

THE WILLAMETTE RIVER

This river is a habitat for many animals. A habitat is a home where things can eat, sleep, and hangout. A habitat for people is all the buildings that we can see around the city. It's important to protect these special animal homes by not throwing our trash in the river or anywhere outside. And we have to make sure we are not feeding them people food. That can make them very sick!

GREAT BLUE HERON

This large bird can be seen standing by himself in the water. He is fishing! This bird can stand as still as a statue while he waits for the fish to swim right by him. Then he strikes!

SPOT THEM

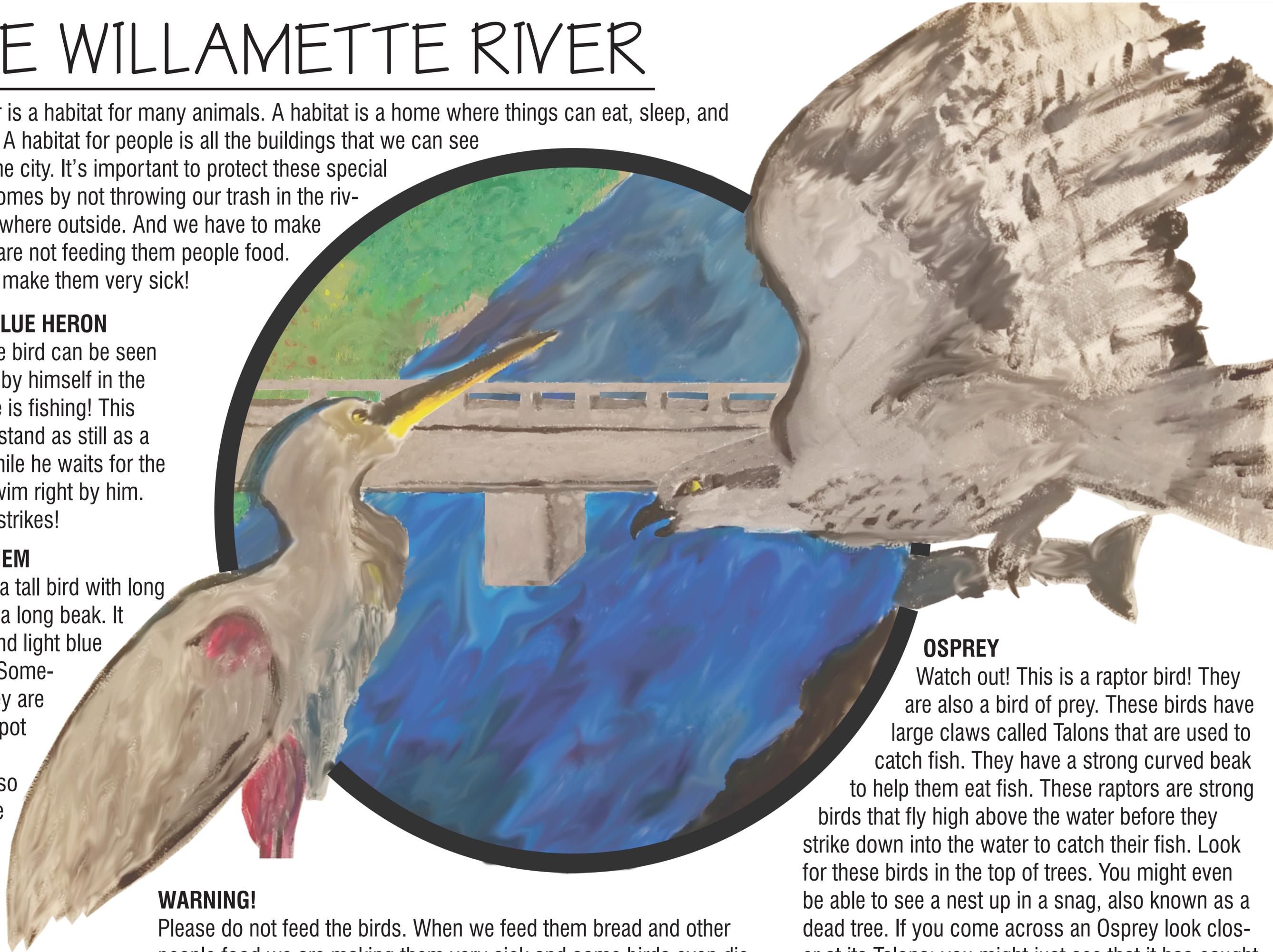
Look for a tall bird with long legs and a long beak. It is gray and light blue in color. Sometimes they are hard to spot because they are so still in the water!

WARNING!

Please do not feed the birds. When we feed them bread and other people food we are making them very sick and some birds even die. You can watch the birds feed in the wild.

OSPREY

Watch out! This is a raptor bird! They are also a bird of prey. These birds have large claws called Talons that are used to catch fish. They have a strong curved beak to help them eat fish. These raptors are strong birds that fly high above the water before they strike down into the water to catch their fish. Look for these birds in the top of trees. You might even be able to see a nest up in a snag, also known as a dead tree. If you come across an Osprey look closer at its Talons; you might just see that it has caught a fish!

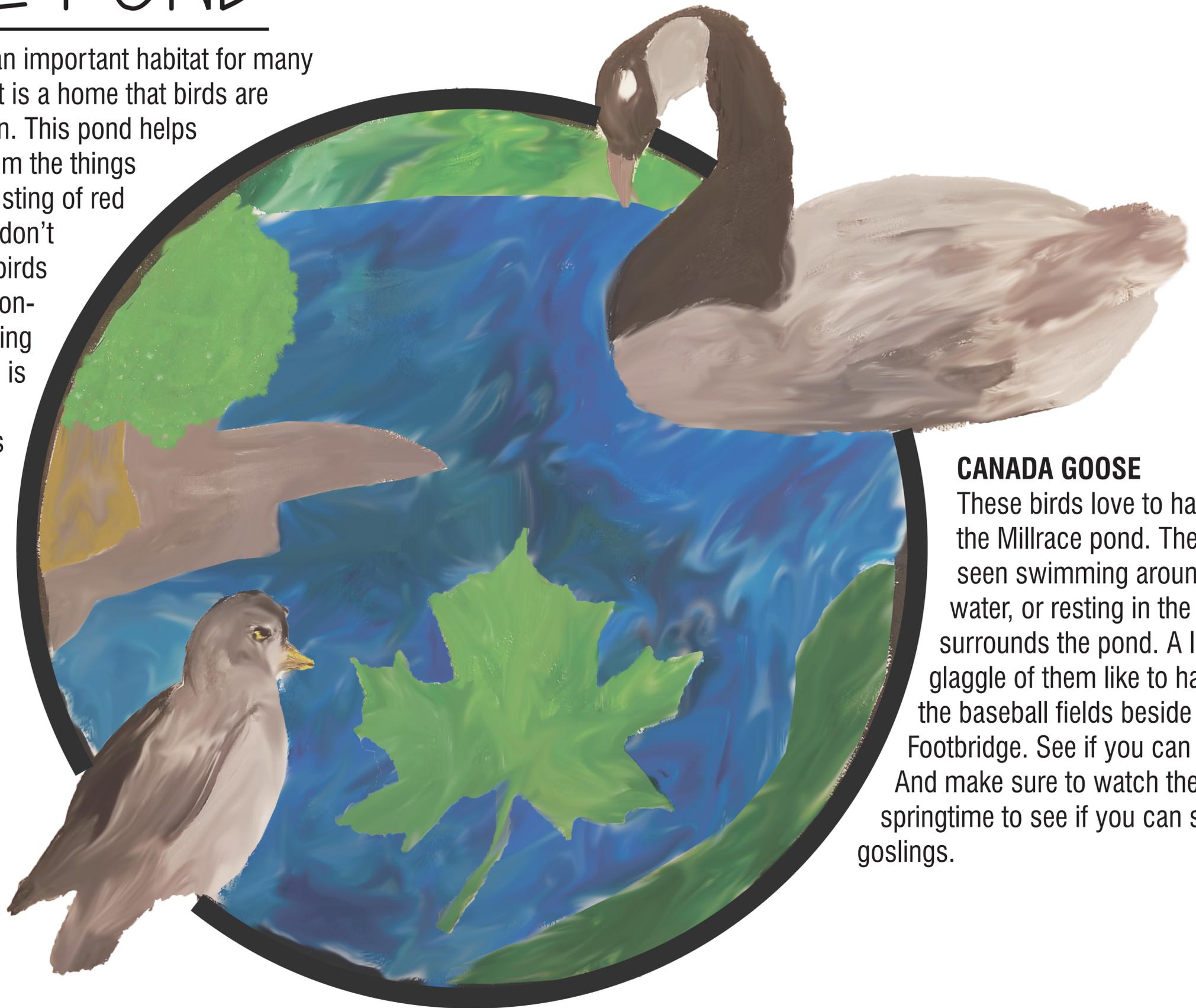


MILLRACE POND

This pond along the Millrace is an important habitat for many different types of birds. A habitat is a home that birds are able to eat, sleep, and hangout in. This pond helps keep the birds safe by giving them the things they need to live. If you see a dusting of red across the surface of the pond, don't worry! This is an algae that the birds can munch on. And it's not poisonous to people. If you see a dusting of white across the surface, this is cottonwood from the trees, and this is a tasty snack for the birds in this habitat.

CLIFF SWALLOW

These birds are fast! If you see a couple of little birds darting around bridges, and up in the canopy of the Millrace trees, it's a good bet that these are cliff swallows. These little brown birds are looking to eat insects that are moving fast. Around the Autzen Footbridge, you can see these birds in flocks of up to 25! Sometimes you can even see a few of them darting through the University of Oregon campus. These birds have little beaks that are perfect for catching insects. Look out for them along the Millrace and Willamette River habitats.



CANADA GOOSE

These birds love to hangout in the Millrace pond. They can be seen swimming around in the water, or resting in the grass that surrounds the pond. A large gaggle of them like to hangout in the baseball fields beside the Autzen Footbridge. See if you can find them! And make sure to watch them in the springtime to see if you can spot their goslings.

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