



*Welcome to...*

## 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](http://www.visittheoregoncoast.com). For more information on the trail visit [www.oregoncoastbirding.com](http://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 bird 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 a detailed highway map 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](http://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 the businesses and visitor centers that contributed to this guide as they are working together to make tourism sustainable along the entire Oregon coast. Please note that 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 nominal fee to obtain one 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 day-use passport that covers entry, vehicle parking, and day use fees at all State and Federal fee sites along the entire Oregon Coast.

**Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access Passports** – annual and life-long passports honored at all Federal recreation areas. Please display your pass on the dash of your vehicle.

**Oregon State Park Pass** – a 12 or 24 month pass that provides access to all fee-based Oregon State Park facilities.

## 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.

- Do not feed or attempt to attract birds in the wild.
- 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.
- 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.

## Bird Information Sources

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

### Birding

- Oregon Field Ornithologists – [www.oregonbirds.org](http://www.oregonbirds.org)
- Oregon Birders Online – [birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/OBOL.html](http://birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/OBOL.html)
- Audubon Society of Portland – [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) or 503.292.6855
- Audubon Society of Lincoln City – [aududonlc@charter.net](mailto:aududonlc@charter.net)
- Cape Arago Audubon Society – 541.266.7382
- Kalmiopsis Audubon Society – [www.harborside.com/~pfandha/Audubon](http://www.harborside.com/~pfandha/Audubon)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – [www.fws.gov/oregoncoast](http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast) or 541.867.4550
- Oregon Birding Trails – [www.oregonbirdingtrails.org](http://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 – 503.338.3954
- Free Flight Bird and Marine Mammal Rehabilitation – 541.347.3882
- Flight Feathers Wild Bird Rescue – 707.464.5942
- Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center – 541.745.5324

## Oregon Tourism Commission

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.

Call the Oregon Tourism Commission at 503-986-0000, 800-547-7842 or check out our website, [www.traveloregon.com](http://www.traveloregon.com)

## 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.natlfoundation.org](http://www.natlfoundation.org) • 406.542.2805

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  
Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
[www.fws.gov/oregoncoast](http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast) 541.867.4550

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 National Wildlife Refuges, thousands of wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates National Fish Hatcheries and ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts.



Oregon Coast Visitors Association  
[www.visittheoregoncoast.com](http://www.visittheoregoncoast.com) • 888.628.2101

The Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA) is officially recognized as the destination marketing organization for Oregon's 363 miles of coastline. They work in cooperation with local chambers of commerce, visitor & convention bureaus, promotions committees, state & federal resource management agencies, attractions, and accommodations from Astoria to Brookings to promote vacation travel, recreation, attractions, and overnight visits on Oregon's coast. OCVA is the one source visitor information for the traveler planning their next vacation. For additional information visit [www.VisitTheOregonCoast.com](http://www.VisitTheOregonCoast.com) or call 888-628-2101.

## Tufted Puffin Sponsors (\$10,000+)

California Redwoods Birding Trail  
[www.californiareadwoodsbirdingtrail.org](http://www.californiareadwoodsbirdingtrail.org)  
800.343.8300 Chamber of Commerce

## Brown Pelican Sponsors (\$5,000)

Chinook Winds Casino Resort  
[www.chinookwindscasino.com](http://www.chinookwindscasino.com)  
541.996.5825

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce  
[www.florencechamber.com](http://www.florencechamber.com)  
541.997.3128

Lincoln County Economic and Community Development  
[www.co.lincoln.or.us](http://www.co.lincoln.or.us)

Seaside Visitors Bureau  
[www.seasideor.com](http://www.seasideor.com)  
888.306.2326

## Black Oystercatcher Sponsors (\$1,000+)

Audubon Society of Lincoln City  
[nickersons@charter.net](mailto:nickersons@charter.net)

Bureau of Land Management  
Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area  
[blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/yaquina](http://blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/yaquina)  
541.574.3100

Compass Rose Bed and Breakfast  
[www.compassroseportorford.com](http://www.compassroseportorford.com)  
541.332.7076

Convention and Visitors Association of Lane County  
[www.cvalco.org](http://www.cvalco.org)  
800.547.5445

Destination Newport  
[www.discovernewport.com](http://www.discovernewport.com)  
800.262.7844

Economic Development Council of Tillamook County  
[www.edctc.com/block.htm](http://www.edctc.com/block.htm)  
503.842.2236

Friend of Cape Meares Lighthouse and Wildlife Refuge  
[www.capemeareslighthouse.org](http://www.capemeareslighthouse.org)  
503.842.5270

Friends of Haystack Rock  
[friendsofhaystackrock.org](http://friendsofhaystackrock.org)  
Inn at Spanish Head  
[www.spanishhead.com](http://www.spanishhead.com)  
800.452.8127

Kalmiopsis Audubon Society  
[www.harborside.com/~pfandha/audubon](http://www.harborside.com/~pfandha/audubon)

Oregon Coast Aquarium  
[www.aquarium.org](http://www.aquarium.org)  
541.867.3474

Oregon Coast Magazine  
[www.northwestmagazines.com](http://www.northwestmagazines.com)  
800.348.8401

Oregon Field Ornithologists  
[www.oregonbirds.org](http://www.oregonbirds.org)  
[mail@oregonbirds.org](mailto:mail@oregonbirds.org)

TLC Federal Credit Union  
[www.tlcfcu.org](http://www.tlcfcu.org)  
503.842.7523

USDA Forest Service  
Siuslaw National Forest  
[www.fs.fed.us/r6/siuslaw](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/siuslaw)  
541.902.6968

WildSpring Guest Habitat  
[www.wildspring.com](http://www.wildspring.com)  
866.333.WILD

Yaquina Birders and Naturalists  
[www.orednet.org/~rbayer/lincoln/bird.htm#ybn](http://www.orednet.org/~rbayer/lincoln/bird.htm#ybn)  
541.265.2965

## Rufous Hummingbird Sponsors (\$500+)

AAA Oregon  
[www.aaaorid.com](http://www.aaaorid.com)  
1.800.222.4357

Bandon Dunes Golf Resort  
[www.bandondunesgolf.com](http://www.bandondunesgolf.com)  
541.347.4380

Manzanita Merchants Association  
[manzanitamerchants.com](http://manzanitamerchants.com)  
e-mail: [info@manzanitamerchants.com](mailto:info@manzanitamerchants.com)

Nehalem Point  
[www.nehalempoint.com](http://www.nehalempoint.com)  
503.368.6363

Rockaway Beach Chamber of Commerce  
[www.rockawaybeach.net](http://www.rockawaybeach.net)  
503.355.8108

Spindrift Inn  
[www.spindrift-inn.com](http://www.spindrift-inn.com)  
503.368.7474

Toledo Chamber of Commerce  
[www.visittoledooregon.com](http://www.visittoledooregon.com)  
541.336.3183

Words and Pictures  
407 Oak St./Brookings OR  
541.469.7067

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.TravelTheOregonCoast.com](http://www.TravelTheOregonCoast.com)