



East Quabbin Land Trust Wildlife Species Check List

Members of the community helped inventory all species found at our preserves.
Take one of these check lists to see which ones you can find along your hike!

Semi-common species

Classification	Common Name	Ecological Value	See One?
Animals			
Mammals	American beaver	building dams creates ponds & develops mosaic of wetland habitat	☐
	eastern cottontail	primary prey animal, high reproduction, controls vegetation, disperses seeds	☐
	red squirrel	hoards cones underground, trees grow from leftover cones	☐
	white-footed mouse	staple prey animal, disperses seeds & fungal spores, consumes lots of insects	☐
Birds	American goldfinch	nesting food type deters parasitic cowbirds, disperses seeds across fields	☐
	black duck	healthy wetland habitat indicator, eats invasive plants, ducklings control pests	☐
	dark-eyed junco	controls insect populations, scratching ground spreads seed	☐
	eastern phoebe	catches common insect pests in flight, often raises 2-3 broods per year	☐
	gray catbird	heavy insectivores control pests, ejects parasitic cowbird invaders from nest	☐
	great blue heron	controls prey populations, healthy wetland habitat indicator, cycles nutrients	☐
	red-throated hummingbird	evolved migratory pollinator prefers tubular flowers, eats small flying insects	☐
	song sparrow	critical prey animal, double-scratch behavior spreads seeds & insects	☐
Plants/Fungi			
	bigtooth aspen	stabilizes disturbed/dry soil hosts lots of insects and supports cavity nesters	☐
	bitternut hickory	supports hundreds of insects & songbirds, nutrient-rich leaves fertilize soil	☐

	eastern hemlock	long-living shade tree stabilizes streambanks; thick branches provide shelter	☐
	sweet birch	wintergreen-scented twigs deter mammals & leaves quickly decompose to feed soil	☐
Shrub	beaked hazelnut	fat & protein rich nuts eaten by big & small mammals, thickets nesting for birds	☐
	black huckleberry	early-season nectar, shallow roots stabilize sandy slopes, berries highly prized	☐
	mountain laurel	evergreen thickets provide shelter from weather & protection from pollinators	☐
	northern highbush blueberry	critical food source for 30+ songbirds & mammals, digestion improves germination	☐
Herbaceous	partridgeberry	persistent fruits feed gamebirds & small mammals through harsh winter	☐
	riverbank grape	deer browse foliage, large birds eat fruits, peeling bark used for nesting in vines	☐
	striped wintergreen	evergreen, strong relationship with mycorrhizal fungus, indicates healthy habitat	☐
	tall blue lettuce	supports late-season pollinators, birds & small mammals eat seeds, foliage is browsed	☐
	virgin's bower	abundant late-season pollen & nectar, mammals avoid, vertical growth for habitat	☐
	white wood aster	late-season nectar, shade & drought tolerant, small mammals eat leaves, birds eat seeds	☐
	wild geranium	early-season pollen & nectar, seeds ejected from pods & eaten by songbirds, etc.	☐
	woodland strawberry	vital groundcover supports pollinators; berries feed all birds & mammals who disperse	☐
Fern/Fungi	American royal fern	extensive roots prevent erosion; colonies form dense canopy & help filter water	☐
	common haircap moss	quickly inhabits disturbed areas, retains ambient humidity & helps germinate seeds	☐
	common puffball	decompose organic matter, helps create soil, spores travel far & sometimes grow in moss	☐
	crowded parchment	converts dying heartwood from trees to soil, hard & leathery texture protects from drying	☐
	rock polypody	evergreen fronds create micro-habitats & soil pockets on exposed rock over time	☐
	sensitive fern	indicator of wetland habitat, special host plant & mammals avoid the toxic fronds	☐