

# Now that you are here...

## Where to find the birds!

**Now that you're here in Klamath Falls, you're probably wondering "Where are the birds?"**

### **DOWNTOWN**

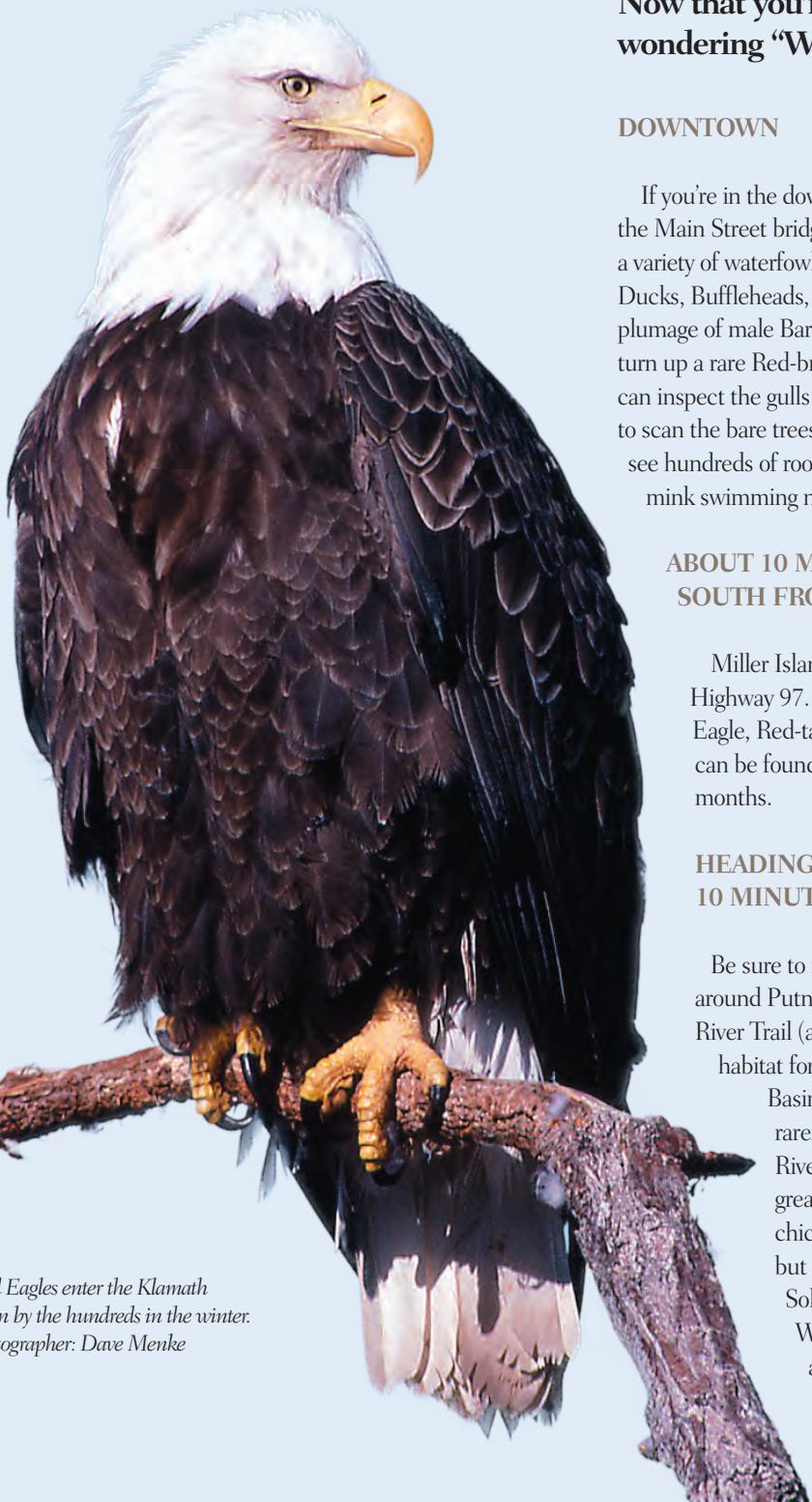
If you're in the downtown area, Veteran's Park on the shore of Lake Ewauna and the Main Street bridge over the lower Link River provide great opportunities to see a variety of waterfowl. You can expect to see lots of Common Goldeneyes, Ruddy Ducks, Buffleheads, Common Mergansers, and Lesser Scaup. The gorgeous plumage of male Barrow's Goldeneyes is always a treat, and a careful look may turn up a rare Red-breasted Merganser or Greater Scaup. More intrepid birders can inspect the gulls around Lake Ewauna for rarities like Thayer's Gull. Be sure to scan the bare trees along the riverbanks upstream of the bridge; you're likely to see hundreds of roosting Black-crowned Night-Herons. Also keep an eye out for a mink swimming near the bridge.

### **ABOUT 10 MINUTES SOUTH FROM DOWNTOWN**

Miller Island Wildlife Management Area is just a short drive south down Highway 97. Watch for Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, and Prairie Falcon. Both Ross's and Snow Geese can be found here, too. Some sparrows may be around during the winter months.

### **HEADING NORTHWEST ABOUT 10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN**

Be sure to make a stop at Putnam's Point on Lakeshore Drive. The water around Putnam's Point and to the south along the north end of the Link River Trail (above the dam) is typically ice-free all winter and provides habitat for an assortment of waterfowl. All of the ducks expected in the Basin during the winter can be found here, and the area often hosts rarer species as well (look carefully!). The northern end of the Link River Trail and Moore Park, just around the corner to the west, are great places to look for winter resident songbirds. Woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, jays, finches, and sparrows are common, but keep an eye out for Hermit and Varied Thrushes, Townsend's Solitaires, the occasional over-wintering Orange-crowned Warbler, or the Northern Mockingbird that has been seen lately along the Link River Trail. Moore Park on Lakeshore Drive is also a decent spot in town to look for Mountain Quail and Great Horned and Northern Pygmy-Owls.



*Bald Eagles enter the Klamath Basin by the hundreds in the winter.  
Photographer: Dave Menke*

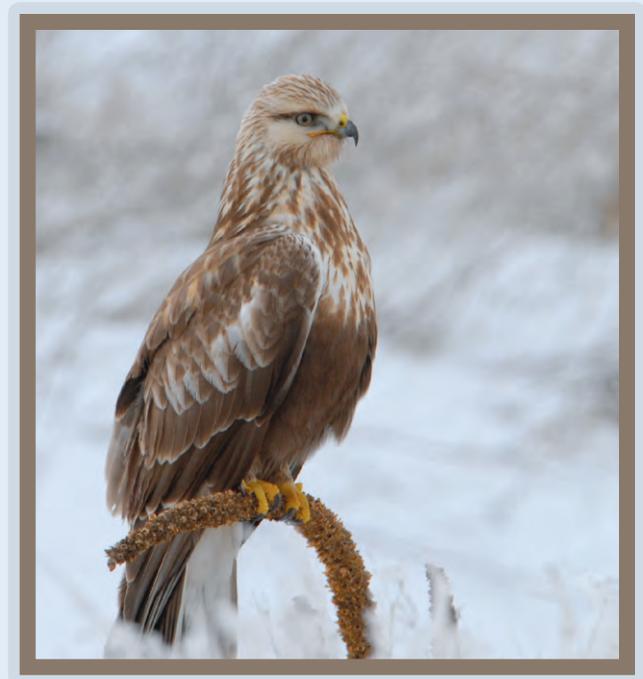


**ABOUT 30-40 MINUTES  
SOUTHEAST FROM DOWNTOWN**

Want to go farther afield? Drive down to the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge to see tens of thousands of waterfowl and a variety of raptors. Tundra Swans and the white geese (Ross's and Snow) are especially abundant here, and Eurasian Wigeons seem to turn up amongst the ducks somewhere every year. Bald Eagles watch from the trees or sit along the dikes or on the ice hoping for an easy meal, and a Peregrine Falcon occasionally puts everything into flight. Other common raptors include Red-tailed, Rough-legged, and Ferruginous Hawks, Northern Harriers, and Golden Eagles. Look carefully at any Horned Lark flocks for Lapland Longspurs.

Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, a bit farther to the east, has a terrific Visitor Center at its headquarters on Hill Road. Stop in to find out what's being seen in the area, and take the Auto Tour route to see thousands of ducks, coots, swans, and geese. Keep an eye out for Sandhill Cranes, and maybe a Black Phoebe, a California Towhee, a Lapland Longspur, or a shrike (Loggerhead or Northern). Check blackbird flocks for Tricolored and Yellow-headed.

There are some great resources for birders heading to the Klamath Basin. Visit [www.KlamathAudubon.org/birds](http://www.KlamathAudubon.org/birds) for general information and to download checklists. If you would like to purchase the Klamath Basin Audubon Society's "A Birder's Guide to the Klamath Basin" contact Audubon at 1-877-541-2473. For more details on the National Wildlife Refuges go to [www.fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges/](http://www.fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges/). The Klamath Basin Birding Trail website – [www.klamathbirdingtrails.com](http://www.klamathbirdingtrails.com) – has detailed information on all the birding hotspots in the Basin.



*TOP PHOTO: A typical February day on Lower Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Photographer: Harvey Abernathy.*

*ABOVE PHOTO: Rough-legged Hawks are another abundant raptor throughout the Klamath Basin. Photographer: Dave Menke.*