

Station 11: Beaver Pond

This pond was created by beavers. The industrious beaver is known as a "keystone species," meaning it has a great effect on its environment. Beavers build ponds by damming streams, creating a significant change in the environment. Those trees covered by the pond will die, yet the blue heron now has a perfect area for its nests. The pond is home to the larvae and/or adults of many insects, including dragonflies, mayflies, mosquitoes, black flies, waterstriders, and dozens of



others. Small ponds and pools are important breeding grounds for almost all flying insects. As you gaze across the pond you may notice several bird species:

Hérons

Great Blue Heron- (up to 4ft tall) gray blue in color, and white about the head.

Green Heron- (16"-22") deep green, with a brown neck.

American Bittern- (23") stalky brown with white stripes on its underside

Woodpeckers

Hairy W.- (9 1/2") white underside and black with white speckled wings. Bill length is equal to or greater than the length of the head. Males have a red patch on their heads.

Downy W.- (6 1/2") smaller than the Hairy. Bill is shorter than the length of head. Males have a red patch on their heads.

Ducks

Mallard- (23") male has a green head, while the females' heads are a light brown.



Common owls in Massachusetts include barred, great horned, and screech owls.