

Seneca Creek State Park

Park Quest

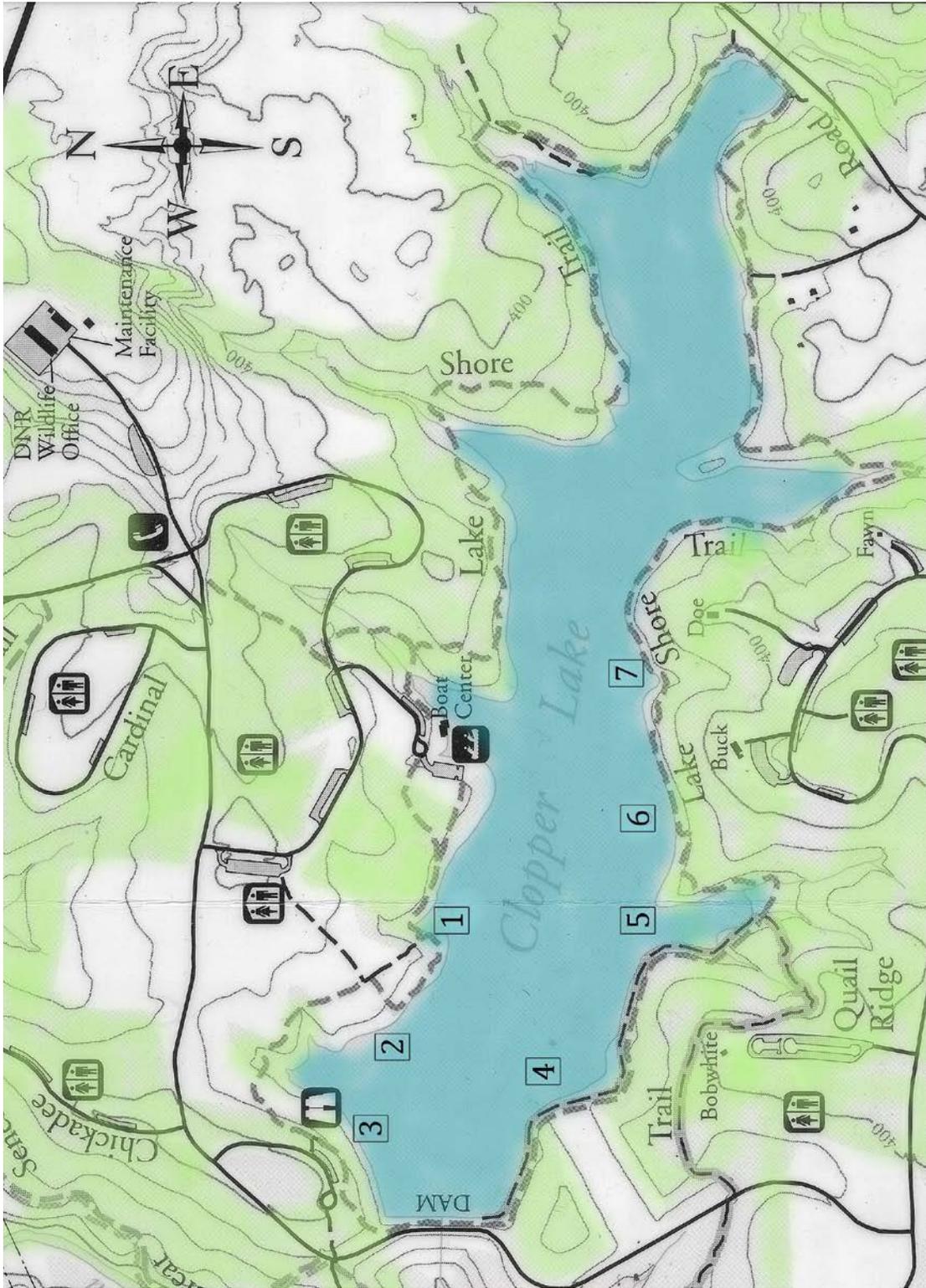
Lake Life

Seneca Creek State Park's Quest will take you on a journey exploring 90-acre Clopper Lake. Clopper Lake is just one of Maryland's many beautiful manmade lakes, and is sometimes referred to as one of Maryland's best kept secrets. This Quest will take you on a canoe trip through Clopper Lake to learn about the different species that inhabit the lake and many other waterways in the State of Maryland.

There are a wide variety of species that call Clopper Lake "home", as well as a number of species that temporarily stop by to enjoy rest and a bite to eat during their long migratory journey north or south. Identifying these different species when observing them in the wild can be challenging. There are a few different methods used to identify creatures in the wild. The physical characteristics of an animal are commonly used in identification. When relying on this technique, be sure to pay close attention to the color or color combination of the specie, the unique size and shape of the body or head, or any other characteristic that may cause the specie to stand out. Another way of identifying species in the wild is to take note of the surroundings. Different species can be determined from the habitat, whether it is aquatic, terrestrial, or arboreal. The season in which you observe the animal may be another helpful tool. Use the characteristics that stand out to help identify the different species along the Quest.

Before starting this Quest, take a few minutes to skim through this booklet and become familiar with the activity and the different species that call Clopper Lake "home". There are descriptions of the species and other facts listed that will help identify the species at each station. Happy canoeing!

MAP



Lake Life Activity Sheet

Begin your quest by nominating someone in your group to be the narrator. Begin reading the transitional paragraphs as your traverse from station to station. Starting at the boathouse the stations are set up around the banks of the lake. You'll find pictures of three different species at each station that you will need to identify. In your packet record the specie name from each station to receive your Park Quest stamp.

- If you experience any difficulties identifying any specie at a station refer back to the identification guide or to the pictures in your packet.
- We have also provided some information about Seneca Creek State Park. If you are interested in finding out more information about the lake or park please contact a Ranger after you complete your Quest at the main office!

Welcome to Seneca Creek State Park! You will be completing your Park Quest on Clopper Lake, a manmade, 90-acre lake that is one mile long and about 45 feet deep near the dam! Though the day use area covers approximately 700 acres, the park overall encompasses 6,800 acres.

STATION #1
Species Name
1.
2.
3.

You are currently at the Expo Field. This area, originally designed to hold a beach, is currently equipped with a tire playground, naturalist shack, comfort station and benches that overlook the lake. Many visitors enjoy playing, picnicking, walking their dogs and contemplating in this area. In the future, the Expo Field may be redesigned as a beach for further recreational opportunities.

STATION #2
Species Name
1.
2.
3.

To your right is the Kingfisher Overlook. This area once held the Seneca Creek State Park campgrounds. However, it was decided in the long term park plan that a day use area would better served the needs of the public in this part of the state. The Maryland Park Service has numerous camping facilities located nearby, including Cunningham Falls, Gambrill, and Greenbrier State Parks.

STATION #3
Species Name
1.
2.
3.

Clopper Lake was constructed in 1975, when the Long Draught Creek was dammed. If you look at the dam, you will see rocks known as “rip-rap” placed there to prevent erosion. To your right is a large open field known as the spillway. This area allows the flood water to exit the lake and rejoin the Long Draught Creek behind the Dam face.

STATION #4
Species Name
1.
2.
3.

Just inside of this cove is an American beaver den. From the canoe, you should be able to see signs of beavers chewing on many of the surrounding trees along the waters edge. Beaver families reside within the park because the wildlife at Seneca Creek State Park is greatly valued. Please do not disturb their habitat during your visit!

Station #5
Species Name
1.
2.
3.

Fishing is very popular at Clopper Lake. The lake is home to a variety of fish including; Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Catfish, Bluegill, Tiger Muskie and Crappie. Private watercrafts are permitted throughout the season and there is a hand launch site available. If you don't own a watercraft you can rent one at our Boat Center, which also sells bait and tackle.

Station #6
Species Name
1.
2.
3.

Located on the banks to your right is an American Chestnut Tree. In 1920 a disease known as the Chestnut Blight Fungus killed off most of the American Chestnut trees that existed in the U.S. In recent years scientists and botanists have cross pollinated the Chinese Chestnut with the American Chestnut to produce a hybrid that is immune to the Blight Fungus.

STATION #7
Species Name
1.
2.
3.

Fish Name: **Tiger Muskie**

Scientific Name: *Esox masquinongy* x *Esox lucius*

Distinguishing Factors:

- Tiger Muskie's are named after their prominent light colored, branching bars on a dark blue-green background; some of the light-colored pattern continues across the back.
- They have 5 to 6 chin pores on each side.

Habitat:

- The Tiger Muskie's habitat varies seasonally, but they prefer deep open water or swallow cover; such as weeds or fallen trees.

Food Preference:

- Tiger Muskie's are carnivores and feed on other fish; such as suckers, fallfish, minnows, and small carp.

Spawning:

- The Tiger Muskie's is a sterile hybrid and they do not reproduce.

Fun Facts:

- In Maryland, the largest Tiger Muskie was caught on the Potomac River and weighed 29 pounds.
- Tiger Muskie's teeth do not mesh to take bites, but are used to simply hold their prey and swallow them whole!

Fish Name: **Channel Catfish**

Scientific Name: *Ictalurus punctatus*

Distinguishing Markings:

- The Channel Catfish has black barbell (whiskers) on their chin. They have four pairs of barbells (whiskers) around their mouth. Two on the chin, one at the angle of the mouth, and one behind their nostril.
- Channel Catfish do not have scales; they do have an adipose fin; which is located in-between the tail and dorsal fin on their back.
- They have a single serrated spine on their dorsal and pectoral fins.
- They are usually gray to greenish-gray on the upper part of their slender body and are silver to white underneath.
- Channel Cats can weigh up to 60 pounds and are one of the largest Catfish species found in North America.

Habitat:

- Channel Catfish live in freshwater and prefer deep pools around logs, rocks or other structure to hide.

Food Preference:

- The Channel Catfish is a bottom feeders.
- They are omnivores; and prefer to feed on aquatic plants, seeds, fish, insects, crustaceans, and on their own larvae.
- Channel Catfish also have taste buds on their barbells (whiskers) which help them find food in muddy waters and at night.

Spawning:

- Channel Catfish spawn in late spring when the water temperature reaches 75 degrees Fahrenheit.
- They select nest site that are in dark depressions, cavities, undercut stream banks, hollow logs, or in man-made containers.
- Spawning success is dependent upon available cover.

Fun Facts:

- The sport fishing world record is a species from South Carolina and it weighed 58 pounds!
- In Maryland, the largest recorded Channel Catfish was caught on the Mattawoman Creek and weighed 29 pounds!
- Channel Catfish are nocturnal.
- Small adults and juveniles have black spots on their bodies; and are sometimes called “Spotted Cats.”

Fish Name: **White Catfish**

Scientific Name: Ameiurus catus

Distinguishing Markings:

- The White Catfish has white barbells on its chin which resemble the whiskers on a cat. They have four pairs of barbells (whiskers) around their mouth. Two on the chin, one at the angle of the mouth, and one behind their nostril.
- They do not have scales, they are blue-ish gray on their back and sides, and are white underneath.
- They have an adipose fin; which is located in-between the tail and dorsal fin on their back.
- They also possess a single sharp serrated spine located on their dorsal and pectoral fins.
- White Catfish can weigh up to 6 pound and can be 24 inches long.

Habitat:

- The White Catfish can be found in freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and in tidal waters that have a salinity of 5 percent.
- They are usually sluggish and can be found on mud-bottoms or in open channels.

Food Preference:

- The White Catfish is an omnivore, and feeds on both plants and animals.
- They generally eat aquatic plants, fish, insect, and crustaceans.

Spawning:

- White Catfish spawn in early summer when the water temperature is about 68-72 degrees Fahrenheit.
- They usually spawn close to sandy or gravel banks.
- The nests are created by both parent fish; they fan the bottom of the lake with their tails to construct their nests. When the nest is complete it usually resembles a saucer shape.

Fun Facts:

- White Catfish are sometimes called “Mud Cats”.
- White Catfish are the smallest species of the large catfish in North America.
- The average size of a White Catfish is about 13 inches.

- The White Catfish has taste buds on their barbells (whiskers) around their mouth. They use these barbell (whiskers) to look for food in dark muddy waters.

Fish Name: **Largemouth Bass**

Scientific Name: *Micropterus salmoides*

Distinguishing Markings:

- Largemouth Bass can be identified by their lower jaw which extends past the back edge of the eye.
- They are dark green and have silver belly.
- They have a dark stripe that runs horizontally across their belly.
- Largemouth Bass have been known to weigh over 20 pounds.

Habitat:

- Largemouth Bass can be found all over Maryland's waterways.
- They like large, slow moving rivers with soft bottoms, and prefer clear water.

Food Preference:

- Largemouth Bass are carnivores; feeding on minnows, perch, sunfish, gizzard shad, small mammals, insects, frogs, and occasionally snakes.
- Adults prefer to feed near water plants or other structures in shallow water.

Spawning:

- The Largemouth Bass spawns in early spring and summer, depending on water temperature.
- The males build saucer shaped nests, and guard the nests from intruders.

Fun Facts:

- Largemouth Bass can live for 13 years.
- The Largemouth Bass is considered the most popular sport fish in the United States.
- In Maryland, the largest recorded Largemouth Bass was caught on the Potomac River and weighed 11.1 pounds!

Fish Name: **Smallmouth Bass**

Scientific Name: *Micropterus dolomieu*

Distinguishing Factors:

- Smallmouth Bass are similar to Largemouth Bass but their lower jaw obviously does not extend to the back of the eye. They have a smaller mouth!
- They are usually brown, bronze, or tan in color.
- They have vertical bars which are usually green or gray in color.
- It usually takes about three to five seasons for a Smallmouth Bass to reach 12 inches in length.

Habitat:

- Smallmouth Bass like cool, clear streams with moderate current, as well, as large clear lakes.
- They prefer gravel or boulder bottoms, some shade and cover, and deep pools.

Food Preference:

- Smallmouth Bass feed on the water surface, the water mass, and off of the bottom of a lake or river.

- The usually feed on insects, fish, or crayfish.

Spawning:

- Spawning often occurs between April and June, depending on water temperature.
- They build saucer shaped nests that can be found on sand, gravel, or rubble, usually close to a boulder, overhead limb, log, stump, or bank.
- The males protect the nest and hatchlings from aquatic predators.

Fun Fact:

- In Maryland, the largest Smallmouth Bass was caught on the Susquehanna River and weighed 6 pounds!

Fish Name: **Bluegill**

Scientific Name: *Lepomis macrochirus*

Distinguishing Factors:

- Bluegills have small mouths and an oval compressed body shape.
- Bluegills are olive green on their upper body and yellow on their belly.
- They have purple and blue markings on their cheeks, with dark vertical bars on their body.
- Males that are ready to breed may have more blue and orange coloration on their sides.
- They are typically 6 inches long, but can grow to 12 inches.

Habitat:

- The Bluegill prefers quiet lakes, ponds, and slow moving rivers and streams.

Food Preference:

- The bluegill prefers spiders, insects, crayfish, fish eggs, and other small fish.

Spawning:

- Spawning occurs between April and September.
- Bluegills like to make nests next to other bluegills nests. Sometimes there will be so many nests that the nest beds touch and look like honeycombs.

Fun Facts:

- Young Bluegill's are usually food for larger fish, birds, and water snakes.
- Many people call bluegills "Sunnies".

Mammal Name: **American Beaver**

Scientific Name: *Castor canadensis*

Distinguishing Factors:

- The American Beaver has thick reddish, brown fur, and a hairless paddle-shaped tail; which they use for steering when swimming.
- The American Beaver can weigh from 30-60 pounds and get up to 40 inches long (including their tail).

Habitat:

- The American Beavers live near rivers, streams, ponds, and lakes.
- They live in lodges; which include a feeding den, a resting den, a source of fresh air, and two underwater entrances in case a predator enters the den.
- Beavers cut down small to medium trees to dam up streams and rivers.

Food Preference:

- The American Beaver is an herbivore, which means they only eat plant vegetation.
- Their diet changes seasonally, in the winter they prefer woody vegetation; and in the spring and summer they tend to eat lush aquatic plants.

Spawning:

- The American Beaver is monogamous; meaning they only have one mating partner during their lifespan.
- They breed in midwinter and could produce two to five kits that will be born in May or June.
- At birth the kits possess fully developed teeth and are covered with thick fur.
- They will remain with the adults as a family or colony group until the second year.

Fun Facts:

- The American Beaver is usually active from dusk till dawn.
- Beavers have transparent eyelids that help them see while they are swimming.
- They are also able to close their ears and nose to prevent water from getting in while they are swimming.
- In one year a single beaver can chop down 216 trees!

Mammal Name: **River Otter**

Scientific Name: *Lutra canadensis*

Distinguishing Factors:

- The River Otter has thick fur, a streamline body, long stiff facial whiskers, and short strong legs with webbed feet.
- They are mostly covered in thick brown fur but they have silver-gray fur on their neck and a tan underside.
- The River Otter has a long tail that is thicker close to body and slims down to a point.
- The average size of a River Otter is 18 pounds and 40 inches.

Habitat:

- River Otters do not build dens; instead they use natural shelters, or old dens from other animals; such as a Beaver.

Food Preference:

- The River Otter feeds on smaller, slower moving animals in the water such as medium sized fish, crayfish, frogs, or water snakes.

Spawning:

- The River Otter breeds in February, and can have a litter of one to four pups.
- The young will remain with the family for about a year, or until the mother has another litter.

Fun Facts:

- The River Otter is nearsighted above the water and uses sound, touch, and smell to communicate with each other.
- They are primarily a nocturnal species.
- Their long, stiff facial whiskers are used to detect their prey's movement in murky waters.

Reptile Name: **Northern Water Snake**

Scientific Name: *Nerodia sipedon*

Distinguishing Factors:

- The Northern Water Snake has a thick body with a round head.
- They have black to reddish brown blotches which may form cross bands on their backs.
- They have reddish brown to orange brown “half moon” shaped markings on their creamy yellow to pink belly.
- Older individuals may appear to have a solid dark coloration.

Habitat:

- The Northern Water Snake can be found by any water source.
- They usually inhabit the shorelines of lakes, ponds, or streams.

Food Preference:

- The Northern Water Snake is a carnivore and feeds on fish and frogs.

Spawning:

- Females give birth in the late summer and can have 8 to 48 snakes in a litter.
- The newborns are grey or brown with bold black bands and are 7 to 9 inches in length.

Fun Facts:

- The Northern Water Snake is often confused with the Water Moccasin (which is not native to Maryland).
- They are not venomous but are very aggressive when cornered or handled!

Reptile Name: **Eastern Painted Turtle**

Scientific Name: *Chrysemys picta*

Distinguishing Factors:

- The Eastern Painted Turtle has a greenish head and neck with wavy yellow lines, and red and yellow stripes on its legs and tail.
- It has a dark shell with red markings around the edge and a yellow under shell.
- Adults can grow to be about 8 to 9 inches.
- Males tend to be a little smaller than females with flatter shells.

Food Preference:

- The Eastern Painted Turtle is an omnivore; meaning that it eats plants and animals.
- Their diet consists of worms, insects, crayfish, tadpoles, small fish, plants, and algae.

Habitat:

- The Eastern Painted Turtle inhabits ponds, marshes, rivers, lakes, and streams of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- They will bask in the sun for warmth but retreat into the lake if spooked.
- The Eastern Painted Turtle hibernates in the winter by digging themselves into the mud.

Spawning:

- The Eastern Painted Turtle breeds from May to July.

- Females dig nests on land that are about 4 inches deep and are close to a water source.
- There are usually 3-9 eggs in a nest.
- The eggs hatch in about 10 weeks and the young dig their way to the surface.

Fun Facts:

- The Eastern Painted Turtle is often confused with the Red-Bellied Turtle. They can be differentiated by the smaller size and yellow head markings.
- Fossils show that the Eastern Painted Turtle was on earth 15 million years ago!
- The Eastern Painted Turtle is a social creature; sometimes you can see a group basking in the sun together.

Reptile Name: **Snapping Turtle**

Scientific Name: Chelydra serpentine

Distinguish Factors:

- The Snapping Turtle has a massive brown or black shell with a pale underside and dark markings.
- They have powerful legs covered with scales, ending with webbed feet and long claws.
- Their tail is longer than their shell.
- The Snapping Turtle's average weight is around 35 pounds although adults have been known to weigh twice as much!

Food Preference:

- The Snapping Turtles is an omnivore; they feed on insects, crustaceans, amphibians, small mammals, ducklings, and aquatic vegetation.

Habitat:

- The Snapping Turtle inhabits ponds, lakes, slow-moving rivers, and marshy estuaries.
- They rarely leave the water except to bask in the sun.
- During the day they bury themselves in soft mud or sand, and at night they forage, actively seeking out prey.
- In the winter the Snapping Turtle hibernates by burying itself in soft mud, inside logs, or muddy banks.

Spawning:

- Snapping Turtles mate between April and November, often returning the same area to nest.
- Females lay 20 to 40 eggs in a three to seven inch deep bowl shaped nest; in an open, sandy spot near vegetation.
- It takes about three to four months for the eggs to hatch.

Fun Facts:

- The Snapping Turtle does not have many predators other than humans, although the hatchlings are vulnerable to hawks, herons, fish, snakes, and other turtles.
- The Snapping Turtle is the bays largest freshwater turtle!
- During hibernation, the Snapping Turtle needs little oxygen; they absorb most of their oxygen intake through their skin.

Year Round Water Fowl

Bird Name: **Pied-billed Grebe**

Scientific Name: Podilymbus podiceps

Distinguishing Factors:

- The Pied-billed Grebe is a small, stocky-bodied Grebe with a short, high arched bill.
- Their feathers have a plumage brown color, and during mating season their bill is bluish white with a vertical black stripe.
- They are usually 9 inches in length and are known for their excellent diving abilities.

Habitat:

- The Pied-billed Grebe inhabits freshwater marshes, lakes, slow-moving rivers, and in winter brackish estuaries.
- The Pied-billed Grebe usually has a floating nest in vegetation, or anchored to logs or dead trees.

Food Preference:

- The Pied-billed Grebe is aggressive, feeding on whatever is available.
- Their diet consists of insects, crustaceans, frogs, and a large variety of fish.
- It takes most food by diving either in open water or among aquatic vegetation.
- Although it does pick up food off of the surface of the water, vegetation, or in midair.

Fun Facts:

- The Pied-billed Grebe is rarely seen in flight, it prefers to escape predators by diving underwater, and it migrates at night and lands in water before dawn.
- Although the Pied-billed Grebe swims like a duck they do not have webbed feet, instead they have lobes on each toe that extends out to provide a wider surface for swimming.

Bird Name: **Mallard**

Scientific Name: Anas platyrhynchos

Distinguishing Factors:

- The male Mallard has a green head with a yellow bill; they have a white neckband with a brown chest and a gray body.
- The female Mallard is brown in color and has a purple-blue wing band that is visible on their side.
- Both the male and female have orange legs.
- Their average size is about 26 inches in length.

Habitat:

- Mallards can be found in any kind of waterway including, freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, and in saltwater and brackish waters.
- They prefer shallow waters for feeding but can be found in open water as well.

Food Preference:

- The Mallard is a dabbling duck; which means that they dip their heads under water in search of their prey but do not completely dive under the surface of the water.

- They also feed off of the surface of the water.
- Their diet consists of fish, crayfish, amphibians, and aquatic plants.
- They also graze on land eating grains and plants.

Fun Facts:

- Mallards are thought to be the most abundant duck on earth!
- They can be found throughout Asia, Europe, and North America.
- Male mallards are called “Drakes”.

Bird Name: **Canada Goose**

Scientific Name: *Branta canadensis*

Distinguishing Factors:

- The Canada goose is a large water bird with a long neck, large webbed feet, big body, and a wide, flat bill.
- They have a black head and neck, white chinstrap, tan breast, and brown back.

Habitat:

- The Canada goose inhabits anywhere near pond, lakes, rivers, or any other water body.
- They also inhabit lawns, park fields, and farm fields.

Food Preference:

- In the spring and summer the Canada goose feeds on grasses and sedges.
- In the fall and winter they rely on berries and seeds.
- Two subspecies of the Canada goose has adapted and feeds on domesticated grasses year round.

Fun Facts:

- The oldest known Canada goose was 30 years old.
- The Canada goose practices “assortative mating” meaning birds of both sexes choose mates of the same size.
- In the 1900’s the Canada goose was almost pushed to extinction, but programs to reestablish the species has been so successful that now they are considered to be a nuisances in urban and suburban areas.

Bird Name: **Wood Duck**

Scientific Name: *Aix sponsa*

Distinguishing Factors:

- Maryland’s most colorful duck; the Wood Duck has plumage in shades of green, purple, burgundy, and red eyes. The males are much more colorful than the females.
- The males’ head is green and purple with a white throat.
- The female’s head is mostly brown and gray with white around the eyes and throat.

Habitat:

- The Wood Duck can be found in freshwater lakes, stream, wooded swamps, and freshwater marshes.
- They are Maryland’s only cavity nesting duck; they prefer to nest in tree cavities or manmade boxes which are out of reach of predators.

Food Preference:

- The Wood Duck is a surface feeder and will tip its back end up to feed under the surface of the water.
- Their diet consists of; insect, crayfish and other water invertebrates, seeds, fruit, and acorn.

Fun Facts:

- They are very sought out by hunters; In the Atlantic and Mississippi flyway the Wood Duck is only second to the Mallard in bird shots.

Fishing Birds

Bird Name: **Great Blue Heron**

Scientific Name: Ardea herodias

Distinguishing Factors:

- The Great Blue Heron is a large bird that has a thin white head on a long neck and a blue body.
- They have long legs and can stand up to 4 feet tall with a wing span of 7 feet.

Habitat:

- The Great Blue Heron lives by fresh and salt bodies of water.
- They can be found along the edges of streams, pond, lakes, bays, and rivers.
- They nest close to each other in colonies called “rookeries”.

Food Preference:

- The Great Blue Heron’s long pointed bill helps them catch insects, mice, fish, crayfish, snakes, frogs, and other small animals.

Fun Fact:

- The Great Blue Heron can fly 20-30 miles per hour!
- Eight other species of Herons live in Maryland; Little Blue Heron, Tri-Colored Heron, Green Heron, Black Crowned Night Heron, Yellow Crowned Night Heron, and three White Herons – the Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, and The Great Egret.

Bird Name: **Belted Kingfisher**

Scientific Name: Ceryle alcyon

Distinguishing Factors:

- The Belted Kingfisher is bluish-gray above with a white belly and a white ring around the neck.
- Males have a bluish-gray breast band and females have a brown belly band to go along with the breast band.
- The Belted Kingfisher looks top heavy due to its large head and long sharp bill.

Habitat:

- The Belted Kingfisher is usually seen patrolling the shorelines around rivers, streams, and lakes.
- They are territorial and have favorite perches where they look for fish.
- They live alone except for while they are breeding. The male and female dig a tunnel into the banks of sand, gravel, or clay which can be up to 7 feet long with a chamber in the bottom for the eggs.

Food Preference:

- The Belted Kingfisher's diet consists mostly of fish.
- Although they do feed on crayfish, salamanders, lizards, mice, insects, and berries.

Fun Facts:

- The Belted Kingfisher is very territorial, and can be seen chasing other birds.
- They are known for their spectacular dives into water, usually resulting in the catch of a fish!
- During breeding season it is not uncommon for a Belted Kingfisher to share its tunnel with swallows that make rooms off the walls of the tunnel.

Bird Name: **Double-crested Cormorant**

Scientific Name: *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Distinguishing Factors:

- The Double-crested Cormorant is a large water bird that has a small head and a long kinked neck.
- They have thin, strongly hooked bills.
- Adults are brown-black with a small patch of yellow-orange skin on their face. Young Double-Crested Cormorants are browner overall.
- During their mating season they develop a small double crest of stringy black or white feathers.

Habitat:

- They are widespread throughout North America and inhabit inland lakes, and breed by the coast.
- They also inhabit lagoons, flooded timber area, or large ponds.
- They nest in trees as well as on the ground.

Food Preference:

- The Double-crested Cormorant's diet consist many of fish.
- They also eat insects, crustaceans, and amphibians.

Fun Facts:

- They have impressive fishing techniques. They dive and chase fish underwater.
- When a Double-crested Cormorant catches a crustacean they hammer and shake their prey until its limbs fall off and toss it into the air, catching it in their mouths to swallowing it headfirst.
- From a distance, Double-crested Cormorant's look like a dark birds, but up close they are quite colorful, having an orange-yellow skin on their face, aquamarine eyes that sparkle like jewels, and blue on the insides of their mouth.
- They are often seen standing in the sun with their wings spread out to dry. They have less preen oil than other water birds making it easier for their feathers to get soaked.
- The Double-crested Cormorant's nests are bulky, usually incorporating sticks, rope, deflated balloons, fishing nets, plastic debris, and other junk. The nests are also usually in direct sunlight so the Cormorant's will cool the nest by shading the chicks and bring water which they pour from their mouths into the chicks.

- The oldest known Double-crested Cormorant was more than 22 years old. It was banded in Ontario in 1984 and found in Louisiana in 2006.

Migratory Birds

Bird Name: **Bufflehead**

Scientific Name: *Bucephala albeola*

Distinguishing Factors:

- Male Buffleheads have a large white patch across the back of their head that extends from cheek to cheek.
- The rest of their head is black with an iridescent green and purple sheen and their bill is light blue-gray.
- The neck, breast, belly, and sides are white and the back and rump are black.
- Their wings are black with a white patch and their legs and feet are pink.
- Female Buffleheads have a brownish head and neck except for an oval white patch that extends from below the eye to the neck.
- The breast, side, and flanks are dark gray, their back is black, their belly is whitish, and their tail is brownish-gray.
- Their bill is dark gray as well as their legs and feet.

Bird Name: **Ring-necked Duck**

Scientific Name: *Aythya Collaris*

Distinguishing Factors:

- The male Ring-necked Duck has a deep black iridescent head, neck, breast, and upperparts.
- Their belly and flanks are whitish to gray with a distinct triangular white wedge extending upward in the area in front of the folded wing.
- Their bill has a white border around the base and a pale white band behind the black tip.
- Female Ring-necked Ducks have a brown head with a black crown, light brown cheeks and chin and a white eye ring.
- Their neck, back, sides, and flanks are brown and their belly is white.
- A narrow white line extends from the eye to the back of the head.
- Their bill has a faint white band near the tip.
- Both the male and female legs and feet are bluish-gray.

Bird Name: **Hooded Merganser**

Scientific Name: *Lophodytes cucullatus*

- The male Hooded Merganser has a large white crest on the head surrounded by black.
- The top of the head, neck and back are all black, and the chest, breast and belly are white.
- Wavy black lines can be seen on the sides and flanks.
- The hindback, rump and tail are dark brown.
- Their long, narrow, serrated bill is black and their legs and feet are dull yellow.

- The female Hooded Merganser has a gray-brown head and neck with a reddish-brown crest.
- Their neck, chest, sides and flanks are gray, and their back, rump and tail are brownish-black.
- Their upper bill has a black-edge with orange and the lower bill is yellow.
- The legs and feet are greenish in color.



Tiger Muskie



Channel Catfish



White Catfish



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Bluegill



American Beaver



River Otter



Northern Water Snake



Eastern Painted Turtle



Snapping Turtle



Pied-billed Grebe



Mallard



Canada Goose



Wood Duck



Great Blue Heron



Belted Kingfisher



Double-Crested Cormorant



Hooded Merganser



Bufflehead



Ring-Necked Duck