

Moderately Alkaline Lake/Pond

MNHESP State Rank: Unranked

PHYSICAL

Hydrology Ponded with water depth exceeding 2 meters.

Soil Inundated, upper horizons organic over silt and fine sand.

Topography Gently sloped shore.

Elevation Usually occurring between 221 and 391 meters (725 and 1283 ft) in Berkshire County, sites in study area at 276 – 440 meters (905 – 1443 ft).

Form Lakes in areas influenced by high pH bedrock—limestone (pH ranges from 7.0 – 9.0). Bottom substrate usually soft.

DOMINANT PLANT SPECIES¹

Canopy Absent.

Subcanopy Absent.

Shrubs Absent.

Herbs Common hornwort, common water-nymph, Canada waterweed, tape-grass, long-beaked water crowfoot, tiny pondweed, floating pondweed, flatstem pondweed, red pondweed, Eurasian milfoil, and crisped pondweed.

Characteristics Variable, but often dense. Rosette-forming species usually absent.

Climbing Plants Absent.

Bryophytes Largely absent.

Notes Invasive species tend to be prevalent in this community. The latter two herbs are non-native and invasive.

¹ Scientific names provided in Attachment F.



COMMON ANIMAL SPECIES²

Mammals Long-tail weasel, mink, river otter, and raccoon.

Birds Great blue heron, tree swallow, bank swallow, barn swallow, northern rough-winged swallow, wood duck, Canada goose, and mallard.

Herpetiles Green frog, pickerel frog, American toad, bullfrog, eastern newt, wood frog, snapping turtle, and painted turtle.

Fish Bluegill, pumpkinseed sunfish, largemouth bass, yellow perch, chain pickerel, brown bullhead, and golden shiner.

Invertebrates Eastern elliptio, eastern floater, and many arthropods.

Notes Dragonfly community well developed.

CONSERVATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND NOTES

MNHESP State Rank Unranked

Rare Species³ Hard-stem bulrush and oblong bulrush.

Distribution in MA Unknown.

² Scientific names provided in Attachment C.

³ State rank and status follow MNHESP 1999.

Distribution in the Study Area Confined to the central valley region in areas of limestone bedrock. Examples include Threemile Pond, Silver Lake, and Woods Pond.

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.

