FORESTRY

White-Tailed Deer: The white-tailed deer gets its name from the underside of its tail, which it flashes when running. The species of deer in this area is the Virginia White-Tail. The male deer grow antlers before the mating season and drop them when mating season is over. The average adult male deer is about 33 inches at the shoulder and weighs 140 pounds. Deer are very common around these trails. If you don't see a deer, you might see a footprint in the mud if it has been a rainy season. A sign left by a buck is a tree with the bark rubbed off.

Wild Turkey: These birds are very common around the trails. The male birds, or gobblers, are two and a half to three feet tall. Females are about a third shorter. Turkeys are slender birds with colorful feathers. The feathers, which cover most of their body, change color when moving in light. These feathers can be found lying on the ground, in a field, along a trail, or on a road. Turkeys can commonly be seen along roads where they will eat gravel to grind their food. When walking on the trails in the early spring, one is likely to hear gobblers gobbling. A male turkey can be distinguished by a beard that hangs from its neck. Longer beards indicate an older bird. A sign of turkeys is what looks like a raked area. They rake to find food under leaves.

Great Blue Heron: This bird gets its name from the feathers on the back of its wings that are grayish blue. When searching for food, the heron will walk slowly, or stand and wait for fish. Other foods include: snakes, frogs, crayfish and insects. The best times to see this migratory bird is July through October. When walking to the wetlands, it is best to be quiet if you wish to see it fishing in the shallows. If you don't see it fishing, you may see it circling above. Its 70-inch wing span makes it easily identifiable from the ground. While it is on the ground, it stands about 30 inches high.

Red Fox: The red fox is about 40 inches long, including the tail, and weighs around 11 pounds. The fur is reddish-orange, the tip of the tail is white, and the paws, ears and legs are black. Boyce Mayview Park is an ideal environment for the fox, incorporating all of the animal's favorite habitats, which include wooded tracts, marshes, streams and farm-like fields. Foxes are primarily nocturnal, so the best time to see them would be dawn and dusk. There is about one fox to every 50 acres in wooded and sparsely farmed areas like this one.

Broad-Winged Hawk: The broad-winged hawk is common in this area. Its high pitched screech is often heard as it circles above looking for food. Should one circle close enough to the ground, you can identify it by its tail, which has two dark bands and two light bands. The rest of its underside is white streaked with brown, and its top is dark gray brown. It is said to be an unwary, approachable hawk, and the most common.

Other Animals: If these animals interest you, other ones that may be found in this area include: chipmunk, beaver, carp, mink, little brown bat, painted and snapping turtles, Canada goose, wood duck, blue winged and green winged teals, ring necked and American black ducks, osprey, turkey vulture, green backed heron, common snipe, rock and mourning doves, great horned and eastern screech owls, ravens, downy woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, ruby throated

hummingbird, and countless other song birds. For more information on identifying animals, visit the library or a local bookstore.