

## **Quarterly Report: Monitoring Potential Cadmium Levels in Avian Tissues Associated with the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project – December 2014 (4th Quarter)**

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In December we initiated our winter sampling period on the Savannah DMCAs, setting up and collecting blood samples from birds during the 3-7 December period. Our potential collection sites continue to be affected by work activities on the DCMAs, which is to be expected given that this is a functioning facility. We continue to adapt our capture strategies to the changing landscape of the facility. We were successful capturing selected species of migratory land birds (see Table 1), specifically Savannah Sparrows and Song Sparrows, with mist nets. We collected low numbers of other upland species and will target their habitats and/or winter behaviors more during the next sampling event. We were not successful with the aquatic winter sentinel species (American Avocet and Northern Shoveler) given the available/accessible habitat types and our capture methodologies. We also plan to adjust our capture approaches for these aquatic species during the next sampling period (January).

**Table 1. Birds Captured and Sampled on the Savannah Dredge Material Containment Areas (DMCA) in the Initial Winter (December) Sampling Event of 2014.**

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<u>Sentinel Species*</u>	<u>No. Banded/Sampled**</u>
Brown Thrasher	1
Eastern Towhee	1
Northern Mockingbird	13
Savannah Sparrow	13
Song Sparrows	11
House Wren	1
<u>Additional Species</u>	
Northern Cardinal	8
Swamp Sparrow	7
Yellow-rumped Warbler	10

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\*We were unable to capture American Avocets and Northern Shovelers during the initial week of winter sampling.

\*\*The target sample size is 10 of each species each season, preferably with some samples occurring early in the season and some later in the season.