



5751 Murray Hall
Orono, Maine 04469-5751
Tel: 207-581-2540
Fax: 207-581-2537

5722 Deering Hall
Orono, Maine 04469-5722
Fax: 207-581-2969

5735 Hitchner Hall
Orono, Maine 04469-5735
Fax: 207-581-2537

Re: Saltmarsh bird surveys, 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

The University of Maine, in conjunction with the University of Connecticut and the University of Delaware, is again surveying for birds in tidal marshes through a collaborative effort called the Saltmarsh Habitat and Avian Research Program (SHARP). Specifically, we are looking for changes in bird populations due to the impacts of Hurricane Sandy. This information will help inform bird management across the Northeast US for tidal marsh species such as the Saltmarsh Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Clapper Rail, and Willet. You can read more about the project at the SHARP project website <http://www.tidalmarshbirds.org/>.

You are receiving this letter if you previously gave our team permission to access your land for bird counts between May 1 and July 15. We will repeat these surveys in 2014 using identical protocols and procedure to our 2013 effort. We wanted to remind you of our project and let you know we will be returning this summer. If your permission decision has changed, or if you have other questions or concerns, please contact us using the information provided below.

Just like last summer, your permission *only* gives us the right to access your land three mornings during the bird breeding season (May to July). We will play a series of bird calls and listen to bird responses during these visits from specific locations in the marsh (marked with a 24-inch-tall white flag that we will remove once completed). We will take nothing with us and leave nothing behind once we are finished with our work for the summer.

The bird surveys conducted in your area are a vital part of the graduate research of Maureen Correll, Chris Field, Whitney Wiest, and Meaghan Conway. These four students are currently earning their Doctorate degrees at the universities listed above. All data collected during these surveys will be used towards completion of their dissertations and will supplement the research of many other graduate students and collaborators associated with SHARP.

Thank you very much for your continued support of our program! Again, please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns. If you would like to know the identity of the specific research technician who will be accessing your land, we would be happy to provide that information to you.

Respectfully,

Maureen "Mo" Correll
PhD Candidate, UMaine
413.687.4503
maureen.correll@maine.edu

Brian Olsen
Assistant Professor, UMaine
207.581.2542
brian.olsen@maine.edu

