

Annotated Checklist of Ontario Species at Risk found at Queen's University Biological Station

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This list contains all of the species which occur at Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS) that are currently protected as species at risk in Ontario. For each species I give common and scientific names, the category of risk and some additional notes about its status at QUBS. There are 33 species of risk at the station or in its immediate area (17 birds, 8 reptiles, 5 plants, 2 insects and 1 fish). There are 7 **Endangered** species, 8 **Threatened** species and 18 species of **Special Concern**. Definitions for these terms and reasons for inclusion of each species under the Species at Risk Act can be found at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website (<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/>). Actual breeding evidence such as nests, eggs or young of the year is lacking for many of these species. QUBS is interested in obtaining reports of any of these species for our databases; please send observations to Mark Andrew Conboy at 7mc19@queensu.ca.

Birds

- ☐ Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) **Endangered**
 - Rare migrant and winter visitor.

- ☐ King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) **Endangered**
 - Very rare breeder. Recorded only from Bedford Mills in 2003 where an adult with fledglings was observed (Weir 2008; *Birds of the Kingston Region*, 2nd ed).

- ☐ Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) **Threatened**
 - Breeding status requires confirmation; no nests found. Probably breeds on Bracken Tract and at the Hughson Tree Swallow Grid and perhaps on the Massasauga Airfield. Can be found in the surrounding countryside in fair numbers.

- ☐ Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) **Threatened**
 - Does not breed at QUBS proper but presumably breeds at Westport and Newboro where it is seen throughout the breeding season.

- ☐ Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferous*) **Threatened**
 - No longer occurs at some traditional breeding locations (i.e. QUBS Point; Connor and Phelan, personal communication) but remains a common breeder on many of our tracts with particular concentrations at Elbow Lake and along the Cataraqui Trail.

- Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) **Threatened**
 - Historical breeder. Formerly bred at Barb's Marsh in the 1980's (Phelan, personal communication). A few playback surveys of wetlands along Opinicon Road and Indian Lake Road in 2009 found no evidence of any least bitterns.

- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) **Threatened**
 - Rare migrant.

- Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) **Special Concern**
 - Historical breeder in area. Current breeding status requires confirmation. Uncommon in summer but common in autumn through winter. Often congregates at lock stations where open water occurs all winter.

- Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) **Special Concern**
 - Current breeding status needs confirmation. Suspected to breed in Murphy's Bay and on Newboro Lake. Formerly bred in Murphy's Bay with up to 6 active nests in 1996 (Jones, personal communication).

- Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) **Special Concern**
 - Migrant and possible rare breeder. Territorial birds found in spring but no evidence of over-summering or breeding to date.

- Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) **Special Concern**
 - Locally common breeding bird on Bonwill, Pangman and Hughson Tracks. Migrants occasionally observed elsewhere in spring. Recent population estimates from field work conducted in 2010 estimate about 100 breeding pairs on QUBS lands.

- Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) **Special Concern**
 - Breeding status requires confirmation. Observed in low numbers throughout the breeding season but no nests have been found. Generally uncommon at QUBS but during autumn migration flocks of several dozen foraging birds may be seen.

- Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) **Special Concern**
 - Fairly common breeder in suitable habitat throughout QUBS lands. Mainly on Pangman, Hughson and Bracken Tracts but lower numbers occur elsewhere. Mixed golden-winged and blue-winged (*Vermivora cyanoptera*) warbler pairs on Bracken Tract.

- Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) **Special Concern**
 - Probable historic breeder. Confirmation of breeding evidence is required. One male summered on the Massassauga Tract in 2008 but there was no evidence of breeding.

- Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) **Special Concern**
 - Rare migrant.
- Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) **Special Concern**
 - Historical breeder. Formerly bred in Silver Maple Swamp (Martin, personal communication). An observation of an adult north of Randel Marsh in 2008 (King, personal communication) has not been confirmed.
- Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) **Special Concern**
 - Vagrant. Single record from Bracken Tract in May 2009 (Taylor, personal communication).

Fish

- American Eel (*Anquilla rostrata*) **Endangered**
 - Possibly a historical inhabitant of Lake Opinicon and other Rideau Lakes but status requires confirmation. Now unknown from QUBS.

Reptiles

- Black Ratsnake (*Pantherophis spiloides*) **Threatened**
 - Common. Breeds in compost piles and in forest litter. Widespread.
- Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) **Threatened**
 - Fairly common. Breeding evidence is required. Widespread.
- Stinkpot (*Sternotherus odoratus*) **Threatened**
 - Common in Lake Opinicon. Breeding evidence is required.
- Common Five-lined Skink (*Plestiodon fasciatus*) **Special Concern**
 - Rare at QUBS. A female with eggs found near the Cataraqi Trail at Round Lake. Found along Cataraqi Trail, Cape-Sauriol Tract and Elbow Lake.
- Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) **Special Concern**
 - Common in wetlands and along lakeshores. Breeds along roadsides and Cataraqi Trail. Widespread.
- Eastern Ribbonsnake (*Thamnophis sauritus*) **Special Concern**
 - Fairly widespread with concentrations on Bonwill Tract and Moores Tract. Breeding evidence required.
- Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*) **Special Concern**
 - Uncommon. Breeding evidence required. Widespread.

- Northern Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*) **Special Concern**
 - Very common in Lake Opinicon. Breeds on islands and mainland adjacent to the lake.

Insects

- Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) **Special Concern**
 - Can be abundant in some years and virtually absent in other years. Generally a common breeding species. At QUBS the larvae feed on several common species of milkweed (*Asclepias* sp.) and dogbane (*Apocynum* sp.).
- West Virginia White (*Pieris virginiensis*) **Special Concern**
 - Generally uncommon and is restricted to a few locations at QUBS. The short flight season (late May through early June) means this species often goes unrecorded unless specifically sought out. Larvae feed on *Lathraea*.

Plants

- American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) **Endangered**
 - May be extirpated from QUBS but this status requires confirmation.
- Blunt-lobed Woodsia (*Woodsia obtusa*) **Endangered**
 - Rare. Highly restricted distribution at QUBS.
- Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) **Endangered**
 - Uncommon but widespread. Almost all trees show some signs of infection by Butternut Canker (*Sirococcus clavigignenti-juglandacearum*). Many trees do not produce fruit annually. Efforts to map locations of butternuts at QUBS have been underway since 2008.
- Ogden's Pondweed (*Potamogeton ogdenii*) **Endangered**
 - Extremely rare and restricted to the area near Davis Lock on Sand Lake just south of QUBS. This is one of only three known locations for this species in Canada. Current status is entirely unknown and it may be extirpated but this requires confirmation. This is probably the most highly endangered species on this list. It can also be difficult to separate from other *Potamogeton* sp.
- Broad Beech Fern (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*) **Special Concern**
 - Rare. Highly restricted distribution at QUBS.