

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

This map displays the current weather across the United States. Temperature bands are shown as color-coded regions, with colors corresponding to the high temperature for the day. Precipitation is indicated by various symbols: blue dots for showers, blue lines for t-storms, green lines for rain, green dashed lines for flurries, white lines for snow, and white dots for ice. Weather systems are marked with 'H' for high pressure and 'L' for low pressure, with associated fronts (cold, warm, stationary) and their movement directions. Major cities are labeled with their current temperature and high/low range.

City	High/Low
Seattle	64/50
San Francisco	64/59
Los Angeles	71/58
Billings	20/12
Denver	39/21
El Paso	87/61
Chihuahua	89/54
Monterrey	93/64
Winnipeg	22/4
Minneapolis	23/10
Kansas City	37/15
Chicago	36/19
Toronto	43/21
Detroit	45/21
Atlanta	73/58
Houston	83/65
Miami	83/73
Washington	69/37
New York	54/36
Montreal	40/27

Legend:

- Temperature bands: -10s, -0s, 0s, 10s, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 100s, 110s
- Precipitation: showers, t-storms, rain, flurries, snow, ice
- Fronts: cold front, warm front, stationary front
- Pressure: high, low

National Summary: Snow will fall on the interior Northeast and from the northern Rockies to the middle Mississippi Valley today. Rain and storms are in store for the South Central states with rain on the Pacific coast.

UV INDEX TODAY

8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.
1	1	3	4	2	0
0-2, Low		3-5, Moderate		6-7, High;	
		8-10, Very High;		11+, Extreme	

The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index™** number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Forecasts and graphics provided by
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SUN AND MOON				Coastal Oregon: Cloudy today. A little rain; periods of rain, some heavy in the south.		Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today; a passing shower toward the Cascades in the afternoon.			
Sunrise today	6:26 a.m.			Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly cloudy today; a shower.		Cascades: Considerable cloudiness today and tonight with a bit of rain.			
Sunset tonight	7:30 p.m.								
Moonrise today	1:02 a.m.			Western Washington: Cloudy today and tonight with a little rain. Rain tomorrow.		Northern California: Cloudy today; rain, some heavy, except a little rain in the interior mountains.			
Moonset today	10:27 a.m.								
Last	New	First	Full						
									
Apr 8	Apr 15	Apr 22	Apr 29						

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In puffin country, Cannon Beach
may honor a red-winged blackbird

Official bird could help mark Earth Day

By BRENNA VISSER
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — As a part of the 12 Days of Earth Day celebration, Cannon Beach will be asked to consider designating an official city bird.

But don't get too excited, tufted puffins. A different bird could be brought into the spotlight: the red-winged blackbird.

The medium-sized, black-and-red songbird loves marshes, brushy swamps and chirping on city power lines. They relish pecking out the seeds of invasive plants and fiercely protecting habitat — whether the trespasser be a fellow bird or an elk. But most importantly, the species is an abundant and longtime inhabitant of the beach town.

“Red-winged blackbirds have been in that habitat forever. It seemed to fit the character of Cannon Beach,” said Neal Maine, a wildlife photographer who serves on the 12 Days of Earth Day committee. “They are a part of the downtown, which is kind of rare to have a bird colony right in the central part of the community.”

The committee, which organizes a variety of environmental activities throughout April in honor of Earth Day, decided it wanted to propose the idea to the city as a formal way to honor the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a landmark federal law that protects dozens of species of birds. Adopting the bird officially would take a vote from the City Council. Dozens of cities have adopted similar designations around the country.

While negotiating which bird should be proposed for the title, the tufted puffin was considered. Cannon Beach is



A red-winged blackbird protects its territory from an elk in Clatsop County wetlands.

the home of the largest tufted puffin colony on the Oregon Coast, with several festivals and fundraisers held in their honor. Between that and the wide array of puffin paraphernalia available downtown, the black, white and orange bird has become the town's unofficial icon.

But there are many reasons the red-winged blackbird has an edge. Puffins are seasonal, nesting at Haystack Rock for only a few months of the year, and are not very accessible unless "you are strategic about seeing them," Maine said.

Red-winged blackbirds are what people in the community see every day, and serve as a better representative of the area's ecology, Maine said. Designating these birds would also be historically significant, as many of them live on the Little Pompey Wetland — a marsh named after the son of Sacagawea from the Lewis and Clark Expedition by Cannon Beach Elementary School fifth-graders more than 20 years ago.

"It's the idea that every bird counts, even common ones like red-winged blackbirds," Maine said. "We have a



Neal Maine
The red-winged blackbird is proposed as Cannon Beach's official bird.



Haystack Rock Awareness Program
A tufted puffin nests on Haystack Rock.

were used as early detectors for carbon monoxide in mining tunnels.

"They are our measuring stick to the quality of our environment," Maine said. "When the birds start dying, that's when you know you've got a problem."

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NORTHWEST**

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