



cedar base



cedar branch



c
peeled cedar





cottonwoods



douglas fir



douglas fir



Indian Ghost pipe



oceanspray



Oregon grape



red fir



red osier dogwood



snowberries



Solomon seal



thimbleberries





wild rose with rosehips





lookout over the marsh





black moss



usnea



wild strawberry



Solomon seal



horsetail









Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias

Great Blue Herons...
can live 15 years,
Wingspan, 5.5 to 6.6 ft., and
can fly up to 30 mph.

Beaks are used like
spears to catch their
prey, which they
swallow whole.



The great blue heron searches for food day and night. Though they are thought of as fishers, they also eat salamanders, lizards, snakes, crayfish, dragonflies, grasshoppers, aquatic insects, fledgling birds, and mice. A mouse diet makes up almost half of what herons feed to their nestlings.

Hérons snare their prey by walking slowly, or standing still while waiting for an animal to come within range of their long necks and blade-like beaks. Their prey is gobbled up whole. A heron will choke to death trying to eat prey that is too large to swallow.



Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

A Canada goose...
can live 24 years in the wild,
can fly 1,500 miles in 24 hours, and
has a wingspan up to 5.6 feet.

A recent Canada goose conservation program revived declining populations that began to fall early in the 20th century. Today, they are the most common goose in North America. Flocks have become permanent residents in Idaho's city parks, waterways, lakes, golf courses, farmlands, and state parks. Meanwhile, other flocks continue to follow age-old migration paths, north and south. Noisy geese honk along routes to designated "rest stops," like Heyburn State Park, and mingle with resident birds.

Listen, any time of year, for the deep musical "Ha-Honk" of the Canada goose!

Why do geese fly in a V-shaped formation? The formation conserves energy. Each bird flies above the bird in front, resulting in reduced wind resistance. The birds take turns being in the front, falling back when they get tired. The V-formation allows the geese to fly several hours before they must stop for rest.





Cattails... A Place to Perch, Munch, Hide, Build...

A stand of cattails is like a supermarket in a marsh.

American Indians understood their value. Their tasty, nutritious stems were eaten both raw and boiled. The furry flower cluster provided softness and absorbency for diaper material, lining cradles and padding inside moccasins. Jelly from between the young leaves was applied to wounds and sores to soothe pain. The hot dog looking flower heads made good torches, with smoke that drove away insects.



Canada Goose with goslings—Photo credit: Dave Hunter/USFWS

Ducks and Canada geese nest among cattails.



Yellow-headed Blackbird—Photo credit: Dr. Thomas G. Bernier/USFWS



Red-winged Blackbird—Photo credit: George Goring/USFWS

Red-winged blackbirds build their nests, and perch in groups, on cattail stalks.



White-tailed deer—Photo credit: Dave Hunter/USFWS

White-tailed deer, raccoons, and turkeys use cattails as cover.

Musk rats use cattails to build their houses and they eat their stalks.



Muskrat—Photo credit: USFWS

Frogs and salamanders will lay their eggs in the water on and between the cattails.

Cattails and their associated microorganisms improve water and soil quality. They render organic pollution harmless and fix atmospheric nitrogen, bringing it back into the food chain.

**EVERY part of the cattail is edible*





Red-winged Blackbird

Agelaius phoeniceus



Red-winged blackbirds...
can fly as fast as an Olympic sprinter can
run, and are considered the most abundant
bird in North America

The male red-winged blackbird defends his territory during the spring with unrestrained intensity. He will attack anything red, including you, if you are wearing red clothing. He may spend up to four hours a day in territory defense. The red-winged blackbird is polygamous, with one male having up to 15 different females making nests in his territory.

Look for male red-winged blackbirds in Plummer Creek Marsh clinging to cattail stalks. Notice that an equal distance separates the birds. Fierce combat happens when one bird ventures into another's territory.

Red-winged blackbirds use a method called "japing" to find insects and roots under the ground. They stick their closed bill into the ground and then open it. This makes a hole in the soil exposing insects and roots.



In winter, red-winged blackbirds join noisy foraging flocks of 500 to over 5,000 birds of several species including: Brewer's blackbirds, yellow-headed blackbirds, European starlings, and brown-headed cowbirds.







Osprey 'Fish Hawk'

Branta canadensis

Ospreys...
have a diet of 99% fish, and
an occasional snake,
inhabit every continent
except Antarctica, and live
up to 30 years.

Here, at Heyburn State Park, ospreys
are sometimes confused with bald
eagles, but can be identified by their
white under-parts. Their white heads
also have a distinctive black eye-stripe
down the side of their faces.

Human surroundings aid ospreys. Look
for large stick-and-sod nests that
ospreys have made on telephone poles,
channel markers, and bridge tops.

Ospreys have built more than
50 nests within Heyburn. Look
for an osprey carrying a fish
back to its nest. The osprey will
orient the fish headfirst to ease
wind resistance, not to give the
ill-fated fish a better view.







SUPERMARKET OF THE MARSH

Cattails are one of the most recognizable marsh plants. Their brown, cigar-shaped flower spikes contain over 10,000 tiny flowers and release thousands of tiny, white fluffy seeds in the wind each fall.

Not only are cattails very recognizable, they are also one of the most versatile marsh plants. Every part of the cattail plant is edible or useful in some way. The shoots of young cattails and the lower white portion of the stem can be eaten like celery; young flower spikes can be eaten like corn before they bloom. The pollen, which appears when the spike blooms, can be used as a nutrient-rich additive to flour for baking.

Other uses include ornamental decorations, making cord by twisting the root fibers and weaving baskets for mats from the leaves. The leaves also expand when wet and can be used to seal leaks in wooden barrels, caskets, and boats.

Humans are not the only ones who utilize the cattail plant. Many species of waterfowl and aquatic animals find cattail tubers to be tasty treats. Muskrats use the stems and leaves to make their dens, and red-winged blackbirds attach their nests to the stems.





Four Principle Peaks of Interest

Lookout Place

Grassy Mountain is Hn'Tloq'w'ma, the geographic center of the Coeur d'Alene province. From its top you can look in every direction for 360 degree and see the Coeur d'Alene homelands.

Huckleberry Harvest

Coeur d'Alenes called Engel Mountain, Tmts'mts'i'yeip, for the waxy texture ("oily plant") of the leaves of vegetation found on its slopes. It has been a favorite huckleberry harvesting area for generations.

Hunting Ground

Reed's Baldy, the rock face most distant from your view, was home to legendary animals of the high country. Coeur d'Alenes called the mountains, Tqishtm in honor of the grizzlies that lived there. There, too, the skilled hunters of the past pursued mountain goats, whose soft hides provided the very bedding for that first generation of boys who attended the boarding school in DeSmet.



Mountain Goat
Photo credit: Coeur d'Alene National Forest

Grizzly Bear
Photo credit: Coeur d'Alene National Forest

Spiritual Spot

Mt. St. Joe Baldy, the sharp peak on the right, is T'ch m'p'kw'w'. He is the One Who Sits By the Water, regarded as the source of the St. Joe River and provider of every beneficial aspect of a life centered on the drainage of Lake Coeur d'Alene. This mountain has immeasurable spiritual dimensions.

Grassy Mountain

Engel Mountain

Reed's Baldy

Mt. St. Joe Baldy



From here you have a unique view of the distant mountains, framed by the low lying hills in the foreground. Before you are four principle peaks, each significant to the tribal people who lived on these waters.











water potato leaves



MARSH INHABITANTS



WILD RICE



RED-WINGED
BLACKBIRD



CADDIS FLY LARVAE



DRAGONFLY



WATER LILY



WATER BOATMAN



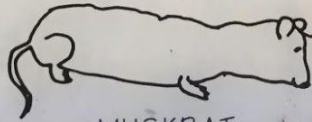
FROG



GREAT BLUE HERON



DUCK



MUSKRAT

Artwork by Lakeside Elementary School 3rd & 4th Grade Students 1995









violet

