

HIDDEN LAKE WILDLIFE

What's in, on, and around our lake?

Winter 2021/2022



**Protect Our Aquatic Life!
Keep Our Lake Healthy!
And Our Wildlife Happy!**



Did you know? Great blue herons have specialized feathers on their chest that will grow continuously and fray into a powder. This powder can be used to help clean off fish slime.

Also, during breeding season, the lore of the great blue heron will turn a bright blue, the iris will turn reddish, and the yellow bill will take on an orange hue – offering a colorful majestic sight for bird lovers/watchers.

Did you know? Mallards swarm in such numbers that they're often considered the pond equivalents of pigeons. This is unfair, of course; Mallards are just trying to survive like the rest of us, and their pervasiveness is a testament to their success. But there's another reason for giving these ducks an appreciative pause: Mallards play a key role in keeping wetland plant communities diverse and healthy.

In fall and winter, Mallards everywhere stick to a predictable daily routine. They forage at night, flying from one patch of wetland habitat to another—in search of seeds, stems, and roots. Come daylight, they return to a communal roost to socialize and rest.



Our lake is a great stop over point during migrations. Most stop for a day or two to regain energy, and then move on!



Did you know? Red-tailed Hawks (One of 8 species of hawks in CT) have sharp eyesight that's eight times better than human's. In flight, they can spy a mouse on the ground from 100 feet in the air.

A growing concern for these raptors is rodenticides. They poison and kill birds that eat affected or dead rodents.

Benefits of waterfowl, ducks, geese, and herons:

This diverse group of birds aids in controlling algae growth. Some feed on algae and help keep levels down. Other birds feed on fish, insects, macro and micro invertebrate to help keep a healthy aquatic eco system. Migrating waterfowl help with seed dispersal as they fly hundreds of thousands of miles across habitats.

Hooded Merganser



CITATIONS

- Audubon.org
- Discoverwildlife.com
- Actual Hidden Lake wildlife/scenic photos

For more information - Contact Keha Esposito at kwind159@yahoo.com

