

Brightwood Park is home to many types of birds. This summer, the park hosted many migratory birds – that is, birds who fly north when the weather warms up and south when it begins to turn cool.

Can you identify this bird who frequents the park in warm weather?



Photo by Chuan-Chu Chou

Great Blue Heron:

- lives in marshy areas – either near salt or freshwater;
- eats just about anything it can catch with its long, sharp beak including fish, frogs, reptiles, insects, other birds, small animals;
- builds nests from sticks and other materials in trees, bushes or other man-made structures;
- flies through the air with its neck drawn into an “S” shape and its legs folded back up behind it.



Photo by Chuan-Chu Chou

Listen to a heron’s harsher sounding squawk:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Blue_Heron/sounds

There are other types of herons that come to Brightwood such as Egrets and, Friends of Brightwood Park’s mascot, the **Green Heron**:



Photo by Chuan-Chu Chou

Green Herons have long necks drawn into their bodies that they can extend to snatch a fish.

Check out All About Birds website to see a video of a Green Heron extending its neck and listen to its calls: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Green_Heron/sounds



This summer, some green herons made a nest near the pond where these two chicks were hanging out.

Photo by Chuan-Chu Chou