

WADING BIRDS

American Bittern

Botaurus lentiginosus

- Status: Winter resident
Abundance: Uncommon
When found: October–April
Habitat: Salt, brackish,
& freshwater
marsh, wet
pine savanna
Best locations: Point aux Chenes,
Hawkes' Marsh

Notes: American Bitterns are so well-camouflaged that you can walk right by one without noticing it.

Photo courtesy of Gretchen Grammer ©



Least Bittern

Ixobrychus exilis

- Status: Summer resident,
nests at Grand Bay
Abundance: Fairly common
When found: April–July
Habitat: Salt marsh
Best locations: Middle Bayou

Notes: Bitterns are frequently heard calling during the summer but are rarely observed, except when flying.

Photo courtesy of North Inlet-Winyah Bay
NERR ©





Photo courtesy of Olivia Graves ©

Green Heron

Butorides virescens

Status: Summer resident, a few may overwinter, nests elsewhere

Abundance: Fairly common; rare in winter

When found: April–October

Habitat: Freshwater marsh, bayous, shell middens

Best locations: Kenny’s Island, Hawkes’ Marsh, Bayou Cumbest

Notes: A Green Heron was once observed snatching a piece of bread away from a group of ducks and geese that were being fed at a duck pond. Rather than eating the bread, the heron set it adrift along the shoreline, and caught fish one after another as they rose to feed on the bread.

Tricolored Heron

Egretta tricolor

Status: Permanent resident, nests elsewhere

Abundance: Common

When found: Year round

Habitat: Bayous, salt marsh

Best locations: Bayou Heron Boat Launch

Notes: Formerly called Louisiana Herons, Tricolored Herons favor coastal marshes and are the most abundant heron at Grand Bay.

Photo courtesy of George Housley, Jr. ©



Reddish Egret

Egretta rufescens

Status:	Permanent resident, nests elsewhere
Abundance:	Uncommon
When found:	Almost year round; absent in May & June
Habitat:	Mudflats
Best locations:	Grand Battures Washover

Notes: Other than on the barrier islands, the Grand Battures are probably the most reliable place to observe Reddish Egrets in Mississippi.



Photo courtesy of Michael Gray, GCBO ©

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

Status:	Summer resident, nests elsewhere
Abundance:	Fairly common
When found:	July–September; irregular in winter
Habitat:	Salt marshes, often near shell middens
Best locations:	Bayou Cumbest, Bayou Heron, Grand Battures

Notes: These night herons can often be found roosting in oaks along the upper reaches of Bayou Cumbest.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Rester ©

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Nyctanassa violacea

- Status: Summer resident,
nests elsewhere
- Abundance: Common
- When found: Late June–early October
- Habitat: Salt marshes, often near
shell middens
- Best locations: Bayou Heron, Point aux
Chenes, Grand Battures

Notes: When they finish nesting, night-herons flock to Grand Bay to feast on shrimp and fish.



Photo courtesy of George Housley, Jr. ©



Photo courtesy of
George Housley, Jr. ©

White Ibis

Eudocimus albus

- Status: Permanent resident,
nests elsewhere
- Abundance: Common
May–September,
uncommon the rest
of the year
- When found: Year round
- Habitat: Salt & freshwater
marsh
- Best locations: Hawkes' Marsh,
Grand Battures,
Point aux Chenes

Notes: White Ibises seen at Grand Bay probably nest on nearby Cat Island, Alabama, though this has not yet been confirmed.