

The green heron is a relatively small and stocky bird that is found in swamps, creeks and streams, marshes, ponds and other wetlands over much of North America. Its coloring is a glossy, greenish-black and it has short yellow legs. The green heron is one of the few birds that use bait to attract fish by dropping twigs or insects into the water. It announces its presence with a loud and sudden squawking call. The green heron is a roaming bird, abandoning its territories after breeding season to move around the region.

Green Heron



The Florida scrub-jay is as curious songbird that is blue on its head, wings and tail with a gray-brown back and underbelly. The scrub-jay's habitat is in oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods. Offspring will stay with their parents for at least a year and help raise the young. These family units are beneficial when looking for food as an individual bird will take turns watching for hawks and other dangers and will make an alert sound to warn the others. Scrub-jays are classified as threatened under the Endangered Species Act due to dwindling habitat from development and changes caused by wildfire suppression.

Florida Scrub-Jay



Great Crested Flycatcher



ABOUT NORTH PORT

The City of North Port is located in Sarasota County between Tampa and Fort Myers. Easily accessible from Interstate 75, this Southwest Florida city is tucked beneath a thick oak and pine canopy, rich with archeological history and beautiful natural springs. Neighborhoods within this 104.1-square-mile city are home to more than 60,000 residents and a host of natural Florida wildlife, including birds, bobcats, alligators, deer, and more.

While local parks and other public lands within the City of North Port offer opportunities for bird watching and other wildlife viewing, this community is surrounded by natural preserves. Acres of forests are ideal for the avid bird watcher. This community is ideal for the adventurous who want to explore.

BIRD WATCHING BASICS

This map is meant to be a basic field guide for birds in North Port and the surrounding area. Simply check the box next to the birds that you find, the date, and location. Of course, there are hundreds of bird species not listed in this resource that can be found in our area. For more information about birding, visit the National Audubon Society's website at www.audubon.org

MORE INFORMATION?

For more details about the amenities at each park, visit www.cityofnorthport.com or contact the City of North Port's Parks and Recreation at (941) 429-PARK (7275) or Sarasota County at (941) 861-5000.

Sandhill cranes are the most common of all the world's cranes. They mate for life and can live more than 20 years. Egg-laying takes place as early as December or as late as August for non-migratory populations, and begins in early April and late May for migratory groups. Nesting usually takes place next to wetlands in nests built from nearby plants. Chicks reach independence around nine to 10 months old and begin forming their own breeding pairs between the ages of two and seven years old. Sandhill cranes are known for the dancing skills during courting.

Sandhill Cranes

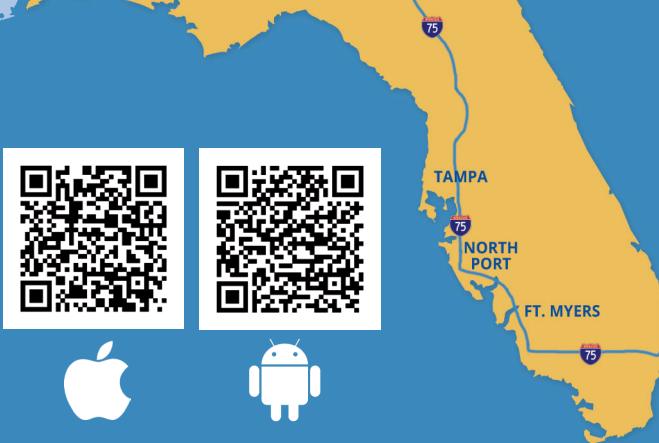


The great horned owl can be found from tropical rainforests to suburban backyards, living in the Arctic and all the way to South America. It is one of the most widespread and common owls in North America. Great horned owls subsist on a diet of mostly small mammals, including rabbits, rodents, squirrels, as well as reptiles and other birds. The great horned owl is also known to eat skunks. Female great horned owls are slightly larger than their male counterparts, though males have a deeper, lower-pitched call than the females. The owls are mostly recognizable by their size and their feather ear tufts. They live, on average, between five and 15 years in the wild.

Great Horned Owl



Boat-tailed Grackle



Scan the code with your smart phone to download the Merlin Bird ID App by Cornell Lab.



ACHIEVE ANYTHING

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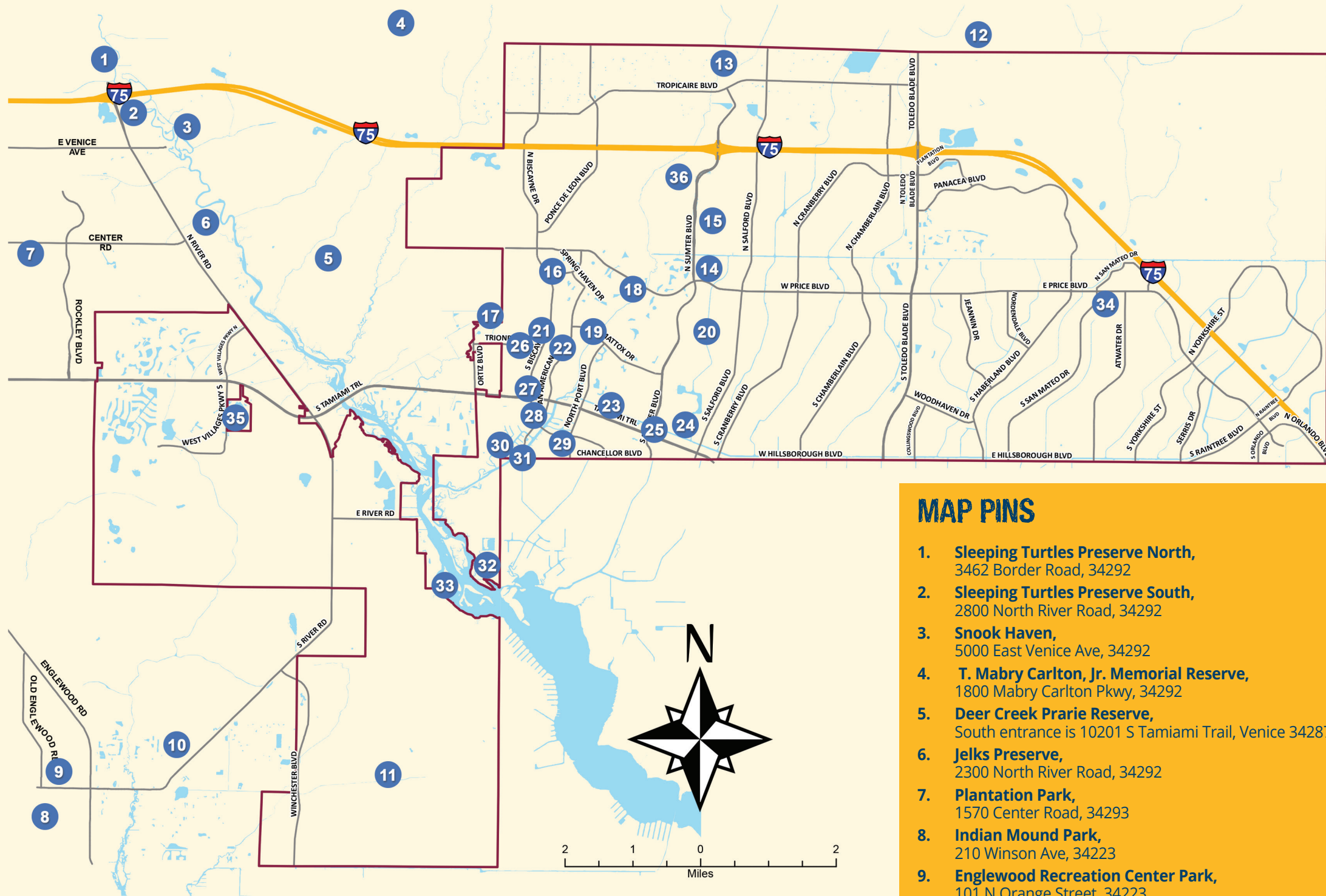
Photos by Jean Schuster and ROI Media. All photos were taken in North Port, Florida. Bird information courtesy of ROI Media. Front cover art is a tricolored heron.



Red-shouldered Hawk



BIRD WATCHING LOCATIONS



MAP PINS

- Sleeping Turtles Preserve North**, 3462 Border Road, 34292
- Sleeping Turtles Preserve South**, 2800 North River Road, 34292
- Snook Haven**, 5000 East Venice Ave, 34292
- T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve**, 1800 Mabry Carlton Pkwy, 34292
- Deer Creek Prarie Reserve**, South entrance is 10201 S Tamiami Trail, Venice 34287
- Jelks Preserve**, 2300 North River Road, 34292
- Plantation Park**, 1570 Center Road, 34293
- Indian Mound Park**, 210 Winson Ave, 34223
- Englewood Recreation Center Park**, 101 N Orange Street, 34223
- Englewood Sports Complex**, 1300 South River Road, 34223
- Myakka State Forest**, 2000 S River Rd, 34223
- Walton Ranch**, 7020 N. Toledo Blade Blvd, 34291
- Myakkahatchee Creek Environmental Park**, 6968 Reisterstown Road, 34291
- George Mullen Activity Center**, North Port City Center Green, 4970 City Hall Blvd, 34286
- Sumter Blvd Linear Park**, Sumter Boulevard, 34286
- Narramore Sports Complex**, 7508 Glenallen Blvd, 34287
- Warm Mineral Springs**, 12220 San Servando Ave, 34286
- Butler Park**, 6205 W Price Blvd, 34287
- Canine Club**, 6700 Appomatix Drive, 34287
- Blue Ridge Park**, 2155 Ridgewood Dr, 34287
- Hope Park**, 946 Siesta Dr, 34242
- Garden of Five Senses**, 4299 Pan American Blvd, 34287
- Dallas White Park**, 5900 Greenwood Ave, 34287
- McKibben Park**, 5500 Trekeil Street, 34287
- Pine Park**, 4556 McKibben Dr, 34287
- Kirk Park**, 8305 Trionfo Ave, 34287
- Veterans Park**, 13800 S Tamiami Trail, 34287
- La Brea Park**, 6340 La Brea Street, 34287
- Highland Ridge Park**, 6225 Kenwood Dr, 34287
- Marius Park**, 6890 Marius Road, 34287
- Marina Park in North Port**, 7030 Chancellor Blvd, 34287
- Myakka Islands Point**, 1289 Campbell Street, 34293
- Sand Islands**, South end of Myakka River going into Charlotte Harbor, 34293
- Atwater Community Park**, 4475 Skyway Ave, 34288
- State College of Florida - Venice**, 8000 S. Tamiami Trail, 34293
- Oaks Park**, 5430 Mandrake Terrace, 34291

BIRD WATCHING CHECKLIST

Blackbirds / Orioles

- Baltimore Oriole
- Boat-tailed Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Common Grackle
- Orchard Oriole
- Red-winged Blackbird

Cormorants / Anhingas

- Anhinga
- Double-crested Cormorant

Cranes

- Sandhill Crane

Cuckoos

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Falcons

- American Kestrel
- Merlin

Finches

- American Goldfinch
- House Finch

Flycatchers

- Eastern Kingbird
- Eastern Phoebe
- Great Crested Flycatcher

Frigatebirds

- Magnificent Frigatebird

Grebes

- Pied-billed Grebe

Hérons / Egrets / Waders

- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Green Heron
- Little Blue Heron
- Glossy Ibis
- Roseate Spoonbill
- Snowy Egret
- Tricolored Heron
- White Ibis
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Hummingbirds

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Jays / Crows

- Blue Jay
- Fish Crow
- Florida Scrub-jay

Kinglets / Gnatcatchers

- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Nightjars

- Chuck-will's-widow
- Common Nighthawk

Owls

- Great Horned Owl

Pigeons / Doves

- Common Ground-Dove
- Eurasian Collared-Dove
- Mourning Dove
- Rock Pigeon

Plovers / Stilts / Sandpipers

- Black-necked Stilt
- Dunlin
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Killdeer
- Semipalmated Plover
- Spotted Sandpiper

Quail

- Northern Bobwhite

Rails/Gallinules

- American Coot
- Common Gallinule
- Sora

Raptors

- Bald Eagle
- Cooper's Hawk
- Northern Harrier
- Osprey
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Swallow-tailed Kite

Storks

- Wood Stork

Swallows

- Barn Swallow
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- Purple Martin
- Tree Swallow

Tanagers / Cardinals / Buntings

- Blue Grosbeak
- Indigo Bunting
- Northern Cardinal
- Painted Bunting
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Summer Tanager

Thrushes

- American Robin
- Hermit Thrush
- Swainson's Thrush

Vireos

- Blue-headed Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- White-eyed Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo

Vultures

- Black Vulture
- Turkey Vulture

Waterfowl

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
- Blue-winged Teal
- Mottled Duck
- Redhead
- Wood Duck

Warblers & Wrens

- Carolina Wren
- Palm Warbler
- Pine Warbler

Woodpeckers

- Downy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker