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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!

Uncommon Species

Classification	Common Name	Ecological Value	See One?
Animals			
Mammals	American black bear	Disperses large amounts of seeds far from origin. Harvests bugs from rotting logs. Digs in & aerates soil.	☐
	bobcat	Predates on over-abundant small mammals. Controls herbivores from overgrazing.	☐
	North American river otter	Top predator of fish, amphibians & crustaceans. Cycles aquatic nutrients to terrestrial habitats.	☐
	North American porcupine	Forages bark & girdles trees. Snags provide essential habitat & gaps in the canopy.	☐
Birds	bald eagle	Top predator strengthens prey populations & cleans up carrion. Large nests persist for future nesting.	☐
	barred owl	Generalist carnivore controls small mammal, reptiles amphibians & insects. Competes with other raptors.	☐
	common loon	Indicators of polluted water quality. Deep divers control fish & other aquatic species.	☐
	red-breasted nuthatch	Heavily consume insect pests, saving damaged conifer trees. Forages & hides conifer seeds.	☐
	wood thrush	Disperses fruit & berry seeds. Controls insects found in leaf litter. Feeds on calcium from snails, etc.	☐
Plants/Fungi			
Tree	pitch pine	Thick bark protects from fire & stimulates serotinous cones, releases nutritious seeds eaten through winter	☐
	shagbark hickory	Drops large, high-fat nuts. Big shags provide roosts for bats. Large mast years drive up animal survival rates.	☐
	striped maple	Mammals forage twigs, buds & bark through winter. Large birds & small mammals eat samaras.	☐
	tamarack	Pioneer colonizer of disturbed areas, tolerates highly acidic soil. Deciduous conifer fertilizes soil below.	☐

Shrub	American hazelnut	Protein and fat-rich nuts feed mammals & birds, small & large. Dense thicket provides nesting & cover.	☐
	arrowwood viburnum	Spring flower clusters feed pollinators May-June. High fat berries give energy to migratory & resident birds.	☐
	black raspberry	150+ species eat berries & disperse seeds far. Dense thorny thickets provide great cover from predators.	☐
	common witch-hazel	Latest to bloom in Oct-Nov, critical for overwintering insects. Seeds eject from capsules feeding birds, etc.	☐
	lowbush blueberry	Provide early season pollen & nectar. High energy berries feed songbirds, small & large mammals.	☐
	smooth sumac	Dense berry clusters provide food through winter. Summer flowers provide abundant nectar	☐
Herbaceous	bottle gentian	Strong bumblebee relationship with size & shape of bloom. Closed bloom increases pollination.	☐
	eastern poison ivy	Persistent berries feed mammals & birds through winter. Foliage & leaves are browsed with no effect.	☐
	eastern skunk cabbage	Thermogenesis provides heat for the first spring bloom. First fresh foliage foraged in spring.	☐
	eastern wintergreen	Berries & leaves eaten through winter, favored by chipmunks. Groundcover creates small microhabitat.	☐
	false Solomon's seal	Late spring blooms support various bees & other pollinators. Berries consumed late summer & fall.	☐
	ghost pipe	Myco-heterotroph steals from neighbors through underground mycorrhizal fungi. Bumblebees pollinate	☐
	red columbine	Bloom season timed with ruby-throated hummingbird migration, providing special flower anatomy & nectar.	☐
	smooth carrion flower	Foul odor of flower attracts carrion-feeding flies & beetles. Berry clusters feed birds & small mammals.	☐
	sweet-fern	Not a true fern. Fixes atmospheric nitrogen into the soil. Early-successional plant establishes quickly.	☐
Ferns/Fungi	cinnamon fern	Indicator for healthy undisturbed, wetland habitats. Thick fibrous roots trap sediments.	☐
	common bonnet	Decomposer traps carbon & nitrogen from dying wood into soil. Helps create nutrient-rich substrate.	☐
	common bracken fern	Dense fronds create microhabitat but shroud plants beneath. Deep roots are fire resistant.	☐
	crumpled rag lichen	Indicator of air quality. Absorbs atmospheric moisture & nutrients on the exposed surface instead of roots.	☐
	turkey-tail	Decomposes lignin and cellulose from hardwood logs. Direct food source for small mammals & insects	☐