

# THE NATURE OF KIAWAH

## *A GUIDE TO THE COMMON WILDLIFE SPECIES OF KIAWAH ISLAND*



Published by the Town of Kiawah Island  
Environmental Committee

*Kiawah Island is home to a wide variety of birds, animals, and plants. The following is a simple list of things you can do to help protect our island wildlife and the environment.*

### ***Stay out of bird nesting areas and the dunes***

Kiawah's dune system and open beach areas are valuable nesting habitat for a variety of bird species, including Least Terns, Black Skimmers, Wilson's Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Common Ground-Doves, and many more. Please stay out of the dunes and avoid bird nesting areas that are marked with signs.



### ***Walk around groups of shorebirds on the beach***

Shorebirds are a very common sight along the Kiawah beachfront where they actively forage and rest. Many of these shorebird species migrate great distances and stop on Kiawah's beach to rest and refuel in preparation for migration. Disturbing these birds by walking through them can prevent them from being able to prepare for migration, resulting in their deaths. Please take the time to walk around groups of shorebirds and keep your dogs from chasing them.



### ***Drive cautiously on the island especially at dawn and dusk***

Kiawah's wildlife species are most active during dawn, dusk, and nighttime hours. Please use caution as you drive around the island. Collisions with vehicles are the leading cause of death for our island deer and bobcats. Help protect all our wildlife by being vigilant and slowing down when driving on the island, especially during these peak wildlife activity times.

### ***Keep dogs on leash***

Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times, with the exception of certain areas on the beach. To view Kiawah's beach dog leash regulations, visit:

[www.wildlifeatkiawah.com/dogleash.html](http://www.wildlifeatkiawah.com/dogleash.html)

### ***Do not approach, feed or harass alligators***

Never approach within 60 feet of an alligator. Do not intentionally feed alligators or allow them to consume crab or fishing bait. An alligator that has been fed quickly loses its fear of humans and can be aggressive towards people. It is against state and local law to feed or entice alligators with food or to harass or harm them in any way. If convicted, offenders can receive a \$200 fine and up to 30 days in prison for feeding and fines up to \$5,000 and 1 year in prison for harassment. Anyone witnessing unlawful actions against alligators should report them to KICA Security immediately (768-5566).



### ***Recycle***

Residents can recycle paper, glass, plastic, and steel cans by placing these items in their personal recycle bins for weekly pick up. Recycle bins are available at Town Hall (768-9166). Visitors can recycle these items, with the addition of cardboard, by taking them to the recycling centers located at Town Hall and on Kestrel Court. Additional items such as fluorescent bulbs and electronics can be recycled at the Nature Center (768-6001).

### ***Don't litter***

Kiawah island is a beautiful and clean place and we want to keep it that way! Litter not only makes the island look bad but it hurts our environment as well. Plastic products, fishing line, and crabbing supplies are responsible for injury and death to thousands of fish and birds each year. Please do your part to ensure the persisting beauty of Kiawah Island by picking up any trash you see in your travels around the island.



*Thanks for visiting Kiawah Island. We hope you enjoy your time here. If you have a question or want to report an interesting wildlife sighting, send us an email at:*

**[biologist@wildlifeatkiawah.com](mailto:biologist@wildlifeatkiawah.com)**

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# WHERE TO SEE WILDLIFE

## A LIST OF THE MOST POPULAR WILDLIFE VIEWING LOCATIONS ON KIAWAH ISLAND

**Kiawah River Bridge** - There is a paved pull off on the right side of the Kiawah Island Parkway just before the bridge as you are leaving the island. A good spot to see marsh and wetland birds.

**Captain Sam's Inlet** - The ocean inlet between Kiawah and Seabrook island on the western end of the island is a popular spot for wildlife viewing. One of the biggest attractions is the Bottlenose Dolphin that are frequently seen feeding in this area. This is also a great spot to see many of our beach and ocean birds. Be sure to stay out of marked bird nesting areas.

**Marsh Island Park** - This undeveloped hammock island is located off of Governor's Drive between Persimmon and Wax Myrtle Court. Access is by foot or bike only. This is a great spot to view many common forest and marsh bird species.

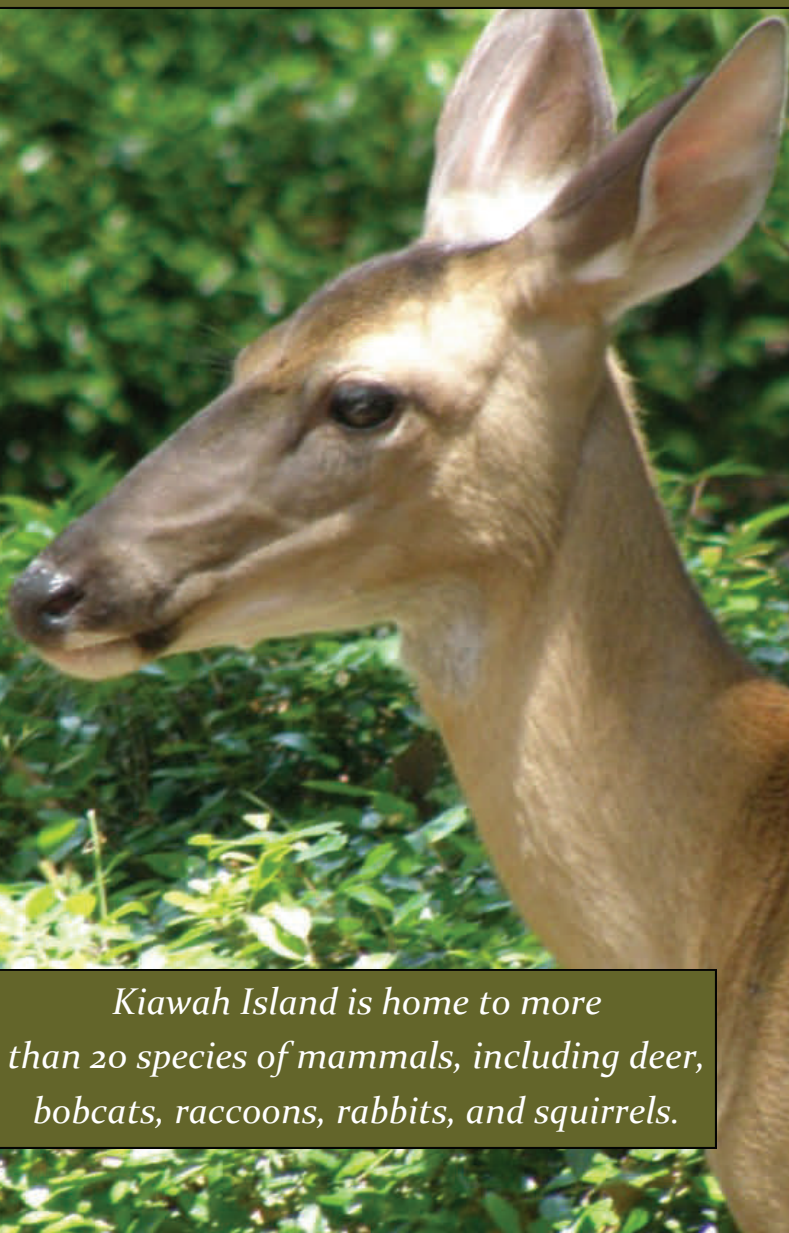
**Ibis Pond** - This pond is located along Ocean Course Drive just past the Beach Club turnoff. Parking is allowed along the roadway, just be sure not to park on the bike path. Ibis Pond is a great spot to view alligators and birds.

**Willet Pond** - This pond is located along Ocean Course Drive just before the Ocean Park community.. Parking is provided just past the pond on the right. This is a very good spot to view alligators and birds. Across the road from the pond is an active Osprey nest which often hosts Great Horned Owls in the winter months as well.

For a full list of wildlife viewing locations, including maps and a list of commonly seen species, visit the Town of Kiawah Island Wildlife Website and click on the "Where to See Wildlife" tab.

[www.wildlifeatkiawah.com](http://www.wildlifeatkiawah.com)

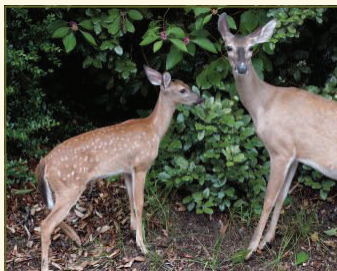
# MAMMALS



*Kiawah Island is home to more than 20 species of mammals, including deer, bobcats, raccoons, rabbits, and squirrels.*

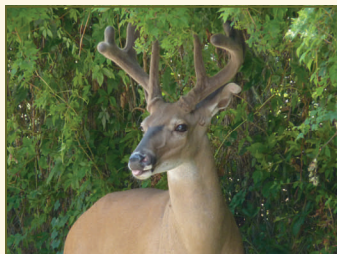
# WHITE-TAILED DEER

**DESCRIPTION:** Reddish coat during summer; darker, gray coat during winter. Males have antlers. Fawns have white spots for first few months. Striking white underside of tail which is raised when alarmed.



**SIZE:** Males (100-175 pounds)  
Females (90-120 pounds)

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common. All parts of island, most visible during dawn/dusk and at night.



**FOOD HABITS:** Herbivorous. Consumes a variety of native and ornamental plants, as well as grasses, acorns and muscadine grapes.

**LIFE HISTORY:** Breeds in fall (September-November). Fawns are born in spring (April-June). Does will have 1-2 fawns each year and keep them hidden by themselves for the first few weeks of life. Unattended fawns are not abandoned and should never be approached or disturbed. Males grow a new set of antlers each spring and summer. In early fall, the velvet is rubbed off of these antlers as they harden. Antlers are shed in late winter.

**NOTES:** Kiawah Island is home to approximately 500 deer. There is no hunting on Kiawah and deer numbers are naturally controlled by bobcats and other predators.

Use caution when driving on the island and be alert for deer crossing roadways. Deer travel in groups, so if you see a deer near the roadway, **slow down**, because there are likely to be others nearby.

# BOBCAT

**DESCRIPTION:** Yellowish or reddish-brown and spotted or streaked with brown or black.

**SIZE:** Males (18-28 pounds)  
Females (14-20 pounds)

**WHERE TO SEE:** All parts of island (more common on eastern portion of island). Most visible during dawn/dusk and at night.

**FOOD HABITS:** Carnivorous. Opportunistic hunters that eat a variety of prey, including rabbits, rodents, raccoons, birds, deer (primarily fawns during the summer), and even reptiles and amphibians.

**LIFE HISTORY:** Breeds in late winter (February-March). Kittens born in spring (April-June). Bobcats typically have 2-3 kittens per year. The den is typically located under a brush pile, in a hollow tree stump, or in a thicket of palmetto. Kittens will stay with the female for 8-10 months before dispersing to find their own territories.

**NOTES:** Kiawah Island is home to approximately 30-35 bobcats. Bobcats serve a vital role on Kiawah by helping to control deer and rodent populations. Town Biologists are currently studying bobcat habitat use and requirements using GPS collars. Visit the Town's wildlife website for more information and to see location data from our current bobcats.

[www.wildlifeatkiawah.com/bobcatgps.html](http://www.wildlifeatkiawah.com/bobcatgps.html)

The primary cause of death for our island bobcats is collisions with vehicles. Please be alert for bobcats crossing roadways.



## RACCOON

**DESCRIPTION:** Gray or brown. Black facial mask and ringed tail.

**SIZE:** 10-20 pounds

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common. All parts of the island. Most visible at night.



**FOOD HABITS:** Omnivorous. Eats acorns, blackberries, grapes, insects, crayfish, lizards, eggs. Will scavenge in garbage cans.

**NOTES:** Breeds from February-June with young (kits) born 63 days later. Dens are typically located in a hollow tree or cavity above the ground. Kits are blind until 3 weeks of age and travel with the female beginning at 2 months, leaving to find their own territory in the fall.

## VIRGINIA OPOSSUM

**DESCRIPTION:** Gray-white fur, black legs, and a hairless tail.

**SIZE:** 4-8 pounds

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common. All parts of island. Most visible at night.

**FOOD HABITS:** Omnivorous.

Eats small mammals, fruits, seeds, insects, and eggs. Will scavenge in garbage cans.



**NOTES:** The only marsupial in North America. Females have a pouch for rearing young. Breeds in winter (December-February). Young are born 15 days later with most development occurring in the female's pouch. Litter sizes range from 7 to 15. Tail is prehensile and can grasp very large branches to aid in climbing.

## GRAY FOX

**DESCRIPTION:** Gray with reddish tinges, “dog-like”, bushy tail.

**SIZE:** 7-10 pounds

**WHERE TO SEE:** Uncommon. All parts of island. Most visible at night.

**FOOD HABITS:** Omnivorous. Eats rabbits, rodents, insects, fruits, berries, and acorns.

**NOTES:** Breeds in late winter. 2-4 pups born in spring, normally in a hollow stump or log. Male and female both assist in rearing young. Only member of dog family capable of climbing trees. Gray fox numbers on Kiawah Island are very cyclical. Numbers drop drastically after outbreaks of canine distemper and slowly rebound before the next outbreak occurs.



## COYOTE

**DESCRIPTION:** Grayish-brown, often with reddish tinges, “dog-like”, bushy tail.

**SIZE:** 20-40 pounds

**WHERE TO SEE:** Uncommon. Most active at night.

**FOOD HABITS:** Omnivorous. Eats deer, rabbits, rodents, insects, fruits, berries, and acorns.

**NOTES:** Breeds in late winter (February-March). 5-7 pups born 63 days later. Pups are weaned after 2 months and disperse in 8-9 months. Coyotes generally hunt alone or in pairs and cover large areas in search of food. Coyotes are a recent addition to the island, arriving in 2009.



## NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER

**DESCRIPTION:** Short, brownish-gray fur, webbed feet, and long tail.

**SIZE:** 3-4 feet long, 12-25 pounds

**WHERE TO SEE:** Rare. Ponds, creeks, river. Most commonly seen crossing roads adjacent to wetlands.



**FOOD HABITS:** Carnivorous. Eats fish, snakes, turtles, frogs, and crayfish.

**NOTES:** Breeds in late spring. 2-4 pups born the following spring, normally in holes along creeks and rivers or in hollow stumps near water. Young leave den at 10 weeks of age and stay with the female, learning to swim and hunt, for about a year.

## AMERICAN MINK

**DESCRIPTION:** Long slender body, dark brown fur, short legs, partially webbed feet.

**SIZE:** 2 feet long, 1-4 pounds

**WHERE TO SEE:** Rare. Most active at night. Creeks, river, marsh.



**FOOD HABITS:** Carnivorous. Eats crabs, snakes, fish, birds, clams, rats, and mice.

**NOTES:** Breeds in winter (January-March). 3-6 young born between April-June. Young are weaned after 2 months and typically disperse in the fall to find their own territories. Mink are very good swimmers. Mink are rarely seen on Kiawah with most sightings occurring along saltwater creeks or river banks.

## GRAY SQUIRREL

**DESCRIPTION:** Gray with reddish tinges, white belly, bushy tail.

**SIZE:** 1-2 pounds

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common. All parts of island, active during the day.



**FOOD HABITS:** Omnivorous.

Eats acorns, nuts, fruit, buds, flowers, seeds, and occasionally bird eggs and young.

**NOTES:** Typically breeds twice per year, winter and summer. 1-8 young born in hollow trees or nests constructed of leaves and branches. Very good climbers that spend most of their time in trees, though they often forage on the ground.

## SOUTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL

**DESCRIPTION:** Reddish-brown or gray, white belly.

**SIZE:** 2-3 ounces

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common. Nocturnal. Rarely seen but often heard making a bird-like chirp at night.



**FOOD HABITS:** Omnivorous. Eats acorns, nuts, berries, fruits, seeds, flowers, and occasionally bird eggs and young.

**NOTES:** Typically breeds twice per year, winter and summer. 2-4 young born 40 days later. Roost and nest in tree cavities but will use bluebird boxes. Has a cape of loose skin from wrist to ankle allowing it to glide easily between trees.



## EASTERN COTTONTAIL RABBIT

**DESCRIPTION:** Brownish-gray, large ears and white, fluffy tail.

**SIZE:** 2-3 pounds

**WHERE TO SEE:** Uncommon. All parts of island, most visible at night.

**FOOD HABITS:** Herbivorous. Eats grass, clover, leaves, bark, and flowers.

**NOTES:** Breeds in spring and summer. 2-6 young born 1 month later, typically in a nest lined with hair on the ground. Young are weaned after 2 weeks and leave the nest soon after. Cottontail rabbits can raise 3-4 litters a year.



## MARSH RABBIT

**DESCRIPTION:** Dark brown, small ears and no white tail.

**SIZE:** 2-3 pounds

**WHERE TO SEE:** Uncommon. All parts of island, most visible at night.

**FOOD HABITS:** Herbivorous. Eats cattails, rushes, and other aquatic vegetation as well as blackberry and greenbrier.

**NOTES:** Breeds in spring and summer. 2-5 young born 1 month later, typically in a nest lined with hair on the ground. Young are weaned after 2 weeks and leave the nest soon after. Marsh rabbits can raise 3-4 litters a year. They are typically associated with wetland habitats and are very good swimmers.



## EASTERN RED BAT

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized bat with reddish-orange coat and short ears.

**SIZE:** 0.25-0.50 ounces

**WHERE TO SEE:** Fairly common. All parts of island. Most visible at night over open areas.

**FOOD HABITS:** Carnivorous. Eats moths, mosquitoes, beetles, and other insects.

**NOTES:** Young (2-4) are typically born in summer (May-July). Solitary. Roosts during the day by hanging upside down in trees and forages at night. Bats locate and capture prey using echolocation (similar to sonar).



## BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

**DESCRIPTION:** Gray-silver in color. Smooth skin, prominent dorsal fin.

**SIZE:** 6-10 feet, 500 pounds

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common. Ocean and Kiawah River. Captain Sam's Inlet.

**FOOD HABITS:** Carnivorous. Eats fish, shrimp, and crabs.

**NOTES:** Breeds year round, typically a single calf is born 12 months later. Dolphins are normally found in groups (pods) of 5-10 individuals. Dolphins search for prey using echolocation, similar to sonar. **If you see a dolphin or other marine mammal, dead or alive, on the beach please call Town Hall (768-9166), KICA Security (768-5566), or the SCDNR 24-hour Hotline (1-800-922-5431) immediately.**



# FISH



*Kiawah Island's brackish and freshwater ponds, creeks, and rivers are home to a wide variety of fish species. Fishing is a popular pastime on the island, with red drum, flounder, spotted sea trout, and largemouth bass being the most sought after species.*

## LARGEMOUTH BASS

FRESHWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Olive-green with dark blotches, underside whitish.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Freshwater ponds, particularly in center of island (River Course, Tennis Club Villas).

**NOTES:** Up to 20 pounds, typically 1-5 pounds. Highly sought after freshwater fish. Voracious predator. Eats minnows, small fish, worms, frogs, and salamanders.

## BLUEGILL (Sunfish, bream)

FRESHWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Flat body, round shape, olive-colored with dark blue/purple around gills and mouth.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Freshwater ponds (River Course, Tennis Club Villas).

**NOTES:** Up to 5 pounds but typically less than a pound. This colorful freshwater fish is a popular game fish. Eats small insects and minnows. Often caught using crickets or worms for bait.

## GRASS CARP

FRESHWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Dark green to brown upperparts, lighter colored underside. Large scales and tail.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Freshwater and brackish ponds.

**NOTES:** Up to 4 feet long and 70 pounds. These large plant eaters are stocked for aquatic plant control and eat a variety of submerged and floating vegetation. Not typically caught by fisherman since they are herbivorous.

## TILAPIA

FRESHWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Silvery-green sides, red around mouth and gills, and bright orange borders on dorsal and tail fins.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Freshwater and brackish ponds.

**NOTES:** Up to 14 inches and 1-5 pounds. Native to Africa. Stocked for aquatic plant control. Often seen tending circular nests in shallow water near pond edges.

## RED DRUM (Spottail Bass, Redfish)

SALTWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Silver to reddish-brown with black spot near tail.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Brackish and saltwater ponds (Canvasback, Egret, Pintail, and Beachwalker), rivers, creeks, ocean.

**NOTES:** Up to 60 inches and 80 pounds. 20-30 pound fish routinely caught in island ponds. Eats a variety of prey, including shrimp, blue crabs, fiddler crabs, and fish.

## SPOTTED SEA TROUT (Speckled Trout)

SALTWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Silver fading to white on belly. Black spots on sides.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Brackish and saltwater ponds (Canvasback, Egret), rivers, creeks, ocean.

**NOTES:** Up to 12 pounds. 1-5 pound fish routinely caught in island ponds. One of the top species of inshore game fish in South Carolina. Young trout primarily eat shrimp, while adults mostly eat fish.

## SOUTHERN FLOUNDER

SALTWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Dark brown with light spots. Underside is solid white.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Brackish and saltwater ponds (Canvasback, Egret, and Beachwalker), rivers, creeks, ocean.

**NOTES:** Up to 10 pounds, typically 1-3. Both eyes on top side of body. Lays on bottom and ambushes small fish and shrimp as they pass by.



## SHEEPSHEAD

SALTWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Vertical black and silver stripes. Teeth distinctive, look similar to human teeth.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Brackish and saltwater ponds, rivers, creeks and ocean.

**NOTES:** Up to 20 pounds. Typically found around docks and pilings. Eats barnacles, crabs, and mollusks. Typically caught using live fiddler crabs as bait.



## BLACK DRUM

SALTWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Vertical black and silver stripes. Barbels (whiskers) under chin.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Brackish and saltwater ponds, rivers, creeks, ocean.

**NOTES:** Up to 50 pounds, typically 2-5 pounds. Good eating fish. Black stripes fade away as fish get larger. Bottom feeder. Most commonly caught on shrimp or squid.



## PINFISH

SALTWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Silver with greenish hue, yellow horizontal stripes and dark spot behind gills, sharp dorsal spines.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Brackish and saltwater ponds, rivers, creeks, ocean.

**NOTES:** Up to 10 inches.

Commonly caught by anglers. Eats small fish and invertebrates. Not a highly sought after fish due to the bony nature of its flesh.



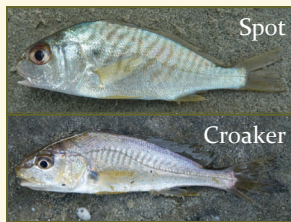
## SPOT/ATLANTIC CROAKER

SALTWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, silvery, oval-shaped panfish. Spot are more rounded in shape with a dark spot behind gill plate. Croakers “croak” when handled.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Brackish and saltwater ponds, rivers, creeks, ocean.

**NOTES:** 4 to 10-inches. Commonly caught. Good to eat. Typically caught fishing on the bottom with shrimp or squid.



## STRIPED MULLET

SALTWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Silver-gray with darker upperparts, horizontal stripes on body and small mouth.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Brackish and saltwater ponds, rivers, creeks, ocean.

**NOTES:** Up to 25 inches and 10 pounds. Eats algae. Commonly seen leaping out of the water. Small mullet are often caught in cast nets and used as bait for larger gamefish.

## MENHADEN

SALTWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** “Shiny” silver with darker back and black spot behind head.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Brackish and saltwater ponds, river, ocean.

**NOTES:** Up to 18 inches long. Also called “porgy” or “bunker”. Very oily flesh. Fished commercially for oil and as fertilizer. Often caught in cast nets and used as bait for larger gamefish.

## WHITING (Kingfish)

SALTWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** Gray-brown, often with black bars. Long body, single barbell (whisker) under mouth.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Saltwater rivers, creeks, ocean.

**NOTES:** 1-3 pounds. Bottom dwellers that eat worms, crabs, and shrimp. Commonly caught by surf fisherman using cut shrimp or squid. Very good to eat.

## SHARKS

SALTWATER

**DESCRIPTION:** A variety of sharks inhabit the waters surrounding Kiawah. Most are less than 5 feet long.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Saltwater rivers, creeks, ocean.

**NOTES:** The 3 most common sharks are the Bonnethead, Atlantic sharpnose and Black-tipped. They feed primarily on shrimp, crabs, and small fish. Small sharks are routinely caught by surf fisherman.





# REPTILES



*Kiawah Island is home to more than 40 species of reptiles, including the American Alligator, Loggerhead Sea Turtle, and a variety of snakes and lizards.*

# AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

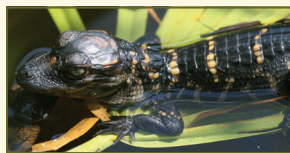
**DESCRIPTION:** Alligators look like large lizards. Their skin is very rough and covered in heavy blackish-colored scales. Hatchlings are typically black on top with yellow blotches or stripes. Both males and females look identical.



**SIZE:** Males (9-12 feet), Females (7-9 feet).

**WHERE TO SEE:** All island ponds. Good viewing spots are Canvasback, Ibis, and Willet Ponds.

**LIFE HISTORY:** Breeds in spring (May-June). Female lays 30 to 50 oblong, white eggs in a mound of mud and vegetation. Eggs typically hatch in August or September. Hatchlings grow 6-8 inches per year reaching adult size (7 feet) in 10 to 12 years.



**FOOD HABITS:** Carnivorous. Small alligators eat insects, frogs, snakes, small fish and turtles. As an alligator increases in size it switches to larger prey, such as raccoons, wading birds, small mammals, fish, deer, and even other alligators.

**NOTES:** Kiawah Island is home to more than 500 alligators. Alligators are cold-blooded and they cannot self-regulate their body temperature as humans do. For this reason, alligators are most active during spring, summer, and fall. They will often be seen basking on pond edges in the sun in an attempt to warm their body temperature, especially during colder weather.

**Do not approach, feed, or harass alligators. Report aggressive alligators to Town Hall (768-9166) during normal business hours. At all other times, call KICA Security (768-5566).**

# LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE

**DESCRIPTION:** The head and upper shell (carapace) are dark and reddish brown; the flippers and lower shell (plastron) are light yellow.

**SIZE:** 3-4 feet, 250-300 pounds.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Ocean and Kiawah River, females come ashore to nest on beach at night from May-August each year.

**LIFE HISTORY:** Breeding occurs in early spring in coastal waters. Adult females come ashore to lay clutches averaging 120 eggs. Eggs hatch 60 days later and the hatchlings remain in the nests for several days before they emerge as a group, typically at night, and head to the ocean. **Artificial light from homes behind the dunes can attract turtles leading to their demise. Please keep beachfront lights out from May-October.**

**FOOD HABITS:** In coastal waters, feeds mainly on whelks, crabs, fishes, sponges, and jellyfish.

**NOTES:** Nesting efforts are monitored on our beaches by a dedicated group of volunteers. The Turtle Program started in 1973 and the Town of Kiawah has provided funding and logistical support since 1990. During the nesting season, volunteers patrol the entire beach each morning to locate and mark nests laid the previous night. When nests begin to hatch, additional volunteers patrol sections of beach daily to check for emergence of hatchlings. After hatching, each nest is excavated and inventoried. Detailed records are kept of all activities and a report is prepared annually for SCDNR. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Town Hall (768-9166).

# DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN

**DESCRIPTION:** Light brown or gray on top and yellow to olive on bottom. Striking diamond-shaped pattern on top shell. Whitish-gray skin with black spots and wavy markings.



**SIZE:** 5-8 inches, 0.5-1.5 pounds.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Saltwater rivers and creeks.

**LIFE HISTORY:** Female terrapins reach maturity at 6 years of age (compared to 3 years for males). Terrapins breed in early spring and females will leave the water in late spring or summer to lay their eggs, often on the sandy banks of hammock islands. Females typically lay 4-18 eggs and the hatchlings emerge after about 3 months.

**FOOD HABITS:** Feeds primarily on snails, worms, fish, and crabs. In the marshes of Kiawah, terrapins eat mostly periwinkle snails and fiddler crabs.

**NOTES:** In the early 1900's, terrapins were considered a culinary delicacy and terrapin soup was a common menu item in restaurants. For this reason, terrapin populations suffered a significant decline due to overharvesting. As the taste for terrapin soup diminished, terrapin populations rebounded but they still face significant threats. One of the biggest threats is the accidental death of terrapins in crab traps.

The Town of Kiawah Island encourages the use of Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRD) on all crab traps. BRDs can be obtained from the Night Heron Park Nature Center (768-6001). These devices help keep terrapins out of crab traps and will also help you catch more crabs. Note: Crab traps are not allowed in any of the ponds on Kiawah Island.

## YELLOW-BELLIED SLIDER

**DESCRIPTION:** Vertical yellow bands on top, yellow belly, distinctive yellow spot behind eye.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Freshwater and brackish ponds.

**NOTES:** 5-12 inches. Omnivorous. Commonly seen basking on logs and banks. Eats aquatic insects, fish, snails, as well as aquatic vegetation.



## EASTERN MUD TURTLE

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, oval-shaped, dark brown to black. Large head streaked with light coloration.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Freshwater ponds and swamps.

**NOTES:** 3-5 inches. Omnivorous. Eats insects, crustaceans, amphibians, and aquatic vegetation. Overwinters on land in a burrow in soft mud.



## BOX TURTLE

**DESCRIPTION:** High, domed shell. Greenish-brown shell with yellow markings.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Upland sites throughout the island.

**NOTES:** Up to 8 inches. Omnivorous. Lives on dry land, often seeks cover under logs and debris. They can completely close up their shell when frightened or disturbed. Can live 60-80 years.



## GREEN ANOLE

**DESCRIPTION:** 5-8 inch lizard, may be green or brown in color. Males have pink throat fan.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Common on all parts of the island.

**NOTES:** Active during the day, often seen basking on vegetation, fences, or buildings. Eats insects and other invertebrates. Changes color based on surroundings.

## EASTERN GLASS LIZARD

**DESCRIPTION:** Long and slender, light brown or yellowish-green, vertical white bars behind head.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Dunes and forest.

**NOTES:** 18-43 inches. Looks like a snake but is actually a legless lizard. Eats insects, spiders, and other invertebrates. Will often drop off all or part of their tails when seized by a predator. The tail will grow back.

## SIX-LINED RACERUNNER

**DESCRIPTION:** Light-brown to black with 6 yellow or white stripes running the length of body.



**WHERE TO SEE:** All parts of island, dunes, forests, and open areas.

**NOTES:** 6-9 inches. Very fast. Eats insects, spiders, and other invertebrates. Often seen darting across the ground in an attempt to capture prey.

## BROADHEAD SKINK

**DESCRIPTION:** Brown or grayish-black, often with 5 light-colored stripes. Adult males have large, orange head. Young have a bright blue tail.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Very common throughout island in forests and yards.

**NOTES:** 6-13 inches. Spends time in trees as well as on the ground. Eats insects, spiders, and other invertebrates.

## SOUTHEASTERN FIVE-LINED SKINK

**DESCRIPTION:** Brown or grayish-black with 5 light-colored stripes. Young have bright blue tail.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common in forests and yards.

**NOTES:** 5-8 inches. Adults similar to broadhead skink but smaller. Eats insects, spiders, and other invertebrates. Not as visible as other skinks, often hides under logs or leaf litter.



## YELLOW RAT SNAKE

NON-VENOMOUS

**DESCRIPTION:** Yellowish-brown with 4 black bands running lengthwise on body.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common on all parts of the island.

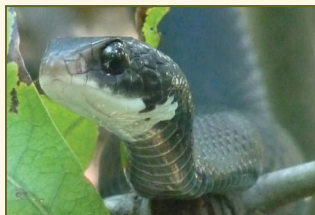
**NOTES:** 3-6 feet. Non-venomous. Constrictor. Very good climbers, often seen in trees. Eats rats, mice, squirrels, birds, and bird eggs.



## BLACK RACER

NON-VENOMOUS

**DESCRIPTION:** Long and slender. Black in color, often with a white chin.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Common on all parts of the island.

**NOTES:** Non-venomous. Up to 5 feet long. Only active during the day. Very fast, often travels with head raised. Eats insects, lizards, snakes, birds, and rodents.

## CORN SNAKE

NON-VENOMOUS

**DESCRIPTION:** Brownish-yellow with red or orange blotches on back.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Common throughout the island.

**NOTES:** Non-venomous. 3-4 feet. Excellent climber. Eats rats, mice, birds, and lizards. Gets its name from the maize (Indian corn) pattern on its underbelly. Often confused with the venomous copperhead.

## ROUGH GREEN SNAKE

NON-VENOMOUS

**DESCRIPTION:** Small and slender. Bright greenish-yellow.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Fairly common on all parts of the island.

**NOTES:** Non-venomous. Up to 3 feet long. Spend most of their lives in trees and bushes, typically near or over water. Eats insects and spiders which they capture and swallow whole.





## EASTERN GARTER SNAKE

NON-VENOMOUS

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, slender body. Brownish-gray to black with 3 yellow stripes down length of body.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common on all parts of the island.



**NOTES:** Non-venomous. 1-3 feet long. Commonly seen around homes and yards. Eats mainly amphibians. Can tolerate much colder temperatures than other snakes.

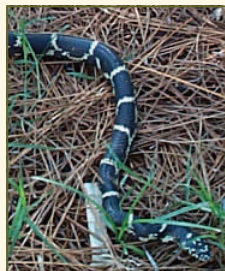
## EASTERN KINGSNAKE

NON-VENOMOUS

**DESCRIPTION:** Black with white rings around body.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Uncommon on all parts of the island.

**NOTES:** Non-venomous. Constrictor. Up to 5 feet long. Eats rodents, birds, and lizards. Best known for their tendency to eat other snakes, including venomous species such as rattlesnakes.



## BANDED WATER SNAKE

NON-VENOMOUS

**DESCRIPTION:** Light brown, reddish or black with darker crossbands on body. Oval head.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Fairly common around ponds and wetlands.



**NOTES:** Non-venomous. 2-4 feet long. Similar in appearance to cottonmouth, but can be distinguished by oval head and round pupils. Cottonmouth has triangular head and vertical pupils. Fairly aggressive, but harmless. Eats primarily fish and frogs.

## COPPERHEAD

VENOMOUS

**DESCRIPTION:** Large, triangular head. Copper or pinkish with reddish-brown, hourglass-shaped crossbands.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Uncommon on all parts of the island.

**NOTES:** Our most common venomous snake, though still very rarely seen. 2-4 feet long. Eats rats, mice, birds, lizards, amphibians, and other snakes.



## COTTONMOUTH (Water Moccasin)

VENOMOUS

**DESCRIPTION:** Heavy, thick body. Large triangular head. Vertical pupils. Brown or black often with dark bands around body. Inside of mouth is white.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Rare near wetlands.

**NOTES:** Venomous. 2-4 feet long. Typically very sluggish and non-aggressive. Eats mostly fish, but also eats frogs, snakes, and turtles.



## TIMBER RATTLESNAKE (Canebrake)

VENOMOUS

**DESCRIPTION:** Grayish-brown with lighter colored stripe running down back. Blackish chevron bands. Distinctive rattles on end of tail.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Very rare in forests and swamps.



**NOTES:** Venomous. 3-5 feet long. Eats rabbits, rats, mice, and squirrels. Typically docile, only bites when aggravated. Only 2 records from Kiawah in last 10 years.

# AMPHIBIANS



*Kiawah Island is home to more than 20 species of amphibians, including the Southern Toad, Green Tree Frog, and Slimy Salamander.*

## SOUTHERN TOAD

**DESCRIPTION:** Brown, warty skin with spots. Pale belly.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Common on all parts of the island.

**NOTES:** Averages 3 inches long. Eats a variety of insects. Often seen in parking lots foraging under lights at night. Enlarged glands behind eyes secrete a poison if crushed. Wash hands after handling.

## EASTERN NARROWMOUTH TOAD

**DESCRIPTION:** Smooth brownish-gray to reddish skin. Pointed snout.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Uncommon throughout island near wetlands.

**NOTES:** About an inch long. Eats primarily ants. Most visible at night during breeding season (summer) around freshwater wetlands. Often heard making a sheep-like whinny call.

## EASTERN SPADEFOOT TOAD

**DESCRIPTION:** Olive-brown to black with smooth skin and small warts. Black, spade-like projection on feet and vertical pupils.



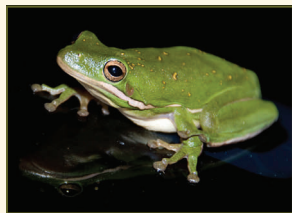
**WHERE TO SEE:** Uncommon and rarely seen.

**NOTES:** 2-3.5 inches long. Eats insects, spiders, earthworms, and snails. Very good digger, spends days in shallow burrows. Most active at night. The only toad with vertical pupils.

## GREEN TREE FROG

**DESCRIPTION:** Bright green with white belly. Light colored stripe on sides and spots on back. Large toe pads.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common on all parts of the island.



**NOTES:** 2-2.5 inches long. Eats primarily flying insects. Active at night. Often seen on home windows at night foraging for bugs attracted to interior lighting.

## SOUTHERN LEOPARD FROG

**DESCRIPTION:** Green and brown with large spots on back and sides. Long legs.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common around ponds and wetlands throughout island.

**NOTES:** Up to 5 inches long. Eats insects, spiders, and earthworms.

Typically spends days hiding in vegetation on pond edges. Often seen at night on golf courses close to ponds.



## SLIMY SALAMANDER

**DESCRIPTION:** Dark blue to black with light colored spots. Smooth, moist skin.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Rare throughout island in moist soil areas.



**NOTES:** 4-7 inches long. Eats ants, beetles, earthworms, and many other insects. Hides under debris and leaf litter during day. Most active at night after heavy rains.

# BIRDS

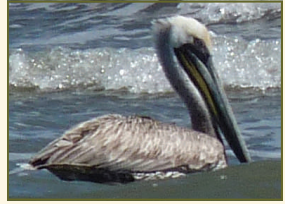


*Kiawah Island's unique habitats are home to a large variety of birds. More than 290 species of birds have been observed on the island. This section provides details on our most common species.*

## BROWN PELICAN

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Large with massive pouched bill. Adults are grayish-brown with white head and neck. Neck turns rich brown during breeding season. Immatures are overall brownish in color.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, common year-round. Beach, ponds, creeks, river, and ocean.

**NOTES:** Brown Pelicans plunge dive to capture prey items.

## LAUGHING GULL

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized gull. Dark gray back, black head with red bill in summer. White head with gray smudges, dark bill in winter.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common year-round. Beach, ponds, creeks, marsh and ocean.

**NOTES:** Very vocal and makes a series of calls that resemble laughing.



## RING-BILLED GULL

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized gull. Adults have a gray back, white head, and yellow bill with a black ring. Immatures are brownish and have a pink bill with black tip.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, present year-round but common in winter. Beach, ponds, and ocean.

**NOTES:** Commonly seen in parking lots well away from the ocean.



## HERRING GULL

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Large gull. Adults have white head, pale gray back, and a yellow bill with a red spot. Immatures are brownish overall and have a pink bill with black tip. All have pinkish legs.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, present year-round but common in winter. Beach, ponds, and ocean.

**NOTES:** Most widespread gull in North America.



## ROYAL TERN

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Large tern. Light gray above, white below with orange bill. Black cap with a shaggy crest on head. Less extensive black on head during non-breeding season.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common year-round. Beach, ponds, and ocean.

**NOTES:** Usually hunts away from surf in lagoons or offshore by diving into water.



## FORSTER'S TERN

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized tern. Light gray above, white below with a black eye patch and black bill during the non-breeding season.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in winter, fall, and spring. Beach, ponds, and ocean.

**NOTES:** Frequently hovers before diving into water for fish.



## LEAST TERN

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Small tern. Pale gray above, white below. Black cap with white forehead and yellow bill.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, common in summer, spring, and fall. Beach, ponds, and ocean.

**NOTES:** Frequently seen hovering, swooping, and diving into water for fish. Nests on both ends of the island in most years.

## SANDERLING

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Small shorebird. Light gray above, white below. Upperparts and head turning rusty in spring. Black bill and legs.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common year-round. Beach.

**NOTES:** Commonly seen in small flocks chasing receding waves and running away from incoming ones.

## WILLET

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Large shorebird. Gray above, pale below turning heavily barred during breeding season. Black bill and gray legs. In flight, shows a striking contrast of black and white in wings.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, common year-round. Beach, rivers, and salt marsh.

**NOTES:** Common call is a loud, piercing “pill-will-willet”.

## DUNLIN

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized shorebird. Long black bill with a slight droop. Pale-gray above, whitish below during winter. Upperparts reddish with a black belly in spring. Black legs.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in fall, winter, and spring. Beach, lagoons, and mudflats.

**NOTES:** Often seen in large flocks roosting on beach during winter.



## MARbled GODWIT

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Large shorebird. Brownish overall, mottled with black. Long, pinkish, upturned bill. In flight, shows rich cinnamon under wings.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, present year-round, most often seen in winter. Beach, lagoons, and mudflats.

**NOTES:** Uses long bill to probe mud or sand for invertebrates.



## SEMIPALMATED PLOVER

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Small shorebird. Dark brown above, white below with a single dark breast band. Orange bill with dark tip and orange legs.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, present year-round but common in winter. Beach, lagoons, and mudflats.

**NOTES:** Forages on wet sand by picking invertebrates from the surface.



## PIPING PLOVER

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Small shorebird. Pale gray above, white below with a narrow, pale band across chest that turns blackish in spring. Orange legs. Black bill turns orange in spring.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, fairly common in fall, winter, and spring. Beach, lagoons, and mudflats.

**NOTES:** Endangered. Picks invertebrates from surface of sand.



## WILSON'S PLOVER

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Small shorebird. Brownish above, white below with a dark breast band across chest. Large, thick, black bill. Flesh-colored legs.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, common in spring, summer, and fall. Rare in winter. Beach, mudflats, marsh, and lagoons.

**NOTES:** Specializes in feeding on fiddler crabs.



## BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized shorebird. Grayish above, whitish below turning a striking black and white in the spring. In flight, black "armpits" distinctive.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in fall, winter, and spring. Beach, lagoons, mudflats, and driving range at the Ocean Course.

**NOTES:** A stalking predator adapted to feed on a variety of prey items.



## RUDDY TURNSTONE

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, stocky shorebird. Head and chest patterned black and white, reddish above and white below. Orange legs. Short, pointed bill.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, present year-round but common in winter. Beach, mudflats, and lagoons.

**NOTES:** Often seen turning over beach debris in search of food.



## BLACK SKIMMER

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized seabird. Black above, white below. Large bill is black with red base.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, fairly common year-round. Beach, ponds, and tidal creeks.

**NOTES:** Feeds primarily at dusk or dawn (also at night) by skimming the surface of water with an open bill.



## AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Large shorebird. Brown above, white below with a black head. Long, bright orange bill and eye-ring.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, fairly common year-round. Beach, especially on east and west ends, river, and creeks.

**NOTES:** Specialized in feeding on bivalves. Uses needlelike bill to sever the strong muscle that holds the shell closed.



## RED KNOT

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium, stocky shorebird. Grayish-brown in winter, distinctive rusty color in spring/summer. Black bill.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in winter and spring. Beach, especially on east and west ends.

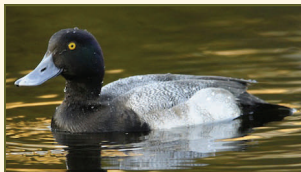
**NOTES:** Threatened. In spring, thousands stage on Kiawah before migrating north to breed.



## LESSER SCAUP

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized duck. Males have purplish-black/green head and whitish-gray back. Females are brown with white face patch. Blue bill.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in winter. Large ponds (Ibis, Willet and Bass) and ocean.

**NOTES:** Often seen in large flocks diving for submerged vegetation, invertebrates, and mollusks. Also called “bluebills”.

## BLACK SCOTER

BEACH

**DESCRIPTION:** Males are solid black with a yellow-orange knob at the base of bill. Females are brownish with a light colored cheek patch.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in winter. Ocean, typically several hundred yards out.

**NOTES:** Flocks of several thousand are seen offshore in winter. A strong pair of binoculars or scope is required to see them.

## GREAT EGRET

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Large wading bird. Solid white with a yellow bill. Black legs and feet.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common year-round. Ponds, creeks, and marsh. Nighttime roost on Sea Marsh Drive.

**NOTES:** Feeds on fish, invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians. Stabs prey with its sharp bill.

## SNOWY EGRET

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized wading bird. Solid white with a black bill and legs. Yellow feet.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common year-round. Ponds, creeks, marsh, and beach. Nighttime roost on Sea Marsh Drive.

**NOTES:** Very energetic feeder. Eats insects, fish, crabs, and shrimp.

## GREAT BLUE HERON

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Large wading bird. Grayish-blue overall with white head and black crown. Yellowish bill and dark legs.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common year-round. Ponds, creeks, river, marsh, and beach.

**NOTES:** Eats fish, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and small mammals. Call is a deep, hoarse croak often heard in flight.

## LITTLE BLUE HERON

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized wading bird. Adults are slate blue with reddish highlights in head and neck. Immatures are white. Bill is blue-gray with a dark tip.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common year-round. Ponds, creeks, marsh, and lagoons.

**NOTES:** Slow and methodical feeder. Eats fish, amphibians, and invertebrates.



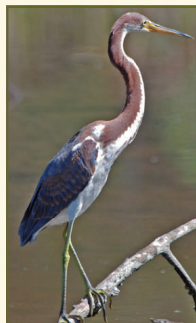
## TRICOLORED HERON

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized wading bird. Adults are mostly bluish above with white below. Some immatures can have reddish upperparts but all ages have white underparts.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common year-round. Ponds, creeks, marsh, and lagoons.

**NOTES:** Usually a solitary feeder. Eats fish, invertebrates, and insects.



## GREEN HERON

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, chunky wading bird. Greenish-blue upperparts with reddish neck and breast. Dark greenish cap. Long, yellowish legs.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, common in summer, spring, and fall. Present in small numbers during the winter. Ponds and marsh.

**NOTES:** Nests in shrubby vegetation along ponds, often in wax myrtles. Prefers to stay concealed in dense vegetation.



## BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized, nocturnal wading bird. Adults are mostly pale gray with a blackish-blue cap and back. Immatures are overall brownish-gray with white spotting.



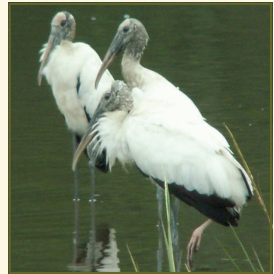
**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, uncommon year-round. Ponds and marsh.

**NOTES:** Roosts in dense cover during the day.

## WOOD STORK

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Large wading bird. All white with black along the sides. Head unfeathered, wrinkled with a heavy bill.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, uncommon year-round. Ponds and marsh.

**NOTES:** State endangered. Forages in small isolated pools by moving a partially opened bill back and forth in search of fish.

## WHITE IBIS

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized wading bird. Adults are entirely white. Immatures are brownish. Long, pink, down-curved bill. Pinkish legs.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, uncommon year-round. Marsh and ponds.

**NOTES:** Usually seen in large flocks. Feeds by probing or picking food from grass or shallow water. Glossy Ibis are also present on Kiawah but are dark, reddish-black in color.



## BELTED KINGFISHER

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Blue above, white below with a blue breast band. Head is blue with a shaggy crest. Females have a rusty-colored belly band.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in fall, winter, and spring. Ponds and tidal creeks.

**NOTES:** Forages by hovering and plunging head first into water after fish.



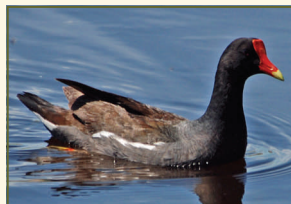
## COMMON MOORHEN

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Dark overall with a thin white line along the side. In summer, the bill turns bright red with a yellow tip.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, common year-round. Ponds and marsh.

**NOTES:** Often seen along densely vegetated shorelines but will forage in open water by picking food from the surface.



## CLAPPER RAIL

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Brownish-gray in color with dark gray cheek patches and contrasting dark and light stripes on flanks and belly. Long, orange bill.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, common year-round. Marsh and ponds.

**NOTES:** Clapper Rails inhabit dense marshes and are more often heard than seen. Distinctive long, extended clattering call.



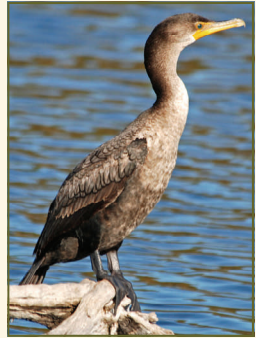
## DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Large, duck-like water bird with an orange, hooked bill. Adults appear black overall. Immatures are brownish with a pale breast and neck.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in fall, winter, and spring. Ponds and ocean.

**NOTES:** Eats primarily fish, often works together to “herd” fish against shorelines.



## ANHINGA

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Large, water bird with long neck and sharp, needle-like bill. Males are black with whitish back. Females and immatures have brown necks and breast.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, uncommon year-round. Ponds.

**NOTES:** Also called “snakebird” because only its head and neck are visible when swimming.



## PIED-BILLED GREBE

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, duck-like water bird. Overall brownish in color with dull-colored bill. In summer, the bill is encircled by a dark ring.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in fall, winter, and spring. Ponds and marsh.

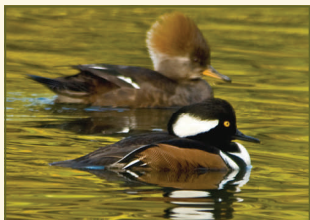
**NOTES:** When threatened, they can sink into the water without making a ripple.



## HOODED MERGANSER

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized diving duck with a long, thin bill and a fan-like crown. Males are boldly patterned in black, white, and brown. Females are predominately brown.



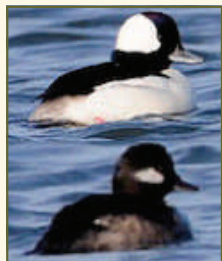
**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in winter and spring. Creeks, river, and ponds.

**NOTES:** The most abundant duck on Kiawah's ponds. Eats fish.

## BUFFLEHEAD

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Small diving duck with bluish bill. Males are dark above, white below with a large, white patch on the back of head. Females are dark above, gray below with a white spot on the side of the head.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, fairly common in winter and spring. Large ponds, creeks, river, lagoons, and ocean.

**NOTES:** Eats clams and other mollusks.

## RUDDY DUCK

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, chunky diving duck with a long, stiff tail that is often cocked up at an angle. Overall brownish in color with pale colored cheek patches.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, fairly common in winter and spring. Ponds, river, and ocean.

**NOTES:** Commonly seen in Ibis and Willet ponds. Rarely flies from danger, usually dives or swims away.

## BLUE-WINGED TEAL

WETLANDS

**DESCRIPTION:** Small duck with a spatula-shaped bill. Overall brown in color. Males have a white crescent-shaped patch at the base of bill. Light-blue shoulder patches visible in flight.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, uncommon. Fall, winter, and spring. Ponds, creeks, river, and lagoons.

**NOTES:** Dabbles at the surface of the water in search of food.



## NORTHERN CARDINAL

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized, crested songbird with large, conical bill. Males are bright red with black mask. Females are brownish with red highlights.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, common year-round. Forested areas, shrubland, and dunes.

**NOTES:** Commonly seen at bird feeders.



## CAROLINA CHICKADEE

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, social songbird. Grayish above, whitish below with black crown and throat.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, common year-round. Forested areas and shrubland.

**NOTES:** Acrobatic and agile when foraging. Often hangs upside down in search of food. Commonly seen at bird feeders.



## TUFTED TITMOUSE

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, crested songbird. Overall gray in color with a black forehead and a yellowish wash along the flanks.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, common year-round. Forested areas and shrubland.

**NOTES:** Commonly seen at bird feeders. Call is a fast, repeated whistle that sounds like “peter-peter-peter”.



## CAROLINA WREN

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, chunky songbird with a sturdy bill. Dark brown above, pale below with a distinctive white eye-stripe.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, common year-round. Forested areas, shrubland, and dunes.

**NOTES:** The state bird of South Carolina. Often nests around homes in containers.



## BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, social songbird with a large head and long bill. Grayish above, pale below with a brown crown.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, uncommon year-round. Forested areas, typically associated with pine trees.



**NOTES:** These birds are usually found high up in the tops of pine trees and can be identified by their squeaky toy call.

## EASTERN BLUEBIRD

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Small songbird. Males are bright blue above with a orange breast. Females are similarly patterned but much paler in color.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, common year-round. Open forested areas and golf courses.

**NOTES:** All of Kiawah's golf courses provide nesting boxes for bluebirds.



## HOUSE FINCH

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Small songbird with a short, blunt bill. Males are grayish brown with reddish marking on head and breast. Females lack red markings and are overall drab with blurry streaks of brown.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, fairly common year-round. Forested areas, shrubland, and dunes.

**NOTES:** Often seen at bird feeders.



## BLUE JAY

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Large, crested songbird. Bright blue above, whitish below with a dark necklace.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, common year-round. Forested areas, shrubland, and dunes.

**NOTES:** Feeds on acorns and other large seeds which it frequently hides and saves for eating later.



## PAINTED BUNTING

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, gaudy songbird. Males have blue heads, bright green back, and a red rump and underparts. Females and immatures are greenish above and yellowish below.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, common in spring, summer, and fall. Shrubland, marsh edges, and dunes.

**NOTES:** Comes readily to bird feeders offering white millet.



## NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized songbird. Grayish overall with bright white patches on wings and tail.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, common year-round. Shrubland, dunes, and open areas, such as golf courses.

**NOTES:** Large repertoire of songs consisting of imitations of other birds, animals, and mechanical sounds such as car alarms.



## COMMON GRACKLE

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Fairly large songbird. Overall blackish with purple iridescence.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, common year-round. Forested areas, shrubland, marsh, and dunes.

**NOTES:** Usually found in flocks, often with other blackbirds. Readily comes to bird feeders and will dominate over other species.



## BROWN THRASHER

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Fairly large songbird with long tail and bill. Rich rusty above, pale below with brown streaks.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, fairly common year-round. Wooded areas, shrubland, and dunes.

**NOTES:** Stays low to the ground and well hidden. Uses large bill to thrash away leaves and debris in search of food.

## YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, flocking songbird. Grayish-brown above, pale below with a distinctive yellow rump patch.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in fall, winter, and spring. Forested areas, shrubland, and dunes.



**NOTES:** Huge numbers are attracted to Kiawah in the winter to feast on the vast abundance of wax myrtle berries.

## GRAY CATBIRD

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized, slender songbird. Overall dark gray with a black crown and tail. Rust-colored patch under tail.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in winter, fall, and spring. Forested areas, shrubland, and dunes.

**NOTES:** It's call resembles a harsh, cat's meow: "MEEEEW".



## MOURNING DOVE

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized, plump dove with a long, pointed tail. Overall grayish-tan, with a rose-colored tint in the breast.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, common year-round. Forested areas, shrubland, and dunes.

**NOTES:** Often seen feeding on ground underneath bird feeders.

## COMMON GROUND-DOVE

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, compact dove with a very short tail. Overall grayish-brown with rosy highlights and a scaly patterned head. In flight, shows rich, rusty color under wings.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, uncommon year-round. Shrubland and dunes.



**NOTES:** Forages on open ground close to cover.

## AMERICAN & FISH CROWS

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Large and raucous. Solid black in color. Best distinguished by voice. American crows give a harsh “caw”. Fish crows give a more nasally version.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, common year-round. Forested areas, beach, and marsh.

**NOTES:** Commonly seen in large groups. Often found around picnic areas eating scraps.



## GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** A noisy, medium-sized songbird with a large head and bill. Brownish-red above, yellowish below.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, common in spring, summer, and fall. Forested areas and shrubland.

**NOTES:** Aggressively pursues flying insects often catching them in mid-air. Nests in cavities of dead/dying trees.



## PILEATED WOODPECKER

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Large, crested woodpecker. Black overall with white stripes on the side of head and neck. Bright red crown. In flight, shows a contrasting black and white pattern.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, uncommon year-round. Forested areas.

**NOTES:** Often heard making loud drumming noises on trees or even homes.



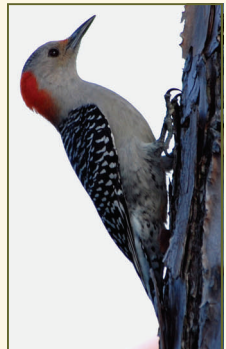
## RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized woodpecker. Black back with white barring. Underparts pale brown. Red crown on male extends from the bill to the back of head. In females the red is limited to the back of the head.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, common year-round. Forested areas and shrubland.

**NOTES:** Will come to bird feeders and eat seeds and suet.



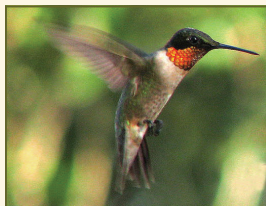
## RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Tiny with a long, narrow bill. Greenish above, white below. Males have a dark chin that glows red in sunlight.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, uncommon in summer, spring, and fall. Rare in winter. Forested areas and shrubland.

**NOTES:** Only hummingbird commonly found in the East. Drinks nectar from flowers. Attracted to sugar-water feeders.



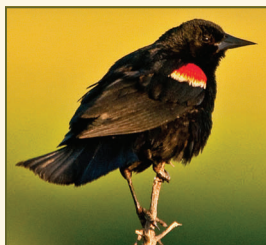
## RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized blackbird. Males are black with bright orange and yellow shoulder patches. Females are brownish-gray and heavily streaked.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, common year-round. Shrubland, marsh, ponds, and dunes.

**NOTES:** Male's "conk-la-ree" call is very commonly heard in summer near marsh.



## BARN SWALLOW

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, aerial songbird with a long, forked tail. Iridescent blue above, orange below with a dark-orange throat.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, common in summer, spring, and fall. Ponds, beach, golf courses.

**NOTES:** Nests under bridges and docks at some of the ponds on Kiawah, including Bass Pond.



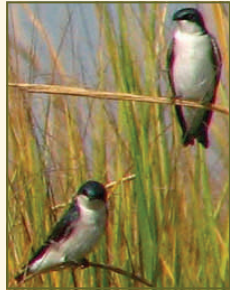
## TREE SWALLOW

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Iridescent blue-green above, pure white below. Tail square with an indistinct notch.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in winter, fall, and spring. Ponds, beach, and dunes.

**NOTES:** Commonly seen over the dunes and beach in huge flocks numbering in the thousands during the winter.



## CHIPPING SPARROW

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Small, slender sparrow. In winter, brownish above, grayish below with some reddish highlights in crown. In summer, reddish above, clean gray below with a bright chestnut cap.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, uncommon in winter, fall, and spring. Open forests and golf courses.

**NOTES:** Commonly seen at feeders.



## PINE WARBLER

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Fairly large warbler. Greenish-yellow above, yellowish below. Dark wings with two white wing bars.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, uncommon year-round. Forested areas, typically associated with pine trees.

**NOTES:** Usually found high in the tops of pine trees in summer. May visit bird feeders during the winter.



## HERMIT THRUSH

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized, spot-breasted songbird. Brownish above, whitish below with bold dark spots. Tail deep rust color.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, uncommon in winter, fall, and spring. Forested areas and shrubland.

**NOTES:** Habitually jerks its tail and flicks its wings.

## CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Large, nocturnal nightjar. Cryptically-colored, brown overall.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, uncommon in spring, summer, and fall. Forested areas and shrubland.

**NOTES:** Recognized by loud, insistent call of the bird's name: "*Chuck wills WI-dow*" given at night.

## LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

FOREST

**DESCRIPTION:** Large-headed, chunky songbird. Grayish above, white below with a black mask, wings, and tail.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, uncommon year-round. Shrubland, dunes and Ocean Course driving range.

**NOTES:** Because it lacks strong talons, it impales prey on sharp objects, such as thorns, before eating it.

## BALD EAGLE

## BIRDS OF PREY

**DESCRIPTION:** A large raptor with a thick yellow bill. Adult is dark with white head and tail. Immatures are dark overall with some to no white in head and tail.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, uncommon in winter, fall, and spring. Forested areas, beach, river, and marsh.

**NOTES:** Takes 5 years to attain adult plumage.

## OSPREY

## BIRDS OF PREY

**DESCRIPTION:** Large raptor. Dark brown above, white below. White head with a prominent dark eye-stripe.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, common year-round. Forested areas, ocean, beach, river, marsh, and ponds.

**NOTES:** Primarily feeds on fish captured by hovering high over the water then plunging in feet first.

## RED-TAILED HAWK

## BIRDS OF PREY

**DESCRIPTION:** Large, soaring raptor. Brownish above, whitish below with a distinct dark belly band. Adults have rusty-red tails.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, uncommon year-round. Forested areas and marsh.

**NOTES:** Prefers to hunt in the open from a high sturdy perch. Call is a hoarse, descending scream lasting 2-3 seconds.

## RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

### BIRDS OF PREY

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized raptor. Adults are dark above with white spotting, reddish below with thin white stripes. Immatures are brownish above, creamy below with pale spots.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, uncommon year-round. Forested areas.

**NOTES:** Call is a repeated, loud “kee-ahh” lasting about a second.



## NORTHERN HARRIER

### BIRDS OF PREY

**DESCRIPTION:** A medium-sized, marsh-hovering raptor with a white rump. Adult males are gray above, white below with a dark gray head. Females and immatures are dark above, creamy and streaked below. Owl-like face.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, common in winter, fall, and spring. Marsh.

**NOTES:** A common sight during the winter flying low over Kiawah’s marshes.



## COOPER’S HAWK

### BIRDS OF PREY

**DESCRIPTION:** A medium-sized raptor with long tail. Adults are slate-blue above, orange below with crisp horizontal striping. Immatures are brown above, creamy and brown-streaked below.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Migratory, breeder, uncommon year-round. Forested areas, dunes.

**NOTES:** Very skillful flyer. Eats small to medium-sized birds. Often hunts around bird feeders.



## EASTERN SCREECH-OWL

### BIRDS OF PREY

**DESCRIPTION:** A small, stocky owl with prominent ear tufts. Gray and red color phases. Red is most common on Kiawah.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, uncommon year-round. Forested areas.

**NOTES:** Two distinctive calls given at night include a low, rolling trill and an eerie descending whinny. Eats insects, rodents, and birds.



## GREAT HORNED OWL

### BIRDS OF PREY

**DESCRIPTION:** A large, bulky owl with long ear tufts. Brownish-gray with orange face.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident, breeder, uncommon year-round. Forested areas and shrubland.

**NOTES:** Opportunistic predator that consumes a wide variety of prey from mice and raccoons to woodpeckers and hawks.



## BLACK & TURKEY VULTURES

### BIRDS OF PREY

**DESCRIPTION:** Both species are black with unfeathered heads. Turkey Vulture has red head, Black Vulture's is black. In flight, Turkey Vultures show white extending along the entire length of the wing. Black Vultures have white in the wing-tips only.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Resident/migratory, breeder, common year-round.

**NOTES:** Usually seen feeding on carrion along the roadside or soaring above.







# INVERTEBRATES

*Kiawah Island is home to thousands of species of invertebrates, including crabs, jellyfish, butterflies, and many more.*

## BLUE CRAB

**DESCRIPTION:** Olive-green to brown body. Bluish claws and legs.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Brackish and saltwater ponds, creeks, river, ocean.

**NOTES:** Males can be distinguished from females based on claw color and underside pattern. Males have reddish-orange color only on tips of claws, while the claws of females are reddish-orange throughout. Males also have a distinct rocket ship pattern on underside and females have a upside down U-shaped pattern. Commonly caught using chicken necks and weighted hand lines. Very good to eat. Size limit is 5 inches from point to point (a ruler is provided on back of guide).



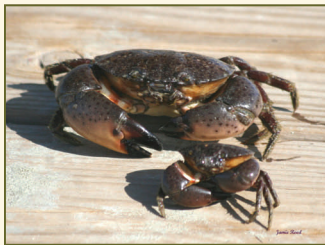
No crab traps are allowed in Kiawah Island ponds.

## STONE CRAB

**DESCRIPTION:** Purplish-tan with a thick oval body and black tips on claws.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Saltwater creeks, river, ocean.

**NOTES:** Up to 5 inches across with very large claws. Usually caught in crab traps. Take care when handling these crabs since the massive claw of an adult crab can easily crush a finger. Stone crabs grow very slowly and are protected from harvest. Regulations allow you to “pop off” the larger of the 2 claws after which you must return the crab to the water. The crab will regenerate the missing claw. Stone crab claw meat is highly sought after and considered a delicacy.



No crab traps are allowed in Kiawah Island ponds.

## GHOST CRAB

**DESCRIPTION:** Light tan, “sandy” colored. Prominent eye stalks.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Beach and dunes. Most active at night.

**NOTES:** 2-3 inches square. Lives in burrows in dunes. Wets gills periodically in the ocean. Females lay eggs in ocean. Very fast and can run up to 10 miles per hour. Ghost crabs will prey on sea turtle eggs and hatchlings.



## SAND FIDDLER CRAB

**DESCRIPTION:** Purplish body with white claws.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Sand and mud banks along saltwater rivers and creeks, marsh.

**NOTES:** Males have 1 large claw and 1 smaller claw. Females have 2 small claws. Males wave large claw back and forth in a territorial display. Uses claws to gather sediment to eat. Digs deep burrows that help aerate the marsh.



## WHARF CRAB (Squareback Marsh Crab)

**DESCRIPTION:** Dark brown to olive colored with square, flattened shells.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Very common near salt marsh.



**NOTES:** About an inch wide. Eats marsh grasses such as spartina. Spends most of its time on dry ground. Commonly seen on docks and even crossing bike paths near the marsh.

## HERMIT CRAB

**DESCRIPTION:** Reddish-brown body and small claws. Live inside snail and whelk shells for protection. Their back 2 pairs of legs are specially designed to hook into these shells.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Banks of saltwater rivers and creeks, tidal pools, ocean.

**NOTES:** Our local hermit crabs live in saltwater and will die if taken out of the water.



## HORSESHOE CRAB

**DESCRIPTION:** Brown shell, long tail, rounded body, 5 pairs of legs on underside

**WHERE TO SEE:** Beachfront, saltwater rivers and creeks.

**NOTES:** Actually an arthropod and not a crab. Eats bivalves, sandworms, and other invertebrates. They pre-date dinosaurs and have been around for 450 million years. Molted shells are common on the beach.



## SHRIMP

**DESCRIPTION:** Whitish-brown, 2 long brown antennae, sharp horn (rostrum) on top of head.



**WHERE TO SEE:** Saltwater ponds, creeks, river, ocean.

**NOTES:** Uses legs to swim slowly forward or can move rapidly backward using its tail. Highly sought after for food. Most often caught recreationally in cast nets during late summer and fall. Often used as bait by inshore fisherman.

## EASTERN OYSTER (American Oyster)

**DESCRIPTION:** Gray, brown, elongated shells. Usually in clusters.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Intertidal areas of saltwater rivers and creeks.

**NOTES:** Forms large beds that provide vital fish habitat. Filter feeder. Helps environment by removing sediment and pollutants from water. Popular local seafood, typically harvested by hand at low tide in fall and winter.



## CANNONBALL JELLYFISH

**DESCRIPTION:** Rounded shape, purplish-white and translucent. Darker interior.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Ocean inlets, ocean, river. Washed up on beachfront.

**NOTES:** Up to 7 inches wide. Rarely stings humans unless handled and ruptured. Very important food for Loggerhead and Leatherback Sea Turtles.



## PORTEGESE MAN-OF-WAR

**DESCRIPTION:** Transparent blue-purple color, long tentacles.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Ocean and beachfront, usually during summer.

**NOTES:** Not a true jellyfish, actually a colonial organism. Drifts freely in ocean currents and wind, no means of locomotion. Painful sting. The best treatment involves removing visible tentacles with a gloved hand or shell, rinsing area with seawater, and applying an ice pack for pain relief.



## MONARCH

## BUTTERFLIES

**DESCRIPTION:** Orange with distinctive black and white patterns.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common throughout island during summer and fall months.

**NOTES:** 3-4 inch wingspan. Well known for long annual migration (3,000 miles). The larval stage is entirely dependent on milkweed plants.



## PALAMEDES SWALLOWTAIL

## BUTTERFLIES

**DESCRIPTION:** Blackish-brown with yellow band and spots.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common throughout island from spring to fall.

**NOTES:** 4-5 inch wingspan. Often seen around swamps and wetlands. Host plant is typically the red bay, which is declining drastically due to an exotic parasite.



## GULF FRITILLARY

## BUTTERFLIES

**DESCRIPTION:** Brilliant orange with black spots, 3 distinctive white spots at top of each wing.

**WHERE TO SEE:** Common throughout island from spring to fall.



**NOTES:** 2-3 inch wingspan. Commonly seen in yards and gardens. Host plants are various species of passionflower vines, including Maypop. Adults feed on nectar from flowers.

# Photography Credits

## ***Dr. Paul Roberts***

Little Blue Heron  
Tricolored Heron  
Green Heron  
Common Moorhen  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Anhinga  
Hooded Merganser  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Cardinal  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Carolina Wren  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Eastern Bluebird  
House Finch  
Brown Thrasher  
Mourning Dove  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Pine Warbler  
Hermit Thrush  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk

## ***Jack Kotz***

Green Tree Frog  
Gulf Fritillary

## ***KICA Lakes Department***

Grass Carp  
Eastern Kingsnake  
Southern Leopard Frog  
Slimy Salamander  
Great Horned Owl

## ***Keith Hanson***

Eastern Narrowmouth Toad  
Eastern Spadefoot Toad

## ***Lindsey Graham***

Six-lined Racerunner

## ***Sylvia Bacon***

Monarch

## ***Tina Schell***

Bottlenose Dolphin

## ***Kiawah Island Golf Resort***

Sheepshead  
American Alligator  
Loggerhead Sea Turtle  
Diamondback Terrapin  
Green Anole  
Eastern Glass Lizard  
Broadhead Skink  
Eastern Garter Snake  
Chuck-will's-widow  
Blue Crab  
Stone Crab  
Sand Fiddler Crab  
Horseshoe Crab  
Cannonball Jellyfish  
Palamedes Swallowtail

## ***Pamela Cohen***

American Mink  
Yellow-bellied Slider  
Green Tree Frog (Amphibian Cover)  
Dunlin  
Lesser Scaup  
Bufflehead  
Blue Jay  
Northern Mockingbird  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Bald Eagle

## ***Cathy Miller***

Rough Green Snake  
Copperhead  
Black-bellied Plover  
Black Scoter  
Ruddy Duck  
Painted Bunting  
Gray Catbird  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Tree Swallow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Northern Harrier  
Cooper's Hawk

## ***Public Domain***

Coyote  
Southern Flying Squirrel  
Eastern Red Bat  
Bonnethead Shark  
Turkey Vulture

***All other photographs were taken by Town of Kiawah Island staff***

## Contact Information

Emergencies - 911

KICA Security (24 hours) - 843-768-5566

Town of Kiawah Island (Mon-Fri, 8-5) - 843-768-9166

Nature Center at Night Heron Park - 843-768-6001

SCDNR 24-hour Hotline - 1-800-922-5431

## Alligator Safety

- Stay at least 60 feet (4 car lengths) away
- Keep children and pets away from pond edges
- Do not feed alligators
- Do not crab or fish near alligators
- Do not throw used bait into water after crabbing
- Do not harass, approach, or throw objects at alligators

## Fishing Rules and Regulations

Saltwater fishing licenses are required to fish in Kiawah's ponds, rivers, creeks, and ocean. To get a license, visit:

[www.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.dnr.sc.gov) or call (1-866-714-3611)

Fishing regulations are also set by SCDNR and are subject to change. For a current set of regulations please visit:

[www.dnr.sc.gov/regulations.html](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/regulations.html)

For additional information on Kiawah's wildlife species and much more, please visit:

[www.wildlifeatkiawah.com](http://www.wildlifeatkiawah.com)

If you have a specific question you can also contact a Town Biologist by phone (843-768-9166) or email:

[biologist@wildlifeatkiawah.com](mailto:biologist@wildlifeatkiawah.com)