



## Birding at Abbotts Lagoon

A wide diversity of waterfowl enjoys this protected lagoon, which is accessible via a 1.5-mile-long trail. The route passes a stock pond and takes you between grazed pasture and coastal scrub (composed mostly of coyote bush and bush lupine). While some ducks and grebes winter on the first two lakes, the lower (westernmost) lagoon tends to have the best waterbird diversity. This is also a sensitive nesting area for the federally threatened western snowy plover. Some sections of the beach and dunes are usually closed to entry during the plover nesting season. Please observe the closures and tread carefully on the sandy beaches during the spring and summer months.

### Resident Birds (Present all year - numbers vary)

Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great-blue Heron  
Gadwall  
Mallard  
Ruddy Duck  
Turkey Vulture  
White-tailed Kite  
Northern Harrier  
Red-tailed Hawk  
California Quail  
Virginia Rail  
Coot  
Snowy Plover  
Western Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Black Phoebe  
Common Raven  
Marsh Wren  
Bewick's Wren  
Western Bluebird  
Wrentit  
Common Yellowthroat  
Spotted Towhee  
Savannah Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
House Finch  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Brewer's Blackbird  
Western Meadowlark  
Wood Duck

### Summer Birds

Brown Pelican  
White Pelican  
Heermann's Gull  
Elegant Tern  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Common Murre  
Pigeon Guillemot  
Osprey  
Allen's Hummingbird  
Anna's Hummingbird  
Grasshopper Sparrow  
Caspian Tern  
American Goldfinch  
Chipping Sparrow

### Winter Birds

Red-throated Loon  
Pacific Loon  
Common Loon  
Horned Grebe  
Eared Grebe  
Red-necked Grebe  
Western Grebe  
Clark's Grebe  
Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
American Bittern  
Green-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Mallard  
Northern Pintail  
Gadwall  
American Wigeon  
Canvasback  
Ring-necked Duck  
Greater Scaup  
Lesser Scaup  
White-winged Scoter  
Common Goldeneye  
Bufflehead  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Ruddy Duck  
Golden Eagle  
Northern Flicker  
Cooper's Hawk  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Ferruginous Hawk

### Winter Birds (continued)

Merlin  
Rough-legged Hawk  
Peregrine Falcon  
Prairie Falcon  
Willet  
Black-bellied Plover  
Mew Gull  
California Gull  
Herring Gull  
Thayer's Gull  
Glaucous-winged Gull  
Sanderling  
Marbled Godwit  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Golden-crowned Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
Horned Lark  
American Pipit  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Tricolored Blackbird

### Migrants

Abbotts Lagoon is most known for its fall passage (late June through September) of shorebirds. Forty-two species of shorebirds have been documented here, including rarities like Hudsonian and bar-tailed godwits and sharp-tailed and buff-breasted sandpipers.