

Coastal Birds Bingo



Common Eider



Snowy Egret



Double-Crested
Cormorant



Red-Winged
Blackbird



Herring Gull



Mallard



Great Blue Heron



Canada Goose



Great Black-Backed
Gull

Take pictures of your findings and share them with us!

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@maritimegloucester



@MaritimeGlou



programs@maritimegloucester.org

Did You Know?

Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) are recognized by their white head, and gray wings with black wing tips with spots. They have yellow eyes and pink legs. Juveniles are born brown and turn grey in 2-3 years. The orange spot on its beak is a visual clue for chicks to peck at when hungry. They are scavengers and will eat many things including small fish and invertebrates as well as human food!

Great Black-Backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) are one of the largest and more aggressive gulls in the world. Similar in looks to the herring gull their legs are a paler pink and its back is black with a gray patch under its wing. In the 1800's these gulls were hunted for their feathers to make "fashionable clothing".

Common Eiders (*Somateria molissima*) are the largest ducks in North America weighing up to six pounds. They are excellent divers, but often are not so graceful when taking off for flight. The scientific name means "softest down body" and humans collect their soft down from empty duckling nests to add warmth to clothing. Recognize the eiders with their smooth sloping forehead; males mostly white with a black crown, and females a rusty brown overall.

Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) are known as "dabblers" floating on water and dabbling or dipping their beak to eat aquatic plants and invertebrates in both fresh and salt water wetlands. Very abundant and easy to recognize, the male or "drake" has a glossy green head with a white neck ring while the female or "hen" is mottled brown over all. They have been recorded flying as fast as 55 mph and at an altitude of 10,000 feet.

Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) are small white herons with a slender black bill, black legs and yellow feet or "golden slippers". Found in coastal waters, shallow estuaries and salt marshes, they feed by shuffling their feet on the bottom to spook their prey from hiding. Look for them roosting in the early evenings in the trees on Ten Pound Island.

Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) fly with their long neck folded back in an "S" shape over its shoulders. Despite their 6-foot wingspan and standing 3-4 feet tall, they are a slight bird weighing only 5-6 pounds. They eat mostly fish, but will eat anything in striking distance of its long beak. They nest in "heronries" or colonies in trees near the water sometimes up to 100 feet off the ground!

Red-Winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) are medium sized songbirds found both inland feeding mostly on insects, grain and seed. Traveling as many as 800 from their winter habitat, they are an early season migrator to our coast arriving to wetlands by mid- March to breed. They weave their nests from grasses and wet leaves, fill with dried mud and line it with fine grass. The male displays brilliant red patches on his wings while the female is mostly mottled brown.

Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) are the most widespread geese in North America. Known for their 'honks' and their "V" formation in flight they enjoy many of the habitats that we do with grass, water and open areas to scan for danger. Once they find a mate, they stay together for life and families can form groups from 20-200 that move and feed together.