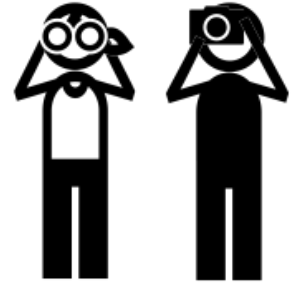


WILDLIFE SPOTTING ALONG THE THAMES



Wildlife along the Thames is plentiful, making it a great location for birding. Bald Eagles and Osprey are regularly seen nesting and feeding along the river. Many larger birds utilize the Thames for habitat and feeding, including Red Tailed Hawks, Red Shoulder Hawks, Kestrels, King Fishers, Turkey Vultures, Wild Turkeys, Canada Geese, Blue Herons, Mallard Ducks, Black and Wood Ducks. Several species of owl have also been recorded in, such as the Barred Owl, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl and even the Snowy Owl. Large migratory birds such as Cormorants, Tundra Swans, Great Egret, Common Merganser and Common Loon move through the watershed during spring and fall.

The Thames watershed also contains one of Canada's most diverse fish communities. Over 90 fish species have been recorded (more than half of Ontario's fish species). Sport fishing is popular throughout the watershed, with popular species being: Rock Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Walleye, Yellow Perch, White Perch, Crappie, Sunfish, Northern Pike, Grass Pickerel, Muskellunge, Longnose Gar, Salmon, Brown Trout, Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout, Channel Catfish, Barbot and Redhorse Sucker.



Many mammals utilize the Thames River and the surrounding environment. White-tailed Deer, Muskrat, Beaver, Rabbit, Weasel, Groundhog, Chipmunk, Possum, Grey Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, Little Brown Bats, Raccoon, Coyote, Red Fox and - although very rare - Cougar and Black Bear have been recorded.

Reptiles and amphibians in the watershed include Newts and Sinks, Garter Snake, Ribbon Snake, Foxsnake, Rat Snake, Spotted Turtle, Map Turtle, Painted Turtle, Snapping Turtle and Spiny Softshell Turtle. Some of the wildlife species found along the Thames are endangered making it vital to respect and not disrupt their sensitive habitat areas.

