

## **Birding the Peconic River**

The longest river on Long Island is home to an amazing array of birds! Grab a pair of binoculars and try to locate any one of the birds below!



This is the **Bald Eagle**! This amazing avian can have a wingspan of eight feet in length and weight up to 15 pounds. The vast majority of the bald eagle's diet consists of fish, so the Peconic River is a perfect habitat for these birds! The best method to spot one of these animals is to locate a nest, usually located at the very top of a tree near the water's edge. These nests are quite large and once located you may catch a glimpse of one of these beautiful birds!



This is an **Osprey**! These birds are amazing travelers, migrating thousands of miles from South America to Long Island and back every single year! Osprey have a wingspan of about two feet and usually weigh around three pounds. These birds might be much smaller than bald eagle's but are equally impressive predators! These birds eat almost entirely fish! Finding an osprey on the Peconic River during the summer is not especially challenging, try looking for osprey nest stands and the birds shouldn't be too far away!



This is the **Great Blue Heron**! These stoic birds can be seen lining the Peconic River patiently waiting for an unsuspecting fish to swim by. When a fish comes near the great blue heron will quickly launch its beak into the water grabbing the fish and swallowing it whole. These ambush predators can stand nearly five feet tall and weight nearly six pounds! To find one of these animals walk along any open areas of the river where the shorelines are visible, these animals never stray far from these areas.