



Tufted Puffin

- Tufted puffins are seabirds that thrive in the open waters, islands and coasts of the North Pacific, from Japan through the Aleutian Islands and south from Oregon to southern California.
- As soon as chick is fully grown, parents leave the chick to fend for itself.
- They winter on the open ocean, “flying” below the waves to catch small fish and invertebrates.
- Tufted puffins are silent except for some low growling around their nests.
- Using their webbed feet, tufted puffins dig burrows up to six feet long in the soil or in natural rock crevices. The tunnel ends in a grass- and feather-lined nest with one egg. Males and females can hold from five to 20 fish crosswise in their bill to carry food to their young.
- Tufted puffins are threatened by plastic debris, gill-nets, reduction in their prey and invasive predators that invade their burrows. Since the mid-1990s, tufted puffin populations in Oregon and Washington have dropped more than 95 percent.
- Prime spots to view these birds are Face Rock in Bandon, Oregon, and Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach, which has the largest breeding population of tufted puffins. The best viewing time is May to August, when colonies of nesting puffins can be seen along the entire Oregon Coast, especially in the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.



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