorant, Pigeon Guillemot, and Black Oystercatcher. Harlequin Duck, Brown Pelican, and Peregrine Falcon seen in summer and Greater Scaup and Surf Scoter in winter.



Sponsor: Friends of Haystack Rock

### 25. Alder Creek Farm

From Hwy 101 in Manzanita drive S, turn W (R) on Underhill Ln, proceed until road ends, park in front of barn.



A former dairy farm restored to fresh and salt water marsh with vegetated uplands is home to a wide variety of species including Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Purple Martin, and Tree Swallow. Flocks of shorebirds can be seen during migration including Red Phalarope throughout the winter. Hike the primitive trail that runs along Alder Creek to Nehalem Bay.



Sponsor: Manzanita Merchants Association

### 26. Nehalem Bay Sewage Ponds

From Hwy 101 S in Nehalem, turn W(R) onto Tideland Rd; proceed 0.5 mi to gate and park.

Scan ponds in winter for Mallard, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, and American Wigeon. Migrating Dunlin, Wilson's Snipe, and Western and Least Sandpiper are seen in April and again in early fall. White-tailed Kite, and Red-tailed Hawk are here year-round.



### 27. Nehalem Fish Hatchery

From Hwy 26, take Hwy 53 to MP 7 or from Hwy 101 take Hwy 53 for 11 mi to hatchery.

Access to the Nehalem River, popular with anglers and bordered by red alder and second-growth Douglas-fir forest. Area inhabited by breeding Hooded Merganser, Hermit Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, and American Dipper. Excellent access for people with disabilities.



Sponsor: Nehalem Point

### 28. Barview Jetty Park

From Hwy 101 S in Barview (2 mi N of Garibaldi), turn R (W) on Cedar Ave, which becomes Barview Jetty Park Rd, turn L on Jetty Rd to parking lot.

The rocky jetty and open ocean attract both bay and ocean birds. Search the jetty rocks for Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, Ruddy Turnstone, and Rock Sandpiper from fall through early spring. The bay

will have Western Gull, Pelagic, Double-crested and Brandt's Cormorant, Common Murre, and Pigeon Guillemot year-round and Common Loon and Western Grebe in winter. Watch for gray whales and orca.



Sponsor: Rockaway Beach Chamber of Commerce

### 29. Garibaldi Boat Basin

From Hwy 101 in Garibaldi, turn W onto 7th St, and follow to Commercial St and parking lot for boat basin.

Watch for birds at the public pier, also good for crabbing, or walk the path that leads North along the edge of the bay overlooking beach and tidal flats. Great Blue Heron are common, Bald Eagle are occasional, while Bufflehead, Common Merganser, and American Wigeon use the area in winter. Purple Martin, Pigeon Guillemot, and Brown Pelican are common in summer.




Sponsor: Tillamook County

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### 30. Pacific Oyster/Bay City

From Hwy 101 in Bay City, turn W onto Oyster Dr, and park.

A quick stop along this spit that juts into Tillamook Bay is very productive for shorebirds including Black and Ruddy Turnstone, and Spotted Sandpiper. Purple Martin, Caspian Tern, and Osprey are common in spring. Western Gull and Bald Eagle are seen year round.



Sponsor: Tillamook County

### 31. Bay City to Tillamook

Drive Hwy 101 S from Bay City to Tillamook, and stop at pullouts along the highway.

This stretch of the Pacific Coast Scenic Byway winds through flooded pasture and river frontage and is adjacent to estuaries. In winter, watch for Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Canada Geese, White-tailed Kite, and Red-shouldered Hawk. Killdeer and Whimbrel are seen during migration.



Sponsor: Tillamook County

### 32. Tillamook Forest Center

From Hwy 101 in Tillamook, take Hwy 6 E to MP 21, follow signs to the Center (L).

To see birds of the Coast Range, consider a trip inland to the Tillamook Forest Center. Nestled in a lush green landscape, it showcases the historic Tillamook Burn and the public spirit behind a monumental reforestation effort that helped shape sustainable forest management. Spend the day hiking the extensive trail system in summer and look for Northern Pygmy-Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Varied Thrush, Pine Siskin, and Orange-crowned, Yellow, Wilson's, and MacGillivray's Warbler.



Sponsor: TLC Federal Credit Union

### 33. Bayocean Spit/ Tillamook Bay

From Hwy 101 S in Tillamook, turn W (R) on 3rd St/Three Capes Scenic Loop, and go 3 mi to Bayocean spit (sign). Turn R and follow gravel road 1.5 mi to parking lot.

On the way to Bayocean Spit, watch the flooded pastures and wetlands for Aleutian Cackling Goose, Killdeer, and White-tailed Kite. The spit is surrounded by scenic Tillamook Bay and is most productive in spring and fall when migrating shorebirds use it as a stopover. Hike the gravel dike to see Tundra Swan, Red Phalarope, Brant, Snowy Egret, and Horned Grebe from fall through early spring and Great Blue and Green Heron, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon year-round.



Sponsor: Friends of Cape Meares Lighthouse and Wildlife Refuge

### 34. Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint

From Hwy 101 S in Tillamook, turn R on 3rd St/Netarts Hwy and follow to Bayocean Rd NW, turn R, then L onto Cape Meares Loop Rd (not the town of Cape Meares), and follow signs to parking.

Panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and Three Arch Rocks, Oregon's shortest lighthouse, the giant



PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER

Wrentit

Octopus tree, and trails through old-growth forest delight visitors. Peregrine Falcon nest on adjacent Cape Meares National Wildlife Refuge each spring, and tens of thousands of Common Murre nest on offshore islands. Gray Jay, Varied Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco, Bald Eagle, Cedar Waxwing, Black Oystercatcher, Pelagic Cormorant, Pigeon Guillemot, and White-crowned Sparrow are common year-round.



Sponsor: Friends of Cape Meares Lighthouse and Wildlife Refuge



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### 35. Oceanside Beach/ Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge

From Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint, continue S on Cape Meares Scenic Loop Rd, turn R on Pacific Ave to parking lot. From Hwy 101 S in Tillamook, turn R on 3rd St/Netarts Hwy W. Follow 8.7 mi, turn L on Pacific Ave to parking lot.

At the heart of Oceanside, this small park provides beach access, close views of Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge, and great agate hunting in winter. In summer watch for large flocks of Western Gull, Brown Pelican, and cormorants feeding near shore. Surf Scoter, Common Loon and Western and Red-necked Grebe are seen in fall and winter. With a spotting scope it's possible to view Steller's sea lion using the refuge.



Sponsor: TLC Federal Credit Union

### 36. Netarts Bay

From Hwy 101 S in Tillamook, turn R on 3rd St/Netarts Hwy W, follow 6 mi to bay. Use pullouts along Bay for viewing wildlife.

The 2,700-acre tidal estuary is a haulout site for harbor seals and provides excellent roadside birding year-round. In fall and winter, look for Common, Red-throated, Pacific and (rarely) Yellow-billed Loon, Eared, Horned, and Western Grebe, Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorant, and Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Surf Scoter. Great Blue Heron are seen in abundance year-round along with Great Egret. Brown Pelican and Osprey arrive in spring.



Sponsor: US Fish and Wildlife Service

### 37. Cape Lookout State Park

From Hwy 101 in Tillamook, go W (R) on 3rd St, and stay straight to Netarts Hwy E. Follow 6 mi to Whiskey Creek Rd, turn R into park.

A popular recreational park located on a sand spit between Netarts Bay and the Pacific Ocean, Cape Look-

out allows sweeping ocean views and beach access. Over 8-miles of hiking trails wind through dense old-growth forest. Along them you can see Hairy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrow, Gray Jay, Wilson's Warbler, Cedar waxing, and Red Crossbill.



Sponsor: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

### 38. Munson Creek State Natural Site

From Hwy 101 in Tillamook, drive S 6 mi to Munson Creek Rd, turn E (L), and go 2 mi to parking lot.

Home to ancient western redcedar and sitka spruce, this park is a relic of the Pacific Northwest rainforest. Hike a trail to see Munson Creek Falls tumbling 319-feet into a pool that feeds salmon spawning grounds. Watch and listen year-round for American Dipper, Varied Thrush, and Winter Wren and in summer for Swainson's Thrush, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Hairy Woodpecker.



Sponsor: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

### 39. Upper Nestucca/Moon Creek Area

From Hwy 101 S in Tillamook go E(L) on Blaine Rd at the town of Beaver. Drive 6.6 mi to the town of Blaine and go N (L) on Moon Creek Rd. Go 1 mi, turn R on dirt road 3-8-20 which



Black Turnstone

PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER



Sanderlings

PHOTO BY: RICHARD CRONBERG

enters the coast range. Explore the roads on foot or via car.

Mixed conifers, clear cuts and riparian areas offer Ruffed Grouse, Common Nighthawk, Mountain Quail, Western Bluebird, Varied Thrush, Spotted and Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Northern Pygmy-Owl.



### 40. Whalen Island/Clay Meyers Natural Area

From Hwy 101 S of Tillamook, turn R on Sandlake Rd, turn R to continue on Sandlake Rd, then R on Whalen Island Rd.

This coastal estuarine ecosystem bounded by the Sand Creek estuary provides habitat for adult salmon and steelhead trout. The area is an ecological potpourri, including mixed woodlands, grasslands, fresh and saltwater wetlands, and a rare native dune sedgeland. Hike the short loop trail during April and September to see migrating Western and Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover, and Sanderling. Bald Eagle, black-tailed deer, river otter, and black bear are here year-round.



Sponsor: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

### 41. Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge

From Hwy 101 N in Lincoln City, drive 20 mi N to Christensen Rd and turn L. Proceed 1 mi to lower parking lot. Thousands of Aleutian Cackling and Dusky Canada Geese and other waterfowl use the refuge from October through April. The coastal prairie, forest and wetlands harbor over 200

different species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. To maximize birding, walk the graveled Christensen Rd/Trail uphill to the Pacific View Trail or drive to the upper parking lot. Spring and summer bring Barn Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Western Tanager, Rufous Hummingbird, Violet-green Swallow, Wilson's and Hermit Warbler, Red Crossbill, Swainson's Thrush, Pacific-slop Flycatcher, and Ruffed Grouse. Fall and winter birds include a variety of sparrows, Hutton's Vireo, Varied Thrush, and Western Bluebirds.



### 42. Cascade Head Nature Preserve

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, drive 2.4 mi N of the Salmon River almost to the summit of Cascade Head. Turn L on Cascade Head Road (USFS Road 1861) and continue 4 mi (L at fork) to trailhead; or go 1 mi to Hart's Cove trailhead. Road closed January 1 to July 15.

Moderately difficult hiking trails wind through spectacular, sitka spruce/western hemlock forest ending with views of the Salmon River estuary, the Pacific Ocean, and Cape Foulweather. Roosevelt elk graze the open grasslands where The Nature Conservancy manages habitat for endangered Oregon Silverspot Butterfly. Birds include Varied Thrush, Wrentit, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Wilson's Warbler, and Great Horned and Northern Pygmy Owl.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation



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