

## Appendix E-1

**BIOLOGICAL STUDIES REPORT**  
**TOURO COLLEGE SITE**  
Warwick, New York

*Prepared for:*

**TOURO COLLEGE**  
**c/o Lakeland Management LLC**  
Hauppauge, New York

**OCTOBER 2007**

*Prepared by:*

**P S & S**  
integrating design & engineering

Warren (Somerset County), New Jersey 07059

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

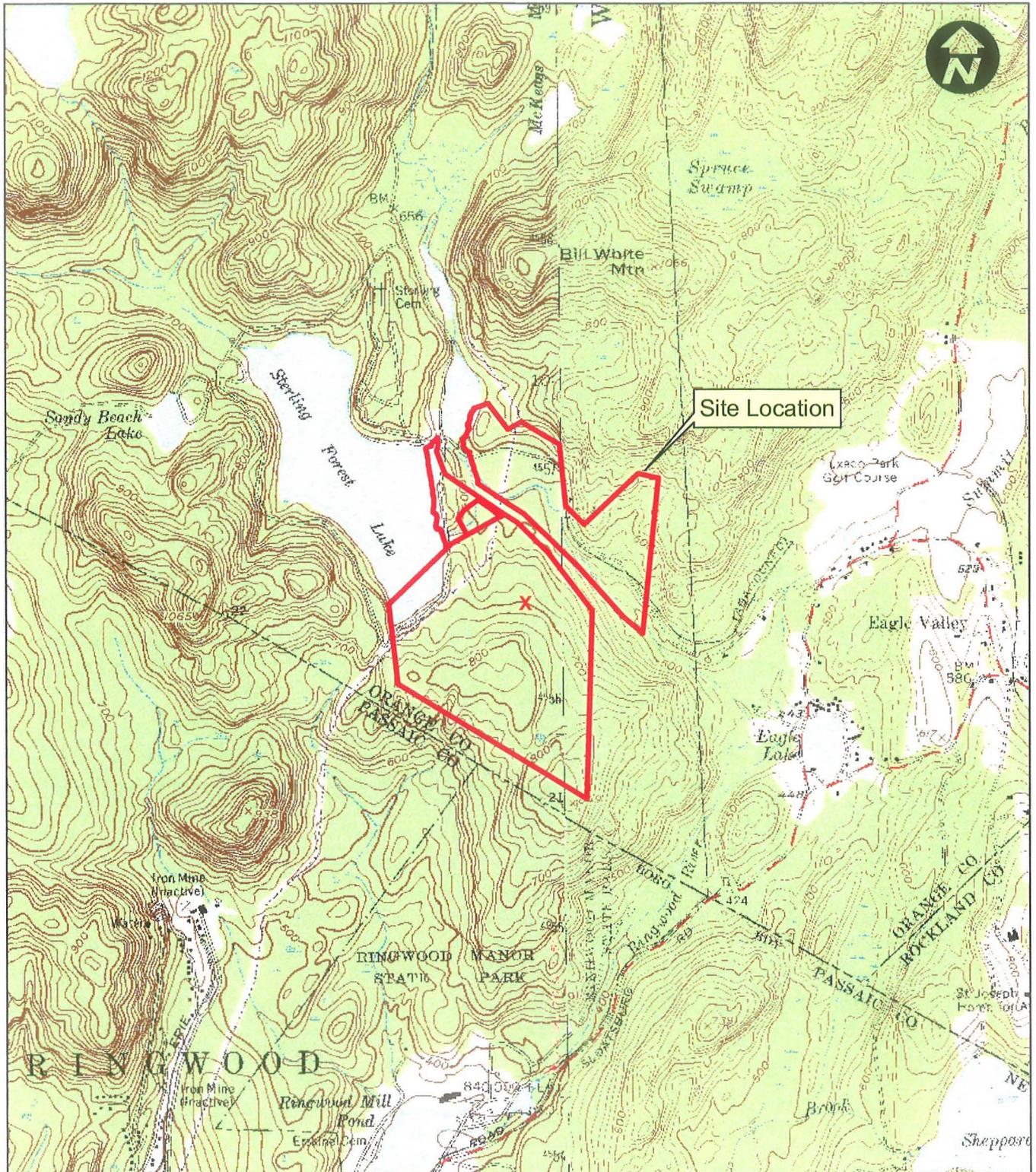
1.0	INTRODUCTION .....	1-1
2.0	VEGETATION .....	2-1
3.0	WILDLIFE.....	3-1
4.0	THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES .....	4-1
4.1	Plant Species .....	4-1
4.2	Animal Species .....	4-2
5.0	AQUATIC RESOURCES .....	5-1
6.0	WETLANDS.....	6-1
6.1	Wetland Regulations.....	6-1
6.2	Definitions and Methodology .....	6-1
6.3	Wetlands are defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 230.3) as: ...	6-1
6.4	Hydrophytic Vegetation.....	6-2
6.5	Wetland Hydrology.....	6-3
6.6	Hydric Soils .....	6-4
7.0	CONCLUSIONS.....	7-1
8.0	REFERENCES .....	8-1

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by Paulus Sokolowski and Sartor PC (PS&SPC) as supplemental information to support a township development plan and or State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. Field surveys were conducted by PS&SPC on the Project Site (Site) to inventory ecological resources and evaluate the Site for the presence or absence of Federal or State listed threatened, endangered, species of special concern and critical habitat for these species. Surveys were conducted from April through September and included a delineation of wetlands on the eastern portion of the property.

The Site is an 168 acre property located in Warwick Township, Orange County, New York (Figure 1). The Site is the location of the former Kings College, a 121,200 square foot building with approximately 3,500 linear feet of roadway. The former college is located adjacent to and over looks Sterling Forest Lake. The building is to be demolished.

The proposed Site development includes a residential community with two (2) elementary schools, athletic fields and courts, a place of worship and a private 4-year college. The proposed residential development of the property includes 200 single family houses and 70 townhouses. The townhouses will serve as student housing for the proposed 55,000 square foot college. The private college and residential community will have separate entrances. Each elementary school will be approximately 15,000 square feet. Adjacent to each school will be a swimming pool and tennis courts. The boy's school will also have a basketball court. A multi-purpose athletic field will serve both the boys and girls and is proposed to be located between the schools. The proposed 5,000 square foot synagogue will be located near the boy's elementary school. The community will be interconnected with a series of roadways throughout the site. The total proposed area of disturbance is approximately 61 acres.



**Legend**

 Site Location

SOURCE:  
 Greenwood Lake Quadrangle  
 Sloatsburg Quadrangle  
 USGS Topographic Map  
 7.5 Minute Series  
 STATE PLANE COORDINATES  
 E 562764.071  
 N 4556356.187

**USGS SITE LOCATION MAP**

**Touro Warwick College  
 Township of Warwick  
 Orange County, New York**



Drawn By: RS	Scale: 1" = 2000'	Project No. 03171.004.010
Chk'd By: DG	Date: 08/17/07	Figure No. 1

## 2.0 VEGETATION

Vegetation consists of the plant life or the total plant cover found in an area whether indigenous or introduced by man. The Site falls within the Highlands Physiographic Province of New York which includes upland valleys and slopes, upland ridges, rock outcrops and wetlands. There's a wide diversity of plant communities that can occur in a relatively small area that is characteristic of habitat conditions and plant communities occurring throughout the northeast.

Soil, slope, riparian corridors and exposure are important factors in the formation of the plant associations. A description of the soils is included in Section 6 and is shown on Figure 4. PS&S established vegetation sampling transects were designed to include each of these factors. This study included a two (2) part investigation; the first characterization of the general vegetation communities on the site and the second to an evaluation of the presence of threatened and endangered species on the site.

A series of 14 transects were run though the different habitats on the site. The locations of these transects are shown on Figure 2. A list of the plant species observed along each transect is included as Table 1. All plants within one (1) meter of the transect were identified and recorded. The transects were run to identify the vegetative species found on the site and to search for potential threatened and endangered species identified on the New York Natural Heritage database. Table 5 lists when the plant surveys were conducted and the number of hours invested in each survey.

The majority of Site's vegetation is characterized as a second growth upland eastern deciduous forest that likely established following historical logging operations. The dominant tree species on the Site are upland and mesic oak species, including red oak (*Quercus rubra*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), and chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*). Co-dominant species include American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and sugar maple (*A. saccharum*) and in some areas, hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). While the oaks can be found throughout the Site, the distribution of the co-dominant species help define the different vegetation communities. On the northern side of the Old Sterling Road along the slopes of the Ringwood River are two (2) areas of deciduous forest and south of the existing school there are an additional two (2) areas of deciduous forest which include a Canada hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) association. In addition, there is a forested wetland community along the river. Another distinct community is located at the southern end of the property. Soils in this area include Rock outcrop-Hollis Complex with moderate to steep slopes (ROC and ROD). These thin soils support the characteristic chestnut oak community which dominates these ridges.

There is a riparian corridor on the northern side of Old Sterling Road. This area contains a forested wetland dominated by red maple and white ash. Understory and herbaceous species in the wetland include American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) and jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*).

Wetlands were delineated on the portion of the property south of Old Sterling Road. Forested wetlands located north of Old Sterling Road were not delineated as no development is anticipated on this portion of the site.

Tree size range from seedlings and sapling, 1 - 4 inch diameter at breast height (dbh) to occasional trees 8 - 36 inches dbh. Most of the oaks on the Site have a dbh range of between 12 and 30 inches. Maples on the Site tended to have a slightly smaller dbh of 4 to 10 inches. Other trees on the Site fell within these ranges.

During the vegetation survey, one NYSDEC threatened plant species, Hyssop skullcap was observed.

Table 1  
Vegetation Transects  
Touro College Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	Transects													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>								x						
Cinnamon fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>									x		x	x		x
Bracken fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>			x	x	x	x					x	x		x
Maidenhair fern	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>						x	x							
Ebony spleenwort	<i>Asplenium platyneuron</i>	x													
New York fern	<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Christmas fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>									x	x				
Sensitive fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>					x			x	x		x			
Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	x	x												x
White pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>					x			x						
Tulip poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>					x			x						
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>			x	x	x	x					x	x		
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>									x	x				x
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>							x		x		x	x	x	x
Witch hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x		x	x
Shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovalis</i>	x								x			x	x	
Mockernut hickory	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	x		x	x	x	x	x							
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	x	x		x	x	x	x			x		x	x	
Chestnut oak	<i>Quercus prinus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x						x	x	x
Red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x			x			x	
Black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>				x			x							
American hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>		x	x	x			x				x			
Black birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							
Gray birch	<i>Betula populifolia</i>					x									
Yellow birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>							x				x			x
Pennsylvania smartweed	<i>Polygonum pensylvanicum</i>					x									
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>					x									
Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>					x			x						
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>					x			x	x			x		x
Mountain laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>					x									
Winter green	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>							x							
Low bush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x		x				x	x
Indian pipe	<i>Monotropa uniflora</i>											x			
Dwarf spirea	<i>Spiraea latifolia</i>					x									
Wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>					x									
Dwarf cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla canadensis</i>					x									
Raspberry	<i>Rubus occidentalis</i>				x	x									
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>					x				x					x
Wild-black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>			x											
Pin Cherry	<i>Prunus pennsylvanica</i>									x					
Crabapple	<i>Pyrus coronaria</i>								x						
Birds foot trifoli	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>					x				x					
Crown vetch	<i>Coronilla varia</i>								x						
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>									x					
Sweet yellow clover	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>									x					
Flowering dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>		x	x	x		x							x	
Black gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>													x	
Wahoo	<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>				x		x	x					x	x	
Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>					x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>				x	x		x	x	x		x		x	
Fox grape	<i>Vitis labrusca</i>			x	x	x		x				x	x		
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>				x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x
Poison ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>			x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>								x						
Wood sorrel	<i>Oxalis stricta</i>					x			x						
Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>									x			x	x	x
Queen Ann's lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>									x					
Spreading dogbane	<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>					x									
Indian hemp	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>					x									
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>					x									
Morning glory	<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>					x									
Scutellaria integrifolia	<i>Hyssop skullcap</i>					x									
Motherwort	<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>					x									
Lance leaved plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>									x					
Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>					x				x					
White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>				x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
Common mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>					x									
Mugwort	<i>Limosella aquatica</i>														x
Rough bedstraw	<i>Galium asprellum</i>					x				x					
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>					x									
Maple-leaved viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	x	x			x	x	x		x	x				
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>					x									
Ragweed	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>					x				x					x
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>					x									
Sweet goldenrod	<i>Solidago odora</i>					x									
Goldenrod spp	<i>Solidago spp.</i>					x				x					
White snakeroot	<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>			x					x		x				
Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>														x
Field hawkweed	<i>Hieracium pratense</i>					x				x					
Skunk cabbage	<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>									x	x		x	x	x

Table 1  
Vegetation Transects  
Touro College Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	Transects													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Jack in a pulpet	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>						x	x				x			
Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>								x						
Nut sedge	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>					x		x							
Rye spp	<i>Lolium spp.</i>					x									
Upland bentgrass	<i>Agrostis hyemalis</i>													x	
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>					x		x							
Poa spp	<i>Poa spp.</i>					x								x	
Deer-tongue grass	<i>Panicum cladestinum</i>			x		x									x
Crab grass	<i>Digitaria filiformis</i>											x			
Japanese stiltgrass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>											x		x	x
Cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>							x							
False Hellbore	<i>Veratrum viride</i>								x						
Large-flowered trillium	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>									x					
Indian cucumber root	<i>Medeola virginiana</i>			x											
Nodding trillium	<i>Trillium cernuum</i>											x	x		
False Solomon's seal	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>			x	x						x	x	x		x
Greenbrier	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>											x			

**Legend**

- Site Location
- Vegetation Transects

Source:  
PSS Field Survey, August 2007  
Aerials Express, 2006



Touro Warwick College  
Township of Warwick  
Orange County, New York

**VEGETATION TRANSECTS**

Date	Scale	Project	Page No.
08/14/07	1:1000	Warwick College	1 of 1



### 3.0 WILDLIFE

An area's wildlife is dependent upon the quality of the habitat present. All organisms require food, water, cover and living space. The relative lack or abundance of each of these resources in relation to each species' life requisites help determine its presence or absence and if present, its distribution and the population dynamics for that species. Population dynamics and distribution are also dependent on the size, shape and complexity of the different vegetative communities and surrounding land use. Wildlife species tolerance of disturbance and human activity ranges from intolerant to dependent. Some species such as the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) have demonstrated great adaptability and tolerance to human disturbance. A few species require disturbance in order to complete their lifecycle yet other species are intolerant of most human disturbance.

Wildlife studies were conducted to characterize the general wildlife species utilizing the Site and to evaluate the presence of threatened and endangered species on the site. As the identification of potential breeding and not population dynamics was the object of the study, counts of individual species observed were not included in the survey. Surveys included a review of existing reports, review of NJDEP and NYSDEC databases and field observations. Habitat characteristics observed during vegetation surveys, literature review and database review was used to generate a list of species likely to occur on the site and potentially suitable habitat. Field observations were used to supplement existing information. Wildlife species expected to be found and observed on the Site are listed in Tables 2 through 4. The potential for each species to be breeding on the Site is also listed in these tables. Field observations included the following:

#### Terrestrial Invertebrates

The NYSDEC lists a number of terrestrial invertebrate species as threatened, endangered or species of special concern. These include dragonflies, moths and butterfly species. These species are typically found in open areas like the power line right-of-way or with respect to the dragonflies and damselflies utilize Sterling Forest Lake and the Ringwood River for the nymph portion of their life cycle. As no activities are proposed in the lake or river, and the power line right-of-way will not be altered by project implementation. Therefore, a detailed assessment of the use of the Site by invertebrate species was not included in this survey.

#### Reptiles and Amphibians

The NYSDEC lists Timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) as threatened in the State of New York. In addition the wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*), marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*) and box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) are listed as NYSDEC Species of Special Concern. In order to characterize the reptiles and amphibians utilizing the site and identify potential NYSDEC listed species usage of the site the following survey techniques were utilized:

- Slowly walking the transects and recording all species directly observed or heard calling;
- Using a snake hook, to examine suitable refugia (logs, boards, stumps, etc.);

- Conducting nocturnal road surveys of the roads with the use of headlights in the vicinity of the Site to intercept individuals crossing roadways;
- Listening for calling amphibians during evening and night hours;

Fortuitous observations of snakes and other amphibians and reptiles along the roads were recorded and referred to during the Site characterization and assessment of habitat quality. Table 5 lists the dates and times that the surveys were conducted.

### **Birds**

For raptors, an assessment of the habitat on the Site was conducted to determine the potential for these species to be utilizing the Site. Calls of red-shouldered hawks and Cooper's hawk broadcast to illicit a response. Other species of bird were identified using transects across the Site. Surveys began approximately on half hour before sunrise and continued until early afternoon. Each transect was run once during each day of the survey. Birds were identified by both sight (Table 5) and by their individual calls. Evidence of breeding was recorded. Evidence of breeding on the Site included males calling during the nesting season, birds carrying nesting material and nests.

Raptor calling included playing taped recordings of red-shouldered hawks, red haled hawks and Cooper's hawks to elicit a response. The calling sequence for the red-shouldered hawk consisted of consisted of three minutes of red-shouldered hawk calls, followed by three minutes of silence and 3 minutes of red-tailed hawk calls. The calling sequence was followed by five (5) minutes of silence. This was repeated twice at each calling station. The calling sequence for Cooper's hawk consisted of three minutes of Cooper's hawks calls, three minutes of silence and three additional minutes of Cooper's hawk calls. The calling sequence was followed by five (5) minutes of silence and was repeated twice at each calling station. The raptor calling locations and bird transects are depicted on Figure 3. Table 5 lists the dates and times that the surveys were conducted.

### **Mammals**

No species specific survey was conducted for mammals on the Site. There were no records of threatened or endangered species identified on either the NYSDEC or NJDEP Natural Heritage database reports. Fortuitous observations of mammals or mammal sign observed during other survey activities were recorded in the field notes. Signs observed included calls, scat, tracks and hair.

**Table 2**  
**Amphibians and Reptiles**  
**Observed on the Touro College Site**

Musk Turtle	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>
Box turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>
Painted turtle	<i>Chrysemys scripta</i>
Snapping turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>
Five-lined skink	<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i>
Northern water snake	<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>
Garter snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>
Black racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>
Red-spotted newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>
Redbacked salamander	<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>
Slimy salamander	<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>
Two lined salamander	<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>
American toad	<i>Bufo americanus</i>
Spring peepers	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>
Gray treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>
Green frog	<i>Rana clamitans</i>
Bull frog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>
Leopard frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>

Table 3  
Birds  
Observed on the Touro College Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	Breeding Status
Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	NOS
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Confirmed
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Confirmed
Wood duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Suitable
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	NOS
Common merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Suitable
Hooded merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Suitable
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	NOS
Wild turkey	<i>Megeagris gallopavo</i>	Confirmed
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Suitable
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Suitable
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	NOS
Red-shoulder hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	South of site*
Morning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Confirmed
Black-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Confirmed
Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Confirmed
Ruby-throated hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Confirmed
Piliated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Confirmed
Red-bellied woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Suitable
Yellow shafted flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Confirmed
Hairy woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Confirmed
Great crested flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Confirmed
Eastern kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Confirmed
Eastern peewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Confirmed
Eastern phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Confirmed
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Suitable
Blue jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Confirmed
Black-capped chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	Confirmed
Tufted titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>	Confirmed
White-breasted nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Confirmed
House wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Confirmed
Gray catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Confirmed
Northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Confirmed
American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Confirmed
Eastern bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Confirmed
Wood thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Confirmed
Red-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Confirmed
Yellow-throated vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Confirmed
Yellow-throated warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	NOS
Blackpoll warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	NOS
Black-throated blue warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Suitable
Black and white warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Confirmed
Yellow-rumped warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	NOS
Magnolia warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Suitable
American red start	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Confirmed
Blue-winged warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Suitable
Yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Confirmed
Worm-eating warbler	<i>Helminthos vermivorus</i>	Confirmed
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Confirmed
Brown-headed cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Confirmed
Red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Confirmed
Common grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Confirmed
European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Confirmed
Baltimore oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Confirmed
Scarlet tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Confirmed
Northern cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Confirmed
Indigo bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Confirmed
White-throated sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Confirmed
Chipping sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Confirmed
Song sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Confirmed

Confirmed - Calling during the nesting season, observed carrying nesting material or observed in nest

Suitable - Suitable habitat available on site but not confirmed

\* - observed carrying prey items to location south of site

NOS - Not on site - either migratory species, no suitable habitat on site or no evidence of this species breeding on site

**Table 4**  
**Mammals**  
**Observed on the Touro College Site**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Opossum	<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>
Short tailed shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>
Eastern mole	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>
Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
Stripped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
Fox	<i>Vulpes fulva</i>
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>
Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>
Gray squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>
Deer mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>
White-footed mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>
Meadow vole	<i>Micotus pennsylvanicus</i>
Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>

**Legend**

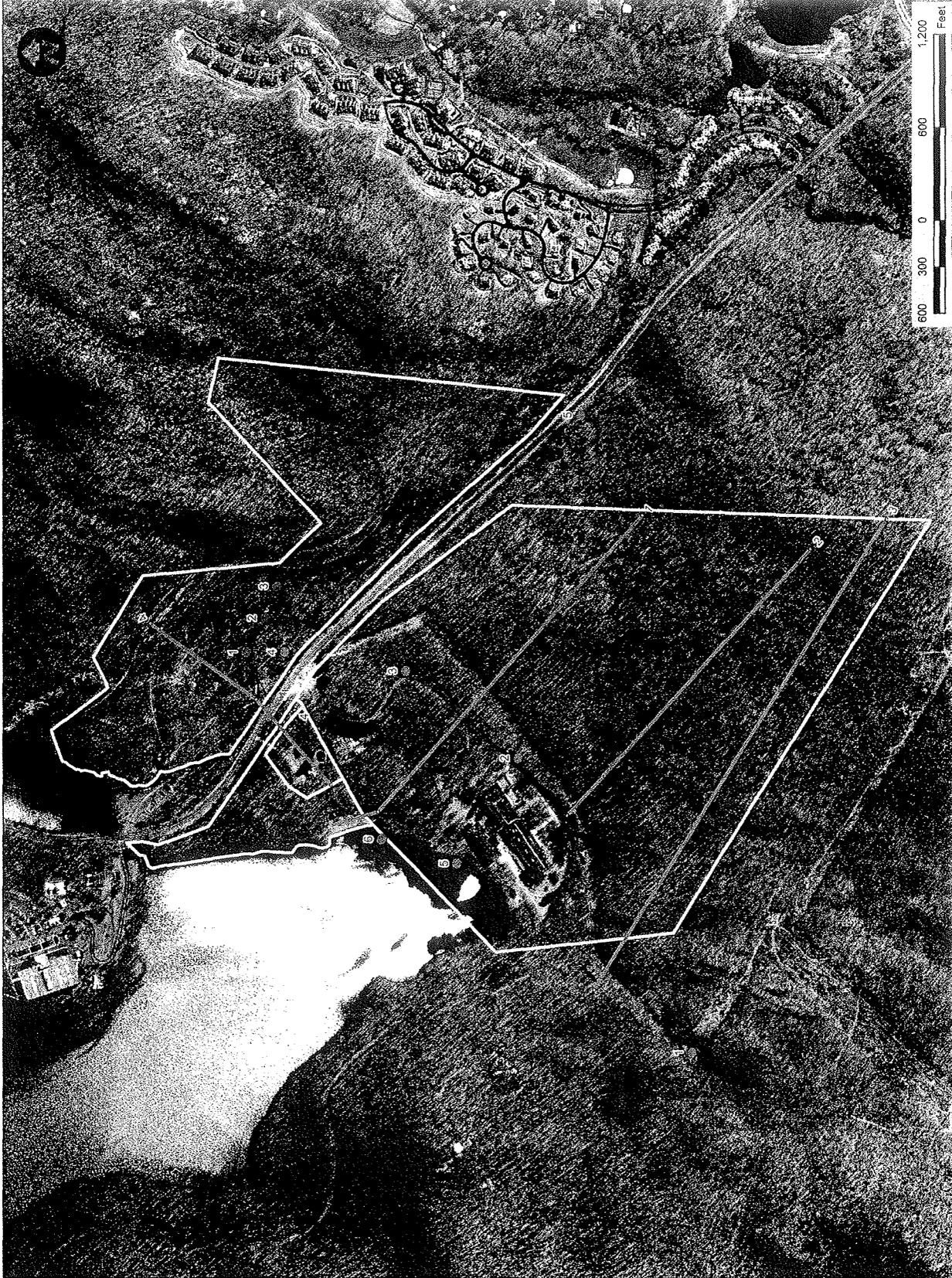
- Site Location
- Raptor Calling Stations
- Benthic Samples
- Avian Transects

Source:  
PS&S Field Survey, August, 2007  
Aerials Express, 2006

**PS&S**  
integrating science & engineering

Touro Warwick College  
Township of Warwick  
Orange County, New York

WILDLIFE SURVEY  
OBSERVATION LOCATION



#### 4.0 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The NYSDEC Natural Heritage Program was contacted for information concerning historic records of threatened and endangered species on and in the vicinity of the project Site. Due to the proximity of the Site to New Jersey and Ringwood Manor State Park, Natural Heritage Data was also requested from the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program. The US Fish and Wildlife Service was not contacted for a specific list of federally listed species on the site as federally listed species were included on both the NYSDCE and NJDEP lists.

Vegetation surveys followed standard transect methods as described in Miller-Dombois and Ellenberg, 1974. Specific habitat searches for threatened and endangered plant species utilized the same methodology on a site specific scale.

#### 4.1 Plant Species

The New York Natural Heritage database lists the presence of the following threatened or endangered plant species in the vicinity of the Site:

- Terrestrial starwort (*Callitriche terrestris*);
- Green parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum pinnatum*);
- Hyssop skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*); and
- Michaux's blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium mucronatum*)

Terrestrial starwort is classified as threatened by the NYSDEC while green parrot's feather, hyssop skullcap and Michaux's blue-eyed grass are classified as endangered.

The following sections briefly discuss the habitat requirements of each species, potential habitat on site for each species and anticipated impacts to each species from the proposed project.

##### **Terrestrial Starwort**

The terrestrial starwort (*Callitriche terrestris*) is listed as a threatened plant species on the NYSDEC threatened and endangered species list. This species is typically found in damp shaded habitat. This is a small plant with tufted branches spreading along the ground or climbing nearby rocks or other objects. Potential habitat for this species on the Site includes along the edge of Sterling Forest Lake, the edge of Ringwood River and along the perennial stream located between the existing college and Sterling Forest Road. No terrestrial starworts were observed during this investigation. As there is no evidence that this species is on site, and there are no proposed activities anticipated along the edge of Sterling Forest Lake or in the vicinity of the Ringwood River, no impacts to this species is anticipated to result from the proposed project.

### **Green parrot's feather**

Green parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum pinnatum*) is a member of the aquatic milfoil family. It is listed by the NYSDEC as an endangered species in New York. This species is found primarily in ponds. Leaves are arranged in whorls of 3 to 5 leaves per whorl. Potential habitat for this species on the Site is generally limited to Sterling Forest Lake. Green parrot's feather milfoil was not observed during this investigation. As the project does not propose any activities in Sterling Forest Lake, no impact to this species are anticipated.

### **Hyssop skullcap**

Hyssop skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*) is a summer perennial with a terminal raceme of purple-blue flowers. It is listed as a NYSDEC threatened species. This species inhabits a wide range of habitats from pine-barrens to wet meadows. Typically, hyssop skullcap is found along the edge of roadsides, woodland borders, fields, and in wet meadows. Potential habitat for this species on the Site includes the edge of Sterling Forest Road, the Site access road and the power line right-of-ways. Vegetation transects were run down the length of the power line right-of-way, the most probable location for this species on Site. Small colonies of hyssop skullcap were observed along the right-of-way portion of the Site. The proposed project will not result in activities along the power line right-of-way. Prior to construction activities, those portions of the power line right-of-way inhabited by this species should be fenced to prevent accidental disturbance. With appropriate mitigative measures to prevent disturbance of the power line right-of-way, no impacts to this species are anticipated to occur from project implementation.

### **Michaux's blue-eyed grass**

Michaux's blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium mucronatum*) is in the iris family. The flowering season for this species is summer. The six (6) petal flower is blue with a yellow center. The petals of the flowers have distinctly pointed tips. It is found in fields, meadows, bogs and along forest edges. This species prefers areas of full sun throughout the day. Potential habitat for this species on Site occurs along the power line right-of-way. Vegetation transects were completed for the length of the power line right-of-way and the wetlands south of the former treatment plant. Michaux's blue-eyed grass was not observed. As proposed, the project will not impact habitat suitable for this species. Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated to result from project implementation.

## **4.2 Animal Species**

In New York State, a Threatened Species is 1) any native species likely to become an Endangered Species (i.e. in imminent danger of extirpation or extinction) within the foreseeable future in New York State, or 2) any species listed as threatened by the United States Department of the Interior, as enumerated in the Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11. Species of Special Concern are those species which are not recognized as

threatened or endangered, but for which documented concern exists for their continued welfare in New York. Species of Special Concern receive no additional legal protection under Environmental Conservation Law Section 11-0535.

The NYSDEC Natural Heritage Data Base has no records of endangered animals on the project Site. The NYSDEC data base has records of six species of special concern within one-quarter mile of the project Site (listed below). In addition, the New York data base has a record of timber rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*), a New York State threatened species, within 1.5 miles of the Site.

The New Jersey Natural Heritage Program has identified the following species listed by the NYSDEC as endangered, threatened or a Species of Special Concern as occurring in New Jersey and within ¼ mile of the Site:

- Timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) State Threatened;
- Red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) NYSDEC Listed Species of Special Concern;
- Wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*) NYSDEC Listed Species of Special Concern;
- Marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*) NYSDEC Listed Species of Special Concern;
- Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) NYSDEC Listed Species of Special Concern;
- Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) NYSDEC Listed Species of Special Concern
- Eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) NYSDEC Listed Species of Special Concern

Between April 10 and September 6, 2007, PS&S conducted Site reconnaissance surveys to determine the presence or absence of State Threatened and Endangered Species and/or the presence of suitable habitat for these species.

**Table 5**  
**Sampling Effort**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>HOURS/TIME OF DAY</b>
Raptor Survey	10 April 2007	3hrs/Morning
Avian Survey	10 April 2007	2hrs/Morning
Vernal Pond Survey	10 April 2007	3hrs/Evening
Raptor Survey	18 April 2007	3hrs/Morning/Afternoon
Avian Survey	18 April 2007	1 hr/Afternoon
Vernal Pond Survey	18 April 2007	3hrs/Evening
Raptor Survey	25 April 2007	2hrs/Morning
Herpetological Survey	25 April 2007	4hrs/ Afternoon
Vernal Pond Survey	25 April 2007	2hr/Evening
Raptor Survey	3 May 2007	2.5hrs/Aternoon
Herpetological Survey	3 May 2007	4hrs/Afternoon
Avian Survey	3 May 2007	2hrs/Morning
Vernal Pond Survey	3 May 2007	2hrs/Afternoon
Avian Survey	11 May 2007	12hrs (2 surveyors)/Morning/afternoon
Herpetological Survey	11 May 2007	4 hrs (2 surveyors)/Afternoon
Raptor Survey	22 May 2007	2.5 hrs/Morning
Avian Survey	22 May 2007	2 hrs/Morning
Herpetological Survey	22 May 2007	4 hrs/Afternoon
Vernal Pond Survey	22 May 2007	1.5 hrs/Evening
Raptor Survey	1 June 2007	2 hrs (2 surveyors)/Morning
Avian Survey	1 June 2007	10 hrs (2 surveyors)/Morning/Afternoon
Herpetological Survey	1 June 2007	2 hrs (2 suveyors)/Afternoon
Vegetation Surveys	14 June 2007	10 hrs/Afternoon
Herpetological Survey	14 June 2007	2 hrs/Morning
Vegetation Surveys	25 July 2007	8 hrs/Afternoon
Herpetological Survey	25 July 2007	3 hrs/Morning
Vegetation Surveys	17 August 2007	4 hrs/Morning
Herpetological Survey	17 August 2007	4 hrs/Afternoon
Incidental Raptor observations	17 August 2007	1 hr/Afternoon
Vegetation Survey/Wetlands	6 September 2007	12 hrs (2 surveyors)/Morning/Afternoon
Incidental Raptor observations	6 September 2007	2 hrs (2 surveyors)/Afternoon
Herpetological Survey	6 September 2007	2 hrs/Afternoon

The following sections briefly discuss the habitat requirements of each species, habitat suitability for each species and potential impacts of project implementation on each species analysis.

## Timber Rattlesnake

The timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) is an ectothermic reptile which undergoes an annual cycle related to seasonal changes of temperature and its environment. Thermoregulation and winter survival require most populations to undergo a period of hibernation through the winter. The major phases of the seasonal cycle are listed in Table 6.

<b>Table 6</b>		
<b>Seasonal Cycle of Rattlesnakes in New York</b>		
<b>Phase</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Earliest Emergence from dens	First appearance of snakes on surface of a den in the spring	April 8
General Emergence from den	Range of dates most snakes appear on surface in the spring	May 7 - May 21
General Ingress	Range of dates most snakes appear at dens in autumn	Sept. 14 - Oct. 1
Latest Ingress	Last appearance of snakes at den in autumn	October 16
* Source - Brown, 1992		

A typical hibernaculum (den) is located in a rocky area where underground crevices provided retreats for overwintering. In northeastern New York, granitic escarpments and ledges with accumulations of talus are prominent features at and around favored den sites. Elevations of the dens range between 500 and 1300 ft. A typical den site is on the southerly slope of a hill or mountain which is ledgy. Because of the rockyness of the den sites, there is typically little vegetation around the entrance. Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and wild grape (*Vitis* spp.) are typically the only vegetation adjacent to the dens.

There are two outcrop areas in the southern portion of the Site with southerly exposures. These outcrop areas provide a south/southwestern exposure with steep rocky slopes and ledges, rock out crops, and grassy shelf clearings. Elevations of these ridges are between 780 and 800 feet which fall within the typical range utilized by this species. Canopy vegetation observed on Site contains red oak, chestnut oak, red maple, and black birch. The shrub layer consists of maple leaved viburnum, American hornbeam and witch hazel. Ground cover is dominated by low bush blueberry. There is heavy vegetation with a closed canopy over the outcrop areas. Because of the closed canopy there is virtually no basking habitat at the outcrops for this species. The closed canopy and lack of basking habitat excludes these outcrop areas as suitable rattlesnake den habitat.

The New York data base has a record of timber rattlesnakes within 1.5 miles of the Site. The New Jersey Natural Heritage Data Base has records of timber rattlesnakes sited within one-quarter mile of the Site. Aerial photographs of the surrounding areas, with the

exception of the power line right-of-way, do not show open canopy outcrops immediately adjacent to the Site. During this and other surveys (Klemens, Oct & Nov. 2005) conducted on the Site, no rattlesnakes, or evidence of snakes, such as scat or shed skins were observed on the Site. In addition an NYSDEC Conservation Officer indicated that he had not observed any rattlesnakes in the vicinity of the Site (NYSDEC, 2007).

While suitable foraging habitat is located on the Site into which snakes would disperse after leaving den sites, it does not appear to support this species. Any determination of the specific regulatory implementations of the suitability of the site will be made by the NYSDEC during the SEQRA review process. Prior to construction activities on the site, it is recommended that the construction area be fenced using silt fencing. Once the fencing is completed, the fenced area should be searched by a biologist for rattlesnakes to prevent accidentally harming any snakes that may have been using the site for foraging.

### **Red-Shouldered Hawk**

The red-shouldered hawk is a striped, broad winged hawk. At the turn of the century, this species was the most common species of hawk in New England (Weidensaul, 1989, Terres, 1991). The logging of mature forests and pesticide contamination has contributed to the decline of this species. The red-shouldered hawks however tend to relatively tolerant of human disturbance.

The preferred nesting habitat for this species is mature moist woodlands (maple/hemlock forest), riparian corridors and forested wetlands (Peterson, 1980; Weidensaul, 1989; Terres, 1991). Nests of red-shouldered hawks in southwestern Quebec were located in mature, closed canopy, deciduous forest in close proximity to a natural clearing (88 feet) and to riparian or lakeshore habitat (distance to water body averaged 202 feet; Armstrong and Euler 1982). Red-shouldered hawks require large tracts of mature floodplain or riparian forests as nesting habitat (Bednarz and Dinsmore 1981); 550 acre area corresponded with 50% of maximum probability of occurrence, and 100 acre patches were the minimum used (Robbins et al. 1989). The red-shouldered hawk's nest is a large mass of sticks and twigs built close to the trunk of a tall deciduous tree.

Foraging habitat includes the wooded margins of marshes, often close to cultivated fields and forest natural openings (Bednarz and Dinsmore 1981, DeGraaf and Rappole 1995). Bednarz and Dinsmore (1981) found that marsh or wet meadow feeding areas interspersed within or adjacent to the forest typically were > 55 acres, and as small as 8 acres.

The majority of the Site is second growth upland forest habitat. Forested wetlands are present within riparian corridor are found in the northern portion of the Site. The riparian corridor parallels Sterling Lake Road through the Site and crosses the road to the south of the Site. These forested areas provide potential nesting habitat. No nests and no responses to call back tapes, however, were observed in these areas.

On July 25, 2007, a pair of red-shouldered hawks was observed along the power line right-of-way south of the Site. This pair was observed foraging along the power line right-of-way and one was carrying a prey item. The bird carrying the prey item flew south and was gone for approximately 30 minutes. When it returned it no longer was carrying anything. Based on this observation, the lack of observed nests and the lack of response to calls, this pair of red-shouldered hawks is likely nesting south of the Site and foraging along the power line right-of-ways on or in the vicinity of the Site.

The red-shouldered hawks are relatively tolerant of human disturbance. The Site is also bounded by two State Parks, Sterling Forest State Park and Ringwood Manor State Park, which provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for this species. It is not anticipated that this species will be significantly impacted by the proposed development.

### **Wood Turtle**

The wood turtle is a species requiring high quality free flowing streams for breeding and hibernating, and adjacent wetland and upland habitat for feeding (Herpetological Associates, 1981). This species is known to travel great distances while foraging making them susceptible to impacts associated with traffic, domestic pets and other human interactions (Conant, 1975).

Typical breeding and overwintering habitat for wood turtles is shallow (up to three feet deep), streams with good water quality. Outside of the breeding and overwintering periods, the wood turtle is one of the most terrestrial species. They can be found in a variety of habitats up to a mile from the stream.

The portion of the site adjacent to the Ringwood River includes areas of emergent or forested wetlands with adjacent upland fields and forest.

The Ringwood River also appears to have sufficient water and flow during the critical winter months to support hibernating turtles. Wetlands associated with the river range from broad to narrow. The wetland areas adjacent to the power line right-of-way are relatively broad while the areas along the southern and western portions of the stream are associated with upland areas dominated by steep slopes.

No wood turtles were observed on the Site during 2007 site investigations. Wood turtles have been previously reported to occur on the site and they may utilize the portion of the Site northeast of Sterling Forest Road. No development activities are proposed within the breeding and overwintering habitat. Prior to construction activities on the site, it is recommended that the construction area be fenced using silt fencing. Once the fencing is completed, the fenced area should be searched by a biologist for wood turtles to prevent accidentally harming any turtles. Through implementation of these measures, it is anticipated that this species will not be impacted by the proposed development.

## **Marbled Salamander**

The marbled salamander is part of a group of salamanders known as the mole salamanders. These amphibians spend most of their life underground. However, they congregate adjacent to temporary ponds in the fall to breed. The distance that they migrate to the breeding ponds has not been established. Marbled salamanders lay eggs in low depressions which fill with water and form temporary ponds or pools. Breeding activities are typically completed in a few nights and these amphibians disappear for another year. Encounters with marbled salamanders at times other than the breeding season are typically chance encounters. They have been encountered during excavation for foundations at depths of greater than 4 feet (Conant, 1975).

Standing water was surveyed for the presence of larva of this species. This survey was conducted through the use of a dip net and careful search of the leaf litter in the pools. All organisms collected were returned to the pools unharmed. In addition, road cruising was conducted on rainy nights to observe frogs and salamanders crossing roadways and to listen for calling amphibians. No evidence of marbled salamanders was observed on the site.

The wetland area northeast of Sterling Forest Road and wetland area 8 contain small ephemeral ponds. These ponds were dry by May 11, 2007. The ponded areas were sampled using a dip net in April 2007. No marbled salamanders or past evidence of breeding in the ponds was observed. Amphibian breeding activity (spring peepers, green frogs and American toads) southwest of Sterling Forest Road was observed in emergent wetland areas. No evidence of *Ambystoma* salamander activity was observed in these emergent wetlands.

## **Box Turtle**

Box turtles live in open woodlands, pastures and marshy meadows. They are often found near streams and ponds. They are omnivores feeding on snails, insects, berries, fungi, worms, slugs, flowers, fish, frogs, snakes and birds. The young are primarily carnivorous while adults tend to be herbivorous, although they do not eat green leaves.

Environmental temperature determines the box turtle's activity rates. In the summer, box turtles restrict their activities to mornings and after rain. They crawl into or under decaying logs, leaves, mammal borrows or mud to stay cool. In very hot weather, they will go into shady pools and puddles to cool off. Box turtles are diurnal and scoop out a shallow indentation in which to spend the night. They hibernate in the winter, borrowing up to two (2) feet deep into loose earth, mud, stream bottoms, old stump holes or mammal borrows.

The site provides suitable habitat for this species. On June 1, 2007 a female box turtle was observed in the vicinity of the existing building. Two additional box turtle shells were found in the vicinity of the existing building during Site investigations.

In addition to maintaining the habitat along the powder line right-of-way, the proposed project will result in additional open field habitat that would support this species. Prior to construction activities on the site, it is recommended that the construction area be fenced using silt fencing. Once the fencing is completed, the fenced area should be searched by a biologist for box turtles to prevent accidentally harming any turtles. Through implementation of these measures it is anticipated that this species will not be impacted by the proposed development.

### **Cooper's Hawk**

This crow sized blue and russet hawk has a relatively long rounded tail which is cross barred with black bars, a buffy neck nape and dark gray crown (Terres, 1991). This bird belongs to the group of hawks known as Accipiters which are the short winged hawks. Deciduous woods are the preferred habitat for Cooper's hawks although they tend to seek out a tall conifer tree for nesting (Weidensaul, 1989). Nests consist of a large platform of sticks and large chips of bark. The Cooper's hawk does not tolerate the smaller, similar and competitive sharp shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) within the same woodland area where it is nesting (Terres, 1991). Primary prey for this species consists of medium sized songbirds such as woodpeckers, grackles, starlings, robins, jays and doves. When abundant, small mammals such as chipmunks, red squirrels, mice and rats will also be taken. When nesting, Cooper's hawks rarely hunt in the vicinity of their nest, preferring to hunt in other habitats (Weidensaul, 1989).

This species tends to be tolerant of human activities. They are known to patrol bird feeders in the winter and have historically taken young chickens around farms (Weidensaul, 1989), and passerines from residential bird feeders (personal observation).

The deciduous upland habitat of the Site provides suitable potential habitat for both breeding and foraging. No Cooper's hawks were observed during the field surveys nor were any nests observed.

As discussed above the Site is bounded by two State Parks, which provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for this species. Given the amount of preserved forested habitat in the vicinity of the Site, it is anticipated that this species will not be adversely impacted by the proposed development.

### **Eastern Bluebird**

The eastern bluebird is a small blue/reddish brown colored bird typically found in open country, farms, cut-over woods, gardens, parks, fields, orchards, and along roadsides. They are commonly found perched on fences or utility wires. This species nests in cavities and has encountered serious competition from introduced cavity nesting species such as starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*).

The eastern bluebird feeds mostly on insects and often flies from a fence, wire or low tree to catch grasshoppers, crickets, katydids or beetles which make up the largest part of its diet (Terres, 1991). They are also known to eat spiders, millipedes, centipedes, sow bugs, snails, earthworms, lizards and tree frogs. Bluebirds will also eat blackberries, bayberries, fruit of honeysuckles, Virginia creeper, red cedar, wild grapes, pokeberries, and sumac seeds.

Nests are constructed primarily by the female in natural tree cavities, woodpecker holes, holes in stumps, fence rails and bird boxes, 3 to 20 feet above the ground. Nests are constructed using dried grasses, pine needles, weed stems, and fine twigs. Nests are lined with fine grasses, hairs and feathers.

The eastern bluebird is an open country species. The only open country habitat on the Site is along the power-line right-of-way, adjacent to the dike along the eastern edge of Sterling Forest Lake and the former Kings College campus. There are numerous tree cavities in the vicinity of these open country habitat areas to provide nesting habit for this species. During the field survey, numerous bluebirds were observed at each of these locations.

Under the proposed development plan, there are no anticipated disturbances associated with the power line right-of-way habitat currently being utilized by this species. Power line maintenance will continue to maintain this right-of-way as old field habitat suitable for this species. Installation of nesting boxes along the power line right-of-way can provide additional nesting opportunities for this species.

The area surrounding the former Kings College campus and the area along the dike will be disturbed by project implementation. These areas will no longer serve as suitable nesting habitat for this species. It is anticipated that the loss of these patches of habitat will not have an adverse impact due to additional off-site power line right-of-ways in the vicinity of the Site. In order to prevent potential impacts to individual nesting eastern blue bird; it is recommended that potential cavity trees in the vicinity of the former Kings College campus and along the dike be cut during the fall and winter.

It is anticipated that the power line right-of-way will continue to serve as eastern bluebird habitat subsequent to project implementation.

## 5.0 AQUATIC RESOURCES

Aquatic resources on the Site include a portion of Sterling Forest Lake, a reach of the Ringwood River and wetlands associated with the river and its tributaries. Sterling Forest Lake is a deep, (approximately 120 feet) oligotrophic natural lake which is deepened by a 20 foot high dam. The Lake is State owned and is part of Sterling Forest State Park.

Surveys conducted by the NYSDEC Bureau of Fisheries, Biological Survey Unit, conducted on May 31, 2000 indicate that the lake supports a breeding population of lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*). In addition, rainbow (*Salmo gairdneri*) and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) were stocked in the lake while it was under private ownership. Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) had been the main forage base in the lake; however, they are, based on NYSDEC Bureau of Fisheries surveys conducted in 1998 and 2000, no longer present in the lake. The following species were collected by NYSDEC during their 2000 survey:

- Smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*);
- Rock bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*);
- Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*);
- Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*);
- Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*);
- Chain pickerel (*Esox niger*); and
- Yellow perch (*Perca fluviatilis*).

The Ringwood River flows through the northeastern portion of the Site. The reach of the stream which flows through the Site is identified as a Class C (T) freshwater. The NYSDEC defined best usage of Class C waters is fishing. These waters are suitable for fish propagation and survival. The water is also suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes. The (T) appearing after the standard designation indicates that the waters are suitable for supporting trout. In March, 2007 the NYSDEC stocked 290 8-9 inch brown trout in the Ringwood River. Immediately downstream of the Site, in New Jersey, the NJDEP stocks brown and rainbow trout in the river.

The proposed development is designed to avoid the aquatic habitat present on the site. Appropriate soil erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented to prevent the migration of sediment to Sterling Forest Lake and the Ringwood River during construction activities. Stormwater management controls should be implemented to reduce stormwater runoff into these water bodies subsequent to the development of the site. With appropriate soil erosion and sediment control measures and stormwater management facilities It is anticipated that the proposed project will have no significant negative impact on the aquatic resources in the project area.

## 6.0 WETLANDS

The entire portion of the Site east of Sterling Road was examined for the presence or absence of wetlands. Each wetland delineated within the project area was classified according to habitat type. A review of the NYS Department of Transportation, Greenwood Lake and Sloatsburg Freshwater Wetland Quadrangles shows the presence of NYSDEC Freshwater Wetland area GR-18, Gr-19 and GR-120 located north of the Site (Figure 5). The NYSDEC Freshwater Wetland maps do not indicate the presence of NYSDEC regulated wetlands within the project Site.

The National Wetlands Inventory Maps (NWI), Greenwood Lake and Sloatsburg Freshwater Wetland Quadrangles indicate palustrine forested (PF01), palustrine scrub/shrub (PSS1) wetlands and palustrine open waters (POW) associated with the Ringwood River. Sterling Forest Lake is identified as lacustrine, limnetic open waters (L1OW). No wetlands are delineated on the portion of the Site west of Sterling Road.

### 6.1 Wetland Regulations

A variety of federal and state regulations affect construction and other activities in wetlands and in areas immediately adjacent to wetlands. The principal federal laws that regulate activities in wetlands are Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Other federal laws that may apply include the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Swampbuster provision of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990.

The principal New York State regulation affecting development activities in and near freshwater wetlands is the Freshwater Wetlands Act (6NYCRR Part 663). Other state laws that may regulate activities in or near wetlands include the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)(6NYCRR Part 617), and the Use and Protection of Waters Program (6NYCRR Part 608).

### 6.2 Definitions and Methodology

Jurisdictional Waters of the United States (WoUS) is a term used and defined by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 33 Code of Federal Regulations 328. This term as defined in the federal regulations includes “wetlands.” However, for the purposes of this report the different types of jurisdictional water systems are defined as either “WoUS” or “wetlands”. WoUS will denote non-vegetated, contiguous watercourses or waterways with well defined banks, or intermittent streams as opposed to “wetlands” as defined below.

### 6.3 Wetlands are defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 230.3) as:

*Those areas that are inundated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.*

Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Recognizing the potential for continued or accelerated degradation of the nation's water, including wetlands, the U.S. Congress enacted the Clean Water Act. Section 404 of the Act authorizes the Secretary of the Army, acting through the USACE, to regulate the filling of waters of the United States and disturbance of wetlands. USACE's Environmental Laboratory (EL), has prepared the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (EL, 1987). This manual describes technical guidelines and methods using a multi-parameter approach to identify and delineate wetlands as per Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

PS&SPC's field methodology for the identification of Waters of the United States, including wetlands, followed procedures established in the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (EL, 1987) for routine on site inspections. In accordance with this methodology, the following three parameters are diagnostic of wetlands: (1) the vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes; (2) the substrate is undrained hydric soil; and (3) the substrate is saturated with groundwater or flooded for a significant part of the growing season each year. It is required that under normal conditions all three of these conditions be met for an area to be defined as a wetland. "Normal Conditions" refers to the soil and hydrology conditions that are normally present, without regard to whether the vegetation has been removed (EL, 1987).

Prior to field investigations, the following maps were referenced to determine the likely potential for the presence of wetlands at the Site:

- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute topographic map (Sloatsburg and Greenwood Lake New Jersey/New York)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map (Sloatsburg and Greenwood Lake New Jersey/New York)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil County Survey (SCS) map for Orange County, New York
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Freshwater Wetland Mapping (Sloatsburg and Greenwood Lake New Jersey/New York)

#### 6.4 Hydrophytic Vegetation

The initial step in the wetland delineation was to characterize the dominant vegetation in each vegetation layer. Dominant species are those that have the largest relative basal area, height, number of stems, or greatest areal cover (EL, 1987). The vegetation was then compared to the National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands, Northeast (Region 1) (NWI, 1988) to determine if hydrophytic vegetation was present.

A "hydrophyte" is any plant "growing in water, soil, or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content" (EL, 1987). Since most species can tolerate a range of growing conditions, individual species are not solely restricted to either wetland or upland communities. The USFWS has developed a classification scheme that assigns species to wetland indicator classes as listed in Table 7 (NWL, 1988).

<b>Table 7 Plant Indicator Status Categories</b>			
<b>Indicator Category</b>	<b>Indicator Symbol</b>	<b>% Occurrence in Wetlands</b>	<b>Status Categories</b>
Obligate Wetland Plants	OBL	>99	Plants that occur almost always in wetlands under natural conditions, but which may also occur rarely in nonwetlands.
Facultative Wetland Plants	FACW	67-99	Plants that occur usually in wetlands, but also occur (1% to 33%) in nonwetlands.
Facultative Plants	FAC	33-67	Plants with a similar likelihood of occurring in both wetlands and nonwetlands.
Facultative Upland Plants	FACU	1-33	Plants that occur sometimes in wetlands, but occur more often in nonwetlands.
Upland Plants	UPL	<1	Plants that occur rarely in wetlands, but occur almost always in nonwetlands under natural conditions.

Hydrophytic vegetation is present if greater than 50% of the dominant plant species from all strata are OBL, FACW, and/or FAC. When greater than or equal to 50% of the dominant species are FACU and/or UPL and hydric soils and wetland hydrology are present, the area is also considered to have hydrophytic vegetation. If hydric soils and wetland hydrology are lacking, and normal circumstances exist, then the area is considered to be upland.

### 6.5 Wetland Hydrology

The second step was to assess the wetland hydrology. Wetland hydrology encompasses the hydrologic characteristics of areas that are inundated or have saturated soils for sufficient duration to support hydrophytic vegetation. Hydrologic indicators are generally used to determine the presence or absence of a wetland. Of the three technical criteria, wetland hydrology is generally the least exact and most difficult to establish in the field due to annual, seasonal, and daily fluctuations (EL, 1987). An area has wetland hydrology if the soil is saturated to the surface by groundwater or ponded or flooded with

surface water for one week or more during the growing season. Saturation to the surface can occur when the water table is 0.5 to 1.5 feet below the surface depending upon soil permeability.

Indicators of wetland hydrology may be divided into recorded data and field data. Recorded data may be obtained from aerial photographs, soil surveys, historical data, flood plain delineations or tide/stream gauges. In the field, wetland hydrology may be evidenced by visual observation of saturation, inundation, or depth to standing water. However, it is not necessary to directly demonstrate the hydrology.

Other field indicators of wetland hydrology include drainage patterns, morphological plant adaptations, oxidized root channels, water marks, surface scouring, water-stained leaves, sediment deposits; drift lines, moss lines, and bare areas. Unless an area has been hydrologically modified, the hydrologic parameter may also be inferred from the soil profile.

## **6.6 Hydric Soils**

The third step was to assess the presence of hydric soils. "Hydric soils" are soils that are saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor the growth and revegetation of hydrophytic vegetation (USDA-SCS, 1985). Soils are considered hydric when they are (1) somewhat poorly drained and have a seasonal high water table less than 0.5 feet from the surface; or (2) poorly drained or very poorly drained and have a seasonal high water table less than 1.0 or 1.5 feet from the surface. The high water table must be present for a week or more during the growing season (EL, 1987). Soils that are ponded or flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season are also classified as hydric. All organic soils (histosols) or mineral soils with a histic epipedon are considered hydric soils.

In the field, a hand auger was used for sampling the soil to examine indicators of hydric soils such as low chroma, colors, mottling, organic accumulation, and high water table. Soils were generally examined to a depth of approximately 20 inches. Hydric conditions for mineral soils with low to moderate organic content were most commonly demonstrated by gleying and mottling. Gleyed soils are a result of gleization which is manifested by the presence of neutral gray, bluish or greenish colors through the soil matrix or in mottles (spots or streaks). Mineral soils were compared to a Munsell soil chart (Kollmorgen Corp., 1975) to determine soil color. Soils were considered hydric if they were gleyed or if the top of the B horizon had a chroma of 1 or less if mottling was not present, or a chroma of 2 or less when mottling was present.

Low chroma colors are an index of the degree of soil reduction as a result of anaerobic conditions. Low chroma colors include black, various shades of grey, and the darker shades of brown and red. These criteria allow most soils to be classified as hydric or non-hydric. Hydric soils that have been effectively drained may still show low chroma colors, but are no longer considered to be hydric because they lack hydrology. Low chroma colors may not be used as an indicator of hydric soils in those soils that are sand,

are deeply colored as a result of their parent material, or have recently been formed (i.e., alluvial). These soils must be evaluated more carefully under the procedures outlined by the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (EL, 1987).

Sandy soils may be considered to be hydric if organic materials have accumulated above or in the surface horizon. Dark vertical streaking of subsurface horizons caused by downward movement of organic matter also indicates a hydric soil. This may be associated with a spodic horizon located at the average depth of the water table.

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS), in cooperation with the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS), has prepared a list of the Nation's hydric soils (USDA SCS, 1987). In addition, the SCS publishes county soil surveys for areas where soil mapping has been completed. Unlisted soils are considered to be non-hydric. However, some phases of unlisted soils may contain hydric inclusions and thus be associated with wetlands. These cases must be verified in the field. Field soil characteristics are given precedence over how a site is mapped on a county soil survey. Alluvial soils may not show hydric characteristics due to their recent formation, but may be considered to be hydric for the purposes of wetland delineation.

### **Wetland Habitat Classification**

Wetlands that were field identified within the project area were all determined to be freshwater palustrine system wetlands.

According to the vegetative succession of a wetland, a classification of habitat was assigned. These classifications include Palustrine emergent wetlands (PEM), Palustrine forested wetlands (PF01) or any combination of the two (Cowardin, 1979).

### **Results**

Three areas of freshwater wetlands were identified within the project area (Figure 6). They are identified as follows:

Wetland Line 01 and 02 - Palustrine forested wetland (PF01) located south of the existing buildings. It is dominated by spice bush (*Lindera benzoin*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). This wetland originates from a storm sewer pipe under the parking area. The northern portion of this ditch which is relatively steep does not have hydric soils and is not identified as wetlands. As the terrain becomes more level, wetland vegetation and hydric soils define the narrow wetland channel which flows toward the abandoned treatment facility. This wetland area ends at a culvert under the access road to the existing wastewater treatment facility.

Immediately south of the access road wetland lines 03 and 04 originate. This area is a palustrine emergent wetland (PEM), which is dominated by jewel weed (*Impatiens capensis*), cattail (*Typha latifolia*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), tear-thumb (*Polygonum sagittatum*) and nut sedge (*Cyperus esculentus*). Water from this wetland

area flows into a small basin dominated by common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and then flows east onto property owned by the water authority. Wetland line 05 connects the off property boundary of the wetland with wetland line 04 completing the wetland polygon.

Wetland lines 06 and 07 are a continuation of the off site wetlands. These are PF01 wetlands which follow the small stream bed to a culvert under Sterling Forest Road. Wetland area 08 is located between the water authority access road and the AT&T access road. This wetland area was ponded in the spring as is a vernal pond. Vegetation within the wetland area includes jewel weed, spicebush, skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) and sensitive fern.

Wetland area 09 defines the edge of Sterling Forest Lake and is waters of the United States. Wetland areas 10 and 11 originate at the base of the earthen dam as a small creek and flow into the property owned by the water company. This small creek connects to wetland area 03 and 05 and 06 and 07 at property boundaries. Vegetation within these wetlands includes skunk cabbage, jewel weed and spicebush.

### **Hydrophytic Vegetation**

Vegetation on the Site was evaluated during field investigations. Woody vegetation in the PF01 areas included red maple (FAC) and spicebush (FACW-). Herbaceous vegetation is dominated by skunk cabbage (OBL), jewel weed (FACW), common reed (FACW) and purple loosestrife (FACW+).

### **Wetland Hydrology**

The hydrology of Wetland Areas 01 through 07 and areas 10 through 11 appear to be driven by three factors; stormwater flowing into catch basins, groundwater seeps discharging to the surface and Sterling Forest Lake discharging from below the earthen dam. Wetland Area 08 appears to be groundwater driven either through a seep or spring under the emergent portion of the wetland and stormwater runoff. Wetland area 09 is Sterling Forest Lake which is stream fed.

### **Hydric Soils**

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) publishes county soil surveys for areas where soil mapping is completed. The soils of Orange County have been mapped. None of the soils identified as occurring on the Site are listed on the Orange County List of Hydric Soils. The following soils have been mapped on the Site (Figure 4):

**Erie extremely stony soils, gently sloping (ESB)** – These soils are somewhat poorly drained, gently sloping soils which have a fragipan. They are formed in glacial till. The water table is perched above the fragipan during the spring months. Permeability in the surface layer is moderate and slow to very slow in the fragipan.

**Rock outcrop-Hollis Complex, sloping (ROC)** – This complex of exposed bedrock and shallow Hollis soils is found on hill crests, hill tops and ridges. The Hollis soil is formed

from a thin layer of glacial till over shist, gneiss and granite. Slopes range from 3 to 15 percent but are predominantly in the 8 to 15 percent range. No free water is perched above the bedrock except in areas where the rock is poorly jointed. Permeability is moderate to moderately rapid and depth to bedrock is typically 10 to 20 inches.

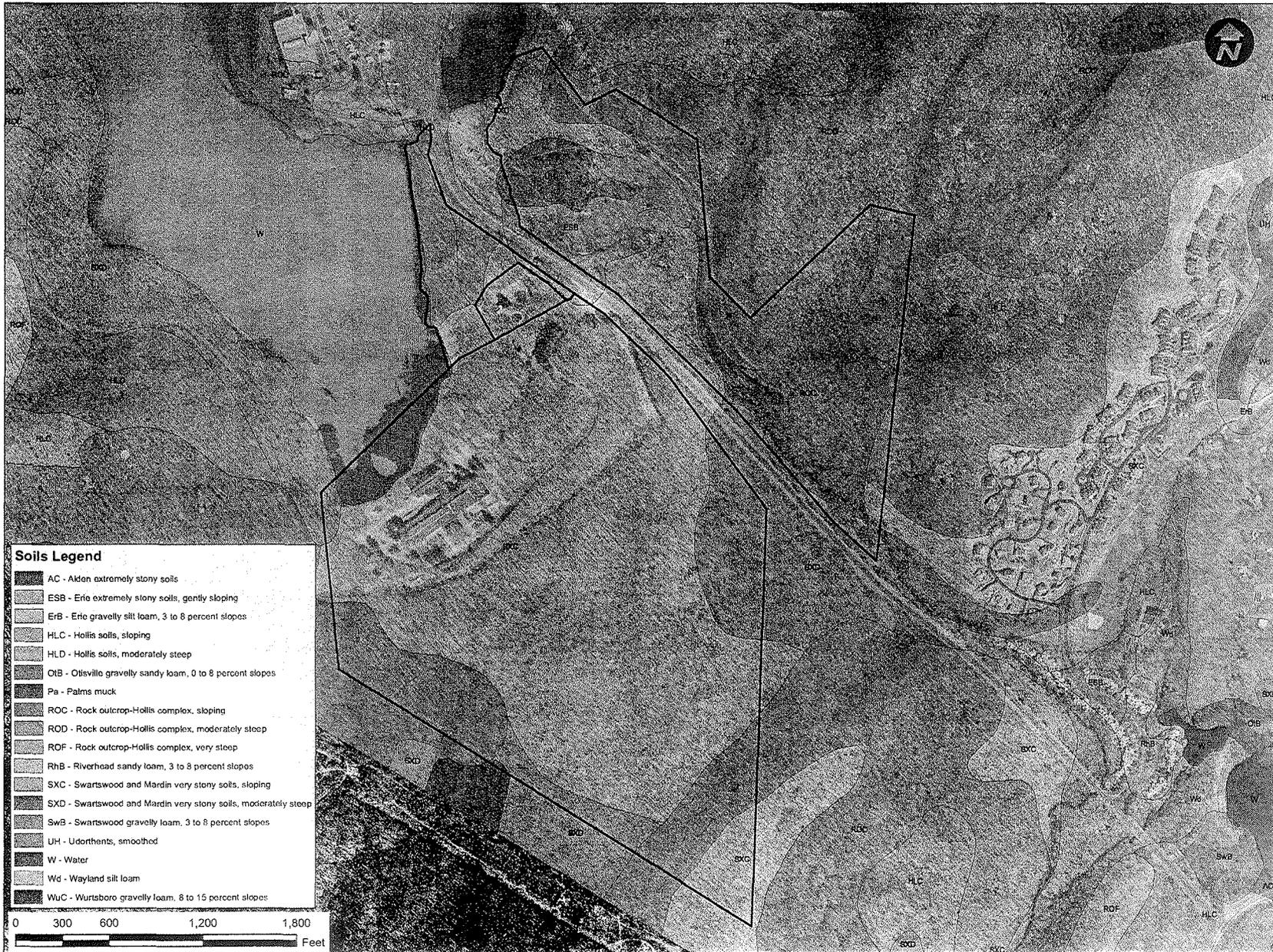
**Rock outcrop-Hollis Complex, moderately steep (ROD)** - This complex of exposed bedrock and shallow Hollis soils is found on hill crests, hill tops and ridges. The Hollis soil is formed from a thin layer of glacial till over shist, gneiss and granite. Slopes range from 15 to 35 percent but are predominantly in the 15 to 25 percent range. No free water is perched above the bedrock except in areas where the rock is poorly jointed. Permeability is moderate to moderately rapid and depth to bedrock is typically 10 to 20 inches.

**Swartswood and Mardin very stony soils, sloping (SXC)** – This mapping unit consists of well drained and moderately well drained Swartswood and moderately well drained Mardin soils. These soils have a deep fragipan. They are formed from glacial till on hill crests, hill tops and ridges. Slopes range from 3 to 15 percent but are predominantly in the 8 to 15 percent range. The water table is perched above the fragipan in the early spring. Permeability is moderate above the fragipan, slow to very slow through the fragipan and slow to moderately slow below the fragipan.

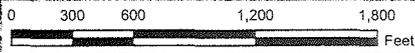
**Swartswood and Mardin very stony soils, moderately sloping (SXD)** – This mapping unit consists of well drained and moderately well drained Swartswood and moderately well drained Mardin soils. These soils have a deep fragipan. They are formed from glacial till on hill crests, hill tops and ridges. Slopes range from 15 to 35 percent but are predominantly in the 15 to 25 percent range. The water table is perched above the fragipan in the early spring. Permeability is moderate above the fragipan, slow to very slow through the fragipan and slow to moderately slow below the fragipan.

**Udorthents, smoothed (UH)** – These soils formed in man made cut and fill areas. They are generally near industrial sites, urban developments and other construction sites. They consist of excavated earth that has been stockpiled for eventual use as fill; soil and rock that has been trucked from other areas and leveled; or soil left in areas that have been excavated. These soils are excessively drained. Bedrock is typically at depths of five (5) feet. Depth to the seasonal high water table is shallow.

A review of the Site development plan indicates that less than one (1) acre of USACE wetlands will be impacted by the proposed development. It is anticipated that an Individual Section 404 Permit will be needed for project implementation. Wetlands impacted will require mitigation. The most likely location for this mitigation will be that portion of the Site west of Sterling Road. No development is proposed for this portion of the site. Site investigations conducted as part of the threatened and endangered species survey and the vegetation survey indicates both upland and wetland habitat on this portion of the site. Expansion of existing wetlands, associated with the Ringwood River will provide sufficient area to off-set wetland impacts east of Sterling Road.



- Soils Legend**
- AC - Aiken extremely stony soils
  - ESB - Erie extremely stony soils, gently sloping
  - ERB - Erie gravelly silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
  - HLC - Hollis soils, sloping
  - HLD - Hollis soils, moderately steep
  - OIB - Otisville gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
  - Pa - Palms muck
  - ROC - Rock outcrop-Hollis complex, sloping
  - ROD - Rock outcrop-Hollis complex, moderately steep
  - ROF - Rock outcrop-Hollis complex, very steep
  - RhB - Riverhead sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
  - SXC - Swartswood and Mardin very stony soils, sloping
  - SXD - Swartswood and Mardin very stony soils, moderately steep
  - SWB - Swartswood gravelly loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
  - UH - Udorthents, smoothed
  - W - Water
  - Wd - Wayland silt loam
  - WUC - Wurtsboro gravelly loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes



**Legend**

 Site Location

Source:  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources  
 Conservation Service, Soil Survey Geographic  
 (SSURGO) database for Orange County,  
 New York, 2006

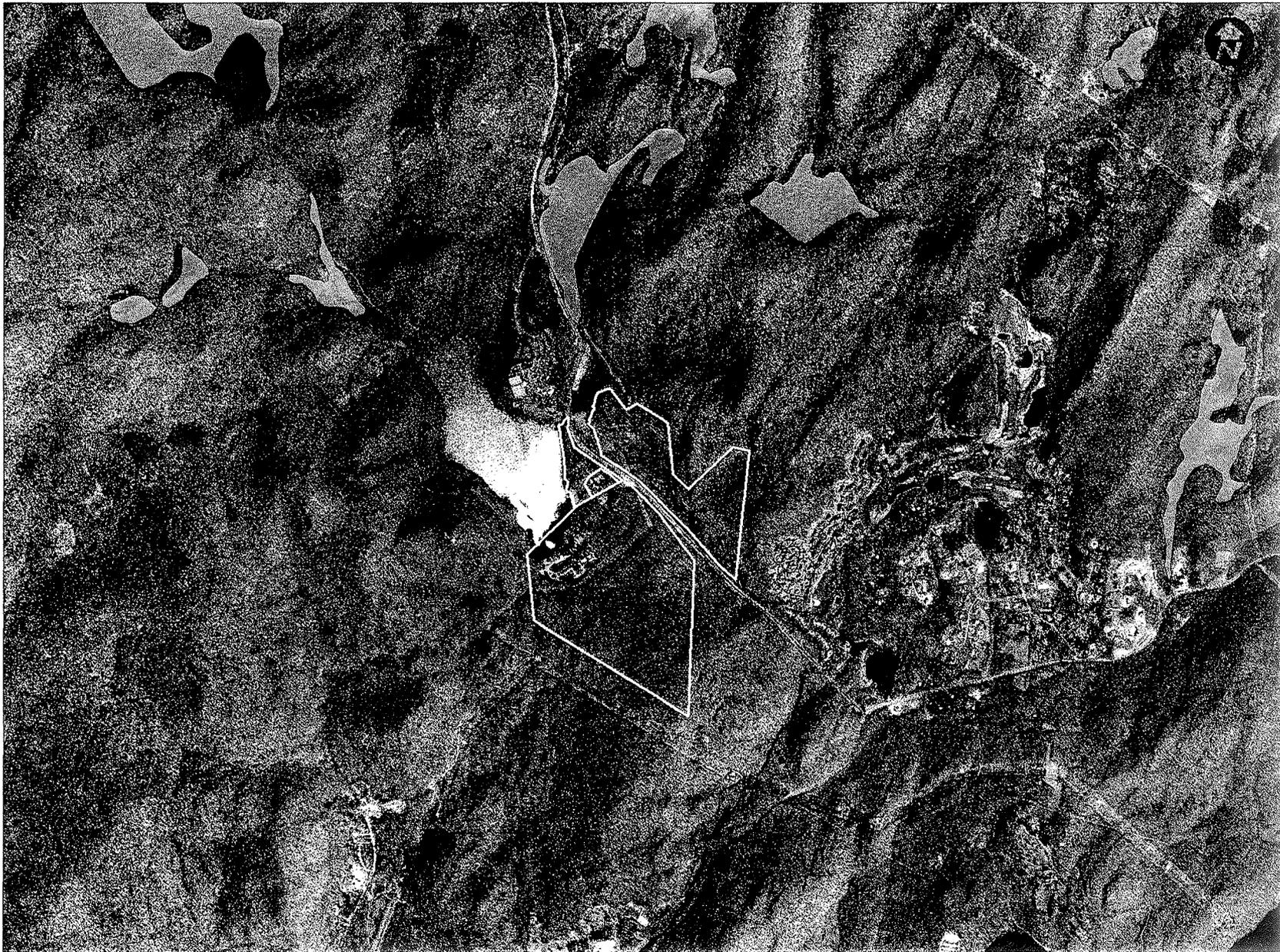


TOURO WARWICK COLLEGE  
 TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK  
 ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK

SOILS MAP

Project No.	05	Scale	1" = 600'	Project	11/1/04-01/07
Client No.	18	Date	06/12/07	Figure No.	4

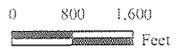
Map Document: (P:\0311\0541\WMaps\Figures\_Soils\_102407\_01.mxd)  
 10/4/07 - 9:45 AM



Legend

-  Wetlands
-  Site Location

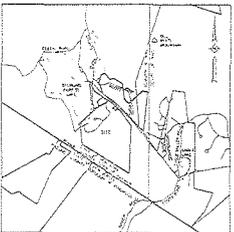
Source  
 New York State DEC Freshwater Wetlands  
 1973 Quadrangle Maps: Greenwood Lake  
 and Slautsburg  
 Aerials Express, 2006



Touro Warwick College  
 Township of Warwick  
 Orange County, New York

NYS DEC WETLANDS MAP

Project ID:	Scale:	Project ID:
133216_18	100' = 2.50"	133216_18



SITE LOCATION MAP  
REF TO SCALE



**NOTES**

1. BOUNDARY IS SHOWN ON A PLAN ENTITLED "PALMADEN LAND TITLE BOUNDARY SURVEY LINDS NEW OR FORWARD OF THE KING'S COLLEGE" PREPARED BY C.E. HALL ASSOCIATES, P.C. LATHAM, NY DATED DEC 28, 2005 AND LAST REVISED FEB 8, 2006. BEARINGS ARE BASED ON NEW YORK STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, EASTERN ZONE NAD83.

2. AERIAL MAPPING WAS PREPARED BY ATLANTIC AERIAL SURVEY COMPANY FROM PHOTOGRAPHS DATED 1-17-02. SCALE 1"=100'. MAPPING IS BASED ON NEW YORK STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, EASTERN ZONE NAD83 AND VERTICAL DATUM NAVD83.

REVISIONS		REVISIONS	
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

LAKELAND  
MANAGEMENT, LLC.

TOURO WARWICK  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK, ORANGE COUNTY, N.Y.

PAULUS SOKOLOWSKI and SARTOR INC.  
150 WEST 100th STREET, SUITE 200  
ROSELAND, N.J. 07068  
PHONE: (201) 991-8800  
FAX: (201) 991-8805  
E-MAIL: paulus@psandc.com

JAROSLAVA VONDER  
N.Y. LIC. NO. 50553-1  
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR

WARWICK COLLEGE  
WETLAND SURVEY

SHEET TITLE	DATE	DRAWN
WARWICK COLLEGE WETLAND SURVEY	8-13-07	JCV
	SCALE	DATE
	1" = 100'	8/17/07
	DRAWN	SHEET NO.
	JCV	1 OF 2

## 7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Field surveys were conducted to inventory biological resources on the site and to evaluate the site for the presence or absence of Federal or State listed threatened, endangered, species of special concern and critical habitat for these species. Surveys were conducted from April through September and included a delineation of wetlands on the eastern portion of the property. Surveys included a survey of the birds potentially breeding on the site and a herpetological survey. A total of 121.5 hours of observations were conducted on the site from April to September.

New York Natural Heritage database list the presence of one threatened plant, Terrestrial starwort (*Callitriche terrestris*) and three endangered plants, Green parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum pinnatum*), Hyssop skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*) and Michaux's blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium mucronatum*) known to occur in the vicinity of the site. While the site contains suitable habitat for each of these species, only the Hyssop skullcap was observed on the site. These plants were observed outside of the limits of disturbance for the project.

The New York Natural Heritage database lists one threatened species, the timber rattlesnake, and six species of special concern in the vicinity of the site. The site does not contain suitable habitat to support a hibernaculum for timber rattlesnakes, a State listed threatened species. No rattlesnakes were observed on the site during these investigations. The site does provide suitable foraging habitat for snakes. Potential impacts to foraging snakes can be avoided by pre-construction fencing and monitoring during construction activities.

During the survey three (3) of the State species of special concerns, red-shouldered hawk, eastern bluebird and the box turtle, were observed on the site and a previous survey documented the wood turtle as occurring on site. Wood turtles may the portion of the Site northeast of Sterling Forest Road for breeding and hibernating. Given the terrestrial wandering tendencies of this species, the entire site may serve as suitable foraging habitat for this species. No development activities are proposed within the breeding and overwintering habitat likely utilized by wood turtles. Pre-construction fencing and monitoring is recommended to prevent impacts to these species during construction activities.

Box turtles utilize open old field habitat and wooded habitat on the site. The project will result in habitat loss for this species. Pre-construction fencing and monitoring is recommended to prevent impacts to these species during construction activities. It is anticipated that the surrounding State parks will continue to provide suitable habitat for this species in the vicinity of the Site.

The eastern bluebird is an open country species. The open habitat along the power-line right-of-way will be maintained subsequent to the proposed development. It is anticipated that this species will continue to utilize the existing habitat. Installation of nesting boxes could increase nesting opportunities for eastern bluebirds along the power line right-of-ways and open habitat on the site.

The red-shouldered hawks are foraging along the power line right-of-way on the site. This habitat will not be disturbed by the proposed construction. The Site is also bounded by two State Parks which provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for this species. It is anticipated that this species will not be adversely impacted by the proposed development.

A wetland delineation was completed for the portion of the site east of Sterling Road. There are no New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) mapped wetlands on this portion of the property. PS&S delineated US Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulated wetlands and waters of the United States. Based on the proposed development scenario, the project will impact less than one (1) acre of USACE regulated wetlands. No NYSDCE wetlands will be disturbed by the proposed project.

## 8.0 REFERENCES

- Armstrong, E. and D. Euler. 1982. Habitat usage of two woodland Buteo species in southern Ontario. *Can. Field-Nat.* 97(1):200-207.
- Bednarz, J.C. and J.J. Dinsmore. 1981. Status, habitat use, and management of red-shouldered hawks in Iowa. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 45(1):236-241.
- Bednarz, J.C. and J.J. Dinsmore. 1982. Nest-sites and habitat of red-shouldered and red-tailed hawks in Iowa. *Wilson Bull.* 94(1):31-45.
- Bosakowski, T., R. Speiser, and J. Benzinger. 1987. Distribution, density and habitat relationships of the barred owl in Northern New Jersey in Proceedings of the symposium, biology, and conservation of northern forest owls. Winnipeg, Manitoba. R.W. Nero, R.J. Clark, R.J. Knapton, and R.H. Hammre eds. USDA Forest Service general technical Report RM-142.
- Borko, M & T. Alford. 1989. Blue Lake Project Biological Survey, Prepared in King's College, Sterling Forest Campus, Town of Warwick, New York, Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1991, Appendix K.
- Brown, W.S. 1992. Emergence, ingress, and seasonal captures at dens of northern timber rattlesnakes, *Crotalus horridus*. Pages 251-258 in J.A. Campbell and E.D. Brodie Jr., Eds. *Biology of Pit Vipers*. Selva Press, Tyler, Texas.
- Brown, W.S. 1993. *Biology, Status, and Management of the Timber Rattlesnake Crotalus horridus: A Guide for Conservation*. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles herpetological Circular No. 22, 78 pp.
- Conant, Roger. 1975. Peterson Field Guide Series: A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North American. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 429 pp.
- Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet and E.T. Laroe, December 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, Publication No. FWS/OBS-79/31, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- DeGraaf, R.M. and J.H. Rappole. 1995. Neotropical Migratory Birds: Natural History, Distribution and Population Change. Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, NY. 676 pp.
- Environmental Laboratory (EL), 1987. Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi.
- Federal Register. 1980. 40 CFR Part 230: Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material, Vol. 45, No. 249, pp. 85352-85353, US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Federal Register. 1982. Title 33: Navigation and Navigable Waters: Chapter II, Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, Vol. 47, No. 138, p 31810, US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Herpetological Associates. 1981. Proposed Management Plan for Endangered and Threatened Amphibians and Reptiles in New Jersey. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Endangered and Nongame Species Project. Volume No. 81.10

Klemens, M.W. October 14, 2005. Habitat Assessment Letter Report, 6pp.

Klemens, M.W. November 2, 2005. Natural Heritage/Vernal Habitat Assessment Letter Report, 2pp.

Kollmorgen Corporation, 1975, Munsell Soil Color Charts, Macbeth Division of Kollmorgen Corporation, Baltimore, Maryland.

Magee, Dennis W., 1981, Freshwater Wetlands: A Guide to Common Indicator Plants of the Northeast, The University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Mueller-Dombois, D, and H. Ellenberg. 1974. Aims and Methods of Vegetation Ecology. John Wiley & Sons, New York. 547 pp.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2007. Sterling lake Fisheries Survey, Prepared by the Division of Fish, Wildlife Marine Resources for the NYSDEC Bureau of Fisheries Modern Statewide Fisheries Database. 7pp.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Officer Personal Communication, July 25 2007. Personal communication with a NYSDEC Conservation Officer on Site concerning presence or rattlesnakes on and in the vicinity of the site.

Peterson, R.T., 1980. A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America, 4th edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 384 pp.

Reed, P.B., Jr., 1988, National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands: National Summary Biological Report 88 (24), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

Terres, J.K. 1991. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds. Wings Books, Avenel, New Jersey. 1109 pp.

Tiner, Ralph W. and Peter L.M. Veneman, 1995, Hydric Soils of New England, University of Massachusetts Extension, Revised Bulletin C-183R, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Tuttle, M. 1999. Small-footed Myotis *Myotis leibii*. @ [dcnr.state.pa.us/wrcf/sfmyotis.htm](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/wrcf/sfmyotis.htm).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1987a, Hydric Soils of the United States, USDA-SCS, in cooperation with the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1983, National Soils Handbook, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1990. Soil Survey of Rockland County, New York. United States Department of Agriculture.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1975, Soil Taxonomy, Agriculture Handbook No. 436, US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, 50 CFR 17.11 and 17.12, August 20, 1994 and August 29, 1992.

Weidensaul, S. 1989. North American Birds of Prey. Quintet Publishing Limited, New York. 96 pp.

---

**Attachment A**  
**Site Photographs**



Photo 1: Bluebird habitat along the power line right-of-way.



Photo 2: Potential rattlesnake foraging habitat in hardwood forested portions of site.



Photo 3: Upland deciduous forested habitat in central portion of site.



Photo 4: Bluebird habitat along the power line right-of-way looking from Sterling Forest Park toward site.



Photo 5: Bluebird habitat along the power line right-of-way west of entrance road.



Photo 6: Wet meadow/Emergent wetland southwest of abandon treatment facility. Wetland lines 03 and 04.



Photo 7: Five-lined skink observed adjacent to existing buildings.



Photo 8: Palustrine forested wetlands southwest of Sterling Forest Road. This wetland area is suitable wood turtle habitat. Note stream in background.



Photo 9: Palustrine forested wetlands southwest of Sterling Forest Road. This wetland area is suitable wood turtle habitat.



Photo 10: Ringwood River, located south of Sterling Forest Road. Pool areas provide suitable breeding and over wintering habitat for wood turtles.



Photo 11: Wood turtle habitat adjacent to Ringwood River.



Photo 12: Ringwood River, located south of Sterling Forest Road. Run areas provide suitable breeding and over wintering habitat for wood turtles.



Photo 13: Ringwood River – In addition to wood turtle habitat the river provides habitat for snapping turtles, two lined salamanders, frogs and trout.



Photo 14: Vernal pond in August – Breeding habitat for grey tree frogs, spring peepers and American toads.

**Legend**

Site Location

Photo Location



Source: Aerials Express, 2006.



**PSS&S**  
integrating design & engineering

TOURO WARWICK COLLEGE  
TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK  
ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK

**PHOTO LOCATION MAP**

Drawn by: SKL	Scale: 1" = 360'	Project: 01711064.rdw
Checked by: JDC	Date: 10/29/07	Figure No.



## Appendix E-2

Michael W. Klemens, LLC  
47 Florida Hill Road  
Ridgefield, CT 06877

October 14, 2005

Touro College  
c/o Jayne E. Daly, Esq.  
110 Orange Avenue  
Walden, New York 12586

Dear Attorney Daly:

At your request I have conducted an overall habitat assessment of several parcels of land currently owned by Kings College on the north and south sides of Sterling Lake Road (Orange County 84) in the Town of Warwick, New York. The site totals 253 acres. Portions of the site were previously owned by International Nickel (INCO) and used as a research facility. A subdivision of the site was proposed by the Blue Lake Corporation in 1989. In 1991 a four year Christian college was proposed by Kings College. The current assessment of the site was conducted on behalf of your client, Touro College, as part of their due diligence in assessing the suitability of the site for their proposed educational and residential facilities.

The review that I conducted on behalf of your client included examination of various selected materials from past applications and studies that you forwarded to me. This was augmented by two field visits to the site to familiarize myself with the site's topography and ecological communities and to gather biodiversity data. In total, I spent 30 person-hours in the field, accompanied by a field assistant. The goal of this reconnaissance was not to conduct detailed studies on any one taxa, group of organisms, or issue, but to describe the types of studies that *may* be necessary to move forward with Touro College's redevelopment of the INCO site and their plans to develop other portions of the site for a residential community.

The study prepared by Borko and Alford (Blue Lake Project Biological Survey prepared for Lynmark Development Associates, January 1989) provides a good description of the INCO portion of the site (on the southwest side of Sterling Lake Road/Orange County 84). I was able to find the vegetational communities that they described in 1989, including the xeric chestnut oak ridge community located on the southwestern boundary of the property, paralleling the powerline right of way. Fire is an important component of the ecological process in the chestnut oak community and a recent fire was evident in portions of the forest bordering the powerline right of way. The rocky, dry southwest facing ledges are potentially good habitat for snakes. I would anticipate that both the black racer (*Coluber constrictor*) and black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta*) may be found here. Neither of

these large black snakes are a listed species in New York state, and both are locally common in the Sterling Forest ecosystem.

There is discussion in the Borko and Alford report about the potential for two venomous snakes, copperheads (*Agkistrodon contortrix*) and timber rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*), to occur on or near the INCO site. Although I concur with their report that there are no apparent den (over-wintering) sites for these snakes on the INCO site, the chestnut oak ridge community, with its under-story of low bush blueberry and open areas for sunning and foraging, may serve as seasonal summer habitat for these snakes. Of particular concern would be the timber rattlesnake, which is a NY state endangered species. I would recommend, as part of the more in depth scientific studies needed for this project, a fuller review of the potential for timber rattlesnake use of this portion of the site. Although past applications for activities on this site have requested data from the New York State Natural Heritage program concerning den sites and rare species occurrences (letters of July 8, 1988; November 25, 1992; May 22, 1992; and March 9, 1999) there have been no parallel requests to the State of New Jersey, which lies very close to the southern border of the site and near the chestnut oak ridge community.

Inquiries to New Jersey may be helpful in determining whether their Heritage Program has occurrence records of timber rattlesnakes near the site. This species is also New Jersey's list of endangered and threatened species. Given that timber rattlesnakes move several miles from their den sites along well-defined routes each season, it is quite likely that *if* rattlesnakes occur on the site, they may be originating from dens in adjacent portions of Passaic County. Apart from gaining information from New Jersey, by involving their Heritage Program in the review of endangered and threatened species data, one avoids a mid-review process challenge that the applicant has neglected to thoughtfully consider natural resource issues of an abutting jurisdiction. Given the fragility of the chestnut oak community, and its susceptibility to periodic fires, Touro College may wish to reconsider its conceptual design for residences in the southwest corner of the site and relocate six houses on the west side of the access road to a more central portion of the site.

The other major ecological constraint on the upland portions of the site occurs in the extreme southeastern corner of the property. There is a broad, rocky valley that is a large braided intermittent stream corridor. Although there does not appear to be any significant areas of wetlands in this area, including any vernal pools, there are ample evidences of water passage overland in a broad expanse of this valley, which drains in a northeasterly direction, down slope through the Sterling Forest Park Preserve, and into wetlands associated with the Ringwood River along Orange County 84. Apart from its hydrological functions, this valley serves as a wildlife corridor through the site between the Ringwood River valley

and the highlands. There are approximately six houses proposed around a small cul-de-sac that are probably located in too close proximity to this intermittent watercourse-rich valley. I would recommend that Touro College consider relocating these houses to a more central portion of the site. In summary, given the environmental constraints identified in the previous paragraphs, I would anticipate that there will be a need to redesign the proposed residential house layout along the southern boundary of the site in order to better protect these identified environmentally sensitive areas.

The abandoned sewage treatment plant is located in a wetland area. The wetlands appear to have been ditched and diverted and are dominated by invasive vegetation. As such, they are low to moderate quality habitat. Inside the old sewage treatment plant, bottles of chemicals remain, and the water-filled settling pools surrounding the plant are an attractive nuisance and potentially dangerous. This area needs to be secured and the discarded chemicals disposed of appropriately. The sludge drying fields associated with the plant are now used as nesting areas for turtles and snakes. Egg shells from hatched nests are scattered around the drying fields. One snake that may be nesting in these sandy, dry beds is the hognose (*Heterodon platirhinos*) a New York State special concern species. As part of the general herpetological survey of the site which should be conducted next year (see my summary recommendations) special attention should be given to searching for hognose snakes on site.

As described in the Borko and Alford report, Blue Lake is quite deep, with little, if any, fringing wetlands and a well-defined rocky shoreline. The primary concern with development of the INCO site will be the protection of the lake from run-off and pollution. A minimum 100-foot naturally vegetated buffer around Blue Lake is essential. The forest between the INCO building and the dam is quite high quality and mature, with a well-developed duff layer. I observed a young bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) at the edge of Blue Lake and a snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) nest on the Blue Lake dam. Two redback salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*) were found under logs in the mature woods between the INCO building and the dam. All three of these species are very common and widespread. The bullfrog and snapping turtle are among the few species of herpetofauna able to survive in open, un-vegetated lakes and impoundments. The INCO campus itself has limited biodiversity value. This pertains not only to the building site itself, which appears to be inhabited (based on scat and other sign) by a number of raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), as well as the grounds surrounding the building that are heavily browsed by whitetail deer.

The aesthetic value of the campus around the INCO building is important, as are the number of specimen trees, both native and planted, that are well shaped and cared for. Of special note is the weeping beech at the entrance to the INCO building. It is recommended that a tree preservation plan be considered and

efforts are made to protect and conserve the large specimen trees surrounding the INCO building. The weeping beech is currently threatened by oriental bittersweet that is establishing itself onto this tree. If not promptly removed, this invasive vine will shade out portions of this beautiful tree, disfiguring, and eventually killing it. Although not part of the native biodiversity, specimen trees such as this weeping beech are considered to be a valuable natural feature of a development/re-development site, and should be conserved if possible.

On the northern side of Orange County Rte. 84 is an additional parcel of land that is being acquired by Touro College. ~~This parcel of land is bottomland and floodplain~~ associated with the Ringwood River that flows in a southeasterly direction along the northern side of Orange County Rte. 84. This is a very distinctive portion of the site and is characterized by a diversity of wetland habitat types and has ecological values that are in many instances far greater than the INCO site. Unfortunately, during periods of low water, such as was the case during my site investigation, ~~the water in the river was almost entirely dominated by treated sewage (grey water) from the upstream sewage treatment plant.~~

The terrestrial habitat on this parcel is quite disturbed and shows scars of surficial mining. Piles of cracked rock and slag tailings are scattered throughout the woodland, and one slag tailings pile sits in the edge of a sphagnum and red maple tussock swamp. This disturbed habitat is expected to be habitat for a variety of snakes. There is a brushy, cleared powerline area that crosses the stream corridor, opposite the entrance to Kings College. That area looks to be appropriate habitat for eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina*), a New York State special concern species. In this same general area are a series of woodland depressions that appear to hold water for extended periods of time. These may well be vernal pools, though an investigation in the springtime will be required to determine whether obligate species of vernal pool breeding amphibians, such as wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*) or spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*) are present. Despite the dry conditions, and suboptimal time of year, I was able to document the following species of amphibians and reptiles on this wetland parcel:

<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>	Two-lined Salamander
<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>	Redback Salamander
<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>	Spring Peeper
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	Bullfrog
<i>Rana clamitans</i>	Green Frog
<i>Rana palustris</i>	Pickerel Frog
<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle

These are all widespread, common species except for the wood turtle. The two-lined salamander was found in the hillside seepage area above the river (between Orange County 84 and the Ringwood River). Searching the stream did not yield any salamanders. Possibly the water in the river is too polluted by sewage outflow to support stream salamanders such as the two-lined salamander. We noted freshwater mussel shells along the riverbank, and observed sunfish and small Cyprinids in the Ringwood River. ~~The wood turtle is a State-listed Special Concern Species and its documentation here is a significant find that will be reported to the NY State Natural Heritage Program.~~ The documentation is that of a young road-killed individual on the Ringwood River side of the shoulder of Orange County 84 opposite the entrance to Kings College, adjacent to the high quality wetland areas associated with and near the cleared, brushy, wet powerline right of way. The turtle remains were salvaged and will be deposited into the research collection of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

As the Ringwood River flows in a southeasterly direction, it drops through a very scenic gorge area. This area has a mature beech forest bordering the waterfall, and appears to be characterized by more circum-neutral soils than the rest of the parcel. Small light chips of limey rock are present in the seepage and the presence of maiden hair fern and horsetails are indicative of a richer woodland community above the waterfall. In summary, my very brief investigation of the parcel on the northern side of Orange County 84, bordering the Ringwood River, exhibited much higher habitat diversity than the INCO parcel on the opposite side of the road.

In conclusion, the INCO site appears suitable for redevelopment and some new development. In order to move into the DEIS preparation of the site I would recommend that the following studies be conducted on the entire parcel (including the Ringwood River piece) in order to evaluate the biodiversity of both parcels.

A herpetological inventory of the site would be required. This would entail sampling in the springtime for vernal pool species, and studying the property at key sampling times from mid-March through late June. It may also require some additional field work for rattlesnake use on the southwest corner of the INCO site, but this matter may be addressed in the manner I outlined earlier in this letter.

I would also suggest that a breeding bird survey of the site be conducted. This would take place at strategically located sampling points from mid-May through early July.

Klemens to Daly/October 14, 2005/Page 6

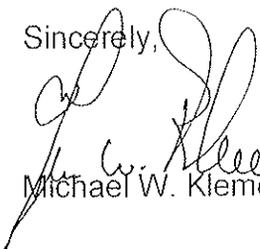
Some mammal field work could be contemplated, to be conducted in tandem with the other studies. Most, if not all of, the mammals expected on site would be common and widespread species, yet it would be helpful to include some data on species presence. Many of these species will be observed by having researchers on site conducting other work.

The characterization of the site by Borko and Alford seems to reflect present site conditions. However, it may be helpful to have a botanist quickly update their study as it is close to twenty years old. Again, it may also be helpful to have an ichthyologist sample the Ringwood River and update the Blue Lake fisheries data, either through sampling or via a consultation with the NY-DEC region three fisheries biologist.

Finally, it would be important to conduct a tree survey to identify and number the significant specimen trees on the INCO campus and then to develop a tree preservation plan to conserve those significant trees.

I hope that these data/observations are useful to you and your client, Touro College, in determining how to proceed on the potential development and redevelopment of this site.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Klemens, PhD



## Appendix E-3

# ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES REPORT

WARWICK, NY

*Prepared for:*

**WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF  
NEW YORK, INC.**

Warwick, NY

July 2010

*Prepared by:*

**PS&S**  
integrating design & engineering

Warren (Somerset County), New Jersey 07059

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

2.0 VEGETATION

3.0 WILDLIFE

4.0 THREATENED AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

5.0 AQUATIC RESOURCES

6.0 WETLANDS

6.1 WETLAND REGULATIONS

6.2 DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY

6.3 HYDROPHYTIC VEGETATION

6.4 WETLAND HYDROLOGY

6.5 HYDRIC SOIL

7.0 CONCLUSION

8.0 REFERENCES

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by Paulus, Sokolowski, and Sartor PC (PS&SPC) as supplemental information to support a township development plan and State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. Field surveys were conducted by PS&SPC on the Project Site (Site) to inventory ecological resources and evaluate the site for the presence or absence of Federal or State listed threatened, endangered, or species of special concern, and the critical habitat for these species. Surveys were conducted from April through September in 2007 and March through July 2010. The survey includes a delineation of wetlands, 230 acre, portion of the property and a bat survey (See Appendix 1) conducted in June 2010.

The Site is located in Warwick Township, Orange County, New York (Figure 1A). The site is approximately 257 acres that is located on the former Kings College property. On this property, there is a 121,200 square foot building with approximately 3,500 linear feet of roadway. The former INCO plant is located adjacent to and overlooks Sterling Forest Lake. The building is set to be demolished.

The existing site consists of approximately 11.3 acres of meadow/brushland; 195.4 acres of forest; 2.9 acres of wetland; 33.8 acres of surface water; 8.8 acres of roads, pavement, structures and other paved surfaces; and 4.8 acres of landscaped area. Although there are areas of Federal Jurisdictional wetlands on the project site, the majority are located on the portion of the tract northeast of Long Meadow Road which is proposed to remain undisturbed. Areas of wetland southeast of Long Meadow Road will remain largely undisturbed.

The project site is located on both sides of Long Meadow Road approximately one mile northwest of the intersection with Sterling Mine Road. However, disturbance is only proposed on the southwest side of Long Meadow Road. The site is also located along the south shore of Blue Lake (Sterling Forest Lake).

The project site is located within the Land Conservation (LC) zoning district and portions of the project are located within the Ridgeline Overlay (RL-O) district. Warwick's Zoning Law permits the remaining private lands within the LC District (i.e. those lands not under the ownership or control of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission) to be developed subject to the requirements of the Town's Office and Industrial Park (OI) and Conservation (CO) Zoning districts.

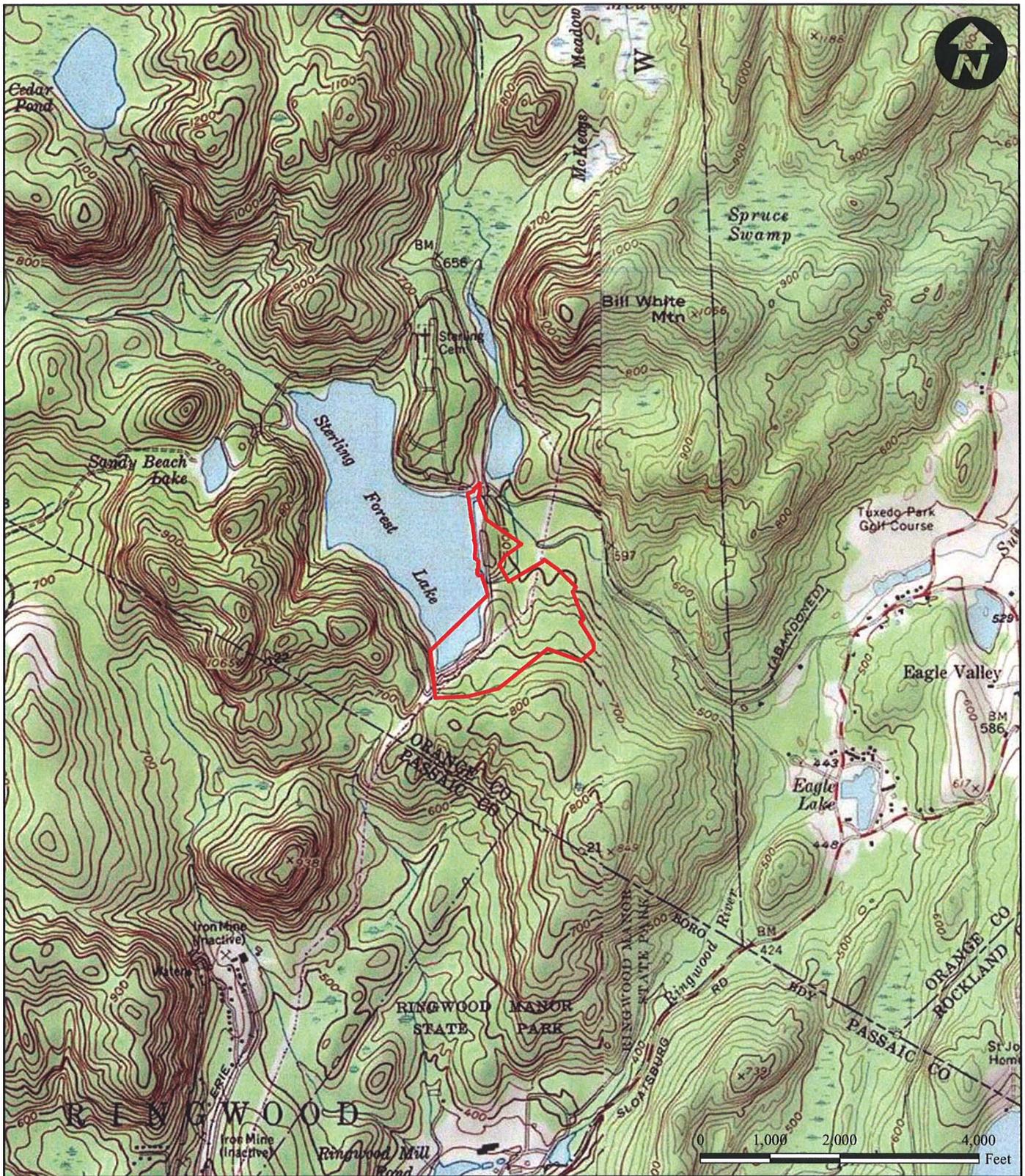
The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., proposes to develop a portion, roughly 30 acres, (referenced above) as their new World Headquarters. We understand the proposed development will be concentrated on those areas of the site that were previously developed and will include renovations and existing INCO building(s) will be demolished and replaced substantially within the existing development footprint. There also will be new construction on the site giving way to several new green buildings. The project sponsor, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., is proposing a religious administrative campus comprised of approximately twelve buildings and 30 acres on the site.

The campus buildings would include: an approximately 195,000 square foot three- to four-story office building/place of worship; four five-story residential structures totaling approximately 400,000 square feet; an approximately 137,000 square foot three- to four-story service building including kitchen, laundry and support functions; a two-story 100,000 square

foot maintenance shop; and additional smaller buildings including a vehicle repair shop (for on-site vehicles only), heating/cooling/generator house, and a recreation building (see Figure 1B). The site is identified on the Orange County tax maps as parcels 85-1-2.22, 85-1-2.3, 85-1-4.1, 85-1-4.2, 85-1-5.1, 85-1-5.2, and 85-1-6.8.

The campus structures would be built to three Green Globe standards promulgated by the Green Building Initiative, comparable to the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), and the gold standard promulgated by the US Green Buildings Council.

The majority of the 780 parking spaces would be accommodated by the subsurface parking, with approximately 100 surface parking spaces, being provided for visitors and convenience. Stormwater will be treated to substantially comply with current NYSDEC stormwater management standards. On-site emergency and load reduction generators will be provided to supplement standard electrical service provided by Orange and Rockland Utilities. Community water supply and sewage treatment services are available on nearby parcels and usage will be reduced by utilization of sustainable practices such as low-flow and ultra-low-flow fixtures. Workers at the site will reside at the site, significantly reducing traffic generation associated with commuter traffic during peak hours.



**Legend**

 Project Boundary

Source:  
 Project Boundary from plan by PS&S Survey  
 entitled "Wetland Survey Parcel B4 and Part  
 of Parcel A-13", dated 6/4/2010.  
 USGS Topographic Map  
 7.5 Minute Series  
 Greenwood Lake, 1961  
 Sloatsburg, 1961  
 STATE PLANE COORDINATES  
 E 559682  
 N 847414

**SITE LOCATION MAP**  
 World Headquarters for Jehova's Witnesses  
 Warwick Property  
 Township of Warwick, Orange County, New York



Drawn By: EB

Scale: 1" = 2,000'

Project No. 02400.244.010

Chk'd By: HL

Date: 7/30/2010

Figure No. 1A



Figure 1B- Site Plan



## 2.0 VEGETATION

Vegetation consists of the plant life or the total plant cover, found in an area whether indigenous or introduced by man. The Site falls within the Highlands Physiographic Province of New York which includes upland valleys and slopes, upland ridges, rock outcrops, and wetlands. There's a wide diversity of plant communities that can occur in a relatively small area that is characteristic of habitat conditions and plant communities occurring throughout the northeast.

Soil, slope, drainage, and exposure are important factors in the formation of the plant associations. A description of the soils is included in Section 6 and is shown on Figure 4. The PS&S established vegetation sampling transects were designed to include each of these factors. This study includes a two (2) part investigation; the first characterization of the general vegetation communities on the site and the second to an evaluation of the presence of threatened and endangered species on the site.

A series of 14 transects were run through the different habitats on the site during 2007. The locations of these transects are shown on Figure 2. A list of the plant species observed along each transect is included as Table 1. All plants within one (1) meter of the transect were identified and recorded. The transects were run to identify the vegetative species found on the site and to search for potential threatened and endangered species identified on the New York Natural Heritage database. Table 5 lists when the plant surveys were conducted and the number of hours invested in each survey.

The majority of Site's vegetation is characterized as a second growth upland eastern deciduous forest that likely established following historical logging operations. The dominant tree species on the Site are upland and mesic oak species, including red oak (*Quercus rubra*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), and chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*). Co-dominant species include American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and sugar maple (*A. saccharum*) and in some areas, hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). While the oaks can be found throughout the Site, the distribution of the co-dominant species help define the different vegetation communities. On the northern side of the Old Sterling Road along the slopes of the Ringwood River are two (2) areas of deciduous forest and south of the existing school there are an additional two (2) areas of deciduous forest which include a Canada hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) association. In addition, there is a forested wetland community along the river. Another distinct community is located at the southern end of the property. Soils in this area include Rock outcrop-Hollis Complex with moderate to steep slopes (ROC and ROD). These thin soils support the characteristic chestnut oak community which dominates these ridges.

There is a riparian corridor on the northern side of Old Sterling Road. This area contains a forested wetland dominated by red maple and white ash. Understory and herbaceous species in the wetland include American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) and jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*).

Wetlands were delineated on the portion of the property south of Old Sterling Road. Forested wetlands located north of Old Sterling Road were not delineated as no development is anticipated on this portion of the site.

Tree size range from seedlings and sapling, 1 - 4 inch diameter at breast height (dbh) to occasional trees 8 - 36 inches dbh. Most of the oaks on the Site have a dbh range of between 12

and 30 inches. Maples on the Site tended to have a slightly smaller dbh of 4 to 10 inches. Other trees on the Site fell within these ranges.

During the vegetation survey, one NYSDEC threatened plant species, Hyssop skullcap was observed on the site in 2007. During the 2010 survey of the site, this threatened plant species was not observed. This is possibly due to clearing operations carried out by Orange & Rockland in the right-of-way during the intervening period.



**Legend**

- Vegetation Transects
- Project Boundary

Source:  
 Transects from PS&S Field Survey, August 2007.  
 Aerial from ArcGIS Online - NAIP Imagery, 2008.  
 Project Boundary from plan by PS&S Survey entitled "Wetland Survey Parcel B4 and Part of Parcel A-13", dated 6/4/2010.

**VEGETATION TRANSECT MAP**  
 World Headquarters for Jehova's Witnesses  
 Warwick Property  
 Township of Warwick, Orange County, New York



Drawn By: EB

Scale: 1" = 600'

Project No. 03423.006.050

Chk'd By: HL

Date: 8/5/2010

Figure No. 2

Table 1  
Vegetation Transects  
Touro College Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	Transects													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>								x						
Cinnamon fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>									x		x	x		x
Bracken fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>			x	x	x	x						x	x	x
Maidenhair fern	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>							x	x						
Ebony spleenwort	<i>Asplenium platyneuron</i>	x													
New York fern	<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Christmas fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>										x	x			
Sensitive fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>					x			x	x		x			
Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	x	x											x	
White pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>					x			x						
Tulip poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>					x			x						
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>			x	x	x	x					x	x		
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>									x	x				x
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>							x		x		x	x	x	x
Witch hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							x
Shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovalis</i>	x								x			x	x	
Mockernut hickory	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	x		x	x	x	x	x							
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Chestnut oak	<i>Quercus prinus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x
Red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x				x				x
Black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>					x			x						
American hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>		x	x	x							x			
Black birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							
Gray birch	<i>Betula populifolia</i>					x									
Yellow birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>							x				x			x
Pennsylvania smartweed	<i>Polygonum pensylvanicum</i>					x									
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>					x									
Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>					x			x						
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>					x			x	x			x		x
Mountain laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>					x									
Winter green	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>							x							
Low bush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x		x				x	x
Indian pipe	<i>Monotropa uniflora</i>											x			
Dwarf spirea	<i>Spiraea latifolia</i>					x									
Wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>					x									
Dwarf cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla canadensis</i>					x									
Raspberry	<i>Rubus occidentalis</i>					x	x								
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>					x			x						x
Wild-black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>			x											
Pin Cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>									x					
Crabapple	<i>Pyrus coronaria</i>								x						
Birds foot trifoli	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>					x				x					
Crown vetch	<i>Coronilla varia</i>								x						
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>								x						
Sweet yellow clover	<i>Medicago officinalis</i>								x						
Flowering dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>		x	x	x		x							x	
Black gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>														x
Wahoo	<i>Euroyonimus alaternifolius</i>					x	x	x					x	x	
Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>								x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>					x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Fox grape	<i>Vitis labrusca</i>					x	x	x	x				x	x	x
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>					x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Poison ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>			x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>								x						
Wood sorrel	<i>Oxalis stricta</i>					x			x						
Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>									x		x	x		x
Queen Ann's lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>								x						
Spreading dogbane	<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>					x									
Indian hemp	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>					x									
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>					x									
Morning glory	<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>					x									
Scutellaria integrifolia	<i>Hyssop skullcap</i>					x									
Motherwort	<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>					x									
Lance leaved plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>								x						
Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>						x		x						
White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>					x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
Common mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>					x									
Mugwort	<i>Limnoloba aquatica</i>														x
Rough bedstraw	<i>Gaium asperum</i>						x		x						
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>						x								
Maple-leaved viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	x	x				x	x	x		x	x			
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>						x								
Ragweed	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>						x		x						x
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>						x								
Sweet goldenrod	<i>Solidago odora</i>						x								
Goldenrod spp	<i>Solidago spp.</i>						x								
White snakeroot	<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>					x			x						
Burdock	<i>Arcium minus</i>														x
Field hawkweed	<i>Hieracium pratense</i>						x		x						
Skunk cabbage	<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>								x	x		x	x		x

Table 1  
Vegetation Transects  
Touro College Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	Transects													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Jack in a pulpet	<i>Ansaema triphyllum</i>						x	x				x			
Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>								x						
Nut sedge	<i>Cyperus osculentus</i>					x			x						
Rye spp	<i>Lolium spp.</i>					x									
Upland bentgrass	<i>Agrostis hyemalis</i>														x
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>					x			x						
Poa spp	<i>Poa spp.</i>						x								x
Deer-tongue grass	<i>Panicum cladastrinum</i>			x		x									x
Crab grass	<i>Digitaria filiformis</i>													x	
Japanese siltgrass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>													x	x
Cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>								x						
False Hellbore	<i>Veratrum viride</i>									x					
Large-flowered trillium	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>											x			
Indian cucumber root	<i>Medeola virginiana</i>			x											
Nodding trillium	<i>Trillium cornutum</i>												x	x	
False Solomon's seal	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>			x	x							x	x	x	x
Greenbrier	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>												x		

### 3.0 WILDLIFE

An area's wildlife is dependent upon the characteristics of the habitat present. All organisms require food, water, cover and living space. The relative lack or abundance of each of these resources in relation to each species' life requisites help determine its presence or absence and if present, its distribution and the population dynamics for that species. Population dynamics and distribution are also dependent on the size, shape and complexity of the different vegetative communities and surrounding land use. Wildlife species tolerance of disturbance and human activity ranges from intolerant to dependent. Some species such as the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) have demonstrated great adaptability and tolerance to human disturbance. A few species require disturbance in order to complete their lifecycle yet other species are intolerant of most human disturbance.

Wildlife studies were conducted to characterize the general wildlife species utilizing the Site and to evaluate the presence of threatened and endangered species on the site. As the identification of potential breeding and not population dynamics was the object of the study, counts of individual species observed were not included in the survey. Surveys included a review of existing reports, review of NJDEP and NYSDEC databases and field observations. Habitat characteristics observed during vegetation surveys, literature review and database review was used to generate a list of species likely to occur on the site and potentially suitable habitat. Field observations were used to supplement existing information. Wildlife species expected to be found and observed on the Site are listed in Tables 2 through 4. The potential for each species to be breeding on the Site is also listed in these tables. Field observations and photo documentation (see Appendix 2) included the following:

#### **Terrestrial Invertebrates**

The NYSDEC lists a number of terrestrial invertebrate species as threatened, endangered, or species of special concern. These include dragonflies, moths and butterfly species. These species are typically found in open areas like the power line right-of-way or with respect to the dragonflies and damselflies utilize Sterling Forest Lake and the Ringwood River for the nymph portion of their life cycle. As no activities are proposed in the lake or river, and the power line right-of-way will not be altered by project implementation. Therefore, a detailed assessment of the use of the Site by invertebrate species was not included in this survey.

#### **Reptiles and Amphibians**

The NYSDEC lists Timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) as threatened in the State of New York. In addition the wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*), marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*) and box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) are listed as NYSDEC Species of Special Concern. In order to characterize the reptiles and amphibians utilizing the site and identify potential NYSDEC listed species usage of the site the following survey techniques were utilized:

- Slowly walking the transects and recording all species directly observed or heard calling;
- Using a snake hook, to examine suitable refugia (logs, boards, stumps, etc.);
- Conducting nocturnal road surveys of the roads with the use of headlights in the vicinity of the Site to intercept individuals crossing roadways;
- Listening for calling amphibians during evening and night hours;

Fortuitous observations of snakes and other amphibians and reptiles along the roads were recorded and referred to during the Site characterization and assessment of habitat quality. Table 5 lists the dates and times that the surveys were conducted.

### **Birds**

For raptors, an assessment of the habitat on the Site was conducted to determine the potential for these species to be utilizing the Site. Calls of red-shouldered hawks and Cooper's hawk broadcast to illicit a response. Other species of bird were identified using transects across the Site. Surveys began approximately on half hour before sunrise and continued until early afternoon. Each transect was run once during each day of the survey. Birds were identified by both sight (see Table 3) and by their individual calls. Evidence of breeding was recorded. Evidence of breeding on the Site included males calling during the nesting season, birds carrying nesting material and nests.

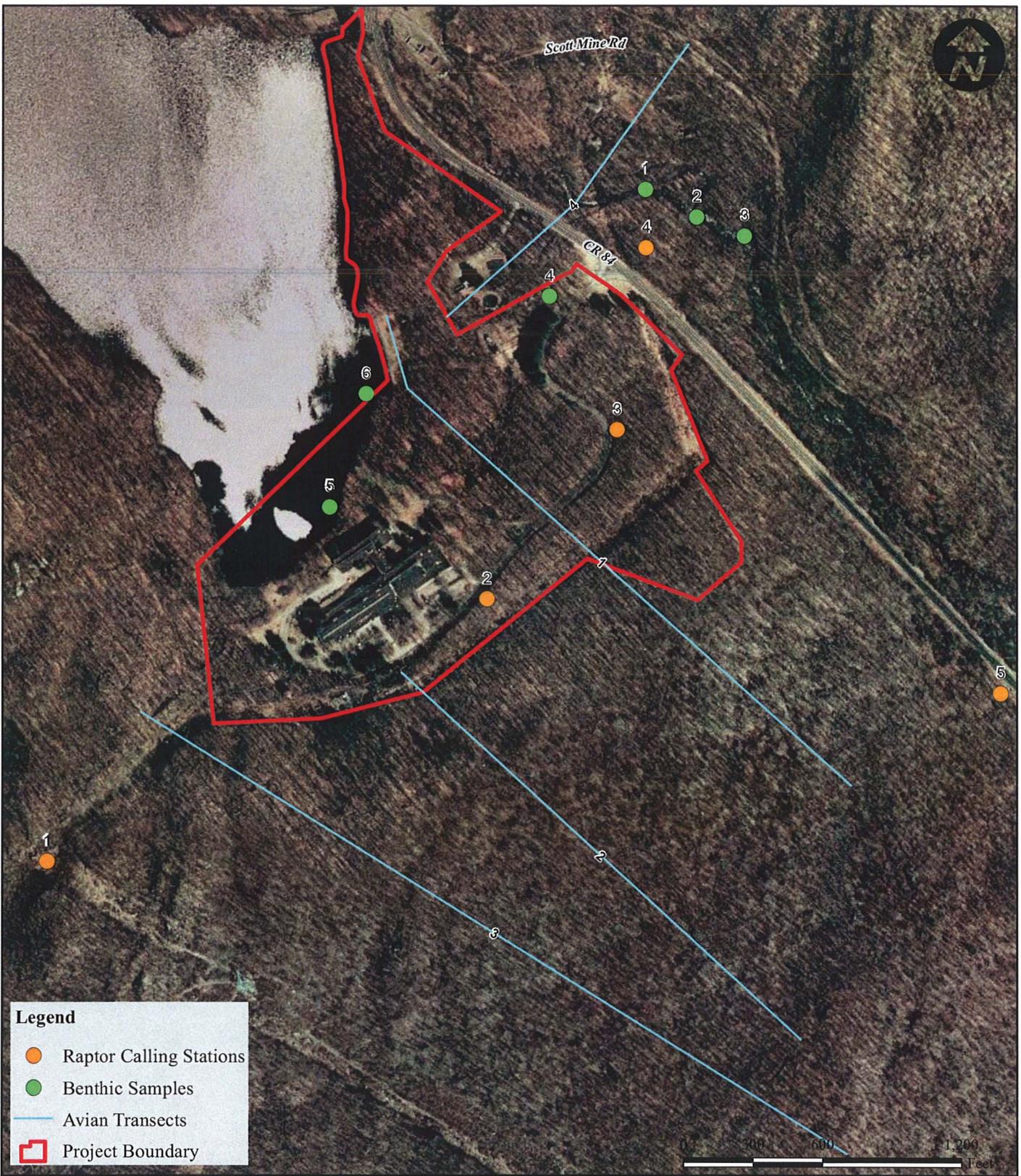
Raptor calling included playing taped recordings of red-shouldered hawks, red tailed hawks and Cooper's hawks to elicit a response. The calling sequence for the red-shouldered hawk consisted of consisted of three minutes of red-shouldered hawk calls, followed by three minutes of silence and 3 minutes of red-tailed hawk calls. The calling sequence was followed by five (5) minutes of silence. This was repeated twice at each calling station. The calling sequence for Cooper's hawk consisted of three minutes of Cooper's hawks calls, three minutes of silence and three additional minutes of Cooper's hawk calls. The calling sequence was followed by five (5) minutes of silence and was repeated twice at each calling station. The raptor calling locations and bird transects are depicted on Figure 3. Table 5 lists the dates and times that the surveys were conducted.

### **Mammals**

There were no records of threatened or endangered species identified on either the NYSDEC or NJDEP Natural Heritage database reports. Fortuitous observations of mammals or mammal signs were observed during the other survey activities and were recorded in the field notes (see Table 4). Signs observed included calls, scat, tracks and hair. Additionally, as discussed in Appendix 1, mist nets were set up on the site on two nights in June 2010 to evaluate the bat population.

Table 2  
Amphibians and Reptiles  
Observed on the Touro College Site

Musk Turtle	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>
Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>
Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys scripta</i>
Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>
Five-Lined Skink	<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i>
Northern Water Snake	<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>
Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>
Black Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>
Red-Spotted Newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>
Redbacked Salamander	<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>
Slimy Salamander	<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>
Two Lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>
American Toad	<i>Bufo americanus</i>
Spring Peepers	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>
Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>
Green Frog	<i>Rana clamitans</i>
Bull Frog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>
Leopard Frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>



**Legend**

- Raptor Calling Stations
- Benthic Samples
- Avian Transects
- Project Boundary

**WILDLIFE SURVEY MAP**  
 World Headquarters for Jehova's Witnesses  
 Warwick Property  
 Township of Warwick, Orange County, New York



Source:  
 Stations, samples and transects from PS&S Field Survey, August 2007.  
 Aerial from ArcGIS Online - NAIP Imagery, 2008.  
 Project Boundary from plan by PS&S Survey entitled "Wetland Survey Parcel B4 and Part of Parcel A-13", dated 6/4/2010.

Drawn By: EB	Scale: 1" = 600'	Project No. 03423.006.050
Chk'd By: HL	Date: 8/5/2010	Figure No. 3

Table 3  
Birds  
Observed on the Touro College Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	Breeding Status
Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	NOS
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Confirmed
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Confirmed
Wood duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Suitable
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	NOS
Common merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Suitable
Hooded merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Suitable
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	NOS
Wild turkey	<i>Megeagrís gallopavo</i>	Confirmed
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Suitable
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Suitable
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	NOS
Red-shouldered hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	South of site*
Morning dove	<i>Zenaidra macroura</i>	Confirmed
Black-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Confirmed
Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Confirmed
Ruby-throated hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Confirmed
Piliated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Confirmed
Red-bellied woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Suitable
Yellow shafted flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Confirmed
Hairy woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Confirmed
Great crested flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Confirmed
Eastern kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Confirmed
Eastern pæewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Confirmed
Eastern phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Confirmed
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Suitable
Blue jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Confirmed
Black-capped chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	Confirmed
Tufted titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>	Confirmed
White-breasted nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Confirmed
House wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Confirmed
Gray catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Confirmed
Northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Confirmed
American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Confirmed
Eastern bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Confirmed
Wood thrush	<i>Hylocichia mustelina</i>	Confirmed
Red-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Confirmed
Yellow-throated vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Confirmed
Yellow-throated warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	NOS
Blackpoll warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	NOS
Black-throated blue warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Suitable
Black and white warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Confirmed
Yellow-rumped warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	NOS
Magnolia warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Suitable
American red start	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Confirmed
Blue-winged warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Suitable
Yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Confirmed
Worm-eating warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	Confirmed
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Confirmed
Brown-headed cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Confirmed
Red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Confirmed
Common grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Confirmed
European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Confirmed
Baltimore oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Confirmed
Scarlet tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Confirmed
Northern cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Confirmed
Indigo bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Confirmed
White-throated sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Confirmed
Chipping sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Confirmed
Song sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Confirmed

Confirmed - Calling during the nesting season, observed carrying nesting material or observed in nest  
 Suitable - Suitable habitat available on site but not confirmed  
 \* - observed carrying prey items to location south of site  
 NOS - Not on site - either migratory species, no suitable habitat on site or no evidence of this species breeding on site

Table 4  
Mammals  
Observed on the Touro College Site

<b>Common Names</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Opossum	<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>
Short tailed shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>
Eastern Mole	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>
Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
Stripped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
Fox	<i>Vulpes fulva</i>
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>
Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>
Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Beaver	<i>Castor Canadensis</i>
Deer mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>
White-footed mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>
Meadow vole	<i>Micotus pennsylvanicus</i>
Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>
Little Brown	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>

## 4.0 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The NYSDEC Natural Heritage Program was contacted for information concerning historic records of threatened and endangered species on and in the vicinity of the project Site. Due to the proximity of the Site to New Jersey and Ringwood Manor State Park, Natural Heritage Data was also requested from the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program. The US Fish and Wildlife Service was not contacted for a specific list of federally listed species on the site as federally listed species were included on both the NYSDCE and NJDEP lists.

Vegetation surveys followed standard transect methods as described in Miller-Dombois and Ellenberg, 1974. Specific habitat searches for threatened and endangered plant species utilized the same methodology on a site specific scale.

### **4.1 Plant Species**

The New York Natural Heritage database lists the presence of the following threatened or endangered plant species in the vicinity of the Site:

- Terrestrial starwort (*Callitriche terrestris*);
- Green parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum pinnatum*);
- Hyssop skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*); and
- Michaux's blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium mucronatum*)

Terrestrial starwort is classified as threatened by the NYSDEC while green parrot's feather, hyssop skullcap, and Michaux's blue-eyed grass are classified as endangered.

The following sections briefly discuss the habitat requirements of each species, potential habitat on site for each species and anticipated impacts to each species from the proposed project.

#### **Terrestrial Starwort**

The terrestrial starwort (*Callitriche terrestris*) is listed as a threatened plant species on the NYSDEC threatened and endangered species list. This species is typically found in damp shaded habitat. This is a small plant with tufted branches spreading along the ground or climbing nearby rocks or other objects. Potential habitat for this species on the Site includes along the edge of Sterling Forest Lake, the edge of Ringwood River and along the perennial stream located between the existing college and Sterling Forest Road. No terrestrial starworts were observed during this investigation. As there is no evidence that this species is on site, and there are no proposed activities anticipated along the edge of Sterling Forest Lake or in the vicinity of the Ringwood River, no impacts to this species is anticipated to result from the proposed project.

#### **Green parrot's feather**

Green parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum pinnatum*) is a member of the aquatic milfoil family. It is listed by the NYSDEC as an endangered species in New York. This species is found primarily in ponds. Leaves are arranged in whorls of 3 to 5 leaves per whorl. Potential habitat for this species on the Site is generally limited to Sterling Forest Lake. Green parrot's feather milfoil was not observed during this investigation. As the project does not propose any activities in Sterling Forest Lake, no impact to this species are anticipated.

### **Hyssop skullcap**

Hyssop skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*) is a summer perennial with a terminal raceme of purple-blue flowers. It is listed as a NYSDEC threatened species. This species inhabits a wide range of habitats from pine-barrens to wet meadows. Typically, hyssop skullcap is found along the edge of roadsides, woodland borders, fields, and in wet meadows. Potential habitat for this species on the Site includes the edge of Sterling Forest Road, the Site access road and the power line right-of-ways. Vegetation transects were run down the length of the power line right-of-way, the most probable location for this species on Site. Small colonies of hyssop skullcap were observed along the right-of-way portion of the Site in 2007. In the 2010 vegetation survey, this plant species was not observed possibly due to seasonal conditions. If Hyssop skullcap were to be re-observed in the power line right-of-way, mitigative action would be required to preserve this species. No impacts to this species are anticipated to occur from implementation of the proposed project.

### **Michaux's blue-eyed grass**

Michaux's blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium mucronatum*) is in the iris family. The flowering season for this species is summer. The six (6) petal flower is blue with a yellow center. The petals of the flowers have distinctly pointed tips. It is found in fields, meadows, bogs and along forest edges. This species prefers areas of full sun through out the day. Potential habitat for this species on Site occurs along the power line right-of-way. Vegetation transects were completed for the length of the power line right-of-way and the wetlands south of the former treatment plant. Michaux's blue eyed grass was not observed. As proposed, the project will not impact habitat suitable for this species. Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated to result from project implementation.

## **4.2 Animal Species**

In New York State, a Threatened Species is 1) any native species likely to become an Endangered Species (i.e. in imminent danger of extirpation or extinction) within the foreseeable future in New York State, or 2) any species listed as threatened by the United States Department of the Interior, as enumerated in the Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11. Species of Special Concern are those species which are not recognized as threatened or endangered, but for which documented concern exists for their continued welfare in New York. Species of Special Concern receive no additional legal protection under Environmental Conservation Law Section 11-0535.

The NYSDEC Natural Heritage Data Base has no records of endangered animals on the project Site. The NYSDEC data base has records of six species of special concern within one-quarter mile of the project Site (listed below). In addition, the New York data base has a record of timber rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*), a New York State threatened species, within 1.5 miles of the Site.

The New Jersey Natural Heritage Program has identified the following species listed by the NYSDEC as endangered, threatened or a Species of Special Concern as occurring in New Jersey and within ¼ mile of the Site:

- Timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) State Threatened;
- Red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) NYSDEC Listed Species of Special Concern;
- Wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*) NYSDEC Listed Species of Special Concern;

- Marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*) NYSDEC Listed Species of Special Concern;
- Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) NYSDEC Listed Species of Special Concern;
- Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) NYSDEC Listed Species of Special Concern
- Eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) NYSDEC Listed Species of Special Concern

Between April 10 and September 6, 2007 and April 9 and July 15, 2010, PS&S conducted Site reconnaissance surveys to determine the presence or absence of State Threatened and Endangered Species and/or the presence of suitable habitat for these species.

**Table 5  
Sampling Effort**

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOURS/TIME OF DAY</u>
Raptor Survey	10 April 2007	3hrs/Morning
Avian Survey	10 April 2007	2hrs/Morning
Vernal Pond Survey	10 April 2007	3hrs/Evening
Raptor Survey	18 April 2007	3hrs/Morning/Afternoon
Avian Survey	18 April 2007	1 hr/Afternoon
Vernal Pond Survey	18 April 2007	3hrs/Evening
Raptor Survey	25 April 2007	2hrs/Morning
Herpetological Survey	25 April 2007	4hrs/ Afternoon
Vernal Pond Survey	25 April 2007	2hr/Evening
Raptor Survey	3 May 2007	2.5hrs/Aternoon
Herpetological Survey	3 May 2007	4hrs/Afternoon
Avian Survey	3 May 2007	2hrs/Morning
Vernal Pond Survey	3 May 2007	2hrs/Afternoon
Avian Survey	11 May 2007	12hrs (2 surveyors)/Morning/afternoon
Herpetological Survey	11 May 2007	4 hrs (2 surveyors)/Afternoon
Raptor Survey	22 May 2007	2.5 hrs/Morning
Avian Survey	22 May 2007	2 hrs/Morning
Herpetological Survey	22 May 2007	4 hrs/Afternoon
Vernal Pond Survey	22 May 2007	1.5 hrs/Evening
Raptor Survey	1 June 2007	2 hrs (2 surveyors)/Morning
Avian Survey	1 June 2007	10 hrs (2 surveyors)/Morning/Afternoon
Herpetological Survey	1 June 2007	2 hrs (2 surveyors)/Afternoon
Vegetation Surveys	14 June 2007	10 hrs/Afternoon
Herpetological Survey	14 June 2007	2 hrs/Morning
Vegetation Surveys	25 July 2007	8 hrs/Afternoon
Herpetological Survey	25 July 2007	3 hrs/Morning
Vegetation Surveys	17 August 2007	4 hrs/Morning
Herpetological Survey	17 August 2007	4 hrs/Afternoon
Incidental Raptor observations	17 August 2007	1 hr/Afternoon
Vegetation Survey/Wetlands	6 September 2007	12 hrs (2

		surveyors)/Morning/Afternoon
Incidental Raptor observations	6 September 2007	2 hrs (2 surveyors)/Afternoon
Herpetological Survey	6 September 2007	2 hrs/Afternoon
Vegetation survey, wetlands, vernal pond	25 March 2010	6 hrs. morning/ afternoon
Vegetation survey, wetlands, vernal pond	26 March 2010	6 hrs. morning/ afternoon
Vegetation survey, wetlands, herpetological, raptor, avian	9 April 2010	6 hrs. afternoon/ evening
Vegetation, avian, herpetological, mammal, raptor	7 June 2010	5hrs. evening
Vegetation, avian, herpetological, mammal, raptor, invertebrates	8 June 2010	5hrs. evening
Vegetation, avian, invertebrates	15 July 2010	4 hours afternoon

### Timber Rattlesnake

The timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) is an ectothermic reptile which undergoes an annual cycle related to seasonal changes of temperature and its environment. Thermoregulation and winter survival require most populations to undergo a period of hibernation through the winter. The major phases of the seasonal cycle are listed in Table 6.

**Table 6**  
**Seasonal Cycle of Rattlesnakes in New York**

Phase	Description	Dates
Earliest Emergence from dens	First appearance of snakes on surface of a den in the spring	April 8
General Emergence from den	Range of dates most snakes appear on surface in the spring	May 7 - May 21
General Ingress	Range of dates most snakes appear at dens in autumn	Sept. 14 - Oct. 1
Latest Ingress	Last appearance of snakes at den in autumn	October 16

\* Source - Brown, 1992

A typical hibernaculum (den) is located in a rocky area where underground crevices provided retreats for overwintering. In northeastern New York, granitic escarpments and ledges with accumulations of talus are prominent features at and around favored den sites.

Elevations of the dens range between 500 and 1300 ft. A typical den site is on the southerly slope of a hill or mountain which is ledgy. Because of the rockyness of the den sites, there is typically little vegetation around the entrance. Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and wild grape (*Vitus* spp.) are typically the only vegetation adjacent to the dens.

There are two outcrop areas in the southern portion of the Site with southerly exposures. These outcrop areas provide a south/southwestern exposure with steep rocky slopes and ledges, rock out crops, and grassy shelf clearings. Elevations of these ridges are between 780 and 800 feet which fall within the typical range utilized by this species. Canopy vegetation observed on Site contains red oak, chestnut oak, red maple, and black birch. The shrub layer consists of maple leaved viburnum, American hornbeam and witch hazel. Ground cover is dominated by low bush blueberry. There is heavy vegetation with a closed canopy over the outcrop areas. Because of the closed canopy there is virtually no basking habitat at the outcrops for this species. The closed canopy and lack of basking habitat excludes these outcrop areas as suitable rattlesnake den habitat.

The New York database has a record of timber rattlesnakes within 1.5 miles of the Site. The New Jersey Natural Heritage Data Base has records of timber rattlesnakes sited within one-quarter mile of the Site. Aerial photographs of the surrounding areas, with the exception of the power line right-of-way, do not show open canopy outcrops immediately adjacent to the Site. During this and other surveys (Klemens, Oct & Nov. 2005) conducted on the Site, no rattlesnakes, or evidence of snakes, such as scat or shed skins were observed on the Site. In addition an NYSDEC Conservation Officer indicated that he had not observed any rattlesnakes in the vicinity of the Site (NYSDEC, 2007).

While suitable foraging habitat is located on the Site into which snakes would disperse after leaving den sites, it does not appear to support this species. Any determination of the specific regulatory implementations of the suitability of the site will be made by the NYSDEC during the SEQRA review process. Prior to construction activities on the site, it is recommended that the construction area be fenced using silt fencing. Once the fencing is completed, the fenced area should be searched by a biologist for rattlesnakes to prevent accidentally harming any snakes that may have been using the site for foraging.

Conclusions drawn from the data collected during 2009 and 2010 rattlesnake study suggest that the proposed project would not have any negative effects on local timber rattlesnake populations. Although the Watchtower property is within the possible range (typically accepted as 2 miles) of at least five rattle snake dens. It is believed there is not any significant habitat on the property west of Long Meadow road and certainly not within the area of the proposed project. Rattlesnakes may use forested areas on the property to forage, as BL1 did, that are not proposed for disturbance. Rattlesnake utilization of the forested areas on the property would not be affected by Watchtower's use of the former industrial campus. Workers and security guards on the site grounds have not observed any rattlesnakes. If the proposed project is allowed to proceed, no rattlesnake habitat would be lost or degraded, nor would rattlesnakes be excluded from any habitat.

Watchtower does recognize that rattlesnakes are an integral part of the ecosystem and have no reservations about sharing their property with them. Just as New York State has an obligation to protect its indigenous species; Watchtower also recognizes their obligation to

protect those species on their land. In the event that a rattlesnake is found in a parking lot or near the buildings where it would be unsafe, Watchtower would call one of the NYS DEC listed Nuisance Rattlesnake Responder volunteers or have someone on staff trained in the protocols to safely move them.

We believe that Watchtower's proposed redevelopment of this former industrial site, while leaving the other forested areas of the property undisturbed, is the best possible use of the property from the perspective of timber rattlesnake conservation. Proposals of previous owners underscore this. Combining best use with the fact that the owners are "rattlesnake friendly" it makes sense to endorse their proposed project. When it comes to protecting timber rattlesnakes on private land there is no substitute for landowner stewardship." (Michele, K. 2009/2010 rattlesnake study)

### **Red-Shouldered Hawk**

The red-shouldered hawk is a striped, broad winged hawk. At the turn of the century, this species was the most common species of hawk in New England (Weidensaul, 1989, Terres, 1991). The logging of mature forests and pesticide contamination has contributed to the decline of this species. The red-shouldered hawks however tend to be relatively tolerant of human disturbance.

The preferred nesting habitat for this species is mature moist woodlands (maple/hemlock forest), riparian corridors and forested wetlands (Peterson, 1980; Weidensaul, 1989; Terres, 1991). Nests of red-shouldered hawks in southwestern Quebec were located in mature, closed canopy, deciduous forest in close proximity to a natural clearing (88 feet) and to riparian or lakeshore habitat (distance to water body averaged 202 feet; Armstrong and Euler 1982). Red-shouldered hawks require large tracts of mature floodplain or riparian forests as nesting habitat (Bednarz and Dinsmore 1981); 550 acre area corresponded with 50% of maximum probability of occurrence, and 100 acre patches were the minimum used (Robbins et al. 1989). The red-shouldered hawk's nest is a large mass of sticks and twigs built close to the trunk of a tall deciduous tree.

Foraging habitat includes the wooded margins of marshes, often close to cultivated fields and forest natural openings (Bednarz and Dinsmore 1981, DeGraaf and Rappole 1995). Bednarz and Dinsmore (1981) found that marsh or wet meadow feeding areas interspersed within or adjacent to the forest typically were > 55 acres, and as small as 8 acres.

The majority of the Site is second growth upland forest habitat. Forested wetlands are present within riparian corridor are found in the northern portion of the Site. The riparian corridor parallels Sterling Lake Road through the Site and crosses the road to the south of the Site. These forested areas provide potential nesting habitat. No nests and no responses to call back tapes, however, were observed in these areas.

On July 25, 2007, a pair of red-shouldered hawks was observed along the power line right-of-way south of the Site. This pair was observed foraging along the power line right-of-way and one was carrying a prey item. The bird carrying the prey item flew south and was gone for approximately 30 minutes. When it returned it no longer was carrying anything. Based on this observation, the lack of observed nests and the lack of response to calls, this pair of red-shouldered hawks is likely nested south of the Site and foraging along the power line

right-of-ways on or in the vicinity of the Site in 2007. Red shouldered hawk was not observed on the site in 2010.

The red-shouldered hawks are relatively tolerant of human disturbance. The Site is also bounded by two State Parks, Sterling Forest State Park and Ringwood Manor State Park, which provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for this species. It is not anticipated that this species will be significantly impacted by the proposed development.

### **Wood Turtle**

The wood turtle is a species requiring high quality free flowing streams for breeding and hibernating, and adjacent wetland and upland habitat for feeding (Herpetological Associates, 1981). This species is known to travel great distances while foraging making them susceptible to impacts associated with traffic, domestic pets and other human interactions (Conant, 1975).

Typical breeding and overwintering habitat for wood turtles is shallow (up to three feet deep), streams with good water quality. Outside of the breeding and overwintering periods, the wood turtle is one of the most terrestrial species. They can be found in a variety of habitats up to a mile from the stream.

The portion of the site adjacent to the Ringwood River includes areas of emergent or forested wetlands with adjacent upland fields and forest. The Ringwood River also appears to have sufficient water and flow during the critical winter months to support hibernating turtles. Wetlands associated with the river range from broad to narrow. The wetland areas adjacent to the power line right-of-way are relatively broad while the areas along the southern and western portions of the stream are associated with upland areas dominated by steep slopes.

No wood turtles were observed on the Site during 2007 or 2010 site investigations. Wood turtles have been previously reported to occur on the site and they may utilize the portion of the Site northeast of Sterling Forest Road. No development activities are proposed within the breeding and overwintering habitat. Prior to construction activities on the site, it is recommended that the construction area be fenced using silt fencing. Once the fencing is completed, the fenced area should be searched by a biologist for wood turtles to prevent accidentally harming any turtles. Through implementation of these measures, it is anticipated that this species will not be impacted by the proposed development.

### **Marbled Salamander**

The marbled salamander is part of a group of salamanders known as the mole salamanders. These amphibians spend most of their life underground. However, they congregate adjacent to temporary ponds in the fall to breed. The distance that they migrate to the breeding ponds has not been established. Marbled salamanders lay eggs in low depressions which fill with water and form temporary ponds or pools. Breeding activities are typically completed in a few nights and these amphibians disappear for another year. Encounters with marbled salamanders at times other than the breeding season are typically chance encounters. They have been encountered during excavation for foundations at depths of greater than 4 feet (Conant, 1975).

Standing water was surveyed for the presence of larva of this species. This survey was conducted through the use of a dip net and careful search of the leaf litter in the pools. All

organisms collected were returned to the pools unharmed. In addition, road cruising was conducted on rainy nights to observe frogs and salamanders crossing roadways and to listen for calling amphibians. No evidence of marbled salamanders was observed on the site.

The wetland area northeast of Sterling Forest Road and wetland area 8 contain small ephemeral ponds. These ponds were dry by May 11, 2007 and June 8, 2010. The ponded areas were sampled using a dip net in April 2007 and April 9, 2010. No marbled salamanders or past evidence of breeding in the ponds was observed. Amphibian breeding activity (spring peepers, green frogs and American toads) southwest of Sterling Forest Road was observed in emergent wetland areas. No evidence of *Ambystoma* salamander activity was observed in these emergent wetlands.

### **Box Turtle**

Box turtles live in open woodlands, pastures and marshy meadows. They are often found near streams and ponds. They are omnivores feeding on snails, insects, berries, fungi, worms, slugs, flowers, fish, frogs, snakes and birds. The young are primarily carnivorous while adults tend to be herbivorous, although they do not eat green leaves.

Environmental temperature determines the box turtle's activity rates. In the summer, box turtles restrict their activities to mornings and after rain. They crawl into or under decaying logs, leaves, mammal borrows or mud to stay cool. In very hot weather, they will go into shady pools and puddles to cool off. Box turtles are diurnal and scoop out a shallow indentation in which to spend the night. They hibernate in the winter, borrowing up to two (2) feet deep into loose earth, mud, stream bottoms, old stump holes or mammal borrows.

The site provides suitable habitat for this species. On June 1, 2007 a female box turtle was observed in the vicinity of the existing building. Two additional box turtle shells were found in the vicinity of the existing building during Site investigations. An immature (roughly 2 inches long) box turtle was observed in the powerline right of way on July 15, 2010.

In addition to maintaining the habitat along the powder line right-of-way, the proposed project will result in additional open field habitat that would support this species. Prior to construction activities on the site, it is recommended that the construction area be fenced using silt fencing. Once the fencing is completed, the fenced area should be searched by a biologist for box turtles to prevent accidentally harming any turtles. Through implementation of these measures it is anticipated that this species will not be impacted by the proposed development.

### **Cooper's Hawk**

This crow sized blue and russet hawk has a relatively long rounded tail which is cross barred with black bars, a buffy neck nape and dark gray crown (Terres, 1991). This bird belongs to the group of hawks known as Accipiters which are the short winged hawks. Deciduous woods are the preferred habitat for Cooper's hawks although they tend to seek out a tall conifer tree for nesting (Weidensaul, 1989). Nests consist of a large platform of sticks and large chips of bark. The Cooper's hawk does not tolerate the smaller, similar and competitive sharp shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) within the same woodland area where it is nesting (Terres, 1991). Primary prey for this species consists of medium sized songbirds such as woodpeckers, grackles, starlings, robins, jays and doves. When abundant, small mammals such as chipmunks, red squirrels, mice and rats will also be taken. When nesting,

Cooper's hawks rarely hunt in the vicinity of their nest, preferring to hunt in other habitats (Weidensaul, 1989).

This species tends to be tolerant of human activities. They are known to patrol bird feeders in the winter and have historically taken young chickens around farms (Weidensaul, 1989), and passerines from residential bird feeders (personal observation).

The deciduous upland habitat of the Site provides suitable potential habitat for both breeding and foraging. No Cooper's hawks were observed during the field surveys nor were any nests observed.

As discussed above the Site is bounded by two State Parks, which provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for this species. Given the amount of preserved forested habitat in the vicinity of the Site, it is anticipated that this species will not be adversely impacted by the proposed development.

### **Eastern Bluebird**

The eastern bluebird is a small blue/reddish brown colored bird typically found in open country, farms, cut-over woods, gardens, parks, fields, orchards, and along roadsides. They are commonly found perched on fences or utility wires. This species nests in cavities and has encountered serious competition from introduced cavity nesting species such as starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*).

The eastern bluebird feeds mostly on insects and often flies from a fence, wire or low tree to catch grasshoppers, crickets, katydids or beetles which make up the largest part of its diet (Terres, 1991). They are also known to eat spiders, millipedes, centipedes, sow bugs, snails, earthworms, lizards and tree frogs. Bluebirds will also eat blackberries, bayberries, fruit of honeysuckles, Virginia creeper, red cedar, wild grapes, pokeberries, and sumac seeds.

Nests are constructed primarily by the female in natural tree cavities, woodpecker holes, holes in stumps, fence rails and bird boxes, 3 to 20 feet above the ground. Nests are constructed using dried grasses, pine needles, weed stems, and fine twigs. Nests are lined with fine grasses, hairs and feathers.

The eastern bluebird is an open country species. The only open country habitat on the Site is along the power-line right-of-way, adjacent to the dike along the eastern edge of Sterling Forest Lake and the former Kings College campus. There are numerous tree cavities in the vicinity of these open county habitat areas to provide nesting habit for this species. During the field survey, numerous bluebirds were observed at each of these locations.

Under the proposed development plan, there are no anticipated disturbances associated with the power line right-of-way habitat currently being utilized by this species. Power line maintenance will continue to maintain this right-of-way as old field habitat suitable for this species. Installation of nesting boxes along the power line right-of-way can provide additional nesting opportunities for this species.

The area surrounding the former Kings College campus and the area along the dike will be disturbed by project implementation. These areas may be limited in serving as suitable nesting habitat for this species. It is anticipated that the loss of these patches of habitat will not have an adverse impact due to additional off-site power line right-of-ways in the vicinity of the Site. In order to prevent potential impacts to individual nesting eastern blue bird; it is recommended that potential cavity trees in the vicinity of the former Kings College campus

and along the dike be cut during the fall and winter. It is anticipated that the power line right-of-way will continue to serve as eastern bluebird habitat subsequent to project implementation.

## 5.0 AQUATIC RESOURCES

Aquatic resources on the Site include a portion of Sterling Forest Lake, a reach of the Ringwood River and wetlands associated with the river and its tributaries. Sterling Forest Lake is a deep, (approximately 120 feet) oligotrophic natural lake which is deepened by a 20 foot high dam. The Lake is State owned and is part of Sterling Forest State Park.

Surveys conducted by the NYSDEC Bureau of Fisheries, Biological Survey Unit, conducted on May 31, 2000 indicate that the lake supports a breeding population of lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*). In addition, rainbow (*Salmo gairdneri*) and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) were stocked in the lake while it was under private ownership. Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) had been the main forage base in the lake; however, they are, based on NYSDEC Bureau of Fisheries surveys conducted in 1998 and 2000, no longer present in the lake. The following species were collected by NYSDEC during their 2000 survey:

- Smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*);
- Rock bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*);
- Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*);
- Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*);
- Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*);
- Chain pickerel (*Esox niger*); and
- Yellow perch (*Perca fluviatilis*).

The Ringwood River flows through the northeastern portion of the Site. The reach of the stream which flows through the Site is identified as a Class C (T) freshwater. The NYSDEC defined best usage of Class C waters is fishing. These waters are suitable for fish propagation and survival. The water is also suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes. The (T) appearing after the standard designation indicates that the waters are suitable for supporting trout. In March, 2007 the NYSDEC stocked 290 8-9 inch brown trout in the Ringwood River. Immediately downstream of the Site, in New Jersey, the NJDEP stocks brown and rainbow trout in the river.

The proposed development is designed to avoid the aquatic habitat present on the site. Appropriate soil erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented to prevent the migration of sediment to Sterling Forest Lake and the Ringwood River during construction activities. Stormwater management controls should be implemented to reduce stormwater runoff into these water bodies subsequent to the development of the site. With appropriate soil erosion and sediment control measures and stormwater management facilities It is anticipated that the proposed project will have no significant negative impact on the aquatic resources in the project area.

## 6.0 WETLANDS

The entire portion of the Site east of Sterling Road was examined for the presence or absence of wetlands. Each wetland delineated within the project area was classified according to habitat type. A review of the NYS Department of Transportation, Greenwood Lake and Sloatsburg Freshwater Wetland Quadrangles shows the presence of NYSDEC Freshwater Wetland area GR-18, Gr-19 and GR-120 located north of the Site (Figure 5). The NYSDEC Freshwater Wetland maps do not indicate the presence of NYSDEC regulated wetlands within the project Site.

The National Wetlands Inventory Maps (NWI), Greenwood Lake and Sloatsburg Freshwater Wetland Quadrangles indicate palustrine forested (PF01), palustrine scrub/shrub (PSS1) wetlands and palustrine open waters (POW) associated with the Ringwood River. Sterling Forest Lake is identified as lacustrine, limnetic open waters (L1OW). No wetlands are delineated on the portion of the Site west of Sterling Road.



**Legend**

 Project Boundary

Note:  
There are no wetlands in the vicinity of project site.

Source:  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), 2009.  
Project Boundary from plan by PS&S Survey entitled "Wetland Survey Parcel B4 and Part of Parcel A-13", dated 6/4/2010.  
Aerial from ArcGIS Online - NAIP Imagery, 2008.

**NYS DEC WETLANDS MAP**  
 World Headquarters for Jehova's Witnesses  
 Warwick Property  
 Township of Warwick, Orange County, New York



Drawn By: EB	Scale: 1" = 600'	Project No. 02400.244.010
Chk'd By: HL	Date: 7/30/2010	Figure No. 5

## **6.1 Wetland Regulations**

A variety of federal and state regulations affect construction and other activities in wetlands and in areas immediately adjacent to wetlands. The principal federal laws that regulate activities in wetlands are Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Other federal laws that may apply include the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Swampbuster provision of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990.

The principal New York State regulation affecting development activities in and near freshwater wetlands is the Freshwater Wetlands Act (6NYCRR Part 663). Other state laws that may regulate activities in or near wetlands include the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)(6NYCRR Part 617), and the Use and Protection of Waters Program (6NYCRR Part 608).

## **6.2 Definitions and Methodology**

Jurisdictional Waters of the United States (WoUS) is a term used and defined by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 33 Code of Federal Regulations 328. This term as defined in the federal regulations includes “wetlands.” However, for the purposes of this report the different types of jurisdictional water systems are defined as either “WoUS” or “wetlands”. WoUS will denote non-vegetated, contiguous watercourses or waterways with well defined banks, or intermittent streams as opposed to “wetlands” as defined below.

## **6.3 Hydrophytic Vegetation**

The initial step in the wetland delineation was to characterize the dominant vegetation in each vegetation layer. Dominant species are those that have the largest relative basal area, height, number of stems, or greatest areal cover (EL, 1987). The vegetation was then compared to the National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands, Northeast (Region 1) (NWI, 1988) to determine if hydrophytic vegetation was present.

A “hydrophyte” is any plant “growing in water, soil, or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content” (EL, 1987). Since most species can tolerate a range of growing conditions, individual species are not solely restricted to either wetland or upland communities. The USFWS has developed a classification scheme that assigns species to wetland indicator classes as listed in Table 7 (NWI, 1988).

**Table 7**  
**Plant Indicator Status Categories**

<b>Indicator Category</b>	<b>Indicator Symbol</b>	<b>% Occurrence in Wetlands</b>	<b>Status Categories</b>
Obligate Wetland Plants	OBL	>99	Plants that occur almost always in wetlands under natural conditions, but which may also occur rarely in nonwetlands.
Facultative Wetland Plants	FACW	67-99	Plants that occur usually in wetlands, but also occur (1% to 33%) in nonwetlands.
Facultative Plants	FAC	33-67	Plants with a similar likelihood of occurring in both wetlands and nonwetlands.
Facultative Upland Plants	FACU	1-33	Plants that occur sometimes in wetlands, but occur more often in nonwetlands.
Upland Plants	UPL	<1	Plants that occur rarely in wetlands, but occur almost always in nonwetlands under natural conditions.

Hydrophytic vegetation is present if greater than 50% of the dominant plant species from all strata are OBL, FACW, and/or FAC. When greater than or equal to 50% of the dominant species are FACU and/or UPL and hydric soils and wetland hydrology are present, the area is also considered to have hydrophytic vegetation. If hydric soils and wetland hydrology are lacking, and normal circumstances exist, then the area is considered to be upland.

#### **6.4 Wetland Hydrology**

The second step was to assess the wetland hydrology. Wetland hydrology encompasses the hydrologic characteristics of areas that are inundated or have saturated soils for sufficient duration to support hydrophytic vegetation. Hydrologic indicators are generally used to determine the presence or absence of a wetland. Of the three technical criteria, wetland hydrology is generally the least exact and most difficult to establish in the field due to annual, seasonal, and daily fluctuations (EL, 1987). An area has wetland hydrology if the soil is saturated to the surface by groundwater or ponded or flooded with surface water for

one week or more during the growing season. Saturation to the surface can occur when the water table is 0.5 to 1.5 feet below the surface depending upon soil permeability.

Indicators of wetland hydrology may be divided into recorded data and field data. Recorded data may be obtained from aerial photographs, soil surveys, historical data, flood plain delineations or tide/stream gauges. In the field, wetland hydrology may be evidenced by visual observation of saturation, inundation, or depth to standing water. However, it is not necessary to directly demonstrate the hydrology.

Other field indicators of wetland hydrology include drainage patterns, morphological plant adaptations, oxidized root channels, water marks, surface scouring, water-stained leaves, sediment deposits; drift lines, moss lines, and bare areas. Unless an area has been hydrologically modified, the hydrologic parameter may also be inferred from the soil profile.

### **6.5 Hydric Soils**

The third step was to assess the presence of hydric soils. "Hydric soils" are soils that are saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor the growth and revegetation of hydrophytic vegetation (USDA-SCS, 1985). Soils are considered hydric when they are (1) somewhat poorly drained and have a seasonal high water table less than 0.5 feet from the surface; or (2) poorly drained or very poorly drained and have a seasonal high water table less than 1.0 or 1.5 feet from the surface. The high water table must be present for a week or more during the growing season (EL, 1987). Soils that are ponded or flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season are also classified as hydric. All organic soils (histosols) or mineral soils with a histic epipedon are considered hydric soils.

In the field, a hand auger was used for sampling the soil to examine indicators of hydric soils such as low chroma, colors, mottling, organic accumulation, and high water table. Soils were generally examined to a depth of approximately 16-20 inches. Hydric conditions for mineral soils with low to moderate organic content were most commonly demonstrated by gleying and mottling. Gleyed soils are a result of gleization which is manifested by the presence of neutral gray, bluish or greenish colors through the soil matrix or in mottles (spots or streaks). Mineral soils were compared to a Munsell soil chart (Kollmorgen Corp., 1975) to determine soil color. Soils were considered hydric if they were gleyed or if the top of the B horizon had a chroma of 1 or less if mottling was not present, or a chroma of 2 or less when mottling was present.

Low chroma colors are an index of the degree of soil reduction as a result of anaerobic conditions. Low chroma colors include black, various shades of grey, and the darker shades of brown and red. These criteria allow most soils to be classified as hydric or non-hydric. Hydric soils that have been effectively drained may still show low chroma colors, but are no longer considered to be hydric because they lack hydrology. Low chroma colors may not be used as an indicator of hydric soils in those soils that are sand, are deeply colored as a result of their parent material, or have recently been formed (i.e., alluvial). These soils must be evaluated more carefully under the procedures outlined by the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (EL, 1987).

Sandy soils may be considered to be hydric if organic materials have accumulated above or in the surface horizon. Dark vertical streaking of subsurface horizons caused by downward movement of organic matter also indicates a hydric soil. This may be associated with a spodic horizon located at the average depth of the water table.

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS), in cooperation with the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS), has prepared a list of the Nation's hydric soils (USDA SCS, 1987). In addition, the SCS publishes county soil surveys for areas where soil mapping has been completed. Unlisted soils are considered to be non-hydric. However, some phases of unlisted soils may contain hydric inclusions and thus be associated with wetlands. These cases must be verified in the field. Field soil characteristics are given precedence over how a site is mapped on a county soil survey. Alluvial soils may not show hydric characteristics due to their recent formation, but may be considered to be hydric for the purposes of wetland delineation.

### **Wetland Habitat Classification**

Wetlands that were field identified within the project area were all determined to be freshwater palustrine system wetlands.

According to the vegetative succession of a wetland, a classification of habitat was assigned. These classifications include Palustrine emergent wetlands (PEM), Palustrine forested wetlands (PF01) or any combination of the two (Cowardin, 1979).

### **Results**

Three areas of freshwater wetlands were identified within the project area (Figure 5). They are identified as follows:

Wetland Line 01 and 02 - Palustrine forested wetland (PF01) located south of the existing buildings. It is dominated by spice bush (*Lindera benzoin*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). This wetland originates from a storm sewer pipe under the parking area. The northern portion of this ditch which is relatively steep does not have hydric soils and is not identified as wetlands. As the terrain becomes more level, wetland vegetation and hydric soils define the narrow wetland channel which flows toward the abandoned treatment facility. This wetland area ends at a culvert under the access road to the existing wastewater treatment facility.

Immediately south of the access road wetland lines 03 and 04 originate. This area is a palustrine emergent wetland (PEM), which is dominated by jewel weed (*Impatiens capensis*), cattail (*Typha latifolia*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), tear-thumb (*Polygonum sagittatum*) and nut sedge (*Cyperus esculentus*). Water from this wetland area flows into a small basin dominated by common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and then flows east onto property owned by the water authority. Wetland line 05 connects the off property boundary of the wetland with wetland line 04 completing the wetland polygon.

Wetland lines 06 and 07 are PF01 wetlands which follow the small stream bed to a culvert under Sterling Forest Road. Wetland area 08 is located between the water authority access road and the AT&T access road. This wetland area was ponded in the spring as is a vernal pond. Vegetation within the wetland area includes jewel weed, spicebush, skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) and sensitive fern.

Wetland area 09 defines the edge of Sterling Forest Lake and is waters of the United States. Wetland areas 10 and 11 originate at the base of the earthen dam as a small creek and flow into the property owned by the water company. This small creek connects to wetland area 03 and 05 and 06 and 07 at property boundaries. Vegetation within these wetlands includes skunk cabbage, jewel weed and spicebush.

Areas bounded by flags 1201-1216 and EWC-1 –EWC34 are of ephemeral water courses supported primarily by runoff from existing roadway. While these areas may carry surface water early in the growing season and after precipitation and snowmelt the vegetation is similar to the adjacent uplands.

### **Hydrophytic Vegetation**

Vegetation on the Site was evaluated during field investigations. Woody vegetation in the PF01 areas included red maple (FAC) and spicebush (FACW-). Herbaceous vegetation is dominated by skunk cabbage (OBL), jewel weed (FACW), common reed (FACW) and purple loosestrife (FACW+).

### **Wetland Hydrology**

The hydrology of Wetland Areas 01 through 07 and areas 10 through 11 appear to be driven by three factors; stormwater flowing into catch basins, groundwater seeps discharging to the surface and Sterling Forest Lake discharging from below the earthen dam. Wetland Area 08 appears to be groundwater driven either through a seep or spring under the emergent portion of the wetland and stormwater runoff. Wetland area 09 is Sterling Forest Lake which is stream fed.

### **Hydric Soils**

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) publishes county soil surveys for areas where soil mapping is completed. The soils of Orange County have been mapped. None of the soils identified as occurring on the Site are listed on the Orange County List of Hydric Soils. The following soils have been mapped on the Site (Figure 4):

**Erie extremely stony soils, gently sloping (ESB)** – These soils are somewhat poorly drained, gently sloping soils which have a fragipan. They are formed in glacial till. The water table is perched above the fragipan during the spring months. Permeability in the surface layer is moderate and slow to very slow in the fragipan.

**Rock outcrop-Hollis Complex, sloping (ROC)** – This complex of exposed bedrock and shallow Hollis soils is found on hill crests, hill tops and ridges. The Hollis soil is formed from a thin layer of glacial till over shist, gneiss and granite. Slopes range from 3 to 15 percent but are predominantly in the 8 to 15 percent range. No free water is perched above the bedrock except in areas where the rock is poorly jointed. Permeability is moderate to moderately rapid and depth to bedrock is typically 10 to 20 inches.

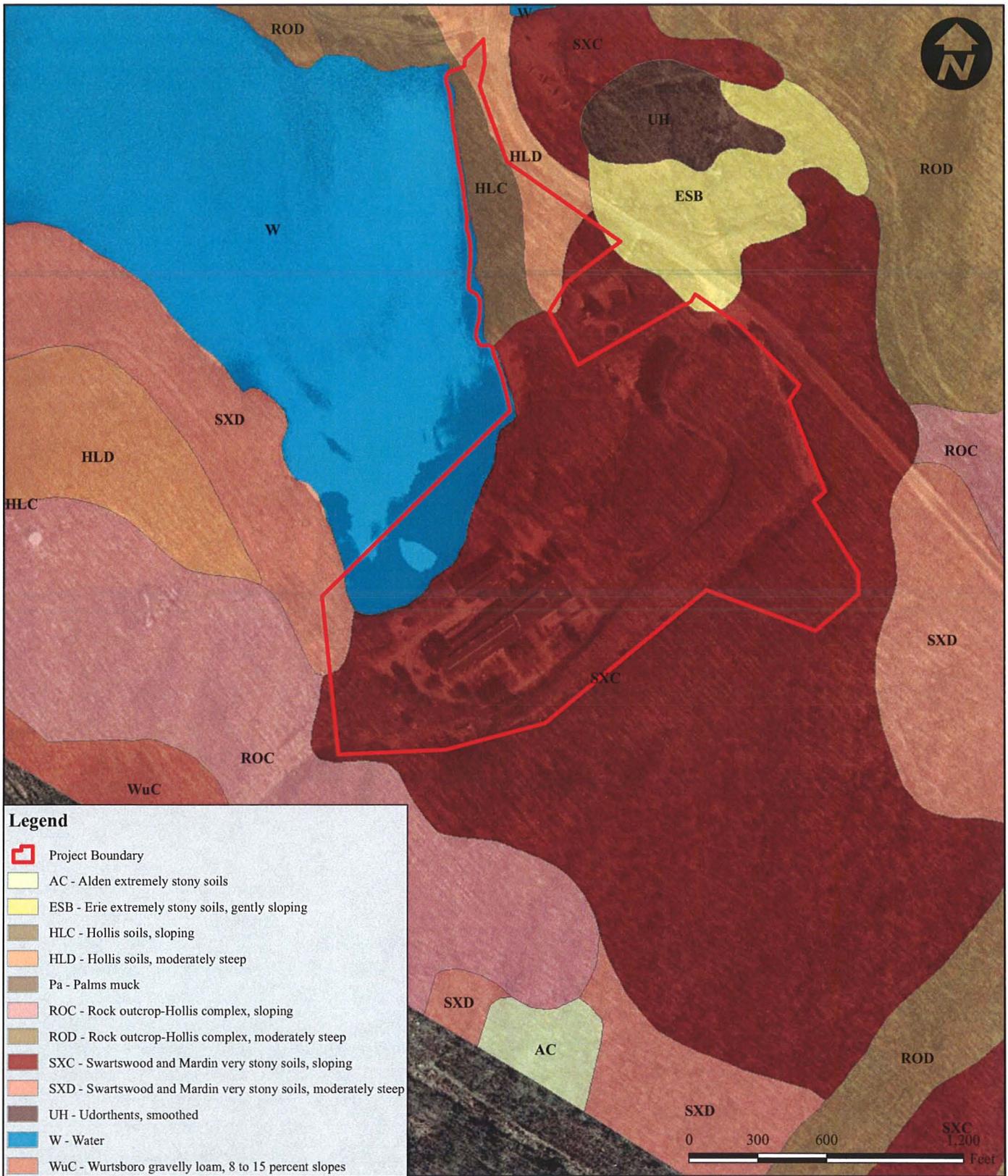
**Rock outcrop-Hollis Complex, moderately steep (ROD)** - This complex of exposed bedrock and shallow Hollis soils is found on hill crests, hill tops and ridges. The Hollis soil is formed from a thin layer of glacial till over shist, gneiss and granite. Slopes range from 15 to 35 percent but are predominantly in the 15 to 25 percent range. No free water is perched above the bedrock except in areas where the rock is poorly jointed. Permeability is moderate to moderately rapid and depth to bedrock is typically 10 to 20 inches.

**Swartswood and Mardin very stony soils, sloping (SXC)** – This mapping unit consists of well drained and moderately well drained Swartswood and moderately well drained Mardin soils. These soils have a deep fragipan. They are formed from glacial till on hill crests, hill tops and ridges. Slopes range from 3 to 15 percent but are predominantly in the 8 to 15 percent range. The water table is perched above the fragipan in the early spring. Permeability is moderate above the fragipan, slow to very slow through the fragipan and slow to moderately slow below the fragipan.

**Swartswood and Mardin very stony soils, moderately sloping (SXD)** – This mapping unit consists of well drained and moderately well drained Swartswood and moderately well drained Mardin soils. These soils have a deep fragipan. They are formed from glacial till on hill crests, hill tops and ridges. Slopes range from 15 to 35 percent but are predominantly in the 15 to 25 percent range. The water table is perched above the fragipan in the early spring. Permeability is moderate above the fragipan, slow to very slow through the fragipan and slow to moderately slow below the fragipan.

**Udorthents, smoothed (UH)** – These soils formed in man made cut and fill areas. They are generally near industrial sites, urban developments and other construction sites. They consist of excavated earth that has been stockpiled for eventual use as fill; soil and rock that has been trucked from other areas and leveled; or soil left in areas that have been excavated. These soils are excessively drained. Bedrock is typically at depths of five (5) feet. Depth to the seasonal high water table is shallow.

A review of the Site development plan indicates that less than one (1) acre of USACE wetlands will be impacted by the proposed development. It is anticipated that an Individual Section 404 Permit will be needed for project implementation. Wetlands impacted will require mitigation. The most likely location for this mitigation will be that portion of the Site west of Sterling Road. No development is proposed for this portion of the site. Site investigations conducted as part of the threatened and endangered species survey and the vegetation survey indicates both upland and wetland habitat on this portion of the site. Expansion of existing wetlands, associated with the Ringwood River will provide sufficient area to off-set wetland impacts east of Sterling Road.



**SOILS MAP**  
 World Headquarters for Jehova's Witnesses  
 Warwick Property  
 Township of Warwick, Orange County, New York



Source:  
 Project Boundary from plan by PS&S Survey  
 entitled "Wetland Survey Parcel B4 and Part  
 of Parcel A-13", dated 6/4/2010.  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural  
 Resources Conservation Service, 2006.  
 Aerial from ArcGIS Online - NAIP  
 Imagery, 2008.

Drawn By: EB	Scale: 1" = 600'	Project No. 02400.244.010
Chk'd By: HL	Date: 7/30/2010	Figure No. 4

## 7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Field surveys were conducted to inventory biological resources on the site and to evaluate the site for the presence or absence of Federal or State listed threatened, endangered, species of special concern and critical habitat for these species. Surveys were conducted from April through September and included a delineation of wetlands on the eastern portion of the property. Surveys included a survey of the birds potentially breeding on the site and a herpetological survey. A total of 153.5 hours of observations were conducted on the site from between April and September.

New York Natural Heritage database list the presence of one threatened plant, Terrestrial starwort (*Callitriche terrestris*) and three endangered plants, Green parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum pinnatum*), Hyssop skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*) and Michaux's blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium mucronatum*) known to occur in the vicinity of the site. While the site contains suitable habitat for each of these species, only the Hyssop skullcap was observed on the site in 2007 and not in 2010. These plants were observed outside of the limits of disturbance for the project.

The New York Natural Heritage database lists one threatened species, the timber rattlesnake, and six species of special concern in the vicinity of the site. The site does not contain suitable habitat to support a hibernaculum for timber rattlesnakes, a State listed threatened species. No rattlesnakes were observed on the site during these investigations. The site does provide suitable foraging habitat for snakes. Potential impacts to foraging snakes can be avoided by pre-construction fencing and monitoring during construction activities.

During the survey three (3) of the State species of special concerns, red-shouldered hawk, eastern bluebird and the box turtle, were observed on the site and a previous survey documented the wood turtle as occurring on site. Wood turtles may the portion of the Site northeast of Sterling Forest Road for breeding and hibernating. Given the terrestrial wandering tendencies of this species, the entire site may serve as suitable foraging habitat for this species. No development activities are proposed within the breeding and overwintering habitat likely utilized by wood turtles. Pre-construction fencing and monitoring is recommended to prevent impacts to these species during construction activities.

Box turtles utilize open old field habitat and wooded habitat on the site. The project will result in habitat loss for this species. Pre-construction fencing and monitoring is recommended to prevent impacts to these species during construction activities. It is anticipated that the surrounding State parks will continue to provide suitable habitat for this species in the vicinity of the Site.

The eastern bluebird is an open country species. The open habitat along the power-line right-of-way will be maintained subsequent to the proposed development. It is anticipated that this species will continue to utilize the existing habitat. Installation of nesting boxes could increase nesting opportunities for eastern bluebirds along the power line right-of-ways and open habitat on the site.

The red-shouldered hawks will likely forage along the power line right-of-way on the site. This habitat will not be disturbed by the proposed construction. The Site is also bounded by two State Parks which provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for this species. It is anticipated that this species will not be adversely impacted by the proposed development.

A wetland delineation was completed for the portion of the site east of Sterling Road. There are no New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) mapped wetlands on this portion of the property. PS&S delineated US Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulated wetlands and waters of the United States. Based on the proposed development scenario, the project will impact less than one (1) acre of USACE regulated wetlands. No NYSDCE wetlands will be disturbed by the proposed project.

## 8.0 REFERENCES

- Armstrong, E. and D. Euler. 1982. Habitat usage of two woodland Buteo species in southern Ontario. *Can. Field-Nat.* 97(1):200-207.
- Bednarz, J.C. and J.J. Dinsmore. 1981. Status, habitat use, and management of red-shouldered hawks in Iowa. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 45(1):236-241.
- Bednarz, J.C. and J.J. Dinsmore. 1982. Nest-sites and habitat of red-shouldered and red-tailed hawks in Iowa. *Wilson Bull.* 94(1):31-45.
- Bosakowski, T., R. Speiser, and J. Benzinger. 1987. Distribution, density and habitat relationships of the barred owl in Northern New Jersey in Proceedings of the symposium, biology, and conservation of northern forest owls. Winnipeg, Manitoba. R.W. Nero, R.J. Clark, R.J. Knapton, and R.H. Hammre eds. USDA Forest Service general technical Report RM-142.
- Borko, M & T. Alford. 1989. Blue Lake Project Biological Survey, Prepared in King's College, Sterling Forest Campus, Town of Warwick, New York, Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1991, Appendix K.
- Brown, W.S. 1992. Emergence, ingress, and seasonal captures at dens of northern timber rattlesnakes, *Crotalus horridus*. Pages 251-258 in J.A. Campbell and E.D. Brodie Jr., Eds. *Biology of Pit Vipers*. Selva Press, Tyler, Texas.
- Brown, W.S. 1993. *Biology, Status, and Management of the Timber Rattlesnake Crotalus horridus: A Guide for Conservation*. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles herpetological Circular No. 22, 78 pp.
- Conant, Roger. 1975. Peterson Field Guide Series: A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North American. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 429 pp.
- Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet and E.T. Laroe, December 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, Publication No. FWS/OBS-79/31, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- DeGraaf, R.M. and J.H. Rappole. 1995. Neotropical Migratory Birds: Natural History, Distribution and Population Change. Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, NY. 676 pp.
- Environmental Laboratory (EL), 1987. Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi.
- Federal Register. 1980. 40 CFR Part 230: Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material, Vol. 45, No. 249, pp. 85352-85353, US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.
- Federal Register. 1982. Title 33: Navigation and Navigable Waters: Chapter II, Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, Vol. 47, No. 138, p 31810, US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.
- Herpetological Associates. 1981. Proposed Management Plan for Endangered and Threatened Amphibians and Reptiles in New Jersey. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Endangered and Nongame Species Project. Volume No. 81.10
- Klemens, M.W. October 14, 2005. Habitat Assessment Letter Report, 6pp.
- Klemens, M.W. November 2, 2005. Natural Heritage/Vernal Habitat Assessment Letter Report, 2pp.
- Kollmorgen Corporation, 1975, Munsell Soil Color Charts, Macbeth Division of Kollmorgen Corporation, Baltimore, Maryland.

Magee, Dennis W., 1981, *Freshwater Wetlands: A Guide to Common Indicator Plants of the Northeast*, The University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Mueller-Dombois, D, and H. Ellenberg. 1974. *Aims and Methods of Vegetation Ecology*. John Wiley & Sons, New York. 547 pp.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2007. *Sterling lake Fisheries Survey*, Prepared by the Division of Fish, Wildlife Marine Resources for the NYSDEC Bureau of Fisheries Modern Statewide Fisheries Database. 7pp.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Officer Personal Communication, July 25 2007. Personal communication with a NYSDEC Conservation Officer on Site concerning presence or rattlesnakes on and in the vicinity of the site.

Peterson, R.T., 1980. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 384 pp.

Reed, P.B., Jr., 1988, *National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands: National Summary Biological Report 88 (24)*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

Terres, J.K. 1991. *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*. Wings Books, Avenel, New Jersey. 1109 pp.

Tiner, Ralph W. and Peter L.M. Veneman, 1995, *Hydric Soils of New England*, University of Massachusetts Extension, Revised Bulletin C-183R, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Tuttle, M. 1999. *Small-footed Myotis Myotis leibii*. @ [dcur.state.pa.us/wrcf/sfmyotis.htm](http://dcur.state.pa.us/wrcf/sfmyotis.htm).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1987a, *Hydric Soils of the United States*, USDA-SCS, in cooperation with the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1983, *National Soils Handbook*, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1990. *Soil Survey of Rockland County, New York*. United States Department of Agriculture.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1975, *Soil Taxonomy*, Agriculture Handbook No. 436, US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants*, 50 CFR 17.11 and 17.12, August 20, 1994 and August 29, 1992.

Weidensaul, S. 1989. *North American Birds of Prey*. Quintet Publishing Limited, New York. 96 pp.

**APPENDIX 1**

---

**Summer Woodland Bat Survey**

---

Orange County, New York

# Summer Woodland Bat Survey Watchtower Project



June 7 and 8, 2010  
Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.  
*Carlisle, Pennsylvania*

---

# Summer Woodland Bat Survey Watchtower Project

## Contents

---

II	Participants
III	General Sampling Location
1	Executive Summary
2	Introduction
4	Methods and Results
6	Literature Cited
7	Appendix A Mist Net Data Sheets
12	Appendix B Representative Site Photographs
14	Appendix C Indiana Bat Sampling Protocol

## Tables

2	Table 1: Site GPS Coordinates
3	Table 2: Net Night Level of Effort
5	Table 3: Capture Summary
5	Table 4: Mist Net Site Totals
6	Table 5: Reproductive Condition of Female Bats

## Figures

III	Figure 1: General Sampling Location
3	Figure 2: Survey Locations

*Cover:*  
*9m Triple-high mist net set B at Site 2*

# Summer Woodland Bat Survey Watchtower Project

June 7 and 8, 2010

Prepared by:

**Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.**

*220 Old Stone House Road North, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17015*

*717-241-2228 (office and fax) 814-442-4246 (cell)*

*www.batmanagement.com*

## Participating Personnel:

### **Project Principal:**

John Chenger  
*Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.*

### **Surveyors:**

Kevin Rhome  
*Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.*

Crystal Prussick  
*Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.*

Aimee Haskew  
*Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.*

Risa Wright  
*Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.*

John Peaden  
*Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.*

### **Photography by:**

Aimee Haskew

### **Report Prepared by:**

John Chenger  
Aimee Haskew  
June 9, 2010

# General Sampling Location



Figure 1. Watchtower Project, Orange County, New York

# Executive Summary

The objective of this study was to provide an inventory of summer bat species occurring in the vicinity of the Watchtower Project in Orange County, New York. Bat Conservation and Management, Inc. (BCM) of Carlisle, Pennsylvania conducted a summer mist net survey meeting the protocols set forth in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Indiana Bat Revised Recovery Plan. Based on the acreage of the project area with suitable bat roost habitat (less than 250 acres), two (2) sites were selected for summer mist net surveys.

Six (6) individuals of three (3) species were captured including the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), eastern red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*), and little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*). No Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*) or eastern small-footed myotis (*Myotis leibii*) were captured.

# Introduction

## Background

The Watchtower Project is located in Orange County New York. The project area is considered to be within the summer range of the Indiana bat. To satisfy compliance requests by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) a summer mist net survey was completed in accordance with USFWS approved protocols. This survey investigated the study area to determine the likelihood of a summer maternity colony of Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*) or eastern small-footed myotis (*Myotis leibii*) in the project area.

## Objective

The objective of this study is to provide an inventory of summer bat species occurring in the vicinity of the Watchtower Project. BCM conducted mist net surveys meeting the protocols set forth in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Indiana Bat Revised Recovery Plan.

## Indiana Bat

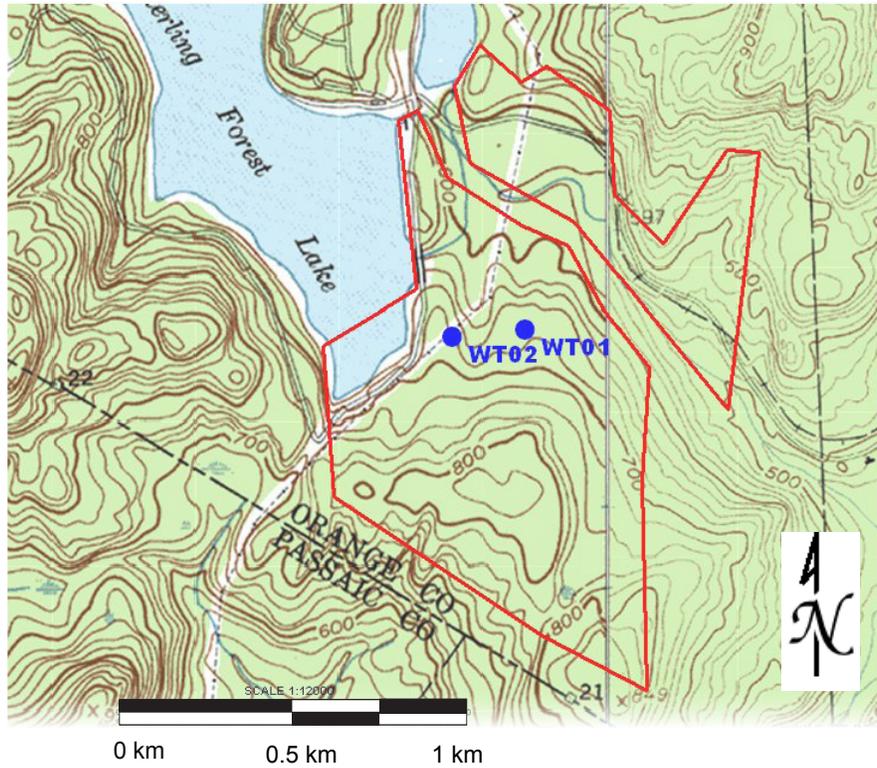
The Indiana bat (IBAT) is a rare woodland bat species with documented occurrences in Pennsylvania and all adjoining states; however, little survey data is available for this species. Indiana bats hibernate in caves and abandoned deep mines during the winter months (November-March), and use a variety of upland, wetland, and riparian habitats during the spring, summer, and fall. Female IBATs form nursery colonies under the exfoliating bark of a variety of tree species (Thomson 1982). Land clearing may adversely affect roosting bats or the quality of foraging habitat. In order to protect suitable habitat, periodic surveys for these individuals are needed. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) typically requests that the site developer conduct a summer Indiana bat survey between May 15 and August 15 (USFWS 2007).

**Table 1: Site Co-ordinates**

Trap Site	Latitude	Longitude
1	41° 09' 31.42"	74° 15' 09.78"
2	41° 09' 35.10"	74° 15' 20.30"

*WGS 84 datum*

**Figure 2: Survey Locations**



*Survey site Watchtower 01 (WT01) and survey site Watchtower 02 (WT02)  
For detailed, current property boundary maps, contact the developer.*

**Table 2: Net Night Level of Effort**

Trap type	Site 1	Site 2	Totals
Triple-high	4	4	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>

*One net night is any size or stack of nets stretched between 2 poles.*

# Methods and Results

Summer sampling was conducted on June 7 and 8, 2010 and consisted of two (2) mistnet sites (Table 1) sampled for two nights each.

The sites were sampled using traditional mist netting techniques. Mist nets were manufactured by Avinet, Inc. (Dryden, NY; 38mm mesh - nylon, reduced bag, 50/2, 38mm mesh, 2.6m high, 4 shelves). Nets were set according to habitat structure at each site. "Triple-high" nets consist of three 2.6 meter high nets stacked between two poles. The net lengths utilized were determined by the physical characteristics of the site and ranged in length between 9 and 12 meters. Nets were placed over existing roads in an effort to catch bats that utilized these features as flight corridors to move through the habitat.

A net-night was defined as any configuration of mist net length and height between two poles set up for one night. Net-night level of effort totaled eight (8) net-nights (Table 2) consisting of four triple-high mist nets. The recommended level of effort for two sites as described by the Indiana Bat Revised Recovery Plan is eight (8) net-nights (Appendix C). Based on the project area being less than 250 acres, two (2) mist net sites were determined to sufficiently sample the area for Indiana bats.

Site one contained two 12m long triple-high mist nets. Site two contained two 9m long triple-high mist nets. The total survey effort at this site met the recommendations outlined by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Indiana Bat Revised Recovery Plan (Appendix C).

The two mist net sites were selected by BCM based on existing habitat structure serving as flight corridors such as roads and streams (Figure 2). Data were collected at each mist netting site, as shown on the Bat Conservation and Management, Inc. "Bat Survey Data Form" (Appendix A). Recorded information included detailed net setup, weather conditions during sampling, and general habitat information. Data recorded on captured bats included time of capture, species, age (Brunet-Rossinni and Wilkinson 2009), sex, reproductive condition (Racey 2009), weight, forearm length, and wing score (Reichard 2008). The reproductive condition of female bats can be used to determine which species have maternity colonies in the general vicinity of the capture site during summer months.

Six (6) individuals of three (3) species were captured including two (2) big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*), two (2) eastern red bats (*Lasiurus borealis*), and one (1) little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*). Three (50%) of the captured bats were male, two (33%) were female, and one individual escaped the mistnet before sex could be determined. Of the two (2) females, one was lactating and one was non-reproductive. High numbers of pregnant, lactating, or post lactating bats suggests that a maternity colony of these species may be nearby.

**Table 3: Capture Summary**

Sample Site		Total Species	Total Captures
Name	Nights		
Site 1	2	3	6
Site 2	2	0	0
<b>Project Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>

**Table 4: Mist Net Site Totals**

Species		Site 1	Site 2	Totals		
				M	F	Unk
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	M	1	-	1		
	F	1	-		1	
	Unk	-	-			0
<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	M	2	-	2		
	F	-	-		0	
	Unk	1	-			1
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	M	-	-	0		
	F	1	-		1	
	Unk	-	-			0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
		<b>6</b>		<b>6</b>		

**Table 5: Reproductive Condition of Female Bats**

Species		Site 1	Site 2	Totals				
				NR	PG	L	PL	
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	NR	-	-	0				1
	PG	-	-		0			
	L	1	-			1		
	PL	-	-				0	
<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	NR	-	-	0				0
	PG	-	-		0			
	L	-	-			0		
	PL	-	-				0	
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	NR	1	-	1				1
	PG	-	-		0			
	L	-	-			0		
	PL	-	-				0	

## Literature Cited

- Brunet-Rossini, A. K., and G. S. Wilkinson. 2009. Methods for Age Estimation and the Study of Senescence in Bats. Pages 315-325 in T. H. Kunz and S. Parsons, eds. Ecological and Behavioral Methods for the Study of Bats, second edition. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, USA.
- Racey, P. A. 2009. Reproductive assessment of bats. Pages 249-264 in T. H. Kunz and S. Parsons, eds. Ecological and Behavioral Methods for the Study of Bats, second edition. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, USA.
- Reichard, J. D. 2008. Wing-damage index used for characterizing wing condition of bats affected by white-nose syndrome. Unpublished report. Center for Ecology and Conservation Biology, Department of Biology, Boston University, Boston, USA.
- Thomson, C.E. 1982. *Myotis sodalis*. Mammalian Species, 163:1-5.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2007. Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) Draft Recovery Plan: First Revision. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, MN. 258 pp.

# Appendix A

## Mist Net Data Sheets

### Notes and key to abbreviations used on data sheets

#### Instructions

All information must be completed each night. Partially complete forms will not be accepted. Completed forms are to be turned in to the Team Leader each morning.

**PROJECT:** Name of the entire survey project.

**SITE#:** The number given to every trap site in a separate geographic location. Site # remains the same regardless of how many nights are spent at the same location.

**DATE:** Pre-midnight date which trapping began.

**LONGITUDE/LATITUDE:** Coordinates from a GPS receiver.

**I.D. BY:** USFWS qualified person identifying bats at this site.

**MOON AFFECT:** Was moon present during survey? If so what phase? Was moonlight illuminating nets? Note times.

**NUMBER OF NETS/TRAPS:** Description of nets, e.g. A: 3Hx9m, B: 2Hx6m, C: 1Hx9mx12m "L" configuration.

**SKY CONDITIONS:** General weather conditions and temperature in °F, at start, middle, and end of sampling times.

**WIND CONDITIONS:** Use Beauford scale and note time.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** A general overview of the site, e.g. "Shallow stream with long pools surrounded by deciduous forest with maple, oak, and beech. A small clearing and residence is nearby."

**ANDERSON III CODE:** Use Level III codes and percentages within 1KM of site. Percentages should total 100%.

**DISTURBANCE CODE:** List up to three of the most significant disturbances within 500 meters. Include distance to disturbance.

#### Common name:

Little brown  
Big brown  
Pipistrelle  
Northern longear  
Smallfooted  
Indiana  
Red  
Hoary  
Silver haired  
Townsend's Big-eared  
Rafinesque's Big-eared  
Evening

#### Species:

*Myotis lucifugus*  
*Eptesicus fuscus*  
*Pipistrellus subflavus*  
*Myotis septentrionalis*  
*Myotis leibii*  
*Myotis sodalis*  
*Lasiurus borealis*  
*Lasiurus cinereus*  
*Lasionycteris noctivagans*  
*Corynorhinus townsendii*  
*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*  
*Nycticeius humeralis*

#### Reproductive condition:

NR= Non Reproductive  
PG= Pregnant  
L= Lactating  
PL= Post Lactating  
SCR= Scrotal

#### Age:

A: Adult  
J: Juvenile

#### Anderson Classification Codes first and second level categories

- 1 **Urban or Built-Up Land**
- 11 Residential
- 12 Commercial Services
- 13 Industrial
- 14 Transportation, Communications
- 15 Industrial and Commercial
- 16 Mixed Urban or Built-Up Land
- 17 Other Urban or Built-Up Land
- 2 **Agricultural Land**
- 21 Cropland and Pasture
- 22 Orchards, Groves, Vineyards, Nurseries
- 23 Confined Feeding Operations
- 24 Other Agricultural Land
- 3 **Rangeland**
- 31 Herbaceous Rangeland
- 32 Shrub and Brush Rangeland
- 33 Mixed Rangeland
- 4 **Forest Land**
- 41 Deciduous Forest Land
- 42 Evergreen Forest Land
- 43 Mixed Forest Land
- 5 **Water**
- 51 Streams and Canals
- 52 Lakes
- 53 Reservoirs
- 54 Bays and Estuaries
- 6 **Wetland**
- 61 Forested Wetlands
- 62 Non forested Wetlands
- 7 **Barren Land**
- 72 Beaches
- 73 Sandy Areas Other than Beaches
- 74 Bare Exposed Rock
- 75 Strip Mines, Quarries, and Gravel Pits
- 76 Transitional Areas
- 77 Mixed Barren Land

DO NOT WRITE IN MARGINS OF DATA SHEETS

Disturbance Codes and Key		
PROXIMITY	TYPE	
1 Disturbance on site	A Dumping	H Unimproved roads
	B Party spot	I Recreation area
2 Disturbance within 100 meters of site	C Buildings	J Mining
	D Agriculture	K Fire
	E Utility rights-of-way	L Clearcut
3 Disturbance 100-500 meters of site	F Railroad rights-of-way	M Insect defoliation
	G Improved roads	N No disturbance

Beauford Wind Scale Codes and Key				
Code	Speed(m/sa)	Description	Land Condition	Comfort
0	0 - 0.5	Calm	Smoke rises	No noticeable wind
1	0.5 - 1.5	Light air	Smoke drifts vertically	
2	1.6 - 3.3	Light breeze	Leaves rustle	Wind felt on face
3	3.4 - 5.4	Gentle breeze	Wind extends	Hair disturbed, clothing flaps
4	5.5 - 7.9	Moderate breeze	Small branches in motion	Hair disarranged, raises dust & loose
5	8.0 - 10.7	Fresh breeze	Small trees w/leaf begin to sway	Force of wind felt on body
6	10.8 - 13.8	Strong breeze	Whistling in telegraph wires	Umbrellas used with difficulty
			large branches in motion	
7	13.9 - 17.1	Near gale	Whole trees in motion	Inconvenience in walking
8	17.2 - 20.7	Gale	Twigs broken from trees	Progress impeded/difficult in gusts



# Bat Survey Data Form

Bat Conservation and Management, Inc. • 814-442-4246

Project: Watchtower		County: Orange		Site #: 1	Night #: 2	Site Name: WTO1		Date: 6-8-10
Latitude: 41 09 31.42			Longitude: 74 15 09.78			Datum: WGS84	Elevation: 206 <small>circle feet meters</small>	ID By: Kevin Phome
Observers: Lisa Wright, John Peadar						Actual net open time: 2040	Actual net close time: 0140	
Sky Conditions: 2040, 59.1°F Partly Cloudy		mid-sample, note time+temp+description: 2315, 54.6°F, Clear				end, note time+temp+description: 0140, 50.7°F, Clear		
Wind Description: 0		0				0		
Moon effect: <small>(specify net and effect length if any)</small>				Start:	Camera:	Photos:		
Number of nets/traps: <small>(label and include size and configuration)</small> A=3h x 12m B=3h x 12m								
Site Description: <small>(net placement, stream data, cover composition, surrounding habitat, dominant species)</small> Nets A+B are placed over an improved road surrounded by deciduous forest.						Over Water? Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N	Pool size: WxL (m)	Swoop zone: WxL (m)
Maple, Oak, Beech								
Anderson Level II:	most common+distance 41   70%	2nd common+distance 52   20%	3rd common+distance 15   10%					
Disturbance codes:	G   1	C   2	E   3					
Remarks: <small>(note rain event time and length, other wildlife, etc.)</small> NO BATS CAPTURED								
						<p>Site sketch (net set labels match "number of nets" field above)</p>		

# Bat Survey Data Form

Bat Conservation and Management, Inc. • 814-442-4246

Page 1 of 1

Project: Watchtower		County: Orange		Site #: 1	Night #: 2	Site Name: WTO1		Date: 6-8-10		
Time	Species	Age (A/J/V)	Sex (M/F)	Reproductive Condition	Weight (grams)	Forearm Length	Above ground	Net Set	Band/Wing Score	Comments/Photo #
NO BATS CAPTURED										
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
13										
14										
15										
16										
17										
18										
19										
20										



# Bat Survey Data Form

Bat Conservation and Management, Inc. • 814-442-4246

Project: Watchtower	County: Orange	Site #: 02	Night #: 2	Site Name: WTO2	Date: 6/8/10
Latitude: 41° 09' 35.1"	Longitude: 74° 15' 20.3"	Datum: NGS 84	Elevation: 702 circle: feet meters	ID By: Kevin Rhone	
Observers: Crystal Prussick, Aimee Haskew			Actual net open time: 2040	Actual net close time:	
Sky Conditions: 2045, 59.0°F, clear	mid-sample, note time+temp+description: 2304, 54.1°F, clear	end, note time+temp+description: 0139, 50.1°F, clear			
Wind Description: calm Ⓟ	calm Ⓟ	calm Ⓟ			
Moon effect: (specify net and effect length if any)		Start: Stop:	Camera:	Photos:	
Number of nets/traps: (label and include size and configuration) A: 3Hx9m B: 3Hx9m					
Site Description: (net placement, stream data, cover composition, surrounding habitat, dominant species) nets A stacked over jeep trail,			Over Water? Y (N)	Pool size: WxL (m)	Swoop zone: WxL (m)
nets B stacked over smaller trail; dominant spp include oak + maple; not oak lakeside; sparse understory					
Anderson Level II:	most common+distance: 52   757	2nd common+distance: 41   207	3rd common+distance: 12   57		
Disturbance codes:	G   1	C   3	N   3		
Remarks: (note rain event time and length, other wildlife, etc.)					
			<p>Site sketch (net set labels match "number of nets" field above)</p>		

# Bat Survey Data Form

Bat Conservation and Management, Inc. • 814-442-4246

Page 1 of 1

Project: Watchtower	County: Orange	Site #: 2	Night #: 2	Site Name: WTO2	Date: 8 June 2010					
Time	Species	Age (A/J/V)	Sex (M/F)	Reproductive Condition	Weight (grams)	Forearm Length	Above ground	Net Set	Band/Wing Score	Comments/Photo #
										1
										2
										3
										4
										5
										6
										7
										8
										9
										10
										11
										12
										13
										14
										15
										16
										17
										18
										19
										20

# Appendix B

## Representative Site Photographs



*Net Site 1 - Triple-high mist net set A*



*Net Site 1 - Triple-high mist net set B*



*Net Site 2 - Triple-high mist net set A*



*Net Site 2 - Triple-high mist net set B*

# Appendix C

## Indiana Bat Sampling Protocol

*Note: These Guidelines are extracted from the April 2007 Draft Revised Indiana Bat Recovery Plan.*

### RATIONALE

A typical mist-net survey is an attempt to determine presence or probable absence of the species; it does not provide sufficient data to determine population size or structure. Following these guidelines will standardize procedures for mist netting. It will help maximize the potential for capture of Indiana bats at a minimum acceptable level of effort. Although capture of bats confirms their presence, failure to catch bats does not absolutely confirm their absence. Netting effort as extensive as outlined below usually is sufficient to capture Indiana bats if they are present. However, there have been instances in which additional effort yielded detection when the standard effort did not.

Some mist-netting projects will require modification (or clarification) of these guidelines; these situations should be resolved through coordination with the Service Field Office responsible for the state in which your project occurs. Consultation with the Field Office is always recommended, particularly for large-scale netting efforts.

The Service accepts the results of these surveys to determine presence for the purposes of Section 7 consultation. Survey results are valid for at least two years.

NETTING SEASON: May 15 - August 15

May 15-August 15 are acceptable limits for documenting the presence of summer populations of Indiana bats, especially maternity colonies. (However, see Kiser and MacGregor 2005 for precautions regarding early-season surveys between May 15 and June 1, as well as late-season surveys between August 1 and August 15). Capture of reproductive adult females (i.e., pregnant; lactating, or post-lactating) and/or young of the year during May 15-August 15 indicates that a nursery colony is active in the area. Outside these dates, data cannot be used to document the presence or probable absence of summer populations.

### EQUIPMENT

Mist nets to be used for Indiana bat surveys should be the finest, lowest visibility mesh commercially available: 1) In the past, this was 1 ply, 40 denier monofilament—denoted 40/1; 2) Currently, monofilament is not available, and the finest on the market is 2 ply, 50 denier nylon denoted 50/2; 3) The finest mesh size available is approximately 38 mm (—1 1/2 in).

No specific hardware is required. There are many suitable systems of ropes and/or poles to hold nets. The system of Gardner et al. (1989) has been widely used. See NET PLACEMENT below for minimum net heights, habitats, and other netting requirements that affect the choice of hardware.

### NET PLACEMENT

Potential travel corridors such as streams or logging trails typically are the most effective places to net. Place nets approximately perpendicular across the corridor. Nets should fill the corridor from side to side and from stream (or ground) level up to the overhanging canopy. A typical set is 7 m high consisting of three or more nets stacked on top one another and up to 20 m wide. (Nets of different width may be used as the situation dictates).

Occasionally it may be desirable to net where there is no good corridor. Take caution to get nets up into the canopy. The typical equipment described in the section above may be inadequate for these situations, requiring innovation on the part of the researchers.

Exercise safety precautions when placing nets. Poles and nets should be clear of overhead wires. See Kiser and MacGregor (2005) for additional discussion of net placement.

### RECOMMENDED NET SITE SPACING

Stream and other linear corridors — one net site per km (0.6 mi) of stream or corridor.

Non-corridor study areas — two net sites per square km of habitat (equivalent to one net site per 123 acres).

The Service Field Office responsible for the state in which your project occurs should be consulted during survey design to resolve issues related to net site spacing for specific projects.

### MINIMUM LEVEL OF EFFORT

Netting at each site should include at least four net nights, consisting of: 1) a minimum of two net locations at each site (at least 30 m apart, especially in linear habitat such as a stream . corridor); and 2) a minimum of two nights of netting (i.e., two net locations for two nights = four net nights per site). A "net night" is defined as one net set up for one night. The sample period should begin at sunset and continue for at least 5 hours (longer sample periods may improve success). For purposes of determining presence or probable absence of Indiana bats, four net nights at a site are not required if Indiana bats are caught sooner (i.e., if Indiana bats are caught on the first night of netting, a second night is not required for purposes of documenting presence).

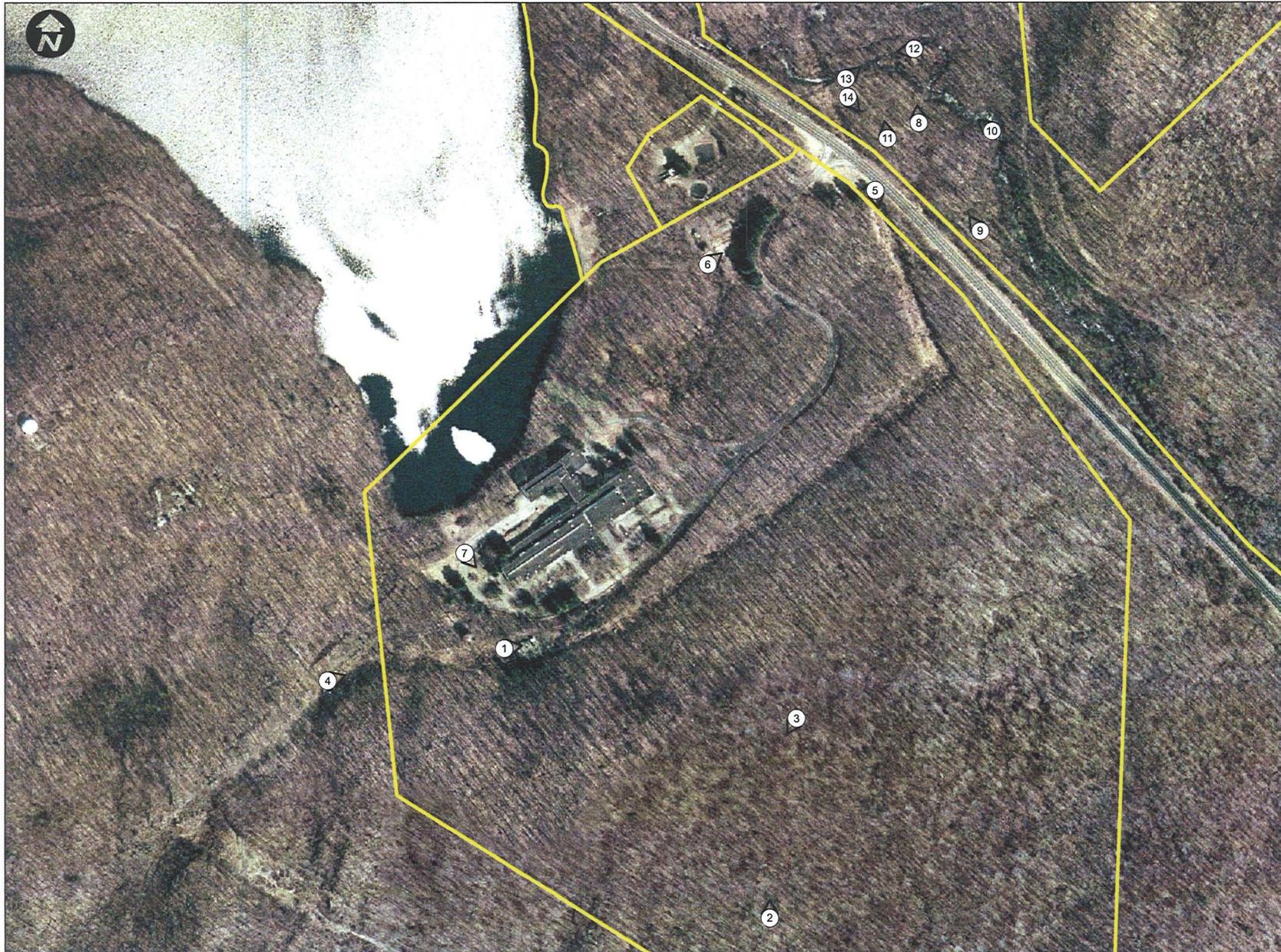
### CHECKING NETS

Each net should be checked approximately every 10 minutes. Some researchers prefer continuous monitoring (with or without an electronic bat detector); care should be taken to avoid noise and movement near the nets if this technique is used. When monitoring the site continuously with a bat detector, bats can be detected immediately when they are captured in the net. Prompt removal from the net decreases stress on the bat and potential for the bat to escape (MacCarthy et al. 2006).

**APPENDIX 2**

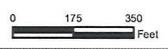
---

**Site Photographs**



- Legend**
- Site Location
  - Photo Location

Source: Aerials Express, 2006.



TOURO WARWICK COLLEGE  
TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK  
ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK

PHOTO LOCATION MAP

Des By: ML	Scale: 1" = 350'	Project: 03171.004.010
Chkd By: DG	Date: 10-25-07	Figure No.:



Photo 1: Bluebird habitat along the power line right-of-way.



Photo 2: Potential rattlesnake foraging habitat in hardwood forested portions of site.



Photo 3: Upland deciduous forested habitat in central portion of site.



Photo 4: Bluebird habitat along the power line right-of-way looking from Sterling Forest Park toward site.



Photo 5: Bluebird habitat along the power line right-of-way west of entrance road.



Photo 6: Wet meadow/Emergent wetland southwest of abandon treatment facility. Wetland lines 03 and 04.



Photo 7: Five-lined skink observed adjacent to existing buildings.



Photo 8: Palustrine forested wetlands southwest of Sterling Forest Road. This wetland area is suitable wood turtle habitat. Note stream in background.



Photo 9: Palustrine forested wetlands southwest of Sterling Forest Road. This wetland area is suitable wood turtle habitat.



Photo 10: Ringwood River, located south of Sterling Forest Road. Pool areas provide suitable breeding and over wintering habitat for wood turtles.



Photo 11: Wood turtle habitat adjacent to Ringwood River.



Photo 12: Ringwood River, located south of Sterling Forest Road. Run areas provide suitable breeding and over wintering habitat for wood turtles.



Photo 13: Ringwood River – In addition to wood turtle habitat the river provides habitat for snapping turtles, two lined salamanders, frogs and trout.



Photo 14: Vernal pond in August – Breeding habitat for grey tree frogs, spring peepers and American toads.

March 8, 2011  
3171-004-010

Robert S. May  
Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.  
900 Red Mills Road  
Wallkill, New York 12589-3223

Re: Response to Town of Warwick Planner  
Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
Section 85, Block 1, Lots 4.1, 4.2, 5.1 and 5.2  
Town of Warwick, Orange County, New York

Dear Mr. May:

As requested, Paulus Sokolowski and Sartor, LLC (PS&S) has reviewed comments to the Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement provided by Ted Fink (the Warwick Town Planner) as described in your March 6, 2011 email. PS&S offers the following responses to the comments:

**Comment 1 (Point 6)**

Provide a habitat map for the entire site (including the Ringwood River parcel north of Long Meadow Road). Indicate the location of bat roosting tree areas. Identify the location of the snake/turtle nesting area referred to by Dr. Klemens. Identify the location of the “unnamed tributary”.

**Response**

The property is approximately 257 acres in size and includes approximately 198 acres of forest, 34 acres of surface water, 11 acres of meadow and brushland, 9 acres of impervious surfaces and 5 acres of landscaped areas. There are approximately 3 acres of wetlands regulated by the United States Corps of Engineers within the project area. A map showing the locations of these land covers/land uses is provided as Attachment A.

Three bat species were captured on the site: big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*); eastern red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*) and little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*). Big brown bats roost in buildings and tree cavities. Eastern red bats roost in the foliage of trees, typically, near water. Little brown bats typically roost in buildings (barns, outbuildings and attics). Nearly all of the forested area on the site provides suitable roosting habitat for eastern red bat. Trees with potentially suitable cavities for big brown bat are

scattered throughout the site. No roosting bats were observed within the proposed limits of disturbance for the project during 2007 or 2010.

In an October 14, 2005 letter to Touro College, Dr. Michael Klemens identified the “sludge drying fields” associated with an abandoned sewer treatment plant as nesting habitat for turtles and snakes. This sewer treatment plant is located outside the limits of disturbance for the project.

The unnamed tributary of the Ringwood River is contained entirely within delineated wetlands and other waters of the United States on the west side of the existing entrance road. The limits of these areas are currently under review by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Project implementation is not anticipated to require disturbance or these wetlands/waters.

**Comment 2 (Point 7)**

Will there be impacts associated with any increase in invasive species?

**Response**

Non indigenous potentially invasive plant species exist on the site. Provided all areas disturbed are promptly revegetated with appropriate species and care is taken not to track plant propagules (e.g. root fragments) into undisturbed areas, project implementation should not result in any increase in invasive plant species.

**Comment 3 (Point 8)**

Describe Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) as listed in New York’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) that are present on the site, their habitat and impacts to their habitat.

**Response**

New York currently lists some 537 SGCN. The basic criteria for listing a particular species as a SGCN include: 1) appears on federal list of threatened or endangered species; 2) appears on New York’s list of threatened, endangered or species of special concern; 3) 20 or fewer elemental occurrences on the New York Natural Heritage Program Database; or 4) “best professional judgment” of New York Department of Environmental Conservation staff experts.

Habitat assessment and impacts analysis for state listed threatened and endangered species and state listed species of special concern (there are no federally listed species on the site) is provided in Section 4.0 of the *Ecological Resources Report* prepared by PS&S and dated July 2010. Other SGCN reported on the site include eastern red bat, black throated blue warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*), scarlet tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), worm eating warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*), five lined skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*), northern black racer (*Coluber constrictor*) and snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*). Eastern

red bat, black throated blue warbler, scarlet tanager and worm eating warbler, to varying degrees, require forest for their habitat. Five lined skink and northern black racer will also use forested areas but also frequently use fields and developed areas for foraging and nesting. Snapping turtles are an aquatic species that use uplands for nesting.

Project implementation is not anticipated to have any significant long term impacts on five lined skink, northern black racer or snapping turtle habitat. Losses to some individuals may occur as a result of land clearing operations and additional motor vehicle activity on the site. These losses, however, are not anticipated to have any significant adverse impact on the species overall population.

Construction of the project will result in the direct loss of approximately 16-17 acres of the approximately 198 acres forested habitat suitable for eastern red bat, black throated blue warbler, scarlet tanager and worm eating warbler. The forested areas disturbed are not particularly unique in character in comparison to the remaining forested areas. Direct impacts to individuals of these could occur if tree clearing occurs during the nesting season (spring/summer). Given the extensive areas of other suitable habitat, the relatively small area of forest lost to project implementation should have no significant impact on these species overall population. Much of the loss of existing habitat can likely be mitigated by enhancing the remaining forested areas through appropriate forest management activities.

#### **Comment 4 (Point 9)**

How many acres of existing wildlife habitat (excluding existing developed/landscaped areas) will be developed? What species were found in the vernal habitat surveys? What amphibian species were observed in the road surveys? Was a hognose snake survey completed? Are there habitat needs for waterfowl on the lake?

#### **Response**

Project implementation will require the disturbance of approximately 16-17 acres of forested habitats. The remaining areas disturbed by the project have been previously disturbed or developed.

Spring peeper, gray tree frog and American toad tadpoles were found in the vernal habitats. There is no vernal habitat within the project's limit of disturbance. American toad was observed in the road surveys.

Between 2007 and 2010 approximately 30-40 hours were spent searching for reptiles (including hognose snake) and amphibians and examining their potential habitat and no hognose snakes were found on the site.

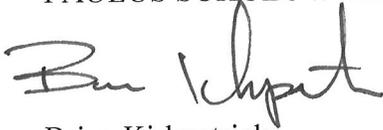
Project implementation will have no effect on the waterfowl habitat on the lake.

Robert S. May  
Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.  
March 8, 2011  
Page 4 of 4

PS&S appreciates the opportunity to assist you with this project. If you have any additional questions or comments, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

PAULUS SOKOLOWSKI AND SARTOR, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Kirkpatrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Brian Kirkpatrick  
Senior Associate

/bk



## Appendix E-4





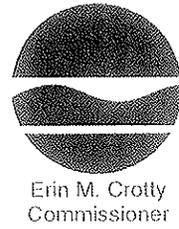
NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
100	13	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	261	14	Quercus rubra	Red oak	422	16	Pinus strobus	White pine	583	17	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	744	18	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	905	36	Liriodendron tulipifera	Tuliptree	1066	23	Quercus alba	White oak	1067	23	Quercus alba	White oak
101	13	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	262	14	Quercus alba	White oak	423	16	Betula papyrifera	Gray birch	584	17	Pinus strobus	White pine	745	18	Quercus rubra	Red oak	906	36	Quercus alba	White oak	1068	23	Quercus alba	White oak	1069	23	Quercus alba	White oak
102	13	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	263	17	Populus deltoides	Eastern cottonwood	424	26	Pinus strobus	White pine	585	21	Quercus alba	White oak	746	14	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	907	18	Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	1069	18	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1070	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
103	36	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	264	23	Populus deltoides	Eastern cottonwood	425	24	Pinus strobus	White pine	586	18	Quercus alba	White oak	747	48 DBL	Quercus prinus	Shagbark hickory	908	32	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1071	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1072	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech
104	12	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	265	32	Quercus alba	White oak	426	18	Pinus strobus	White pine	587	26	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	748	14	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	909	26	Fraxinus americana	White ash	1073	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1074	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
105	12	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	266	21	Quercus alba	White oak	427	18	Pinus strobus	White pine	588	21	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	749	14	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	910	26	Fraxinus americana	White ash	1075	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1076	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
106	20	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	267	26	Quercus alba	White oak	428	28	Pinus strobus	White pine	589	24	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	750	15	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	911	26	Fraxinus americana	White ash	1077	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1078	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech
107	25	Quercus velutina	Black oak	268	19	Populus deltoides	Eastern cottonwood	429	22 DBL	Pinus strobus	White pine	590	22	Quercus velutina	Black oak	751	12	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	912	24	Quercus alba	White oak	1079	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1080	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
108	17	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	269	25	Populus deltoides	Eastern cottonwood	430	25	Quercus rubra	Red oak	591	24	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	752	14	Quercus palustris	Pin oak	913	20	Fagus alba	White oak	1081	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1082	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
109	20	Pinus strobus	White pine	270	42	Quercus rubra	Red oak	431	24	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	592	14	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	753	14	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	914	15	Quercus alba	White oak	1083	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1084	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
110	36	Quercus palustris	Pin oak	271	23	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	432	28	Quercus rubra	Red oak	593	14	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	754	12	Carpinus caroliniana	American hornbeam	915	28	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1085	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1086	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
111	13	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	272	17	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	433	20	Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	594	26	Quercus alba	White oak	755	18	Quercus nigra	Swamp white oak	916	36	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1087	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1088	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
112	21	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	273	17	Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	434	20	Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	595	22	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	756	36	Quercus velutina	Black oak	917	16	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1089	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1090	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
113	28	Quercus alba	White oak	274	29	Quercus rubra	Red oak	435	28	Quercus alba	White oak	596	36	Quercus alba	White oak	757	12	Quercus alba	White oak	918	24	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1091	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1092	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
114	13	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	275	20	Quercus alba	White oak	436	26	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	597	16	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	758	12	Quercus alba	White oak	919	15	Betula lenta	Sweet birch	1093	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1094	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
115	18	Quercus rubra	Red oak	276	22 DBL	Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	437	26	Quercus alba	White oak	598	25	Quercus alba	White oak	759	12	Quercus alba	White oak	920	26	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1095	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1096	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
116	21	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	277	20	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	438	19	Quercus alba	White oak	599	20	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	760	14	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	921	14	Pinus strobus	White pine	1097	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1098	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
117	22	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	278	22	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	439	18	American beech	American beech	600	18	American beech	American beech	761	18	Fraxinus americana	White ash	922	19	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1099	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1100	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
118	21	Quercus alba	White oak	279	35	Liriodendron tulipifera	Tuliptree	440	28	Carya glabra	Pignut hickory	601	27	Quercus alba	White oak	762	12	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	923	27	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1101	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1102	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
119	20	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	280	17	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	441	13	Carya glabra	Pignut hickory	602	14	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	763	14	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	924	24	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1103	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1104	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
120	16	Quercus alba	White oak	281	18	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	442	13	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	603	36	Quercus alba	White oak	764	18	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	925	12	Pinus strobus	White pine	1105	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1106	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
121	14	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	282	40	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	443	36	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	604	18 DBL	Betula papyrifera	Gray birch	765	12	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	926	36	Fraxinus americana	White ash	1107	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1108	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
122	13	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	283	20	Quercus alba	White oak	444	20	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	605	14	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	766	18	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	927	34	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1109	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1110	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
123	20	Quercus alba	White oak	284	21	Quercus rubra	Red oak	445	18	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	606	18	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	767	16	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	928	12	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1111	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1112	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
124	19	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	285	34 DBL	Prunus serotina	Black cherry	446	20	Quercus alba	White oak	607	16	Quercus alba	White oak	768	14	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	929	24	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1113	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1114	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
125	23	Quercus alba	White oak	286	25	Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	447	18	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	608	18	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	769	16	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	930	17	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1115	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1116	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
126	12	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	287	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	448	28	Quercus alba	White oak	609	20	Quercus alba	White oak	770	18	Quercus alba	White oak	931	28	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1117	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1118	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
127	12	Carpinus caroliniana	American hornbeam	288	32	Quercus rubra	Red oak	449	28	Quercus alba	White oak	610	28	Quercus alba	White oak	771	18	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	932	18	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1119	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1120	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
128	14	Quercus alba	White oak	289	12	Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	450	24	Quercus alba	White oak	611	32	Quercus alba	White oak	772	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	933	22	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1121	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1122	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
129	16	Quercus rubra	Red oak	290	23	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	451	24	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	612	20	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	773	20	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	934	18	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1123	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1124	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
130	20	Red oak	Red oak	291	15	Quercus alba	White oak	452	15	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	613	25	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	774	16	Quercus rubra	Red oak	935	16	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1125	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1126	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
131	24	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	292	32	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	453	15	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	614	26	Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	775	15	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	936	16	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1127	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1128	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
132	19	Quercus alba	White oak	293	20	Acer rubrum	Red maple	454	25	Quercus alba	White oak	615	23	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	776	115	Carya glabra	Pignut hickory	937	20	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1129	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1130	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
133	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	294	20	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	455	25	Quercus alba	White oak	616	27	Quercus alba	White oak	777	42	Fraxinus americana	White ash	938	20	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	1131	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1132	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
134	14	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	295	31	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	456	23	Quercus alba	White oak	617	17	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	778	15	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	939	25 DBL	Fraxinus americana	White ash	1133	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1134	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
135	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	296	28	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	457	24	Quercus alba	White oak	618	16	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	779	18	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	940	12	Quercus alba	White oak	1135	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1136	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
136	17	Quercus rubra	Red oak	297	19	Fraxinus americana	White ash	458	18	Quercus alba	White oak	619	26	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	780	14	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	941	47 DBL	Fraxinus americana	White ash	1137	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1138	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
137	19	Quercus alba	White oak	298	24	Fraxinus americana	White ash	459	16	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	620	18	Liriodendron tulipifera	Tuliptree	781	14	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	942	27	Robinia pseudoacacia	Black locust	1139	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1140	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
138	12	Quercus alba	White oak	299	17	Quercus alba	White oak	460	24	Fraxinus americana	White ash	621	18	Liriodendron tulipifera	Tuliptree	782	12	Quercus alba	White oak	943	12	Quercus palustris	Pin oak	1141	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1142	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
139	33	Quercus alba	White oak	300	16	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	461	34	Quercus alba	White oak	622	13	Quercus velutina	Black oak	783	12	Quercus palustris	Pin oak	944	24 DBL	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1143	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1144	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
140	19	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	301	25 DBL	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	462	14	Quercus velutina	Black oak	623	14	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	784	18	Acer saccharum	Silver maple	945	14 DBL	Quercus palustris	Pin oak	1145	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1146	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
141	15	Quercus coccinea	Scarlet oak	302	13	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	463	16	Quercus alba	White oak	624	16	Quercus alba	White oak	785	12	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	946	14	Quercus palustris	Pin oak	1147	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1148	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
142	18	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	303	17	Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	464	18	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	625	18	Quercus alba	White oak	786	12	Quercus alba	White oak	947	15	Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	1149	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1150	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
143	15	Quercus coccinea	Scarlet oak	304	14	Quercus rubra	Red oak	465	22	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	626	12	Quercus rubra	Red oak	787	14	Quercus velutina	Black oak	948	17	Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	1151	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1152	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
144	26	Quercus alba	White oak	305	14	Quercus rubra	Red oak	466	23	Quercus alba	White oak	627	24	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	788	14	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	949	31	Carya glabra	Pignut hickory	1153	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1154	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak
145	18	Acer rubrum	Red maple	306	16	Quercus alba	White oak	467	19	Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	628	2																		

NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	NUMBER	DIAMETER	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
1227	16	Quercus alba	White oak	1388	19	Quercus alba	White oak	1549	26	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1710	21	Acer rubrum	Red maple	1871	21	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2032	19	Tsuga canadensis	Eastern hemlock	1872	21	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2033	21	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak
1228	15	Quercus alba	White oak	1389	14	Quercus alba	White oak	1550	15	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1711	24	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1872	29	Quercus rubra	Red oak	2034	14	Betula nigra	River birch	1873	21	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	2035	16	DBL	Chinkapin oak
1229	20	Quercus alba	White oak	1390	19	Quercus coccinea	Scarlet oak	1551	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1712	19	Quercus alba	White oak	1874	21	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	2036	19	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1875	32	Quercus velutina	Black oak	2037	22	Betula nigra	River birch
1230	29	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1391	21	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1552	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1713	16	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1876	19	Quercus alba	White oak	2038	19	Triple	Betula nigra	1877	19	Quercus alba	White oak	2039	19	Triple	Betula nigra
1231	18	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	1392	18	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1553	18	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1714	14	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1879	19	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	2040	15	Carpinus caroliniana	American hornbeam	1880	17	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	2041	17	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak
1232	16	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	1393	17	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1554	24	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1715	19	Quercus alba	White oak	1881	25	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	2042	16	Quercus alba	White oak	1882	17	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	2043	14	Tsuga canadensis	Eastern hemlock
1233	15	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1394	18	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1555	20	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1716	13	Quercus coccinea	Scarlet oak	1883	33	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	2044	17	Tsuga canadensis	Eastern hemlock	1884	21	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	2045	14	Tsuga canadensis	Eastern hemlock
1234	10	Quercus alba	White oak	1395	24	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1556	16	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1717	16	Quercus coccinea	Scarlet oak	1885	18	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2046	19	Betula lenta	Sweet birch	1886	24	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	2047	19	Acer platanoides	Norway maple
1235	20	Quercus alba	White oak	1396	23	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1557	29	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1718	20	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1887	19	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2048	15	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1888	18	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2049	14	Malus pink	Ornamental crabapple
1236	24	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	1397	16	Carya glabra	Pignut hickory	1558	14	Acer rubrum	Red maple	1719	20	Carya glabra	Pignut hickory	1889	18	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	2050	20	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1890	19	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2051	25	Quercus alba	White oak
1237	21	Quercus alba	White oak	1398	14	Acer rubrum	Red maple	1559	26	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1720	22	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1891	15	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	2052	20	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1892	26	DBL	Acer platanoides	2053	21	Quercus alba	White oak
1238	14	Quercus alba	White oak	1399	22	Carya glabra	Pignut hickory	1560	21	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1721	15	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1893	49	Triple	Quercus velutina/E. grand.	2054	24	Quercus alba	White oak	1894	14	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	2055	34	DBL	Quercus alba
1239	14	Quercus palustris	Pin oak	1400	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1561	33	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	1722	20	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1895	23	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	2056	22	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1896	19	Tsuga canadensis	Eastern hemlock	2057	17	Quercus palustris	Pin oak
1240	16	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1401	26	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1562	21	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1723	17	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1897	22	DBL	Acer platanoides	2058	15	Malus pink	Ornamental crabapple	1898	14	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	2059	12	Malus pink	Ornamental crabapple
1241	23	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1402	14	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1563	38	Quercus alba	White oak	1724	13	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1899	24	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2060	15	Quercus palustris	Pin oak	1899	24	Fraxinus americana	Sugar maple	2061	17	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple
1242	17	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1403	14	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1564	24	Acer rubrum	Red maple	1725	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1900	33	Quercus alba	White oak	2062	25	Quercus alba	White oak	1900	18	Quercus velutina	Black oak	2063	12	Quercus palustris	Pin oak
1243	17	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1404	18	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1565	33	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1726	20	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1901	33	Quercus alba	White oak	2064	30	Quercus alba	White oak	1902	29	Quercus velutina	Black oak	2065	22	Quercus velutina	Black oak
1244	16	Quercus palustris	Pin oak	1405	15	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1566	17	Fraxinus americana	White ash	1727	16	Fraxinus americana	White ash	1903	23	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2066	16	Populus tremuloides	Quaking aspen	1904	17	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	2067	28	Quercus rubra	Red oak
1245	14	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	1406	18	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1567	18	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1728	16	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1905	23	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2068	19	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	1906	14	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	2069	19	Acer platanoides	Norway maple
1246	48	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1407	24	Acer rubrum	Red maple	1568	24	Acer rubrum	Red maple	1729	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1907	24	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2070	25	Acer saccharinum	Sugar maple	1908	24	Fraxinus americana	White ash	2071	15	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple
1247	15	Quercus alba	White oak	1408	14	Quercus alba	White oak	1569	24	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1730	15	Quercus alba	White oak	1909	17	Fraxinus americana	White ash	2072	29	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	1910	20	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	2073	24	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak
1248	14	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	1409	16	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1570	14	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1731	15	Quercus alba	White oak	1911	20	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	2074	22	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	1912	18	Quercus velutina	Black oak	2075	27	Acer rubrum	Red maple
1249	35	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1410	21	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	1571	18	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1732	19	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1913	30	Quercus velutina	Black oak	2076	12	Pinus strobus	White pine	1914	24	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2077	10	Pinus strobus	White pine
1250	29	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1411	14	Carpinus caroliniana	American hornbeam	1572	22	Acer rubrum	Red maple	1733	19	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1915	34	Quercus rubra	Red oak	2078	19	Pinus strobus	White pine	1916	24	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	2079	36	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple
1251	30	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1412	14	Carpinus caroliniana	American hornbeam	1573	18	Fraxinus americana	White ash	1734	15	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1917	20	Quercus velutina	Black oak	2080	22	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	1918	14	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	2081	33	Quercus alba	White oak
1252	18	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1413	24	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1574	16	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	1735	15	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	1919	19	Tsuga canadensis	Eastern hemlock	2082	13	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	1920	47	DBL	Quercus velutina	2083	18	Triple	Carpinus caroliniana
1253	17	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	1414	15	Quercus alba	White oak	1575	17	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1736	16	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1921	20	Quercus alba	White oak	2084	12	Cornus florida	American dogwood	1922	23	Multi	Quercus bicolor	2085	14	Malus pink	Ornamental crabapple
1254	18	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	1415	15	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1576	39	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1737	24	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1923	26	Lirolidendron tulipifera	Tuliptree	2086	23	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	1924	12	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2087	19	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple
1255	14	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	1416	14	Carpinus caroliniana	American hornbeam	1577	39	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1738	23	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1925	19	Pinus strobus	White pine	2088	26	Pinus strobus	White pine	1926	17	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2089	27	Pinus strobus	White pine
1256	34	Quercus alba	White oak	1417	24	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1578	24	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1739	21	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	1927	13	Populus tremuloides	Quaking aspen	2090	30	Pinus strobus	White pine	1928	19	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2091	34	Pinus strobus	White pine
1257	20	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1418	16	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1579	27	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1740	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1929	12	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	2092	19	Pinus strobus	White pine	1930	10	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	2093	22	Pinus strobus	White pine
1258	16	Carpinus caroliniana	American hornbeam	1419	28	DBL	Quercus prinus	1580	16	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	1741	16	Quercus coccinea	Scarlet oak	1931	20	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	2094	20	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1932	18	DBL	Betula populifolia	2095	16	Betula populifolia	Gray birch
1259	20	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	1420	14	Chinkapin oak	Chinkapin oak	1581	19	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1742	17	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1933	18	DBL	Betula populifolia	2096	19	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1934	21	DBL	Quercus prinus	2097	19	Quercus rubra	Red oak
1260	20	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1421	19	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	1582	14	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1743	17	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1935	12	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2098	22	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1936	15	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	2099	16	Betula populifolia	Gray birch
1261	14	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	1422	27	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1583	27	Tsuga canadensis	Eastern hemlock	1744	17	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1937	15	Pinus strobus	White pine	2100	15	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	1938	12	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	2101	17	Quercus rubra	Red oak
1262	25	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1423	17	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	1584	17	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	1745	13	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1939	12	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	2102	17	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1940	18	Betula lenta	Sweet birch	2103	17	Quercus rubra	Red oak
1263	15	Fraxinus americana	White ash	1424	14	Acer rubrum	Red maple	1585	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1746	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1941	12	Betula lenta	Sweet birch	2104	17	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1942	15	DBL	Betula populifolia	2105	17	Quercus palustris	Pin oak
1264	20	Quercus alba	White oak	1425	26	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1586	14	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	1747	17	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	1943	21	DBL	Betula populifolia	2106	17	Quercus palustris	Pin oak	1944	19	Populus deltoides	Eastern cottonwood	2107	17	Quercus palustris	Pin oak
1265	18	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1426	24	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1587	16	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1748	20	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1945	14	Populus deltoides	Eastern cottonwood	2108	19	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	1946	19	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	2109	15	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple
1266	24	Fraxinus americana	White ash	1427	17	Betula populifolia	Gray birch	1588	16	Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	1749	19	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1947	16	Pinus strobus	White pine	2110	17	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1948	15	Quercus alba	White oak	2111	17	Quercus rubra	Red oak
1267	14	Acer rubrum	Red maple	1428	18	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1589	34	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1750	20	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1949	16	Pinus strobus	White pine	2112	17	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1950	13	Pinus strobus	White pine	2113	17	Quercus rubra	Red oak
1268	14	Quercus velutina	Black oak	1429	25	White oak	White oak	1590	18	Quercus alba	White oak	1751	18	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1951	14	Pinus strobus	White pine	2114	17	Quercus rubra	Red oak	1952	14	Pinus strobus	White pine	2115	17	Quercus rubra	Red oak
1269	18	Quercus alba	White oak	1430	14	Quercus alba	White oak	1591	14	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1752	16	Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	1953	10	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2116	15	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	1954	12	Pinus strobus	White pine	2117	15	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple
1270	19	Prunus serotina	Black cherry	1431	15	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1592	21	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	1753	20	Carya glabra	Pignut hickory	1955	12	Quercus prinus	Chestnut oak	2118	15	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	1956	12	Pinus strobus	White pine	2119	17	Quercus rubra	Red oak
1271	34	Acer rubrum	Red maple	1432	14	Quercus alba	White oak	1593	19	Fagus grandifolia																					



## Appendix E-5

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources  
New York Natural Heritage Program  
625 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Albany, New York 12233-4757  
Phone: (518) 402-8935 • FAX: (518) 402-8925  
Website: [www.dec.state.ny](http://www.dec.state.ny)



October 19, 2005

James Morrison  
EP Engineering Properties  
110 Orange Ave.  
Walden, NY 12586

Dear Mr. Morrison:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Touro College Project, #140.01, area as indicated on the map you provided, located at Kings Drive and Sterling Lake Rd, Town of Warwick, Orange County.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, significant natural communities, and other significant habitats, which our databases indicate occur, or may occur, on your site or in the immediate vicinity of your site. The information contained in this report is considered sensitive and may not be released to the public without permission from the New York Natural Heritage Program.

The presence of rare species may result in this project requiring additional permits, permit conditions, or review. For further guidance, and for information regarding other permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g., regulated wetlands), please contact the appropriate NYS DEC Regional Office, Division of Environmental Permits, at the enclosed address.

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our databases. We cannot provide a definitive statement on the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities. This information should not be substituted for on-site surveys that may be required for environmental impact assessment.

Our databases are continually growing as records are added and updated. If this proposed project is still under development one year from now, we recommend that you contact us again so that we may update this response with the most current information

Sincerely,  
  
Heidi J. Krahling, Information Services  
NY Natural Heritage Program

cc: Reg. 3, Wildlife Mgr.  
Reg. 3, Fisheries Mgr.  
Peter Nye, Endangered Species Unit, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Albany  
NYS OPR & HP, Tom Lyons, Agency Bldg 1, Albany, NY 12238

Natural Heritage Map of Rare Species and Ecological Communities



Prepared October 17, 2005 by NY Natural Heritage Program, NYS DEC, Albany, New York

***MAP BLOCKED OUT PER DEC CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS***

provide map locations for all records. Please see report for details.

# Natural Heritage Report on Rare Species

NY Natural Heritage Program, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, 5th Floor,  
Albany, NY 12233-4757  
(518) 402-8935



- This report contains SENSITIVE information that may not be released to the public without permission from the NY Natural Heritage Program.
- Refer to the User's Guide for explanations of codes, ranks and fields.
- We do not provide maps for species most vulnerable to disturbance.

## REPTILES

*Crotalus horridus*

Timber Rattlesnake

NY Legal Status: Threatened

NYS Rank: Vulnerable

Office Use

6510

Federal Listing:

Global Rank: Apparently secure

County: Orange

ESU

Town:

Location:

SENSITIVE INFORMATION BLACKED OUT PER DEC INSTRUCTIONS

1 Records Processed



COMMUNITIES

\* Appalachian oak-hickory forest

Office Use

This occurrence of Appalachian Oak-Hickory Forest is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. It is either an occurrence of a community type that is rare in the state or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented significance criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this occurrence to have high ecological and conservation value.

NY Legal Status: Unlisted

NYS Rank: S4;

9714

Global Rank: G4G5;

Last Report: 1999-09-15

County: Orange

Town: Monroe, Tuxedo, Warwick

Location:

Directions:

General Quality and Habitat:

SENSITIVE INFORMATION BLACKED OUT PER DEC INSTRUCTIONS

7 Records Processed

Natural Heritage Report on Rare Species and Ecological Communities



NY Natural Heritage Program, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, 5th Floor,  
Albany, NY 12233-4757  
(518) 402-8935

\* Location displayed on map

-This report contains SENSITIVE information that may not be released to the public without permission from the NY Natural Heritage Program.  
-Refer to the User's Guide for explanations of codes, ranks and fields.  
-Location maps for certain species and communities may not be provided if 1) the species is vulnerable to disturbance, 2) the location and/or extent is not precisely known, and/or 3) the location and/or extent is too large to display.

DRAGONFLIES  
and  
DAMSELFLIES

*Cordulegaster obliqua*

Office Use

Arrowhead Spiketail	NY Legal Status: Unlisted	NYS Rank: S2S3; Imperiled	3667
		Global Rank: G4; Apparently secure	
		EO Rank: Extant	
Last Report:	1989-06-26		
County:	Orange		
Town:	Warwick		
Location:	SENSITIVE INFORMATION BLACKED OUT PER DEC INSTRUCTIONS		
Directions:			
General Quality and Habitat:			

*Gomphus rogersi*

Office Use

Sable Clubtail	NY Legal Status: Unlisted	NYS Rank: S1; Critically imperiled	9948
		Global Rank: G4; Apparently secure	
		EO Rank: Extant	
Last Report:	1989-06-26		
County:	Orange		
Town:	Warwick		
Location:	SENSITIVE INFORMATION BLACKED OUT PER DEC INSTRUCTIONS		
Directions:			
General Quality and Habitat:			

VASCULAR  
PLANTS

*Callitriche terrestris*

Office Use

Terrestrial Starwort	NY Legal Status: Threatened	NYS Rank: S2S3; Imperiled	638
		Global Rank: G5; Demonstrably secure	
		EO Rank: Fair	
Last Report:	1999-06-02		
County:	Orange		
Town:	Warwick		
Location:	SENSITIVE INFORMATION BLACKED OUT PER DEC INSTRUCTIONS		
Directions:			
General Quality and Habitat:			



VASCULAR  
PLANTS

*Myriophyllum pinnatum*

Office Use

Common Parrot's-feather NY Legal Status: Endangered NYS Rank: S1; Critically imperiled 4938

Global Rank: G5; Demonstrably secure

EO Rank: Good or Fair

Last Report: 1998-09-16

County: Orange

Town: Warwick

Location:

Directions:

General Quality  
and Habitat:

SENSITIVE INFORMATION BLACKED OUT PER DEC INSTRUCTIONS

*Scutellaria integrifolia*

Office Use

Hyssop-skullcap NY Legal Status: Endangered NYS Rank: S1; Critically imperiled 7207

Global Rank: G5; Demonstrably secure

EO Rank: Fair or Poor

Last Report: 1998-08-25

County: Orange

Town: Tuxedo

Location:

Directions:

General Quality  
and Habitat:

SENSITIVE INFORMATION BLACKED OUT PER DEC INSTRUCTIONS

*Sisyrinchium mucronatum*

Office Use

Michaux's Blue-eyed-grass NY Legal Status: Endangered NYS Rank: S1; Critically imperiled 6015

Global Rank: G5; Demonstrably secure

EO Rank: Extant

Last Report: 1999

County: Orange

Town: Warwick

Location:

Directions:

General Quality  
and Habitat:

SENSITIVE INFORMATION BLACKED OUT PER DEC INSTRUCTIONS

COMMUNITIES

Michael W. Klemens, LLC  
47 Florida Hill Road  
Ridgefield, CT 06877

November 2, 2005

Touro College  
c/o Jayne E. Daly, Esq.  
110 Orange Avenue  
Walden, New York 12586

Dear Attorney Daly:

At your request I have reviewed letters that you obtained at my request from the New York Natural Heritage Program and the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program. These letters substantiate the recommendations in my letter of October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 as follows:

1. The client should anticipate conducting a site assessment and survey for the timber rattlesnake. Although I believe that the development site is not near a den, these snakes move extensively and portions of the site may serve as transient and summer foraging habitat.
2. I identified the importance of the chestnut oak community on the site. This xeric oak and hickory community is recognized as important by both states and we have already discussed some conceptual site redesign to conserve that area.
3. The listed vascular plants identified by the NY State Heritage Program do not occur on the site, nor are there habitats suitable for these species on site.
4. The presence of breeding locations for the various birds identified in the New Jersey report -- barred owl, Cooper's hawk, great blue heron, and veery will be addressed in the breeding bird survey that I recommended needed to be done as part of the environmental study conducted during the spring and early summer.
5. Eastern box turtles (see NJ report) may occur on site, especially in the low lying areas along Ringwood River (as indicated in my earlier report). Conducting the herpetological survey that I recommended to you should be able to detect their presence and location.

6. I found no evidence of vernal pool habitat on the parcel proposed for development, therefore the presence of vernal pool obligate species such as the marbled salamander (see NJ report) on the development site is unlikely. I did identify potential vernal pool habitat on the portion of the site bordering the Ringwood River. The proposed herpetological survey will address these issues.

In conclusion, the inquiries to the Heritage Programs of New York and New Jersey did not yield any unexpected findings and the studies that I proposed to you in my report of October 14<sup>th</sup> should constitute due diligence for these species, as well as for many of the more generic biodiversity concerns that may be raised in the application process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael W. Klemens". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Michael W. Klemens, PhD



## Appendix E-6



State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Parks and Forestry
Office of Natural Lands Management
Natural Heritage Program
P.O. Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625-0404
Tel. #609-984-1339
Fax. #609-984-1427

Bradley M. Campbell
Commissioner

Richard J. Codey
Acting Governor

October 27, 2005

James Morrison
Engineering Properties, PC
110 Orange Avenue
Walden, NY 12586

Re: Kings College / Touro College

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Thank you for your data request regarding rare species information for the above referenced project site in Warwick Town, Orange County, New York.

Searches of the New Jersey Natural Heritage Database and the Landscape Project (Version 2) are based on a representation of the boundaries of your project site in our Geographic Information System (GIS). We make every effort to accurately transfer your project bounds from the topographic map(s) submitted with the Request for Data into our Geographic Information System. We do not typically verify that your project bounds are accurate, or check them against other sources.

Neither the New Jersey Natural Heritage Database nor the Landscape Project has records for any rare wildlife species on the referenced site.

We have also checked the New Jersey Natural Heritage Database and the Landscape Project habitat mapping for occurrences of any rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat within 1/4 mile of the referenced site. Please see the table below for species list and conservation status.

Species within 1/4 mile of referenced site.

Table with 6 columns: Common Name, Scientific Name, Federal Status, State Status, Grank, Srank. Rows include barred owl, Cooper's hawk, eastern box turtle, great blue heron, marbled salamander, timber rattlesnake, and veery.

We have also checked the New Jersey Natural Heritage Database for occurrences of rare plant species or natural communities. The Natural Heritage Database does not have any records for rare plants or natural communities on or within 1/4 mile of the site.

Attached is a list of rare species and natural communities that have been documented from Passaic County, New Jersey. If suitable habitat is present at the project site, these species have potential to be present.

Status and rank codes used in the tables and lists are defined in the attached EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN NATURAL HERITAGE REPORTS.

The New Jersey Natural Heritage Program reviews its data periodically to identify priority sites for natural diversity in the State. Included as priority sites are some of the State's best habitats for rare and endangered species and natural communities. One of these sites is located within or near the areas you have outlined. Please refer to the enclosed Natural

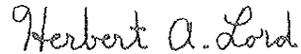
Heritage Priority Site Map for the location and boundary of this site. On the back of each Priority Site Map is a report describing the significance of the site.

If you have questions concerning the wildlife records or wildlife species mentioned in this response, we recommend that you visit the interactive I-Map-NJ website at the following URL, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/depsplash.htm> or contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program.

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED 'CAUTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON NHP DATA'.

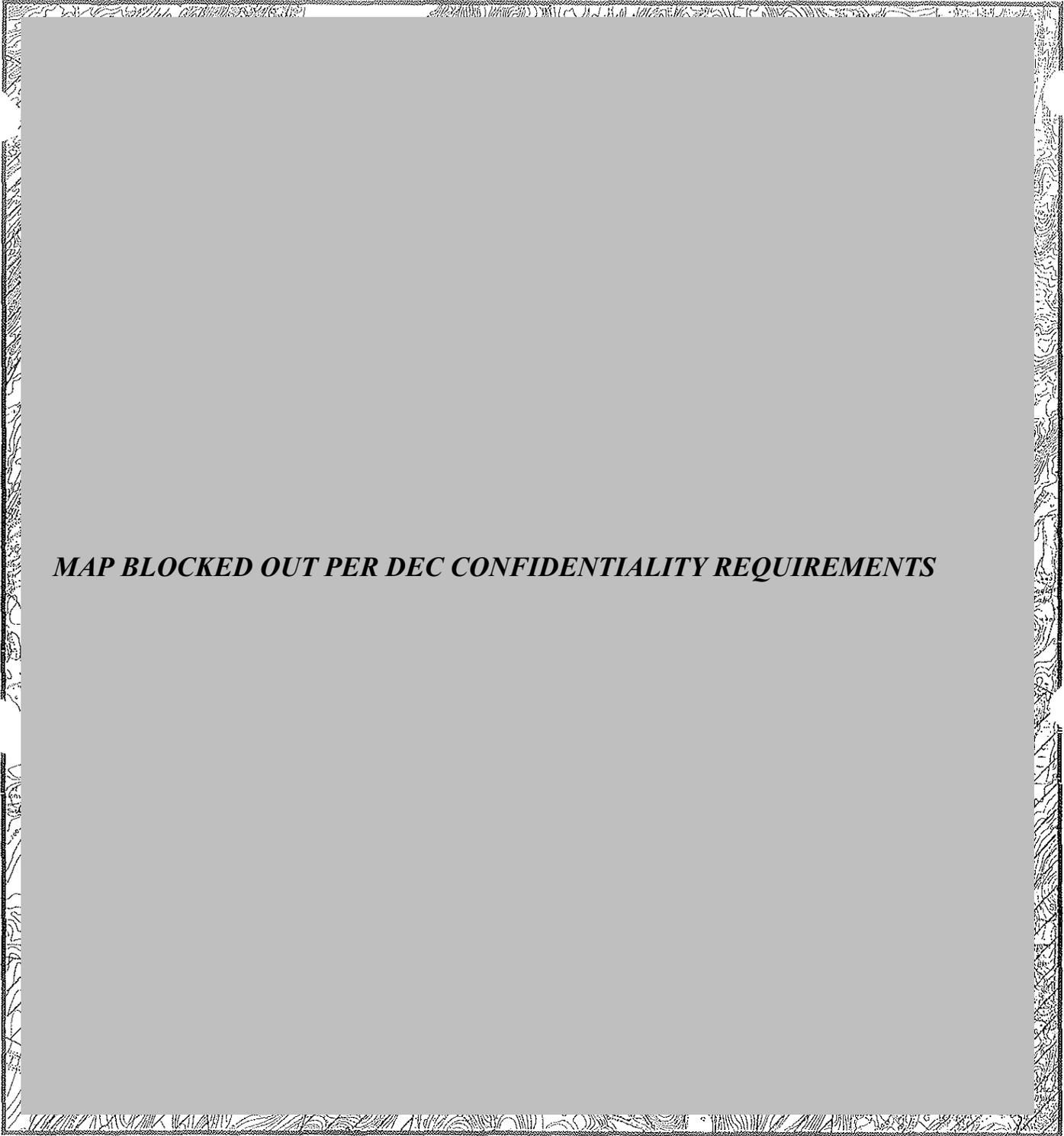
Thank you for consulting the Natural Heritage Program. The attached invoice details the payment due for processing this data request. Feel free to contact us again regarding any future data requests.

Sincerely,



Herbert A. Lord  
Data Request Specialist

cc: Robert J. Cartica  
Lawrence Niles  
NHP File No. 05-4107423



***MAP BLOCKED OUT PER DEC CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS***

Natural Heritage Priority Site  
**Beech Road Ridge**  
Passaic County

Natural Heritage Priority Site  
Beech Road Ridge

*Locational Information*

Quad Name:

County:

Municipality

SENSITIVE INFORMATION BLOCKED OUT PER DEC INSTRUCTIONS

*Description of Site*

SENSITIVE INFORMATION BLOCKED OUT PER DEC INSTRUCTIONS

*Boundary Justification*

Primary boundary includes extensive contiguous forested habitat for State-listed Endangered and Threatened Animal Species as identified through the Landscape Project mapping. Secondary boundary follows the outer edge of the forested habitat.

*Biodiversity Rank*

**B5**

Contains populations of State-listed Endangered and Threatened Animal Species.



## EXPLANATIONS OF CODES USED IN NATURAL HERITAGE REPORTS

### FEDERAL STATUS CODES

The following U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service categories and their definitions of endangered and threatened plants and animals have been modified from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F.R. Vol. 50 No. 188; Vol. 61, No. 40; F.R. 50 CFR Part 17). Federal Status codes reported for species follow the most recent listing.

- LE Taxa formally listed as endangered.
- LT Taxa formally listed as threatened.
- PE Taxa already proposed to be formally listed as endangered.
- PT Taxa already proposed to be formally listed as threatened.
- C Taxa for which the Service currently has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support proposals to list them as endangered or threatened species.
- S/A Similarity of appearance species.

### STATE STATUS CODES

Two animal lists provide state status codes after the Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act of 1973 (N.J.S.A. 23:2A-13 et. seq.): the list of endangered species (N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.13) and the list defining status of indigenous, nongame wildlife species of New Jersey (N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.17(a)). The status of animal species is determined by the Nongame and Endangered Species Program (ENSP). The state status codes and definitions provided reflect the most recent lists that were revised in the New Jersey Register, Monday, June 3, 1991.

- D Declining species—a species which has exhibited a continued decline in population numbers over the years.
- E Endangered species—an endangered species is one whose prospects for survival within the state are in immediate danger due to one or many factors – a loss of habitat, over exploitation, predation, competition, disease. An endangered species requires immediate assistance or extinction will probably follow.
- EX Extirpated species—a species that formerly occurred in New Jersey, but is not now known to exist within the state.
- I Introduced species—a species not native to New Jersey that could not have established itself here without the assistance of man.
- INC Increasing species—a species whose population has exhibited a significant increase, beyond the normal range of its life cycle, over a long term period.
- T Threatened species—a species that may become endangered if conditions surrounding the species begin to or continue to deteriorate.
- P Peripheral species—a species whose occurrence in New Jersey is at the extreme edge of its present natural range.
- S Stable species—a species whose population is not undergoing any long-term increase/decrease within its natural cycle.
- U Undetermined species—a species about which there is not enough information available to determine the status.

Status for animals separated by a slash (/) indicate a dual status. First status refers to the state breeding population, and the second status refers to the migratory or winter population.

## STATE ELEMENT RANKS

- S1 Critically imperiled in New Jersey because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres). Elements so ranked are often restricted to very specialized conditions or habitats and/or restricted to an extremely small geographical area of the state. Also included are elements which were formerly more abundant, but because of habitat destruction or some other critical factor of its biology, they have been demonstrably reduced in abundance. In essence, these are elements for which, even with intensive searching, sizable additional occurrences are unlikely to be discovered.
- S2 Imperiled in New Jersey because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences). Historically many of these elements may have been more frequent but are now known from very few extant occurrences, primarily because of habitat destruction. Diligent searching may yield additional occurrences.
- S3 Rare in state with 21 to 100 occurrences (plant species and ecological communities in this category have only 21 to 50 occurrences). Includes elements which are widely distributed in the state but with small populations/acreage or elements with restricted distribution, but locally abundant. Not yet imperiled in state but may soon be if current trends continue. Searching often yields additional occurrences.
- S4 Apparently secure in state, with many occurrences.
- S5 Demonstrably secure in state and essentially ineradicable under present conditions.
- SA Accidental in state, including species (usually birds or butterflies) recorded once or twice or only at very great intervals, hundreds or even thousands of miles outside their usual range; a few of these species may even have bred on the one or two occasions they were recorded; examples include European strays or western birds on the East Coast and vice-versa.
- SE Elements that are clearly exotic in New Jersey including those taxa not native to North America (introduced taxa) or taxa deliberately or accidentally introduced into the State from other parts of North America (adventive taxa). Taxa ranked SE are not a conservation priority (viable introduced occurrences of G1 or G2 elements may be exceptions).
- SH Elements of historical occurrence in New Jersey. Despite some searching of historical occurrences and/or potential habitat, no extant occurrences are known. Since not all of the historical occurrences have been field surveyed, and unsearched potential habitat remains, historically ranked taxa are considered possibly extant, and remain a conservation priority for continued field work.
- SP Element has potential to occur in New Jersey, but no occurrences have been reported.
- SR Elements reported from New Jersey, but without persuasive documentation which would provide a basis for either accepting or rejecting the report. In some instances documentation may exist, but as of yet, its source or location has not been determined.
- SRF Elements erroneously reported from New Jersey, but this error persists in the literature.
- SU Elements believed to be in peril but the degree of rarity uncertain. Also included are rare taxa of uncertain taxonomical standing. More information is needed to resolve rank.
- SX Elements that have been determined or are presumed to be extirpated from New Jersey. All historical occurrences have been searched and a reasonable search of potential habitat has been completed. Extirpated taxa are not a current conservation priority.
- SXC Elements presumed extirpated from New Jersey, but native populations collected from the wild exist in cultivation.

1  
30 AUG 2004

PASSAIC COUNTY  
RARE SPECIES AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTLY RECORDED IN  
THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE

NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	REGIONAL STATUS	GRANK	SRANK
*** Vertebrates						
ACCIPITER COOPERII	COOPER'S HAWK		T/T		G5	S3B, S4N
ACCIPITER GENTILIS	NORTHERN GOSHAWK		E/E		G5	S1B, S4N
ACRIS CREPITANS CREPITANS	NORTHERN CRICKET FROG		U		G5T5	S3
AMBYSTOMA MACULATUM	SPOTTED SALAMANDER		D		G5	S3
AMBYSTOMA OPACUM	MARbled SALAMANDER		D		G5	S3
BUTEO LINEATUS	RED-SHOULDERED HAWK		E/T		G5	S1B, S2N
CLEMMYS INSCULPTA	WOOD TURTLE		T		G4	S3
CLEMMYS MUHLENBERGII	BOG TURTLE	LT	E		G3	S2
CROTALUS HORRIDUS HORRIDUS	TIMBER RATTLESNAKE		E		G4T4	S2
FALCO PEREGRINUS	PEREGRINE FALCON		E		G4	S1B, S7N
HALIAETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS	BALD EAGLE	LT	E		G4	S1B, S2N
LYNX RUFUS	BOBCAT		E		G5	S3
MYOTIS LEIBII	EASTERN SMALL-FOOTED MYOTIS		U		G3	S1
NEOTOMA MAGISTER	ALLEGHENY WOODRAT		E		G3G4	S1
PETROCHALIDON PYRRHONOTA	CLIFF SWALLOW		S/S		G5	S2B
PODILYMBUS PODICEPS	PIED-BILLED GREBE		E/S		G5	S1B, S3N
STRIX VARIA	BARRED OWL		T/T		G5	S3B
SYNAPTOMYS COOPERI	SOUTHERN BOG LEMMING		U		G5	S2
*** Ecosystems						
GLACIAL BOG	GLACIAL BOG				G4?	S1
TRAPROCK GLADE/ROCK OUTCROP COMMUNITY	TRAPROCK GLADE/ROCK OUTCROP COMMUNITY				G2	S1
*** Invertebrates						
ALASPIDONIA UNDULATA	TRIANGLE FLOATER		T		G4	S3
BATTUS PHILENOR	PIPEVINE SWALLOWTAIL				G5	SU
BOLORIA SELENE MYRINA	A SILVER-BORDERED FRITILLARY		T		G5T5	S2
CALLOPHRYX HENRICI	HENRY'S ELFIN				G5	S3S4

3  
20 AUG 2004

PASSAIC COUNTY  
RARE SPECIES AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTLY RECORDED IN  
THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE

NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	REGIONAL STATUS	GRANK	SRANK
ARABIS HIRSUTA VAR PYCNOCARPA	WESTERN HAIRY ROCKCRESS				G5T5	S2
ASCLEPIAS VERTICILLATA	WHORLED MILKWEED				G5	S2
CALLITRICHE PALUSTRIS	MARSH WATER-STARWORT				G5	S2
CARDAMINE LONGII	LONG'S BITTERCRESS		E		G3	SH
CAREX BRUNNESCENS	ROUND-SPIKE BROWNISH SEDGE		E		G5T5	S1
CAREX DEWEYANA	DEWEY'S SEDGE		E		G5T5	S1
CAREX LIMOSA	MUD SEDGE		E		G5	S1
CAREX SICCATA	HILLSIDE SEDGE		E		G5	S1
CAREX UTRICULATA	BOTTLE-SHAPED SEDGE				G5	S2
CAREX WILLDENOWII VAR WILLDENOWII	WILLDENOW'S SEDGE				G5T5	S2
CASTILLEJA OCCIDENS	SCARLET INDIAN-PAINTBRUSH				G5	S2
CLEMATIS OCCIDENTALIS VAR OCCIDENTALIS	PURPLE CLEMATIS				G5T5	S2
DORLINGERIA INFIRMA	CORNEL-LEAF ASTER				G5	S2
ELYMUS TRACHYCAULUS	SLENDER WHEATGRASS		E		G5	S1
EQUISETUM PRATENSE	MEADOW HORSETAIL		E		G5	S1
EQUISETUM VARIEGATUM	VARIEGATED HORSETAIL		E		G5T5	S1
GAULTHERIA HISPIDULA	CREEPING-SNOWBERRY		E		G5	S1
GENTIANA LINEARIS	NARROW-LEAF GENTIAN		E		G4G5	SH
HEMICARPHA MICRANTHA	SMALL-FLOWER HALFCHAFF SEDGE		E		G4	S1
ILEX MONTANA	LARGE-LEAF HOLLY		E		G5	S1
ISOTRIA MEDEOLOIDES	SMALL WHORLED POGONIA	LT	E		G2	S1
LECHEA TENUIFOLIA	NARROW-LEAF PINWEED		E		G5	S1
LEMNA PERPUSILLA	MINUTE DUCKWEED		E		G5	S1
LEMNA VALDIVIANA	PALE DUCKWEED		E		G5	S1
LIMOSELLA SUBULATA	AWL-LEAF MUDWORT		E		G4G5	S1
LONICERA CANADENSIS	AMERICAN FLY-HONEYSUCKLE		E		G5	S1
NONARDA CLINOPODIA	BASIL BEEBALM		E		G5	SH
MUHLENBERGIA CAPILLARIS	LONG-AWN SMOKE GRASS		E		G5T7	S1

5  
30 AUG 2004

PASSAIC COUNTY  
RARE SPECIES AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTLY RECORDED IN  
THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE

NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	REGIONAL STATUS	GRANK	SRANK
TROLLIUS LAXUS SSP LAXUS	SPREADING GLOBE FLOWER		E		G4T3	S1
VACCINIUM OXYCOCCOS	SMALL CRANBERRY				G5	S2
VERBENA SIMPLEX	NARROW-LEAF VERVAIN		E		G5	S1
VIBURNUM ALNIFOLIUM	WITCH-HOBBLE		E		G5	S1
VIOLA SEPTENTRIONALIS	NORTHERN BLUE VIOLET		E		G5	S1
WOLFFIELLA FLORIDANA	SWORD SOCMAT		E		G5	S1
XYRIS MONTANA	NORTHERN YELLOW-EYED-GRASS		E		G4	S1.1

111 Records Processed

## CAUTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON NATURAL HERITAGE DATA

The quantity and quality of data collected by the Natural Heritage Program is dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations. Not all of this information is the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Some natural areas in New Jersey have never been thoroughly surveyed. As a result, new locations for plant and animal species are continuously added to the database. Since data acquisition is a dynamic, ongoing process, the Natural Heritage Program cannot provide a definitive statement on the presence, absence, or condition of biological elements in any part of New Jersey. Information supplied by the Natural Heritage Program summarizes existing data known to the program at the time of the request regarding the biological elements or locations in question. They should never be regarded as final statements on the elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. The attached data is provided as one source of information to assist others in the preservation of natural diversity.

This office cannot provide a letter of interpretation or a statement addressing the classification of wetlands as defined by the Freshwater Wetlands Act. Requests for such determination should be sent to the DEP Land Use Regulation Program, P.O. Box 401, Trenton, NJ 08625-0401.

The Landscape Project was developed by the Division of Fish & Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program in order to map critical habitat for rare animal species. Natural Heritage Database response letters will also list all species (if any) found during a search of the Landscape Project. However, this office cannot answer any inquiries about the Landscape Project. All questions should be directed to the DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.

This cautions and restrictions notice must be included whenever information provided by the Natural Heritage Database is published.



NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Parks and Forestry

Natural Lands Management

## Frequently Asked Questions About Natural Heritage Priority Sites

---

### What are Natural Heritage Priority Sites?

Through its Natural Heritage Database, the Office of Natural Lands Management (ONLM) identifies critically important areas to conserve New Jersey's biological diversity. The database provides detailed, up-to-date information on rare species and natural communities to planners, developers, and conservation agencies for use in resource management, environmental impact assessment, and both public and private land protection efforts.

Using the database, ONLM has identified Natural Heritage Priority Sites that represent some of the best remaining habitat for rare species and exemplary natural communities in the state. These areas should be considered to be top priorities for the preservation of biological diversity in New Jersey. If these sites become degraded or destroyed, we may lose some of the unique components of our natural heritage.

ONLM has identified 410 priority sites over the course of more than 10 years. We have received assistance from many partner individuals and agencies over this time. The Nature Conservancy and the DEP Endangered and Nongame Species Program have provided key information or assisted with the delineation of a number of the sites.

### How are Natural Heritage Priority Site maps used in conservation of biological diversity?

Natural Heritage Priority Site maps are used by individuals and agencies concerned with the protection and management of land. The maps have been used by municipalities preparing natural resource inventories; public and private conservation organizations preparing open space acquisition goals; land developers and consultants identifying environmentally sensitive lands; and public and private landowners developing land management plans.

Natural Heritage Priority Sites contain some of the best and most viable occurrences of endangered and threatened species and natural communities, but they do not cover all known habitat for endangered and threatened species in New Jersey. If information is needed on whether or not

endangered or threatened species have been documented from a particular piece of land, a Natural Heritage Database search can be requested by contacting the Office of Natural Lands Management at the address below.

### What do the boundaries of the sites contain?

The boundaries of each Natural Heritage Priority Site are drawn to encompass critical habitat for the rare species or natural communities. Often the boundaries extend to include additional buffer lands that should be managed to protect the habitat. A justification for the boundary is provided for each site. The term "primary bounds" is sometimes used to refer to boundaries enclosing critical habitat. The term "secondary bounds" is sometimes used to refer to boundaries enclosing additional buffer. In maps where both primary and secondary boundaries are described, only the outermost boundary is provided in the mapping.

### What is the background map that the sites are drawn upon?

The sites are portrayed on background maps produced from a digital copy of the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographic maps. The background maps contain topographic lines as well as streams, lakes, roads, towns and place names. These background maps do not always reflect recent changes in land development. Some may be more than 20 years old. Some sites appear to be shifted in position against this topo map. This shift is due to the fact that most sites have been digitized against a background of rectified aerial photography, and some of the digitized USGS topo maps do not align with this photography.

### What do "public lands" depict on the maps?

The "public lands" shaded on these maps are state-owned open space lands that have been digitized as a GIS coverage by the state Green Acres Program. This information is provided to show patterns of State land ownership in the vicinity of the Priority Site. The public lands are areas such as State Parks and Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Natural Lands Trust preserves. They do not currently include lands owned by other state agencies, federal, county or municipal governments