



Hannah went birding





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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

bird, puffins, tufted, picture, puffin, haystack, species, super, boat, big, water, rock, jetty, beach, survey, hannah, tiffany, rare bird, cool, pretty

SPEAKERS

Hannah, Erik

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-  **Hannah** 00:08
Leaving Erik behind Hannah goes on a solo adventure. Sometimes she does this while looking for some feathers.
-  **Erik** 00:17
Thank you for tuning into Hannah and Erik Go Birding a podcast by birders for birders.
-  **Hannah** 00:21
I'm Hannah. And he's Erik.
-  **Erik** 00:22
We created this podcast to share adventures sometimes misadventures and opinions that we have on different birding topics. We're definitely not experts in anything that we discussed that might be controversial. We want you to remember their own opinions. You might be different from yours.
-  **Hannah** 00:35
Very good.



Erik 00:36

Very good.



Hannah 00:37

Very good.



Erik 00:39

Well, your song was good. It definitely alludes to the fact that you're leaving me behind. Wow.



Hannah 00:44

Okay. You want to talk about those CBCs you did a couple years ago.



Erik 00:48

I know. You need to go on lots of adventures.



Hannah 00:50

All those fire calls you go on? Yeah, they're just get back. All right. Erik's firefighter, by the way, volunteer firefighter, if we haven't mentioned that before, that's why he goes on fire calls and leaves me alone at the hotel while he goes in save lives or whatever, you know,



Erik 01:09

you know, whatever. I'm



Hannah 01:09

doing shoos elk out of the way. And you know, like response to false alarms.



Erik 01:17

Hey, nine out of 10 calls or false alarms, but that one out of 10 that's, that's not that really save a life. I

H Hannah 01:22
feel like it's 9.75 times out of 10. It's a false call.

E Erik 01:27
Well, I mean, it happens. Yeah, yeah. Anyways.

H Hannah 01:31
So anyways, there's some news, where you are going to the southeast Arizona birding festival, and this will actually drop over there. So if you are there, you know, say hi, and we'd be excited to meet you. And we're looking forward to it because we actually have some targets we're hoping to get

E Erik 01:51
Yes. Going going somewhere new new because it's new for the season. We've never been there in the summer

H Hannah 01:58
that counts. It's like a whole different,

E Erik 01:59
like a whole different place. It's like it's Yeah,

H Hannah 02:01
but they still have El Charro so we're definitely gonna go to El Charro

E Erik 02:04
Oh, for sure. That's gonna be good.

H Hannah 02:06
Yeah, I'm excited for that carne seca

- E** Erik 02:09
Get some, some beef dried in the Sonoran desert sun, sun, dried meats and red meat.
- H** Hannah 02:15
I mean, like sun dried tomatoes. Besides going to the Rio Grande Valley birding festival, and we were super excited to be poking through, like the the schedule that they put out the other day to see that one of the events is like, breakfast at Sabel Palm with Hannah Buschert and Erik Ostrander was like, Oh, that's a surprise.
- E** Erik 02:40
Yeah, that's a surprise. It'll be fun.
- H** Hannah 02:41
Yeah. Breakfast. Breakfast, the birds. Yeah. Besides that, in our last episode, we talked about the dark skies. And the Perseid meteor shower is happening this week. So we've got August 11, 12th, and 13th is when it's supposed to happen.
- E** Erik 03:00
Yeah. Which is actually when we're recording. That's tomorrow, the next day, the day after that.
- H** Hannah 03:04
Yeah. So get out and look at the stars. The Shooting Stars is super cool. By the time you listen to this, it'll today will be the last day of the peak. We hope you have looked at some stars. I hope you have looked at them. But yeah, that's fun. I'm excited to go see in the desert.
- E** Erik 03:23
Oh, yeah, that'd be that'd be fantastic. I'm excited to go out tonight and see if we can at least see a little bit.
- H** Hannah 03:28

I think there's going to be a pre show. I think there'll be a pre show. Okay.

E

Erik 03:32

I mean, it's not going to be it's not going to be the super exciting peak. But maybe maybe we'll get one or two.

H

Hannah 03:37

We can watch in our backyard. Yeah, we can. And since our last episode came out, this is just a bit of personal news. We moved into our house. Yeah. So that's been very exciting for us.

E

Erik 03:47

Oh, yeah. So aside from personal news, and oh, I guess there's more personal use anyways. But we met met up with a bigger burden. Yesterday, just the other day. Yeah. When she was in town, Tiffany Kersten, we had read a little snippet from her earlier this year. When she donated one of her devices. Yeah. And she swung by Cannon Beach. Just the other day just to come down and see tufted puffins because she had she had missed him on a pelagic that she went on. So she was she just happened to be like, as a big year birder says in the area she was she was only seven hours away. So she was like, also we're going to get another bird.

H

Hannah 04:30

So we are saying, you know, we're the best place to see tufted puffins. So if you're doing a big year, you kind of have to swing by and see us and we'll help you get tough to puffins. So

E

Erik 04:41

yeah, we have

H

Hannah 04:43

put it on the map.

E Erik 04:44
We have tufted puffins. We have a hot shower. We have coffee. I don't know we don't really have doughnuts or muffins. Usually, but no, but but if we have an idea that you're coming, we could have done it for muffins. Right?

H Hannah 04:55
Yeah, just tell us Yeah, yeah. I have a smorgasbord there ready for you

E Erik 05:00
Yeah, tough, tough to puffins, and then you get get on with your day and go find some more rare stuff. Yeah. Which you can get various stuff.

H Hannah 05:09
And I feel bad about mentioning this because Tiffany missed it by a couple hours. But yesterday on August 9, we got an alert at 1143. On the WhatsApp

E Erik 05:22
while we're at Costco.

H Hannah 05:23
Yeah. Which actually worked out great. We randomly had our binoculars with us, which we don't usually carry them in the car.

E Erik 05:30
If I don't know what oh, it's because we're bringing them back to the house from the hotel. Yeah, that's why that's why we had him in the car. And then we just were like, Oh, well, we need to go shopping.

H Hannah 05:39
So we went up to Costco, which is about 45 minutes from us. And because we're in a rural area, so everything's a little bit further. And we got this WhatsApp notification that a Red-necked Stint had been seen, and a flock

E Erik 05:54
of shorebirds, pictures, and everything came through. So it's like, oh, this seems legitimate, like where exactly is it?

H Hannah 06:00
Yeah. And on the way back from Costco, we went on the beach, and there's sections of the Oregon beach where you can go

E Erik 06:08
driving on it, most of the beach, you can't drive in Oregon, but there's this there's a section up north of where we're at. And then there's another section down south, down by Florence that you can drive. So luckily, it was easy for us to just like get out there drive on the beach and see see what we can find.

H Hannah 06:23
Yeah, so we we got on the access that was closest to us, just headed south until we found a shorebird flock. And after you know arguing with each other for 15-20 minutes about is this it? Is it not it? Because it's something that looks very similar to sanderling?

E Erik 06:41
Really? Yeah, so it was it was definitely it was there was a group of sanderlings I mean, by definitely it, I mean, like, it's not a bird I'm familiar with, based on field marks on the in the field guide and all that stuff, like, pretty sure this is the right bird, we're looking at the bird, it's slightly smaller than sanderling, you can see defined eyebrow, you can see a little bit of a tinge of red on its throat and neck. And it was like, Hannah got a picture, kind of really terrible picture or picture because we didn't have a scope. So we couldn't like hold the lens still. So she's trying to hold their binoculars at the same time as holding the phone. And it's just a whole mishmash. But you can see it's hanging out with the sanderlings. The sanderlings do not have a rear toe, the sticks out a hallux. And the stent does have a rear toe. So you can see as they're running around, you had a picture of both the sanderling and the stent next to each other and you can see the size difference and then the one that has a hallux it's totally as a printer picture. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. I mean, without having the context of already knowing that, that's what we were looking for. And that in that picture, you can't see any colors. You can't see any you can't see the eyebrow, you can't see any any additional markings. like you'd be like, I don't just looks like a maybe

that's a sanderling that's further away. That's like a runt. Yeah, like, but, I mean, it's like that would be that's like the final field mark of like five field marks that we're trying to trying to see on this guy. So it was super exciting. It was a lifer. It was a lifer. And it's a for those not in the Pacific Northwest. That's a rare bird. And for those I guess for those not in Asia, that's a rare bird.

H

Hannah 08:28

or Alaska, Alaska. Yeah, because the range in the US isn't Alaska, but I think it's only during migration.

E

Erik 08:34

Yeah. And it was I so it took it literally took me like 45 minutes to find the Merlin bird pack that contains Red-necked Stint. Because I was like, Okay, well, it's not any of the US ones. None of the US packs contain it. I was like, Okay, well, what about the western palearctic? Because they show up in Sweden and Finland? Nope, it's not in the western palearctic pack. And so that I'm like, I was like, arbitrarily just like downloading everything I can find in the Northern Hemisphere. Before I finally downloaded the Beijing pack. Yeah. And it was in the Beijing pack. So

H

Hannah 09:11

so that's where you get it normally ranging,

E

Erik 09:13

I guess I'm sure there's probably I probably skipped over some packs, because I didn't assume it would be in there. But then it it probably is in other packs. But yeah, yeah. So it's not a not a common bird for for the United States.

H

Hannah 09:26

Well, not something that I think is really cool about where we're at. So like, I've been really down about like Oregon, you know, like, Oh, we don't get as many cool things as somebody living in Texas. Because a lot of the rarities that would come through would be like Mexican species, which tend to be you know, like prettier and bigger and more interesting. But then we've had a number of Rarity show up here in Pacific Northwest and that is like, you know, Arctic species. And so and so like they're not necessarily like the biggest and prettiest or anything like that. But it's just it's cool how the rarities that you

get in an area, like differentiate from each other. Like we're not going to get a Mexican species up here, but we might get a handful of different things that you'd see like in like in Asia or in Alaska.

E Erik 10:13

Yeah. Well, and it's also we're talking with Tiffany about this, that it's like a whole different burden culture in Oregon versus like Texas, specifically like Southern Texas or like Eastern southeastern Texas, that like, if there's a rare bird, like it'll be seen for a couple days, and then it will be seen for like a couple of weeks. And that's not to say that the bird disappeared. It's just that the, the 17 birders or the 30 birders in the area, already went out saw got their fill, and then now there's maybe one birder still going out there and refining it every couple of days. And that's it. Yeah, like in down in South Texas, like that bird is being looked at every single day. It's being reported. It pops up on the rare bird alert on the hourly report every day for like six times every single day. And then here in Oregon, like the red next event yesterday, somebody else found out before us took some pictures. We went out there a couple hours later, we were the second people on site. We saw it. Our our Rare Bird Alert was the first one to come through because the other guy hadn't. Hadn't hadn't posted it yet.

H Hannah 11:21

So it looks like we found it

E Erik 11:22

like we found it but our comments differ. They say they say we were not the first one to finally give

H Hannah 11:27

credit to the Finder.

E Erik 11:29

Oh, for sure. I mean, there's no way we could have like, I would have kept on driving like a group of sanderling. Yeah, exactly. But then then another group went out there later, they didn't find it, then the next group found it and only one person at a group posted it. So it's just kind of like there's there's only three Rare Bird alerts for a bird that seven people saw yesterday. Yeah. So it's, I mean, he burns us heavily. It's just not used as, I guess religiously.

Well, and I

H

Hannah 11:58

think that's interesting, because, you know, thinking about the tough to Puffin like Tiffany was the big year birder, Tiffany, she was in Yakima, Washington, which is, you know, a pretty good drive from us. And she was looking at a bird because she needed tufted puffin. And that was one of her her targets for coming up. And so I was looking at, like, we were messaging back and forth. And I was looking at a bird for tufted Puffin, you know, up and down the coast to see like, oh, maybe there's a place that's closer to her, that would be more, that's more reliable. And we were looking at all the places in Washington, and they haven't been seen there since like, July. And it was like, you know, somebody was on a ferry inside. Yeah. So they're not reliable sightings up there. But then I looked at our hotspot, Haystack Rock where I know they're gonna be there. Like, if I go to guarantee, essentially, if we go out there between April and August, like we're gonna see them. And I know there are people that miss them. You know, because there's not as many of them out there. And maybe you know, if we're more familiar with looking at them, I guess is the

E

Erik 13:00

thing, but they're up there. They're nesting. They're there every day. Yeah. But it's, it's it's a lock if you know what you're looking for.

H

Hannah 13:05

Yeah. But like we went out on April 9, with Tiffany and the sorry, August 9, the previous sighting that was there was August 3 on ebird. Even though I know they're there every day. Yes. That there's not people out there. He birding it every single day. And so it doesn't look like it's as reliable as it actually is.

E

Erik 13:27

Yeah, that's that's true. So it's and

H

Hannah 13:29

I had seen it the day before. Like I went out on August 8. I went down there with my sister because she wanted to see a Puffin. I just didn't eBird it. And so I went back through and posted an even list because I was like, I know, I saw him I was just being lazy and didn't do any better.



Erik 13:43

So the onerous is also on us for not not posting lists more frequently.



Hannah 13:47

Yeah. So I hate to have more and more news, cuz I know the banter. You know, not everybody likes banter. But I also want to point out the new Merlin addition to their app that they put out recently.



Erik 14:01

Yeah, I've even talked about that.



Hannah 14:03

Yeah. And we haven't really played with it either. But it's it's summer. We're busy. Yeah, but it's super cool. They have used all of this information that they've collected from, from birders and people who have submitted to like the Cornell Lab of Ornithology sound lab. Recording, thank you, MacCauley library, and they've added this portion of Merlin where you can hold up I imagine you hold up your phone. Yeah. And to have her that's calling and it can, you know, closely identify that species.



Erik 14:03

Yeah, it works just like any of the other sound apps that I've used in the in the past song sleuth or bird that they you hold up your phone, you take a recording and then you select the section of recording you want want to identify and then it tells me what bird it is. So it's super, super cool, super easy to use. And I've used it just on two birds and both of which I deleted the nothing because I was not Using it compared to a recording from my computer. I wanted, I wanted to see how well it worked. Identify your recording, which it does really well identifying your recording. So I can't wait to get some time to like sit in the backyard and use it to try to identify like the Anna's Hummingbird that's chirping. So yeah, see if it can pick that up. So, um, question about it. Do you know if there's an option, like after you do the recording, and then identifies it, to submit it to the McCauley library? Yeah, yeah. So that was that was the super interesting thing is that you can submit your recorded and then you can say, I haven't done it yet. But you can, as far as I can tell, you can just drag it right over to a list. And it'll create a list with just one species, that bird with a recording. That's cool. And then it'll submit that to the Macaulay library. So that that becomes part of the record. And part of the algorithm that they use to try to put together

bird calls.

- H** Hannah 15:57
Yeah, well, you can identify and those other apps are really cool. You know that they do similar things like that, too. But this is great because it consolidates it all into a program that so many people already use with Merlin because they use it the field guide they use it to submit photos into and now you can submit these sounds so it just kind of aggregated all of the really cool stuff into one.
- E** Erik 16:18
Yeah, it's it's it's pretty exciting. They're, they're trying to they're trying to monopolize, I guess which I'm fine with.
- H** Hannah 16:26
I mean, the college it's not really like
- E** Erik 16:28
that's true. It is a college and it's all research and it's all we're contributing to the research by taking these recordings and taking these photos and putting them on there so and like another aside about that is bad photos and bad audio is really good for the for the program because it can it can help better identify good recordings. Yeah, you have bad recordings on there, too.
- H** Hannah 16:52
I can help the system learn better. Yeah,
- E** Erik 16:54
yeah. So one one star recordings and one star pictures are definitely still worth posting. Okay,
- H** Hannah 17:00
cool. So we didn't have any reviews on this one last little bit, I think of stuff before we move on to the main thing is the bird nerd giveaway for for this month for August. And this

one is because we're talking about tufted puffins and you know the survey that I went on, okay, so this bird nerd giveaway is to win a plush tufted Puffin, courtesy of the Friends of Haystack Rock, which is the board that I sit on. And to win that what we are asking that you do by August 24, tweet insta Facebook, email, whatever a picture of you contributing to



Erik 17:44

science, any kind of science there's lots and lots of expect acceptable responses to you don't have to be out there. Like you'll have to be out there banding or capturing a wild bird to take measurements or I don't know measuring nest cavity sizes



Hannah 18:01

and are like um, you know, solving solving cancer or anything? Yeah,



Erik 18:06

how do you do anything super crazy and it doesn't. It doesn't even have to be bird science. Just science contributing to science in some fashion. You can be out birding, you can take taking pictures bird banding, like any natural naturalist. Yeah, and any anything you can think of a send a selfie and or picture



Hannah 18:25

of you doing it now.



Erik 18:27

And some of you sciencing



Hannah 18:30

Don't overthink it, or you could totally overthink it and send us something like super wild that we would have never imagined.



Erik 18:37

Yeah, that'd be that'd be even better. Just something weird. Like, no, you convince us that

that's you science and and and if you can convince us you sciencing then that's, that's good. So submit or post a picture using the hashtag bird nerd giveaway by August 24. And then we'll we'll give the winner a plush tufted Puffin.

H Hannah 19:00

So thank you to the Friends of Haystack Rock for participating in this with us. If you feel so inclined, check out their website which we'll put into the show notes as well. And check out the cool things that we do and even buy some of the gear that we

E Erik 19:15

like the super plush fancy sweatshirts you guys have right now

H Hannah 19:19

that say protect the Puffin? Yeah, yeah. Those are I need one.

E Erik 19:25

We were just complaining about how many sweatshirts and jackets we have. I know

H Hannah 19:29

that I need all the sweatshirts a very thickness,

E Erik 19:34

every possible thickness and sweater.

H Hannah 19:35

Yeah. So to get on with the main story and story what you're all here for. So this was really exciting. And like we said this was more of a solo adventure. So I sit on the board of the Friends of Haystack Rock here in Cannon Beach, Oregon and our mission is to promote the preservation and protection of the intertidal life and birds at Haystack Rock.

E Erik 19:56

So some of the cool things that friends of Haystack Rock do is they They support. They support a lot of different research. So they have, they have a number of scientists that they help fund the research, mostly on Puffin stuff. Because puffins are pretty integral to, like, education on Haystack Rock. Yeah, we're getting people interested.

H Hannah 20:18

Everybody wants to come see one our town has puffins all over the place. Some of them are the wrong Puffin but you know, that's, that's okay.

E Erik 20:25

That's that's the way it goes. Sometimes. Sometimes Sometimes you get the wrong path. And when you when you commissioned an artist,

H Hannah 20:30

and we're so lucky to have an incredible amount of species that live on Haystack Rock, we've got black oyster catchers pigeon guillemots, three species of cormorants, Harlequin ducks and just a variety of different intertidal species like sea stars sea anenomes and nudibranchs and if you're not familiar with the new to bring their their sea slugs pretty

E Erik 20:51

Oh my gosh, there's this one the the opalescent nudibranch.

H Hannah 20:54

Yeah. It's like the more common one.

E Erik 20:56

It's Yeah, it's super common. Like, I feel like every time we go down to look for new bearings, that's what we find. And we don't find any others. But it's so interesting, because it's like this little translucent, like sea slug that is like, maybe two inches long. When they're like, the giant ones are like two inches long. Yeah. And they have like these, these horns all over him that then have like, multicolored like orange and pink, like sort of little tufts at the end of the day at the end of the translucent horns. So it's just like this really interesting looking like a ghost like, like, across the across the bottom of the table. And I'm sure if you put your

H Hannah 21:36
head underwater, it would make that sound. Oh, absolutely. Yeah. Well, you have all the Oh, barnacles

E Erik 21:44
barnacles doing their thing. And then you hear as this guy's like walking along.

H Hannah 21:50
Yep, that's definitely what happened.

E Erik 21:52
If you ever stick your head inside a tidepool, you hear all sorts of things. Some things you don't want to hear me hear all sorts of

H Hannah 21:58
things inside of tidepool, there's something silently screaming.

E Erik 22:05
It's probably it's probably something being eaten by a seastar.

H Hannah 22:09
And I know we've talked about this area a lot. But we do get a lot of visitors a Haystack Rock. So it's super important that the work that we do, to try to protect and preserve and educate visitors about these cool species that live there and help to, you know, great stewards of our environment. So as as Erik mentioned, as a friends group, we partner with a variety of organizations, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which we've partnered with a number of times to Yeah. Because the rock and surrounding marine garden are part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. And they're like Erik mentioned, there's a number of scientists that we work with frequently because of our lead charge. Right now. It's tough to puffins. We designated this the year of the Puffin, the year of the Puffin. And so we and I mean, just on and on, we fund scientists to do things,

and they do a lot of surveying for the species. And they also tried to attach, you know, like the transmitting devices, so we can find out more about the species. They do burrow surveys, like go into the burrow and like try to pick out like fecal matter so they can figure out what the species eating. But do you know the details of how they get back to the bird was at least like one of those cloth things like for picking up garbage? Well, I saw a picture the other day, and they just like, stuck in there.

E

Erik 23:33

Yeah. I mean, cuz like puffins. They can they can be like up to six feet deep.

H

Hannah 23:38

Yeah, I'm, I'm sure they have an idea. Like how deep it is. And when they get, like they

E

Erik 23:44

said one of those like, little fiber optic, like things with a camera and they go down and like just grab some poop off?

H

Hannah 23:50

Probably. I don't know. Anyways, so there's a lot of Sciences going on, because tufted puffins in what we call the California current here, are in decline. And we did do an episode about tufted puffins a couple years ago. So if you want to learn more about them, go back and listen to that episode where we interviewed a scientist, one of the board members with that's on there with me, and then a volunteer researcher, so they have much more information about tufted puffins, then we're going to provide right now.

E

Erik 24:22

Yeah, this is this is more about him his adventure, not to my adventure, not about the science of puffins.

H

Hannah 24:29

So this year, they were able to get out and do some surveying which they you know, have issues doing every once in a while because of things like COVID and then like weather conditions and sea conditions and funding. And we were able to help them get this boat surveying going so they weren't able to do it this year

E Erik 24:51
cuz you guys funded the gas for it right?

H Hannah 24:53
I believe so.

E Erik 24:54
Yeah. So it without the Friends of Haystack Rock. There wouldn't have been any fuel for the boat to get out there. Do this survey.

H Hannah 25:00
Yeah, yes. And so because of that, I got to see it on the boat, which is very exciting. They also do helicopter surveys, which seemed pretty cool. So I don't know what I have to do to get on one of these helicopters or

E Erik 25:11
I guess, you have to fundraise more to figure that out.

H Hannah 25:15
Anyways, um, I was lucky enough to fill a seat on a boat survey, and I was actually able to contribute. So I wasn't just along for the ride. Oh, yeah.

E Erik 25:23
Yeah, it's everyone because it was a small boat, like everybody had a job. Right. So

H Hannah 25:27
Boston Whaler, I think is like a 32 foot Boston Whaler doesn't mean anything to me, because I don't know anything about boats.

E Erik 25:36
So those boat aficionados out there, it was a Boston Whaler 32 foot.

H Hannah 25:39
I'm pretty sure. That's what they said.

E Erik 25:42
And then we're gonna get made fun of because like, it was not even a boat. That's not a boat. It's not about type.

H Hannah 25:48
I think that's just a brand of rum.

E Erik 25:51
Chicago whaler, obviously. I don't know. Okay.

H Hannah 25:56
Obviously, we know a lot about this. So I get to Garibaldi, that's where we're launching from, which is about an hour south of us. I got there at about six o'clock in the morning. So it was an early morning for me. I met Shawn who is the the lead researcher on us, NOAA, who is a grad student at Oregon State University, doing tufted Puffin research trying to figure out the food that they the prey that they're after, and what they're successful in getting. And then Alyssa, who's the intern with US Fish and Wildlife Service. So Shawn getting there, Shawn did a great demonstration of all the safety features. I mean, he got an A plus for this. Like he showed us every single safety feature on the boat, including how to get into a survival suit.

E Erik 26:45
So like survival suit, like what they have on like the Deadliest Catch where it's like the whole flotation thing, you climb inside, and it's like, keeps you in like the Stay Puft Marshmallow sort of thing,

H Hannah 26:56
basically. Okay, yeah. So I feel pretty confident that I can get into one of those now, because Sean's great teaching of that. They also brought me a float coat, which I was joking with Alyssa, it made me feel like I was on the Sea Shepherd, because, you know, the

big jackets, and they were Oh, yeah. Yeah. So it's a, which is a great item to have. I had never, you know, been exposed to flow coats before and we've been on pelagics but it's warm. It's puffy acts as a life jacket, and also acts as a little bit of like a padding for on the boat because the boat was rough. So we got on on the water, got the boat going and just went about an hour north. Which, you know, got us up to right outside my door. Like I drove an hour down,

E Erik 27:48
drove down to get on a boat to come right back home.

H Hannah 27:53
But it was so cool. You know, just seeing the coastline from that angle. Because I had never, you know, been out on the Oregon coast like in the water, you know where we live. And so there's all these features that we see normally when we're driving or you know, on the beach or whatever. And I got to see it from the backside.

E Erik 28:11
So Neahkahnie mountain does that look as menacing as from the ocean as it feels like it looks from land?

H Hannah 28:19
It does. But Cape Falcon does not really it was Yeah, it was really weird going into cape Falcon or going past it because there's the marine reserve the cape Falcon marine reserve, and it just did not look like nearly as big like I had trouble picking out where short Sands Beach was.

E Erik 28:35
Oh, really?

H Hannah 28:35
Because it seems like a lot smaller when you're out on the water.



Erik 28:39

That's interesting. Yeah, so that would mean it's a small Cove, but



Hannah 28:42

it is but it seems like really big when you're standing there because I mean, it's like half a mile of beach. So yeah, that was really cool. Got up to Haystack Rock, which you know, Haystack Rock. Oh, big, beautiful rock, which does not look the same on the backside. Like, I mean pull it up. It's like, is that really haystack?



Erik 29:05

That's not the shape it is



Hannah 29:06

yeah. And right when we got there a bald eagle spook the common murre colony and so they just waterfall off the rock into the water. Which was super neat to see but also kind of disappointing because it's like I'm gonna make it all so much harder,



Erik 29:23

because now there's nothing on the rock to count. Yeah.



Hannah 29:27

We did have a couple tufted puffins, like flypast, but we didn't see them up there Burrows, which was a little disappointing And like I mentioned, we all had a job. So Shawn was driving the boat You know, that's pretty important job. One person was counting burrows one person counted birds in the sky in the water. And then third person was looking at the habitats to see if there were invasive species or habitat changes that could have influenced tufton Puffin, nesting or usage of that area.



Erik 30:00

So as your job



Hannah 30:02

it was the the habitat habitat. Yeah. Okay. And I was also supposed to take pictures, but we didn't, there wasn't really any changes to any of them. So we didn't take any pictures. Okay. But it was really cool because they have a tablet that has this computer program on it to enter all that data into Yeah. Which I get like on a, you know, laptop. For me like a laptop is like, Oh, yeah, it has a program, whatever. Like somebody created it. But the fact that it was on a tablet was like super cool to me. It's like, wow, somebody, here's an app developer. So that was really neat. To see Haystack Rock from the backside. I can see all the people on the beach and it's like, haha, I'm out here. You're gonna

E

Erik 30:46

say and I imagine we were all standing on the beach, kind of minding our own business and didn't even care. Now notice, probably not. You're out there laughing at us. And we're just like, doo doo doo doo. We're what we're watching the waterfall of murders. I didn't I didn't actually go out. But we're watching the waterfall of murders and you're watching it and

H

Hannah 31:03

they were flying over us.

E

Erik 31:05

And we didn't even notice you were there.

H

Hannah 31:08

So then we jetted North a little bit further to what's called bird rocks. Here in Cannon Beach is like on the north side of Cannon Beach. And there are other rocks out there that are super cool, but they didn't have any puffins on them either. They had more you know, cormorants and pelicans and, and murre. So then headed back south. And there. I there weren't any other stops.

E

Erik 31:37

Did you see like Rhino auklets or anything we saw?

H

Hannah 31:41

Yeah, sorry. There was a lot of Rhino auklets that were flying past. Okay. And which was

super frustrating because I didn't get a good look at any of them. Yeah, but it's like, I know what they are. I just didn't get a good look. I was really hoping for a parakeet auklet that was like when I go, I would have been super cool. Yeah, so I had Shawn watching out for that. while you're driving, look out for this.

E

Erik 32:01

I don't hit any rocks on the way

H

Hannah 32:03

I was trying to hold on. And, you know, I was fortunate that I had one of those scopolamine patches behind my ear because I don't normally get seasick, but I put one of those patches on my ear because sometimes I do get sick like when I wake up really early. Like I feel you know, sick from waking up too early. I don't know. But I did put one of those patches on and I mean, I had like the best sea legs. I was fine. Well, you're welcome. Thank you. I appreciate it. But poor Alyssa did get very, very sick. So unfortunately, we had to drop her off halfway through because I mean, she just like I felt so bad for.

E

Erik 32:48

So I get really seasick. Yeah, but I'm I guess I'm lucky in my seasickness that I don't get, like the pathetic type of debilitating, debilitating like, just like laying there just like feeling awful. Like, I just get I just get very vomity and it's like, Okay, well, I'll just, I'll do my business. And then I'll go back to birding. And then oh, no, here we go to do my business and then go back to birding. So it's, for me, like, if I take a bunch of Dramamine, then I get really sleepy, and kind of kind of a little out of it. But for the most part, like for me, it's just kind of like, it's this inconvenience on the side that like, all of a sudden, I'm like, Oh, no, leave me alone for a second. And then I go back and everybody look away, everyone look away, I have some business to take care of.

H

Hannah 33:35

And granted, I mean, it was pretty choppy when we are out there. So I could Yeah, you definitely would have been out there. And because it was such a small boat, you know, like you're really subject to a lot of the waves and when we were headed out there, like it was kind of like, like on the waves because we you know, full throttle.

- E** Erik 33:57
See, I don't do it's it's it's when it starts doing the like the three axis, like is the the the pitch, the yaw and the roll you get all three of those going yeah, it's just um, but
- H** Hannah 34:09
and when we were stopped
- E** Erik 34:10
like it definitely was like I can I can imagine if it was chopping when you were driving and then you stop and then all of a sudden you're just going upside down.
- H** Hannah 34:18
And but but part of the cool thing when we went to go drop her off, like we kind of slowed down in the bay right there and like at the headwaters of the bay, and what was really neat was the water coming out of tim mcveigh how like the color differentiation between that and the ocean water where they meet. Yeah, I thought was one of the coolest things I've ever seen because the water coming out of the bay was like this, like light blue color. And then the ocean water was like black. And there was like a definitive line of like, this is Bay water and this is ocean water. And like I've seen pictures of like Brazil like that, like where the Rio comes out in the ocean and how it has this channel have water that goes out and like, you know, I think the real waters like real muddy or something like that. And so that's part of the, the color difference, but this was like the Mississippi or the Columbia, because I know I've seen pictures of those two. Okay, I don't know that I've seen the Columbia.
- E** Erik 35:15
Columbia looks pretty cool. But it's it's like this giant plume that like goes way out
- H** Hannah 35:19
that yeah, that's what this looked like. And it was just so neat to see it like from the water. Yeah, and I don't know that I've ever noticed that when we go on a pelagic at any other place. But I'm definitely going to be looking for that from now on. So it was just really interesting. Yeah, that's



Erik 35:33

that is really cool. Yeah, that that'd be interesting. Because like the what I can picture is I can picture the Mississippi, which I've seen very aerial pictures of that, and it's like a muddy plume coming out. And then the Columbia is like what you're describing, like a, like a clear plume coming out into the, into the deeper, darker water. Yeah. But yeah, it would be interesting to pay attention the next time we go out at other at other places.



Hannah 36:00

Yeah, I mean, I there was like, you could just draw a line in between the two of them. You can pick up a glass of that water and be like, this is gonna be fresh water. Probably not. It's probably still salty, it's brackish. So anyways, we got back on the water. And we went south from Tillamook Bay. And that took us to Cape Meares, which Cape Meares is one of my favorite places on the Oregon coast. Because there's this really beautiful lighthouse that you can just you can go walk through, and it's not very tall. But it's just a beautiful headland and also Bayocean spit, which is the section that's north of Cape Meares. It's a really good birding spot. And it's a fascinating location too, because it used to be a town



Erik 36:45

until it got flooded.



Hannah 36:47

And yeah, until it was abandoned. And so now there's this it's not even like a housing project anymore.



Erik 36:53

I don't think it's there's nothing out there. Oh, there's remnants of structures out there. But it's just like huge sandbar now



Hannah 37:00

that has Yeah, house or that has trees and stuff. And it's like, a five mile long spit that you can park and then like ride your bike into or anything. But I think the reason, and I'm probably wrong here, but I think the reason that the town was, you know, destroyed and abandoned was because of like the building of the jetty.



Erik 37:19

Yeah. So I remember reading this and we're out there a couple years ago that so Bayocean spit they built they built this town. It was supposed to be like a completely self contained, like amazing, like utopia, sort of,



Hannah 37:30

like in the 20s Yeah, there's



Erik 37:31

a long time ago. They built this town on this spit, because it's like, Oh, this looks like a perfect place to build a town and this bit in the middle of a bay. And then when they were developing the entrance to the Bay, they built the North, North jetty first or South jetty. They built one of the jetties first and then that caused the sand that the that they were on to start washing out and the water level to rise. And it was like Oh, geez, so they started flooding everything and everything got like ruined. And then when they built the second jetty to finish to finish the project like 20 years later, they once both jetties were completed all of a sudden all that the sand came back up and all the water receded and they were the everything was exposed again. So it was like, oh, now it's buildable again. But it was just interesting that they just like they they had this house, they had an auditorium they had a school that had everything out there



Hannah 38:21

was like a theater out there



Erik 38:22

all this stuff and then they completely ruined it by building one jetty. And then when they built the second jetty, they re re made the area viable again for building.



Hannah 38:32

Yeah, Atlantis came back up out of the ocean came right back up out of the ocean. So yeah, all the details of that are fuzzy. But it's it's just a really cool party in place. I think we talked about it in one of our episodes, too.



Erik 38:46

I think we've been I think we went out there talked about it.



Hannah 38:48

And Cape Meares is just south of that. And like I said, it's gorgeous. It has this, like you're on top of the headland. And when you walk down to the the viewpoint, so when you walk down to I think it's like a cove but it's like it's like a high, Rocky Cove. So you're like



Erik 39:06

Cove with 200 foot walls. Yeah,



Hannah 39:08

that was insane. Like you're 200 feet above the water, and it's just this big inlet sort of thing. And there's just birds all around. And so that's super cool. And so there's a couple of rocks just off of it that you know, we'd noticed before, but we didn't really ever pay much attention to and those were the rocks that we were serving. Oh, and so there's one called I think it was called pyramid rock. And we did like a big loop around that didn't see any puffins when along the shoreline because these were a lot of these were historic for Puffin borough locations, or they were places that they could possibly be. And so when we're out doing this, we're looking for existing puffins. We're looking at old colonies, and we're looking at potential new colonies and just trying to survey all of the rocks As part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, in the section and about whether or not you know, puffins are present or absent, or were present and no longer there, you know, so just trying to figure out like where the population currently is. Okay. And so we hadn't met Haystack Rock. And we did all of this around Cape Meares with hesalite house, which is neat. And then we, that was kind of the section that we were looking at doing for the day. But because it was about noon, and that's kind of when tufted Puffin, like activity slows down. And so it wasn't really like worth going out looking because they might be there, but you might not see him. Yeah. So we don't want to ruin you know, any data with that. So Shawn did want to go check out three hardrock National Wildlife Refuge, which is the coolest place and someplace that I'd never really even thought about. Yeah, because it's off the shore a little bit. You can see it from Cape Meares. So when you're standing, you know, at the lighthouse, but also there's a section on the south side of that like kind of tree Grove, where there's like this really horrible trail to walk up. It wasn't that horrible. It's just really steep. And like, I feel like the sidewalk was kind of

E Erik 41:15
a very uneven sidewalk. That is it does kind of feel like it's falling off the edge of the cliff.

H Hannah 41:19
Yeah, basically. Anyways, from there you can see three are drop, but it's not as impressive as when you're underneath Three Arch Rock.

E Erik 41:28
Do you think any pictures of this?

H Hannah 41:29
I took a ton of pictures.

E Erik 41:31
Want to post this on the Facebook? Which Yeah, this episode? Yeah.

H Hannah 41:34
And so it's a 15 acre refuge. And Shawn did want to like reinforce with us that this area is close to the public, because of the puppy in sight for stellar sea lion. Yeah. So it's closed because of those things. And because we were doing an official survey with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we were able to make a closer approach than most people can. So please keep that in mind. Unfortunately, it's offshore. So it's not easy to access anyways. And it's close to the public, for public entry your round and waters within 500 feet during breeding season. And we'll post you know, the the refuge website too. So if you want to find out more details about that you're more details about

E Erik 42:18
how you're not supposed to be out there.

H Hannah 42:19
Yeah. But it is really an impressive sight. It's these three large arch rocks that are out in the water. And I mean, they're ginormous. And when we approached them, I saw like 15-20

puffins No, and I were in the boat, and we were like, I mean, he wasn't as excited as I was about it. But it was perfect, perfect. And they were all like flying above us. Yeah. And he's like, yeah, yeah, there's like, he's like, there's like 20 I was like, I felt like nine. So there's a pretty, I mean, not it's not a good sized colony of tufted puffins out there. Is

E Erik 42:59
it bigger than haystack rocks?

H Hannah 43:01
I think so. But we'd have to find out from the survey, whether that's actually true or not,

E Erik 43:05
I saw more puffins there, than I have seen a Haystack Rock in the past couple years. So that's good that they have this protected place, you know, you can go out to However, that doesn't necessarily, you know, mean, the species is like saved because there's a lot of factors that go into why tufted puffins are in decline. Yeah. Which I feel like that's the same with any of any migratory species, like he talked about the birds that fly north and south, migratory, migrate, migrate north, migrate, migrate north to south like they go all the way down to South America, Central America, Mexico, stuff like that, if they're protected really well, the United States, and then they go spend half their year somewhere else. Like they have to be protected really well there otherwise, and this is a thing. So the puffins like, we might protect their breeding spike, breeding spot really well. But then their wintering grounds. Yeah. How well are those protected? Well, how well are they fished? How much? How well, are they stocked full of food?

H Hannah 44:09
Yeah, yeah. Well, and it's not just that either. I mean, like, sure, you know, that habitat might be really good. Yeah, but when they're going out and finding fish for their babies, like the quality of it in the amount of fish isn't necessarily that great. Like they're bringing back a lot of squid for their babies. And I think it's that squid isn't like as nutritious. Oh,

E Erik 44:30
I think it's good to be really good,

H

Hannah 44:32

but Well, maybe I'm wrong. All right. It's there like seeing that there's a change and I'm like, what kind of prey that they're bringing back to their babies. I guess squid are mostly membrane would be like eating a lot of membranes like a lot of water. Yeah.

E

Erik 44:48

It's probably not as fatty is like a fish like a smelt or something.

H

Hannah 44:51

Yeah, I don't know. But anyways, it was we you know, toured around there we have lunch, and then we headed back to Garibaldi Bay. And they were Tillamook Bay, Garibaldi in Tillamook Bay, but that was just one of the neatest experiences, you know, that I've had. I love being out on the water. And I just think it's super cool that we were able to participate in the survey survey with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. So I am very thankful to them. I'm also thankful to the Friends of Haystack Rock for, you know, doing these partnerships and trying to further science about species that we care about. So I think that's really cool. And also our board president Angela, who was, you know, really, really adamant about, you know, making sure that we can participate in things like this. Yeah,

E

Erik 45:40

yeah, that's really cool. I, I really, I envy that the organization, you're part of actually, actually is doing stuff. That I feel like I've been on a number of boards and stuff that are just kind of like, Oh, yeah, we'll talk about doing things. And maybe maybe we'll donate the money that's to this. And we spend a lot of time talking about stuff, but then you guys are actually like, okay, you donated \$7,000 to this project. And then that project has a physical result of your, you have a scientist out there putting transmitters on puffins are trying to put transmitters on puffins, or you're going out there and supplying the fuel to do a survey. Yeah, I just think that's interesting.

H

Hannah 46:21

Yeah. And, you know, it's a completely volunteer board. We don't have any paid staff. So we do what we can in the time that we have available. And, you know, I wish I had more time to commit to it. Hopefully, you know, in the winter, when things slow down, I can commit a little bit more time. There is no more winter. I know things slow down anymore. And now this is this is Cannon beach. new future. I'm just hopeful. So that was a lot of fun.

I really appreciate Yeah, like I said, fish and wildlife, bringing me out with them. And yeah, it was cool. Yeah, so I'm sorry, you didn't get to go. Okay.



Erik 46:57

I do lots of things about myself. I know. I do lots of fun things like I go put out fires and whatever, whatever else I do. Uh huh.



Hannah 47:03

Yeah, I'm just, I'm just like, that's what fires you just go kill puffins.



Erik 47:13

That's, that was your adventure. I



Hannah 47:14

think that's my whole adventure. Yeah, it was exciting. I had, like, you know, monkey legs the rest of the day because I was like, feel like I'm on a boat still.



Erik 47:23

You have your sea legs and you can't get your legs back.



Hannah 47:26

I'm pretty much i love the water. feel more comfortable? Yeah, on the ocean. Except the whole time. I'm still a little scared. It's like,



Erik 47:37

I'm gonna get sick any minute. No,



Hannah 47:38

no, it's like, if this boat floats one thing here. Is this boat goes down what am I gonna do



Erik 47:44

if this boat decides to stop floating? How am I gonna float



Hannah 47:49

it's like, gosh, it's gonna be such a long swim back You know? And that was part of the The nice thing is that we were so close to shore. I had cell phone service the whole time.



Erik 47:57

Yeah, well, I had trouble with password for something. I texted you and you're able to reset the password now? Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, anyways, thank you guys all for listening to our podcast. We hope you enjoyed it and or learn something new. Please, please please rate review and subscribe to us on Apple podcast Stitcher, Google music and anywhere else you listen to us. If you'd like to connect with us on the socials. You can connect with us on Instagram and Hannah goes birding or Erik goes birding. Hannah with an H Erik with a K. Yep. You could also connect to this on our Facebook page. Hannah and Erik go birding, send us an email at Hannah and Erik go birding@gmail.com



Hannah 48:34

check out check out our tiktok at Hannah and Erik Go Birding



Erik 48:38

is a hannah goes birding or is it we go birding



Hannah 48:39

No, I think it's Hannah and Erik on Twitter is out. We



Erik 48:42

go birding. Yeah. And then our website [www go birdingpodcast.com](http://www.go-birdingpodcast.com) lots of different ways to get ahold of us basically go birding is kind of a general theme for all of our stuff. So if you can, if you can find us there you can find us anywhere.



Hannah 48:56

Yeah, and do the bird nerd giveaway



Erik 48:59

Bird nerd giveaway. Yeah. Tag hashtag bird nerd giveaway and get some pictures of you sciencing.



Hannah 49:04

Yeah, so thanks for listening.