



Red-tailed Hawk

Birds of Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve

Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve

Rich in culture, history, unusual geology, plants and wildlife, Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve is a wonderful and educational place to visit.

The “big rock” for which Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve was named took the shape of an inverted pyramid, balanced on its tip. This unusual silhouette was created when the waters of the Atlantic Ocean receded long ago. The lower layers of the rock eroded more quickly, creating a wide top and narrow base.

Erosion, storms, and visitors carving into the rock gradually wore away at that fragile pedestal. On December 7, 2013, a hiker observed that Peachtree Rock had toppled. While the big rock has fallen, a smaller but similar formation – affectionately known as “Little Peachtree Rock” (pictured above) still stands just off the trail near the back of the preserve.

Along with the distinctive sandstone formations, Peachtree Rock HP is also home to a native longleaf pine forest, which is carefully preserved through replanting along with periodic controlled burns. Near the preserve’s entrance, the only natural waterfall on South Carolina’s coastal plain splashes into a small pool.

For more information, please see:
[The Nature Conservancy Peachtree Rock web page](#)

Resources

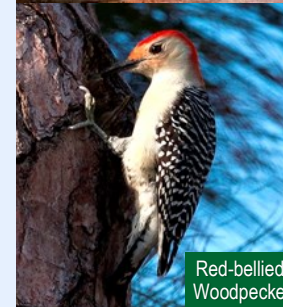
- The Nature Conservancy
<http://www.nature.org>
- S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources
<http://www.dnr.sc.gov>
- The Carolina Bird Club
<https://www.carolinabirdclub.org>
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology
<http://www.birds.cornell.edu>
- eBird
<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

Photo Credits

- Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Pine Warbler: courtesy of **Dan Garber**,
[www.carolinabirdclub.org/gallery/Garber/Dan Garber's Smithsonian Migratory Bird Gallery](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/gallery/Garber/Dan%20Garber's%20Smithsonian%20Migratory%20Bird%20Gallery)
- Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Red-tailed Hawk: courtesy of **Gretchen Schramm**,
www.carolinabirdclub.org/gallery/Schramm/
- Blue Grosbeak, Blue-headed Vireo, Eastern Towhee, Prairie Warbler, Red-bellied Woodpecker: courtesy of **John Ennis**,
www.carolinabirdclub.org/gallery/Ennis/
- Little Peachtree Rock courtesy of Midlands Master Naturalist, **Ed Siggelko**.
- * Brochure designed by Midlands Master Naturalist, **David Groh**.



Eastern Towhee



Red-bellied Woodpecker



Brown-headed Nuthatch



Pine Warbler



Hermit Thrush

Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve is co-managed by:



Brochure produced by: Midlands Master Naturalist Association

FEATURED BIRD SPECIES

Summer (breeding)



Eastern Wood-Pewee (M,F)

Length: 6 in. Sexes alike.

A medium-sized gray-olive flycatcher with a peaked crown, long wings and tail, and narrow white wing bars. Flies out from the mid-canopy to catch insects. Song is a slurred: "pee-a-wee!"



Prairie Warbler (M)

Length: 4¾ in. Female duller.

A small, yellow warbler with black streaks down its sides, black stripe through eye and arc below. Pumps its tail. Forages low in scrubby fields. Song is a series of short notes, rising up the scale.



Blue Grosbeak (M)

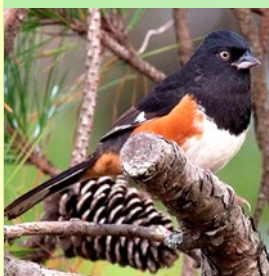
Length: 6½ in. Female brown.

A stocky songbird in the Cardinal family, deep blue with a black mask, chestnut wing bars, and a huge bill. Often sings from high perches in open or shrubby fields. Song is a rich, musical warble.

Other birds you might see (or hear):

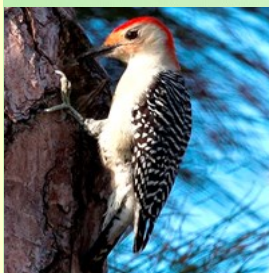
- Acadian Flycatcher
- Black and White Warbler
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Mississippi Kite
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Summer Tanager
- White-eyed Vireo
- Wood Thrush
- Yellow-throated Warbler

Year-round



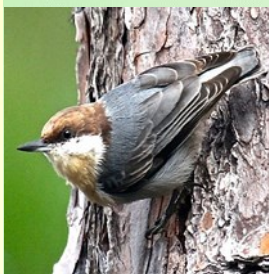
Eastern Towhee (M)

Length: 7½ in. Females have black areas replaced with brown.
A strikingly marked, large sparrow, with black hood, wings, and rufous sides. Forages noisily in the leaf litter. Distinctive call: "tow-hee" and song: "drink-your-tea!"



Red-bellied Woodpecker (M)

Length: 9½ in. Females have red nape only. A medium-sized woodpecker with black and white barred back, red cap, and small reddish patch on belly. Common in open woodlands. Loud call is a rolling "churr-churr."



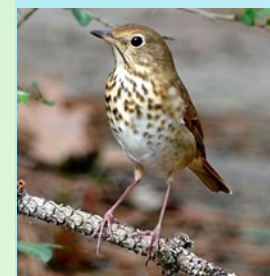
Brown-headed Nuthatch

(M,F) Length: 4½ in. Sexes alike.
A tiny blue-gray songbird with a brown cap down to the eye, white face, and buff underparts. Often climbs headfirst down tree trunks. Found in southern pinelands. Call sounds like a squeaky toy.

Other birds you might see (or hear):

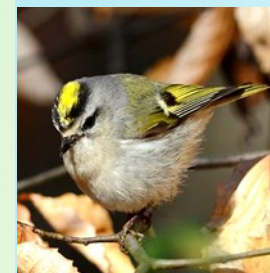
- American Crow
- Black Vulture
- Blue Jay
- Brown Thrasher
- Carolina Chickadee
- Carolina Wren
- Chipping Sparrow
- Downy Woodpecker
- Eastern Bluebird
- Mourning Dove
- Northern Cardinal
- Northern Flicker
- Northern Mockingbird
- Pine Warbler
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Tufted Titmouse
- Turkey Vulture

Winter (non-breeding)



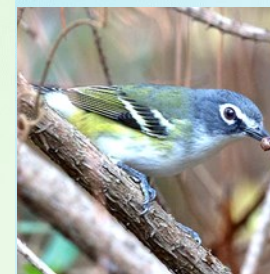
Hermit Thrush (M,F)

Length: 6¾ in. Sexes alike.
A spotted brown thrush with a reddish tail and smudged spots on the breast. Pumps its tail slowly. Forages in the leaf litter. Beautiful song starts with a whistle and ends with soft echoes.



Golden-crowned Kinglet (F)

Length: 4 in. Male's crown orange.
A tiny, active, boldly marked songbird with a rounded body and short wings. Plucks insects from needles high in conifer trees; can briefly hover. Song a series of high pitched "tsee" notes.



Blue-headed Vireo (M,F)

Length: 5½ in. Sexes alike.
A medium-sized vireo with solid blue-gray hood, white spectacles, two white wing bars, and yellow flanks. The only vireo that makes use of coniferous forests. Song a slow series of up/down phrases.

Other birds you might see (or hear):

- American Goldfinch
- Cedar Waxwing
- Palm Warbler
- Pine Siskin
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Song Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Yellow-rumped Warbler