South Carolina Wildlife

November-December 2026





What's Inside

4 **Let It Snow**
by Don and Joanne Wuori

10 **A Fondness for Firsts**
by Jim Casada

14 **Holiday Trimmings Inspired by Nature**
by Sarah Katherine Rogers

20 **Wilds and Waters - Turtle Doves or Mourning Doves: America's Most Important Bird**
by Will Mundhenke

22 **Stripers by the Numbers**
by Joey Frazier

28 **Palmetto Portraits: Frozen In Time**
by Phillip Jones

32 **A Full Vest**
by Barry Kesler

36 **The Whistle is Back!**
by Richard Rankin

40 **Wanted: South Carolina's Bradford Pear Tree Bounties**
by Melanie Griffin

44 **Seeing and Hearing *South Carolina Wildlife*!**
by Yaunna Hunter

46 **K-9 Tracks**
by Lt. William B. Branham

48 **Wildlife Habitat Education Program: From Competition to Conservation**
by Mallory Maher

52 **Conservation Corner**
by Cameron Sabin

54 **Backyard**

Front cover: Chipmunks in snow by Don Wuori

Back cover: House finch by Joanne Wuori

Above: Saluda River kayaking by Cindy Thompson

Seeing and Hearing South Carolina Wildlife!



BY YAUNNA HUNTER, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

South Carolina State Library is connecting patrons of all ages to *SCW* in wondrous new ways!

"It has been our honor to continue a partnership with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources through our digitization of their *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine," said Leesa Aiken, Director of the South Carolina State Library. "Having the *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine available digitally enables people from across South Carolina and the world to explore, experience, and appreciate the beauty of the incredible Palmetto State. *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine is a treasured state document and a spectacular example of a product created by South Carolina state employees. Our ongoing collaboration on this project ensures access to and a record of the *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine for years to come."

Two departments within the State Library have helped the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) expand readership of the *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine, SCDNR's flagship publication, to all South Carolinians. The magazine promotes natural resource conservation and has been published for seven decades. The South Carolina Talking Book Services (TBS), a department within the State Library that offers free library services to South Carolinians with visual or physical disabilities, has recorded audio versions of all issues of the magazine. The Digitization and Government Documents department at the State Library provides print and digital copies of materials published about South Carolina and has digitized the *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine, making digital copies available to all South Carolinians.



Desire'e Thomas, Collection Development Librarian at the State Library, narrating an issue of the *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine.

South Carolina Wildlife magazine was originally narrated at the Kirkland Correctional Institution in Columbia, by the institutional librarian and inmates. They used a reel-to-reel tape recorder and read the magazine aloud in the institution's library. The library housed canaries that the inmates cared for, so the recordings of wildlife in our state included background bird sounds.

In the early 1980s, TBS took over the role of recording the audio for *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine. Hundreds of volunteer narrators have assisted TBS in producing audio versions of the magazine for all Talking Book patrons across South Carolina. Some volunteers included staff from SCDNR, notably Joey Frazier, a former editor of the *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine, who volunteered as a narrator for six years.

"I call us the small but mighty recording studio," said Jennifer Wilson, director of TBS. "We only have one booth, but we've been able to continue to grow every year. *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine is a huge part of that success."

In 2021, SCDNR partnered with the State Library's Digitization and



South Carolina Wildlife magazine issues, prepped for digitization, on the Zeutschel machine.



Robert Clayton, Studio Manager at the State Library, recording an issue of the *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine.

Government Documents department to digitize the *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine, making it more accessible to the broader public. The department has digitized more than seventy years of the magazine (1954-2025), making it freely accessible through the State Library's digital collections. The magazine's digitization is an ongoing project, with new *South Carolina Wildlife* publications added each year. The department collects and preserves each physical issue of the magazine so that this important South Carolina publication is preserved in the State Library's State Documents Repository for posterity. The State Library also sends a copy to the eleven depositary libraries to provide broader access to the magazine. Today, current issues of *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine are available in the lobby at the State Library for patrons to take home.

"The successful ongoing partnership the State Library has formed with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and *South Carolina Wildlife* is exactly the kind of service the State Library strives to provide to other state government agencies," said Virginia Pierce, director of Digitization and Government Documents. "The State Library was able to utilize its resources and expertise, funded by the South Carolina State Legislature, to fill a need for SCDNR in preserving *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine in digital format. This has created an online archive that all South Carolinians can access. Users can not only browse more than seventy years of *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine online. They can now also keyword search specific topics like hunting, fishing and conservation, as well as writers, photographers and artists who have contributed to the magazine over the full run of the magazine, going back to 1954."



South Carolina State Library and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources staff pictured at the *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine's 70th-anniversary event hosted by the State Library.

Since the 1980s, TBS has recorded more than two hundred issues of the magazine, but its achievements extend beyond that. Initially, *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine has been available only to South Carolina patrons of TBS. However, two years ago, TBS undertook an intensive and challenging project to produce a local recording that meets the exacting standards of the National Library Service (NLS). Meeting those standards meant that what was once a local-only recording would be visible and available to all Talking Book patrons in every state and territory. This year, TBS was informed that *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine has been accepted by the NLS for national distribution, allowing NLS patrons to enjoy it as well. TBS has now joined the ranks of only six regional NLS libraries whose local recordings have been accepted for national distribution.

"This magazine has been enjoyed by thousands of Talking Book patrons," said Naomi Bradey, a TBS reader advisor for more than thirty years. "They have learned so much about the beauty, wildlife and environmental conservation in our beautiful state. And the recording process has improved tremendously. Now patrons all across the country can learn all about South Carolina."

View the digital collections of *South Carolina Wildlife* via QR codes below.

SCW Digital Collection

Statelibrary.sc.gov

To learn more about these valuable services, visit *https://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/*