



SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS

SCAN

PO Box 24911  
Columbia, SC 29224  
www.scnaturalists.org

February 2025

Howdy SCANNers! Welcome to February!

The Earth is tilting, dawn is getting earlier, the seasonal rains have started and the Newberry Burrowing Crayfish in my side yard are surfacing, building their mud pellet chimneys in the wettest areas. Regardless of what the Pennsylvania whistle pig says, Spring is coming!

Last month we started the year with an amazing Director's Special to the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. We saw some lifer birds (for me – Black-Bellied Whistling Ducks are now in the bag!), and I got an intriguing series of photos of a Grey-Headed Swamp Hen moseying by the suspicious batch of stripes and disembodied eye of a American Bittern in the marsh grass. I believe they were only a foot away from one another and the Swamp Hen didn't appear to notice the Bittern, although the Bittern was clearly watching the Swamp Hen. Animal behavior at its finest.

Later in the month we had a successful Annual Meeting at Saluda Shoals. We had five great speakers, a PotLunch with great food, and an interesting business meeting. Stay tuned to our monthly newsletter to see how SCAN is doing!

This month we have a tempting trip to Beaufort County to Widgeon Point Preserve. For folks further upstate, this coastal area will likely be warmer than our home turf (which looks like it might get a dip in temperatures again) but also sports a walkable circuit trail for anyone who is having a little trouble getting around at this time. I encourage everyone to make the trip!

We have a number of great trips coming up this year and I hope to see more members on the trails. We are asking participants to sign a liability waiver this year for trips, but that can be handled once you get to the meetup site. We want to protect our organization as well as ourselves and nature.

Start looking for signs of Spring!

*Lee Morris, President*

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## Last Month: Savannah NWR

Last month Ron Ahle led a bonus Director's Special to Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. By sheer coincidence, two rare birds cropped up on the Refuge over the holiday season: Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) and Grey-headed Swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*). SCAN managed to see (and photograph) both! Both species were new for SCAN's database and treat for us to see.

We were also treated to some other amazing bird watching highlights like an American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) wiggling through the reeds, an Orange-crowned Warbler (*Leiothlypis celata*) scarfing down cattail seeds, a pair of Virginia Rails (*Rallus limicola*) darting through the marsh, Harriers (*Circus hudsonius*) galore, and an abundance of ducks. The Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) were particularly prolific and were loitering on one roadway in the hundreds!

The only downside was the cutting wind, biting cold, and nonexistent sun. But when has a touch of hypothermia every stopped us SCANNers from soodling?

*Tom Austin, Database Manager & Southern Regional Director*

## Last Month: Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was held at the River Center at Saluda Shoals Park on January 25. For the full minutes, [visit this page](#).

Vice President Kate Hartley presented the officer slate and additional nominations were taken from the floor. Our 2025 Officers are:

- **President** – Lee Morris
- **Vice President** – Scott Wietecha
- **Secretary** – Kim McManus
- **Treasurer** – Gordon Murphy
- **Database Manager** – Tom Austin
- **Historian** – Gordon Murphy
- **Webkeeper** – Kim McManus
- **Northern Regional Director** – Todd Johnston
- **Western Regional Director** – Ron Ahle
- **Central Regional Directors** – Dave Kastner and Marty Kastner
- **Southern Regional Director** – Tom Austin
- **Eastern Regional Director** – Caroline Eastman

Secretary Tom Austin presented proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. The role of Parliamentarian was eliminated and Database Manager and Webkeeper were added. The wording in Article VIII regarding voting majorities was clarified. All amendments passed unanimously. A copy of the updated bylaws can be found [here](#).

We have some great trips lined up for 2025!

Month	Region	Location
January 25	Central	Annual Meeting
February 22	Southern	Widgeon Point Preserve
March 22	Eastern	Southern 8ths
April 26	Central	Bob Guild Edisto Tract
May 24	Southern	Francis Marion NF - Palmetto Trail
June 28	Northern	Catawba Reservation
July 26	Western	Poe Creek State Forest
August 23	Eastern	Great Pee Dee Heritage Preserve
September 27	Northern	Historic Brattonsville/ Draper WMA
October 25	Central	Santee NWR - Cuddo
November 22	Southern	Meggett County Park
December 13	Western	Barnwell State Park

[Click here](#) to view the full gallery of photos from the annual meeting.

*Kim McManus, Secretary*

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## This Month: Widgeon Point Preserve

This month we're heading down to Beaufort County to visit Widgeon Point Preserve. Located on the upper end of Port Royal Sound, the Preserve offers some stunning looks at Port Royal. It is home to a characteristic assemblage of South Carolina's maritime flora and attracts a great deal of bird life. Destiney Rains, naturalist with Beaufort County, and Tom Austin will be the trip leads.

*Tom Austin, Database Manager & Southern Regional Director*

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## Don't forget to renew your SCAN Membership for 2025!

It's time to renew your membership with SCAN. Renew now to make sure you don't miss out on next year's awesome roster of field trips. Membership dues allow us to keep the website up and running, publish our once-a-decade records reports, and covers the costs of hosting the annual meeting and symposium each January.

SCAN dues are only \$12 a year, *that's just \$1 per trip!* A membership also makes a great gift for all the naturalists in your life. Dues can be [paid online via PayPal on the SCAN website](#), through a membership form mailed to our PO Box (form attached to this newsletter), or in person at the annual meeting. *Don't delay, renew today!*

SCAN is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, meaning all dues and donations to are tax deductible. If you'd like to make an additional donation to SCAN to help us keep the lights on and to support our important mission, please reach out to us at [scnaturalists76@gmail.com](mailto:scnaturalists76@gmail.com) for more info.

*Kim McManus, Secretary*

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## PHOTOS FROM SAVANNAH NWR



**Attendees:** Lee Morris, Tom Austin, Angela Valvasori, Ron Ahle, Scott Wietecha, Bill Twomey, Eleanor Ellison, Kim McManus, Todd Johnston, Martha Dougherty. Not pictured: Jeff Kline





American Coot (*Fulica americana*) chowing down on a [probably] Pirate Perch (*Aphredoderus sayanus*).



Northern House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)



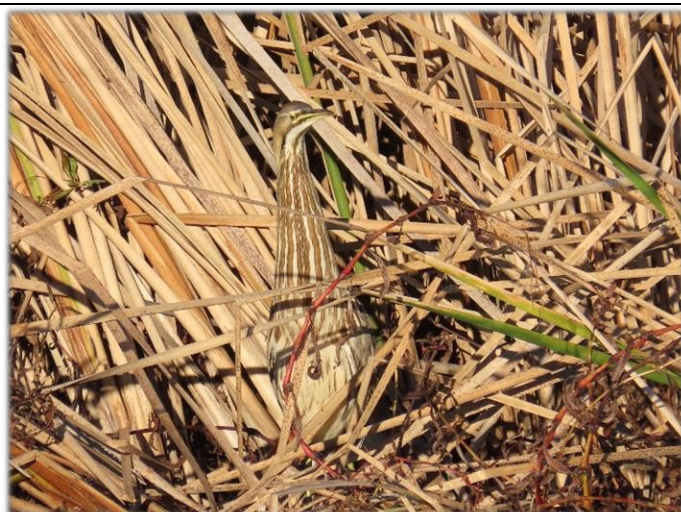
Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)



Grey-headed Swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*)



American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)





Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*)



Orange-crowned Warbler (*Leiothlypis celata*)



Sora (*Porzana carolina*)



Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*)



PHOTOS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING







# Widgeon Point Preserve

BEAUFORT COUNTY, SC

43 Okatie Hwy, Okatie, SC 29909

GPS COORDINATES: 32.37223, -80.79997

February 22, 2025 | 10:30am to 4:00pm

[Widgeon Point Preserve](#) is a 162-acre passive nature park protected by the Open Land Trust in 2007 and managed by Beaufort County. It is one of many properties protected by funding from the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Program.

The Preserve is located just off HWY-170 on an Island in Port Royal Sound in between Beaufort and Okatie, SC. This low-lying coastal property is home to barrier island, salt marsh, and salt flat plant communities. The Preserve has several brackish wetland systems including one large brackish pond, which host a diversity of shorebirds and wading birds. Views of the Broad River and Sound could also yield waterfowl and other coastal water birds.

The trails on the property are well maintained and level, but may be wet in areas following particularly high tides. The Preserve is directly on Port Royal Sound and may be windy the day of our trip. So please dress accordingly.

## **DIRECTIONS** (GPS:32.37223, -80.79997)

### FROM THE I-26 / I-95 INTERCHANGE

- Drive approx. 57 miles south on I-95
- At mile marker 28, turn left onto SC-462
- Drive approx. 15 miles and turn left onto Snake Rd
- Drive approx. 3 miles to the end of Snake Rd and turn left at the light onto Okatie Highway (SC-170)
- Drive approx. 4.3 miles and Widgeon Point Preserve will be on your right

### FROM DOWNTOWN CHARLESTON

- Drive approx. 53.5 miles south on US HWY-17
- Turn left onto US HWY-21 at Gardens Corner
- Drive approx. 12 miles and turn right at the light to stay on US HWY-21
- Drive approx. 1.2 miles and turn right at the light onto Okatie Highway (SC-170)
- Drive approx. 5.6 miles and Widgeon Point Preserve will be on your left

We will meet in the main parking area. There are restrooms on site.

Tom Austin, Southern Regional Director, and Destiney Rains, Passive Parks Naturalist for Beaufort County, will lead the day's trip.

If you have any questions, please reach out to:

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Tom Austin  
*Southern Regional Director*









LEMON ISLAND

HWY 170

### LEGEND

- P** PARKING
-  PICNIC PAVILION
-  BIRD BLIND
-  RESTROOMS
-  NATURE TRAIL

PORT ROYAL SOUND

**Savannah National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Jasper Co., SC**  
**January 11, 2025**

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](mailto:scnaturalists76@gmail.com). Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring to in the subject line of your message. Thank you.

**Root Rot Dieback**

\* *Phytophthora cinnamomi*

FLORA

**Mosquito Fern**

*Azolla filiculoides*

**Water Spangles**

*Salvinia minima*

**Resurrection Fern**

*Pleopeltis michauxiana*

**Slash Pine**

*Pinus elliotii*

**Loblolly Pine**

*Pinus taeda*

**Southern Red Cedar**

*Juniperus silicicola*

**Bald-cypress**

*Taxodium distichum*

**White Water-lily**

*Nymphaea odorata*

**Southern Magnolia**

*Magnolia grandiflora*

**Tongueshape Bogmat**

\* *Wolffiella linguata*

**Catbrier**

*Smilax bona-nox*

**Whiteleaf Greenbrier**

*Smilax glauca*

**Bamboo-vine**

*Smilax laurifolia*

**Jackson-brier**

*Smilax smallii*

**Onion**

*Allium sp.*

**Dwarf Palmetto**

*Sabal minor*

**Cabbage Palmetto**

*Sabal palmetto*

**Southern Cattail**

*Typha domingensis*

**Common Cattail**

*Typha latifolia*

**Spanish-moss**

*Tillandsia usneoides*

**Common Rush**

*Juncus effusus*

**Sedge**

*Carex sp.*

**Maritime Bushy Bluestem**

*Andropogon tenuispatheus*

**Old-field Broomstraw**

*Andropogon virginicus*

**Switch Cane**

*Arundinaria tecta*

**Bermuda Grass**

*Cynodon dactylon*

**Open-flower Witchgrass**

*Dichanthelium laxiflorum*

**Witchgrass**

*Dichanthelium sp.*

**Common Eastern Wild-rye**

*Elymus virginicus*

**Centipede Grass**

*Eremochloa ophiuroides*

**Switchgrass**

*Panicum virgatum*

**Bahia Grass**

*Paspalum notatum*

**Vasey Grass**

*Paspalum urvillei*

**Common Reed**

*Phragmites australis*

**Giant Cordgrass**

*Spartina cynosuroides*

**Smut Grass**

*Sporobolus indicus*

**Southern Wild-rice**

*Zizaniopsis miliacea*

**Common Ramping Fumitory**

*Fumaria muralis*

**Sweet Gum**

*Liquidambar styraciflua*

**Muscadine**

*Muscadinia rotundifolia*

**White Sweetclover**

*Melilotus albus*

**Sesban**

*Sesbania herbacea*

**Red Sesban**

*Sesbania punicea*

**Bladderpod**

*Sesbania vesicaria*

**Clover**

*Trifolium sp.*

**Common Vetch**

*Vicia sativa sativa*

**Black Cherry**

*Prunus serotina*

**Carolina Laurel Cherry**

*Prunus caroliniana*

**Pennsylvania Blackberry**

*Rubus pensilvanicus*

**Southern Dewberry**

*Rubus trivialis*

**American Elm**

*Ulmus americana*

**Slippery Elm**

*Ulmus rubra*

**Southern Hackberry**

*Celtis laevigata*

**White Mulberry**

*Morus alba*

**Southern Red Oak**

*Quercus falcata*

**Sand Laurel Oak**

*Quercus hemisphaerica*

**Water Oak**

*Quercus nigra*

**Live Oak**

*Quercus virginiana*

**Common Wax-myrtle**

*Morella cerifera*

**Popcorn Tree**

*Triadica sebifera*

**Carolina Crane's-bill**

*Geranium carolinianum*

**Common Evening-primrose**

*Oenothera biennis*

**Winged Sumac**

*Rhus copallinum*

**Eastern Red Maple**

*Acer rubrum rubrum*

**Trifoliate Orange**

*Citrus trifoliata*

**Chinaberry**

*Melia azedarach*

**Arrowleaf Sida**

*Sida rhombifolia*

**Wild Cabbage**

\* *Brassica oleracea*

**Bittercress**

*Cardamine sp.*

**Wild Radish**

*Raphanus raphanistrum*

**Common Chickweed**

*Stellaria media*

**Alligator-weed**

*Alternanthera philoxeroides*

**Common Pokeweed**

*Phytolacca americana*

**Water Tupelo**

*Nyssa aquatica*

**Bedstraw**

*Galium sp.*

**Greater Periwinkle**

*Vinca major*

**Glossy Privet**

*Ligustrum lucidum*

**Chinese Privet**

*Ligustrum sinense*

**American Mistletoe**

*Phoradendron leucarpum*



**Cross-vine**  
*Bignonia capreolata*

**Trumpet-creeper**  
*Campsis radicans*

**Common Lantana**  
*Lantana camara*

**Brazilian Vervain**  
*Verbena brasiliensis*

**Moss Vervain**  
*Verbena pulchella*

**Beautyberry**  
*Callicarpa americana*

**Henbit**  
*Lamium amplexicaule*

**Lyreleaf Sage**  
*Salvia lyrata*

**Florida Betony**  
*Stachys floridana*

**Princess Tree**  
*Paulownia tomentosa*

**American Holly**  
*Ilex opaca*

**Yaupon**  
*Ilex vomitoria*

**Silverling**  
*Baccharis halimifolia*

**Common Yellow Thistle**  
*Cirsium horridulum horridulum*

**Common Elephant's-foot**  
*Elephantopus tomentosus*

**Common Dog-fennel**  
*Eupatorium capillifolium*

**White-cloaked Cudweed**  
\* *Gamochaeta chionesthes*

**American Cudweed**  
*Gamochaeta americana*

**Brazilian Cat's-ear**  
*Hypochaeris chillensis*

**Tall Goldenrod**  
*Solidago altissima altissima*

**Southern Seaside Goldenrod**  
*Solidago mexicana*

**Licorice Goldenrod**  
*Solidago odora*

**Spinyleaf Sow-thistle**  
*Sonchus asper*

**Asiatic Hawk's-beard**  
*Youngia japonica*

**Common Elderberry**  
*Sambucus canadensis*

**Japanese Honeysuckle**  
*Lonicera japonica*

**Water-pennywort**  
*Hydrocotyle sp.*

FAUNA

**Red Imported Fire Ant**  
*Solenopsis invicta*

**Pirate Perch**  
*Aphredoderus sayanus*

**Pied-billed Grebe**  
*Podilymbus podiceps*

**Anhinga**  
*Anhinga anhinga*

**American Bittern**  
*Botaurus lentiginosus*

**Tricolored Heron**  
*Egretta tricolor*

**Little Blue Heron**  
*Egretta caerulea*

**Snowy Egret**  
*Egretta thula*

**Great Blue Heron**  
*Ardea herodias*

**Great Egret**  
*Ardea alba*

**Glossy Ibis**  
*Plegadis falcinellus*

**White Ibis**  
*Eudocimus albus*

**Green-winged Teal**  
*Anas crecca*

**Northern Pintail**  
*Anas acuta*

**Ruddy Duck**  
*Oxyura jamaicensis*

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**  
*Dendrocygna autumnalis*

**Canvasback**  
*Aythya valisineria*

**Ring-necked Duck**  
*Aythya collaris*

**Northern Shoveler**  
*Spatula clypeata*

**Blue-winged Teal**  
*Spatula discors*

**Gadwall**  
*Mareca strepera*

**Virginia Rail**  
*Rallus limicola*

**Sora**  
*Porzana carolina*

**Grey-headed Swamphen**  
\* *Porphyrio poliocephalus*

**Common Gallinule**  
*Gallinula galeata*

**American Coot**  
*Fulica americana*

**Killdeer**  
*Charadrius vociferus*

**Greater Yellowlegs**  
*Tringa melanoleuca*

**Wilson's Snipe**  
*Gallinago delicata*

**Ring-billed Gull**  
*Larus delawarensis*

**Turkey Vulture**  
*Cathartes aura*

**Northern Harrier**  
*Circus hudsonius*

**Cooper's Hawk**  
*Accipiter cooperii*

**Red-tailed Hawk**  
*Buteo jamaicensis*

**Osprey**  
*Pandion haliaetus*

**Merlin**  
*Falco columbarius*

**Peregrine Falcon**  
*Falco peregrinus*

**Mourning Dove**  
*Zenaida macroura*

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**  
*Melanerpes carolinus*

**Northern Flicker**  
*Colaptes auratus*

**Downy Woodpecker**  
*Dryobates pubescens*

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

**Eastern Phoebe**  
*Sayornis phoebe*

**Tree Swallow**  
*Tachycineta bicolor*

**Cave Swallow**  
\* *Petrochelidon fulva*

**Blue Jay**  
*Cyanocitta cristata*

**Carolina Chickadee**  
*Poecile carolinensis*

**House Wren**  
*Troglodytes aedon*

**Winter Wren**  
*Troglodytes hiemalis*

**Carolina Wren**  
*Thryothorus ludovicianus*

**Marsh Wren**  
*Cistothorus palustris*

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**  
*Regulus calendula*

**Hermit Thrush**  
*Catharus guttatus*

**American Robin**  
*Turdus migratorius*

**Gray Catbird**  
*Dumetella carolinensis*

**Northern Mockingbird**  
*Mimus polyglottos*

**Brown Thrasher**  
*Toxostoma rufum*

**Black-and-white Warbler**  
*Mniotilta varia*

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**  
*Setophaga coronata*

**Palm Warbler**  
*Setophaga palmarum*

**Common Yellowthroat**  
*Geothlypis trichas*

**Orange-crowned Warbler**

*Leiothlypis celata*

**Northern Cardinal**

*Cardinalis cardinalis*

**Eastern Towhee**

*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

**Savannah Sparrow**

*Passerculus sandwichensis*

**Song Sparrow**

*Melospiza melodia*

**White-throated Sparrow**

*Zonotrichia albicollis*

**Swamp Sparrow**

*Melospiza georgiana*

**Eastern Meadowlark**

*Sturnella magna*

**Red-winged Blackbird**

*Agelaius phoeniceus*

**Boat-tailed Grackle**

*Quiscalus major*

**White-tailed Deer**

*Odocoileus virginianus*

NEW SPECIES

**Root Rot Dieback**

\* *Phytophthora cinnamomi*

**Tongueshape Bogmat**

\* *Wolffiella lingulata*

**Wild Cabbage**

\* *Brassica oleracea*

**White-cloaked Cudweed**

\* *Gamochaeta chionesthes*

**Grey-headed Swamphen**

\* *Porphyrio poliocephalus*

**Cave Swallow**

\* *Petrochelidon fulva*



**Saluda Shoals Park  
Lexington Co., SC  
January 25, 2025**

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**FLORA**

**Leatherleaf Mahonia**

\* *Berberis bealei*

**Nandina**

*Nandina domestica*

**Trametes**

\* *Trametes sp.*

**FAUNA**

**Red-shouldered Hawk**

*Buteo lineatus*

**Carolina Wren**

*Thryothorus ludovicianus*

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

*Regulus calendula*

**Dark-eyed Junco**

*Junco hyemalis*

**White-throated Sparrow**

*Zonotrichia albicollis*

**NEW SPECIES**

**Leatherleaf Mahonia**

\* *Berberis bealei*