

- Stands and waits for prey in shallow water
- Photo shows adult; juveniles are white
- Mostly solitary, rests and roosts in mixed colonies

Fun Fact: The Little Blue Heron is the only heron that looks completely different as a juvenile versus as an adult.

Little Blue Heron
Egretta caerulea



Belted Kingfisher
Megasceryle alcyon



Fun Fact: To avoid being eaten by hawks, they will dive into the water.

- Perches along pond edges, hovers above water, pierces fish with thick bill
- Photo shows adult male; females have two bands across chest
- Solitary unless breeding, pairs nest in burrows

BIRDS of the SEEP

What are Wetland Birds?

These are birds that rely on wetland habitats for feeding and breeding. They are also important indicators for the health of wetlands they inhabit.

Why is NATL habitat beneficial for these birds?

NATL provides wading birds with wetland foraging habitat, water, and shelter.

What do wading birds do for NATL?

The wading birds of the SEEP play significant roles in the environment. By consuming small fish, aquatic insects, and amphibians, they help regulate the food web. This prevents overpopulation of smaller wildlife and ensures a balanced ecosystem.

Snowy Egret
Egretta thula

Fun Fact: The Snowy Egret was hunted almost to extinction in the early 1900s for its beautiful feathers which were used to make ladies' hats.



- Stirs up water with feet, chases prey with outstretched wings, and stalks along edge of water
- The bill will turn green in the breeding season
- Solitary, will nest in groups

Wood Stork
Mycteria americana



- Walks with its head down and curved beak open
- Photo shows adult; juveniles have a pale bill and grayish feathers on the neck
- Forages in groups and forms pair bonds

Fun Fact: The Wood Stork is the only stork that breeds in the United States.

Anhinga
Anhinga anhinga

Fun Fact: It has a long tail that accounts for its nickname the "water turkey."



- Swims and dives to catch prey with dagger-like bill
- Photo shows male; females will have a pale head, neck, and breast with a dark belly
- Solitary, aggressive towards others

White Ibis
Eudocimus albus

Fun Fact: The White Ibis is the mascot of the Miami Hurricanes due to the bird's reputation as the last to leave a hurricane but the first to return.



- Sifts water and probes the ground for prey using long, curved beak
- Photo shows adult; juveniles have dark plumage
- They nest and forage in large groups