

# CENTRAL COAST

Tidal estuaries, long sandy beaches, and active sand dunes accented by a few rocky outcroppings and coastal islands comprise the heart of the Coast. Inland the Siuslaw National Forest's 630,000 acres, in the Coast Range, have four major rivers flowing through on their way to the Pacific Ocean. Explore Lincoln City's seven miles of beach and two large estuaries, scope the roiling waters of Boiler Bay for pelagic birds, or ascend Cape Foulweather for expansive ocean views. At Newport's Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, feel the frenzy of one of the largest Common Murre nesting colonies on the coast. Drive the scenic Yaquina Bay Road in winter to see all six species of grebes occurring in Oregon in one location. Continue south to Seal Rock for Pigeon Guillemot and Harlequin Duck floating on the waves and Western Gull lining the coastal islands, and to the south jetty of the Siuslaw River in Florence to glimpse flocks of Semipalmated Plover and Least and Western Sandpiper on migration.

## 44. Knight Park

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, drive N, cross the Salmon River Bridge and turn W (L) on Three Rocks Rd, drive 2.4 mi, turn L into Knight Park.

Knight Park provides a trailhead to explore the Cascade Head Preserve. Mid-tide is the best time to visit for water birds in this 2-acre park. Fall to spring birds are cormorants, Great Blue Heron, American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Sanderling, Wilson's Snipe, Belted Kingfisher, and Western, Glaucous-winged, Ring-billed, and California Gull. Turkey Vulture and Caspian Tern occur in summer.



Sponsor: Lincoln County

## 45. Salmon River Estuary

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, drive N 0.4 mi past the Hwy 18 overpass, cross the Salmon River Bridge, and use pullouts to view marsh.

Popular with anglers, this expansive site attracts many water birds and is worth a quick stop. Raptors include Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, and White-tailed Kite. Winter and spring bring Common Merganser, Bufflehead, and Belted Kingfisher. Other marsh birds are Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, American Bittern, and Red-winged Blackbird.



Sponsor: Oregon Coast Visitors Association

## 46. Road's End State Recreation Site

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, turn N on Logan Rd, and drive 1 mi to parking lot.

A surprisingly quiet retreat from busy Lincoln City, this wayside offers tidepools, a pebble beach, offshore islands, and a hidden cove. At low tide, walk the short path to the beach to see Western, Heermann's, Bonaparte's, Mew, California, and Herring Gull. During migration Whimbrel, Sanderling, Western and Least Sandpiper, and Semipalmated Plover can be seen feeding.



Sponsor: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians



PHOTO BY: RICHARD CRONBERG

Caspian Tern





### 47. Spring Lake Open Space

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, turn E on NE 14<sup>th</sup> St, then after blinking light, turn N on NE Port Ave to parking lot. Several trails meander through this 25-acre young forest with small lake and creek. Deer are regular visitors along with Northern Flicker, Bewick's and Winter Wren, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Fox Sparrow, Western Tanager, Swainson's Thrush, Wilson's, Orange-crowned, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Wood Duck nest boxes circle the lake and are used annually.



Sponsor: Audubon Society of Lincoln City

### 48. Devil's Lake State Park

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, turn E on NE 6<sup>th</sup> St, drive to gravel parking lot and wetland trailhead.

Just minutes from downtown this park allows visitors to watch wild-

life from a hiking trail or better yet from a canoe or kayak. As you glide by, watch for American Coot, Common Loon, Bufflehead, Canvasback, Green-winged Teal, Pelagic Cormorant, Western Grebe and Bald Eagle. The trees attract migrating Cedar Waxwing and Swainson's Thrush often in large flocks.



Sponsor: Chinook Winds Casino Resort

### 49. D River State Recreation Site

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, turn E on SE 1st St just S of the D River bridge, and park.

Devil's Lake is 680 acres and connects to the Pacific via the D River, "the World's Shortest." Most noted for large concentrations of gulls at the mouth of the river, get ready for a challenge to identify Western, Glaucous-winged, Thayer's, California, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gull plus a variety of hybrids. To access this site you will have to cross Hwy 101. The open space around the D River is protected; though no trails exist, you can meander through forested wetlands, open marsh and scrub/shrub to view Spotted Sandpiper, Cedar Waxwing, Vaux's Swift, White-crowned Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Belted Kingfisher, Common Yellowthroat, and Purple Finch.



Sponsor: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

### 50. East Devil's Lake State Park/Rock Creek Marsh

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, turn E onto East Devil's Lake Rd (Tanger Outlets), drive 0.6 mi to pullout next to marsh, scan for birds, then continue 1.5 mi and enter Park.

Rock Creek Marsh is a mix of dense willow and reed. Year-round look for Virginia Rail, Sora, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Marsh Wren, and Song Sparrow, or listen for Barn Owl at dusk. In winter, hike through mixed coniferous forest beside a freshwater lake and look for Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Duck, Gadwall, Ruddy Duck and Green-winged Teal. In summer Bald Eagle, Osprey, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawk, Wood Duck, Green Heron, and Vaux's Swift are regular. Occasional in migration are Pectoral Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, and Red Phalarope.



Sponsor: Oregon Coast Visitors Association

### 51. Inn at Spanish Head

Address is 4009 SW Highway 101, Lincoln City.

The Inn provides a comfortable place for bird, whale, and seal watching, especially in stormy weather. Open ocean and sandy beach with rock outcroppings near shore have Sanderling, Surf Scoter, Pelagic Cormorant, and Common Murre within easy view. Eye level viewing from Fathoms Bar and Restaurant gives a new perspective to flying Aleutian Canada Goose, Brown Pelican, and West-

ern Gull. Elevators go directly to the beach and provide easy access to the 51st Street park in the Taft district.



Sponsor: Inn at Spanish Head

### 52. Taft Waterfront Park

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, drive S and turn W (R) at light onto SW 51st St, drive 0.3 mi to end, and park.

A small urban park providing views of Siletz Bay, Salishan Spit, and a sandy beach. In summer when schools of baitfish enter the bay, thousands of Heermann's and California Gull join Caspian Tern and Western and Ring-billed Gull. In winter, Herring, Thayer's, Glaucous-winged, and Mew Gulls are regulars as are loons, grebes, scoters, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, and at low tide, Black Turnstone and Sanderling. Rare winter visitors include Clark's Grebe,



PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER

Tufted Puffins



PHOTO BY: WAYNE HOFFMAN

Parasitic Jaeger



PHOTO BY: KEVINSMITHNATUREPHOTOS.COM

Snowy Plover

## BIRDING TIP

Sea watches on the Pacific Coast are best conducted in the morning with the sun at your back.

Barrow's Goldeneye, and Long-billed Curlew. Harbor seal actively feed in the bay and haulout at the tip of Salishan spit.



Sponsor: Inn at Spanish Head



PHOTO BY: WAYNE HOFFMAN

Brant

### 53. Josephine Young Park

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, drive S to SW 62nd St, turn W (R). Drive 0.4 mi, turn W (R) on SW 65th St, drive 0.1 mi to end, and park in lot.

Walk to the sandy beach and then left around the point to the mouth of Drift Creek for Great Blue Heron all year and Great Egret in fall. From fall to spring scan south Siletz Bay at mid-tide to see Common and Pacific Loon, Western Grebe, Gadwall, Canvasback, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Surf Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Western and Least Sandpiper. Spring and fall migration bring Semipalmated Plover, Whimbrel, yellowlegs, Black Turnstone, dowitchers and occasionally Marbled Godwit, Wandering Tattler, and Red

Knot. In summer Common Merganser and Caspian Tern are frequent with occasional Green Herons.



Sponsor: Audubon Society of Lincoln City

### 54. Drift Creek Falls

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, drive S, turn E on Drift Creek Rd, then S on S. Drift Creek Rd, turn E on Forest Service road 17 and go 10 mi to parking lot and trailhead.

A 3-mile round trip on this well-maintained trail of moderate difficulty passes through a narrow band of old-growth Douglas-fir forest and over a 240-foot suspension bridge 100 feet above Drift Creek, overlooking a horsetail type waterfall tumbling down a sheer cliff. Be on the lookout for Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hairy Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warbler, Varied and Swainson's Thrush, and Steller's Jay.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

### 55. Kernville/Siletz River

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, drive S, turn E (L) on Hwy 229 (just before Siletz River Bridge), and drive 0.6 mi to park at pullout on S side of hwy next to river.

Cannery Slough is the marsh to the north where Blue-winged Teal are seen in spring. Fall migration can



PHOTO BY: JOHN WILLIAMS

Western Tanager



PHOTO BY: TROY GUY

Marbled Murrelet

bring Spotted and Pectoral Sandpiper and yellowlegs. Purple Martin nest in boxes on the pilings April-August. Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorant perch on pilings. Winter-spring look for Common Loon, Horned and Western Grebe, Common Merganser, Bufflehead, and Belted Kingfisher. Occasional species include Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, and Gadwall.



Sponsor: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

### 56. Millport Slough

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, drive S to MP 121, turn E (L) on Immonen Rd, then 0.6 mi to Millport Slough Rd, turn L, and go 0.8 mi to bridge, turnaround.

Expect mixed conifer forest with open views of the restored tidal marsh and mudflats of Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Use pullouts along road to view this Important Bird Area for Belted Kingfisher, Northern Harrier, White-tailed Kite, Osprey, and Red-tailed Hawk. Marsh birds to listen for are Red-winged Blackbird, Marsh Wren, Song Sparrow, and Virginia Rail. As you walk along the road scan the large Sitka spruce for Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee.



Sponsor: US Fish and Wildlife Service

### 57. Salishan Nature Trails

From Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, go S to MP 122.3 (Salishan Marketplace), turn R, and park. Walk to trailhead to NW that starts behind shops. To continue birding walk under the Hwy 101 underpass, to trailhead near the golf tee-off.

The levee trail leads to beach access; along the way are expansive views of Siletz Bay, Salishan Spit, and a sandy beach. Visit at mid-tide from fall to spring for the most water birds, though Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Western Gull, and Caspian Tern are regular in summer. Marsh Wren frequent the marsh grasses. Waterfowl include Red-breasted Merganser, American and Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Pintail, and Bufflehead. In migration, scan shores at high tide for yellowlegs, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Long-billed Dowitcher, Dunlin, Western and Least Sandpiper, and Sanderling. The east trail leads you through mixed coniferous forest, past a small creek, and around a pond where Pileated Woodpecker, White-crowned Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing, Western Tanager, Winter Wren, and Wilson's warbler are common.



Sponsor: Oregon Coast Magazine



PHOTO BY: WAYNE HOFFMAN

Pacific Loon

## 58. Fogarty Creek State Park

From Hwy 101 in Depoe Bay, drive N 2 mi to park entrance on E side.

Where the creek and ocean meet, you'll find ingredients for relaxing birding. Walk the paved trail and cross the wooden footbridge that arches through Sitka spruce, (shorepine,) and alder forest to a small beach with rocky intertidal habitat. Watch for migrant warblers in the spring including Yellow-rumped, Wilson's, Townsend's, Yellow, and Hermit. Year-round species include Winter Wren, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Spotted Towhee, and Hairy Woodpecker.



Sponsor: Chinook Winds Casino Resort



BY KEVINSMITHNATUREPHOTOS.COM

Heermann's Gulls

## 59. Boiler Bay State Scenic Viewpoint

From Hwy 101 in Depoe Bay, go N to parking lot at Boiler Bay on W side of Hwy.

A rugged, basalt-rimmed bay creates a great spot to watch wild surf action and California gray whale migration in December and March. This is the premier sea-watch site on the coast. A spotting scope and experience are helpful in identifying distant seabirds. June-August bring Brown Pelican, Sooty Shearwater, Heermann's Gull, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Black Oystercatcher, and irregularly Sabine's Gull, Cassin's Auklet, and Tufted Puffin. September-November regular species include Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwater, Black-legged Kittiwake, Marbled and Ancient Murrelet, and Rhinoceros Auklet; less frequent are Northern Fulmar, Buller's

and Short-tailed Shearwaters, and jaegers. December-February, notable species are Short-tailed Shearwater, and Black-legged Kittiwake. Northern Fulmar, Harlequin Duck, Rock Sandpiper, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers are occasional. April-May, species of special note include loons, Black-legged Kittiwake, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Marbled Murrelet.



Sponsor: Yaquina Birders and Naturalists

## 60. Depoe Bay Seawall and Whale Watching Center

Use public parking on W side of Hwy 101 in Depoe Bay.

The "World's Smallest Harbor", open ocean, and rocky intertidal habitat provide excellent views of Surfbird, Black and Ruddy Turnstone, and occasionally Rock Sandpiper in winter, Black Oystercatcher, Pelagic Cormorant, and Pigeon Guillemot year-round. Get splashed with sea spray while you watch resident gray whales from the seawall and visit the State Park's Whale Watching Center.



Sponsor: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

## 61. Rocky Creek State Scenic Viewpoint

From Hwy 101 in Newport, drive N 10 mi and turn W (L) into parking lot.

This small oceanfront park is nestled on a forested bluff overlooking sandy beach and rocky shores. It is an official "Whale Watching Spoken Here" site and a great point for watching seabirds like Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Common and Pacific Loon, Surf and White-winged Scoter, Western and Horned Grebe, and Black Oystercatcher.



Sponsor: Lincoln County

## 62. Cape Foulweather and Otter Crest Loop

From Hwy 101 in Newport, go N 9.2 mi and turn W (L) onto Otter Crest Loop Rd; proceed using pullouts on W side of road to scan surf and



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cliffs. After about 2 mi at four-way stop, proceed uphill to the parking lot on R.

The prelude of views from the pullouts only hints at the expansive vista of open ocean and rocky cliffs that await visitors as they stand 500 feet above sea level at the Cape. Keep watch for migrating and resident gray whale, and playful harbor seals year-round. In summer, look for passing Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, and flying strings of Common Murre to see what they look like from nearly above – a perspective not available at most sites. The cliff edges host nesting Pelagic Cormorants, and produce updrafts where Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Red-tailed Hawk soar, joined in winter by American Kestrel.



Sponsor: Lincoln County

### 63. Devil's Punch Bowl State Natural Area

From Hwy 101 in Newport, drive 8 mi N and take (W) L exit for Otter Rock, proceed to 1st St, turn W(L), and go .5 mi to parking lot at end.

Surfers and storm watchers frequent this unique geological site where the mighty Pacific slams with a thundering roar into a hollow rock formation shaped like a punch bowl. Popular with tidepoolers, whale watchers, and amateur geologists, the area attracts Brown Pelican, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Heermann's Gull, and Black Oystercatcher in summer. Marbled Murrelet, Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklet, and Pacific Loon are occasional. In winter, Harlequin Duck



Fork-tailed Storm-petrel

are in the nearby surf and Black Oystercatchers may flock at high tide on the rocks. Black Turnstone and Surf-bird are common, and Rock Sandpiper are occasional.



Sponsor: Lincoln County

### 64. Beverly Beach State Park

From Hwy 101 in Newport, drive 7 mi N and turn E into park.

This is a popular park with full amenities. It offers a convenient walkway that leads visitors to a long expanse of sandy beach extending from Yaquina Head to Otter Rock. Within the park is a coastal forest with giant, wind-sculpted trees and nurse logs strung along pebbly Spencer Creek. On the beach, look for Western and Heermann's Gull, Common Loon, and Brown Pelican flying by, and flocks of Sanderling, Whimbrel, and Western Sandpiper during migration. In the park and campground, expect to see Pileated Woodpecker, Band-tailed Pigeon, Swainson's Thrush, Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Brown Creepers, and Wilson's Warbler.



Sponsor: Bureau of Land Management

### 65. Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area

From Hwy 101 in Newport, drive N leaving town to Lighthouse Dr, turn W (L), follow to parking lot by Lighthouse.



Common Murre

PHOTO BY: DAVID FITKIN / US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Multiple activities make this natural area and Globally Important Bird Area a must see destination. There is a historic lighthouse, an interpretive center, hiking trails, disabled accessible tidepools, and wildlife viewing decks. Gray whales and harbor seals are seen year-round, and one of the largest Common Murre colonies on the coast is easily viewed. Other summer birds include Bald Eagle, Black Oystercatcher, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorant, Western Gull, Brown Pelican, and Pigeon Guillemot. December-February common birds include Red-necked and Western Grebe, Common Loon, and Peregrine Falcon, and Marbled Murrelet are occasional.



Sponsor: Bureau of Land Management

### 66. Sally's Bend

From Hwy 101 in Newport, go E on Hwy 20, turn R (S) on SE Moore Dr, go to end, turn L (E) on SE Bay Blvd/Yaquina Bay Rd, turn R at large white "1702 Yaquina Bay Rd" sign, stop at pullouts while approaching large green liquefied natural gas tank. Please do not park near gates or walk around the gate for security reasons. After scanning the water here, return to Yaquina Bay Rd, turn R (E), and drive around bend to pullout on R after yellow "S-Curves/35 MPH" sign.

Walk west of the road to view terrestrial birds like Western Meadowlark, Northern Shrike, Killdeer, and Wilson's Snipe, American Pipit and Western Kingbird in spring. At low tide a Bald Eagle is reliable on the piling near the middle of the Bend.

Fall to spring are good for waterbirds like American Wigeon, Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Redheads, Surf and White-winged Scoters, and Red-breasted Merganser. Red-necked and Eared Grebes are seen over deep water. From October–November, this is the only Yaquina Bay site where Red-breasted, Common and Hooded Merganser, and all six species of grebes occurring in Oregon may be seen. At winter low tides, Black Brant may graze on the exposed eelgrass beds.



Sponsor: Yaquina Birders and Naturalists

### 67. Yaquina Bay Road

From Hwy 101 in Newport, go E on Hwy 20, turn R (S) on SE Moore Dr, go to end, turn L (E) on SE Bay Blvd/Yaquina Bay Rd. Drive 12 mi to end. Good stops are at Mileposts: 4, 5.1, 6.7, 7.1, 7.7, 8.8, 9.2

Designated a scenic drive, birding is very good along the entire length of Yaquina Bay Road and best from fall to spring. Stop at pullouts along the way to view loons, grebes, ducks, and gulls. The small bridge just before MP 6.7 is a good place to search for perched gulls, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, and Green Heron or Snowy Egret. In winter, Dunlin, Western and Least Sandpiper, and Black Turnstones may roost on wood rafts at high tide. The abandoned Fowler's Oyster site has pilings with nest boxes favored by western Purple Martins. At MP 8.8 and 9.2, walk the roadside to view the open valleys for White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, and Red-tailed Hawk. Mourning Dove is occasional in spring. Tide gates block passage of saltwater into each slough; on the freshwater side watch for Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Hooded Merganser, Ring-necked Duck, and rarely, Redhead. On the saltwater side in

PHOTO BY: WAYNE HOFFMAN



winter are Common Loon, Horned and Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Surf Scoter, and Western, Glaucous-winged, and Mew Gulls. Summer brings California Gull and Caspian Tern.



Sponsor: Lincoln County

### 68. Depot Slough Interpretive Trail

From Hwy 101, take Hwy 20 E to Toledo, turn S (R) on Bus 20, follow through town, turn R on Main St, merge onto Butler Bridge Rd, go .2 mi, and turn R into parking lot.

Owned by the Port of Toledo, this trail is a good vantage point to scan Depot Slough for Bufflehead, Western and Pied-billed Grebe, Common Merganser, and Great Blue Heron. Access the .25 mile trail at the far end of the parking lot to walk along the slough and the open field. Spotted Sandpiper is seen from fall-spring on the rocks along the slough and the field has Western Meadowlark in winter. The trail ends at an elevated viewing deck that is adjacent to an active Osprey nesting platform.



Sponsor: Toledo Chamber of Commerce

### 69. Toledo Public Boat Launch

From Hwy 101, take Hwy 20 E to Toledo, turn S (R) on Bus 20 and follow through town, turn R on Main St, merge onto Butler Bridge Rd, drive 1.2 mi (pass paper mill), at a V-intersection go R on S. Bay Rd for .45 mi, turn R into Port of Toledo Boat Launch.

Walk along the small wetland areas on the far side of the parking lot and watch for Marsh Wren, Green Heron, and Song Sparrow. Great Egret and Great Blue Heron are reliable in the shallow areas along the bank. Fall-early spring Spotted Sandpiper, Western and Horned Grebe, all three cormorants, and Bald Eagle are common. Least Sandpiper roost at high tide from fall-spring on the downed wood floating by the boat launch. Continue driving down South. Bay Rd and scan the mudflats for Greater Yellowlegs.



Sponsor: Toledo Chamber of Commerce

### 70. Yaquina Bay State Park

From Hwy 101 S in Newport, turn W (R) just before the Yaquina Bay Bridge; follow to SW corner parking lot.

A historic lighthouse and viewing deck overlook the bay and ocean. A spotting scope is helpful to view birds in the channel. Summer brings

Brown Pelican, Pelagic Cormorant, Common Murre, and Pigeon Guillemot. In winter, vagrants include Yellow-billed Loon and Long-tailed Duck, and in the shorepine and twin-berry along the road and trails to the beach are Townsend's Warbler and Hermit Thrush. Summer birds include Swainson's Thrush, swallows, and flycatchers. Elusive Wrentits may be found throughout the year.



Sponsor: City of Newport

### 71. South Jetty Yaquina Bay

From Hwy 101 S in Newport, take the first exit to W (R) after crossing the Yaquina Bay Bridge; follow around, cross under bridge, turn L into Rogue Brewery, and park at W end. Walk to Fishing/Crabbing Pier. Where the Yaquina River meets the Pacific Ocean, sandy shores, an extensive rock jetty, and adjacent coastal sand dunes create an easy birding experience with a variety of species. At the first pullout on the right where a finger of rocks jut into the bay, watch for Common and Pacific Loon and occasionally Yellow-billed Loon. Harlequin Duck perch on the rocks at low tide and harbor seal haulout on the far end. February-March, herring may spawn in the eelgrass beds, which attracts thousands of scoters and gulls. Pairs of young Common Murre with their attendant fathers are seen and heard calling to each other in the channel July-August. In winter, look for Snow Bunting and longspur in the short grass farther along the jetty, also White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, and during irruption years Snowy Owl in the dunes south of the jetty. At the largest pullover on the right, where a "gull puddle" forms in the rainy season, you can sort through the resting gulls, looking for Glaucous, Herring, and Thayer's among the Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls and hybrids. Scan the

rocky waterline for Black Turnstone and Surf-bird, occasionally with Rock Sandpiper. At the "jaws" of the jetty, pelagic birds like Black-legged Kittiwakes can be spotted.



Sponsor: Yaquina Birders and Naturalists

### 72. Port of Newport/ Public Fishing Pier

From Hwy 101 S in Newport, take the first exit to W (R) after crossing the Yaquina Bay Bridge, follow around, cross under bridge, turn L into Rogue Brewery, and park at W end. Walk to Fishing/Crabbing Pier.

Try your luck at fishing or crabbing on this busy pier while you watch the birds come and go. The pier is unique for Yaquina Bay as it allows birders to be surrounded by water and the environment of seabirds without getting seasick on a boat. In winter, watch the channel for a Long-tailed Duck or a Yellow-billed Loon. In summer, Western Gull, Pigeon Guillemot, and Pelagic Cormorant nest on the bridge. All three species of cormorants roost on pilings by the bridge, allowing study of their differences.



Sponsor: Oregon Coast Aquarium

### 73. Perpetua Bank – Pelagic Site

40 Nautical mi WSW of Newport or 32 Nautical mi W of Yachats (44° 19.2' N, 124° 52.2' W), Reachable only by ocean-going boat.

This zone of relatively shallow water on the open ocean attracts pelagic birds that are rarely seen from land. Best visited April to September for Black-footed, and Laysan Albatross, Northern Fulmar, Sooty, Buller's, Pink-footed and Flesh-footed Shearwater, as well as Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel. Sometimes possible to visit by joining a chartered fishing cruise. For a schedule of professionally guided pelagic birding trips visit <http://the-birdguide.com/pelagics>.



Sponsor: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Western Gull

KEVINSMITHNATUREPHOTOS.COM



PHOTO BY: RICHARD CRONBERG

Surfbird

#### 74. Oregon Coast Aquarium

From Hwy 101 in Newport, go S over Yaquina Bay Bridge and follow signs to the Aquarium. Admission Fee.

The Aquarium is a destination not to be missed on the Oregon Coast. Inside a large open-air seabird aviary gives visitors close-up views of Tufted Puffin, Pigeon Guillemot, Common Murre, Black Oystercatcher, and Rhinoceros Auklet. A new outdoor exhibit features Semipalmated Plover and the endangered Western Snowy Plover. An interpretive nature trail lined with meticulously landscaped native flora overlooks the Yaquina Bay estuary providing views of Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, and Purple Martin in summer.



Sponsor: Oregon Coast Aquarium

#### 75. Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center Nature Trail

From Hwy 101 S in Newport, take the first exit to W (R) after crossing the Yaquina Bay Bridge, drive on SE OSU Dr following signs for Center. Park at E side of visitor center.

All year the 1-mile trail bordering Yaquina Bay is popular with local birders. In winter, check bushes and pines for Palm Warbler and the fields for Savannah Sparrow. Fall brings Western Meadowlark. These grounds are well known for vagrants during

migration like Sage Thrasher, Mountain Bluebird, and Say's Phoebe. On the mudflats in fall, waterfowl are abundant and Brant winter. Peak shorebird migration is late April, expect Dunlin, Western and Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover, Whimbrel, and Long-billed Curlew. Caspian Tern and sometimes Elegant Tern are present in summer. Common birds of prey are Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, White-tailed Kite, Peregrine Falcon, and Merlin. The Visitor Center has a rocky intertidal touch tank, interpretative displays, and a nature-oriented bookstore.



Sponsor: Yaquina Birders and Naturalists

#### 76. Mike Miller Educational Trail

From Hwy 101 S in Newport, cross the Yaquina Bay Bridge and drive 1.2 mi to turn E (L) onto SE 50<sup>th</sup> St (MP 144), follow 0.2 mi to trailhead.

A one-mile hilly loop trail meanders through coniferous forest, freshwater wetlands and native shrubs. In spring, Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and Wilson's Snipe use the wetlands. Osprey have nested on top of a snag for several years. Pileated Woodpecker visit, Red-breasted Sapsucker and Downy Woodpecker have nested in snags. Other birds along the trail include Sharp-shinned Hawk, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Western Tanager,

Black-headed Grosbeak, Hutton's and Cassin's Vireo, Great Horned Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Bushtit, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Purple Finch, Spotted Towhee, Red Crossbill, Northern Flicker, Townsend's, Wilson's, and Orange-crowned Warbler, and Hermit, Varied, and Swainson's Thrush.



Sponsor: City of Newport

#### 77. Ona Beach State Park

From Hwy. 101 in Newport, drive S 8 mi to MP 148.9. Turn W (R) into State Park to access the west side of the park, or to explore the inland side, turn E (L) on North Beaver Creek Rd and take immediate R into parking area.

While approaching the Park, search the tall trees and power lines for Bald Eagle and Red-shouldered Hawk. On the west side, Beaver Creek empties into the Pacific Ocean and is flanked by Sitka spruce and shore pine parkland and coastal brackish marsh. Terrestrial birds abound in native shrub. Residents include Steller's Jay, American Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Winter and Bewick's Wren, Hairy Woodpecker and Brown Creeper. Winter birds include Golden-crowned Kinglet, Varied and Hermit Thrush, and Townsend's Warbler. In summer watch for Violet-green Swallow, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit and Wilson's Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, and Purple Finch. Cross the footbridge to the ocean to see gulls, Caspian Tern, migrating shorebirds, and Brown Pelican at the mouth of Beaver Creek. The east side of the park is coastal freshwater marsh which experiences muted tidal influence, surrounded by mature Sitka spruce and western hemlock forest. The best experience for this is via canoe or kayak. Use the boat launch from the parking lot and watch for Pied-billed Grebe, Green Heron, and Belted Kingfisher in summer. Spotted Sandpipers walk the river's edge in spring and Virginia Rail skulk in the dense vegetation. Fall and Winter can bring Great Egret, Common Goldeneye, Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, Greater Scaup, Surf

and White-winged Scoter, Hooded Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser. River otter, nutria, and beaver are common.



Sponsor: Yaquina Birders and Naturalists

#### 78. Happ Memorial Wetland and Lyon's Pond

From Hwy 101 in Newport, drive S 8 mi and turn E (L) on North Beaver Creek Rd; drive 0.2 mi to pullout to view Lyon's Pond. Continue E 0.4 mi to pullout and view bulrush marsh. Continue E to a row of alders on R and park in pullout.

Best viewed by car, the 78-acre freshwater marsh protected by The Wetlands Conservancy is a quick stop for Belted Kingfisher, Red-winged Blackbird, Virginia Rail, Killdeer, Marsh Wren, Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawk year-round. Fall-spring expect Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and Wilson's Snipe; occasionally Merlin and White-tailed Kite are seen. Spring migrants include Cinnamon Teal, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, and Purple Martin. Common summer residents are Wood Duck, Band-tailed Pigeon, and Northern Rough-winged, Tree, Violet-green, and Barn Swallow.

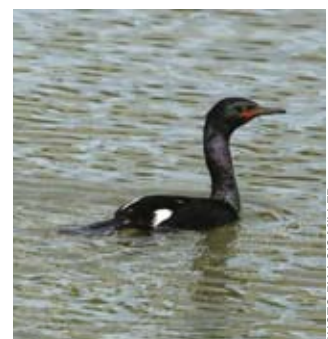


PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER

Pelagic Cormorant

#### 79. Drift Creek Wilderness

From Hwy 101 in Newport, drive S 8 mi, turn E (L) on N. Beaver Creek Rd, go 1 mi to a fork, veer L, and go 2.7 mi to T-shaped junction, turn R on N. Elkhorn Rd/USFS Road 51, drive cau-





PHOTO BY: JOHN WILLIAMS

Tree Swallow

mon Goldeneye, and Surf Scoter and occasional Red-throated Loon and Black Scoter. Winter vagrants include Yellow-billed Loon, Long-tailed Duck, and Barrow's Goldeneye. A boat launch is available as are several docks for crabbing or fishing.



Sponsor: Lincoln County

#### 84. Eckman Lake and Slough

From Hwy 101 in Waldport, drive E on Hwy 34 for 2.3 mi, turn S (R) into W. B. Nelson State Recreation Site. After scanning lake, return to Hwy 34, turn E (R), drive 0.3 mi, turn S



PHOTO BY: TERRY STEELE NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Swainson's Thrush

(R) onto Eckman Creek Rd, drive S 0.5 mi (pulling over where appropriate), and turn W (R) on East Lakeside Drive, pullover at S end of Eckman Lake, scan for birds then turn around and return to intersection of Eckman Creek Road and Hwy 34, turn W (L), pullover 0.2 mi at Eckman Slough between lake and Alsea Bay.

This little gem offers great pullouts on a quiet road encircling the lake and slough to view several distinct habitats: freshwater lake, wetland, and estuarine mudflats. The lake has open water and cattail marsh attracting abundant waterfowl and marsh birds such as Virginia Rail. Fall-spring, watch for Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Green-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe, Common Loon, Wilson's Snipe, and Red Phalarope. Cinnamon Teal, Greater Yellowlegs and dowitchers visit in migration. In summer, the lake has Double-crested Cormorant, Wood Duck, and Osprey and occasional Pied-billed Grebe. Eckman Slough hosts waterfowl and shorebirds at low tide during the fall through spring.



Sponsor: Oregon Coast Visitors Association

#### 85. William P. Keady Wayside

From Hwy 101 in Waldport, drive S to just before the Hwy skirts the Bay, turn sharply N (R) onto SW Maple Street, and park.

The City of Waldport's gazebo and deck allow a good view of the Alsea Bay mouth. Bald Eagle, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, and Pelagic Cormorant are year-round. Fall-spring, scan for Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, and occasional Pacific Loon. Summer brings Brown Pelican, Heermann's Gull, Caspian Tern, Pigeon Guillemot, and Common Murre. Winter vagrants include Yellow-billed Loon and Long-tailed Duck. A summer rarity is Elegant Tern. Harbor seals haulout on the North Spit and the sandbar near the bridge.



Sponsor: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

#### 86. Smelt Sands State Recreation Site

Drive S on Hwy 101 in N Yachats, turn W (R) onto Lemwick Ln at MP 163.5, follow signs to park.

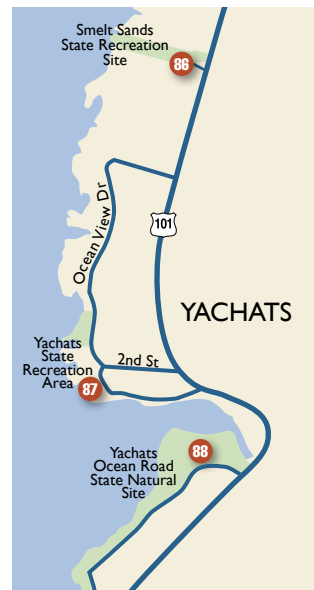
An excellent whale watching and photography viewpoint. A yearly surf smelt run through rocky intertidal habitat onto a beach of coarse black sand has declined in recent years. Hike the 0.75 mile historic 804 Trail. Throughout the year look for Black Oystercatcher, Western Gull, and Glaucous-winged Gull. Fall-spring, scan for Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorant, Surf and White-winged Scoter, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, and occasionally Harlequin Duck and Black Scoter. In summer, watch for passing Brown Pelican. A spotting scope may reveal distant seabirds like Northern Fulmar, shearwaters, and jaegers.



Sponsor: Oregon Coast Visitors Association

#### 87. Yachats State Recreation Area

From Hwy 101 S in Yachats, turn W (R) onto 2nd St, drive to Oceanview Dr, turn S (L), and park.



Watch large ocean waves diminish as they enter Yachats Bay. On the ocean side, Western and Glaucous-winged Gull, and Pelagic Cormorant are resident. Fall-spring, search for Surf, White-winged, and Black Scoter, and occasionally Black-legged Kittiwake. Summer birds include Brown Pelican, Heermann's Gull, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet, and vagrant Ancient Murrelet. Birds in the bay fall-spring are American Wigeon and Herring, Thayer's, California, and Mew Gull. Watch for passing gray whales in December and again in March.



Sponsor: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

#### 88. Yachats Ocean Road State Natural Site

From Hwy 101 S in Yachats, W (R) onto Yachats Ocean Rd, use pullouts along the half-mile loop.

On the rocks, look for Black Oystercatcher year-around and wintering Black Turnstone and Surfbird. Fall-spring waterbirds include Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Surf, Black, and White-winged Scoter, and occasionally Red-throated Loon and Black-legged Kittiwake. Summer birds are Brown Pelican, Heermann's

# Lincoln City

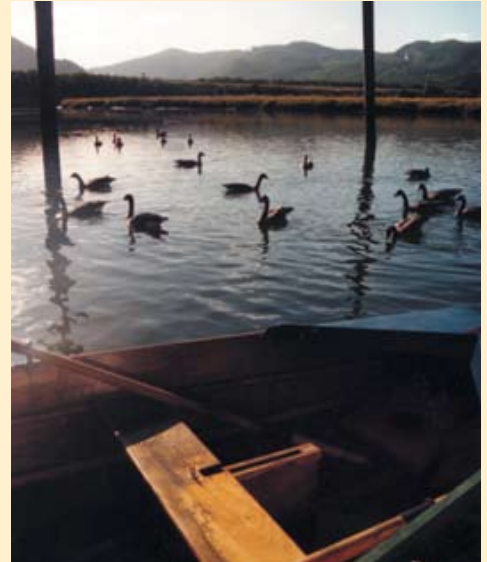
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ON THE BEACH IN LINCOLN CITY 1-888-CHINOOK



BY: KEVINSMITHNATUREPHOTOS.COM

Rufous Hummingbird

Gull, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Rhinoceros Auklet and Marbled Murrelet. Vagrants include Ancient Murrelet. This is a good area for sea-watching of pelagic seabirds with a spotting scope in the morning. Loon migration is visible in spring and fall, and Sooty Shearwaters are common during summer. This site also has access to sandy beaches of Yachats Bay.



Sponsor: Oregon Coast Visitors Association

### 89. Cape Perpetua Scenic Area

From Hwy 101 in Yachats, drive S 2.5 mi, turn E (L) into Cape Perpetua Visitor Center.

A suite of habitats and activities await birders along this stretch of rocky coastline and old-growth temperate rainforest. From the visitor center, plan a day filled with hiking, tidepooling, whale watching and excellent birding. In summer, you could start with pre-dawn stake outs at the Cape Creek campground (about 1 mile north of Visitors Center) for nesting Marbled Murrelet. Watch and listen for Hermit and Wilson's Warbler, Wrentit, Black-headed Grosbeak, Gray Jay, Steller's Jay, Rufous Hummingbird, Ruffed Grouse as you hike miles of trails through fog-shrouded forest. During low tide, investigate the intertidal marine garden for Black Oystercatcher, Western Gull, Harlequin Duck and cormorant.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

### 90. Heceta Head Lighthouse State Scenic Viewpoint

From Hwy 101 in Florence, drive N 13 mi to MP 178.9, and turn W into park. Proceed to parking lot and trailhead to lighthouse.

Cape Creek meets the Pacific Ocean near the parking lot and attracts hundreds of Western Gull that bathe in the water. A short but rigorous hike to the historic lighthouse winds through a wind-sculpted Sitka spruce forest, rewarding you with close views of thousands of seabirds in spring and summer. Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge lies within binocular range and provides habitat for Tufted Puffin, Common Murre, Double-crested and Brandt's Cormorant, Black Oystercatcher, and Pigeon Guillemot. On the hike to the lighthouse, expect to see Wrentit, Song and White-crowned Sparrow, Red Crossbill, Varied Thrush, and Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warbler. Watch the open sea for the occasional Short-tailed Shearwater, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Common Tern.



Sponsor: Convention and Visitors Association of Lane County

### 91. Sea Lion Caves

From Hwy 101 in Florence, drive N 11 mi to Sea Lion Caves. Address is 91560 Hwy 101 North. Admission Fee required.

Declared the "world's largest sea cave", thousands of years of intense ocean surge have carved out a deep cave that is now a sanctuary for Federally threatened Steller sea lion. Once in the cave, scan the rocky cave wall

to the east to see Pigeon Guillemot and Rhinoceros Auklet raising young. This is the only known site on the Pacific coast where Rhinoceros Auklet is diurnal on their breeding grounds. From the outside viewing decks look for Double-crested, Brandt's, and Pelagic Cormorant along with Western Gull nesting on the mainland cliff face. A quick ocean scan may turn up an occasional Tufted Puffin.



Sponsor: Sea Lion Caves

### 92. South Jetty Siuslaw River

From Hwy 101 in Florence, cross Siuslaw River Bridge and drive .5 mi to S Jetty Rd, turn W (R), use pullouts to bird along this 6 mi stretch that ends at the South Jetty.

The Siuslaw River empties into the Pacific and meets sandy beach, rocky intertidal jetties, low-tide sand flats, and a deflation plain surrounded by willow thickets and seasonal freshwater. During migration, flocks of Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plover, American and Pacific Golden-Plover, yellowlegs, dowitchers, Sanderling and Western, Least, Baird's and occasionally Pectoral Sandpiper can be seen. Northern Harrier and White-tailed Kite hunt the perimeter. The water between the jetties at-

tracts Surf Scoter, Common Loon, Western Grebe, and occasionally flocks of Sooty Shearwaters.



Sponsor: Port of Siuslaw

### 93. PAWN Trail

From Hwy 101 in Florence, take Hwy 126 1 mi to Forest Rd #5070/N Fork Rd, turn L, go 12 mi, take L fork onto Forest Rd #5084/Upper N Fork Rd, veer R onto Forest Rd #653, cross river, and park at trailhead.

Take a trip back in time on the PAWN trail, a short 1-mile loop through old-growth Sitka spruce and western hemlock forest dappled with big-leaved maples and protected as part of Siuslaw National Forest. Listen on early summer mornings for Marbled Murrelet returning from ocean fishing forays to nests in the forest canopy. The area also has nesting Wilson's Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Brown Creeper and Chestnut-backed Chickadee. PAWN is an acronym for the four families who were instrumental in establishing a post office on the North Fork Siuslaw River above Minerva in the early 1900's.



Sponsor: U.S. Forest Service/Siuslaw National Forest



Northern Pygmy Owl

© Richard Cronberg

PHOTO BY: DICK CRONBERG

## 94. Sweet Creek Falls

From Hwy 101 in Florence, drive E on Hwy 126 14 mi to Mapleton. Stay on Hwy 126 across bridge, then turn R on Sweet Creek Rd, drive 10 mi to trailhead.

The moderately difficult trail is 3.5 miles long, offering a scenic journey along Sweet Creek, where water cascades down numerous falls and sculpted bedrock; American Dipper can be seen and Winter Wren heard. Birds to watch for in summer are Wilson's Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Marbled Murrelet and Northern Spotted Owl breed in the forest.



Sponsor: Florence Area Hospitality Association

## 95. Cleawox Lake

From Hwy 101 in Florence, drive S 3 mi, and turn W (R) into Honeyman State Park.

Nestled in the popular and busy Honeyman State Park, Cleawox Lake is a natural freshwater dune lake bordered by mature mixed forest and shrubs. The 87-acre lake allows birders to see Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Belted Kingfisher, and occasionally Green Heron and Wood Duck.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

## 96. Woahink Lake

From Hwy 101 in Florence, drive S 3 mi, turn E on Canary Rd, then R to enter Woahink Day Use Area.

Managed as part of Honeyman State Park, this lake is flanked by dense shrubs, a beach and mature forest as well as private land. An endangered species of pitcher plant (*Darlingtonia californica*) grows in a bog within the park. Hike the trails around the lake to see Canada Goose, Osprey, Belted Kingfisher, Pied-billed Grebe, Greater Scaup, and an abundance of forest songbirds.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

## 97. Siltcoos Lake

From Hwy 101 in Florence, drive S 7 mi to MP 198, and turn E (L) into parking lot.

Hike up to three miles of trail rated moderately difficult, and view the lake where an abundance of Oregon's coastal population of American Coot winter. Dabbling ducks can number in the thousands and include Mallard, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal.



Sponsor: Convention and Visitors Association of Lane County



Violet-green Swallow

PHOTO BY: DICK CRONBERG



PHOTO BY: LOIS MILLER

Pacific-slope Flycatcher

## 98. Lagoon Trail

From Hwy 101 in Florence, drive S 7 mi, turn W (R) into Siltcoos Recreation area and Lagoon trailhead.

Hike this short ½ mile loop trail that parallels an oxbow of the Siltcoos River. The trail winds through shore pine forest and has a viewing platform overlooking a marsh that harbors American Bittern, Green Heron,

Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Sora, and Red-winged Blackbird. Beaver and nutria can be seen swimming.



Sponsor: Oregon Coast Visitors Association

## 99. Taylor Dunes Trail

From Hwy 101 in Florence, drive S 7.5 mi to MP 198.7 and turn W (R), and park.

Part of Siuslaw National Forest, the trail makes a 1-mile loop with great vistas of Taylor Lake, mature coastal forest, deflation plains, and active sand dunes. The trail connects with Carter Dunes Trail to culminate at a sandy beach. Turkey Vulture soar above the beach. In summer Osprey, Tree and Violet Green Swallow, and Cedar Waxwing are common. Dark-eyed Junco, Fox and White-crowned Sparrow, and Spotted Towhee are present fall-winter.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

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WILSONS WARBLER – BY LOIS MILLER



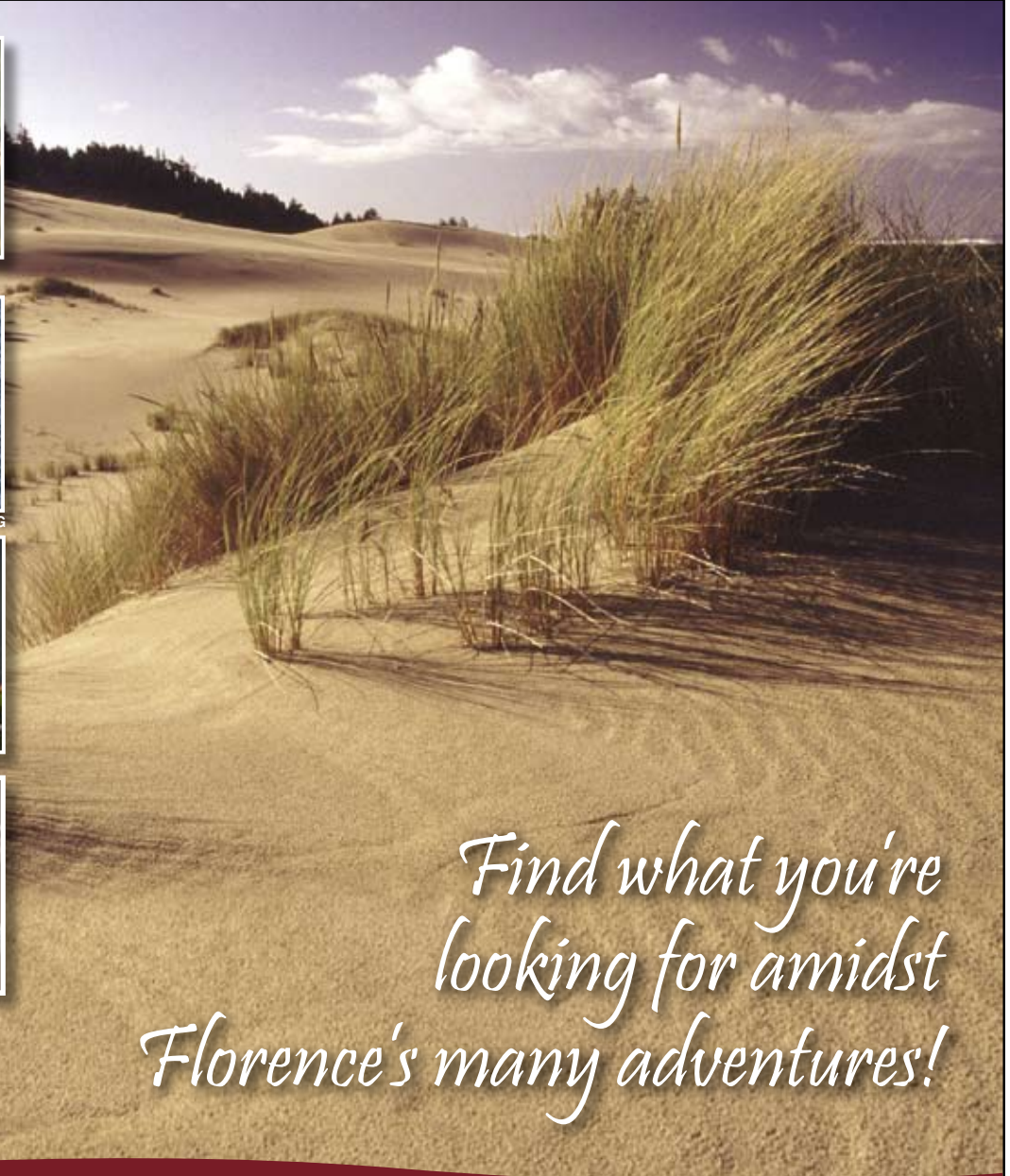
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