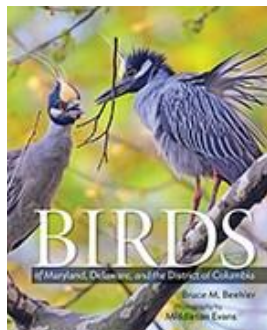


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Birds of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia

Bruce M. Beehler

photography by **Middleton Evans**

A Great Blue Heron wades in the shallows of the Potomac River, scanning for unsuspecting prey. Sunlight turns the water translucent as a small school of fish rises to the water's surface. The heron strikes and moments later is swallowing its quarry—predation in action! This handsome Great Blue Heron is but one of the more than 400 bird species found in Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. It shares the mid-Atlantic with kingfishers, eagles, mergansers, wood warblers, and many more.

Ornithologist **Bruce Beehler** is a research associate in the Division of Birds of the National Museum of Natural History. He is the author of *North on the Wing: Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring*. Renowned photographer **Middleton Evans** is the author of *Rhapsody in Blue: A Celebration of North American Waterbirds* and *The Miracle Pond: Baltimore's Patterson Park, Wild beyond Imagination*.

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