



Peabody Park

Established 1901



UNC
GREENSBORO

Native Plant

A plant that is a part of the balance of nature that has developed over hundreds or thousands of years in a particular region or ecosystem. Note: The word native should always be used with a geographic qualifier (that is, native to New England). Only plants found in this country before European settlement are considered to be native to the United States.

Non-Native Plant

- A plant introduced with human help (intentionally or accidentally) to a new place or new type of habitat where it was not previously found. Note: Not all non-native plants are invasive. In fact, when many non-native plants are introduced to new places, they cannot reproduce or spread readily without continued human help (for example, many ornamental plants).

Invasive Plant

A plant that is both non-native and able to establish on many sites, grow quickly, and spread to the point of disrupting plant communities or ecosystems. Note: From the Presidential Executive Order 13112 (February 1999): "An invasive species is defined as a species that is 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and 2) whose introduction cause; or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health." In contrast to item 2) of the Executive Order, which includes plants invasive in agricultural settings, the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group lists non-native plants as invasive only if they invade minimally managed (natural) areas.


Key

N= Native

I= Invasive

NN= Non-Native





Example:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Virginia Pine N	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	One of the two common pines of the park woods and field borders, has a smoother and more reddish trunk than the shortleaf pine. The yellow-green short needles are in bundles of 2, and are twisted. Young trees can be seen in the successional areas of the park north of Phillips-Hawkins Hall.	



N= Native

Gymnosperms

Gymnosperms are a group of seed-producing plants that includes conifers, cycads, and Ginkgo. The term gymnosperm comes from a composite word in Greek, which literally means ‘naked seeds.’

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
N Virginia Pine	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	One of the two common pines of the park woods and field borders, but has a smoother and more reddish trunk than the Short Leaf pine. The yellow-green short needles are in bundles of 2, and are twisted. Young trees can be seen in the areas of the park north of Phillips-Hawkins Hall.	
N Eastern Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Three identifying features are the flat needles that do not roll between your fingers (ruling out spruce), flexible twigs where the leaves are attached by very small pegs like stems (ruling out fir species), and the white lines on the undersides of hemlock (ruling out yew)	
N White Pine	<i>Pinus Strobis</i>	In the park fields along the border of the former lake (now the golf course area). Primary identifying features are needles are in bundles of 5 that are approximately 3.5 inches long.	
N Long Leaf Pine	<i>Pinus palustris</i>	One individual in the park fields along border of former lake. To identify from other pines, look for needles in bundles of 3, 10-16 inches long.	





Gymnosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Short Leaf Pine N	<i>Pinus Schinata</i>	The other of the 2 common pines in the park forest, distinguished from the Virginia Pine by its plated trunk.	
Loblolly Pine N	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Several mature individuals in park fields along border of former lake, planted in the 1940s. Needles grow in bundles of 3 to approximately 6-9 inches long. They can be easily mistaken for long leaf pines.	

Ground Flowers

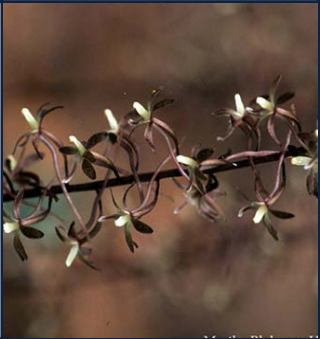




Angiosperms

Angiosperms are plants that produce flowers and bear their seeds in fruits. They are the largest and most diverse group within the kingdom Plantae, with about 300,000 species. Angiosperms represent approximately 80 percent of all known living green plants, including herbaceous plants, shrubs, grasses, and most trees.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Asiatic Dayflower NN	<i>Commelina communis</i>	Common in park fields and other disturbed areas of campus. They are one of only a few plants that have true blue pigmentation. Their peak bloom time is when summer transitions to fall.	
Bulbous Buttercup NN	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Common in the park fields and other disturbed areas of campus, these flowers thrive where soil is exposed. Hairy buttercup is the other common buttercup in NC, they can be differentiated by their bases where the roots grow.	
Bull Thistle I	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> can be found along disturbed margins of the park. It has a native counterpart, also known as bull thistle. The native species grows with multiple flower heads coming off of one stem.	
Clover, White NN	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Common all over campus lawns. White clover is native to Europe and Central Asia. The chances of finding a white four leaf are 1 in 5000.	






Ground Flowers

Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Crane-fly orchid N	<i>Tipularia discolor</i>	Widespread throughout park woods, but very inconspicuous; leaves appear after flowers wither and persist throughout winter (August). This native plant is considered threatened in many states.	
Crown Vetch I	<i>Securigera varia</i>	Common along creek margins in park fields (May). It is toxic to humans, and its root systems can spread quickly and prevent other plants from growing.	
Daffodil, Jonquil NN	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	Early spring ephemeral, bright yellow can't-miss flower found on forest floor. Probably planted ornamentals from years past.	
Fleabane, Common N	<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>	Found by creek margins in the park's fields (April-May). This native got its name because it was believed that dried clusters of this plant could rid your home of fleas.	
Pennsylvania smartweed N	<i>Polygonum pennsylvanicum</i>	Common in many areas of the park. Blooms in fall. This native is a food source for a wide range of pollinators - bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, beetles, and birds.	



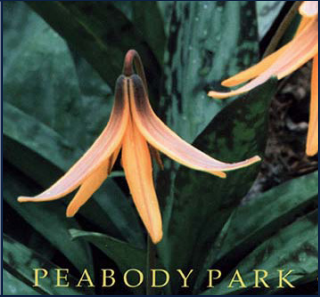


Ground Flowers

Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
I Periwinkle	<i>Vinca sp.</i>	An escape from cultivation that is now invasive in several areas of the park. Periwinkle has purple blue flowers that bloom in fall and summer.	
N Pokeweed	<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Pokeweed is a common native plant that likes disturbed soil, and has distinctive purple berries in the fall, which are a food source for songbirds and small mammals. They can grow tall and appear tree like. When not in fruit, they can be identified by their bright green leaves (which smell foul when crushed) and pink stems.	
NN Purple Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Common on park and residential lawns, purple dead nettle is generally considered a weed. Despite it being a weed, it has more wildlife value than your typical grass turf lawn, which offers close to zero wildlife value.	
N Blackberry & Raspberry	<i>Rubus sp.</i>	Several species may be in the park. Not technically true berries, the fruits of these plants are aggregate fruits. Just a friendly reminder, forage responsibly and if in doubt of plant identity, <i>do not eat</i> .	
N Round-Lobed Hepatica	<i>Hepatica americana</i>	Known only from one area in park woods east of Gray drive. These wildflowers are a part of the buttercup family and bloom in early March.	






Ground Flowers

Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Solomon's Seal N	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	This less common plant is scattered through park woods, and is in danger of ivy overgrowth. Solomon's Seal was used as a food source by indigenous peoples.	
Star of Bethlehem NN	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Common in park fields, especially along creek borders (blooms in late March – May). It is part of the asparagus family and sports the same budded tips when growing, which can help identify this plant.	
Trout Lily N	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	One of the first bloomers of spring, this plant forms dense carpets along the creeks in the park woods.	
Tufted Vetch NN	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch is common around margins of park woods and fields. Blooms in summer. It is part of the pea family and uses long tendrils to grab a hold of supports.	
Great White Trillium N	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	Previously recorded only in 1997, please let the Biology department know if you spot one in the spring. These flowers are native to the NC mountains and Piedmont.	

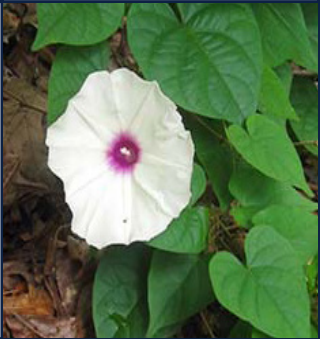



Climbing Vines

Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Coral or Trumpet Honeysuckle N	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	You cannot miss this bright red flower in the late spring. Found scattered in the park woods (April-May). They are <i>not</i> edible unlike their invasive counterparts: Japanese and European honeysuckle.	
English Ivy I	<i>Hedera helix</i>	The chronic headache of Peabody Park, English Ivy was once planted as an ornamental around the campus buildings. This very aggressive vine chokes out the more gentle native species. The Biology Dept. hosts an Ivy Pull every semester to control its growth, but some areas are almost completely covered.	
Frost Grape N	<i>Vitis vulpina</i>	Vine appearing throughout park, most noticeably along the streams in the fields. Very attractive to bees of all types. The grapes are edible, so consider growing them in your yard, but consider carefully if you have dogs.	
Greenbriar, Catbrier N	<i>Smilax spp.</i>	A large, difficult genus of thorny vines, found in the park woods and in thickets, not all of which are native. Most common is <i>Smilax rotundifolia</i> (April). Its leaves range from circular to heart shaped.	
Japanese Honeysuckle I	<i>Lanicera japonica</i>	Another invasive vine found throughout the park woods. Very fragrant when in bloom (March-May).	

Climbing Vines






Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Morning Glory N	<i>Ipomoea pandurata</i>	Although more well-known from its garden cultivars, this common flower is found in the wild and can be spotted in a few locations in our park woods.	
Poison Ivy N	<i>Rhus radicans</i>	Common along the disturbed edges of the park woods. Clearly identified by 3 asymmetrical leaves at the terminal end of each branch (May). Poison ivy also vines on trees with hairy busy tendrils that attach to the trunk, which can also cause reactions.	
Virginia Creeper N	<i>Parthenocissus rotundifloram</i>	Common climbing vine on park margins, often confused with poison ivy, but has 5 individual radiating leaves. They can grow tall and have a tendency to cover large areas of the ground, like the name creeper implies.	
Wisteria I / NN	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	An ornamental, invasive, non-native vine. It has beautiful clusters of fragrant purple flowers in the spring. Can be aggressive and kill native species (April).	








Shrubs & Trees

Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
American Beech N	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	A common large tree of the park woods; a large section of them can be seen east of Phillips-Hawkins Hall. The smooth silvery bark is unfortunately often carved on. The leaves become golden in the fall and do not fall off the tree till early spring.	
Ash, Green or Red N	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Scattered individuals throughout park woods, easily confused with White Ash. Look for 3 - 7 leaflets on compound leaves, prominent buds at end of leaf, edges of leaflets can be smooth or toothed.	
Ash, White N	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	Scattered individuals throughout the park woods. Do differentiate between White and Red ash, look for 5-9 leaflets, leaflets are usually smooth.	
Basswood N	<i>Tilia sp.</i>	Scattered individuals can be found in park woods. Look for heart shaped leaves with serrated edges. Leaves are arranged in an alternating pattern and grow from 4 - 8" long.	
Black Cherry N	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Found scattered throughout woods, most found along Gray Drive south of Reynolds Hall. Rusty colored hairs along the mid-vein at the base of the leaf are a good indication that it is a black cherry.	





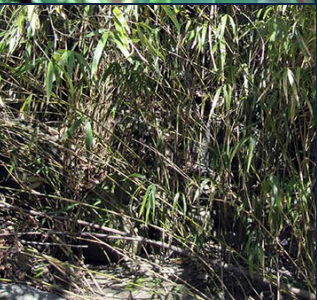
Shrubs & Trees

Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Rose of Sharon NN	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Rose of Sharon is a non-native shrub that is a part of the hibiscus family. (July-Sept).	
Black Locust N	<i>Robinia pseudo-acacia</i>	Scattered individuals in park woods and along margins of fields. Has big groupings of fragrant white flowers in the spring. Its wood is as strong as hickory.	
Black Tupelo or Black gum N	<i>Nyssa Sylvatica</i>	Scattered individuals found in park woods south of Cone Hall. Ends of branches look spider-like.	
Black Willow N	<i>Salix nigra</i>	Common small tree along creeks and in park fields. It has tremendous value to butterflies as it is a host tree for many species.	
Buckeye N	<i>Aesculus sylvatica</i>	A couple of individuals can be found along the drive south of Reynolds Hall near the Pawpaws. All parts of this plant are highly poisonous to humans if consumed.	






Shrubs & Trees

Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Chestnut, Chinese NN	<i>Castanea mollissima</i>	There are a few planted individuals in the fields of the park and around campus. The distinct spiny fruit and sharply toothed leaves make this low wide-spread tree stand out.	
Dogwood N	<i>Cornus florida</i>	A common understory tree with white flowers blooming in early spring. In addition to providing food for pollinators, its dense wood is artisanally used for weaving shuttles, dulcimers, canes, and golf club heads.	
Elm, Slippery N	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	A species of elm native to eastern North America. It is hard to distinguish from the American elm--the easiest way is if you have access to the tree's inner bark, the slippery elm feels slippery. This inner bark has medicinal uses and can be found in many products, including teas.	
Euonymus, Winged I	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Commonly cultivated shrub, can be found in many areas of the park woods. Has distinctive bark-like "wings" on its branches.	
Heavenly Bamboo I	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Once commonly planted as an ornamental on campus. Can be seen by the music building and Phillips-Hawkins Hall. It is a hard to contain invasive with very little wildlife value in North America.	




Shrubs & Trees

Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Hickory, Pignut N	<i>Carya glabra</i>	Scattered individuals stand throughout the park, hickory is best identified by its leaves, bark, and fruit. Most Hickories have shaggy bark - see below photo. Their leaves form in symmetrical leaflets in a pinnate structure. The leaves of the Pignut in particular have jagged edges - but some hickories have smooth leaves.	
Hickory, Shagbark N	<i>Carya ovata</i>	Easily identified by distinctive shaggy bark. They have the same leaf structure as the pignut, but the leaves are smooth on the edges. The nuts are edible and were a food source for indigenous peoples.	
Holly, American N	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	Widely planted on campus as an ornamental, found throughout the park. Can be a shrub or tree. May have red berries in the fall.	
Holly, Grape I	<i>Mahonia bealei</i>	Once commonly planted as an ornamental on campus, escaped individuals can be found scattered throughout park woods. Does not get bigger than a shrub. Has distinctive blue-purple berries in the fall months.	
Maple, Sugar N	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	The most common of the maples in our park, the sugar maple is famously used in maple syrup production. Trees can be tapped in early winter, best done on days with big swings from cold overnight to sunny daytime temperatures.	






Shrubs & Trees

Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
I Mimosa or Silktree	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Found at scattered locations in park, often by stream edges. Fine feathery leaves and fragrant pink blossoms appear in the late spring early summer. It establishes quickly, and weeding new growth is recommended.	
I Mulberry, White	<i>Morus alba</i>	A large shrub or small tree common at weedy locations at wood edges and along stream in the fields. You can eat the berries when they arrive in the late spring and turn red/black. Its native counterpart [red mulberry] is much less common.	
N Oak, Black	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Scattered individuals in the park woods, mostly north of Grogan Hall. Oaks as a family can be identified by their distinctive lobed leaves [See photos below] and the acorns they produce.	
N Oak, Southern Red or Spanish	<i>Quercus falcata</i>	One of the principle canopy trees of the park woods. The main difference between this and the White Oak is the lobes on the leaves come to points.	
N Oak, White	<i>Quercus alba</i>	One of the principle canopy trees of the park woods and commonly planted elsewhere as a shade tree.	






Shrubs & Trees

Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Oak, Willow N	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Scattered individuals in the park woods, most commonly seen as the HUGE shade trees found in the fields and to the west. These trees are in the oak family, but the leaves are more like the Willow tree (hence the common name).	
Pawpaw N	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Found along streams and along drive south of Reynolds Hall. They tend to form in patches as they reproduce clonally. It is the sole host plant of the zebra swallowtail butterfly and has edible fruit.	
Redbud or Judas Tree N	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	A characteristic understory tree of the park woods along with the dogwood. Has little pink flowers that bloom in early spring and heart shaped leaves.	
River Birch N	<i>Betula nigra</i>	Planted as an ornamental on edges of park and along the stream. Has the distinctive shaggy bark. Not to be confused with the paper birch which although on campus is not within the park boundaries.	
Royal Paulownia or Empress tree I	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	This invasive exotic tree has been recently appeared on the path to the music building on the east side of Grogan Hall. Easily spotted with its very fast growth and large fuzzy leaves.	


Shrubs & Trees

Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Southern Magnolia or Bull Bay N	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Commonly planted as an ornamental, escaped individuals can be found in the park woods. Big white flowers in late spring. Thick leather-like leaves that stay on all winter.	
Spicebush N	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	One individual on campus along west side of Reynolds hall.	
Sweetgum N	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Common tree found in the park woods. Has distinctive star-shaped leaves, and spiky seed balls.	
Sycamore N	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Common tree in the park. The leaf size is your biggest clue to this tree. The leaves can span 15-18 inches at their widest width.	
Tuliptree or Tulip Poplar or Yellow Poplar N	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	One of the principle canopy trees in the park woods. Has distinctive yellow-green flowers in the spring, and distinctive leaf shape. A very large specimen is found near Reynolds Hall by the stream, roots pictured here.	

Shrubs & Trees




Angiosperms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Walnut, Black N	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Scattered individuals in the park by open areas. Compound leaves with 13-23 leaflets. Has large green nuts that turn black in the fall. The husks of these nuts are very fragrant and the nuts themselves are edible if processed correctly. Harvest time is September - October.	

Ferns & Horsetails

Ferns are flowerless and seedless plants which have feathery or leafy fronds and reproduce by spores released from the undersides of the fronds. Ferns have a vascular system for the transport of water and nutrients. Similar to flowering plants, ferns have roots, stems and leaves.




Horsetails are nonflowering plants with a hollow jointed stem that bears whorls of narrow leaves, producing spores in cones at the tips of the shoots. Many species are branched and have “bristles” radiating out from each stem segment.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Rough Horsetail aka Scouring rush N	<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	One station known and one of the only stands of horsetail in the Piedmont, where the creek exits the woods at West Market Street. It provides cover for many species and is one of the host plants for weevils.	
Royal Fern N	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Only one known by creek near Reynolds and Grogan Halls, which may have escaped from cultivation. These ferns are larger than the Christmas ferns, and turn brown / yellow in winter.	
Christmas Fern N	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Most common fern in the park, usually near water. It got its Christmas moniker due to it being an evergreen fern, which is at its peak green during the winter holidays.	



Lichens & Fungi

Fungi are in their own kingdom (Fungi), separate from plants and are any of a group of spore-producing organisms with no chlorophyll, including molds, yeast, mushrooms, and toadstools that feed on organic matter. Fungi are among the most widely distributed organisms on Earth.

Lichens are a complex life form that is a symbiotic partnership of two separate organisms, a fungus and an alga. The dominant partner is the fungus, which gives the lichen the majority of its characteristics, from its thallus shape to its fruiting bodies. There are approximately 3,600 species of lichens

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
False Turkeytail	<i>Stereum ostrea</i>	Very thin multi-colored bracket fungus with a smooth underside, common in park woods.	
Common Green Shield Lichen	<i>Flavoparmelia caperata</i>	Common blue-green lichen on tree trunks throughout peabody park.	
Crowded parchment	<i>Stereum complicatum</i>	Similar to False Turkey Tail, but generally smaller and orange brown in color, common in the park woods.	

Lichens & Fungi



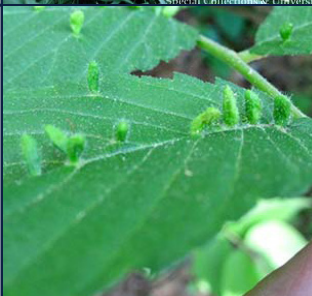
Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Mushroom	<i>Amanita sp.</i>	Presence of potent toxins of various types has made this genus infamous. Ectomycorrhizal with gymnosperms and angiosperms or rarely apparently saprobic; on soil or litter.	
Sapwood Rot	<i>Poro-daedalea pini</i>	A Fungi that causes "red ring rot" within trees. Red ring rot is a wood-decay disease of the inner wood of stems of living conifers.	



Insects






Invertebrates

Insects are arthropods with well-defined head, thorax and abdomen, three pairs of legs, antennae, and one or two pairs of wings. Arthropods comprise a phylum, or group, of animals with jointed legs and their skeleton on the outside covering the soft internal organs.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Black Winged Damselfly	<i>Calopteryx maculata</i>	Damselfly sightings are a common part of summer life along the park stream. They can be hard to distinguish from dragonflies when in flight, but at rest the damselflies wings lay closed by their bodies.	
Polyphemus Moth	<i>Antheraea polyphemus</i>	This giant silkworm native, has a wingspan of six inches and eye like spots on its wings. The caterpillar can eat 86,000 times its weight at emergence in a little less than two months	 <small>Martha Blakeney-Hodge Special Collections & University</small>
Beech Gall Midge	<i>Hartigola annulipes</i>	You can see signs of the beech gall midge by the small elongated galls (blisters) they leave on tree leaves.	



Insects

Invertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Eastern Tent Caterpillar	<i>Malacosoma americanum</i>	This moth is a small and inconspicuous as an adult but as a social caterpillar they are very noticeable in their silken tents in the crooks of tree branches. These tents can be seen in the spring and can vary in number from year to year.	
Eriophyid mite (Willow Blister Gall)	Family: <i>Eriophyidae</i>	These tiny insects feed on the leaves of the willow and cause the plant to curl and distort to form a protective chamber. The galls tend to be red/rust colored.	
Golden Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes fuscatus</i>	Usually found solitary, this non-aggressive wasp is seen in the summer tending its paper nests. Here pictured on a Chinese chestnut.	
Water Strider	Family: <i>Gerridae</i>	Seen in large numbers on the streams in summer striding on the waters surface. Currently genus and species are unknown, probably a few different ones.	
Jumping Bush cricket	<i>Orocharis Saltator</i>	Typically lives in rural and urban backyards. The Jumping Bush cricket is typically a brownish color and has a unique flattened appearance with long antennae.	

Insects

Invertebrates



Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Bark centipede	<i>Scolopocryptos sexspino</i>	They are usually found near trees and wetlands. They are classified by their yellow legs and orange flat bodies.	
North American millipede	<i>Narceus Americanus</i>	This millipede is common to the Eastern United States and Peabody Park. However, they are not usually seen because they stay under damp rocks or logs.	

Mammals

Vertebrates

Mammals are characterized by the presence of mammary glands which in females produce milk for feeding their young, a neocortex, fur or hair, and three middle ear bones.

Class mammalia fractures into ~26 orders, the largest of which are Rodentia (rodents), Chiroptera (bats), and Soricomorpha (shrews). These three groups contain 70% of all mammal diversity.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Beavers have not been recorded in the Park, but beaver workings can be seen less than 1km N of the campus along Buffalo Creek. It is possible they may occasionally wander upstream as far as Peabody Park. A keystone species.	
Domestic Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>	Domestic cats from the local neighborhood often pass through the campus, and feral individuals sometimes take up residence in the Park near buildings. They kill over 2 billion birds a year.	






Mammals

Vertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Domestic Dog	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	Domestic dogs from the local neighborhood often pass through the Park.	
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	Fairly common on the borders of the park, but not often seen.	
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Common in the park and elsewhere on campus. Most often seen in summer on lawns at dusk.	
Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Common in the park woods and fields and throughout the entire campus.	
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Bats are easy to spot at dusk, flapping and flailing around in a distinctly unbird like manner. They are also the second most speciose mammals in the world - they have over 1300 individual species.	


Mammals

Vertebrates

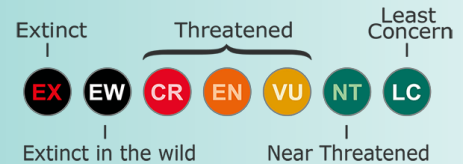
Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethica</i>	Sometime resident along Buffalo Creek. They are a semi-aquatic rodent that are native to North America.	
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Native to North America, raccoon comes from the Powhatan term "aroughcun" which means "the one who rubs and scrubs, and scratches with its hands". Generally nocturnal, but they are opportunist who are known to go where the food is despite time of day.	
Southern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys volans</i>	Native to this region, Flying squirrels do not actually fly, but rather glide using a furry membrane called a patagium. They are very common but hard to spot compared to their distantly related grey tree squirrels because they are nocturnal.	
Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	The only opossum (and marsupial) living north of Mexico. They are solitary nocturnal animals and are successful opportunists. They're great neighbors too - a low body temperature means they don't carry most common pathogens (including rabies), and they have a propensity to kill the ticks that try to feed on them (although research is conflicting on this).	
Grey fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Rarer in this area than its cousin the red fox, this grizzled grey fox can climb trees and might be spotted in the early morning or at dusk.	

Birds






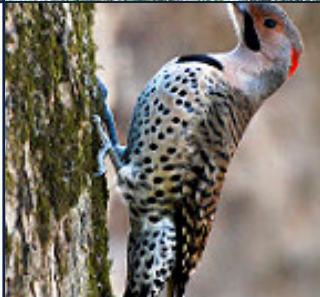



Vertebrates

Birds are a group of warm blooded vertebrates, characterized by feathers, toothless beaked jaws, the laying of hard-shelled eggs, a high metabolic rate, and strong yet lightweight skeletal structures. Much of the information in this section comes from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Use the  icon to link to individual bird songs and calls.

This section uses the IUCN Classification scale:


















Find more information on conservation status classification [here](#).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Wild Turkey  	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Generally turkeys are easiest to spot in the wee hours of the morning. During the breeding months in spring and summer, listen for the males loud chortling gobble.	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Sapsuckers are part of the woodpecker family. Both sexes have red foreheads, but you can identify the males by their red throats. The Piedmont falls within their wintering home grounds. They are approximately the size of a robin.	
Yellow-crowned Night Heron  	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	Considered migratory in the piedmont, they are common in coastal areas, but can be found inland along wooded river valleys as well as in open habitats such as wet lawns and golf courses. Look for the bold yellow and black patterning of this birds head to identify.	
















Birds

Vertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
<p>American Crow</p> <p> </p>	<p><i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i></p>	<p>American Crows are common neighborhood dwellers that congregate in large numbers in winter to sleep in communal roosts. Some roosts have formed in the same general area for well over 100 years. The sound of of crows cawing in unison is loud and slightly unsettling - if you are on a walk, it can not be missed.</p>	
<p>American Goldfinch</p> <p> </p>	<p><i>Carduelis tristis</i></p>	<p>Male Goldfinches are more vibrant and more yellow than the females, which are brown with yellow undertones and contrasting white and black wings. The males get even more vibrant in spring to aid in attracting a mate. They can be spotted all over campus--their "po-ta-to-chip" call will cue you in to look for them.</p>	
<p>American Kestrel</p> <p> </p>	<p><i>Falco sparverius</i></p>	<p>Not only is the American kestrel the littlest falcon, it is one of the most colorful of all the raptors. They fall between the size of a robin and a crow, with rusty black coloring; the males sport an additional shade of slate blue on their head and wings. Like all birds, they can see UV light, which aids in their hunting. The trails of urine left by voles light up like a neon "open" sign on a diner.</p>	
<p>American Woodcock</p> <p> </p>	<p><i>Scolopax minor</i></p>	<p>This shorebird has many similar attributes to the snipe - it's a bit rotund, has a long beak that helps with probing food out of the ground, and its brown mottle helps camouflage them against leaf litter. Unlike the coastal killdeer however, woodcocks live in young forests and shrubby fields. The male's mating display is one of nature's most theatrical.</p>	
<p>Barn Swallow</p> <p> </p>	<p><i>Hirundo rustica</i></p>	<p>Cobalt blue and tawny, with a deeply forked tail, barn swallows are beauties for sure. These looks, however, can be deceiving. Unmated males have been known to kill the nestlings of a paired couple; which often leads to a messy bird divorce. This frees up a potential mating partner for the scheming swallow.</p>	
















Birds

Vertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Barred Owl  	<i>Strix varia</i>	"Who cooks for you?" asked the barred owl. Call it back to them, and if your convincing enough, a territorial barred owl will come to investigate you. As the sun goes down, walk through Peabody park and keep your ears peeled. Over the next few days keep listening, Barred Owls famously dwell in their neighborhood for most of their lives - you may have made a new friend.	
Belted Kingfisher  	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	These spikey feathered birds are keen on letting you know that you have entered their jurisdiction, swooping and swinging past while they rattle their call. The belted Kingfisher is one of the few birds where the female exhibits more coloration than the male. A male is pictured here, the females have additional reddish brown coloring across their breast.	
Blue Jay  	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	These birds can be found year round in the Piedmont and are familiar to even those who don't dabble in bird watching. Blue Jays can mimic the "caws" of hawks, especially the red-shoulder hawk, as a way to warn other Blue Jays that danger is afoot and occasionally to just play a practical joke on other birdfolk.	
Broad-winged Hawk  	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	These birds breed in eastern half of the US and Canada and fly to South America for winter. Their migratory flocks, known as 'kettles', can contain thousands of birds. As their fly path narrows through South America, their numbers concentrate. This has given areas such as Veracruz, Mexico, and Panama the moniker "river of raptors".	
Canada Goose  	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	These familiar birds, also called honkers, can be heard doing just that up in the sky, flying in V formations. As lawns have proliferated, more of these grassland birds have chosen to stay put in urban and suburban areas year round - the Piedmont being one of those areas.	















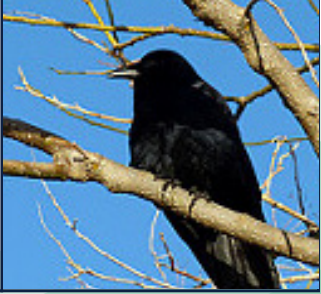
Birds

Vertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
<p>Carolina Wren</p> <p> </p>	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	<p>These ground foragers are shy and hard to spot. They are however very easy to hear. These small birds have a loud, piercing "teakettle - teakettle" song.</p>	
<p>Chimney Swift</p> <p> </p>	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	<p>The torpedo shaped silhouette the swift family is unmistakable. These birds spend most of their lives in the air except for roosting overnight and nesting. They use their glue like saliva to adhere nests to chimney walls and rock faces, often with many of their fellow swifts nested with them. On cold nights a chimney roost can be 70 degrees F warmer than outside.</p>	
<p>Common Northern Flicker</p> <p> </p>	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	<p>A type of large woodpecker, but unlike their cousins, they prefer ground foraging behavior. Their tail and wing plumage exhibits typical woodpecker patterning but with brown and black, and on the underside of their wings they sport brilliant yellow feathers (if you are in the east) and red feathers (in the west).</p>	
<p>Common Nighthawk</p> <p> </p>	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	<p>The name nighthawk is a bit of a misnomer - these birds are not true nocturnal birds, they are most active at dawn and dusk. They are also not related to hawks. Head over to the soccer stadium during a game when the lights are on, scan the area for bounding wings and listen for their sharp "peent" calls.</p>	
<p>Common Snipe</p> <p> </p>	<i>Capella gallinago</i>	<p>This medium-sized shorebird is a tad pudgy, patterned brown and white in stripes and bars which help camouflage them in amongst the vegetation in muddy pond edges. Their bills are very long, which aid in probing muddy ground for earthworms and other invertebrates, which they can slurp right up without removing their bill from the soil.</p>	










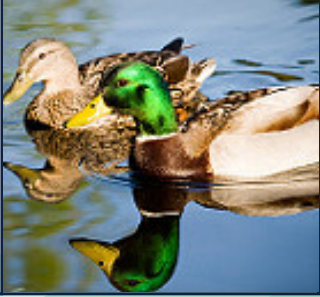
Birds

Vertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Cooper's Hawk  	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	These common, but stealthy birds have a lookalike! Sharp-shinned hawks are slightly smaller and have a rounded tail, rather than Cooper's notched tail. However, if you spot one in town it's more likely to be a Cooper's. Up in the air, look for long tails and a "flap, flap, glide" flying pattern. Occasionally your backyard bird feeder will attract opportunistic Cooper's hawks, looking for an easy meal.	
Downy Woodpecker  	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	These bite-sized woodpeckers are even smaller than the yellow bellied sapsucker. The females have the familiar checkered white and black, and males have the a small patch of red on the back of their heads. Their larger lookalike - the Hairy Woodpecker - is one of the first identification challenges for beginner bird watchers to master.	
Eastern Phoebe  	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Closely related to the Eastern Wood Pewee, the Phoebe's raspy song almost sounds like they are calling their name - "fee-bee". This song is one of the first indications that spring is returning. But don't get too confident, the Black-capped Chickadee also calls out "fee-bee", although theirs comes out as a sweeter whistle.	
Eastern Wood Pewee  	<i>Contopus virens</i>	A type of flycatcher, the unassuming olive brown birds give an unmistakable slurred "pee-a-weeeee!" call for which they are named. During breeding season the males will belt this song out all day to impress the right lady. They can be spotted year round in the triad.	
Fish Crow  	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>	There are two types of crows in the southeast - the Fish Crow and the American crow. They look almost indistinguishable, but the Fish Crow caw comes out as a more nasally "weh" sound, often in doubles. They are coastal dwellers, but in recent decades they have moved inland along river and lake systems. They exhibit roguish behaviors, often raiding the nests of fellow birds.	

Birds
















Vertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
<p>Great Crested Flycatcher</p> <p>lc </p>	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	<p>These flycatchers have a distinctive lemon-yellow belly live and forage up in the leafy forest canopy, spending very little time on the ground. This makes them hard to spot, but you can hear their "wee-eep" calls from up above year round in the Piedmont.</p>	
<p>Great Horned Owl</p> <p>lc </p>	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	<p>Great Horned Owls are prolific in North America, found in deserts, wetlands, forests, grasslands, backyards, and cities - from the tropics to the arctic. Look up at dusk and sometimes you can see their ear like tufts and unimpressed yellow gaze peering down at you.</p>	
<p>Green Heron</p> <p>nt </p>	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	<p>Green Herons breed and can be spotted year round in the Piedmont. Unlike most herons, which stand prominent and tall, green herons are closer to the ground and almost look hunch backed. Scan the edges of shallow water, keeping a close eye for their dark cap and deep green back nestled in vegetation.</p>	
<p>Killdeer</p> <p>lc </p>	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	<p>A type of shorebird, these long and lanky birds can be spotted in areas with low or no vegetation: lawns, golf courses, and athletic fields. Despite its classification, they do not necessarily dwell around water. Large eyes and two black and white bands across its chest help identify the killdeer. They breed and can be spotted year round in the Piedmont.</p>	
<p>Mallard</p> <p>lc </p>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	<p>When walking along the stream, look for the emerald green head of the male Mallard, often accompanied by their female counterpart. Mallards are generally monogamous, pairing takes place in the fall, but courtship can be seen throughout winter. The ducklings arrive in spring.</p>	


















Birds

Vertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Mourning Dove  	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Also known as the turtledove, these are some of North America's most abundant birds. Keep your eyes on patches of bare ground, where mourning doves often congregate to forage for seeds. Take a moment to listen to their call - you almost certainly already know it from your daily soundtrack.	
Northern Mockingbird  	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	These town-dwelling birds can be spotted on tall shrubs, poles, and utility lines. Keep your ears peeled for their songs, which mimic numerous other birds in quick succession. A male can learn up to 200 different tunes throughout its life. They can be spotted year round in the Piedmont.	
Red-bellied Woodpecker  	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	The Red-bellied Woodpecker is a woodland forest dweller, but will often venture into residential areas of town. The males can be identified by their red crown and nape; females only have the red coloring on their nape. Do you know which is pictured here?	
Red-tailed Hawk  	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	North America's most common hawk can be found year round in most of the continental US. Spot them soaring and circling in the air, looking for the broad, rounded wings; short tail; and the dark bars at the edge of their wings. They are more numerous in winter, when hawks from the far north join the hawks that live in our area year round.	
Ring-billed Gull  	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	The Ring-billed Gull got its name for the black band around its beak, which helps to identify it from other gulls. They are the most common gulls on the eastern United States coast, but you can find them in Greensboro around sports fields, parking lots, and garbage dumps.	






Birds

Vertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Rock Dove/ Domestic Pigeon  	<i>Columba livia</i>	The common domestic pigeon is the ancestral relative of the Homing Pigeon, which was famous for delivering mail. Rock doves are monogamous, generally with two squabs per brood. Both parents care for the young.	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Eastern America's sole breeding hummingbird. When using hummingbird feeders to attract these green and red beauties, remember that in the hot summer months the sugar quickly ferments into toxic alcohol - change your sugar solution regularly.	
Sharp-shinned Hawk  	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned hawks, the smallest of the North American hawks, is elusive, often spending their summers in the canopy of dense forests. Their numbers declined during the DDT years, but rebounded after DDT was banned. They are often mistaken for Cooper's hawks.	
Song Sparrow  	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Among the native sparrows in North America, the song sparrow is easily one of the most abundant, variable, and adaptable species. Listen for their stuttering, clattering song year round in the Piedmont.	
Turkey Vulture  	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	The most widespread of the New World vultures. Look up and you can see turkey vultures ride the thermals in the sky. The part of their brain responsible for processing smells is large, aiding in finding fresh carcasses. They can be spotted year round in the Piedmont.	

Reptiles & Amphibians




Vertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene Carolina</i>	The Eastern Box Turtle is a subspecies within a group of hinge-shelled turtles normally called box turtles. They are native to the eastern part of the United States. If food conditions are poor, they will lessen their activity level, retreat into their shells, and halt their food intake.	
Five Lined Skink	<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i>	The species is endemic to North America. It is one of the most common lizards in the eastern U.S. and one of the seven native species of lizards in Canada. Skinks will shed their tail as a defense mechanism from predators, a common behavior in lizards. Keep your eyes peeled and occasionally you will see the bright blue tail of a five lined skink squirming on the ground.	
Rough Earth Snake	<i>Virginia striatula</i>	This non-venomous snake native to the southeastern United States are fossorial (live underground) and feed almost exclusively on earth worms. They have not yet been recorded in the Park, but it's always a possibility.	
Squirrel Tree Frog	<i>Hyla squirella</i>	Squirrel Tree Frogs' size ranges from 1 - 1.5 inches. They can be found in a variety of colors, and each individual frog can assume a variety of different colors, comparable to a chameleon. Their native lookalike is the American Green Tree Frog.	
Salamanders	<i>Desmognathus sp.</i>	Salamander diversity is highest the Appalachian Mountains. This group of amphibians is capable of regenerating lost limbs. The skin of some species contains the powerful poison tetrodotoxin; these salamanders tend to have bright warning coloration to advertise their toxicity.	

Bony Fish

Vertebrates

Bony fish (Class Osteichthyes) are a superclass of fish that have skeletons primary composed of bone and tissue. They contrast cartilaginous fish (class Chondrichthyes), or those who have skeletons primary composed of cartilage. Lampreys and hagfish are the sole survivors of the final superclass of fish - Agnatha. This ancient class is marked by their lack of jaws and features in horror films.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Details	Photos
Green Sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	Green Sunfish are endemic to most of the continental United States. They are specifically indigenous to a number of lakes and rivers such as the Great Lakes and some of the basins of the Mississippi River.	
Red Shiner	<i>Cyprinella lutrensis</i>	Also known as the Red-horse Minnow, this North American native is silver and white until breeding season (mid-April through Sept.) when the males coloration transitions to an iridescent pink-purple-blue with red fins. They have been known to eat the eggs and larvae of native fish where they live.	
Redbreast Sunfish	<i>Lepomis auritus</i>	Native to the river systems of eastern Canada and the United States. As is typical for sunfishes, the female redbreast lays her 1000+ eggs in a substrate depression built by the male. The male guards the eggs and fry.	
Speckled Killifish	<i>Fundulus rathbuni</i>	Endemic to North Carolina and Virginia. They are usually spotted over sand or mud in backwaters and pools of creeks and small to medium rivers. The word Killifish comes from the Dutch kil (small stream).	