

Green Swamp

Location: Columbus and Brunswick Counties

Total Size: 6,402 ha (15,812.9 acres)



Site Description: The Green Swamp is a vast area of southeastern North Carolina roughly located between Supply and Lake Waccamaw. At a glance, the Green Swamp doesn't look like a typical swamp. It is an area of open longleaf pine savannah contrasted by areas of dense, nearly impenetrable, shrubby thicket called pocosin. The longleaf pine savannahs of the Green Swamp are among the best examples of this community type in the United States. The pocosins are also exceptional. The area is known for its great diversity of plants, many of which are significantly rare, but it also harbors a great diversity of bird species.

Habitats: pocosin, longleaf pine savannah

Land Use: wildlife conservation, other conservation, forestry, hunting,

Primary Threats: drainage, tree cutting, conversion to agriculture/silviculture, water diversion, channelization, Industrial and commercial development.

Protection Status: The Nature Conservancy has protected about 16,000 acres. Much of the Green Swamp is in private holdings with the majority being timber company lands.

Conservation Issues: The Green Swamp area once included an area of approximately 200,000 acres, but much of this has disappeared in the past few decades. Alteration of hydrology by ditching and draining threatens the entire system. In addition, logging, conversion to agriculture, silvaculture, industrial development and commercial development are of great concern. More extensive surveys of landbirds during breeding, migration and winter are needed.

Birds: The site supports a great diversity of landbirds throughout the year. In addition to those listed below Prothonotary, Pine, Yellow-throated and Hooded warblers are relatively common. This is one of the state's best examples of longleaf pine savannah and pocosin, and supports birds typical of both habitats (Criteria NC4).

Key Bird Species

Criteria		Season	Number
1	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	B	5 prs.
2a	Bachman's Sparrow	B	--
2a	Henslow's Sparrow	W	--
2a	Black-throated Green Warbler	B	--
2a	Swainson's Warbler	B	--
2b	Worm-eating Warbler	B	--
2b	Prairie Warbler	B	--

B=Breeding FM=Fall Migration SM=Spring Migration W=Winter