

**Queen's University Biology Station Information and Equipment Checklist**  
**Black-capped Chickadee Project Field Technicians**  
**Last updated February 2005**

Welcome to our field team! Below, we provide details on what you should bring to Queen's University Biology Station (QUBS) and list contact information that you should leave with your family or loved ones. At the end is a checklist of things to bring.

1. **QUBS user manual:** The staff at QUBS has prepared a User's Guide which will answer most of your questions about the field station.

<http://biology.queensu.ca/%7Equbs/UsersGuide.pdf>

Please read the User's Guide carefully! Also please read carefully any contract we may have given you which describes your specific relationship to our research project.

2. **Climate and clothing:** For field work you will want rugged clothes that you don't mind getting wet and/or dirty. Durable long pants that dry quickly are good (e.g. Mountain Equipment Co-op "rad pants" or similar). Loose-fitting, long-sleeved, lightweight shirts are good for both bugs and sun. In addition to long pants and long-sleeved shirts, you will want a sun hat while you are in the field. In late April and early May it can still be quite cool, especially before dawn when you are walking out to the field site. Layers are a very good idea – a fleece and an extra long-sleeved shirt that you can shed as the day warms up. You will want a lightweight pair of gloves to wear during dawn chorus recordings. Gloves will help to keep your hands warm while you are recording (i.e. you can't keep your hands in your pockets!). Gloves also keep bugs from biting your hands. Bring jeans and comfortable clothes to wear during off hours. By late May or June you will want shorts, cool shirts (t-shirts or tank tops), and sandals to wear when we are not in the field. There is sometimes a "QUBS banquet" in June. For the banquet, you may want a slightly dressy outfit (i.e. a nice shirt, or a nice dress). Occasionally, and depending on if anyone is driving, there will be the opportunity to go to Kingston or Smith's Falls for dinner or a movie, and you will want appropriate clothes for this.

3. **Equipment:** Please bring your binoculars (8 x 35 or better). You will need a wrist watch, an alarm clock to wake up very early each morning, a flashlight or headlamp, and a small backpack or fanny pack for daily use. We encourage you to have a pocket knife as well. You may also want a field guide to birds. (The Sibley guide to Eastern birds is Dan's favourite; ~\$20).

4. **Pests:** Mosquitoes and black flies can be a nuisance, especially during May. Please bring bug spray. You don't need the heavy duty stuff, 10% to 25% DEET is sufficient. If you are allergic to insect bites or stings, please bring necessary medicines and make sure everyone else on the research team knows about your allergy. Also alert us and the QUBS Station Manager about your allergy.

5. **Living Conditions:** You will be living in a small bunk house with several bedrooms, a common room, and several bathrooms. You will share your room with a few other field technicians. Bunk rooms have electricity. Some people like to have waterproof sandals to wear in the showers. Three meals a day are prepared in the Lodge and everyone must participate in clean-up chores on a rotating basis. We are usually busy during breakfast hours, so we eat "birder's breakfast" available before dawn (coffee, toast, cereal, juice, etc.). It is very important to keep the "birder's breakfast" area clean! There is a pay washing machine and dryer in the lodge.

6. **Mail, Phone, Email, and FAX:** Email and mail are the best ways to have people reach you at QUBS. Here are the various options:

**Mail:** You can receive mail at QUBS. Mail is delivered to:

YOUR NAME  
Queen's University Biology Station  
P.O. Box 31, RR # 1  
Elgin, Ontario, Canada  
K0G 1E0

**Phone In:** There are a very limited number of phones at QUBS. The main phone line connects to the Manager's House, the White House, and the lodge. This phone line is intended for business calls but not for personal calls. The phone number is (613)359-5629. In an urgent situation, someone can call this number and leave a message for you and you can call them back (see next item).

**Phone Out:** There is a pay phone in the lodge. It is a "Bell Millenium" phone which will accept Bell calling cards, prepaid phone cards, and major credit cards. Unfortunately, it will NOT accept coins, so you should make sure you have a Bell calling card when you arrive at QUBS. You can also call collect or third party through the operator.

**FAX:** There is a fax machine which is intended to facilitate research.

**E-mail:** This is our main form of contact while we are living at QUBS. There are several computer terminals available for email in the basement of the lodge. There is sometimes a line-up for these terminals, but there is usually sufficient space for everyone to have email access on a frequent basis. Depending on the QUBS policies, which are changing as e-mail becomes a more popular medium of communication, there may be a nominal fee for e-mail access on a monthly basis.

## List of things to bring to QUBS

### Personal Items

- sleeping bag (or sheets and bedding) (note: there are pillows at QUBS but they are lumpy)
- towel and toiletry items (toothbrush, soap, shampoo etc.)
- flashlight or headlamp with spare batteries
- trustworthy alarm clock that can wake you up early
- alarm clock
- driver's license
- binoculars (8x35 or better)
- wristwatch (recommended model: an inexpensive Timex "Ironman")
- laundry detergent and coins for laundry (loonies and quarters)
- small knapsack or fanny pack to carry your field notebook etc. in on a daily basis
- water bottle
- sunscreen
- insect repellent
- pens, pencils (lots)
- compass (if you have one)
- books for pleasure reading
- any required medications

### Clothing

- hiking boots
- rubber boots
- sandals or other shoes for slouching around after work
- rain gear (a jacket at least; some people like rain pants, others don't)
- fleece jacket or other jacket
- socks, underwear
- lightweight pair of gloves for dawn chorus recordings
- field pants
- long-sleeved field shirts
- shorts
- t-shirts
- swim suit (swimming is an extreme sport at QUBS, but some people love it)
- sun hat (with brim)

### Optional stuff

- Swiss army knife or other pocket knife (optional but recommended)
- bird field guide (optional but recommended)
- travel coffee mug (optional but recommended for coffee drinkers)
- camera, film (optional)
- some CDs, an MP3 player, etc. or other fun things for your off-hours
- guitar or any other musical instruments you play (recommended)
- bug hat (if mosquitoes and black flies really bother you)
- Bell calling cards or prepaid phone cards (see phone information above)