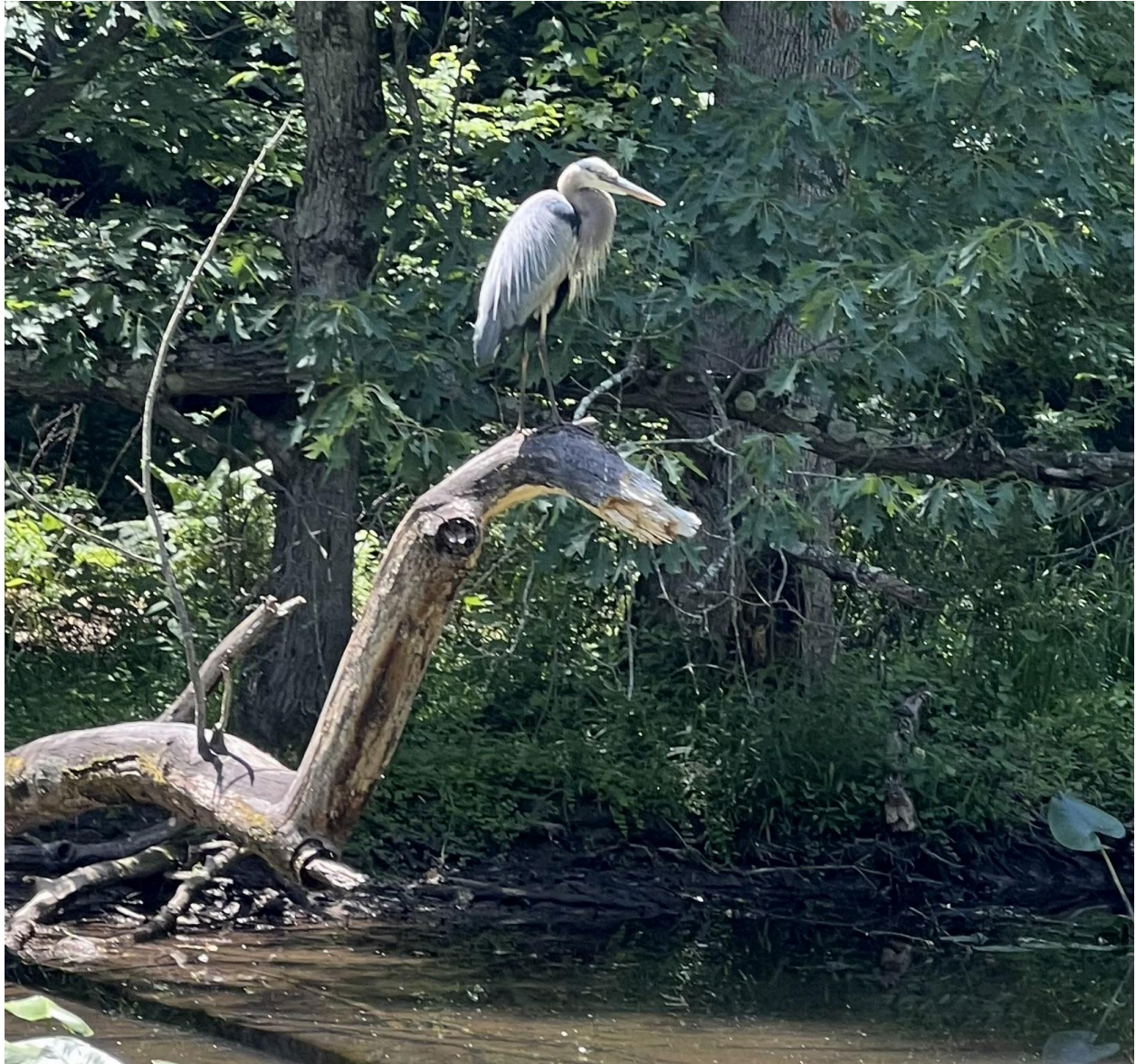


LMT April Bird of the Month- **The Great Blue Heron**



Many of us consider The Great Blue Heron to be a rock star of the canal! Despite their impressive size, GB Herons only weigh 5 to 6 pounds. In this area, they have benefited from the recovery of beaver populations, which offers the Herons swamps and meadows that allow for foraging and nesting. GB Herons have specialized feathers on their chest that continually grow and fray. They use this “powder-down” to keep themselves clean and free of fish slime and other oils by collecting the down with a fringed claw on their middle toes. They then apply the powder-down all over their bodies. They can hunt day and night as they have excellent night vision. The oldest recorded GB Heron was 24, 6 months old. Because of specially shaped neck vertebrae, they can quickly strike prey, even at a distance, as many of us have been fortunate enough to witness!