

Report Summary:

RURAL, QUIET, BEAUTIFUL, SCENIC, PEACEFUL.

If Barkhamsted came to mind while reading those 5 words you are not alone. Based on 508 responses to “List 5 words that would describe Barkhamsted”, those were the top 5 responses.

Term	# of times used (508 total responses)
rural	48
quiet	45
beautiful	41
scenic	34
peaceful	33

Lions, tigers, and bears. Not quite but close. Bears were the most commonly observed mammal with 101 people indicating they commonly/frequently deal with these in one way or another. Other category winners in the ***commonly/frequently observed*** were the ***snapping turtle, garter snake, toad, common newt, turkey, and brook trout.*** Those animals observed ***occasionally were coyote, painted turtle, ring neck snake, green frog, spotted salamander, and largemouth bass.*** **Rarely encountered but serve to make Barkhamsted so wild were the otter, wood turtle, timber rattlesnake, grey tree frog, spring salamander, and slimy sculpin.**

Mountain lions were reported by 18, with 0 common/frequent observations, 7 occasionally, and 11 who only were able to capture a single glance.

Introduction:

This is a summary report of an on-line survey town residents were encouraged to complete during fall 2009. The purpose was to obtain information about both the type & frequency of wildlife observations on their property. It was initiated to draw awareness to the unique grant opportunity awarded to Barkhamsted. Under this grant the town has hired several experts. One, Dr. Michael Klemens of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

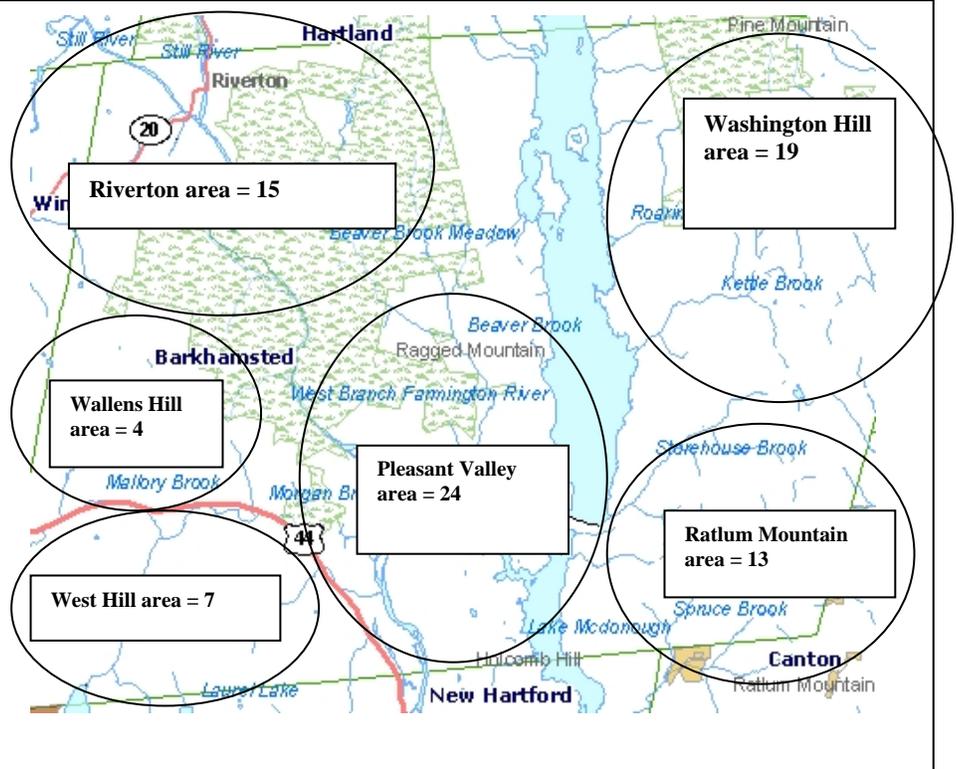
(<http://www.ecostudies.org/>) will be conducting a biological survey this spring that will focus on vernal pools and head water brooks. Second, Martin Connor and Thomas Grimaldi will be reviewing existing town regulations and ordinances to see where low impact development (LID) techniques maybe included

(<http://clear.uconn.edu/tools/lid/index.htm>). Inclusion of LID techniques into existing town regulations and existing ordinances will provide land-owners with more development options than typical “one-size fits all” or “cookie cutter” regulations. With increased flexibility and greater options for development inclusion of LID techniques will be a win-win situation for both the landowners and the town’s wildlife. Sound interesting? To become involved with this committee please contact First Selectman Don Stein, 860-379-8285). Or simply follow the LID process on the town web page at:

<http://barkhamsted.us/BoardsCommissions/LowImpactDevelopmentAdvisoryCommittee/tabid/156/Default.aspx>

Who said what.....

There were 109 people who completed the survey. There was fairly equal representation from all areas of town with Pleasant Valley leading the way with 24 participants.



Your Feedback raw and uncensored:

The following entries are all of the comments provided by the respondents. 21 people out of the 109 who completed the survey provided a comment.

Glad an inventory is being done!	I love Barkhamsted. The wilderness and wildlife is extremely important to me and my family.	Not sure if purpose of survey was to get data specific to home or sightings in Barkhamsted in general; questions stated "around home" so that is the way I answered the questions.
Let's conserve our beautiful, natural spaces	Glad to see the question about Mountain Lions. Although DEP denies their existence in CT, Eve and our adult son have seen at least one.	Please keep Barkhamsted Wild and Natural - that is why we moved here!
GREAT IDEA - this survey! Can't wait to see the results.	Need to have educated decisions regarding development....otherwise Barkhamsted will become Avon/Canton...yuk.	Road is very noisy due to Ski Sundown and Hartford summer traffic going to the Reservoir.
survey is good	The serenity of Barkhamsted is what brought my wife and me to this tow. It's like a getaway from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. We love it here!	We wish you had included a section on Vegetation, including mention of invasive species. We also hope that this project will not be hampered by attitude we see in town concerning unfettered property land use rights.
thank you	there are many birds/toads I can't name but have seen	What would you do if my feedback contained one or more questions?
Thank you!	Too many bears in our neighborhood!	Will survey result be compiled and available?
The purpose of this?	We see bears in our yard at least weekly..... in the year that we have lived here there have been at least 5 different ones	Would love to see the results of this.

Summaries for Each Survey Question....

Question #1: *please list 5 terms you would use to describe Barkhamsted...*

The terms used to describe Barkhamsted were many, the table to the right lists all of the terms which were used 5 or more times. The table below lists all of the terms used 4 or fewer times including the single entries. As one reviews these terms it is easy to see that some could be grouped together to increase the total response for that term. For example “forested”, “woodsy”, “trees”, could be considered the same. No attempt at grouping was made to insure the true spirit of the exercise was maintained and a respondent’s intent lost due to arbitrary groupings.

Nature at its best: it is easy to see that a very common theme of the terms is “pride in the town’s character”. Many terms are either direct or indirectly a description of the abundant natural landscape Barkhamsted is fortunate to possess. With this abundant open forested space a great diversity of animals also call Barkhamsted home.

Terms	Out of 508 responses
friendly	26
home	20
country	11
small	11
forested	8
woodsy	8
hilly	8
natural	8
wild	8
quaint	7
remote	7
safe	7
community	5
historical	5
Picturesque	5
pretty	5
recreation	5

Terms with less than 5 occurrences in the survey responses	Out of 508 responses
family, water, wonderful, nature, trees	4
bears, clean, close knit, convenient, fun, outdoor, tranquil	3
bucolic, charming, cold, Farmington River, great, isolated, nice, preserved, private, relaxing, residential, secluded, simple, spread out, state parks, unspoiled	2
accessible, affordable, alive, awesome, balanced, birthplace, blessed, blustery, bobcats, busy, caring, cheerful, classic, comfortable, deer, delightful, desirable, disparate, diverse habitats, educated, education, endangered, enjoyable, excellent schools, fishing, fly fishing, fractured, free, fresh air, gem, green, happy, homogeneous, independent, interesting, lacking community center, lacks community, landscapes, liberty, low population, MDC, middleclass, moose, New England, noisy, not commercial, open, parochial, pastoral, Peoples Forest, pleasant, poor, pristine, quaint, relaxing, reservoir, rocky, semi-rural, serene, sleepy, slow, snow, snowless, snowy, spacious, spectacular, stormy, tightwad, typical old New England type town, undiscovered, unfledged, unique, unmolested, Vermont, vulnerable, welcoming, wet, widespread	1

Question #2 (102 responses, 7 skipped the question) Select *only those land cover types that apply to your property.*

Very similar to the overall land cover of Barkhamsted, the 3 most common land use type respondents selected were forest (96), mountain laurel thickets (77), and vernal pools (51). Least common was cropland (11).

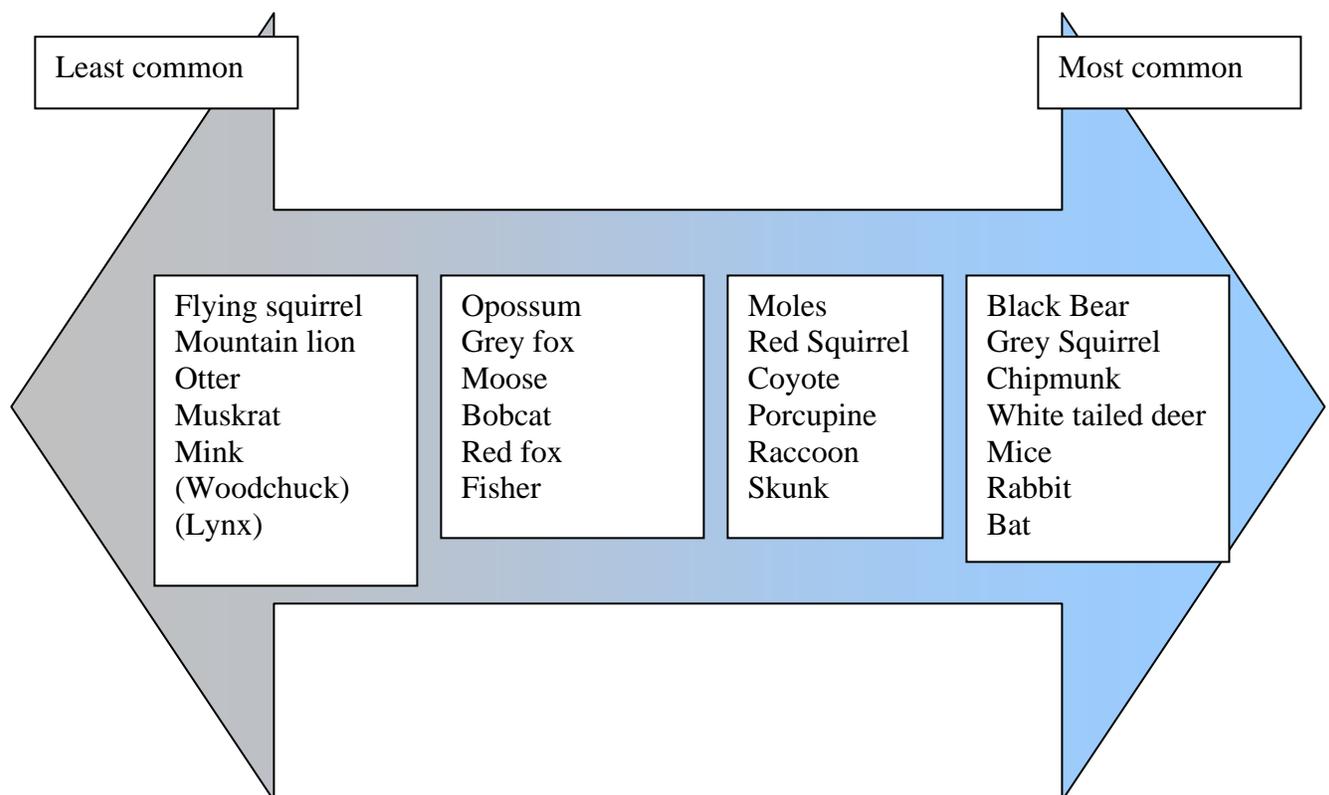
Question #3 (103 responses, 6 skipped the question) what *types of mammals have you seen, heard, or have evidence from around your home in the past 2-3 years?*

Over 90% of respondents commonly/frequently observed black bear (101), grey squirrel and chipmunk (98), white tail deer (97), and mice (93). Close runner ups were rabbits (88), bats (87), and moles (79).

Occasional mammal sightings were coyote (85), red fox (82), raccoon (79), and skunk (77). With close runner ups such as black squirrel (63), porcupine and opossum (62), and bobcat (57).

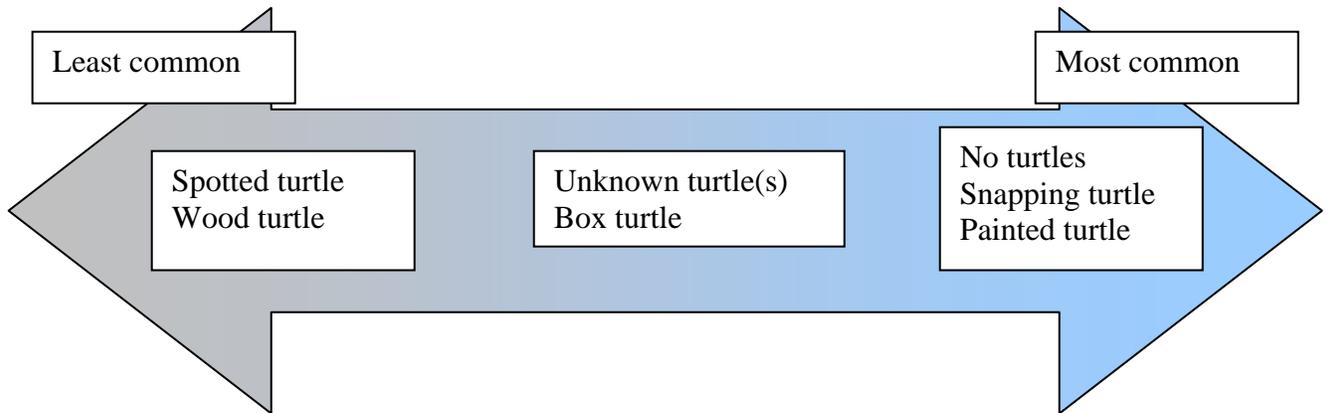
Mammals observed only once were moose (33) and mountain lion (18).

The most elusive mammals on the survey list were otter (6), muskrat (7), and mink (8).



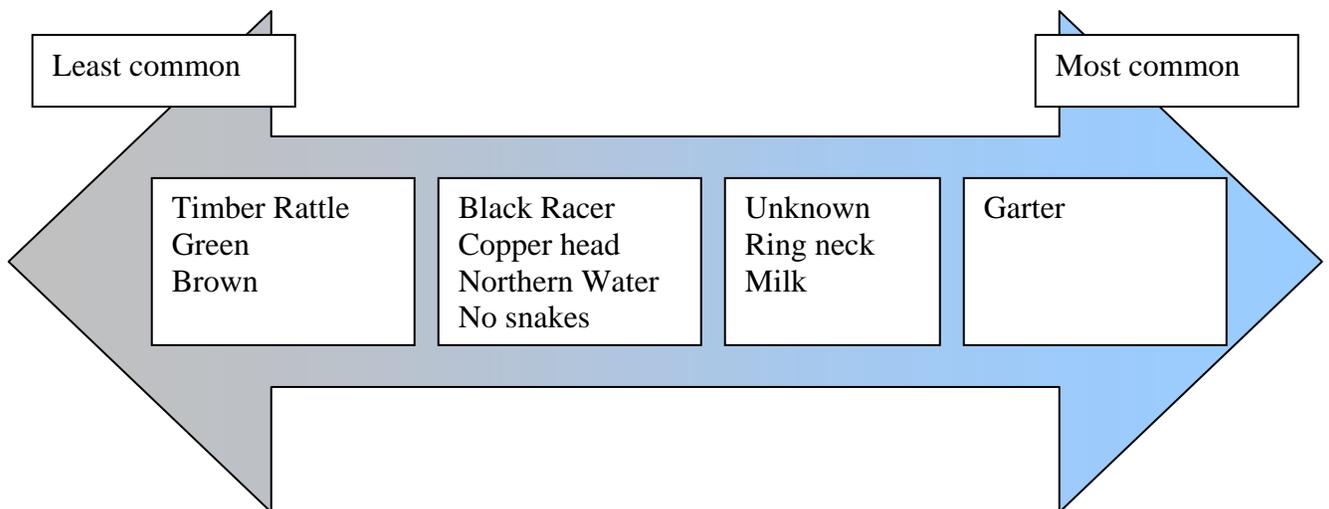
Question #4 (96 responses, 13 skipped the question) what *types of turtles have you seen around your home in the past 2-3 years?*

Turtles were not reported in 45/96 responses. Of those reporting turtles, the most common were snapping (28), painted (17), box (15), and unknown (13). Both wood turtles and spotted turtles were reported by 3 and 4 respondents respectively.



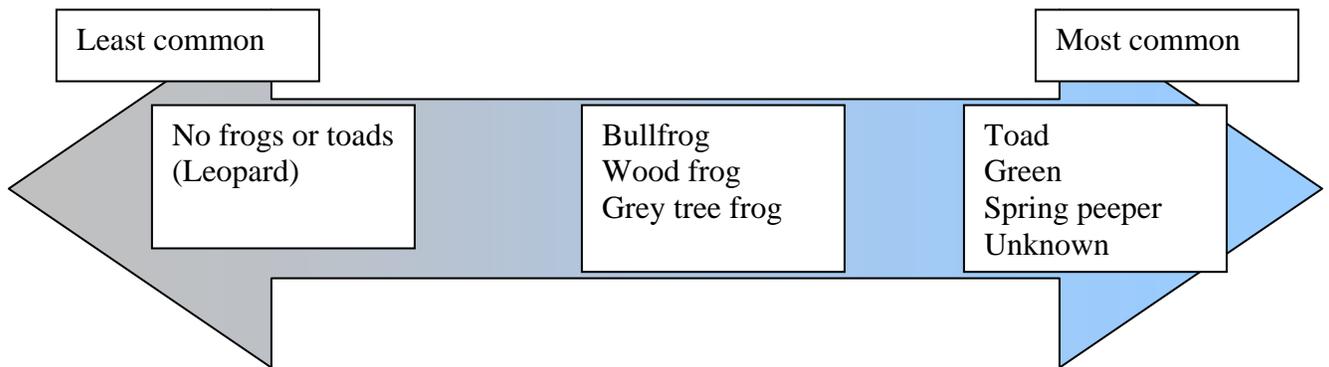
Question #5 (101 responses, 8 skipped the question) what *types of snakes have you seen around your home in the past 2-3 years?*

Overwhelmingly the eastern garter snake (77) was the most commonly observed in Barkhamsted. The next most common was unknown (22), ring neck (14), and milk (13). Least common was the hognose snake with (0) as well as the timber rattlesnake, green, and brown snake each with 2 responses. Of the 2 venomous snakes present in CT, the copperhead (7) and timber rattlesnake (2) were observed by only few citizens. 8 responses were “no snakes observed”.



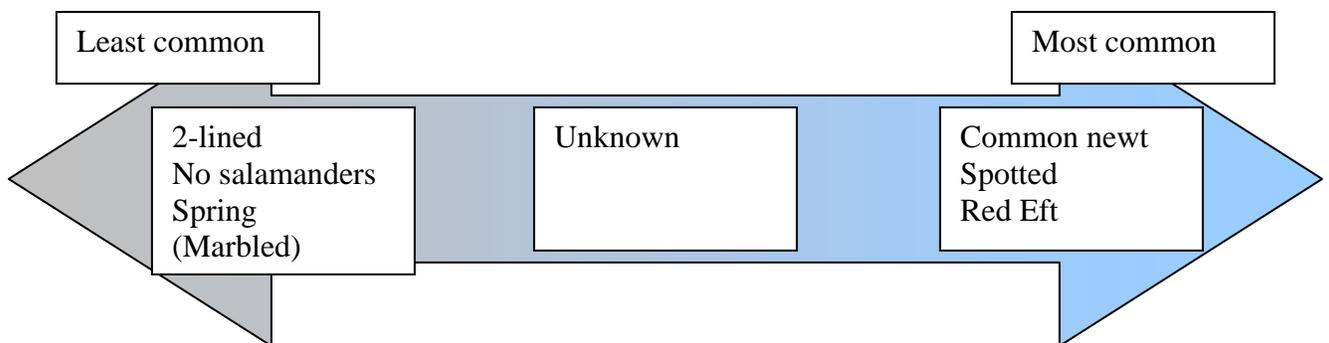
Question #6 (102 responses, 7 skipped the question) what *types of frogs have you seen or heard around your home in the past 2-3 years?*

Toads (61), green frog (47) and spring peeper (46) were the most common frogs. This was followed closely by unknown frog (42). Bullfrog, wood frog, and grey tree frog had 29, 26, and 18 responses respectively. Least common were the no frogs (2).



Question #7 (101 responses, 8 skipped the question) what *types of salamanders have you seen around your home in the past 2-3 years?*

The most likely encounter with a salamander in Barkhamsted would be with the common newt (42) and it's immature form the red eft (40). A close second was the spotted salamander (42). The least likely to be observed was the spring salamander (8) and 2 lined salamander (11).



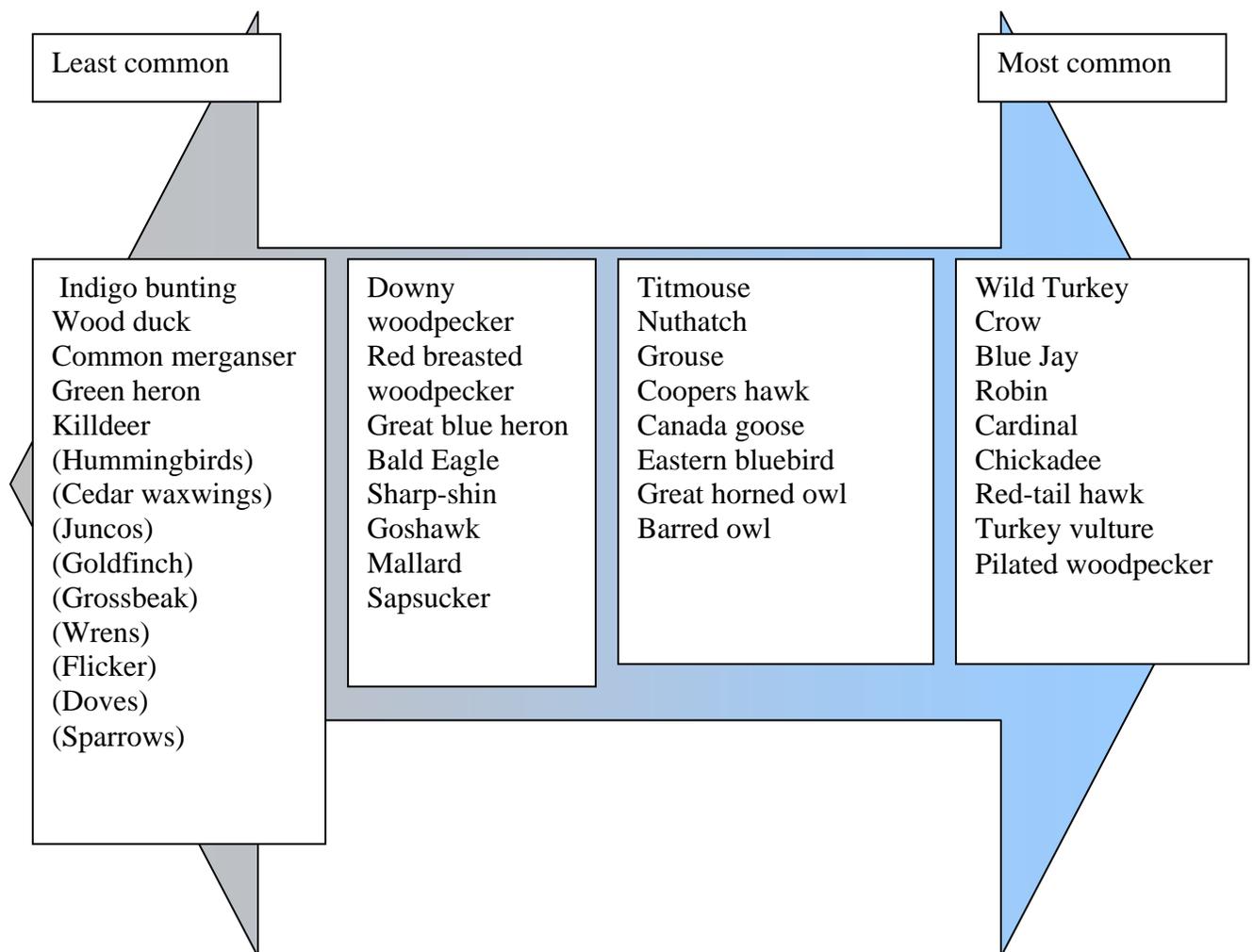
Question #8 (102 responses, 7 skipped the question) *what types of birds have you seen, heard, or have evidence from around your home in the past 2-3 years?*

Over 90% of respondents commonly/frequently observed wild turkey (100), robin (98), crow (95), cardinal (89), and blue jay (88). Close runner ups were chickadee (83) and pileated woodpecker (71).

Occasional birds were red tail hawk (78), turkey vulture (68), and bald eagle (55). With close runner ups such as great horned owl (37), coopers hawk (34), barred owl (33) and grouse (32).

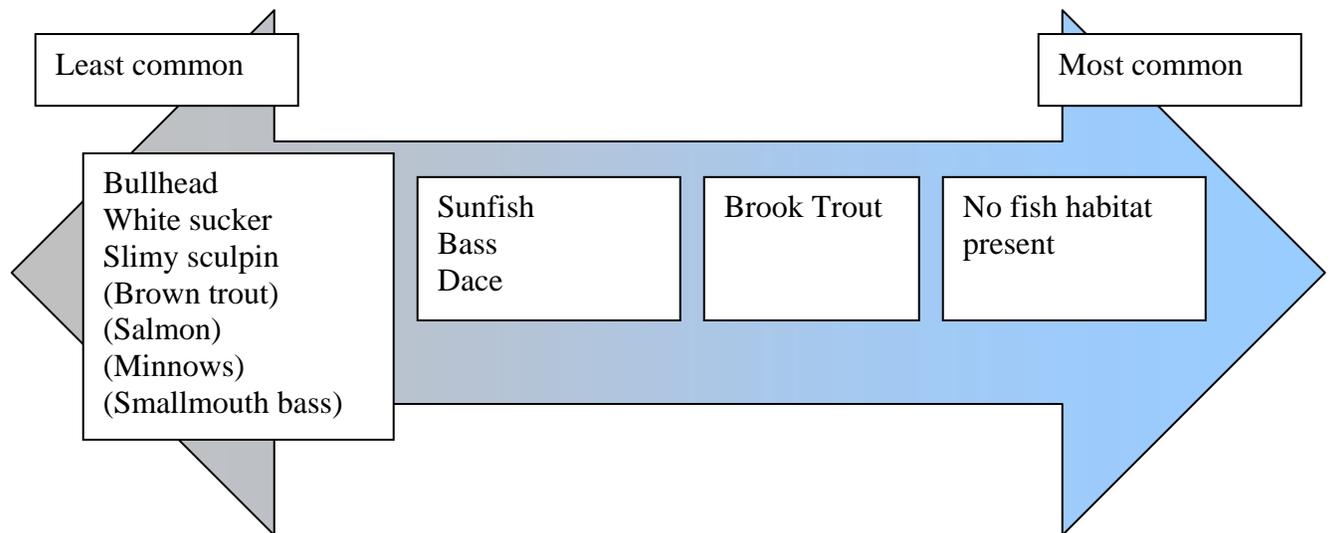
Many birds were indicated as “observed only once”. However, of all of these the bald eagle had the greatest “only once” response with 27.

The most elusive birds on the survey list were green heron (6), common merganser (8), and killdeer (9).



Question #9 (66 responses, 43 skipped the question) *what types of fish have you seen/caught around your home in the past 2-3 years?*

Overwhelmingly 46/66 did not have any fish habitat on their property. Of those lucky enough to have some, the most common was the brook trout (21). All other responses were in the single digits.



Thanks to all of the citizens of Barkhamsted who had taken the time to complete this survey. I would strongly encourage all to take an active role in town policy so to insure your voice, thoughts, and opinions are heard

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