

# GREAT BLUE HERON

**ARDEA HERODIAS**

**HABITAT** - Commonly found along Fountain Creek and its tributaries, these birds rely on wetlands and riverbanks for feeding and nesting. Their diet is very adaptable, but they prefer fish, frogs, toads, salamanders, and even birds and rodents. They will grab prey with their strong bills or stab animals with their spear-like beak. Herons, like many other birds, are affected by habitat loss, human intrusion, and water pollution.

**IDENTIFICATION** - A large, grayish-blue bird that stands approximately 4 feet tall, with a long, sharp, yellow-orange beak. They have a black stripe on their head and will curl their neck into an S when flying.

## **FUN FACTS**

They nest in colonies, preferably high up in trees. Though they are tall birds, they only weigh 5-6 lbs and have hollow bones.



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