

# BARE COVE PARK WILDLIFE HABITAT



**American Kestrel**  
(*Falco sparverius*)  
Weight: 2-6 oz  
Lifespan in wild: 11-12 years  
Breeding: 1-2 times per year  
Number of offspring: 1 to 7; avg. 4 eggs  
Habitat: Meadows, grasslands  
Behavior: Nests in cavities of trees, buildings, and in nest boxes  
Interesting Fact: Most common falcon in North America



**Double-crested Cormorant**  
(*Phalacrocorax auritus*)  
Weight: +6 lbs  
Lifespan in wild: 6 years  
Breeding: Spring through summer  
Number of offspring: 1 to 7; avg. 4 eggs  
Habitat: Rivers, lakes, estuaries  
Behavior: Social; live in colonies  
Interesting Fact: Chases prey underwater



**Killdeer**  
(*Charadrius vociferus*)  
Weight: 2-5 oz  
Lifespan in wild: 6-10 years  
Breeding: 1-3 times per year  
Number of offspring: 4-6 eggs  
Habitat: Sandbars, mudflats, pastures  
Behavior: Typically non-migratory, active during day & night  
Interesting Fact: Eats mosquitoes, ticks, and locusts



**Snowy Egret**  
(*Egretta thula*)  
Weight: 12-15 oz  
Lifespan in wild: 16 years  
Breeding: Once per year  
Number of offspring: 3-5 eggs  
Habitat: Marshes, shorelines, ponds  
Behavior: Nests in colonies; migratory  
Interesting Fact: Both parents share incubation duties



**Ruby Throated Hummingbird**  
(*Archilochus colubris*)  
Weight: Under 1 ounce  
Lifespan in wild: 3-5 years  
Breeding: Once per year  
Number of offspring: 1-3 eggs  
Habitat: Deciduous and mixed forests  
Behavior: Solitary; migratory  
Interesting Fact: Beats its wings 53 times a second



**Wood Duck**  
(*Aix sponsa*)  
Weight: 1-2 lbs  
Lifespan in wild: 3-4 years  
Breeding: Twice per year  
Number of offspring: 6-15 eggs  
Habitat: Forested wetlands  
Behavior: Migratory; cavity nesters  
Interesting Fact: Adult ducks have 12 calls



**Gray Fox**  
(*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)  
Weight: 8-15 lbs  
Lifespan in wild: 6-10 years  
Breeding: Once per year  
Number of offspring: 1 to 7; avg. 4  
Habitat: Deciduous woodlands  
Behavior: Nocturnal  
Interesting Fact: Control pest populations by feeding on rodents



**Red Fox**  
(*Vulpes vulpes*)  
Weight: 6-15 lbs  
Lifespan in wild: 3 years  
Breeding: Once per year  
Number of offspring: 1 to 13; avg. 5  
Habitat: Forest, grasslands, mountains  
Behavior: Nocturnal  
Interesting Fact: Remain in the same home range for life



**White Tailed Deer**  
(*Odocoileus virginianus*)  
Weight: 90-250 lbs  
Lifespan in wild: 3-10 years  
Breeding: Once per year  
Number of offspring: 1 to 3; avg. 2  
Habitat: Woodlands, swamps, dense thickets  
Behavior: Most active at dawn & dusk  
Interesting Fact: Are excellent swimmers



**Red Shouldered Hawk**  
(*Buteo lineatus*)  
Weight: 1-2 lbs  
Lifespan in wild: 2-3 years  
Breeding: Once per year  
Number of offspring: 2-5 eggs  
Habitat: Flooded swamps, mature deciduous forests  
Behavior: Solitary, territorial, non-migratory  
Interesting Fact: They hunt with sight & hearing; not small



**Great Horned Owl**  
(*Bubo virginianus*)  
Weight: 2-3 lbs  
Lifespan in wild: 5-15 years  
Breeding: Once per year  
Number of offspring: 1-5; avg. 2  
Habitat: Deciduous forests, mangrove swamps  
Behavior: Nocturnal, non-migratory  
Interesting Fact: Their neck can turn 270 degrees



**Screech Owl**  
(*Megascops asio*)  
Weight: 4-9 oz  
Lifespan in wild: 5-15 years  
Breeding: Once per year  
Number of offspring: 2-6 eggs  
Habitat: Woodlands, deciduous forests  
Behavior: Nocturnal  
Interesting Fact: Pairs mate for life but will accept a new mate if the previous mate disappears



**Osprey**  
(*Pandion haliaetus*)  
Weight: 3-4 lbs  
Lifespan in wild: 20-25 years  
Breeding: Once per year  
Number of offspring: 2-4 eggs  
Habitat: Temperate lakes, shallow water  
Behavior: Migratory  
Interesting Fact: Ospreys are generally monogamous



**Great Blue Heron**  
(*Ardea Herodias*)  
Weight: 4-6 lbs  
Lifespan in wild: 15 years  
Breeding: Once per year  
Number of offspring: 2-6 eggs  
Habitat: Calm freshwater, seacoasts  
Behavior: Migratory, colony nesters  
Interesting Fact: They swallow their food whole



**Mallard**  
(*Anas platyrhynchos*)  
Weight: 2-3 lbs  
Lifespan in wild: 12-15 years  
Breeding: Once per year  
Number of offspring: 8-13 eggs  
Habitat: Parks, small rivers & ponds  
Behavior: Lives among large flocks; migratory  
Interesting Fact: Can successfully interbreed with other species of bird



**Smelt**  
(*Osmerus mordax*)  
Size: 15-28cm long  
Lifespan in wild: 1 year  
Breeding: Once per year for 3 weeks in April  
Number of offspring: 31,000-70,000 eggs  
Habitat: Anadromous (live in the sea, breed in freshwater)  
Behavior: Coastlines, lakes  
Interesting Fact: Is native to North American coast



**Blue-back Herring**  
(*Alosa aestivalis*)  
Size: 12-16 in long  
Lifespan in wild: 6-8 years  
Breeding: Once per year in April  
Number of offspring: 60,000-100,000 eggs  
Habitat: Shorelines, freshwater rivers  
Behavior: Anadromous  
Interesting Fact: They spawn in water above 70°F



**Striped Bass**  
(*Morone saxatilis*)  
Size: 2-5 feet long  
Lifespan in wild: 25-30 years  
Breeding: Once per year  
Number of offspring: 100,000 eggs  
Habitat: Estuaries  
Behavior: Anadromous  
Interesting Fact: Cape Cod is one of 4 important breeding areas for saltwater bass

Bare Cove Park encompasses more than 480 acres of land and over 100 acres of water and shoreline. Together with Weymouth Back River and Great Esker Park, this natural habitat totals over 900 acres and is rich in wildlife in addition to the species shown above. The Back River, which flows through the Park, is a navigable salt water estuary famous for its spring Herring Run. Almost ½ million of these anadromous fish return each spring to spawn in Whitman's Pond in Weymouth. These smelt and herring are an important part of the food chain for striped bass, bluefish and the birds of prey in the park. Along the shores of Back River, the clam beds have been reopened to commercial clamming. The clamming industry provides millions of dollars in revenue to Hingham and Weymouth. The salt water marsh grasses, ground cover and tree canopy along the river bank serve as a lush habitat for the fish swimming in Back River, the predatory birds nesting nearby and the upland wildlife.