

# Great Blue Heron

**AKA:** Blue Heron, Great White Heron, King Heron, Arsnicker, 'Old Cranky'.

**Scientific Classification:** Animalia, Chordata, Aves, Pelecaniformes, Ardeidae, *Ardea*, *A. herodias*.

**Bird Size & Markings:** The Great Blue Heron is the largest North American heron with long legs, a sinuous neck and a thick daggerlike bill. It can be 50" long, stand 48" high, with a wingspan up to 80". Despite the large size, most Great Blue Herons weigh only about 5 pounds. In flight, they curl their necks into a tight "S" shape with legs trailing well beyond the tail. Great Blue Herons have blueish gray body plumage, white throats and heads with broad black stripes over each eye. It is thought that the black stripes help reduce the glare coming from the water.

**Habitat:** Look for Great Blue Herons in saltwater and freshwater habitats, from open coasts, marshes, sloughs, riverbanks, and lakes to backyard goldfish ponds. They also forage in grasslands and agricultural fields.

**Nesting/Dens:** Male Great Blue Herons collect much of the nest material, gathering sticks from the ground and nearby shrubs and trees. The female weaves a platform and a saucer-shaped nest cup, lining it with pine needles, moss, reeds, dry grass, etc. They lay between 2 and 6 eggs, once or twice a year. The chicks fledge between 8 and 12 weeks.

**Food:** Great Blue Herons eat nearly anything within striking distance, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, insects, and other birds. They grab smaller prey in their strong mandibles or use their dagger-like bills to impale larger fish. They hunt by slowly wading in shallow water, quickly striking at fish and other prey with its dagger-like beak.

**Impact on Human Health:** Great Blue Herons nest almost exclusively in trees in remote areas and have little impact on human health. They rarely nest on man made structures.

**Impact on Aquaculture:** The Great Blue Herons' appetite for fish, crawfish and other farmed marine species make them a huge problem for hatcheries, nurseries, fish ponds and more. They can do untold damage at trout, catfish and crawfish farms. They can quickly eat all of the goldfish and coy from backyard ponds and pools.

## Great Blue Heron Control Methods:

**Bird Netting:** *K-Net HT Bird Netting*, *Bird-Net Bird Netting*, *PollyNet Bird Netting*.

**Dispersal:** Fogging with *Fog Force Bird Fogging Repellent*, *Bird Hazing* with aerosol generators, *Acoustic Dispersal* with HyperSpike acoustic hammers.

**Additional Products:** The *Air Crow Moving Scare Crow*, the *ScareCrow Motion Activated* sprinkler, etc.

**NOTE:** Great Blue Herons are protected by the US Migratory Bird Treaty Act. **It is your responsibility to check local, state and federal regulations regarding the control of bird and/or animal species.**

Simply purchasing the best control does not guarantee success. Best results come from a thorough knowledge of both the species and the product or method you employ. If you have any questions, please contact Nixalite of America Inc and speak with a bird control product specialist.



Standing 4 feet high, Great Blue Herons are impressive birds. It will aggressively defend it's hunting and nesting areas from all intruders.



Great Blue Herons can be found in salt water, fresh water and in brackish tidal pools. They hunt by slowly wading or quietly standing in shallow water, quickly striking at passing prey.



Hérons and Egrets can negatively impact fish hatcheries, goldfish or coy ponds, crawfish farms, etc. Exclusion netting is a common fix.

*Note: factual content from Wikipedia, Audubon, US Center for Disease Control, US Federal Register Codebook, and others.*



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