

are red, yellow, and blue.
rounded projections on the surface) that prominent prickly tubercles (small several inches long, and light green with spectacular bands in its own right), is parks, and backyards. The caterpillar (a include forests, woodland edges, city gray, pink, and black. Preferred habitats and a coloration consisting of red, white, hash a wingspan in excess of 5.5 inches, America, Cecropia



Cecropia Moth
(*Hyalophora cecropia*)
One of the largest silk moth species in North America, Cecropia

in adulthood to form a large 'saddle'; blotches on their back and these will fuse the back. Juveniles will sport red spots or reddish 'saddle' over the middle portion of the body, and a prominent and large dark background coloration for most of maturity. Coloration is distinctive, with a length of about 20 centimeters at sexual one of our larger species, reaching a family Plethodontidae, the Yonahlossee is



Yonahlossee Salamander
(*Plethodon yonahlossee*)
Belonging to the lungless salamander



Timber Rattlesnake
(*Crotalus horridus*)
A medium to large-sized snake, occasionally over 5' in length (usually around 3½' to 4'), the Timber Rattlesnake can be

quite variable in appearance. Some have a light background with slightly darker mottling/chevrons. Darker colored ones are more abundant in mountains. The camouflage is superb, and serves them well in their role as ambush predators. Their diet consists largely of rodents. As with other members of its genus, these snakes will utilize the rattles on their tails to warn you of their presence if you should approach too closely.

American Burying Beetle

(*Nicrophorus americanus*)
The American Burying Beetle is large, attaining a length of over 1.5 inches. The coloration of this (and most other members of the genus) is a black body with various red or orange markings upon the head and thorax. Unlike other closely related species in our area, the American Burying Beetle has an orange/red thorax that is distinctive. This particular species is also nocturnal, often recorded as being attracted to artificial lights, a trait that may have led to its current scarcity.



February or March.
spring, usually on the wing as early as to gray. They are active in the early they display a range of shades of brown, 7/8" – 1¼". Also fairly subtle in coloration, These small butterflies range in size from

Brown Henry's Estn Pine Frosted
(*Augustinus(henrici) (niphon) (irus)*)



Elfin Butterflies
(*Callophrys*)

water-filled tree hole can be immense. biodiversity contained within a single, large, provide nutrients for an entire community of microbes, fungi, and invertebrates. The Many tree holes contain water, rotting, may also be found on coniferous trees, frequently on deciduous trees, tree holes encountered on large,



Tree Holes
Tree holes, sometimes referred to by the less appetizing name of rot holes, are often

Slender Glass Lizard

(*Ophisaurus attenuatus*)
Glass Lizards are so-named because they readily lose or 'drop' their tails in order to avoid capture. They are able to regenerate the lost tails, which they're never as perfect in appearance as the initial tail. Since they lack legs, they are often mistaken for snakes – even though their head is not distinctly 'set off' from the main body. Also, unlike snakes, Glass Lizards have ears – small openings in the side of their head. They are usually brown or light yellowish brown in overall coloration, with darker bands being prominently displayed over their backs and tails. Overall lengths vary from 2' to 3½' in length. Their scales are smooth and give a somewhat glossy appearance.

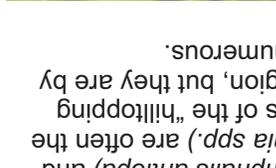


Barn Owl
(*Tyto alba*)
The Barn Owl, a ghostly nocturnal denizen of our fields and farmlands, is a distinctive species, buff in coloration with a slightly darker back. They have a

white, heart-shaped face and stand approximately 1½' in height. In flight, it often looks entirely white. Its preferred prey includes mice, voles, and other rodents.

habitats with no Turtlehead plants at all. occasionally encounter this butterfly in upland Chelone, are found. However, one may oc- food plants, Turtlehead plants of the genus wetlands and bogs, where the primary larval waterly 2.5 - 3 inches. Preferred habitats are Checkerpot has a wingspan of approxi-

Baltimore Checkerspot
(*Euphydryas phaeton*)
Beautifully arrayed in patterns of orange, black, and white, the Baltimore



no means the most numerous. community" in our region, but they are by most visible members of the "hilltopping Angletwings (*Polytonia spp.*) are often the Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antopa*) and seek mates. Butterflies, like the pictured the landscape and congregate there to insects will seek out the highest points in dragonflies, beetles, and flies. Simply put, groups of insects such as butterflies,

Hilltopping
With the arrival of spring, be on the lookout for an interesting insect behavior known as "Hilltopping."



Rusty-patched Bumblebee
(*Bombus affinis*)
The aptly-named Rusty-patched Bumblebee bears an orange colored spot

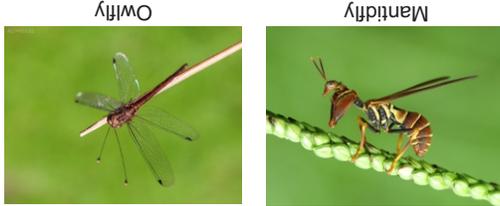
on its abdomen that serves to distinguish it from other species of Bumblebees. Collection records indicate that this species has been found in North Carolina, and may very well still be present here. Open, sunny areas that contain an abundance of wildflowers serve as an excellent place to search for this, and other, species of Bumblebees.

Red-legged Purseweb Spider

(*Sphodros rufipes*)
A close relative of the Tarantula, the Red-legged Purseweb Spider is only red-legged if it's a male; females are all black. Both sexes are approximately 1" long. Instead of a 'web', they make silken tubes running up the lower bases of tree trunks, rocks, etc. The tubes become camouflaged over time, as bits of twigs, algae, etc. become incorporated. The spider hides inside, and if an unfortunate insect walks across, the spider pierces it from within the lair with fangs, and pulls it inside for slow digestion.



Insect Order Neuroptera
 Try to find this interesting order of insect fauna, Neuroptera ("Nerve-wings") which include Mantidflies and Owflies. These insects are commonly referred to as "Nerve-wings" due to veined structures on their wings.
 Mantidflies have strong raptorial "claws." In our region, one species mimics the stinging wasps. They are found on flowers in old fields, gardens, and woodland edges from mid-spring to late summer. Owflies look like dragonflies except they have very long antennae. They are often attracted to lights or seen flying among vegetation in old fields or lightly wooded areas throughout the spring and summer months.



Owfly

Mantidfly

Brush-footed Butterflies
 This family of butterflies gets its name from the fact that its front legs are shorter than the other four legs, and these front legs don't have feet, just little brushes of hairs that the butterflies can use to smell and taste with. In Polk County, commonly encountered species include the Mourning Cloak, Comma, and Question Mark butterflies. Look for these butterflies along old dirt roads, woodland paths, and



Mourning Cloak (Nymphalis antiopa)

Monarch (Danaus plexippus)

Eastern Comma (Polygonia comma)



Sap Runs
 Sap runs are a fascinating micro-habitat that occur on trees where an injury has resulted from some type of physical damage. Sap flowing from the tree

wound (known as flux) contains sugar which provides food for bacteria and other types of microorganisms. In turn, these microorganisms provide nourishment for the larvae of some of our most spectacular Hoverflies, incredible mimics of stinging wasps and bees such as the pictured Syrphid Fly.



Spotted Salamander
(Ambystoma maculatum)
 A stout species reaching up to nine inches in length with a black body

covered in bright yellow "polka dots," the Spotted Salamander is impossible to confuse with any other species throughout its range. Their diet consists of insects and other invertebrates. They are rarely encountered outside of their breeding season of late winter to very early spring, dwelling as they do in underground burrows.



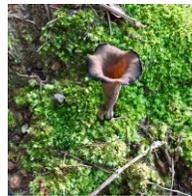
Eastern Woodrat
(Neotoma floridana haematoreia)
 Woodrat nests are built inside a large "house" constructed of sticks, leaves, branches, and

scavenged litter, hence the nickname "packrats." The nest structures are often located in or under rock outcroppings, in large cavity trees, in large slash piles, or in abandoned buildings. They have gray-brown or rusty brown fur on the back, a white belly, and white paws.

Black Trumpet Mushroom

(Craterellus fallax)

These hard-to-spot mushrooms are dark in coloration with a tube-like appearance that is very reminiscent of a trumpet. The 'trumpets' are usually from one to two and a half inches in length with a grayish-black coloration. The spore print is yellowish to orange. As for habitat, Black Trumpet prefers growing under Oak and Beech trees, often in a carpet of moss.



Giant Swallowtail
(Papilio cresphontes)

This largest species of Butterfly in North America is colored dark, chocolate brown, with prominent areas of yellow on its wings and body and with a wingspan of up to a whopping 6 inches. Within North Carolina, caterpillars may be found on Hoptree in the Piedmont and mountains.

Snail-Eating Ground Beetles

(Scaphinotus)
 These beetles, not surprisingly, prefer cool, damp conditions often near streams or

on steep slopes above streams or creeks. Scaphinotus are secretive and typically nocturnal so they are not often observed. Purposeful searches for these beetles may be made by looking under rocks and logs in damp ravines that are favored by snails, particularly at night. Oddly enough, specimens may sometimes be caught by setting out bait of slightly fermented bananas (with a bit of yeast or beer added).

