

Quarterly Report: Monitoring Potential Cadmium Levels in Avian Tissues Associated with the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project – June 2016 (2nd Quarter)

O.E. Rhodes^a, S.B. Wilde^b, John C. Seaman^a & A.L. Bryan^a. ^aUniversity of Georgia-Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL), Aiken, SC, ^bUniversity of Georgia-Warnell School of Forestry, Athens, GA.

In the second quarter of 2016, we collected the initial samples as part of the summer period of the third year of avian cadmium sampling (as a reminder, our sampling year spans portions of two calendar years). This sampling occurred during the following periods: 30 April - 02 May and 20-22 May. During the late April effort, we collected good numbers of many species, but continue to have difficulties with selected resident species (towhees and thrashers).

Our late May collections targeted nesting Black-necked stilts, which we captured with a remotely triggered bow-net.

Chemical analyses of the Year 2 collected samples have been finalized and the annual report has been drafted and is in internal (UGA/SREL) review.

Table 1. Sentinel and Alternative Birds Captured and Sampled (Blood) on the Savannah Dredge Material Containment Areas (DMCA) in the Early Portions of the Summer Sampling Period.

| | Early |
|----------------------|-------|
| Spring/Summer | |
| Black-necked Stilt | 5 |
| Brown Thrasher | 1 |
| Eastern Towhee | 1 |
| Mottled Duck | 4* |
| Mourning Dove | 5* |
| Northern Mockingbird | 3 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 8 |

* Lethal take