

SHORELINE NEIGHBORS



Yellow-crowned Night Heron

(*Nyctanassa violacea*)



Wading Birds

Wading birds are types of birds with long legs, like herons and egrets. You might spot them near shallow water or in plants by the shore. Herons are usually dark-colored, while egrets are white. These birds build their nests in trees, and they often stand very still—almost like statues—until they suddenly stretch their long necks to catch food!

Read the back of the card to learn more about the Yellow-crowned Night Heron

For More
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Yellow-crowned Night Heron



Scientific Name: *Nyctanassa violacea*

Living shorelines on public and private properties help expand habitats for these animals.

Consider a living shoreline on your property today.

These small herons with long trailing yellow feathers on their heads, migrate and breed in Maryland. Their favorite foods are crustaceans such as crabs and crayfish. Despite their name, Yellow-crowned night herons may be active and looking for food any time during the day or night but mostly within several hours of high tide.

Funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency State Wetland Program Development Grants (CD96390701).

Source: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide

SHORELINE NEIGHBORS

Black-crowned Night Heron

(*Nycticorax nycticorax*)



Wading Birds

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Black-crowned Night Heron



Scientific Name: *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Living shorelines on public and private properties help expand habitats for these animals.

Consider a living shoreline on your property today.

These birds are found year-round in Maryland coastal areas. As their name suggests, they are mostly active at night. Black-crowned night herons eat almost any kind of animal, and some plants as well. They nest in trees and tall sheltered plants like stands of cattails.

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Source: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide

SHORELINE NEIGHBORS

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)



Photo by [Joshua J. Cotten](#)

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Tricolored Heron



Scientific Name: *Egretta tricolor*

Living shorelines on public and private properties help expand habitats for these animals.

Consider a living shoreline on your property today.

This small heron lives year-round in Maryland marshes. Tricolored herons are nimble movers in marshes, running and turning quickly in search of their favorite food of small fish. These birds can also be still and use their wings to create shade to lure fish in closer. Tricolored herons nest in trees or shrubs.

Funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency State Wetland Program Development Grants (CD96390701).

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SHORELINE NEIGHBORS

Snowy Egret
(*Egretta thula*)



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Information:



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Snowy Egret



Scientific Name: *Egretta thula*

Living shorelines on public and private properties help expand habitats for these animals.

Consider a living shoreline on your property today.

These beautiful white birds were nearly hunted to extinction for their feathers, which were used to adorn hats. Some of our earliest conservation laws to protect birds were adopted to due losses of birds like the Snowy egret. As a result of protection, they are again more commonly seen. They are active in seeking prey, using their yellow feet, bill, or wings to stir small animals up from mud so they become easy prey. Snowy egrets migrate and breed in Maryland and can be found year-round farther south.

Funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency State Wetland Program Development Grants (CD96390701).

Source: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide

SHORELINE NEIGHBORS

Little Blue Heron
(*Egretta cerulea*)



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Read the back of the card to learn more about the Little Blue Heron

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Information:**



Maryland
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Little Blue Heron



Scientific Name: *Egretta cerulea*

Living shorelines on public and private properties help expand habitats for these animals.

Consider a living shoreline on your property today.

These birds may be difficult to spot as they like to stay quiet and hidden as they lurk around shallow waters looking for fish and amphibians. They also eat insects, crabs, and other invertebrates. Little blue herons nest in trees and migrate to and sometimes breed in Maryland. Juvenile Little blue herons are white in color and gradually become blue as adults.

Funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency State Wetland Program Development Grants (CD96390701).

Source: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide

SHORELINE NEIGHBORS

Green Heron

(*Butorides
virescens*)



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Green Heron



Scientific Name: *Butorides virescens*

Living shorelines on public and private properties help expand habitats for these animals.

Consider a living shoreline on your property today.

These clever birds make tools of objects such as insects or feathers and drop them into the water to lure fish within range for a strike and a meal! They have partially webbed feet like ducks to help them swim and dive for food. They eat mostly fish and small invertebrates, amphibians, and reptiles. Green herons nest in trees. They migrate to Maryland for breeding and can be found year-round in areas farther south.

SHORELINE NEIGHBORS

Great Egret
(*Ardea alba*)



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Read the back of the card to learn more about the Great Egret.

**For More
Information:**



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Great Egret



Scientific Name: *Ardea alba*

Living shorelines on public and private properties help expand habitats for these animals.

Consider a living shoreline on your property today.

These birds are the second-largest wading bird in Maryland after the Great Blue Heron. Great egrets feed primarily on fish and may stand motionless or stalk prey before spearing it with their bill. Some Great egrets may remain in Maryland year-round while most others migrate, sometimes as far south as South America. Great egrets nearly became extinct as hunters killed them for their feathers but have rebounded with the passage of conservation laws to protect them.

SHORELINE NEIGHBORS



Great Blue Heron
(*Ardea herodias*)



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Information:**



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Great Blue Heron



Scientific Name:

Ardea herodias

Living shorelines on public and private properties help expand habitats for these animals.

Consider a living shoreline on your property today.

These big birds might move slowly, but they can strike fast in shallow water to catch their favorite foods, like fish, frogs, reptiles, small mammals, and birds. They usually nest in groups called colonies, high up in trees, and you can spot them all year in Maryland. When they fly, look for their long necks tucked in close to their bodies.

Funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency State Wetland Program Development Grants (CD96390701).

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