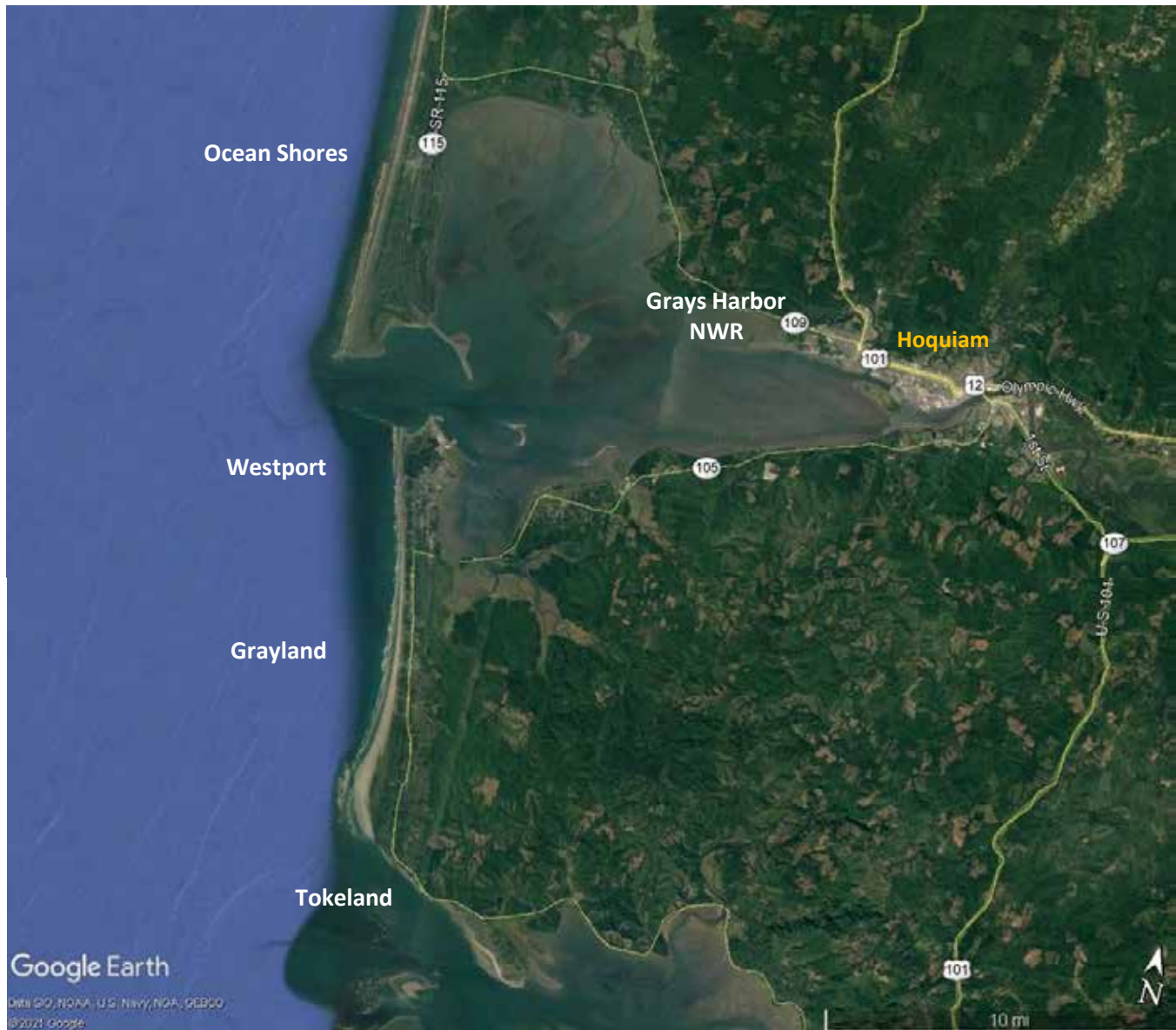


Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival

Birding Sites in Ocean Shores, WA



Grays Harbor is a prime area for viewing shorebirds and other waterbirds during the spring migration with easy access to look in the harbor and along the front beach. [Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge](#) in Hoquiam is ideal for seeing hundreds of thousands of shorebirds from the Sandpiper Trail as shorebirds move in and out of the tidal mudflat around high tide.

If you travel to [Ocean Shores](#) you can make your way down the peninsula using beach accesses until you reach the southern tip (jetty) where a diversity of bird species can be seen. From Hoquiam, travel west on WA-105 and you will begin your own migration with stopover areas to view a diversity of shorebirds, pelagic birds, waterfowl, and even raptors from [Westport](#) to [Grayland](#) and further south to [Tokeland](#). Click on the links included here and you will find directions and information on other bird viewing sites around Grays Harbor. You won't be disappointed at the amazing assemblage of waterbirds as they move northward to their breeding grounds or stick around to breed, like the snowy plovers!

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1 - Ocean City State Park (Discover Pass) is on the coast just off SR 115, the road into Ocean Shores. The habitat varies from the large wetlands at the entrance, to dense shore pine forest with walking trails, to the sand dunes and beach on the west side of the park. Expect to find shorebirds out on the beach, including sanderling, dunlin, semipalmated and black-bellied plovers, and least and western sandpipers. This is a good beach for raptors and gulls too.

2 - Weatherwax Nature Preserve - Located in the heart of Ocean Shores, this second-growth marine forest is a good place to look for local forest birds as well as migrating warblers, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, raptors, and waterfowl on the east where the forest meets Duck Lake. South on Point Brown Ave. Left on Ocean Lake Way two miles south of the round-about, then right onto Overlake St. Entrance is just around the curve in the road.

3 - North Jetty - The North Jetty is located at the south end of Ocean Shores Blvd. and overlooks the entrance to Grays Harbor and the Chehalis River. This is a great place for finding pelagic birds, waterfowl, rock birds, shorebirds, and raptors. Terns, gulls, and kittiwakes can also be seen from the rocks. The rocks of the jetty can be wet and slippery so use caution.

4 - Damon Point is at the southeastern tip of Ocean Shores. Take WA-115 south then turn left onto Point Brown Ave. and it will lead straight to the southern tip where you will turn right onto Discovery Avenue. Parking is available along the road. Seventy-one acres of sand spit with shore pines and surrounded by saltwater. Good for viewing shorebirds and raptors. This is also good for brant, loons, and scoters. Snowy Owls are occasional winter visitors. Keep tides in mind as some high tides can cut off access to this area.

Beach Access off Ocean Shores Boulevard: Damon Road, Chance ala Mer, Pacific Avenue, Ocean Lake Way, Taurus Avenue

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Shorebirds observed: Dowitchers, Long-billed curlew, black-bellied plover, Least and Western sandpipers



Beach Access



North Jetty



Sanderlings prefer the front beach where you can see them running after receding waves in search of food (Photo: Rod Gilbert)



Semi-palmated plovers explore seaweed brought in by the tides. You may also see them shuffle their feet to bring invertebrates to the surface (Photo: Tom Rowley)

Also look for brant, loons, scoters, gulls, northern harriers, peregrine falcons, merlin, and bald eagles