

BILL BURTON FISHING PIER STATE PARK QUEST 2021: BILL BURTON BIRD BINGO

When people think about Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park and its namesake, outdoorsman Bill Burton, they usually think of fish. But birds are also an important part of the ecosystem here. As you walk down the two piers and the hiking trail, mark what you spot, and see how many times you can get five in a row.


























<p>Gull</p>  <p>Several species of gull live in the area, including the dark-billed laughing gull and the ring-billed gull. See if you can spot both!</p>	<p>Osprey</p>  <p>Sometimes called sea hawks, almost all of an osprey's diet is fish, which it catches with its large talons.</p>	<p>Fish</p>  <p>Fishermen aren't the only ones trying to catch rockfish or perch. Many birds in the area eat fish, including bald eagles, ospreys, cormorants, and great blue herons.</p>	<p>Loblolly Pine</p>  <p>Identifiable by its clusters of three needles, the loblolly pines provide shelter and food for small mammals that are eaten by owls and eagles.</p>	<p>Canada Goose</p>  <p>Well adapted to human activity, Canada geese eat mostly plants and are often seen flying in a classic V formation.</p>
<p>Mallard</p>  <p>There are more than three times as many mallards in the world as there are people in Maryland.</p>	<p>Fisherman</p>  <p>Like great blue herons, fishermen have to be patient to catch fish.</p>	<p>Bald Eagle</p>  <p>Dorchester County is home to the largest breeding population of bald eagles on the Eastern Seaboard north of Florida.</p>	<p>Baltimore Oriole</p>  <p>Maryland's state bird, Baltimore orioles can be attracted to bird feeders with dark, ripe fruit.</p>	<p>Beach</p>  <p>Crabs and other small animals that live on the beach are eaten by great blue herons and other birds.</p>
<p>Barred Owl</p>  <p>The barred owl's distinctive call was used by Harriet Tubman to secretly communicate with others on the Underground Railroad.</p>	<p>Hiking Trail</p>  <p>While birds don't follow trails quite like people do, they do migrate along flyways, long north-south paths following sources of water.</p>	<p>Free Space</p>  <p>Like this space, admission to Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park is free.</p>	<p>Great Blue Heron</p>  <p>Great blue herons eat mostly fish, but their diet is varied and also includes frogs, salamanders, turtles, insects, and birds.</p>	<p>Turkey Vulture</p>  <p>The garbage collectors of the skies, turkey vultures use their keen sense of smell to find carrion and finish meals that other animals didn't finish.</p>
<p>Cormorant</p>  <p>An avid fish eater, you might see a cormorant on the surface dive underwater and resurface with a fish in its beak.</p>	<p>Choptank River</p>  <p>The Choptank River is the cornerstone of the ecosystem here, providing a home for many species and food for others.</p>	<p>Dog</p>  <p>Dogs often help bird hunters take ducks and pheasants. While hunting is not allowed at the park, leashed pets are.</p>	<p>Deer</p>  <p>In rare cases, large predatory birds like golden eagles have been spotted attacking small deer.</p>	<p>Boat</p>  <p>A boat can be a great place for birdwatching on the Choptank River.</p>
<p>Pier</p>  <p>What used to be a bridge across the Choptank River is now a pair of piers enjoyed by fishermen and gulls alike.</p>	<p>Terrapin</p>  <p>Maryland's state reptile, young diamondback terrapins are prey for many species of predatory bird.</p>	<p>Muskrat</p>  <p>Like Canada geese, muskrats are mostly herbivorous but will occasionally eat small animals.</p>	<p>Leaf Litter</p>  <p>Leaf litter, a layer of dead plant material, provides material for bird nests and is a source of nutrients for many plants and animals.</p>	<p>Picnic Table</p>  <p>A lot of birds like to eat human food, even though it's not healthy for them. Help the birds and dispose of your trash properly.</p>

Photo credits: John Adolph (Bald Eagle), Stephen Badger (Dog), Julio Barrera-Oro (Turkey Vulture), Mark Boyd (Barred Owl), Valerie Dyer (Great Blue Heron), Elena Gilroy (Deer), Joshua Graff (Mallard), Larry Hindman (Canada Goose), Stephanie Kendall (Muskrat), Adam Larson (Beach, Choptank River, Hiking Trail, Leaf Litter, Picnic Table, Pier), Addison Likins (Fisherman), Michael Osborne (Gull), Natalie K. Overholt (Terrapin), Chuck Prah (Boat), Heather Rees (Cormorant), Amy Rhodes (Osprey), Rob Weingart (Baltimore Oriole). Bill Burton Bird Bingo designed by Adam Larson.