

Koi Predators



Herons



Herons are migratory birds that are beautiful and intelligent but are constantly searching for a meal. These fishing birds feast voraciously and have the potential to wipe out an entire pond in minutes.



Birds of Prey



Like opossums, most birds of prey will leave pond fish alone. However, a hungry hawk or owl will definitely settle for a koi fish dinner. With their keen eyesight and razor-sharp talons, birds of prey won't miss their targets.



Cormorants •



These large, diving birds are known for their insatiable appetites. Cormorants typically reside in coastal or marshy habitats, and because they like to travel in flocks, they have the potential to wipe out your entire pond in a single meal.



Cats A



The stalking and hunting capabilities of domestic cats make them potential koi and goldfish predators. In this case, cats will hunt mostly out of curiosity rather than hunger since their meals are generally provided at home.



Raccoons •



Raccoons are opportunists that will eat just about anything they can find, including the koi and goldfish in your pond. Raccoons are found in just about every region of the U.S., their prevalence places them among the top pond predators.



Covotes & Foxes 🔷



Canines are land hunters and lack the instinctual drive to go after pond fish. However, like most species capable of eating your koi and goldfish, they might if they get hungry enough.



Minks & Weasels



All varieties of minks and weasels pose a serious threat to your backyard pond. Minks and weasels are aggressive, and they can hunt and kill prey even larger than they are. Your entrapped koi and goldfish pose no problem for them.



Snapping Turtles 🔷



These turtles can strike quickly and may eat both juvenile and adult koi if the fish are slow or caught unaware. However, fish are not a staple of turtle's diets, so attacks are relatively rare.



Otters •



If your pond is in a populous area and not near a major waterway, there's not much chance that you will ever see an otter as they prefer secluded areas. As fish is their meal of choice, their presence can be devastating for your pond.



Snakes 🔶



Most snakes won't attempt to feed on adult koi or goldfish. However, snake species that are found near water will occasionally eat koi eggs and fry, as well as small goldfish. Therefore, they can post some risk around spawning and hatching time.



Opossums A



An opossum is a scavenger by nature, so hunting is not its first inclination. Satiated opossums will not attack the fish in your pond, however, an opossum that's gone a long time without a filling meal can definitely be hungry enough to try.



Bullfrogs 🔶



These frogs will eat anything they can fit in their mouths, including fish eggs and your baby koi and goldfish. Like snakes, they only pose a problem during breeding season.



Most-Serious Threats



Medium-Risk Threats



Low-Risk Threats