



My clean beach

Wetlands



Marshes and aquatic beds

The level of water in a marsh is frequently above that of the ground. Plant species that live in this kind of habitat often have stems that extend above the water and roots that grow under water. Cattails, common reeds, arrowleaf and purple loosestrife are good examples of such emergent plants. Marshes also host large quantities of invertebrates and young fish. The abundance of food attracts many species of waterfowl, which often stay there to raise their young and to rest during migration. In addition, numerous amphibians and reptiles live and reproduce in marshes. It is also where muskrats and beaver build their lodges.

An aquatic bed is characterized by the abundance of submerged and floating leaves. The most common submerged plants include the Canada waterweed, watermilfoil, vallisneria and pondweed. Typical plants with floating leaves are the duckweed and water lily. Aquatic beds are important places for fish since they use them for breeding, feeding and shelter. Aquatic beds are also important resting areas for waterfowl during their fall migration when water levels are low enough for them to feed easily



Carp



Brown bullhead



Northern pike



Mallard



Eel



Black duck



Yellow perch





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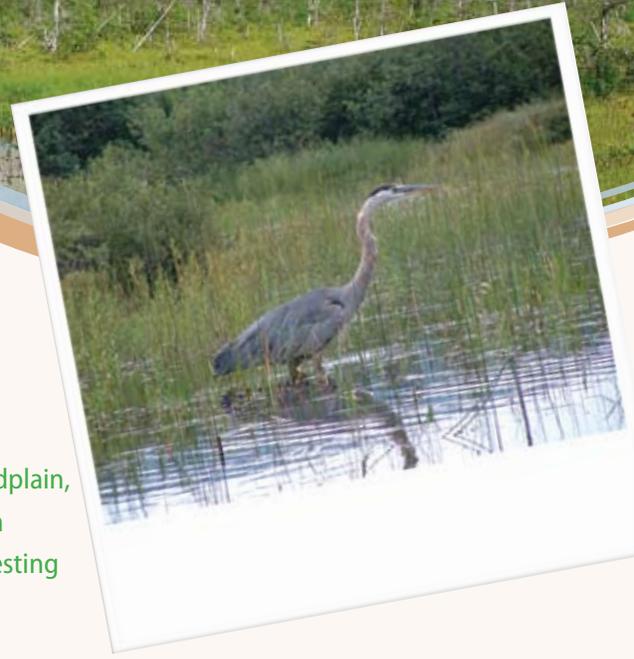
Wetlands



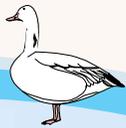
Swamps and wet meadows

Swamps may be dominated by trees or shrubs. They are usually located in a floodplain, i.e., a flat strip of land beside a lake or river where flooding occurs in spring. It is a favourable place for birds, fish and amphibians to reproduce. Herons and tree-nesting ducks find the trees that they need for nesting.

Wet meadows can be recognized by the dominance of short graminoids, i.e., grassy plants like sedge that produce hard seeds. More than 150 species of plants are found in wet meadows, including different species of Carex, the common reed and reed canary grass. It is home to a wide range of invertebrates, which are eaten by many different species of fish, amphibians and birds.



Great blue heron



Snowgoose



Tufted duck



Velvet Scoter



Canada goose



Northern pintail



Common teal