

Quarterly Report: Monitoring Potential Cadmium Levels in Avian Tissues Associated with the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project – June 2015 (2nd Quarter)

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The second quarter report includes the initial spring/summer sampling effort for the second year of avian cadmium monitoring. Sampling by various methods occurred during the following periods: 1-3 May, 22-23 May, and 8 June. The initial May sampling involved mist netting and the late May/June sampling involved nest traps for stilts. The sampling results are presented in Table 1. Mottled ducks have evaded all previous attempts at live-capture. We received permission from USACE to collect these and other problematic species via lethal methods, but had not received the necessary USFWS scientific collecting permits during this quarter. Mourning Doves, which we captured successfully in walk-in traps in 2014, did not enter these traps in the early summer sampling session.

Also during this quarter, we finalized our cadmium analysis and drafted our final project report for the first year of avian cadmium monitoring.

Table 1. Avian Species Captured and Sampled for Cadmium in the Early Portion of the Summer Period, 2nd Year of Monitoring (2015).

Species	Type ^a	Number
Brown Thrasher	Sentinel	3
Eastern Towhee	Sentinel	2
Northern Mockingbird	Sentinel	4
Red-winged Blackbird	Sentinel	8
Black-necked Stilts	Sentinel	6
Mourning Doves	Sentinel	0
Mottled Ducks	Sentinel	0
Northern Cardinal	Alternate	1

^aAlternate species are potential surrogates for sentinel species.