



Types of Problems: Bird Attacks¹

Although not a common occurrence, some of Florida's birds have been known to subject humans, pets, wildlife and even other birds to seemingly unprovoked aggression. The most common cause for attacks is that the victim simply got too close to the birds' territory, nest and/or young. These attacks, although usually short-lived and inconsequential, do raise questions among the victims. Some of the more common birds and types of attacks are listed in Table 1.

Use this guide to determine the nature of the attack, and of the perpetrator. In any situation, **the only way to avoid future attacks is to avoid the area in which the attack occurred for the duration of the nesting season.**

See Fact Sheet SS-WIS-47, "Bird Attacks" for more information.

Table 1. Types of attack by birds

SPECIES	swoop, dive or chase (from the air)	mobbing	peck, hiss, or chase (from the ground)	defecation or regurgitation (on victim)	verbal castigation
mockingbirds, blackbirds, bluejays	X				X
least terns, sea gulls, pelicans	X	X	X	X	
crows	X	X			X
ducks, geese, swans (domestic waterfowl)			X	X	X
hummingbirds, burrowing owls, night hawks, raptors (hawk family)	X				

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