



# Birds of the Creeks and Marshes

WINDSOR CASTLE PARK  
Smithfield, Virginia

The birds illustrated in this brochure find their food, shelter, resting or nesting areas in or along the park's creeks and marshes.

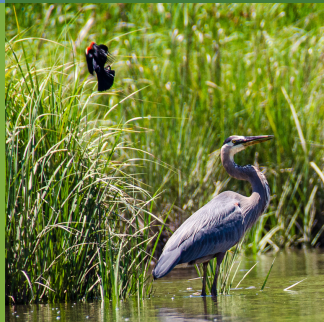
## Red-Winged Blackbirds

One of the first birds that visitors encounter is the Red-Winged Blackbird.

Look for the vocal and active males with their bright red badges, as you cross the bridges over the marshes.



Red-Winged Blackbirds fiercely defend their territories against larger predators. This Great Blue Heron has strayed too close to this blackbird's nesting area.



## WINDSOR CASTLE PARK



Windsor Castle Park is a 208-acre riverside park located in the heart of downtown Smithfield.

For more information on the wildlife in the Park, visit:  
[www.natureinwindsorcastlepark.com](http://www.natureinwindsorcastlepark.com)

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## Double-crested Cormorants



Cormorants float low on the water and dive down in search of fish. After diving they spend long periods on branches and docks with wings outstretched to dry.

## Greater Yellowlegs



Greater Yellowlegs search for food as they stride along mudflats and marshes, moving head down with their bills plowing through the mud to scoop up invertebrates.

## Red-Breasted Mergansers



Red breasted mergansers also forage for fish by diving and swimming underwater. They are among the fastest of flying ducks.

# Great Blue Herons

There are several varieties of herons that inhabit the creeks and marshes in Windsor Castle Park. The largest and most common is the Great Blue Heron.

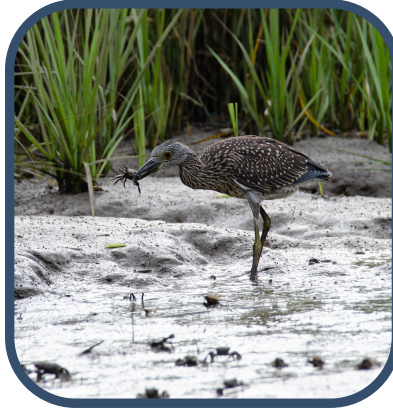


Great Blue Herons feed on fish, shrimp, blue crabs, aquatic insects, rodents, and other small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds.

Great Blue Herons often build their nests in the tops of tall pines along Cypress Creek near the fishing pier.



# Other Types of Herons



This juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron has plucked a fiddler crab on the shoreline of the marsh along Cypress Creek.



A young adult Black-crowned Night-Heron surveys its territory from one of the large trees in the park that tower above the shoreline of Cypress Creek.



Green Herons are often hard to see as they move along the edges of shallow waterways or stay concealed in vegetation along the shoreline. This heron was foraging along Little Creek inside the park.

# Great Egrets



Great egrets were almost hunted to extinction for their fine plumage in the 1800's. Their numbers have recovered and these beautiful birds can be seen at the park, wading along the shoreline searching for prey.



The egret forages by waiting for fish or other aquatic prey to come within range of its long S-shaped neck and spear-like bill.

