

Snake known from southern NC.
Kingsnakes red bands touch the black
bands where Coral Snakes red bands
touch yellow bands. Kingsnakes are
small, slender snakes. ~18". They are
often found beneath rocks, ~18". Pine stumps or logs.



Scalpel King snake Lampropeltis triangulum (*elapsoides*) known for their

whitish-gray background and black or brown blotches. Usually active in the morning or late afternoon.



Northern Pine Snake

Eastern Spotted Skunk
(*Spilogal putorius*)
Smaller than the more common Eastern Striped Skunk, the Eastern Spotted

Skunk has a 10-27" (with tail) weasel-like body and weighs 1-4 pounds. The dark black coat has 4-6 broken white stripes that look like spots. They usually have a white tip on their tail and a white, inverted triangle-shaped patch on their forehead.



Giant Stag Beetle
(*Lucanus elaphus*)
The males are much larger than females and possess large mandibles for use in battling other males for mates. Males may fight, with mandibles; This species requires dead trees and stumps to complete its life cycle.

reach 60 mm in length, with mandibles; females 30-35 mm. This species requires large rotting deciduous trees and stumps within which to complete its life cycle.

Yucca Giant-skimmer (*Megathymus yuccae*) The butterfly produces one generation each year, laying large eggs singly on Yucca leaves from summer-brrown eggs singly to May. After hatch- ing, young larvae feed on host leaves. As they mature, older larvae bore into the plant crown and feed within the root, restructuring a prom- inent silken tent or chimney at the opening of the burrow, a key indicator to their presence.



A close-up photograph of a Bog Turtle (Glyptemys muhlenbergii) resting in a patch of bright green grass. The turtle's head is turned slightly to the left, showing a distinct yellow blotch on its neck. Its dark, textured shell is visible against the green background.

Green Salamander *(Aneides aeneus)*

For most of the year, Green Salamanders can be found in the crevices of rock shaded by rhododendron in moist forests. They have a black, dark brown or gray body with a green to yellowish-green lichen-like pattern on the head, back, and tail.



Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are seasonal and temporary, typically occurring within the lower areas of mixed hardwood forests. Because of their temporary nature, vernal pools are not inhabited by fish, which is why these small water bodies are important breeding sites for many species of amphibians, notably salamanders.



Thanks to David Campbell for identifying Polk County's "Most Wanted".

Please send reports with photos to
pam@conservingcarolina.org

Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) Cerulean Warblers are early spring migrants. They are 4-5" in length, with long pointed wings, a short tail, and long underparts. Males are blue above and white below. They have black streaks on their back and sides and a green above with white underparts and a neck. Females are bluish-green to olive-white or yellowish-eyebrow stripe; they have no "necklace". Both sexes have 2 white wing bars and white tail spots. Look for them on ridges and slopes with large tracts of mature oak-hickory forests, high in the canopy, from late April through mid-June. The song of the male is rapid and series of rising and accelerating notes, buzz-like on one pitch, followed by a short buzz-like a high buzz-like trill, ZHE ending with a high buzz-like trill, ZHEE



Polk County's Most Wanted Animals & Habitats



Spotlighting Species of Interest in Polk County, NC

For more information, visit the Conserving Carolina website at www.conservingcarolina.org/polk-countyss-most-wanted-plants-animals



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Checkerespot has a wingspan of approximately 2.5 - 3 inches. Preferred habitats are wetlands and bogs, where the primary larval food plants, *Tutelinaea* and *Bogbean*, are found. Chelone, are found. However, one may occasionally encounter this butterfly in upland habitats with no Tutelinaea plants at all.



Baltimore
in patterns of or-
ange, black, and
white, the Baltimore
Checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*)

Hilltopping is a mate-seeking behavior employed by many groups of insects such as butterflies, dragonflies, beetles, and flies. Simply put, insects will seek out the highest points in the landscape and congregate there to seek mates. Butterflies, like the pictured Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*) and most visible members of the "hilltopping community" in our region, but they are by no means the most numerous.



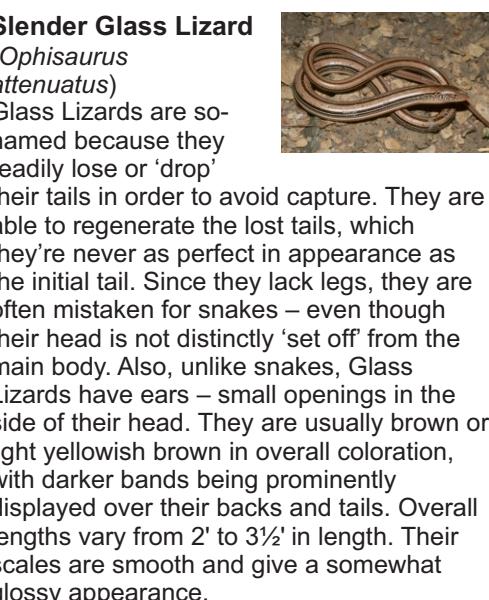
With the arrival of spring, be on the lookout for an interesting insect behavior known as "hilltopping".

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Rusty-patched Bumblebee
(Bombus affinis)
The aptly-named Rusty-patched Bumblebee bears an orange colored spot it serves to distinguish it from other species of Bumblebees. It indicates that this is found in North America very well still be found in sunny areas that have a chance of wildflowers. The best place to search for this species of Bumblebees.

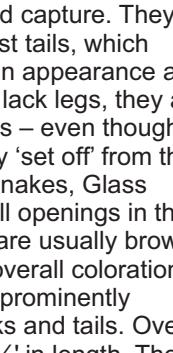
Red-legged Purseweb Spider

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.



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*)



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



Cecropia Moth

Yonahlossee (*Plethodon yonahlossee*) Belonging to the Salamander family Plethodontidae, the Yonahlossee is one of our larger species, reaching a length of about 20 centimeters at sexual maturity. Coloration is distinctive, with a dark background coloration for most of the body, and a prominent and large reddish saddle over the middle portion of the back. Juveniles will spot red spots or blotches on their back and these will fuse together to form a large saddle.

Salamander (*Plethodon*) Yonahlossee usually larger than males.





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



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)
A large beetle, attaining a
length of over 1.5".

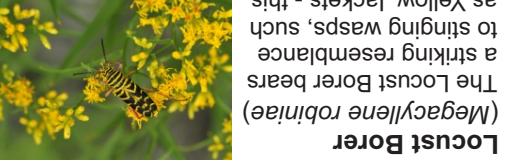


The coloration of this (and most other members of the genus) is a black body with various red or orange markings upon the head and thorax. Unlike other closely related species in our area, the American Burying Beetle has an orange/red thorax that is distinctive. This particular species is also nocturnal,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

years. Evidence of larval activity can be seen as horizontal scars formed on the trunk of the tree and these scars may persist for many years and this can be observed to Sugar Maple bark or stones may reveal the presence of one nest without being attacked. The best way to locate these beetles is to place small stones or bark on top of ant nests in the late winter or early spring. Occasionally checking under the bark or stones may reveal the presence of one nest without being attacked. The best way to locate these beetles is to reside inside ant mounds, allowing them to reside inside ant colonies, that ants find pleasing or



Sugar Maple Borer
(*Glycobius speciosus*)
Adult Sugar Maple Borers are large and robust and mimic Yellow jackets. The adult is about 1" long, black, and has yellow markings. This insect is best recognized by robust and mimetic yellow jackets. The adult is

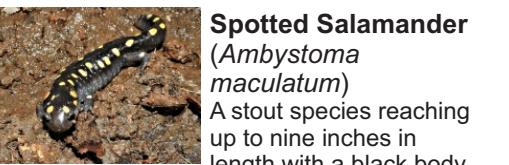


Locust Borer
(*Megacyllene robiniae*)

The Locust Borer bears a striking resemblance to a stinging wasp, such as Yellow jackets - this

form of mimicry (known as Batesian mimicry) helps the beetles to employ when searching for adult beetles to avoid predation by birds. The best method to avoid predation by birds is to sting wasps, such as Yellow jackets - this

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.

months. Manitdflies have strong raptorial "claws" in our region, one species mimics the stinging wasps. They are found on flowers in old fields, gardens, and woodland areas throughout the spring and summer. Owlflies look like dragonflies except they have very long antennae. They are often attracted to lights or seen flying among edges from mid-spring to late summer.

Owlfly
Manitdflies are commonly known as "Nerve-wings" due to veined structures on their wings. Try to find this interesting order of insect include Mantidflies and Owlflies. These fauna, Neuroptera ("Nerve-wings") which

Try to find this interesting order of insect

insects are commonly known as "Nerve-wings". These



Baltimore Oriole
(*Icterus galbula*)
A medium-sized, sturdy-bodied bird, smaller and more slender than an American Robin,

with a thick neck, long legs, and a long, thick-based, pointed bill. Adult males are flame-orange and black, they have a solid-black head and black wings with one white wing bar. Females and immature males are yellow-orange on the breast, grayish on the head and back, and have with two bold white wing bars on their grayish wings. Often seen perched or flitting in treetops, listen for the rich, whistling song. Male's sing a short series of paired notes, repeated 2–7 times. The female also sings, but her songs are much shorter. Both give a sharp, repetitive 'chuck' call.



Northern Bobwhite
(*Colinus virginianus*)
The Northern Bobwhite is the only native quail in the eastern United States. These birds are often heard more than seen, with the male seemingly calling his name, whistling "Bob-WHITE!". They are about 10 inches in length; about the size of a small, plump chicken walking upright on short legs. Look for these unobtrusive birds on the ground and under or near vegetation. Often, they can be spotted pecking and scratching the earth in search of insects and other food; however, more than likely, you'll spot them as they burst out of the vegetation in panicked flight if you get too close!