

Unprecedented: ‘Cataclysmic’ Die-Off of Birds on Entire West Coast — Beaches Covered with Dead Bodies

By [Global Research News](#)

Theme: [Environment](#)

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[Statesman Journal](#), Jan 2, 2015 (emphasis added): *Why is the beach covered in dead birds?...* “I’ve never seen that many before”... a mass die-off [is] going on along the entire West Coast... “To be this lengthy and geographically widespread, I think is kind of unprecedented,” [said Phillip Johnson of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition].

[Oregonian](#), Jan 6, 2015: Dave Nuzum, a wildlife biologist... said his office continues to field calls from concerned beach-goers who come across a grisly scene: Common murrelets and Cassin’s auklets dead on the beach in great numbers... Oregon is the cataclysm’s epicenter... He doesn’t expect the crush of deaths to let up any time soon... [It’s] up to 100 times greater than normal annual death rates.

[Prof. Julia Parrish, Univ. of Washington School of Aquatic & Fishery Science](#), Jan 6, 2015: This is the worst wreck of cassins auklets that we’ve ever seen on the West Coast...Certainly we are concerned... Is it that there’s less of their food, or perhaps that food has changed its distribution?... How many cassins may actually be suffering in this particular mortality event? We’re working with oceanographers and atmospheric scientists to try and discover whether there’s something in the environment which is signaling a difference, signaling a change. >> [Full broadcast](#)

[Prof. Parrish #2](#), Jan 6, 2015: We’re seeing some adults wash up... The bumper crop [born this year] can’t quite explain [this]... We’re easily seeing tens of thousands, if not actually more... Normally [they] can exist out in the N. Pacific [far] from the coastline over the winter. We think that the population for some reason has snuggled up to the coast... Unfortunately thecassins are the canary in the coalmine for us, so they’re telling us something is going on.To put it mildly, we’re still scrambling to figure out what’s going on with the ecosystem... Of course, everybody always wants to point the finger at climate change. The thing about climate change is it’s a very slow, steady change. >> [Full broadcast](#)

[CBC](#), Jan 7, 2014: More than 100,000 carcasses... have been found... up to 100 times the normal number are washing ashore... “It’s a tragic event... We have never seen a die-off of Cassin’s like this, so that in and of itself says something” [said Parrish].

[CBC News excerpts](#), Jan. 6, 2015:

- [CBC](#): It is a West Coast mystery — a mass die-off.

- *Prof. Parrish*: [It's] certainly indicating to us that there is something wrong.
- *CBC*: Necropsies show no disease, no viruses, no bacteria.
- *Parrish*: Tens of thousands of birds dead on the beach is something that we just can't ignore — we ignore that at our peril.
- [Full broadcast here](#)

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