



April 2021

Dear SCAN members,

It is with great sadness that I start this month's newsletter with news of Sarah Campbell's passing. A long-time member of SCAN and past president Piedmont Audubon, Sarah was an accomplished naturalist with a special passion for wildflowers, birds and molluscs. Our condolences to Lyle, David, Matthew and Andrew Campbell and the rest of Sarah's family.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 24 at 2:00 pm. For more information, please visit this site: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/spartanburg/obituary.aspx?pid=198361877>

March Outing Summary

I was unable to attend our March outing to the Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve, so Western Regional Director Lee Morris was kind enough to provide the following summary. Lee and Vice President Dave Schuetrum contributed photos.



Attendees included:

Alison Smith	Debo Bodiford	Lynda Curtis	Sharon Farris Yomtob
Angela Valvasori	Hunter Young	Mandy Johnson	Steve Katzberg
Bill Wedding	Jerry Bright	Marcie Wedding	Stuart Greeter
Carol Gist	Jim Boylston	Mike Gibbons	Todd Beasley
Caroline Eastman	Joe Long	Parker Gibbons	Todd Johnston
Charles Nickolson	Kate Hartley	Philoma Skipper	Tom Johu
Dave Eslinger	Lee Morris	Ron Ahle	
Dave Schuetrum	Lewis Mitchell	Ruth Nickolson	

In March, a number of SCAN members convened in one of the several parking lots at the Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve. For the start of the meeting, members parked in the lot and temporarily on the road. We met with Hunter Young, the Region 3 Heritage Preserve Biologist who we met in January at Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve. (Hunter is responsible for a few Heritage Preserves, not just Congaree Bluffs!)

After our circle of introductions, Hunter first pointed out that, due to the Preserve road being packed sand and relatively narrow for a two-lane, members should make sure they park in one of the eight parking lots available on the property after the introduction. Almost as on cue, a tractor steamed by, and luckily our members had spread the cars out enough for it to get by!

Hunter gave us descriptions of the habitats on the preserve, a rundown on the trails, and areas where we might find points of interest. Two of those points included three colonies of Red Cockaded Woodpeckers (*Dryobates borealis*) and a Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) pen. Hunter went into some detail about the Gopher Tortoises, including some history of the tortoises at the Preserve. The Aiken Preserve is the furthest north that this species can be found naturally, but the indigenous population had declined precipitously. Biologists are trying to recover the population in Aiken. They take young waif tortoises from other areas and transfer them to Aiken GTHP. (Waifs are tortoises that have been displaced in the wild or have been human-owned.) These waifs placed in a large circular pen (in the proper habitat) and acclimated for a few years. Gopher tortoises have a great homing instinct and would try to migrate back to their original area if not penned in, so the gopher tortoises need to remain in pens for a few years until they decide this new area is their “home” area.

Gopher tortoises live in burrows that they excavate. These burrows are up to ten feet deep and 30 feet long. The sandy soil at the preserve is the right consistency for tortoise burrowing. Gopher tortoise burrows are the main reason they are a keystone species (a species that holds the food web in the ecosystem together) as the burrows have been known to hold up to 300 different species of animals. A SCAN member asked if any of these commensal species have been found in the burrows here, but Hunter stated this has not yet been studied in the Aiken preserve. Hunter also said he thought a few tortoises might be out, but it was early in the season and they were typically hard to find in the wild.



L to R: tricky temporary road parking (DS), tortoise burrow (DS), tortoise burrow (LM)

After his information-packed intro, SCAN members started spreading through the preserve. The day was bright and promised to be warm, and the spring flowers were just beginning to bloom. The lupine greenery was lush and extensive, and the stalks with flowers were just beginning to open. Other wildflowers included Blue Toadflax (*Nuttallanthus canadensis*), *Vaccinium* bushes, Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), and Carolina ipecac (*Euphorbia ipecacuanhae*). Insects were out in abundance, including dragonflies and damselflies, dung beetles, and butterflies. A highlight of one group was a Goatweed Leafwing butterfly (*Anaea andria*) which is not a commonly seen butterfly. Some birds were observed, including a Bachman's sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis*) who serenaded a few SCANners for half an hour. Only a few herps were observed, however... the crowning jewel of the trip: a GOPHER TORTOISE!

This gopher tortoise wasn't a young waif in the one very huge pen that could be seen from a trail, but an adult. It was wandering around, eating tender green leaves sprouting close to the ground, and eyeing all the naturalists who were eyeing it back. This gopher tortoise had three perfectly round holes at the edge of the posterior marginal scutes (2 left side, 1 right side) which is a method of identifying individual gopher tortoises. Eventually the gopher tortoise decided that Naturalists were not that interesting and wandered off up a hill.



L to R: Adult gopher tortoise with scute markings, documenting the tortoise, pen fencing (all LM)



L to R: Goatweed Leafwing Butterfly, Sky Blue Lupine, Bachman's Sparrow (all LM)

SCANners wandered for the majority of the day in the beautiful weather, investigating the mixed hardwood forest in the north, the longleaf pine savannah (the majority of the preserve, including one recently burned area), and Hallman's Pond/Spring Branch creek at the south of the property. Unfortunately, no group dinner was arranged due to the pandemic, but hopefully we will feast locally the next time we visit.



L to R: Hallman's Pond (LM), burned area (DS), SCANners soodling (DS)

Thanks to Lee for arranging the trip and providing a great summary!

Upcoming Outing

Our April 24th outing is to Woods Ferry Recreation Area in Chester County, SC. Located within a wooded floodplain and surrounded by upland pine woods and maturing hardwood forests, the area boasts easy to moderate trails over primarily red clay terrain. Northern Regional Director Rita Zollinger has provided a great overview of the opportunities available during the excursion. Read on to find out more!

Please remember that as of January 14, 2021, the CDC guidelines for outdoor activities are to stay at least 6 feet apart from people who don't live with you. If that is not feasible, wear your mask.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

General Notes

If you have not yet paid your 2021 dues, you can do so online (<http://www.scnaturalists.org/membership/>) or fill out a membership form and mail it to:

SCAN

PO Box 5651

Columbia, SC 29250-5651

In May, we will once again join forces with the Under a Low Country Moon folks for a Memorial Day weekend bioblitz in the Francis Marion National Forest. The event will kick off on Thursday, May 28th with folks setting up camp at the Hell Hole Road campground and continuing through Monday, May 31st when the last tent stakes are pulled up. The official SCAN outing will be Saturday, May 29th. Make plans to join us for the day or the weekend. More details will be forthcoming in the May newsletter.

Come soodle with us soon!

Kim McManus

843-708-9901

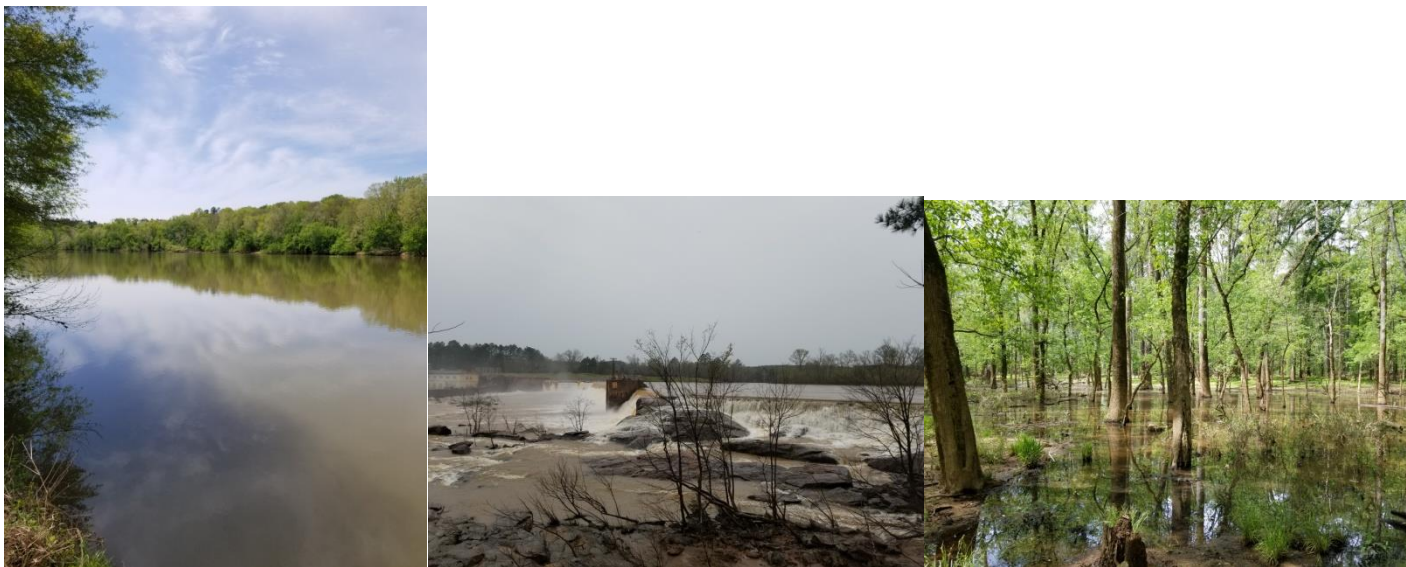
mcfampus@gmail.com

Woods Ferry Recreation Area, Carlisle, SC

In Chester County

April 24, 2021 Saturday 10:30

In Sumter Forest on the east side of the Broad River in Chester County we will explore rolling hills of upland pine woods, maturing hardwood and wooded flood plains. Woods Ferry is nestled between Union to the West, Chester to the East, Carlisle to the South and Lockhart to the North. Because Woods Ferry borders the Broad River, there is a variety of birds and wildlife. Recently sighted are red tail hawks, quail, blue heron, pileated woodpecker, owls, a pair of eagles and osprey.



We will meet at the picnic area situated between the camping area and the Broad River. Picnic area has sidewalks, shelters, grills and a restroom. There are over 21 miles of horse trails from the camping and picnic area to SCAN. There are several creeks and old home sites to discover.

On the opposite side of the Broad River in Union county is Dunaway Waterfowl Management Area where wood duck, teal, mallard, black duck can be spotted. Approximately 7 acres of the 21 acres is open land where supplemental food crops are planted. The other portion offers natural foods such as acorns, smartweed, panic grasses, tearthumbs and Asiatic dayflower. For any adventurers, launch a kayak or canoe from boat landing to cross the broad river less than 500' to the waterfowl area. An official boat landing is 2000' upstream. Swimming is not recommended.

To see the Neal Shoals dam, on your return out to Wood Ferry Road, approximately 2 miles from campground you will turn right onto a gravel road Neals Shoals 304 (Google says Vinson Rd) for a mile and half. Stay to right at the fork which will take you to the hydroelectric dam spillway of Dominion Energy. This area is well worth a stop to explore.

The managed Worthy's Ferry Dove Field 30-acre area can be explored. The Dove Field is north of campsite. To drive, take Park Rd back to Woods Ferry Road turn left. Turn left onto on Worthy's Ferry Rd, 535. Google shows name change to Wood Duck Lane, Field 5 miles on the right.

Directions:

Picnic area at Woods Ferry Recreation Area
34.703086, -81.453302

Park Rd, Carlisle, SC 29031

From South:

From Hwy. 72 and Leeds Rd., County 12-25, drive north 1.8 miles. Turn left, at intersection of Leeds Rd., County 12-25, and County Rd. 49 and drive 0.1 miles. Cross over railroad tracks and drive 3.4 miles north to Park Rd., County 12-574. Turn left onto Park Rd., County 12-574, and drive 3.6 miles to the end of the paved road.

From North:

SC-9 S and Woods Ferry Rd to Park Rd in Chester County drive south 5.6 miles. Turn right at Park Rd., County 12-574, and drive 3.6 miles to the end of the paved road.

Campsites are available. Campsites 1 – 30, \$7/night for family site \$14/night for group

See you Saturday!

Rita Zollinger
Northern Regional Director


864.706.6548

History lesson from plaque at Woods Ferry

Travel Through Time

Woods Ferry Recreation Area got its name from a ferry that provided crossing of Broad River from Chester County to Union County in antebellum days. Mathew Woods received a land grant in 1817 for several thousand acres and turned it into a prosperous cotton plantation.


Mathew and his wife Margaret raised 10 children, son, Richard, built the handsome brick Woods mansion along the river.



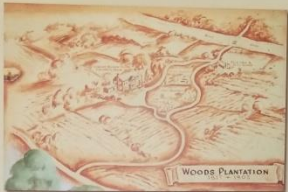
Richard Woods house

On November 17, 1824 Matthew and his neighbors petitioned the South Carolina legislature for, and were granted, the right to have a ferry to cross the Broad River. Woods Ferry operated until the early 20th century when bridges were built near the towns of Carlisle and Lockhart.

The ferry enabled the Woods and other to cross the river with carriages to go to the mill or the meeting house, but it was the flatboats loaded with cotton that poled downriver to Columbia merchants that made the family wealthy.




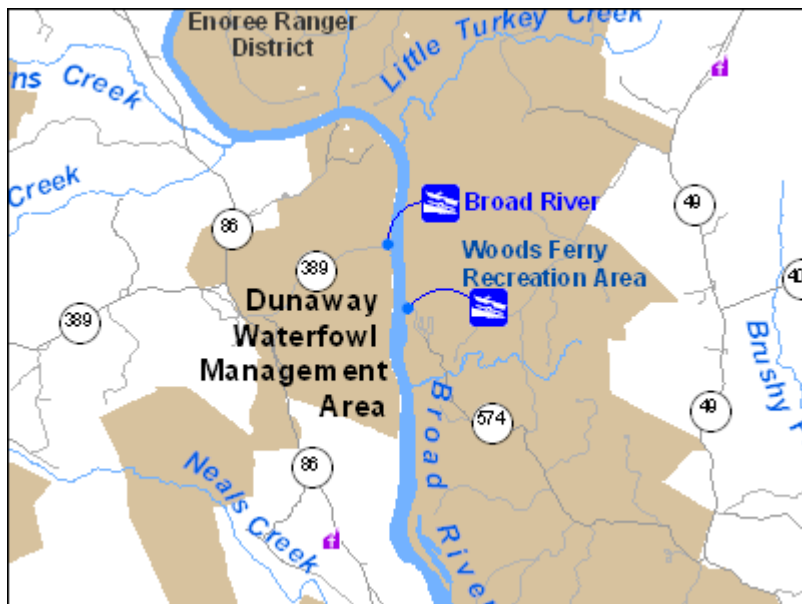
Keatts Ferry, similar to Woods Ferry

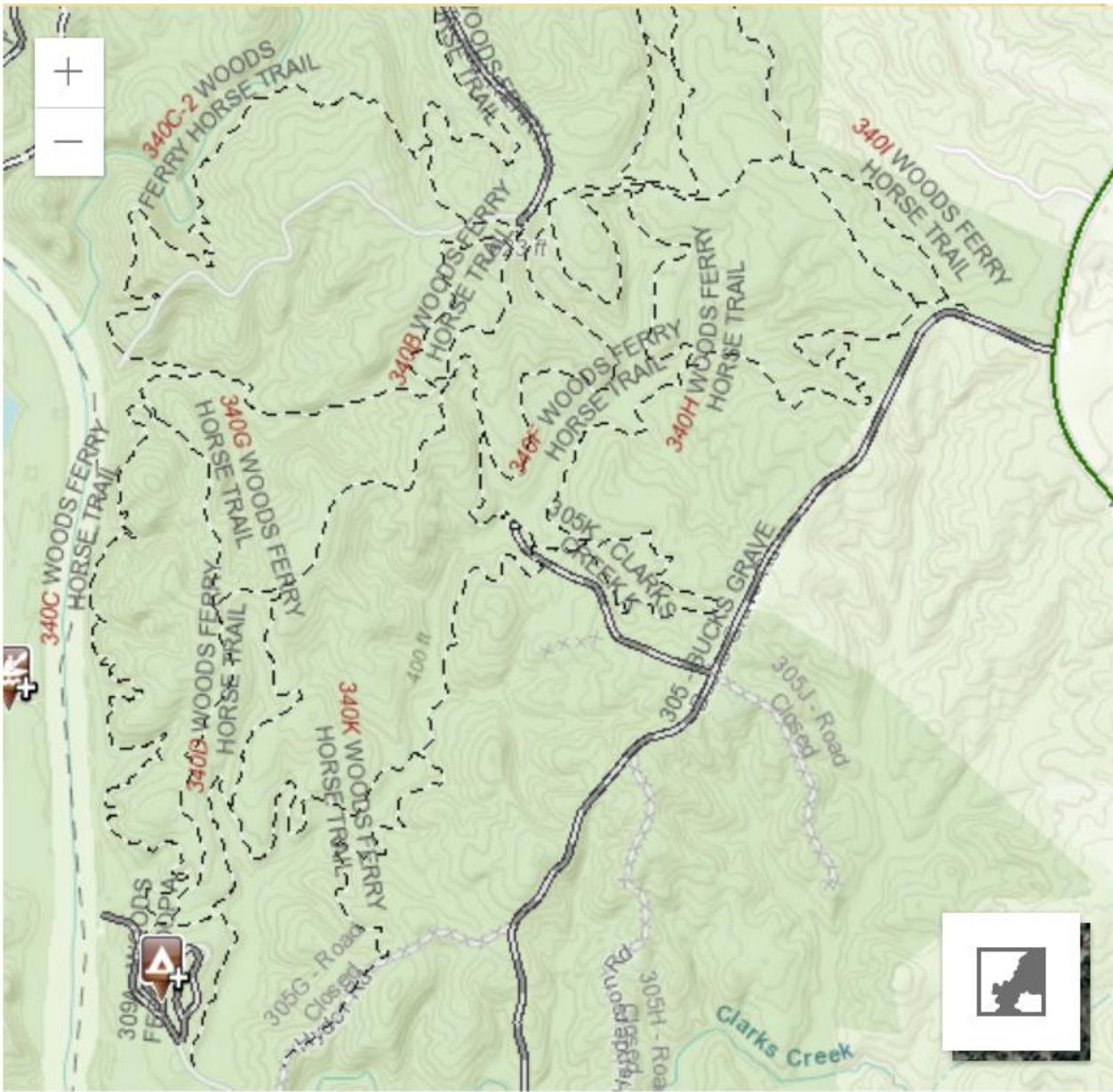


The plantation was quite large and consisted of the cotton fields, the farmhouse, the ferry, the ferry tender's cabin, and housing for 85 slaves. There were also cemeteries for the Woods family and the slaves.

The Woods mansion was raided by Union troops during the Civil War but was not burned. Hard times followed, the land became depleted and cheap labor was no longer available. As a result the sharecropped and tenant farming systems developed.

In 1965, the Woods Ferry Recreation Area was dedicated. Harry Rossoll, the creator of the Smokey Bear fire prevention figure painted the Woods Ferry mural (above) which depicts an idealized view of the past, realized by only a small minority.



Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP
Aiken Co., SC
March 27, 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 at prestoea@gmail.com. Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring. Thank you.

FLORA

Longleaf Pine
Pinus palustris

Water-shield
Brasenia schreberi

Broadleaf Pondlily
Nuphar advena

Swamp Bay
Persea palustris

Sassafras
Sassafras albidum

Coastal Plain Dwarf Iris
Iris verna verna

Curlyleaf Yucca
Yucca filamentosa

Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua

Gopherweed
Baptisia perfoliata

Blue Sandhill Lupine
Lupinus diffusus

Hawthorn
Crataegus sp.

Turkey Oak
Quercus laevis

Common Wax-myrtle
Morella cerifera

Mockernut Hickory
Carya tomentosa

Bird's-foot Violet
Viola pedata

Carolina Ipecac
Euphorbia ipecacuanhae

Eastern Red Maple
Acer rubrum rubrum

Dwarf Sundew
Drosera brevifolia

Shining Fetterbush
Lyonia lucida

Carolina Jessamine
Gelsemium sempervirens

Common Toadflax
Linaria canadensis

American Mistletoe
Phoradendron leucarpum leucarpum

Little Gallberry
Ilex glabra

Little Floating Heart
Nymphoides cordata

Common Ragweed
Ambrosia artemisiifolia

Green-and-gold
Chrysogonum virginianum

Common Split Gill
Schizophyllum commune

Barometer Earthstar
Astraeus sp.

FAUNA

Bowl-and-doily Spider
Frontinella pyramitela

Grass Spider
Agelenopsis sp.

American Bird Grasshopper
Schistocerca americana

Leafhopper
Cuerna costalis

Florida Harvester Ant
Pogonomyrmex badius

Guinea Paper Wasp
* *Polistes exclamans*

Mason Bee
Osmia sp.

Crane-fly
Tipula sp.

Tachinid Fly
* *Gonia* sp.

Ashy Clubtail
Phanogomphus lividus

Mantled Baskettail
Epiptera semiaquea

Blue Corporal
Ladona deplanata

Variable Dancer
Argia fumipennis

Sandhill Bluet
Enallagma davisii

Citrine Forktail
Ischnura hastata

Festive Tiger Beetle
Cicindela scutellaris unicolor

Oblique-lined Tiger Beetle
Cicindela tranquebarica tranquebarica

Earth-boring Dung Beetle
Mycotrupes retusus

Tumblebug; Dung Beetle
Melanocanthus bispinatus

Large Flat-headed Pine Borer
Chalcophora virginianensis

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Pterourus glaucus

Spicebush Swallowtail
Pterourus troilus

Cloudless Sulphur
Phoebastria sennae

Eastern Tailed-blue
Cupido comyntas

Azure Butterfly
Celastrina sp.

Painted Lady
Vanessa cardui

Common Buckeye
Junonia coenia

Goatweed Leafwing
Anaea andria

Juvenal's Duskywing
Erynnis juvenalis

Duskywing Skipper
Erynnis sp.

Large Necklace Moth
Hypocropha monilis

Southern Cricket Frog
Acris gryllus

Gopher Tortoise
Gopherus polyphemus

Rough Green Snake
Ophedrys aestivus

Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias

Canada Goose
Branta canadensis

Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura

Northern Bobwhite
Colinus virginianus

Mourning Dove
Zenaidura macroura

Belted Kingfisher
Megascops alcyon

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus

Downy Woodpecker
Dryobates pubescens

Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Dryobates borealis

Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus

Eastern Phoebe
Sayornis phoebe

Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata

American Crow
Corvus brachyrhynchos

Fish Crow
Corvus ossifragus

Tufted Titmouse

Baeolophus bicolor

Carolina Chickadee

Poecile carolinensis

Brown-headed Nuthatch

Sitta pusilla

Carolina Wren

Thryothorus ludovicianus

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Regulus calendula

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Polioptila caerulea

Eastern Bluebird

Sialia sialis

Northern Mockingbird

Mimus polyglottos

White-eyed Vireo

Vireo griseus

Northern Parula

Setophaga americana

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Setophaga coronata

Prairie Warbler

Setophaga discolor

Pine Warbler

Setophaga pinus

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

Eastern Towhee

Pipilo erythrophthalmus

Bachman's Sparrow

Peucaea aestivalis

Chipping Sparrow

Spizella passerina

American Beaver

Castor canadensis

White-tailed Deer

Odocoileus virginianus