



## Klamath Waterbirds

Information from the PRBO Conservation Science Education Program website:  
[www.prbo.org/klamath](http://www.prbo.org/klamath)

### Why is the Klamath Basin so important for waterbirds?

The vast Klamath Basin straddles the border of California and Oregon, east of the Cascade Range. Surrounded by the great 'Sagebrush Sea', the wetlands of the Klamath Basin support nearly 80% of the Pacific Flyway's waterfowl, and thousands of shorebirds and other waterbirds. There is so much to learn about the wetlands of the Klamath Basin and the other wildlife that depend on this area.

Migratory birds, like all travelers, need safe and reliable places to rest and re-fuel before continuing on their journey. The wetlands of the Klamath Basin are some of the few that remain to cater to the hundreds of thousands of birds that migrate along the inland portion of the Pacific Flyway. It is also a very important place for many of these species to nest and raise young – some in enormous colonies that are fascinating to observe.

Klamath Basin provides both migratory and resident birds with plenty of food and places to rest to avoid predation. It also happens to be a very important place for birds to nest and raise their young. On this web page you can learn about some of the Klamath's waterbirds that gather in enormous colonies to nest.

The Lower Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1908 and one of six National Wildlife Refuges in the Basin, was the first refuge created for ducks and geese in the United States. To explore all the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges, visit Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge's website: <http://klamathbasinrefuges.fws.gov/>

### What's a waterbird?

"Waterbirds" include many different types of birds, all of which depend on water in their life cycle:

Loons and Grebes

Pelicans and Cormorants

Herons, Egrets and Ibis

Ducks and Geese

Shorebirds

Gulls and Terns

Seabirds

Each of these groups have slightly different habitat, food, and nesting requirements. A healthy and diverse ecosystem provides all of the resources necessary for a variety of species to thrive. Some of the food resources important to Klamath bird species include: a variety of water plants, insects, other invertebrates like shrimp, clams, and worms, and vertebrates such as fish and amphibians.