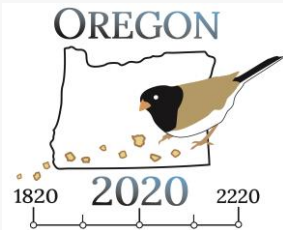


COOS & CURRY COUNTIES SPOTLIGHT

Blitz Dates

Thursday, June 1 to
Sunday, June 4 in
Charleston and
Port Orford, OR

What is a Blitz? Birders from around the state gather in a single county to survey as many birds in as many places as possible in just one weekend. Multiple stationary counts within Oregon2020 Hotspot Squares are encouraged (click [here](#) for our protocol). Participation in Blitzes is free! To register, visit: <http://oregon2020.com/coos-curry/>



Fast Facts

- All-Time Bird Species Total: **371**
- Breeding Season Bird Species Total: **295**
- Combined total eBird checklists: **15,290**



Photo: Eleanor Briccetti

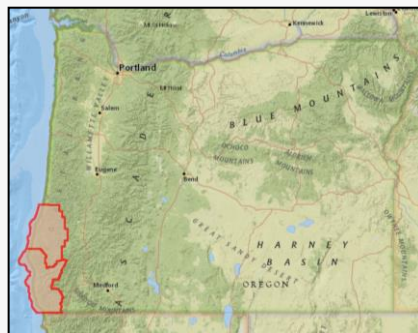
Coos & Curry Counties Species Highlights:

- Common Murre
- Pigeon Guillemot
- Semipalmated Plover

Top Birding Locations in Coos & Curry Counties:

- Bandon NWR
- Bullards Beach State Park
- Cape Blanco State Park
- Floras Lake
- Harris Beach State Park

Overview of Coos and Curry Counties



Above: Coos and Curry are the most southwestern counties in Oregon. They contain remote coastline and scenic views.

With world-famous golfing and excellent fishing and crabbing, Curry and Coos counties attract visitors from all over the world. While mountainous, these counties also boast idyllic harbors and fields full of dairy cows. Coos and Curry counties are known for their cranberries, blueberries, Port Orford cedar, and myrtle wood products. Don't forget to check out the scenic views at Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge which can have over 1.2 million individual nesting seabirds.

Pigeon Guillemot: Master of Land, Air, and Sea

These resilient seabirds are only found along the coastlines of the North Pacific, from Southern California all the way up to Alaska. Their short, stocky appearance is quite misleading; Pigeon Guillemots are actually masters at navigating land, air, and sea. With the sharp claws on their feet, and the help of some vigorous wing flapping, Pigeon Guillemots are able to scale vertical, rocky cliff faces to reach their nests. To catch their preferred food: sea-bottom fish and invertebrates, Pigeon Guillemots dive to depths of over 30 meters deep, and are able to stay underwater for over two minutes!

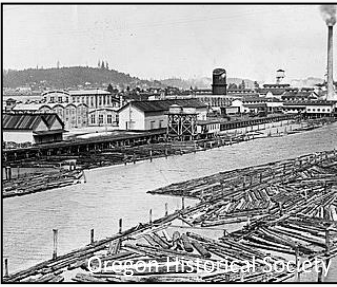
Edwins, P.J. 1993. Pigeon Guillemot (*Cepphus columba*), *The Birds of North America Online* (P.G. Rodewald, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology



Photo: Alan Vernon

Look for Pigeon Guillemots and other marine birds from Coos and Curry County coasts on our Blitz.

THE HISTORY OF COOS AND CURRY COUNTY

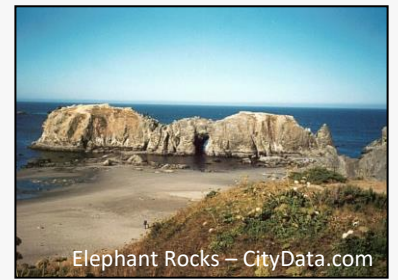


Coos County was created on December 22, 1853. It was named after the Coos Indians. Curry County was founded in 1855 and named for George L. Curry, a former governor of the Oregon

Territory. In 1852, explorers discovered gold and other precious metals in the rivers and beaches of Curry County. The town of Ellensburg was later renamed Gold Beach in recognition of these discoveries. Some mining of metals continues to this day. Coos County contains several port districts and produces large quantities of shellfish.

LODGING FOR THE COOS AND CURRY COUNTY BIRDING BLITZ

Our headquarters and daily meeting location for the Coos and Curry County blitzes will be divided between Charleston and Port Orford, Oregon.



Both Charleston and Port Orford are part of Oregon's "Adventure Coast". They cater to tourists with a wide variety of accommodation options, including hotels, bed & breakfasts, beachside camping, and even cozy

yurts. For a more comfortable camping experience, consider renting a cabin at scenic Cape Blanco or Bullards Beach. For more info, visit: <http://www.oregonsadventurecoast.com/lodging/>

Birding Hotspot: Cape Blanco State Park

Spanish explorer Martin D'Aguilar discovered Cape Blanco in 1603, naming it after the chalky white appearance of the headland. Cape Blanco is the westernmost point in the whole state of Oregon, and also contains the southernmost lighthouse in the state. The lighthouse was first proposed in 1864 after many shipwrecks occurred around the area, was operational by 1870, and is still standing today. Its light is visible up to 22 miles at sea. Tours of the lighthouse are available for a small fee. Cape Blanco State Park is just shy of 1900 acres large, and receives around 253,000 visitors annually. The park includes over eight miles of hiking trails, which provide access to countless ocean views, as well as wetland and woodland settings.



Recently Reported at Cape Blanco:

- Northern Saw-whet Owl
- Caspian Tern
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Black Oystercatcher



FUN FACT:

DID YOU KNOW... Coos county is home to several port districts, all founded in the early 1900s? Ports include Coquille, Bandon, and Coos Bay. Coos Bay is considered the best natural harbor between San Francisco and the Puget Sound!

Don't forget to register for the **Coos & Curry County Birding Blitz**, June 1-4! Free registration and more info available here: <http://oregon2020.com/coos-curry/>