

# Culture & History

Many species of waterfowl and game birds were traditionally hunted by the Salish, Pend d'Oreille, and Kootenai tribes. Culturally, they consider humans to have a deep spiritual and physical connection between them and animals.

Humans rely on plants and animals for survival and therefore occupy a place of humility. People have an obligation to always treat animals with respect, never abuse them, and never waste any part of the animal when hunting or fishing.

The most common method for eating waterfowl and game birds was by boiling. Boiled eggs, in particular, were considered a delicacy. Today, many families enjoy mixing boiled game bird meat with dumplings and vegetables.

Though waterfowl and game birds do not often appear in animal stories, they do occasionally feature as food. For example, in the Coyote story 'The Star Sister's', goose eggs are baked in a fire. Coyote stories are traditionally only told during the winter months.

## Wildlife Preservation

Bird hunting is a popular sport in North America and many families supplement their pantry with a good sized bird from time to time. However, though game species that are legal to hunt are not endangered or threatened, it is still important to offer them areas to live undisturbed.

Wildlife refuges that do not allow hunting can reduce the chances of accidental kills of non-target birds. As many non-target species are threatened, any losses can negatively impact their conservation.

Hunting-free areas also reduce stress for game species. Birds that live in areas with hunting spend more time on vigilance, which can impact other activities, such as foraging or sleeping.

Additionally, birds are more likely to congregate in areas where they are safe. For birdwatchers and nature-lovers, it's great to be able to see a lake full of life.

# WATERFOWL & GAME BIRDS



**If you are interested in learning more about our wildlife, contact us at :**

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# Interesting Facts

Dusky Grouse are a forest-dwelling species and in the winter they are known to eat pine and fir needles.

While mourning doves are native to North America, eurasian collared doves are invasive.

There is no significant difference between doves and pigeons, other than human preference.

Male mallard ducks have beautiful green neck feathers, which they use to attract mates during breeding season.

Cormorants do not have the waterproof feathers that ducks have. Instead, they spread their wings out to dry in the sun.

When a killdeer's nest is threatened, the parents will pretend to be injured in order to lure the predator away. When the predators is far enough away from the eggs, the parent then flies off.

Gray Partridges forage along the ground and will fly off in short bursts when startled.

Trumpeter Swans are the largest waterfowl in North America with an 8 ft (2.4 m) wingspan and weighing up to 25 lbs (11 kgs)



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## Waterfowl & Game Birds: A Visitor Guide

Animal size not to scale