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.

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.

Western Grebes

PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER
6. Coxcomb Hill/ Astoria Column
From Hwy 30 in Astoria, go S on 16th St, R on Jerome St then L on 15th 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.

Sponsor: City of Seaside

8. Warrenton Linear Park
From Hwy 101 in Warrenton, turn W on Harbor St, which becomes Fort Stevens Hwy (N), then R on 13th 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-

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.
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 Wrentit, Western Tanager, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Olive-sided Flycatch. Habitat restoration is occurring to encourage Western Snowy Plover to recolonize Clatsop Spit.

10. Fort Clatsop Memorial
From Hwy 101 at Warrenton, turn S on Marlin Dr, go 2 mi to Ft Clatsop Rd. October–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. Clabby Lake Wetlands Interpretive Trail
From Hwy 101 S of Astoria between MP 13 and 14, turn E onto Clabby 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, Kildeer, 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

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.

Sponsor: National Forest Foundation
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: 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. Walk north to trailhead.
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

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.

On any day you might see...

Brown Pelicans or a Bald Eagle fishing on Youngs Bay.

A flock of sandpipers or a raft of scoters resting and feeding at the waterfront.

Sapsuckers, wrentits and warblers building their homes along our many trails and bikeways.

For more information contact the Chamber of Commerce, 800-875-6807 or www.oldoregon.com
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 Tidelands 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.

Sponsor: Nehalem Point

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: Rockaway Beach Chamber of Commerce

28. Barview Jetty Park
From Hwy 101 S in Barview, 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: Tillamook County

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 Buf flehead, 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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Nehalem bay chamber of commerce
(877)368-5100 nehalem@nehalemтел.net
www.nehalembaychamber.com
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 flood-ed 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 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

Tillamook Estuaries Partnership
A National Estuary Project
Dedicated to the conservation and restoration of Tillamook County’s estuaries and watersheds in their entirety.
www.tbnep.org

613 Commercial St.
PO Box 493
Garibaldi, OR 97118
503-322-2222
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 6.7 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 Na-
tional 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
hautlout 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. Among them you can
see Hairy Woodpecker, Red-breasted
Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Gold-
en-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
rumbling 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-B-20 which
enters the coast range. Explore the
roads on foot or via car.
Mixed conifers, clear cuts and ripar-
ian areas offer Ruffed Grouse, Com-
mon Nighthawk, Mountain Quail,
Western Bluebird, Varied Thrush,
Spotted and Northern Saw-whet Owl,
and Northern Pygmy-Owl.
Sponsor: Oregon Parks and
Recreation Department

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 na-
tive dune sedgeland. Hike the short
loop trail during April and September
to see migrating Western and Least
Sandpiper, Semipalmed 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 wa-
terfowl 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 up-
per parking lot. Spring and summer
bring Barn Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl,
Western Tanager, Rufous Humming-
bird, Violet-green Swallow, Wilson’s
and Hermit Warbler, Red Crossbill,
Swainson’s Thrush, Pacific-slop Fly-
catcher, and Ruffed Grouse. Fall and
winter birds include a variety of spar-
rows, Hutton’s Vireo, Varied Thrush,
and Western Bluebirds.
Sponsor: National Forest
Foundation

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
tailhead; or go 1 mi to Hart’s Cove
tailhead. 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 Foul-
weather. Roosevelt elk graze the
open grasslands where The Nature
Conservancy manages habitat for en-
dangered Oregon Silverspot Butterfly.
Birds include Varied Thrush, Wrentit,
Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Gold-
en-crowned Kinglet, Wilson’s War-
brler, and Great Horned and Northern
Pygmy-Owl.
Sponsor: National Forest
Foundation

PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER
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