

FISH ON THE MENU

Grizzli - Grizzly Bear - *Ursus arctos horribilis*

Zoo Sauvage de Saint-Félicien, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean

It pounces and crushes its prey or slaps them out of the water with a swift flick of the paw. It sometimes patiently waits at a waterfall for salmon eager to spawn that inadvertently jump into its mouth.

Héron vert - Green Heron - *Butorides virescens*

Marais Réal D. Carbonneau, Sherbrooke

If its lunch doesn't come fast enough, it throws a twig or feather on the surface of the water to bait unsuspecting prey. A fine strategy!

Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique - Belted Kingfisher - *Megaceryle alcyon*

Marais Réal D. Carbonneau, Sherbrooke

It can sometimes initially detect its prey while hovering in the air. It dives vertically seizing prey in its beak, then returns to its perch to enjoy its meal.

Cormoran à aigrettes - Double-crested Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Saint-François-Xavier-de-Brompton

It dives and propels itself under the water using its wings and webbed feet. After resurfacing with its prey, it throws the prey up catching it headfirst to gulp it down. Its feathers absorb water, meaning it must dry off before it can fly.

Plongeon huard - Common Loon- *Gavia immer*

Petit lac Brompton

It looks underwater to track its prey, then dives in pursuit. It has great eyesight and lung capacity, but the water must be clear for it to hunt.

Tortue serpentine - Common Snapping Turtle - *Chelydra serpentina*

Marais Réal D. Carbonneau, Sherbrooke

The young ones scramble to find food, while those older prefer to stalk whatever is hidden at the bottom of the water. Wisdom is gained through experience!

Grand Héron - Great Blue Heron - *Ardea herodias*

Boucherville

It sometimes waits motionless for its prey to get close so it can impale it with its beak. Alternatively, it slowly walks in water aiming to inflict the same fate on whatever crosses its path.

Balbuzard pêcheur - Osprey - *Pandion haliaetus*

Magog

After tracking its prey, it dives headfirst then plunges in its claws to grab it. Its feet have spicules and mobile exterior toes facilitating its catch, which can be half of its weight!

Bihoreau gris - Black-crowned Night-Heron - *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Florida

It hunts for fish in the evening. Ordinarily still, it extends its neck brutally snatching up the fish, stunning and then swallowing it. It sometimes attracts fish by vibrating its beak in the water to imitate their prey. Beating them at their own game!

Pygargue à tête blanche - Bald Eagle - *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

North Hatley

From its vantage point, it can spot fish feeding on the surface up to a kilometre away. When it has tracked one, it dives and then, depending on the size of the unlucky victim, extends one or both of its claws to grab hold of it. It barely gets a drop on its wings; impressive skills!

Grande Aigrette - Great Egret - *Ardea alba*

Florida

Sometimes, it prowls alone in shallow waters and hunts fish visually. When this bird is with herons, cormorants, or ibis, it steals food from any birds smaller than itself.