

Tutsch & Merrill S. Whipple Conservation Area
Coventry Land Trust
906 Main Street, Coventry, RI

Brief Report on Expected Wildlife Species

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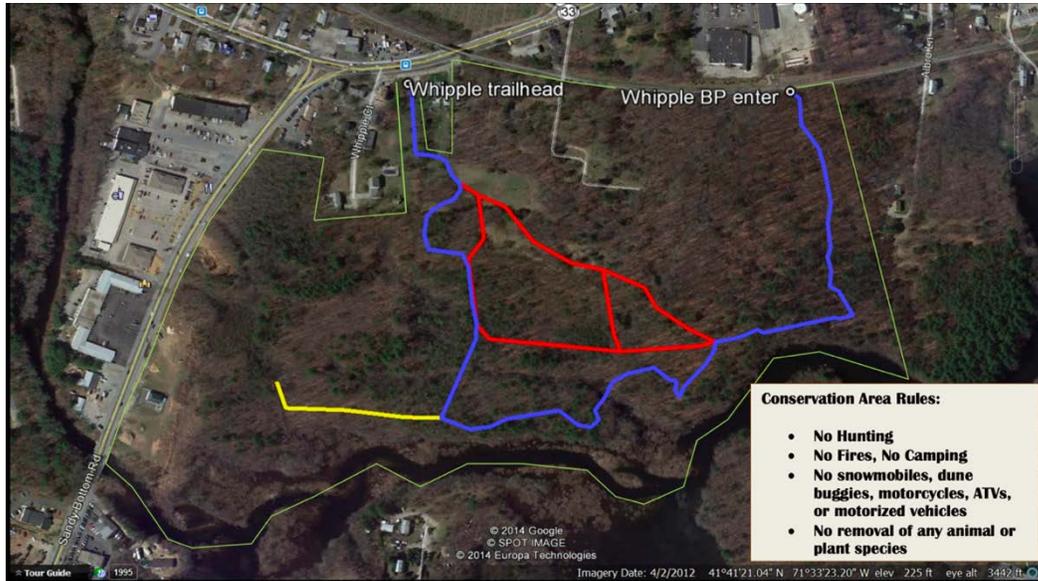


Figure 1. Satellite imagery showing winter vegetation status of the Tutsch & Merrill S. Whipple Conservation Area. Image indicates trails and trailheads and conservation area rules.

Based on satellite imagery (Google Earth images, 1995-2022) and a visit to the site 12/24/22 (1:27 PM to 2:40 PM, sunny, approx. 17°F) and 12/29/22 (3:29 PM to 4:23 PM, partly cloudy, approx. 49°F), the forest matrix is a pine-oak-maple forest of primarily sawtimber size. The entire area has a variety of unique microhabitats and wildlife resources, including, in no particular order: vernal pools, slash piles, snags (standing dead trees) hard mast (i.e. acorns, hickory nuts), soft mast (i.e. berries), pasture (the meadow area), riparian areas, streams, shallow marsh, sedge meadow, wood piles, and the river (Pawtuxet River).

The **trees** observed include:

white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), bitternut hickory (*Carya codiformis*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), black oak (*Quercus velutina*), pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), old-field white pine (*Pinus strobus*), red pine (*Pinus resinosa*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), American basswood (*Tilia americana*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*).

The **woody shrubs** observed include:

Multi-flora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)*, Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)*, maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina*), silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), catalpa (*Catalpa spp.*), common juniper (*Juniperus communis*), sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

The **herbaceous (non-woody) plants** observed include:

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)*, narrowleaf plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), princess pine (*Dendrolycopodium obscurum*), cattails (*Typha spp.*), wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), pippissewa/spotted wintergreen (*Chimaphila umbellata*), sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*), sedges (*Carex spp.*), great mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), crisped pincushion moss (*Ulota crispa*), ghost plant (*Monotropa uniflora*).

*These species are known invasive species and should be carefully managed.

The **wildlife** observed include:

Birds: American crow, cedar waxwing, hairy woodpecker, mourning dove, black-capped chickadee, Canada goose, downy woodpecker, wood duck, great blue heron, mallard, hooded merganser, common merganser, golden-crowned kinglet, red-breasted nuthatch, common raven, white-breasted nuthatch.

Mammals: Gray squirrel, burrow indicating a fossorial species (mole?).

Amphibians and reptiles: None; too cold, but see the list below.

Invertebrates: Evidence of various insects, including wood-boring insects on snags, leaf-miners in shrub leaves, termites, and an insect gall on a shrub.

Expected Wildlife Species

Based on the local topography, geographical features, and forest structure and composition, the following species can be expected to use the Whipple Conservation Area for all or part of the year^{1,2}:

Amphibians & Reptiles

Spotted salamander
Red-spotted newt
Northern dusky salamander
Northern redback salamander
Eastern American toad
Northern spring peeper
Gray treefrog
Green frog
Wood frog
Pickerel frog
Spotted turtle
Painted turtle
Common musk turtle
Northern water snake
Northern brown snake

(Amphibians/Reptiles, cont.)

Northern redbelly snake
Common garter snake
Ribbon snake
Northern ringneck snake
Northern black racer
Eastern smooth green snake
Eastern milk snake

Mammals

Virginia opossum
Gray squirrel
Southern flying squirrel
Red squirrel
Eastern chipmunk
White-footed mouse

(Mammals, cont.)

Southern red-backed vole
Masked shrew
Northern short-tailed shrew
Star-nosed mole
Red fox
Gray fox
White-tailed deer
Little brown myotis (bat)
Northern long-eared bat
Silver-haired bat
Eastern pipistrelle
Big brown bat
Red bat
Hoary bat
Eastern cottontail

(Mammals, cont.)

Woodchuck (groundhog)
Meadow vole
House mouse
Long-tailed weasel
Mink
Coyote
Raccoon
Striped skunk

Birds

Turkey vulture
Cooper's hawk
Broad-winged hawk
Red-tailed hawk
Northern harrier
Red-shouldered hawk
Rough-legged hawk
American kestrel
Osprey
Barn owl
Eastern screech-owl
Northern saw-whet owl
Great horned owl
Barred owl
Great blue heron
Great egret
Green heron
Canada goose
Wood duck
Common merganser
Hooded merganser
American black duck
Mallard
Bufflehead
American wigeon

(Birds, cont.)

Ring-necked duck
Mute swan
Wild turkey
Downy woodpecker
Hairy woodpecker
Northern flicker
Pileated woodpecker
Bald eagle
Blue jay
American crow
Fish crow
Common raven
American woodcock
Common snipe
Rock dove
Mourning dove
White-breasted nuthatch
Red-breasted nuthatch
Brown creeper
Tufted titmouse
Blue-gray gnatcatcher
Blue-winged warbler
Black-and-white warbler
Common yellowthroat
Black-throated green warbler
Golden-winged warbler
Yellow warbler
Northern mockingbird
Eastern wood-pewee
Eastern phoebe
Great crested flycatcher
Eastern kingbird
Wood thrush
Northern waterthrush
Veery
Acadian flycatcher

(Birds, cont.)

House wren
Carolina wren
Barn swallow
Purple martin
Tree swallow
Northern rough-winged swallow
Chimney swift
Chipping sparrow
American tree sparrow
White-throated sparrow
Song sparrow
Northern cardinal
American robin
Cedar waxwing
Common grackle
Brown-headed cowbird
Red-winged blackbird
American goldfinch
Eastern bluebird
Dark-eyed junco
Northern shrike
Yellow-throated vireo
Warbling vireo
Red-eyed vireo
Gray catbird
European starling
Golden-crowned kinglet
Ruby-crowned kinglet
Ruby-throated hummingbird
Black-capped chickadee
Orchard oriole
Baltimore oriole
Purple finch
House finch

1. DeGraaf, R.M., Yamasaki, M. 2001. *New England wildlife: habitat, natural history, and distribution*. University Press of New England. 482 pp.
2. DeGraaf, R.M., Yamasaki, M., Leak, W.B., Lester, A.M. 2006. *Technical guide to forest wildlife habitat management in New England*. University of Vermont Press. 305 pp.