



**This first-winter White Ibis is still in its juvenal plumage**



**A male Indigo Bunting in breeding plumage surveys a summer wheat field**

## **Brunswick Wildlife**

### **♪ Summertime and the Birding is Easy ♪**

The fish are jumping don't you know! Love the late, great Billy Stewart's version of Summertime...but easy birding? Well, once you learn to avoid the heat and our famous array of biting insects, summer birds are abundant!

Brunswick County is the home of dozens of species of breeding birds plus many others that arrive from the south after breeding or that pass through during fall migration. They are everywhere...from our beaches to our salt marshes to our swamps. A few of my favorite local birding sites are listed below.

I recommend finding birds early in the morning or late in the afternoon since that is when they are most active...not to mention the light is better for nature photography and the heat is a little more bearable.

As summer progresses, watch for adults landbirds repeatedly traveling to and from their nest to feed their young or for them teaching fledglings how to forage. Watch for ibises overhead as they travel to and from freshwater swamps to bring food back for nestlings.

Waders and shorebirds may be found foraging on mudflats exposed at lower tides. After high tide has covered their foraging territory, waders may be found roosting in trees and shorebirds resting on the beach. Terns and other beach nesting birds are easily seen flying in to feed their fledglings.

Bring your camera! The "golden hours" just after sunrise and just before sunset are best for photographing birds in our beautiful natural settings. Be careful and remember to bring sunscreen and insect repellent. Do not feed the ticks, mosquitoes, or gators!

*My apologies also go to the late, great George Gershwin for slightly altering the lyrics.*



**These Osprey babies know daddy is coming home with a fish**



**Fish presentation by the male is part of Least Terns courting**



**Find Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nesting near woodland edges**



**The Brown Pelican in front is an adult, its offspring follows**



**Least Sandpipers arrive in late summer to spend the winter**

**Nearby summer birding sites:**

Boiling Spring Lakes Preserve Nature Trail

Leeds Road, Boiling Spring Lakes

<http://www.cityofbsl.org/nature.pdf>

Brunswick Town/Ft Anderson

Off River Road (NC 133), 14 miles north of Southport

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/brunswic/brunswic.htm>

Brunswick Nature Park

Located on Town Creek 18 miles north of Southport on NC 133

Brunswick County Parks and Recreation - 910-253-2670

Fort Caswell

[www.fortcaswell.com](http://www.fortcaswell.com)

910-278-9501

Oak Island's West End

End of West Beach Drive at Lockwood Folly Inlet

Southport Waterfront Park and Riverwalk

Bay Street, Southport

The NC Birding Trail website offers more information and additional sites:

[http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org/maps\\_coast.asp#Southeast](http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org/maps_coast.asp#Southeast)