

## Meat Camp Environmental Studies Area

[https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/birdingnc/meat\\_camp\\_creek.html](https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/birdingnc/meat_camp_creek.html)

**Location:** north of Boone on Appaloosa Trail off Castleford Road, Watauga County  
(GPS 36.2637743, -81.6294909)

### **Species of Interest**

#### **Summer**

Green Heron	White-eyed Vireo
Wood Duck	Blue-headed Vireo
Virginia Rail	Red-eyed Vireo
Black-billed Cuckoo	Wood Thrush
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Cedar Waxwing
Least Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler
Willow Flycatcher	

#### **Winter**

Hairy Woodpecker	White-crowned Sparrow
American Pipit	White-throated Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow	

#### **Year Round**

Downy Woodpecker	Tufted Titmouse
Pileated Woodpecker	American Goldfinch
Carolina Chickadee	

#### **Spring and fall migration**

American Bittern	
Virginia Rail	Warblers
Sora	Vesper Sparrow

**eBird bar chart:** <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L902772&yr=all&m=>

### **Habitats**

early successional, river/stream, bog/wetlands; adjacent to open pasture

### **Access and Parking**

**Parking:** small grassy area at entrance

**Drinking water:** not available

**Restrooms:** not available

**Accessible:** no

### **Site Description**

**Property ownership:** private, but open to public for birding and nature study

**Trails:** three-quarter mile grassy path through wetlands with boardwalks across wet areas

**Trail surface and elevation gain:** grass and boardwalk; flat

**Likely spots for species of interest:** walk clockwise along the riparian corridor

### **Special Considerations:**

**Need for boots/waterproof footwear:** possible muddy path; boardwalks may shift with flooding

**Hunting:** not allowed

**Other:** birds apparently not impacted by gunfire from adjacent shooting range

**Directions:** From the intersection of US 421 N and NC 194 N east of Boone, proceed north on 194 for 2.75 miles to Castleford Road on your right. Go 1.7 miles to Appaloosa Trail on your left. At both of these turns you should see small white signs for the Watauga Gun Club. Go 0.1 mile and cross Meat Camp Creek on a one-lane bridge. Take immediate left into grassy parking area. (36.2637743,-81.6294909)