

Plant & Wildlife Survey: Parcel Behind 131 North Main Street, South Deerfield



Conducted for Judith Rathbone
by Charley Eiseman, August 2021
Updated April 2022

On August 25 I spent three hours exploring this 7.5-acre parcel and listing all the plant and wildlife species I observed. Most of the parcel is a red maple swamp, and no town with adequate wetland bylaws would even be considering developing this land. Ditches were dug along the northern and southern boundaries some time ago in an attempt to drain it, but these seem to have accomplished little beyond creating mosquito breeding sites.

The swamp’s canopy is dominated by red maple, with some white pine also present. Cinnamon fern and royal fern are abundant throughout, with other herbaceous wetland plants including sensitive fern, marsh fern, Jack-in-the-pulpit, sedges, stout wood-reed, mad dog skullcap, swamp candles, and swamp dewberry. The patchy shrub layer includes elderberry, arrowwood, wild raisin, winterberry, silky dogwood, maleberry, highbush blueberry, and spicebush, as well as saplings of tupelo, swamp white oak, pin oak, and American elm.

The southeastern portion of the parcel is somewhat drier and has a canopy of planted conifers, mainly red pine and Norway spruce (some smaller Norway spruces are also scattered in the subcanopy to the west). Naturally occurring trees in this stand include red maple, white pine, and paper birch. The entire parcel is forested except for an opening toward the east end that is covered with grape and bittersweet vines, along with wetland herbs such as purple-stemmed aster and jewelweed.

All told, I found 90 native plant species on the parcel, including the planted red pine and balsam fir (Table 2). I also noted 12 nonnative species, which were mostly along the edges and in the planted conifer stand and adjacent opening; they were very sparse in the undisturbed red maple swamp.

I saw or heard two frog species, two mammal species, and eleven bird species, of which the northern goshawk was the most noteworthy (Table 1). I would expect to find many more bird species here earlier in the season when they are singing and nesting. On April 15, 2022, I returned to look for certifiable vernal pools, and although I did not find any, I did see a wood frog at the east end of the parcel. Table 1 includes this sighting as well as additional species documented in videos from the wildlife cameras Sally Naser has installed on the parcel.

Table 1: Vertebrate wildlife species observed as of April 15, 2022 (species in bold added based on videos from wildlife cameras).

| COMMON NAME | LATIN NAME |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Spring peeper | <i>Pseudacris crucifer</i> |
| Gray treefrog | <i>Hyla versicolor</i> |
| Wood frog | <i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i> |
| American woodcock | <i>Scolopax minor</i> |
| Northern goshawk | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> |
| Red-tailed hawk | <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> |
| Downy woodpecker | <i>Picoides pubescens</i> |
| Pileated woodpecker | <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i> |
| Eastern wood-pewee | <i>Contopus virens</i> |

| COMMON NAME | LATIN NAME |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Blue jay | <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i> |
| American crow | <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> |
| Black-capped chickadee | <i>Poecile atricapillus</i> |
| Tufted titmouse | <i>Baeolophus bicolor</i> |
| Red-breasted nuthatch | <i>Sitta canadensis</i> |
| White-breasted nuthatch | <i>Sitta carolinensis</i> |
| Gray catbird | <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i> |
| American goldfinch | <i>Spinus tristis</i> |
| Virginia opossum | <i>Didelphis virginiana</i> |
| Eastern cottontail | <i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i> |
| Gray squirrel | <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i> |
| Southern flying squirrel | <i>Glaucomys volans</i> |
| Coyote | <i>Canis latrans</i> |
| Gray fox | <i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i> |
| Black bear | <i>Ursus americanus</i> |
| Raccoon | <i>Procyon lotor</i> |
| Striped skunk | <i>Mephitis mephitis</i> |
| Bobcat | <i>Lynx rufus</i> |
| White-tailed deer | <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> |



Table 2: Vascular plant species observed on August 25, 2021.

(* = nonnative species)

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| Lycophytes | |
| Lycopodiaceae: clubmoss family | |
| <i>Dendrolycopodium obscurum</i> | flat-branched tree-clubmoss |
| Monilophytes | |
| Athyriaceae: lady fern family | |
| <i>Athyrium angustum</i> | narrow lady fern |
| Dennstaedtiaceae: hay-scented fern family | |
| <i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i> | hay-scented fern |
| Dryopteridaceae: wood fern family | |
| <i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i> | spinulose wood fern |
| <i>Dryopteris intermedia</i> | intermediate wood fern |
| Onocleaceae: fiddlehead fern family | |
| <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> | sensitive fern |
| Osmundaceae: royal fern family | |
| <i>Osmunda claytoniana</i> | interrupted fern |
| <i>Osmunda spectabilis</i> | royal fern |
| <i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i> | cinnamon fern |
| Thelypteridaceae: marsh fern family | |
| <i>Parathelypteris noveboracensis</i> | New York fern |
| <i>Thelypteris palustris</i> | marsh fern |
| Gymnosperms | |
| Pinaceae: pine family | |
| <i>Abies balsamea</i> | balsam fir |
| * <i>Picea abies</i> | Norway spruce |
| <i>Pinus resinosa</i> | red pine |
| <i>Pinus strobus</i> | white pine |
| <i>Tsuga canadensis</i> | eastern hemlock |
| Taxaceae: yew family | |
| * <i>Taxus</i> sp. | yew |
| Monocots | |
| Araceae: arum family | |
| <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> | Jack-in-the-pulpit |
| Asparagaceae: asparagus family | |
| <i>Maianthemum canadense</i> | Canada mayflower |
| <i>Maianthemum racemosum</i> ssp. <i>racemosum</i> | false Solomon's seal |
| Colchicaceae: colchicum family | |
| <i>Uvularia sessilifolia</i> | sessile-leaved bellwort, wild oats |
| Cyperaceae: sedge family | |
| <i>Carex arctata</i> | drooping woodland sedge |
| <i>Carex debilis</i> var. <i>rudgei</i> | white-edged sedge |
| <i>Carex scoparia</i> var. <i>scoparia</i> | pointed broom sedge |
| <i>Carex swanii</i> | Swan's sedge |
| <i>Carex</i> sp. | sedge |

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| Juncaceae: rush family | |
| <i>Juncus tenuis</i> | path rush |
| Liliaceae: lily family | |
| <i>Medeola virginiana</i> | Indian cucumber root |
| Poaceae: grass family | |
| <i>Brachyelytrum aristosum</i> | northern long-awned wood grass |
| <i>Cinna arundinacea</i> | stout wood-reed |
| <i>Dichanthelium acuminatum</i> ssp. <i>fasciculatum</i> | hairy rosette-panicgrass |
| Smilacaceae: catbrier family | |
| <i>Smilax herbacea</i> | carrionflower |
| <i>Smilax rotundifolia</i> | common greenbrier |
| Tricolpates | |
| Adoxaceae: elderberry family | |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>canadensis</i> | black elderberry |
| <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> var. <i>lucidum</i> | smooth arrowwood |
| <i>Viburnum nudum</i> var. <i>cassinoides</i> | wild raisin |
| Anacardiaceae: cashew family | |
| <i>Rhus hirta</i> | staghorn sumac |
| <i>Toxicodendron radicans</i> ssp. <i>radicans</i> | poison ivy |
| Apiaceae: parsley family | |
| <i>Aralia nudicaulis</i> | wild sarsaparilla |
| Apocynaceae: milkweed family | |
| <i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i> | spreading dogbane |
| Aquifoliaceae: holly family | |
| <i>Ilex verticillata</i> | common winterberry |
| Asteraceae: aster family | |
| <i>Bidens</i> sp. | beggar-ticks |
| <i>Doellingeria umbellata</i> var. <i>umbellata</i> | flat-topped aster |
| <i>Erechtites hieraciifolius</i> var. <i>hieraciifolius</i> | American burnweed |
| <i>Euthamia graminifolia</i> | grass-leaved goldenrod |
| <i>Oclemena acuminata</i> | whorled wood aster |
| <i>Solidago rugosa</i> ssp. <i>rugosa</i> | rough-stemmed goldenrod |
| <i>Symphyotrichum puniceum</i> var. <i>puniceum</i> | purple-stemmed aster |
| Balsaminaceae: touch-me-not family | |
| <i>Impatiens capensis</i> | jewelweed |
| Berberidaceae: barberry family | |
| * <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> | Japanese barberry |
| Betulaceae: birch family | |
| <i>Betula lenta</i> | black birch |
| <i>Betula papyrifera</i> | paper birch |
| <i>Betula populifolia</i> | gray birch |
| Campanulaceae: bellflower family | |
| <i>Lobelia inflata</i> | bladder-pod lobelia |
| Caprifoliaceae: honeysuckle family | |
| * <i>Lonicera morrowii</i> | Morrow's honeysuckle |
| Celastraceae: bittersweet family | |
| * <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> | Asian bittersweet |
| * <i>Euonymus alatus</i> | burning-bush |

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| Cornaceae: dogwood family | |
| <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> | alternate-leaved dogwood |
| <i>Cornus amomum</i> | silky dogwood |
| Ericaceae: heath family | |
| <i>Lyonia ligustrina</i> var. <i>ligustrina</i> | maleberry |
| <i>Monotropa uniflora</i> | Indian-pipe |
| <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> | highbush blueberry |
| Fabaceae: legume family | |
| <i>Apios americana</i> | groundnut |
| * <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> | black locust |
| Fagaceae: beech family | |
| <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> | American beech |
| <i>Quercus alba</i> | white oak |
| <i>Quercus bicolor</i> | swamp white oak |
| <i>Quercus palustris</i> | pin oak |
| <i>Quercus rubra</i> | red oak |
| <i>Quercus velutina</i> | black oak |
| Hamamelidaceae: witch hazel family | |
| <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> | witch hazel |
| Juglandaceae: walnut family | |
| <i>Carya ovata</i> | shagbark hickory |
| Lamiaceae: mint family | |
| <i>Scutellaria lateriflora</i> | mad dog skullcap |
| Lauraceae: laurel family | |
| <i>Lindera benzoin</i> | spicebush |
| <i>Sassafras albidum</i> | sassafras |
| Myrsinaceae: colicwood family | |
| <i>Lysimachia borealis</i> | starflower |
| <i>Lysimachia terrestris</i> | swamp candles |
| Nyssaceae: tupelo family | |
| <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> | tupelo |
| Oleaceae: olive family | |
| <i>Fraxinus americana</i> | white ash |
| Phytolaccaceae: pokeweed family | |
| <i>Phytolacca americana</i> | pokeweed |
| Rhamnaceae: buckthorn family | |
| * <i>Frangula alnus</i> | glossy buckthorn |
| Rosaceae: rose family | |
| <i>Amelanchier</i> sp. | shadbush |
| <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> | black chokeberry |
| * <i>Malus</i> sp. | apple |
| <i>Potentilla simplex</i> | common cinquefoil |
| <i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>serotina</i> | black cherry |
| * <i>Prunus serrulata</i> | Japanese cherry |
| <i>Prunus virginiana</i> var. <i>virginiana</i> | choke cherry |
| * <i>Rosa multiflora</i> | multiflora rose |
| <i>Rubus flagellaris</i> | northern dewberry |
| <i>Rubus hispidus</i> | swamp dewberry |
| <i>Rubus idaeus</i> ssp. <i>strigosus</i> | red raspberry |

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| <i>Rubus</i> sp. | blackberry |
| * <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> | European mountain-ash |
| Rubiaceae: madder family | |
| <i>Houstonia caerulea</i> | little bluet |
| <i>Mitchella repens</i> | partridgeberry |
| Sapindaceae: soapberry family | |
| <i>Acer rubrum</i> | red maple |
| <i>Acer saccharinum</i> | silver maple |
| <i>Acer saccharum</i> | sugar maple |
| Ulmaceae: elm family | |
| <i>Ulmus americana</i> | American elm |
| Vitaceae: grape family | |
| <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> | Virginia creeper |
| <i>Vitis labrusca</i> | Fox grape |