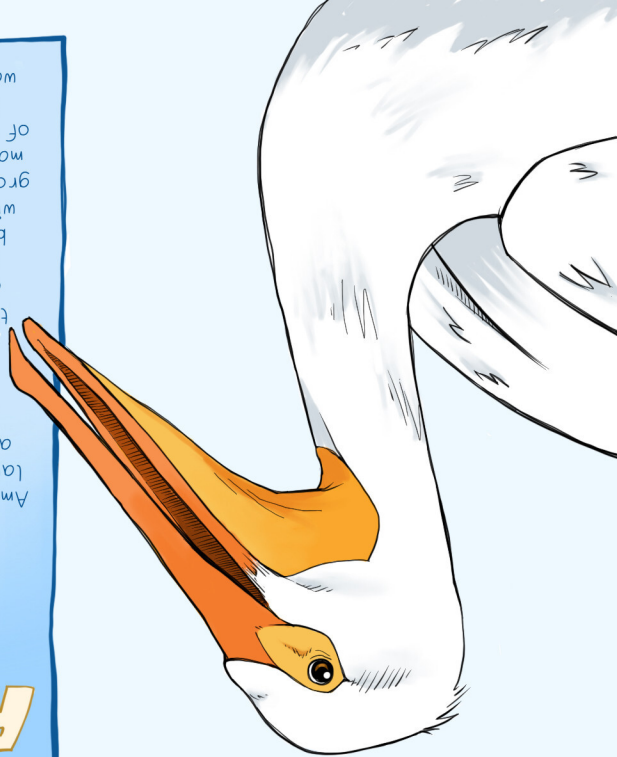


American White Pelican

American white pelicans are one of the largest North American birds, with an average wingspan of around 9 feet. They are able to fly incredible distances with efficiency. Pelicans have large heads and bills with a pouch on the underside of their bills that allow them to scoop their food, also giving them a distinctive long head. They are mostly white, with black secondary feathers on their wings. During breeding season, males grow a projection or horn on the upper mandible at the tips of their bills. Groups of pelicans can be found, and are even known to, herding fish to shallow waters for easy feeding opportunity.



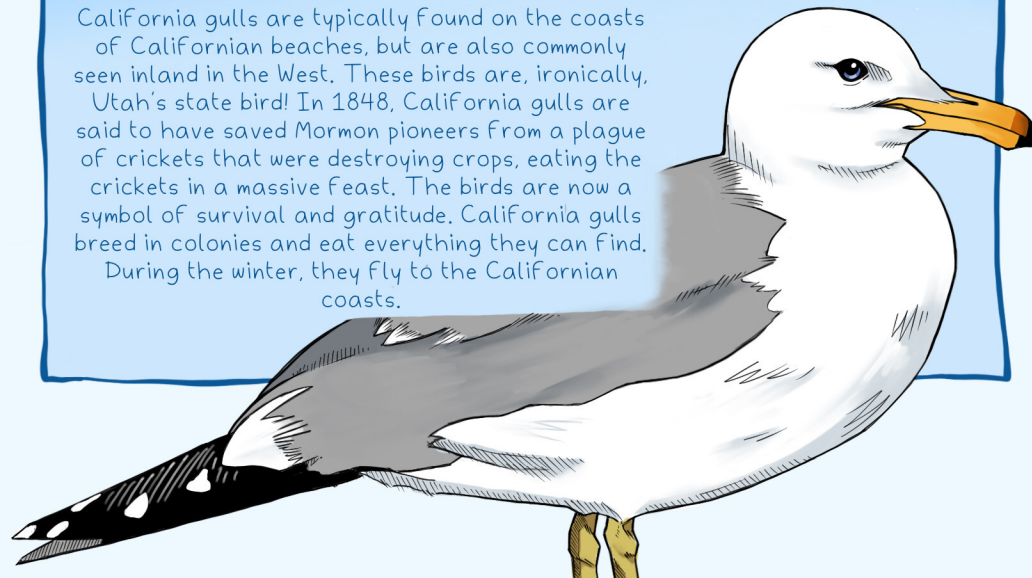
The eared grebe is the most abundant grebe in the world. They fly to North American salty waters and eat brine shrimp. During summer, these birds show with golden-yellow wisps fanning from their cheeks, which then turn gray/white during the winter. Eared grebes look similar to horned grebes, the incentivizing difference being a smudgy cheek patch on the eared grebes and a distinct line between the cap and the cheek of the horned grebes.

Eared Grebe

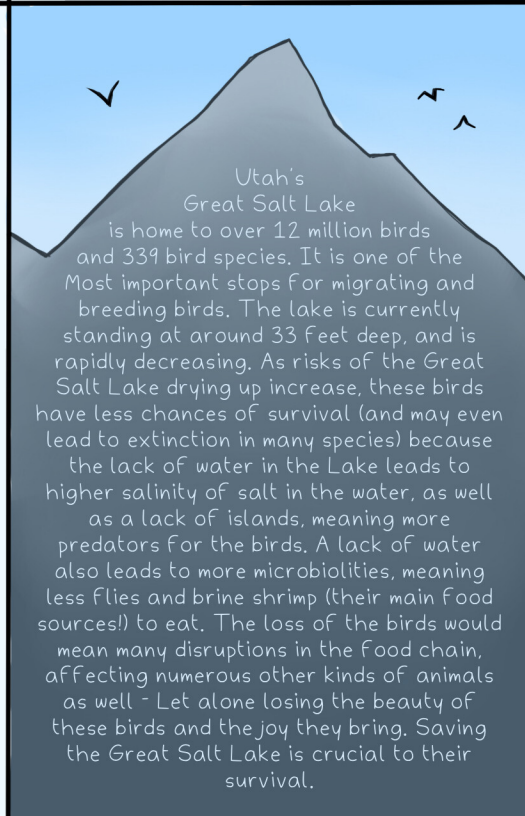


California Gull

California gulls are typically found on the coasts of Californian beaches, but are also commonly seen inland in the West. These birds are, ironically, Utah's state bird! In 1848, California gulls are said to have saved Mormon pioneers from a plague of crickets that were destroying crops, eating the crickets in a massive feast. The birds are now a symbol of survival and gratitude. California gulls breed in colonies and eat everything they can find. During the winter, they fly to the Californian coasts.



Utah's Great Salt Lake is home to over 12 million birds and 339 bird species. It is one of the most important stops for migrating and breeding birds. The lake is currently standing at around 33 feet deep, and is rapidly decreasing. As risks of the Great Salt Lake drying up increase, these birds have less chances of survival (and may even lead to extinction in many species) because the lack of water in the Lake leads to higher salinity of salt in the water, as well as a lack of islands, meaning more predators for the birds. A lack of water also leads to more microbiolities, meaning less flies and brine shrimp (their main food sources!) to eat. The loss of the birds would mean many disruptions in the food chain, affecting numerous other kinds of animals as well - Let alone losing the beauty of these birds and the joy they bring. Saving the Great Salt Lake is crucial to their survival.



Common Birds of the Great Salt Lake

