



Generated by eNDDB on:
3/27/2024

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Towns: Westport
Automated Site Assessment: 1056742792

Subject: 43 Bermuda

This is an automated site assessment and not a Natural Diversity Data Base determination. The information provided represents a snapshot that can be used for general planning purposes. **This letter cannot be used to fulfill Endangered Species Act compliance requirements.** Please see information below as well as our [FAQs](#) describing the appropriate use and limitations of the automated Site Assessment tool.

Current data maintained by the Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) and housed in the DEEP ezFile portal, indicates that populations of the following State Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species (RCA Sec. 26-306) have been documented within or in close proximity to the area delineated. **Please see the attached table for detailed species information.**

HOW SITE ASSESSMENT SPECIES LISTS ARE COMPILED

Site assessment species lists include all information regarding listed species available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEEP, landowners, private conservation groups and the scientific community. New and updated information is incorporated into the Data Base and accessed through the ezFile portal as it becomes available. The species list provided is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations.

WHAT PURPOSE DOES THIS SITE ASSESSMENT SERVE?

A site assessment is intended to provide a snapshot of the species that may be in the vicinity of your drawn area. It may be useful in project planning or to gain an understanding of the potential for listed species to utilize the site. The list is computer generated; it was not prepared or reviewed by program staff. Biologist review of your location may result in the addition of species not provided by the automated site assessment.

I'VE REVIEWED MY SITE ASSESSMENT, WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

If you are undertaking an activity that requires a state permit, utilizes state funding, or involves state agency action, you must demonstrate compliance with the CT Endangered Species Act. This is done through the full Natural Diversity Data Base review process. Please return to the DEEP's ezFile Portal and select [Natural Diversity Data Base Review](#) to begin this review process. Keep in mind that these detailed reviews may include additional species not identified in the automated site assessment. Program staff consider factors such as habitat characteristics, species life history and other

information to determine appropriate species of concern.

SURVEY WORK MAY BE NECESSARY

Suitable and potentially occupied habitat may extend beyond mapped NDDB areas and unmapped areas may represent potential habitat that has not been adequately surveyed for all taxa. If you are undertaking activities that involve significant ground disturbance, converting natural lands to development, or otherwise fragmenting or disturbing large areas, we recommend conducting comprehensive biological surveys and a full site habitat characterization for areas that have not been assessed through prior biological inventories. Survey work may be required as part of the NDDB review process; completing some or all of this work up front will allow the process to proceed more efficiently.

This survey and habitat characterization should be comprehensive and not strictly limited to species included in the site assessment. Field surveys should be performed by a qualified taxonomic expert with the appropriate scientific collecting permits. Surveys should be conducted at seasonally appropriate times.

A report summarizing the results of such surveys should include:

1. Survey date(s) and duration.
2. Site descriptions and photographs.
3. List of component vascular plant and animal species within the survey area (including scientific binomials).
4. Data regarding population numbers and/or area occupied by State-listed species.
5. Detailed maps of the area surveyed including the survey route and locations of State listed species.
6. Recommendations for management and protection of State-listed species with reference to project activities.
7. Statement/résumé indicating the taxonomic expert's qualifications.

Site survey reports should be sent to the CT DEEP-NDDB Program (deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov) for further review by program biologists.

SENSITIVE SPECIES

Please note that, for purposes of automated site assessments, certain sensitive species are not identified beyond their taxa. Additional information will be provided for those projects that will be conducting survey work in preparation for permitting ground disturbing activities or for other activities that might necessitate survey work. For these projects, please submit a [Natural Diversity Data Base Review Request](#) and we will provide information to your taxonomic expert.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources may be helpful when planning survey work

- [State Listed plant species and Natural Communities documented within each CT town](#)
- [Thirteen of Connecticut's Most Imperiled Ecosystems \(1998\)](#) - Metzler and Wagner
- [The Vegetation of Connecticut](#) - Metzler and Barrett
- [Nature's Network](#) identifies opportunities for conserving and connecting intact habitats and ecosystems and supporting imperiled species.
- [Connecticut's Critical Habitat](#) map. The Critical Habitat map project contains a subset of

known important natural community types and sites in CT. Refer to [Resource Guide](#) for a complete description and limitations of this product.

Additional sites of Critical Habitats and important natural communities exist, some of which are documented by NDDDB and some of which have not been identified, or fully mapped or field verified. You may [contact NDDDB](#) prior to conducting field reviews for more comprehensive information.

This letter is computer generated from our existing records and carries no signature. If however, any clarification/error is noted, or, if you have further questions, please contact the following:

CT DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division
Natural Diversity Data Base
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
(860) 424-3011
deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov

Please include a snapshot of the map, your last name, and the subject area town when you e-mail or write. Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base.

Common Name	Snowy egret
Scientific Name	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Listing Status¹	T
Taxa	bird
General Ecology	This is a bird that usually nests in a mixed species colony with other heron species, called a rookery. Of these rookery nesting species, Snowy egret has the highest regional concern due to rapidly decreasing populations. In Connecticut, rookeries are on offshore islands. Nests are typically built 20-40 feet above ground in trees. Breeding usually begins mid-April and runs through August. Disturbance to nesting rookeries by both predators and people is the main threat to this species in Connecticut, followed by degradation of wetland habitat used for foraging. Setback from nesting colonies of 660 feet (200 meters) for all activities during nesting season as well as reducing wetland disturbance and enhancing wetland function in foraging areas within 5 km of rookeries will benefit this species. If your project is not offshore, it is likely that your project falls in critical foraging habitat for the snowy egret. Critical foraging habitats preferred by these species include marshes, swamps, ponds, shores, and tideflats with a diet consisting of mainly fish and crustaceans. Foraging efficiency is greatly reduced if foraging individually. Do not disturb flocks of foraging herons and egrets. Do not introduce new excessive or unpredictable noise or activity to wetland complexes that will cause birds to flush during April-August, especially before 10am, when largest flocks will form.

Common Name	Great egret
Scientific Name	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Listing Status¹	T
Taxa	bird
General Ecology	This is a bird that usually nests in a mixed species colony with other heron species, called a rookery. In Connecticut, rookeries are on offshore island but can occur in wooded wetland areas. Nests are typically built 20-40 feet above ground in trees. Breeding usually begins mid-April and runs through August. Disturbance to nesting rookeries by both predators and people is the main threat to this species in Connecticut, followed by degradation of wetland habitat used for foraging. Setback from nesting colonies of 660 feet (200 meters) for all activities during nesting season as well as reducing wetland disturbance and enhancing wetland function in foraging areas within 10 km of rookeries will benefit this species.
Common Name	Yellow-crowned night-heron
Scientific Name	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>
Listing Status¹	SC
Taxa	bird
General Ecology	The yellow-crowned night-heron favors coastal marshes and nests and roosts in adjacent trees. This bird's primary source of food is crabs. This bird occasionally will be found in a mixed species colony with other heron species, called a rookery. In Connecticut, rookeries with most of our state listed species are on offshore island but can occur in wooded wetland areas. Nests are typically built 20-40 feet above ground in trees. Breeding usually begins mid-April and runs through August. Disturbance to nesting rookeries by both predators and people is the main threat to this species in Connecticut, followed by degradation of wetland habitat used for foraging. Setback from nesting colonies of 660 feet (200 meters) for all activities during nesting season as well as reducing wetland disturbance and enhancing wetland function will benefit this species.
Common Name	Glossy ibis
Scientific Name	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Listing Status¹	SC
Taxa	bird
General Ecology	This is a bird that usually nests in a mixed species colony with other heron species, called a rookery. In Connecticut, rookeries with most of our state listed species are on offshore island but can occur in wooded wetland areas. Nests are typically built 20-40 feet above ground in trees. Breeding usually begins mid-April and runs through August. Disturbance to nesting rookeries by both predators and people is the main threat to this species in Connecticut, followed by degradation of wetland habitat used for foraging. Setback from nesting colonies of 660 feet (200 meters) for all activities during nesting season as well as reducing wetland disturbance and enhancing wetland function will benefit this species.

Common Name	Little blue heron
Scientific Name	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Listing Status¹	SC
Taxa	bird
General Ecology	This is a bird that usually nests in a mixed species colony with other heron species, called a rookery. In Connecticut, rookeries are on offshore island but can occur in wooded wetland areas. Nests are typically built 20-40 feet above ground in trees. Breeding usually begins mid-April and runs through August. Disturbance to nesting rookeries by both predators and people is the main threat to this species in Connecticut, followed by degradation of wetland habitat used for foraging. Setback from nesting colonies of 660 feet (200 meters) for all activities during nesting season as well as reducing wetland disturbance and enhancing wetland function in foraging areas will benefit this species.

¹E = State Endangered, T = State Threatened, SC = State Special Concern, FE = Federally Endangered, FT = Federally Threatened, NA = Not applicable.

43 Bermuda Map



March 27, 2024

