

Fish on the Fly

All types of fish-eating birds are attracted to Owls Creek. These birds have developed a variety of adaptations and unique hunting styles to help them catch their prey. How many of these birds below can you find as we head out to the ocean? We've provided you with clues as to where you may find them.

Look Up in the Sky



Osprey

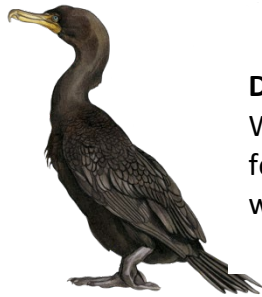
Osprey will fly above looking for fish. When they find their prey, they dive down to the surface and capture fish in their strong, sharp talons.



Belted Kingfisher

Kingfishers will dive headfirst to the surface to catch small prey with their beak.

Scan Along the Water's Surface



Double Crested Cormorant

Will dive from the surface of the water and use their web feet swim and chase after fish. Once they capture their prey with their beak. They return to the surface to swallow it.

Look Along the Shoreline



Great Blue Heron

Walk slowly along the shallow shore and will attack any fish within striking distance.



Great Egret

Walk slowly along the shallow shore and will attack any fish within striking distance.



Yellow Crowned Night Heron

Sits quietly on the shore, docks, rocks and low tree branches waiting for small fish to swim by.



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Guiding Questions

- Are there any other birds in Owls Creek that hunt like the Osprey?

Bald Eagle

- What type of fish might the osprey be hunting?

Croaker, Menhaden, Mullet, Trout

- Can you hear the osprey call?

- Do kingfishers hunt for the same fish as Osprey?

Small fish like anchovies and silversides

- Can you hear the kingfisher call?

Sometimes they will make a loud chatter when flying

- What type of fish might the cormorants be hunting?

Spot, Croaker, Trout, Eel

- Why do you suppose the cormorant is spreading its wings?

To maximize their ability to swim underwater, cormorants do not use their preen gland to waterproof their feathers. They need dry feathers to fly.

- How do herons and egrets effectively stalk their prey?

They stand completely still and move very slowly when they stalk. Their legs camouflage with the cordgrasses. Their feathers blend in with the grasses and trees or the bright sky

- Besides fish, what do you think the herons and egrets eat?

Shrimp, fiddler crabs, frogs, turtles and snakes

- Which of these birds have you spotted and where?

