



# SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

Post Office Box 5651, Columbia, South Carolina 29250-5651

January 2022

Hello SCAN members!

Our December outing to Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve wrapped up a year of excellent outings. We met in the parking lot off SC 90 for the orientation session. The skies were mostly clear and the temperatures were unusually warm for the season, starting off in the mid-sixties and warming up to the mid-seventies by the afternoon. SC Department of Natural Resources Botanist Keith Bradley provided an overview of the property before leading us on a fact-filled exploration. We caravanned to several sites, stopping to explore at each one.



Attendees included:

Alex James	Dave Schuetrum	Kate Hartley	Michael Crawford
Alison Smith	Evan Cook	Keith Bradley	Phillip Harpootlian
Caroline Eastman	Jean Prothro	Kim McManus	Sharleen Johnson
Celeste Gross	Jerry Bright	Lauren Serra	Sharon Watson
Chris Hill	Jim Boylston	Lee Morris	Stephanie Ferguson
Claudia Stratmann	Johannes Stratmann	Mandy Johnson	

The first location was a beautiful stretch of wiregrass and pine trees. Hidden in some of the depressions left by tree farming in days gone by were several types of carnivorous plant. Other endangered plants dotted the landscape, poking up in the grasses. It was a good thing we had an expert with us as most of the plants were not exhibiting easily identifiable features such as flowers, leaves, color...!



*L to R: Pine Barren Gentian, pines and grasses, challenging (to me!) brown plant*

We walked a bit farther up the road and set off into one of the 23 Carolina Bays that dot the Heritage Preserve. The sandy rim was immediately evident. One interesting tree in this area was a hybrid oak. A combination of the Sand Post Oak and the Sand Live Oak, the tree was short and shrubby, with dead-looking leaves. Keith assured us it was alive and well!

The group continued into the heart of the bay. The ground went from dry and sandy to spongy and mossy. Walking became a little tricky and we felt like we were traversing a waterbed! We passed several clumps of pitcher plants. One open area was dotted with earthstars. An unusual find was a deceased Black Swamp Snake laying along the side of the trail.



*L to R: exploring the sand rim, hybrid oak leaves, inspecting the Bay*

After a somewhat challenging walk back to the cars across mossy ground, we cruised to a different area of the preserve. We made a quick stop at an area that is being maintained for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, then moved on to a pitcher plant bog. A few moths, spiders and frogs were observed around, on and in the pitcher plants. It became a fun little treasure hunt to see how many of the tubes were occupied!



*L to R: Caroline Eastman documents her observations, annoyed frog attempting to blend in, Green Lynx Spider*

After the pitcher plant bog, the group finally split up, with some folks heading home and others stopping at various interesting spots on the way out. My group chose a cypress swamp for the last exploration of the day. Thanks to Sharon Watson's knowledge of the area, we located a Carolina Birds-in-a-nest plant.



*L to R: Fraternal Potter Wasp, Sharon Watson after a quick foray into the swamp, Carolina Birds-in-a-nest*

A big thank you to Eastern Regional Directors Jerry Bright and Jeff Kline for scouting and organizing the trip. A huge round of applause for Keith Bradley and his wealth of knowledge that he shared with us throughout the day.

Our first outing of 2022 is to the Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail in Sumter County, SC. Touted as being one of the most diverse sections of the Trail, the Wateree Passage goes through diverse landscapes and even has a suspension bridge! Join us on Saturday, January 22 as we explore the Central Region.

Our annual business meeting will be at 7 pm on Thursday, January 27. Please join us on Zoom:

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The agenda:

- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers. Proposed slate:
  - President: Dave Schuetrum
  - Vice President: Gordon Murphy
  - Secretary: Open
  - Treasurer: Angela Valvasori
  - Historian: Gordon Murphy
  - Database Manager: Kim McManus
- Election of Regional Directors. Proposed slate:
  - Northern: Rita Zollinger
  - Western: Lee Morris
  - Central: Dave and Marty Kastner
  - Southern: Jerry Bright and Jeff Kline
  - Eastern: Todd Johnston
- Old Business
- New Business
  - 2022 outings
- Review of 2021 outings

Please renew your membership before January 27. This can be done via check and the included form or through PayPal on our website:

<http://www.scnaturalists.org/membership/>

See you soon!

*Kim McManus*

## Waterree Passage of the Palmetto Trail

Meet at the Farmstead Road Trailhead Parking Area (look for the brown trailhead sign)

Intersection of US 601 (McCords Ferry Road) and Farmstead Road

GPS Coordinates: 33.84430, -80.64850

Saturday, January 22, 2022, 10:30 AM to ~4:30 PM

The Waterree Passage is one of the most diverse sections of the Palmetto Trail, traversing a variety of landscapes, from high hills on the east end of the trail down to a magnificent river swamp in the middle section of the trail. Also on the east end, the trail climbs Molly's Bluff (elevation 260 feet), one of the higher elevations in Sumter County, which offers excellent vistas across Waterree swamp to Richland County. The middle section of the trail passes through part of Manchester State Forest, traveling along and on the remnants of an old SC Railroad line that crosses the Waterree River. The full length of the Waterree Passage is 11.4 miles.

We will be exploring the western section of the Waterree Passage that also reaches the river swamp region of Manchester State Forest. We will meet at the west trailhead (located as indicated above) and, due to limited parking at our proposed "starting" point, **carpool** south down US 601 about 2.50 miles to a new fenced parking lot that is located on the left side of US 601 shortly after South Carolina Highway 48 (Bluff Road) merges with US 601. We need to carpool because space is limited in the new parking lot and it will only hold about 10 to 12 vehicles maximum. It is also possible to walk the 2.50 miles south on the Palmetto Trail from the trailhead meeting area to the new parking lot, but the trail runs parallel to US 601 and the biodiversity is limited.

From the new fenced parking lot starting area, head east southeast on the trail for about 0.67 miles, passing several planted fields along the way. The biodiversity along this section of the trail is fairly limited. At the end of the last planted field, look for a trail marker where the trail turns into the woods and eventually heads east northeast for about 0.18 miles until you come to railroad tracks.

After about 0.85 miles from the starting area, the trail crosses some railroad tracks and continues on the other side atop an old, abandoned section of elevated railroad tracks. Look for where the rails are no longer connected to the main active rail line and follow the trail / old rail line from there in a northeast direction. There is a small trail marker mounted on a tree on the other side of the active rail line. This section of the trail includes the old rails and requires walking on the old railroad ties so be careful of your footing. The rail section (and old railroad ties) will eventually end and the trail continues on a raised section of the old railbed until it reaches a bridge across the Waterree River.

After about 1.60 miles from the starting area, there are a set of stairs on the "east" (far) side of the Waterree River that will allow access to the land below. Much of the surrounding area is under water or "swampy" but it is possible to explore the small area of dry land at this location. From the stairs to just past the suspension bridge, the trail is actually a boardwalk with no access to the water and swamp below.

After about 1.95 miles from the starting area, there is a short suspension bridge. The boardwalk continues for a short distance beyond the suspension bridge until the trail is again back on dry elevated land. There are several benches and birdhouses at the end of the boardwalk.

The trail continues for about another 3.50 miles after the end of the boardwalk across the river swamp region of Manchester State Forest. There are 4 bridges, fishing locations and canoe (or kayak) launch sites along this section of the trail (see map below) but it appears that any canoe (or kayak) will need to be portaged-in to the launch site, possibly from the east.

Attendees can walk as far as they want (it is about 5.50 miles from the starting parking lot all the way across the river swamp region) but remember that you will need to backtrack along the same route (and distance) you already traveled to return to the starting parking area.

The east end of the Wateree Passage looks very interesting and may be a good candidate for a **future trip** that starts from Poinsette State Park or some other “intermediate” location accessible by vehicle. Molly’s Bluff looks like it might be fun. We will need to do some additional scouting.

**Directions to:** Farmstead Road Trailhead Parking Area of the Wateree Passage Trail (North end)

The **location to meet** is the north trailhead at the intersection of US 601 (McCords Ferry Road) and Farmstead Road. Look for the brown “PALMETTO TRAIL TRAILHEAD” sign on US 601.

Trailhead Parking Area (meeting location) ..... Latitude 33.84430, Longitude -80.64850

New fenced parking lot (hike start location) ..... Latitude 33.80903, Longitude -80.63843

From the **north** at the intersection of US Highway 378 and US 601 (McCords Ferry Road), travel south on US 601 for about 7.30 miles. Look for the brown “PALMETTO TRAIL TRAILHEAD” sign on the left side of US 601 and turn left onto Farmstead Road. The concrete parking pad and trailhead will be on the right directly after the turn.

From the **south** at the intersection of South Carolina Highway 48 (Bluff Road) and US 601 (McCords Ferry Road), travel north on US 601 for about 2.50 miles. Look for the brown “PALMETTO TRAIL TRAILHEAD” sign on the right side of US 601 and turn right onto Farmstead Road. The concrete parking pad and trailhead will be on the right directly after the turn.

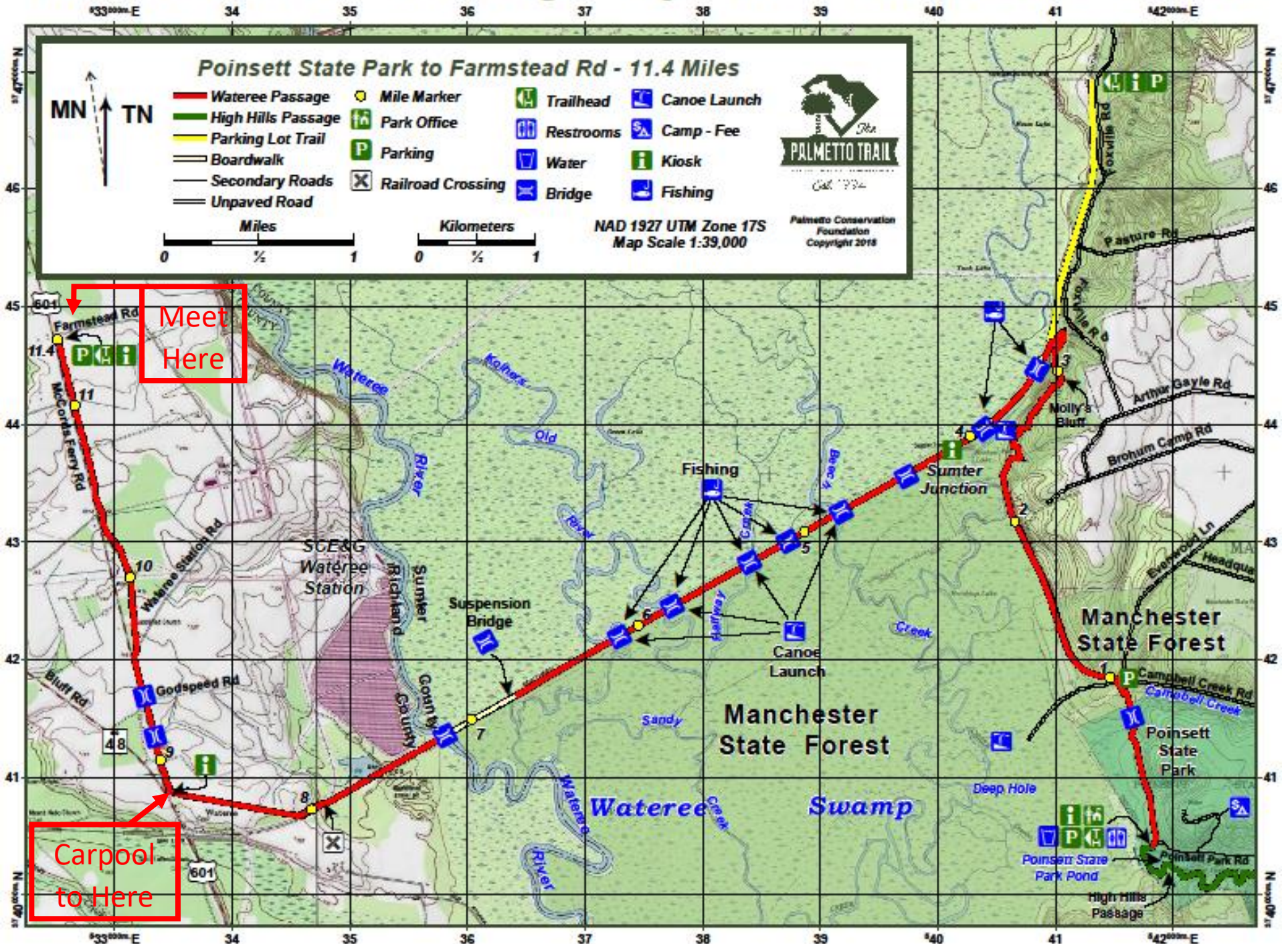
### **Dinner:**

Due to Covid-19 and in an abundance of caution, it has been decided to **NOT** meet for an after-outing meal. Sorry – We can all hope that things will be better later this year.

### **Contacts:**

Dave Kastner  
Marty Kastner

# The Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail



# The WATEREE PASSAGE of the PALMETTO TRAIL

## Waterree Passage Data

**Length:** 11.4 miles  
Poinsett State Park to Farmstead Rd.

**Use:** Hiking, Mountain Biking

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Restrictions:**  
No motor vehicles, no Equestrians

**Trail Marking:**  
Trail Signs, Orange Blazes

## Driving Directions:

**Poinsett State Park Trailhead:** From the junction of US 378 and SC 261 S., travel 10.1 miles south on SC 261 to Poinsett Park Road (S-43-63), turn right (west), travel 2.7 miles to the Poinsett State Park Headquarters.

**Campbell Creek Rd. Parking Area:** From US 378 near Sumter, take SC 261 south through Wedgefield for 9.2 miles. At the Manchester State Forest sign turn right onto Headquarters Road for 1 mile. Turn left onto Campbell Creek Rd(unmarked). and go 1.6 miles to the intersection with Everwood Lane (unmarked). This wide intersection is the parking area.

**Foxville Rd. Parking Area:** From US 378 near Sumter, take SC 261 south through Wedgefield for 5.8 turn right onto Middleton Rd. opposite Orangehill Church. Paved road becomes unpaved after 1.4 miles; continue 1.1 miles. Turn left and another immediate left onto Foxville Rd. (unmarked). Travel for .7 miles to a small parking area with a kiosk on the right. Walk pass the kiosk and turn left onto the Parking Lot Trail; it is .6 miles down an old rail bed to the Waterree Passage. *Note: Foxville Rd can be difficult to drive on in wet weather for non 4 wheel drive vehicles.*

**Farmstead Road Trailhead:** From the intersection of US 378 and US 601 travel south on US 601 S for 7.3 miles. Turn left onto Farmstead Road, the concrete parking lot and trailhead is on the right.

## Rules & Precautions

Minimum impact use is in everybody's best interest. To achieve this, we recommend the following practices:

- Please practice "Leave No Trace" philosophy, pack out what you pack in.
- Stay on designated trails
- Take only pictures, leave only footprints
- Leave what you find
- Respect private property
- Be considerate of fellow trail users
- Water is not available on the trail. Pack food and water. Water from creeks must be treated or filtered.
- **No Camping or Fires Allowed!**
- Camping for a fee is available by contacting Poinsett State Park.
- Park only in designated areas.
- **Mountain Biking in Manchester State Forest requires a permit, apply at website below.**

## Additional Information

### Manchester State Forest

7640 Headquarters Road  
Wedgefield, SC 29168  
(803) 494-8196

<https://www.state.sc.us/forest/permit.htm>

### Poinsett State Park

6660 Poinsett Park Road  
Wedgefield, SC 29168  
(803) 484-8117

### Palmetto Conservation Foundation

722 King Street  
Columbia, SC 29205  
(803) 771-0870

[www.palmettoconservation.org](http://www.palmettoconservation.org)



**The Edward & Dorothy Kendall Foundation**

**Fastener Supply Company**

Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve  
Horry Co., SC  
December 11, 2021

This list was produced by SCAN from sightings produced by SCAN members and is subject to revision as needed. An asterisk (\*) indicates a new sighting for SCAN. Send any changes or corrections to Tom Jones [tomjones@scscan.org](mailto:tomjones@scscan.org)  
Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring. Thank you.

FLORA

**Foxtail Clubmoss**  
*Lycopodiella alopecuroides*

**Southern Bog Clubmoss**  
*Lycopodiella appressa*

**Carolina Bog Clubmoss**  
*Pseudolycopodiella caroliniana*

**Southern Bracken**  
*Pteridium pseudocaudatum*

**Longleaf Pine**  
*Pinus palustris*

**Pond Pine**  
*Pinus serotina*

**Eastern Red Cedar**  
*Juniperus virginiana*

**Northern White Colic-root**  
*Aletris farinosa*

**Bamboo-vine**  
*Smilax laurifolia*

**Curlyleaf Yucca**  
*Yucca filamentosa*

**Redroot**  
*Lachnanthes caroliniana*

**Common Ten-angled Pipewort**  
*Eriocaulon decangulare*  
*decangulare*

**Southern Bogbutton**  
*Lachnocaulon beyrichianum*

**Pinebarrens Peanut-grass**  
\* *Amphicarpum amphicarpon*

**Dryland White Bluestem**  
\* *Andropogon capillipes*

**Common Bushy Bluestem**  
*Andropogon glomeratus*

**Switch Cane**  
*Arundinaria tecta*

**Torpedo Grass**  
\* *Panicum repens*

**Sweet Gum**  
*Liquidambar styraciflua*

**Red Chokeberry**  
*Aronia arbutifolia*

**Sand Live Oak**  
*Quercus geminata*

**Harbison Oak**  
\* *Quercus x harbisonii*

**Tag Alder**  
*Alnus serrulata*

**Alternate-leaved Seedbox**  
*Ludwigia alternifolia*

**Smooth Meadow-beauty**  
*Rhexia alifanus*

**Venus Flytrap**  
*Dionaea muscipula*

**Pink Sundew**  
*Drosera capillaris*

**Loblolly Bay**  
*Gordonia lasianthus*

**Yellow Pitcherplant**  
*Sarracenia flava*

**Hooded Pitcherplant**  
*Sarracenia minor minor*

**S. Purple Pitcherplant**  
*Sarracenia purpurea venosa*

**Ti-ti**  
*Cyrilla racemiflora*

**Leatherleaf**  
*Chamaedaphne calyculata*

**Creeping Blueberry**  
*Vaccinium crassifolium*

**Southern Blueberry**  
*Vaccinium tenellum*

**Pinebarren Gentian**  
*Gentiana autumnalis*

**Small Butterwort**  
*Pinguicula pumila*

**Little Gallberry**  
*Ilex glabra*

**Blackroot**  
*Pterocaulon pycnostachyum*

**American Aster**  
*Symphyotrichum walteri*

**Centella**  
*Centella erecta*

**Savanna Cowbane**  
*Oxypholis ternata*

**Peach-colored Fly Agaric**  
\* *Amanita persicina*

**Barometer Earthstar**  
*Astraeus sp.*

FAUNA

**Green Lynx Spider**  
*Peucetia viridans*

**Brilliant Jumper**  
*Phidippus clarus*

**Florida Harvester Ant**  
*Pogonomyrmex badius*

**Fraternal Potter Wasp**  
*Eumenes fraternus*

**Coarse-backed Red Paper Wasp**  
\* *Polistes rubiginosus*

**Phantom Crane-fly**  
*Bittacomorpha clavipes*

**12-spotted Cucumber Beetle**  
*Diabrotica undecimpunctata*  
*howardi*

**American Lady**  
*Vanessa virginiensis*

**Red Admiral**  
*Vanessa atalanta*

**Common Buckeye**  
*Junonia coenia*

**Pine Woods Treefrog**  
*Hyla femoralis*

**Black Swamp Snake**  
*Liodytes pygaea*

**Turkey Vulture**  
*Cathartes aura*

**Black Vulture**  
*Coragyps atratus*

**Red-shouldered Hawk**  
*Buteo lineatus*

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**  
*Sphyrapicus varius*

**Brown-headed Nuthatch**  
*Sitta pusilla*

**Pine Warbler**  
*Setophaga pinus*

**Northern Cardinal**  
*Cardinalis cardinalis*

**Chipping Sparrow**  
*Spizella passerina*

**White-tailed Deer**  
*Odocoileus virginianus*