

Birds-eye view from the Viking's Den, Huron Lagoons Marina (Page 1)



Great Blue Heron: Our largest heron. Feeds on fish, rodents, etc. Some stay over winter.



Great Egret: Like great blue heron, nests and roosts in trees. Goes south in winter.



Black-crowned Night-heron: Often active at night, making variety of squawks and grunts. Nests in colonies in trees.



Double-crested Cormorant: Over-abundant nester on some Lake Erie islands. Fish eater.



Bald Eagle: Only 4 nests in Ohio in 1979; almost 300 nests in 2011. Young birds lack white plumage.



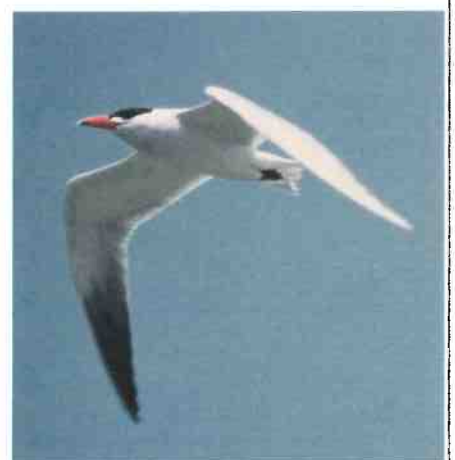
Green Heron: Our smallest heron; secretive.



Ring-billed Gull: Our most common gull; nests with herring gulls on roofs & break walls. Eats almost anything it can swallow.



Herring Gull: Larger than ring-bill. Pink legs. Like ring-bills, young birds are brown. Can live over 25 years



Caspian Tern: Largest tern; found worldwide. Distinct red bill. Dives from air for fish.

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Belted Kingfisher: Noisy bird with undulating flight over water. Nests in burrows along river bank. Some stay over winter.



Mallard: Our most common duck. During summer molt, male and female look similar. Over 4 million shot by hunters/yr, USA.



Wood duck: Male has breathtaking plumage. Feeds on acorns, forest fruits. Nests in holes in trees. Newly hatched young “parachute” to ground.



Red-winged blackbird: Our most abundant bird. Feeds in cornfields in late summer. Forms huge winter roosts in south. Female looks like large sparrow.



Turkey Vulture: Soars with wings held in “V” shape. Population thriving because of abundant road kill. One of few birds with a good sense of smell.



Cliff Swallow: Nests under Cleveland Rd & Rte 2 bridges. Orange rump. Other swallows are **Barn** (forked tail), **Tree** (white throat), **Bank** (breast band), **Rough-winged** (brown) & **Purple Martin**. **Chimney Swifts** (“flying cigars”) also join the insect-eating crowd!



Red-tailed Hawk: Our most common Buteo (soaring) hawk. Prefers rodents. Juveniles have brown tails. Present all year.

The Huron River estuary in the western basin of Lake Erie provides food and shelter to an incredible abundance of bird life. I have personally recorded over 175 species of birds in the neighborhood of Huron Lagoons Marina. In addition to the birds depicted here, you may catch a glimpse or hear the call of an Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Great Horned or Screech Owl, Pied-billed Grebe, Blue-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Spotted Sandpiper, Killdeer, Sora, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Baltimore or Orchard Oriole, Common Grackle, Song Sparrow, or even an American White Pelican, to name a few. Of course, House Sparrows, European Starlings and Canada Geese are usually around to greet visitors!

Lake Erie and the adjacent marshlands are an international treasure. Let's all do our part to protect this resource. Give a hoot and don't pollute! **Richard Dolbeer, Dolbeer Wildlife Consulting, LLC.**