

Great Blue Heron



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GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

GREAT BLUE HERON

Ardea herodias

ORDER: Ciconiiformes

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 39 - 52 inches, a large wading bird; wingspan up to 72 inches.
- ◆ beautiful blue-gray bird with long neck curved in flight
- ◆ the bill is long and stout; the adult male has a long black plume on it's head.



Where to Look

Great Blue Herons are often seen wading in and around lakes, ponds, rivers and creeks, marshes and other wetlands.



What It Eats.

Great Blue Herons feed primarily on fish, but will also eat amphibians and other aquatic animals.



Nesting

Great Blue Herons nest in colonies of Herons and other wading birds. They build nests of sticks placed high in trees.



Call or Song

Great Blue Herons produce a croak, usually when they are startled or alarmed.



Migration?

The Great Blue Heron is a year round resident of Georgia.



Did You Know

Great Blue Herons sometimes build their nests over alligator holes in the swamp. The alligators serve as protection from nest predators like raccoons.