

The Twelve Days of Christmas

In the Waccamaw Watershed

On the first day of Christmas

my true love sent to me
a partridge in a pear tree...
but in the Waccamaw watershed, I'd rather see
a red-cockaded woodpecker in a longleaf pine tree.

*For more about this endangered species, go to
<http://library.fws.gov/Pubs4/redcockadedwp02.pdf>*

On the second day of Christmas

my true love sent to me
two turtle doves...
but in the Waccamaw watershed, I'd like to see
two bog turtles...
native only to the Eastern United States and the smallest species of turtle in North
America...

*For more about this endangered species, go to
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bog_turtle*

and a partridge in a pear tree (a red-cockaded woodpecker in a longleaf pine tree).

On the third day of Christmas

my true love sent to me
three french hens...
but in the Waccamaw watershed, I'd like to see
three wood stork hens...
the only stork species and the largest wading bird that breeds in the United States...

*For more about this endangered species, go to
www.dnr.sc.gov/cwcs/pdf/Woodstork.pdf*

two turtle doves (two bog turtles)
and a partridge in a pear tree (a red-cockaded woodpecker in a longleaf pine tree).

On the fourth day of Christmas

my true love sent to me
four calling birds...
but in the Waccamaw watershed, I'd like to see
four calling black rails...
these marsh birds are found in freshwater and brackish marshes of the coastal zone but
are experiencing documented or suspected declines...

For more about these and other rails listed as species of special concern, go to www.dnr.sc.gov/cwcs/pdf/Marshbirdgroup.pdf

three french hens (three wood stork hens)
two turtle doves (two bog turtles)
and a partridge in a pear tree (a red-cockaded woodpecker in a longleaf pine tree).

On the fifth day of Christmas

my true love sent to me
five golden rings...
but in the Waccamaw watershed, I'd like to see
five ringneck ducks...

one of five species of bay ducks occurring throughout South Carolina, the ringneck duck's usual breeding grounds include bogs with waters ranging from fresh to somewhat acidic in pH. Populations are described as increasing with conservation need moderately high in the coastal plain ecoregion...

For more information on the State of South Carolina's conservation efforts, go to www.dnr.sc.gov/cwcs/priority.html

four calling birds (four calling black rails)
three french hens (three wood stork hens)
two turtle doves (two bog turtles)
and a partridge in a pear tree (a red-cockaded woodpecker in a longleaf pine tree).

On the sixth day of Christmas

my true love sent to me
six geese a-laying...
but in the Waccamaw watershed, I'd like to see
six snow geese over-laying...

only one population of Greater Snow Geese exists in the world and is confined to the Atlantic flyway, breeding in the Canadian High Arctic and overwintering along the Atlantic coast as far south as South Carolina...

For more information on the Greater Snow Goose, go to www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=44

five golden rings (five ringneck ducks)
four calling birds (four calling black rails)
three french hens (three wood stork hens)
two turtle doves (two bog turtles)
and a partridge in a pear tree (a red-cockaded woodpecker in a longleaf pine tree).

On the seventh day of Christmas

my true love sent to me
seven swans a-swimming...

but in the Waccamaw watershed, I'd like to see
seven Tundra Swans a-swimming...
one of only two populations in North America, the Eastern Tundra Swan's wintering grounds include managed wetlands in the Carolinas. Since their main threat is habitat related, conservation and continued proper management of managed wetlands is imperative for their future...

*For more information on the Tundra Swan, go to
www.dnr.sc.gov/cwcs/pdf/Tundraswans.pdf*

six geese a-laying (six snow geese over-laying)
five golden rings (five ringneck ducks)
four calling birds (four calling black rails)
three french hens (three wood stork hens)
two turtle doves (two bog turtles)
and a partridge in a pear tree (a red-cockaded woodpecker in a longleaf pine tree).

On the eighth day of Christmas

my true love sent to me
eight maids a-milking...
but in the Waccamaw watershed, I'd like to see
eight maids a-milking cows that are hormone-free and raised on family-owned, sustainable farms...
living wages for farm families, healthy rural communities and clean water are some of what you are buying when you choose organic...
Waterkeeper Alliance helps protect rural watersheds by working to prevent the spread of factory-style agriculture and promoting the security of family-owned, sustainable farms.

*For more information on the Pure Farms, Pure Water Campaign, go to
www.waterkeeper.org/ht/d/Contents/cids/275,1383/pid/201*

seven swans a-swimming (seven tundra swans a-swimming)
six geese a-laying (six snow geese over-laying)
five golden rings (five ringneck ducks)
four calling birds (four calling black rails)
three french hens (three wood stork hens)
two turtle doves (two bog turtles)
and a partridge in a pear tree (a red-cockaded woodpecker in a longleaf pine tree).

On the ninth day of Christmas

my true love sent to me
nine ladies dancing...
but in the Waccamaw watershed, I'd like to see
nine Roseate Spoonbills in their courtship dance...
spoonbill courtship displays include ritualized exchanges of nest material, dancing and bill clapping. Sometimes mistaken for flamingos due to their pink coloration, spoonbills

are not usually common in the Carolinas but were observed and photographed in 2009 along the Grand Strand...

For more information on the Roseate Spoonbill, go to <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/Birds/Facts/FactSheets/fact-rosespoonbill.cfm>

eight maids a-milking..hormone-free cows raised on family-owned, sustainable farms
seven swans a-swimming (seven tundra swans a-swimming)
six geese a-laying (six snow geese over-laying)
five golden rings (five ringneck ducks)
four calling birds (four calling black rails)
three french hens (three wood stork hens)
two turtle doves (two bog turtles)
and a partridge in a pear tree (a red-cockaded woodpecker in a longleaf pine tree).

On the tenth day of Christmas

my true love sent to me
ten lords a-leaping...
but in the Waccamaw watershed, I'd like to see
ten Sturgeon a-leaping...
either the endangered Shortnose Sturgeon or the Atlantic Sturgeon (listing requested in 2007)...
the Waccamaw is the site of their historical range of spawning and early nursery habitat and in recent years sightings of sturgeon leaping from the river have been reported...

For more information on the Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon, go to www.dnr.sc.gov/cwcs/pdf/Sturgeon.pdf

nine ladies dancing (nine roseate spoonbills in their courtship dance)
eight maids a-milking..hormone-free cows raised on family-owned, sustainable farms
seven swans a-swimming (seven tundra swans a-swimming)
six geese a-laying (six snow geese over-laying)
five golden rings (five ringneck ducks)
four calling birds (four calling black rails)
three french hens (three wood stork hens)
two turtle doves (two bog turtles)
and a partridge in a pear tree (a red-cockaded woodpecker in a longleaf pine tree).

On the eleventh day of Christmas

my true love sent to me
eleven pipers piping...
but in the Waccamaw watershed, I'd like to see
eleven Piping Plovers...
the Atlantic Coast population of piping plovers are threatened so availability of quality foraging and roosting habitat in the wintering grounds is necessary in order to ensure that

an adequate number of adults survive to migrate back to breeding sites and successfully nest...

For more information on the Piping Plover, go to www.fws.gov/plover/facts.html

ten lords a-leaping (ten sturgeon a-leaping)
nine ladies dancing (nine roseate spoonbills in their courtship dance)
eight maids a-milking..hormone-free cows raised on family-owned, sustainable farms
seven swans a-swimming (seven tundra swans a-swimming)
six geese a-laying (six snow geese over-laying)
five golden rings (five ringneck ducks)
four calling birds (four calling black rails)
three french hens (three wood stork hens)
two turtle doves (two bog turtles)
and a partridge in a pear tree (a red-cockaded woodpecker in a longleaf pine tree).

On the twelfth day of Christmas

my true love sent to me
twelve drummers drumming...
but in the Waccamaw watershed, I'd like to see
twelve mammals drumming...
perhaps the Southeastern Bat, the Eastern Woodrat or the Eastern Fox Squirrel, all
species of conservation concern...
a variety of mammals produce seismic vibrations by drumming a part of their body on a
substrate to communicate multiple messages, including communicating that they too are
aware of the threats to their habitat. As stewards of the Waccamaw watershed, we are all
responsible for their conservation and protection.

*For more information on all species of conservation concern, go to
<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>.*

eleven pipers piping (eleven piping plovers)
ten lords a-leaping (ten sturgeon a-leaping)
nine ladies dancing (nine roseate spoonbills in their courtship dance)
eight maids a-milking..hormone-free cows raised on family-owned, sustainable farms
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