

Acidic Brownwater Lake/Pond

MNHESP State Rank: Unranked

PHYSICAL

Hydrology Ponded with water depth exceeding 2 m (6.5 ft).

Soil Inundated, with soft organic muck substrate.

Topography Located in drainage basins.

Elevation Usually occurring above 448 m (1470 ft) in Berkshire County.

Form Natural or man-made (i.e., impoundments) lakes in areas with acidic bedrock such as schist or gneiss. Shoreline areas adjacent to peatlands, which provides organic acids that discolor the water.

DOMINANT PLANT SPECIES¹

Canopy Absent.

Subcanopy Absent.

Shrubs Absent.

Herbs Canada bluejoint, lurid sedge, soft rush, tiny pondweed, ribbonleaf pondweed, and common bladderwort.

Climbing Plants Absent.

Bryophytes Prevalent around periphery of community, *Sphagnum* a common genus.

Notes Dark-stained water limits light for submerged aquatic plant growth.

COMMON ANIMAL SPECIES²

Mammals Snowshoe hare, raccoon, red fox, coyote, white-tailed deer, and meadow vole.

Birds Tree swallow, bank swallow, barn swallow, Canada goose, mallard, American black duck, and green-winged teal.



Herpetiles American toad, spotted salamander, eastern newt, pickerel frog, and green frog.

Fish Unknown.

Notes Olive-sided flycatcher, a rarely sighted bird in the study area, was observed at the edge of this community.

CONSERVATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND NOTES

MNHESP State Rank Unranked.

Rare Species³ Common moorhen (SC).

Distribution in MA More common in the western and higher elevation portions of the state.

Distribution in the Study Area None observed.

Variation None observed.

Synonyms Lacustrine Open Water, Lacustrine Aquatic Bed, Lacustrine Unconsolidated Bottom (Cowardin *et al.* 1979).

REFERENCES

Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deep Water Habitats of the United States. U.S. Government Printing Office.

Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. 1999. Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas: 2000-2001 Edition. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Westborough, MA, USA.

¹ Scientific names provided in Attachment F.

² Scientific names provided in Attachment C.

³ State rank and status follow MNHESP 1999.