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

REPRODUCTION
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
White ibis

Roseate spoonbill
DARTERS & CORMORANTS

Thick bill with hook vs. Thinner, sharp-pointed bill

Short, stubby tail vs. long, turkey-like tail
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**
RAILS
(Secretive Marsh Birds)
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
HUNTING

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

MORTALITY

CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT

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