

March 9, 2007

M-J Project#: 16776.02

Information Services  
New York Natural Heritage Program  
625 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-4757

**ATTENTION:** Information Services

**SUBJECT:** Information Regarding Records of Rare Species or Significant Natural Communities for:  
Greater Binghamton Airport  
Master Plan Update Environmental Overview  
Town of Maine, Broome County, NY  
42°12'25" N, 75°58'45" W

McFarland-Johnson, Inc. is preparing a Master Plan Update (MPU) for Greater Binghamton Airport. The document will contain an Environmental Overview chapter, which will alert planners of potential impacts to the natural and human environs occurring on or near Airport property, including rare species or significant natural communities, in relation to proposed airport development projects. A MPU is required when planning involves minor changes to a Master Plan, which is a comprehensive document that can describe either short-, medium-, or long-term development plans for a specific airport. Typically a Master Plan considers a 20-year planning period with a MPU every 5 years, to reflect completed projects and minor changes to planning during the past MPU period.

Greater Binghamton Airport is located in the Town of Maine, Broome County, New York, approximately 8 miles to the north, northwest of downtown Binghamton. Secondary roads encompass the airport, and the surrounding land is rural and sparsely populated.

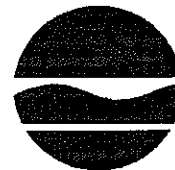
A copy of the appropriate portion of the 7 ½ minute USGS Castle Creek quadrangle has been attached, as required.

Requested by,

McFarland-Johnson, Inc.

Donald J. Lockwood  
Environmental Scientist

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



March 22, 2007

RECEIVED

MAR 26 2007

McFARLAND-JOHNSON, INC.

Donald J Lockwood  
McFarland - Johnson, Inc  
49 Court St - Metrocenter  
Binghamton, NY 13902

Dear Mr. Lockwood:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program databases with respect to an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Master Plan Update for the Greater Binghamton Airport, area as indicated on the map you provided, located in the Town of Maine, Broome County.

We have no records of known occurrences of rare or state-listed animals or plants, significant natural communities, or other significant habitats, on or in the immediate vicinity of your site.

The absence of data does not necessarily mean that rare or state-listed species, natural communities or other significant habitats do not exist on or adjacent to the proposed site. Rather, our files currently do not contain any information which indicates their presence. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted. For these reasons, we cannot provide a definitive statement on the presence or absence of rare or state-listed species, or of significant natural communities. This information should not be substituted for on-site surveys that may be required for environmental 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.

This response applies only to known occurrences of rare or state-listed animals and plants, significant natural communities and other significant habitats maintained in the Natural Heritage Data bases. Your project may require additional review or permits; 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.

Sincerely,  
*Tara Seoane*  
Tara Seoane, Information Services  
New York Natural Heritage Program

Enc.



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



New York Field Office  
3817 Luker Road, Cortland, NY 13045  
Phone: (607) 753-9334  
Fax: (607) 753-9699

Long Island Field Office  
3 Old Barto Rd., Brookhaven, NY 11719  
Phone: (631) 776-1401  
Fax: (631) 776-1405

### Endangered Species Act List Request Response Cover Sheet

This cover sheet is provided in response to a search of our website\* for information regarding the potential presence of species under jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) within a proposed project area.

Attached is a copy of the New York State County List of Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species for the appropriate county(ies). The database that we use to respond to list requests was developed primarily to assist Federal agencies that are consulting with us under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Our lists include all Federally-listed, proposed, and candidate species known to occur, as well as those likely to occur, in specific counties.

The attached information is designed to assist project sponsors or applicants through the process of determining whether a Federally-listed, proposed, or candidate species and/or "critical habitat" may occur within their proposed project area and when it is appropriate to contact our offices for additional coordination or consultation. You may be aware that our offices have provided much of this information in the past in project-specific letters. However, due to increasing project review workloads and decreasing staff, we are now providing as much information as possible through our website. We encourage anyone requesting species list information to print out all materials used in any analyses of effects on listed, proposed, or candidate species.

The Service routinely updates this database as species are proposed, listed, and delisted, or as we obtain new biological information or specific presence/absence information for listed species. If project proponents coordinate with the Service to address proposed and candidate species in early stages of planning, this should not be a problem if these species are eventually listed. However, we recommend that both project proponents and reviewing agencies retrieve from our online database an *updated* list every 90 days to append to this document to ensure that listed species presence/absence information for the proposed project is *current*.

**Reminder:** Section 9 of the ESA prohibits unauthorized taking\*\* of listed species and applies to Federal and non-Federal activities. For projects not authorized, funded, or carried out by a Federal agency, consultation with the Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA is not required. However, no person is authorized to "take\*\*" any listed species without appropriate authorizations from the Service. Therefore, we provide technical assistance to individuals and agencies to assist with project planning to avoid the potential for "take\*\*," or when appropriate, to provide assistance with their application for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA.

Additionally, endangered species and their habitats are protected by Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, which requires Federal agencies, in consultation with the Service, to ensure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. An assessment of the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts is required for all Federal actions that may affect listed species.

For instance, work in certain waters of the United States, including wetlands and streams, may require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). If a permit is required, in reviewing the application pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*), the Service may concur, with or without recommending additional permit conditions, or recommend denial of the permit depending upon potential adverse impacts on fish and wildlife resources associated with project construction or implementation. The need for a Corps permit may be determined by contacting the appropriate Corps office(s).\*

For additional information on fish and wildlife resources or State-listed species, we suggest contacting the appropriate New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regional office(s) and the New York Natural Heritage Program Information Services.\*

Since wetlands, ponds, streams, or open or sheltered coastal waters may be present in the project area, it may be helpful to utilize the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps as an initial screening tool. However, they may or may not be available for the project area. Please note that while the NWI maps are reasonably accurate, they should not be used in lieu of field surveys for determining the presence of wetlands or delineating wetland boundaries for Federal regulatory purposes. Online information on the NWI program and digital data can be downloaded from Wetlands Mapper, [http://wetlands.fws.gov/mapper\\_tool.htm](http://wetlands.fws.gov/mapper_tool.htm).

Project construction or implementation should not commence until all requirements of the ESA have been fulfilled. After reviewing our website and following the steps outlined, we encourage both project proponents and reviewing agencies to contact our office to determine whether an accurate determination of species impacts has been made. If there are any questions about our county lists or agency or project proponent responsibilities under the ESA, please contact the New York or Long Island Field Office Endangered Species Program at the numbers listed above.

Attachment (county list of species)

\*Additional information referred to above may be found on our website at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm>

\*\* Under the Act and regulations, it is illegal for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to *take* (includes harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect; or to attempt any of these), import or export, ship in interstate or foreign commerce in the course of commercial activity, or sell or offer for sale in interstate or foreign commerce any endangered fish or wildlife species and most threatened fish and wildlife species. It is also illegal to possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport, or ship any such wildlife that has been taken illegally. "Harm" includes any act which actually kills or injures fish or wildlife, and case law has clarified that such acts may include significant habitat modification or degradation that significantly impairs essential behavioral patterns of fish or wildlife.



## Broome County

### Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species and Candidate Species

This list represents the best available information regarding known or likely County occurrences of Federally-listed and candidate species and is subject to change as new information becomes available.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Bald eagle <sup>1</sup>	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	D

Status Codes: E=Endangered T=Threatened P=Proposed C=Candidate D=Delisted

<sup>1</sup> The bald eagle was delisted on August 8, 2007. While there are no ESA requirements for bald eagles after this date, the eagles continue to receive protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Please follow the Service's May 2007 Bald Eagle Management Guidelines to determine whether you can avoid impacts under the BGEPA for your projects. If you have any questions, please contact the endangered species branch in our office.

Information current as of: 5/16/2008