



# Hidden Lake Estates Condominium Association

Owner Submission March 2021

## **Bird Watching!**

Bird watching is perennially named as one of two most pursued avocational interests, together with gardening. It is fun, educational, interesting, relaxing, inexpensive, and easy to pursue almost regardless of where you find yourself and your degree of mobility and whether you observe alone or with others. Many species come and go with the seasons, always providing something new to observe and identify.

Hidden Lake Estates does not permit feeding of wild animals and birds (including ducks and geese), to minimize vermin, including mice, rats, opossums, raccoons, etc. Thus, you might assume that Hidden Lake is a poor place to engage in bird watching. Not so! Hidden Lake's aquatic habitat provides ample opportunity beyond the Mallard Ducks and Canada Geese with which you are no doubt already familiar. In fact, some regular and occasional avian visitors to Hidden Lake are quite rare. However, all bird species can be appreciated beyond their beauty to include various feeding and interactional behaviors with their own species and others.

As a newer resident to Hidden Lake Estates, just within the past two years, some bird species I have observed from my deck (among others) have included:

- Numerous duck and grebe varieties
- Great Blue Herons
- Great Egrets
- Great Horned Owls
- Green Herons
- Double-crested Cormorants
- Caspian Terns
- Ospreys
- A variety of hawk species
- Turkey Vultures
- An occasional Bald Eagle
- Belted Kingfishers
- Baltimore Orioles (among numerous other passerine, or perching, bird species)
- Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

In fact, Orioles and Hummingbirds can be observed in your yard or at your deck or patio with ease, as HLE allows Oriole and Hummingbird nectar-type feeders as the only exception to the wildlife feeding ban.

Learning to identify birds is fun and easy (as long as you do not expect to learn all the birds in a couple of weeks or months.) Binocular requirements are also minimal and easy to learn. (A future installment will demystify the particulars of binoculars.) Bird watching requires no particular commitment of time and energy. You can devote 5 minutes – or 5 hours – to a particular observing session.

So, give it a go! You may be amazed at how enjoyable bird watching can be...and add a new, easily-shared lifelong interest to your repertoire.

Jim Carpenter (Unit 48)