

HABITAT

- Tidal Saltwater - Freshwater Marshes
- Managed Wetland Impoundments
- Lakes, Ponds, Rivers, Streams, and Upland Prairies & Fields

Sandhill crane



Juvenile



- Great Blue Herons have a black-and-white head, a larger, more dagger-like yellow bill, and a black-bordered stripe down the center of the neck. They lack the drooping “bustle” at the tail. They fly (and often stand) with their head folded back. GBHE is more slender and elongate.







Whooping crane



Some herons and egrets are white, but are smaller, have completely white wings, and fly with folded necks.



juvenile



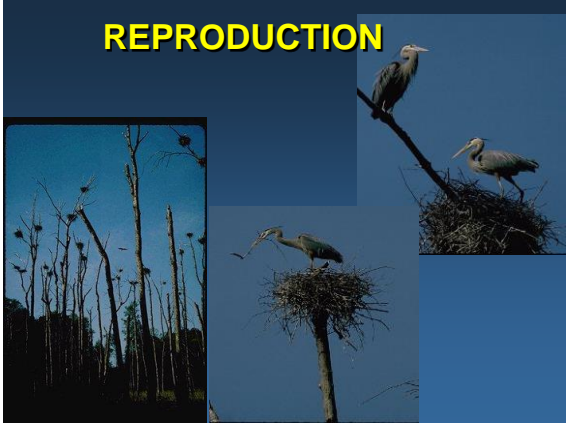
HERONS & EGRETS



Great blue heron











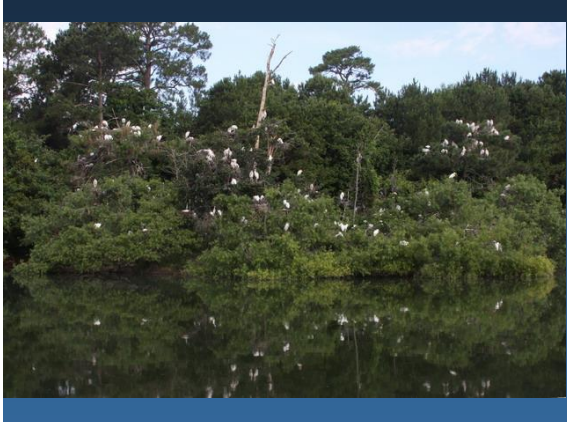
Green heron









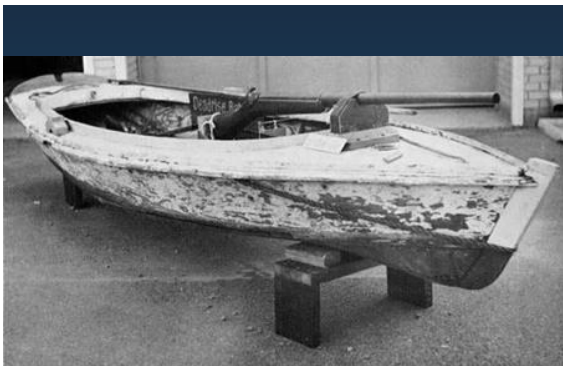


BRIEF HISTORY



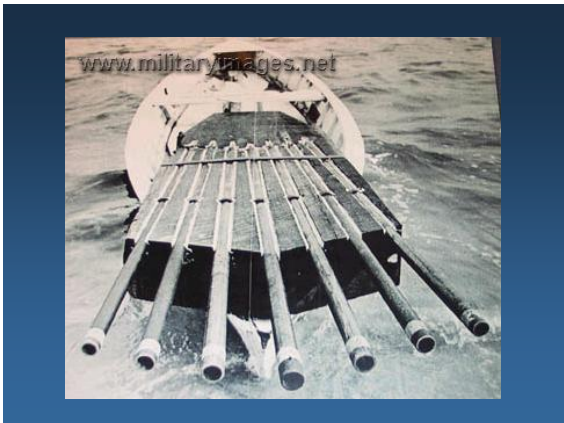
Pictures NOW!

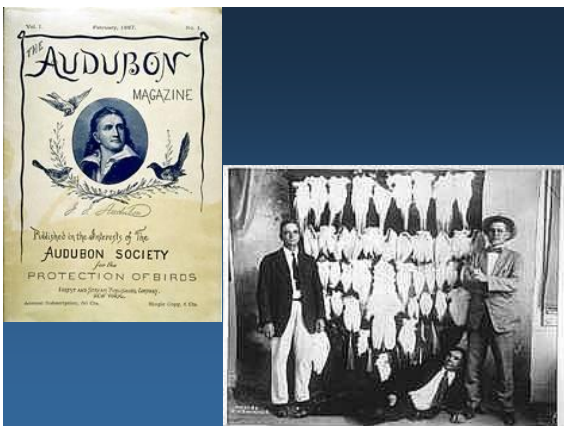




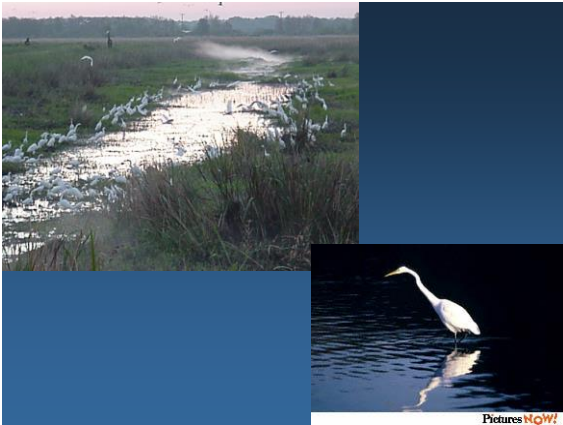
Big gun in deadrise skiff built by Ira Hudson, Chincoteague, Va., c. 1915.





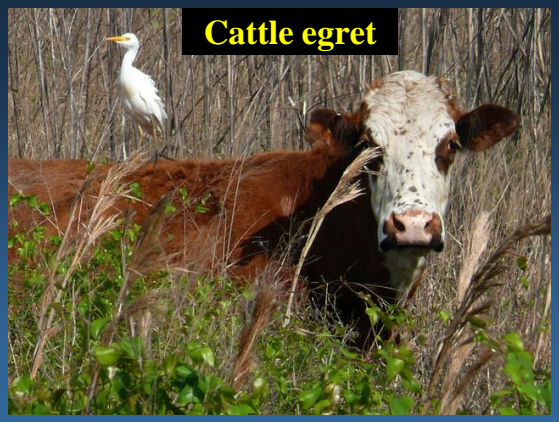


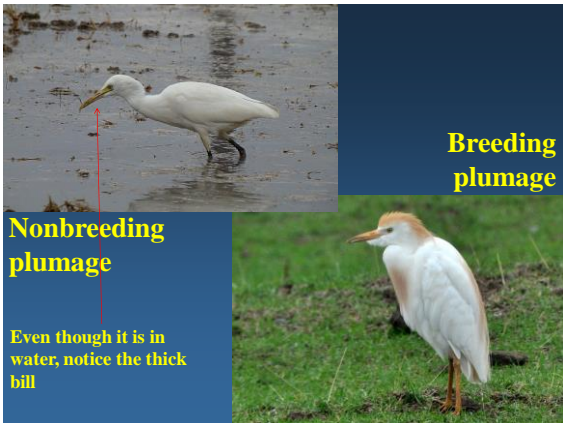






Snowy egret





Egrets

- Cattle Egrets are smaller and more compact, with shorter and thicker bills, and they typically feed on dry land. Their legs and bills are yellow, whereas Snowy Egrets' are black.
- Great Egrets are much larger than Snowy Egrets, with yellowish bills. In flight, they have slower and deeper wingbeats than Snowy Egrets.



Night-Herons



STORKS



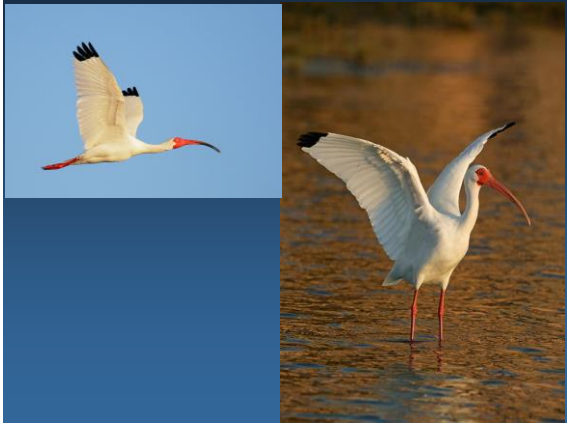
Wood stork





IBISES & SPOONBILLS



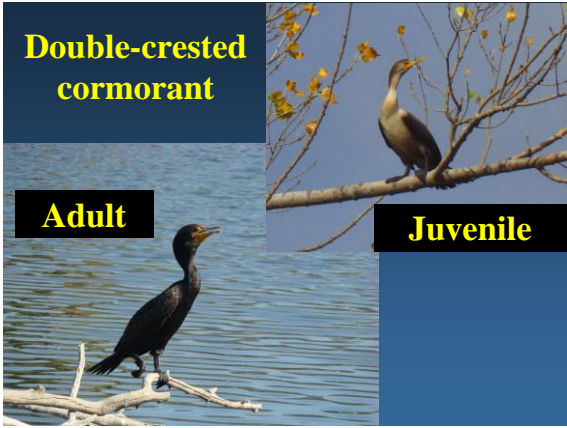




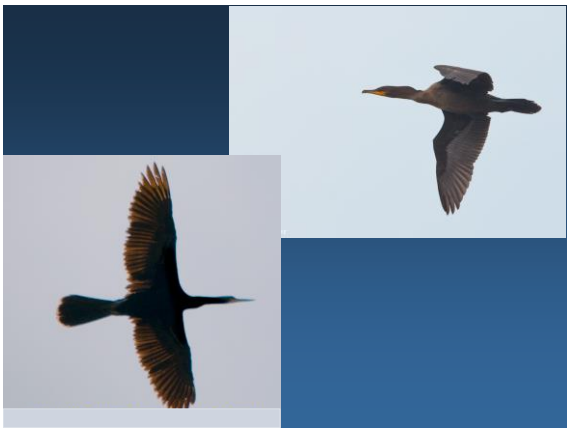


DARTERS & CORMORANTS









GOOFY BIRDS



REPRODUCTION

- Nesting - Robust Emergent Vegetation
- 💧 Peaks when Cattail Growth is Greatest

- Clutch size - 7-10 eggs
- 💧 Nest success - up to 50-80%

FORAGING ECOLOGY

➤ Diet - Opportunistic

(60% plant material, 40% animal matter)

Animal matter - Insects and their larvae,
Earthworms, Snails, Mollusks, and Small Fish

Plant matter - Pondweeds, Sedges, Algae,
Grasses, and Seeds

➤ Foraging - Shallow dives or Peck near surface

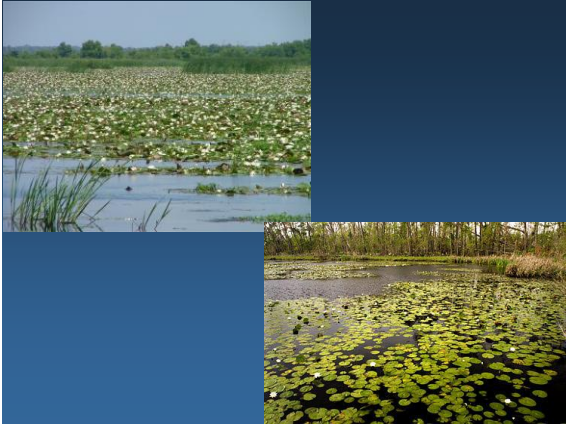
HABITAT

➤ Freshwater Marshes Interspersed Equally with Robust Emergent Vegetation

➤ 50% Open Water: 50% Robust Emergent Veg

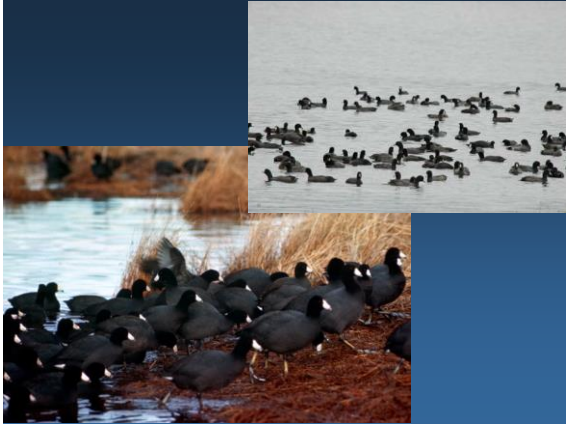












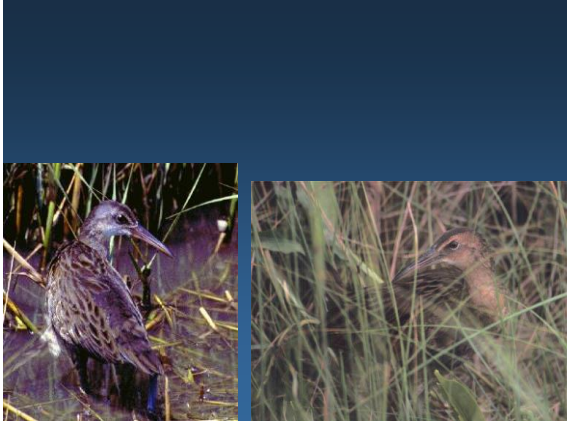


Purple gallinule



RAILS

(Secretive Marsh Birds)







Virginia rail



Sora



Clapper rail

King rail



CLAPPER RAIL NEST



FORAGING ECOLOGY

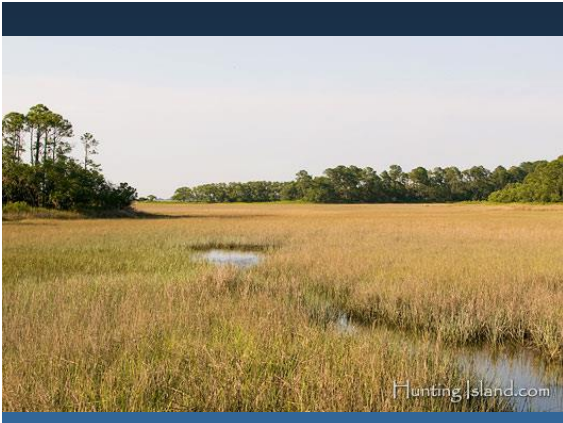
➤ Diet - Opportunistic

- ☒ Animal Matter - Small Fish, Crustaceans, Aquatic Invertebrates, Insects and Larvae, Earthworms, Crayfish, Frogs, and Small Snakes
- ☒ Plant Matter - Variety of Vegetative Material and Moist-Soil Plant Seeds

➤ Foraging - Probe mud and Shallow Water

HABITAT





HABITAT



HUNTING



MORTALITY

- Nest Predators - Raccoons, Weasels, Blackbirds, Wrens, Snakes, Birds of Prey
- Chick Predators - Pike, Bass, Sandhill Cranes and other Waders, Frogs, and Mink
- Adult Predators - Coyote, House Cats, Great Egrets, and Birds of Prey
- Habitat Loss and Flooding

CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT

- Preservation of Wetland Habitat
- Population Status and Trends
- Develop and Refine Harvest Surveys