SCAN
SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
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November 2026

Howdy SCANners!

Over 120 species! On Waties Island last month, I found and identified over 120 species and taxa. Being a barrier island, even an almost pristine one, I was worried I would not see much, especially in October. But I was wrong! Waties Island had a number of different habitats that a number of intrepid SCANners soodled through (and braved some serious gallinippers (*Psorophora ciliata*) and sand spurs (*Cenchrus sp*). Highlights for me were a 12-point buck (*Odocoileus virginianus*), Northern Gannets (*Morus bassanus*) diving, and a great Golden Digger Wasp (*Sphex ichneumoneus*) digging through some sand.

With almost 300 species observed for this trip (look at our list at the end of the newsletter), this shows how SCAN can contribute to South Carolina's biodiversity data. Something to remember when you get home and look at your photos or share your cool observations with your loved ones… don't forget to share the info with SCAN as well.

It was almost a perfect weather day at Waties; now let's hope we get some lovely weather at Audubon's Pine Bluff Tract. Just be prepared for skeeters if it's warm!

Also, start getting excited for our Annual meeting at Goodale State Park on January 23. We have a great lineup of speakers you won't want to miss!

Lee Morris, President

Last Month: Waties Island

Gallinippers and sand spurs aside, Waties Island was full of wonderful surprises and gorgeous scenery. Walking along a mostly undeveloped island while staring at the high rises of Myrtle Beach was quite surreal to me. With beautiful sunny skies and mild temperatures in the low 70ies, we were able to cover a good bit of ground. Part of the group explored an overgrown trail through the maritime forest on the backside of the dunes while another group went straight to the beach to make a beeline for the jetties at the north end of the island. A few folks went south towards Hog Inlet. In addition to the plentiful wildlife, we saw a group of Coastal Carolina University students working on a research project. Ghost crabs and gulls were plentiful, as were lost sunglasses, swim goggles and flip flops. The high tide line contained enough flotsam to stock an entire Waves store.

After the days' explorations concluded, a large contingent of the group went to Murphy's Bar and Grill for a little bit of Myrtle Beach dive bar ambience. The extra lucky folks stuck around and got ice cream from Dairy Hut across the street.

Huge thanks to Coastal Carolina University Professor and SCAN member Chris Hill for arranging access and providing a curated tour of the island.

Kim McManus, Secretary and Web Keeper

This Month: Pine Bluff Tract - Audubon SC

This November we get to explore a special place on the banks of the Edisto River. It's a place that's under the thoughtful care and management of our friends at Audubon SC: The Pine Bluff Tract. This tract used to be pine plantation, then became a sand mine. But Audubon was able to buy the land a decade ago and has been working to turn it into a bird sanctuary, restore the forest on the site, and improve the wetland functionality of the ponds and floodplain. They recently sold a portion of the land to Dorchester County Parks to establish a new public park in the coming years. Audubon is also partnered with the Edisto Natchez-kusso Tribe on the management of this land, so as to provide their tribal community the opportunity to collectively reconnect and steward some of their ancestral lands along the Edisto River. The site has relict Longleaf Pine, beaver dams, floodplain forest, grasslands, and miles and miles of logging roads for SCAN to soodle through. So come on down to the Edisto this November, we're gonna have a ball!

Tom Austin, Database Manager and Southern Regional Director

Next Month:





We have an 11th hour lineup change. Due to some ongoing restoration work due to Hurricane Helene, we have to swap Rocky Branch Natural Area to next year and due to time constraints and location swap I will be filling in as the organizer for the December outing to the …. Underexplored Congaree. We will meet near the large parking area for Sampson Island and carpool over to the Bates Ferry Trailhead. Then there will be the option of heading off trail into the sloughs and guts that most of the visitors never explore or are afraid to explore for fear of getting lost. We will get to visit the General Greene tree (the largest circumference tree in the NP), cross running creek, visit and old still and explore Big Lake. If we get a gully washer before the trip we will pivot for the final time of 2026 and hike some nearby trails. Final details will be in the December newsletter.

Todd Johnston, Northern Regional Director

Photos from Waties Island



Attendees

Brucie Alexander, Celie Dailey, Lee Morris, Tom Austin, Carol Jaworski, Rita Zollinger, Edward Ingram, Chris Hill, Mandy Johnson, Todd Johnston, Caroline Eastman, Russell Hawkins, Kelly Hawkins, Kim McManus

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Tom and Celie exploring the roadside	Chris, Rita and Mandy strolling back from the jetty



Shipworm tubes (*Family Teredinidae*



Atlantic Ghost Crab (*Ocypode quadrata*)



Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)



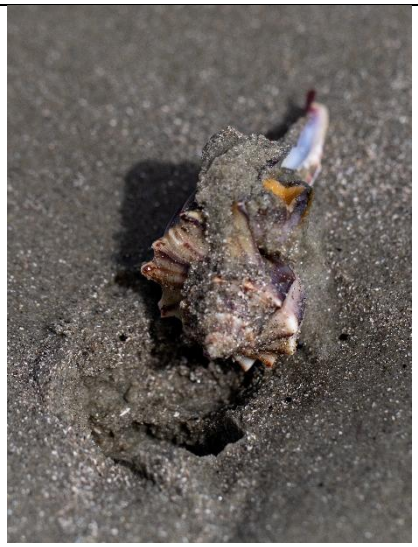
Northern Gannet (*Morus Bassanus*)



Camphorweed (*Heterotheca subaxillaris*)



North American Wheel Bug (*Arilus cristatus*)

	
Rita Zollinger miraculously dry after a day in close proximity to water!	Mandy Johnson with the most unusual species of the day!
	
Knobbed Whelk (*Busycon carica*)	Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

Pine Bluff Tract – Audubon
Dorchester County, SC
753 Wire Road, Dorchester, SC
GPS for Gate: 33.069944, -80.439583
Saturday, November 21, 2026 | 10:30am to 4:30pm

Details on the property from Tim Evans, Director of Land Conservation for Audubon SC:

Audubon SC purchased the 557-acre Pine Bluff Tract back in 2016. The site had been extensively mined for sand and gravel resulting in some 160 acres of borrow pit lakes dominating the site. Most of the site was clearcut in the late-1990s and early-2000's and converted to Loblolly Pine plantation. Remnant Longleaf Pine still occurs along the eastern edge of the property. A ditched and bedded Loblolly Pine stand on the eastern portion of the property shows what most of the site looked like prior to mining.

In 2023, 125 acres of the site, including two ponds, were sold to Dorchester County Parks to provide access for public use, primarily bank fishing. No work on the park construction has taken place yet, but the county plans to add camping and camp hosts at some future date.

Audubon had attempted to develop a wetland mitigation bank on the site to improve the hydrological connectivity and ecological value of the dug ponds and the wetlands on site that had been impaired by the mining. But, were unable to do so because of issues with the state permitting process. Yet efforts to improve the ecological integrity of the site will still continue.

Two wetland 'blocks' were designated for enhancement, as shown on the attached maps. The northern block was a 108-acre Loblolly Pine flatwoods, which was clearcut in 2024 to make way for hardwood forest restoration. Those hardwood seedlings were replanted in 2026. The wetland block to the south fronts 1.5 miles of the Edisto River and can be accessed using two low water culverted crossings. The grassland portions of the site are burned annually and have improved tremendously from the bare gravel that covered the site originally. There is a nice beaver pond on site that has been maturing over the last decade of Audubon's ownership. Look for Sundews in the grassland, as well as Pond Cypress and the great diversity of Oaks closer to the river.

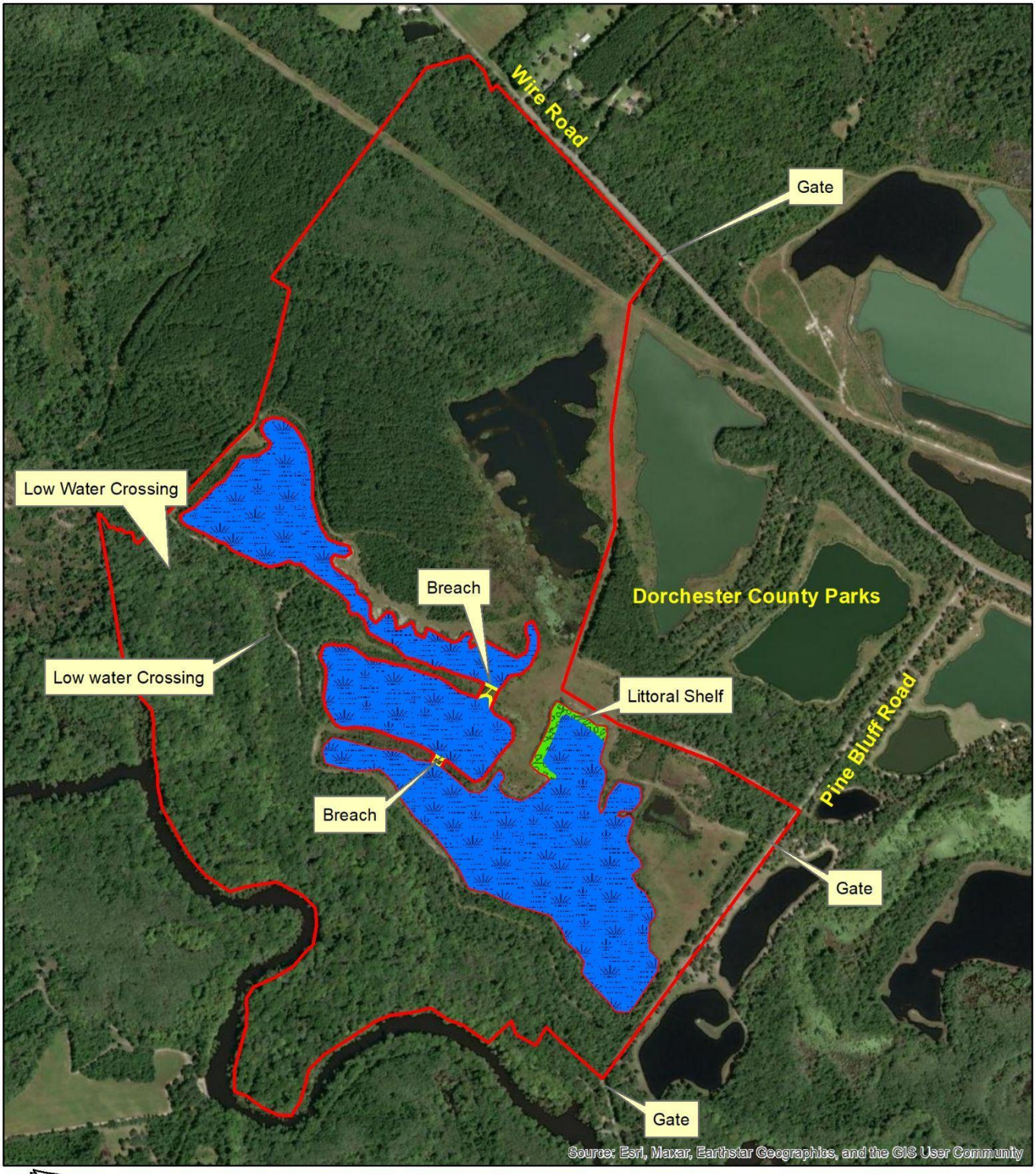
Audubon plans to continue restoration by monitoring the bottomland hardwood plantings, connecting the lower three ponds through dug canals between them, and the creation of littoral shelves in the ponds for emergent vegetation establishment. Audubon is partnering in this effort with the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe who have access to the site through an MOU with Audubon, to share traditional knowledge and techniques for restoration and management of the site. Lastly, a "Bird-Friendly" bottomland thinning is planned along the Edisto River to encourage regeneration of the oak overstory.

Enter the property through the gate on Wire Road, located at 33.069944, -80.439583. Drive about 400ft and you'll enter an open field. Please park in this field under the powerline right-of-way. We'll be able to walk all throughout the property, but please don't drive deeper into the tract without the blessing of Audubon staff as road conditions may not be safe. (There are a lot of wetlands on site and these are old logging roads.)

There are no restrooms on site. If you need a pit stop en route, it's recommended that you stop in St. George or Ridgeville before arriving. If you want to camp nearby the night before or after, Givhan's Ferry State Park is just 5mi to the south. Please dress for walking through thick grass and prepare for mosquitoes and other biting insects. After the walk, for those interested, we'll all head east towards Ridgeville for dinner and comradery.

Tom Austin and Audubon SC staff/volunteers will lead day of.

Maps of Audubon's Pine Bluff Tract

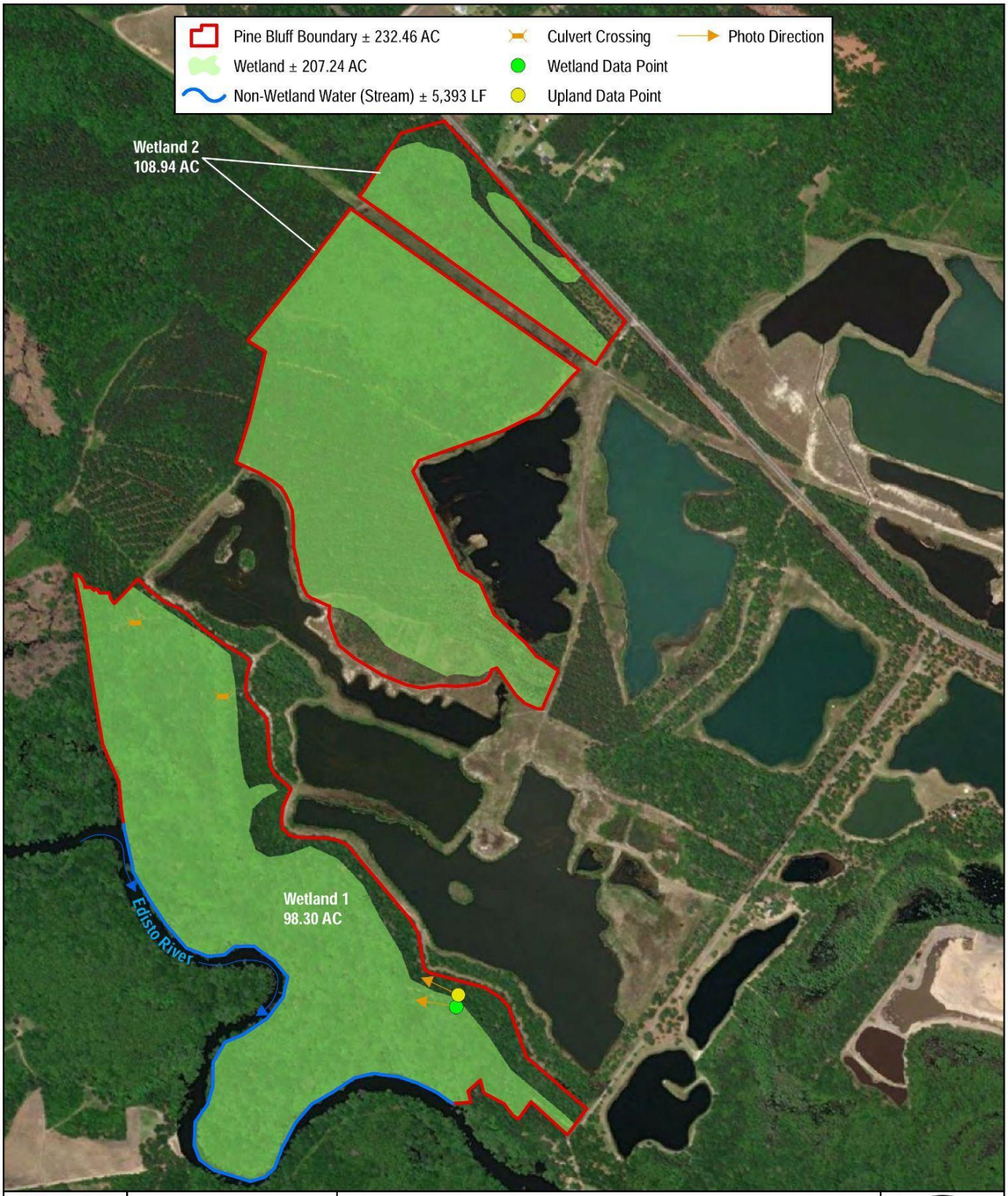


Audubon
SOUTH CAROLINA

Pine Bluff Tract
429 Ac+/-
Dorchester County, SC

1,100 550 0 1,100 Feet

N
W E
S



Palustrine Group

Figure 4
Wetland Delineation Map
Pine Bluff Mitigation Bank
Edisto River Watershed
Dorchester County, SC
Source: ESRI
Date: March 2022

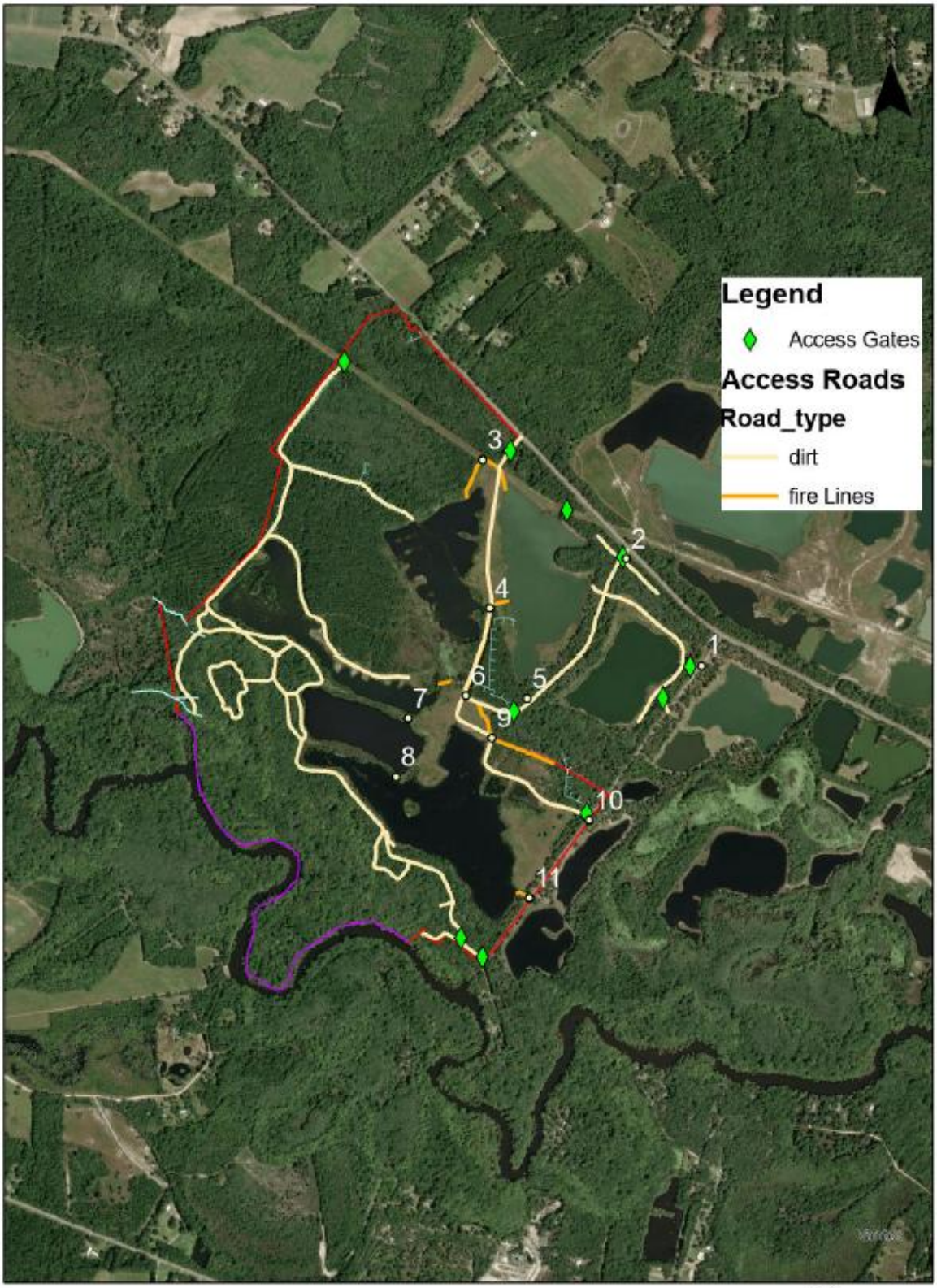
Notes:

1 in = 1,000 feet

0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 Feet

N

burns_Pine_Bluff



Created by Mark Musselman, 11/16/2026
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Miles
0 0.15 0.3 0.6

Waites Island
Horry Co., SC
October 24, 2026

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 Austin at scnaturalists76@gmail.com. Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring to in the subject line of your message. Thank you.

FUNGI

Firedot
Caloplaca sp.
Jester Lichen
Cladonia leporine
Reindeer Lichen
Cladonia sp.
Ruffle Lichen
Parmotrema sp.
Beard Lichen
Usnea sp.
Laurel Wilt
Raffaelea lauricola
Crowded Parchment
Stereum complicatum
False Turkeytail
Stereum lobatum
Amanita
Amanita sp.
Russula
Russula sp.

FLORA

Slender Three-seeded Mercury
Acalypha gracilens
Red Buckeye
Aesculus pavia
Mimosa
Albizia julibrissin
Common Ragweed
Ambrosia artemisiifolia
Maritime Bushy Bluestem
Anatherum tenuispatheum
Maritime Bluestem
Andropogon tenuispatheus
Broomsedge
Andropogon virginicus
Common Mugwort
Artemisia vulgaris
Crested Saltbush
Atriplex pentandra
Fat-hen
Atriplex prostrata
Saltwater False-Willow
Baccharis angustifolia
Groundsel-tree
Baccharis halimifolia
Herb-of-Grace
Bacopa monnieri
Alabama Supplejack
Berchemia scandens
Crossvine
Bignonia capreolata
Seacoast Bulrush
Bolboschoenus robustus
Sea Oxeye
Borrichia frutescens
American Searocket
Cakile edentula
American Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana
Trumpet Vine
Campsis radicans
American Olive
Cartrema americana
Sand Hickory
Carya pallida
Mockernut Hickory
Carya tomentosa
Sugar Hackberry
Celtis laevigata
Coastal Sandbur
Cenchrus spinifex
Dune Sandbur
Cenchrus tribuloides
Slender Wood-Oats
Chasmanthium laxum
Atlantic Pigeonwings
Clitoria mariana
Carolina Snailseed
Cocculus carolinus
Beaked Panicgrass
Coleataenia anceps
Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida
Pampas Grass
Cortaderia selloana
Green Hawthorn
Crataegus viridis
Beach Croton
Croton punctatus
Coastal Bermudagrass
Cynodon dactylon
Yellow Nutsedge
Cyperus esculentus
Pinebarren Flatsedge
Cyperus retrorsus
Straw-colored Flatsedge
Cyperus strigosus
Needle-leaf Rosette-Grass
Dichanthelium aciculare
Hairy Rosette-Grass
Dichanthelium acuminatum
Forked Rosette-Grass
Dichanthelium dichotomum
Carolina Ponysfoot
Dichondra carolinensis
Tropical Finger-Grass
Digitaria ciliaris
American Persimmon
Diospyros virginiana
Saltgrass
Distichlis spicata
Hairy Elephant's-foot
Elephantopus tomentosus
Virginia Wild Rye
Elymus virginicus
Sea Heart
Entada gigas
American Burnweed
Erechtites hieraciifolius
Centipede Grass
Eremochloa ophiuroides
Tropical Horseweed
Erigeron bonariensis
Horseweed
Erigeron canadensis
Oakleaf Fleabane
Erigeron quercifolius
Southern Seaside Spurge
Euphorbia bombensis
Spotted Spurge
Euphorbia maculata
Seaside Sandmat
Euphorbia polygonifolia
Pinewoods Fingergrass
Eustachys petraea
Tall Fescue
Festuca arundinacea

Marsh Fimbry
Fimbristylis castanea
Coastal Bedstraw
Galium bermudense
Carolina Jessamine
Gelsemium sempervirens
Camphorweed
Heterotheca subaxillaris
Poor-Joe
Hexasepalum teres
largeleaf pennywort
Hydrocotyle bonariensis
American Holly
Ilex opaca
Yaupon
Ilex vomitoria
Tievine
Ipomoea cordatotriloba
White Beach Morning-Glory
Ipomoea imperati
Wild Potato Vine
Ipomoea pandurata
Pink Beach Morning-Glory
Ipomoea pes-caprae
Marsh Elder
Iva frutescens
Dune Marsh-elder
Iva imbricata
Bighead Rush
Juncus megacephalus
Black Needlerush
Juncus roemerianus
Eastern Redcedar
Juniperus virginiana
Southern Redcedar
Juniperus virginiana silicicola
Grass-leaved Lettuce
Lactuca graminifolia
Chinese Lespedeza
Lespedeza cuneata
Carolina Sea-Lavender
Limonium carolinianum
Japanese Honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica
Southern Magnolia
Magnolia grandiflora
Creeping Cucumber
Melothria pendula
Climbing Hempvine
Mikania scandens
Partridge-Berry
Mitchella repens
Southern Wax-myrtle
Morella cerifera
Red Mulberry
Morus rubra
Peppervine
Nekemias arborea
Seabeach Evening-primrose
Oenothera humifusa
Southern Beeblossum
Oenothera simulans
Southeastern Pricklypear
Opuntia mesacantha
Slender Yellow WoodSorrel
Oxalis dillenii
Bitter Panicgrass
Panicum amarum
Switchgrass
Panicum virgatum
Baldwin's nailwort
Paronychia baldwinii
Virginia Creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Florida Paspalum
Paspalum floridanum
Bahiagrass
Paspalum notatum
Thin Paspalum
Paspalum setaceum
Vasey's Grass
Paspalum urvillei
RedBay
Persea borbonia
Dotted Smartweed
Persicaria punctata
Common Reed
Phragmites australis
Frogfruit
Phyla nodiflora
Shortleaf Pine
Pinus echinata
Slash Pine
Pinus elliottii
Loblolly Pine
Pinus taeda
Broadleaf Plantain
Plantago major
Stinking Camphorweed
Pluchea foetida
Marsh Camphorweed
Pluchea odorata
Carolina Laurel-Cherry
Prunus caroliniana
Black Cherry
Prunus serotina
Southern Red Oak
Quercus falcata
Sand Live Oak
Quercus geminata
Darlington Oak
Quercus hemisphaerica
Dwarf Live Oak
Quercus minima
Black Oak
Quercus velutina
Southern Live Oak
Quercus virginiana
Southern Dewberry
Rubus trivialis
Carolina Wild Petunia
Ruellia caroliniensis
Cabbage Palmetto
Sabal palmetto
Giant Plumegrass
Saccharum giganteum
Perennial Glasswort
Salicornia perennis
Canadian Blacksnakeroot
Sanicula canadensis
Bigpod
Sesbania herbacea
Giant Bristlegrass
Setaria magna
Knotroot Bristlegrass
Setaria parviflora
Yellow Foxtail
Setaria pumila
Cuban Jute
Sida rhombifolia
Buckthorn Bully
Sideroxylon lycioides
Dune Greenbrier
Smilax auriculata
Sawtooth Greenbrier
Smilax bona-nox
Lanceleaf Greenbrier
Smilax smallii
Tall Goldenrod
Solidago altissima
Southern Seaside Goldenrod
Solidago mexicana
Johnson Grass
Sorghum halepense
Smooth Cordgrass
Sporobolus alterniflorus
Sand Cordgrass
Sporobolus bakeri
Smutgrass
Sporobolus indicus
Saltmeadow Cordgrass
Sporobolus pumilus

St. Augustine Grass
Stenotaphrum secundatum
Trailing Fuzzy-bean
Strophostyles helvola
Pink Fuzzybean
Strophostyles umbellata
Annual Seepweed
Suaeda linearis
Annual Saltmarsh Aster
Symphyotrichum subulatum
Perennial Saltmarsh Aster
Symphyotrichum tenuifolium
Common Dandelion
Taraxacum officinale
American Basswood
Tilia americana
Spanish Moss
Tillandsia usneoides
Poison-Ivy
Toxicodendron radicans
Chinese Tallow
Triadica sebifera
Forked Bluecurls
Trichostema dichotomum
Purpletop Tridens
Tridens flavus
Purple Sandgrass
Triplasis purpurea
Narrowleaf Cattail
Typha angustifolia
Common Cattail
Typha latifolia
Sea Oats
Uniola paniculata
Sparkleberry
Vaccinium arboreum
Rusty Blackhaw
Viburnum rufidulum
Common Vetch
Vicia sativa
Summer Grape
Vitis aestivalis
Graybark Grape
Vitis cinerea
Muscadine
Vitis rotundifolia
Chinese Wisteria
Wisteria sinensis
Aloe Yucca
Yucca aloifolia
Moundlily Yucca
Yucca gloriosa
Toothache Bush
Zanthoxylum clava-herculis

Saltbush
Atriplex sp.
Carpetgrass
Axonopus sp.
Flat Sedge
Cyperus sp.
Barnyard Grass
Echinochloa sp.
Pennywort
Hydrocotyle sp.
Prickly Pear
Opuntia sp.
Plumegrass
Saccharum sp.
Goldenrod
Solidago sp.
Seepweed
Suaeda sp.

FAUNA

Red-winged Blackbird
Agelaius phoeniceus
Great Egret
Ardea alba
Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias
Tufted Titmouse
Baeolophus bicolor
Great Horned Owl
Bubo virginianus
Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis
Sanderling
Calidris alba
Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis
Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura
Hermit Thrush
Catharus guttatus
Brown Creeper
Certhia americana
Northern Harrier
Circus hudsonius
Sedge Wren
Cistothorus platensis
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Coccyzus americanus
Northern Flicker
colaptes auratus
Feral Pigeon
Columba livia
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Corthylio calendula

Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata
Downy Woodpecker
Dryobates pubescens
Gray Catbird
Dumetella carolinensis
Snowy Egret
Egretta thula
White Ibis
Eudocimus albus
American Kestrel
Falco sparverius
Common Yellowthroat
Geothlypis trichas
Bald Eagle
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Caspian Tern
Hydroprogne caspia
Ring-billed Gull
Larus delawarensis
American Herring Gull
Larus smithsonianus
Belted Kingfisher
Megaceryle alcyon
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus
Black Scoter
Melanitta americana
Surf Scoter
Melanitta perspicillata
Swamp Sparrow
Melospiza georgiana
Northern Mockingbird
Mimus polyglottos
Brown-headed Cowbird
Molothrus ater
Northern Gannet
Morus bassanus
Double-crested Cormorant
Nannopterum auritum
Osprey
Pandion haliaetus
Savannah Sparrow
Passerculus sandwichensis
Brown Pelican
Pelecanus occidentalis
Eastern Towhee
Pipilo erythrophthalmus
Black-bellied Plover
Pluvialis squatarola
Carolina Chickadee
Poecile carolinensis
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
Polioptila caerulea

Clapper Rail
Rallus crepitans
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Setophaga caerulescens
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Setophaga coronata
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Sitta pusilla
Forster's Tern
Sterna forsteri
Tree Swallow
Tachycineta bicolor
Royal Tern
Thalasseus maximus
Carolina Wren
Thryothorus ludovicianus
Brown Thrasher
Toxostoma rufum
Willet
Tringa semipalmata
House Wren
Troglodytes aedon
Virginia Opossum
Didelphis virginiana
Bobcat
Lynx rufus
American Mink
Neogale vision
White-tailed Deer
Odocoileus virginianus
Common Raccoon
Procyon lotor
Eastern Gray Squirrel
Sciurus carolinensis
Southern Black Racer
Coluber constrictor priapus
Green Anole
Anolis carolinensis
Loggerhead Sea Turtle
Caretta caretta
North American Racer
Coluber constrictor
Clearnose Skate
Rostroraja eglanteria
Finger Sponge
Haliclona oculata
Colorful Sea Whip
Leptogorgia virgulata
Keyhole Sand Dollar
Mellita sp.
Ark
Anadara sp.
Eastern Oyster
Crassostrea virginica
Shipworm
Teredinidae sp.
Knobbed Whelk
Busycon carica
Channeled Whelk
Busycotypus canaliculatus
Marsh Periwinkle
Littoraria irrorata
Shark Eye
Neverita duplicata
Atlantic Horseshoe Crab
Limulus polyphemus
Ivory Barnacle
Amphibalanus eburneus
Speckled Swimming Crab
Arenaeus cribrarius
Atlantic Blue Crab
Callinectes sapidus
Dolly Varden Crab
Hepatus epheliticus
Florida Stone Crab
Menippe mercenaria
Atlantic Ghost Crab
Ocypode quadrata
Speckled Purse Crab
Persephona aquilonaris
Black-and-Yellow Argiope
Argiope aurantia
Spiny-backed Orbweaver
Gasteracantha cancriformis
Mabel Orchard Orbweaver
Leucauge argyrobapta
Golden Silk Orbweaver
Trichonephila clavipes
Giant Leaf-footed Bug
Acanthocephala declivis
North American Wheel Bug
Arilus cristatus
Cactus Coreid Bug
Chelinidea vittiger
Yellow-collared Scape Moth
Cisseps fulvicollis
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle
Coccinella septempunctata
Wax Myrtle Wave
Cyclophora myrtaria
Spotted Cucumber Beetle
Diabrotica undecimpunctata
Gold-marked Thread-waisted Wasp
Eremnophila aureonotata
Carpenter-mimic Leafcutter Bee
Megachile xylocopoides
Antlion
Myrmeleon immaculatus
Florida Harvester Ant
Pogonomyrmex badius
Fine-backed Red Paper Wasp
Polistes carolina
Hunter's Little Paper Wasp
Polistes dorsalis
Gallinipper
Psorophora ciliata
American Bird Grasshopper
Schistocerca americana
Obscure Bird Grasshopper
Schistocerca obscura
Redbay Ambrosia Beetle
Xyleborus glabratus
Aedes Mosquito
Aedes sp.
Pyramid Ant
Dorymyrmex sp.
Seaweed Fly
Fucellia sp.
Leaf-footed Bug
Leptoglossus sp.
Horsefly
Tabanus sp.
Yellowjacket
Vespula sp.
Sleepy Orange
Abaeis nicippe
Orange Sulphur
Colias eurytheme
Monarch
Danaus plexippus
Gulf Fritillary
Dione vanillae
Common Buckeye
Junonia coenia
Cloudless Sulphur
Phoebis sennae
Common Green Darner
Anax junius
Citrine Forktail
Ischnura hastata
Southern Spreadwing
Lestes australis
Blue Dasher
Pachydiplax longipennis
Wandering Glider
Pantala flavescens
Black Saddlebags
Tramea lacerate

OTHER

Bacterial Crown Gall
Agrobacterium radiobacter