



# PRBO Conservation Science

## Conservation Education Program Activities

---

**About PRBO Conservation Science** Birds are excellent indicators of ecosystem health; thus, bird study can lead to wise stewardship of local habitats to the benefit of both wildlife and humans. PRBO Conservation Science's 120 staff and seasonal biologists study bird ecology to conserve birds, other wildlife and ecosystems throughout the Western Hemisphere.

**PRBO's Conservation Education Program** uses birds to teach about bird conservation science and responsible environmental stewardship. For over 20 years, our outreach biologists have brought bird ecology and PRBO's conservation science expertise into the lives of thousands of people, including visitors to our many California research stations and K-12 students participating in our classroom and field programs. We offer a variety of classroom and field experiences for teachers and students, and opportunities for the general public to observe science in action at our field stations. Please call 707-781-2555, x 302 for more information!

### 1. Neighborhood Field Studies

PRBO educators meet with teachers and students in schoolyards, parks, and nearby Bay wetlands to observe birds and conduct field studies in local environments. Students learn how birds use the natural areas within their community and about the conservation issues impacting these environments.

### 2. In-class and after-school workshops

We have developed a suite of teacher-approved classroom lessons on bird ecology and other conservation themes. Lesson plans are adaptable to all age groups and include:

- Native Birds of San Francisco Bay
- Feathers & Flight
- Raptor Identification and Ecology
- Nest Cycle of Birds
- Seabirds & the Marine Food Web
- San Francisco Bay Wetlands

We work with the needs of individual teachers to help integrate activities into their curriculum and to address state science standards.

### 3. Teacher Training Workshops & Educational Resources

We collaborate with The Bay Institute's STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed) Project, a network of educators in Marin and Sonoma County dedicated to project-based conservation education. We have trained hundreds of teachers, involved in STRAW's award-winning habitat restoration program, in bird identification and monitoring skills. We also provide free educational resources, focusing on conservation topics relating to birds, for educators on our website: [www.prbo.org/teachbirds](http://www.prbo.org/teachbirds).



#### 4. Songbird Research Site Visits

Hundreds of students visit our research sites in Marin County each year. During scheduled visits students observe as PRBO biologists band, measure, and release the birds back to the wild. During the banding demonstration, our education staff discusses how scientific data is used to understand birds and their ecosystems. Learning is supplemented with hands-on access to bird study skins and banding tools and materials. Early morning is best for catching birds, so please plan to arrive as soon as possible - before 10 AM is best. Please note that the Palomarin Field Station is the only research site with restroom facilities. For more information, please visit [www.prbo.org/palo](http://www.prbo.org/palo).

Songbird Research Sites	Location & Approximate Driving Times	Restroom Facilities
<b>Palomarin Field Station &amp; PRBO Visitor Center</b>	Bolinas, Point Reyes National Seashore. 1.5 hrs. north of San Francisco, 1.5 hrs. west of San Rafael.	On site
<b>Muddy Hollow</b>	Within walking distance of the Clem Miller Environmental Education Center, Point Reyes National Seashore. 1 hr. west of San Rafael.	Clem Miller Center (5 min. drive)
<b>Pine Gulch Creek</b>	Bolinas Lagoon. 1.5 hrs. north of San Francisco.	Bolinas Community Center (5 min. drive)
<b>Redwood Creek</b>	Muir Beach, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, 1 hr. north of San Francisco	Muir Beach parking area. (5 min. drive)
<b>Lagunitas Creek</b>	Platform Bridge Rd & Sir Frances Drake Blvd, Golden Gate National Recreation Area. 40 min. west of San Rafael, 30 min. south of Petaluma.	Bear Valley Visitor Center. (10 min. drive)

#### 5. Palomarin Visitor Center & Field Station

Our visitor center in Bolinas, at the south end of Point Reyes National Seashore, is open 7 days a week and is free to the general public. Join biologists for a morning of songbird mist-netting and banding for an unparalleled opportunity to see migratory and resident songbirds and learn about the science behind bird conservation. *Mist-netting & Bird banding Hours:* May 1-Thanksgiving, Tuesday - Sunday; Thanksgiving-May 1, Wednesdays and weekends. Please visit [www.prbo.org/palo](http://www.prbo.org/palo), and call 707-781-2555, ext. 302 to schedule visits for groups of 7 or more. Please call our banding hotline, 415-868-0655, ext. 395 to determine if nets are open that morning.



**What's New at PRBO?** PRBO's Education Program has a classroom for use at our headquarters in Petaluma! Programs include: bird identification workshops and bird walks at Shollenberger Park. Call to schedule an appointment to explore our teacher resource library! Visit [www.prbo.org](http://www.prbo.org) for more information.