



Great Blue Heron

Great Blue Heron *(Ardea herodias)*

Instant ID

- A gray wading bird standing up to 54 inches tall with a 72 inch wingspan
- Has a long neck with light gray feathers and is often held in an “S” shape
- Legs are long and dark gray
- Back is gray with wingtips which are darker
- Wispy feathers cover the back and base of neck
- A black plume begins on and extends past the head
- Has rust-colored patches on the tops of its legs and shoulders

Native Niches

- Frequents coastlines and waterways throughout most of North America and small portions of northern South America



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Favorite Foods

- Eats fish, frogs, snakes and any other animal in or around water

Critter Characteristics

- Two races are the white-headed Würdemann's heron which is unique to southern Florida and the all white great white heron which is common to the Caribbean and parts of south Florida
- Will hold out wings to create shade and lure prey to swim closer

Population Protection

- Like many wading birds it was once widely hunted for the feather trade
- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 provides protection to all native and migratory birds in the United States

