



# Birds of Hunting Island



○ Osprey  
*Pandion haliaetus*  
high-pitched screech, sometimes  
strung together in a series

Whether perched along the bank, wading in the water, or flying overhead, there are many birds to observe at Hunting Island State Park. Use this brochure to learn about several bird species and see how many you can find today!

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## Field Marks

In addition to size, shape, location, call, and behavior, field marks can be used to help identify birds. If you can't identify a bird on your hike, remembering what certain parts of the bird looked like can help you identify it when you get home. On your birding adventure, try to find a bird you don't know and make notes of any identifying field marks:

● **tail bars**

Are there any stripes across the bird's tail?

● **wing bars**

Does the bird have bars or patches of color on the wing?

● **nape**

Is the back of the neck another color?

● **eye features**

What colors are around the eye?

● **crown**

Does the bird have a crest or different color on top of the head?

● **beak or bill**

What shape and color is the beak?

● **tail markings**

Is the tail tip a different color, such as white?

○ **Painted Bunting**

*Passerina ciris*

a series of short, musical notes strung together

● **side**

What color are the bird's sides?

● **belly**

What color is the bird's belly?

● **breast**

Are there any spots or coloration on the chest?

● **throat**

Is the bird's throat a different color?



# What kind of bird is that?

When identifying birds, start by observing their location and behavior. Is the bird up high making noise? Is it on the ground digging in leaves? Or is it in the water swimming?

Next, observe its appearance. Is it big like a raven or small like a chickadee? Does it have pointy wings or a long tail? What color is it, and what types of markings does it have?

The answers to these questions can help you identify the birds you observe at Hunting Island State Park.

✓ Check off the birds you find on your adventure!



☐ **Barred Owl**  
*Strix varia*  
hoots "Who cooks for you?  
Who cooks for you-all?"

☐ **Carolina Wren**  
*Thryothorus ludovicianus*  
Loud, rhythmic "teakettle,  
teakettle, teakettle"



☐ **Belted Kingfisher**  
*Megasceryle alcyon*  
harsh, mechanical rattles



☐ **Eastern Bluebird**  
*Sialia sialis*  
soft, low-pitched  
"tu-a-wee"



☐ **Laughing Gull**  
*Leucophaeus atricilla*  
loud "ha, ha, ha, haaah"



☐ **Great Blue Heron**  
*Ardea herodias*  
squawk "roh-roh-roh" or  
a series of deep "frawnk"



☐ **Red-winged Blackbird**  
*Agelaius phoeniceus*  
trills "conk-la-ree"



☐ **Wood Stork**  
*Mycteria americana*  
silent; nestlings make a  
nasally, braying sound



☐ **Red-bellied Woodpecker**  
*Melanerpes carolinus*  
a shrill, rolling "churr"



☐ **Double-crested Cormorant**  
*Nannopterum auritum*  
deep, guttural croaks



☐ **Brown Pelican**  
*Pelecanus occidentalis*  
silent; sometimes make sounds  
by snapping their bill



☐ **Northern Cardinal**  
*Cardinalis cardinalis*  
lazer-like "cheer, cheer, cheer"  
or "purty-purty-purty"