



SALTMARSH HABITAT & AVIAN RESEARCH PROGRAM:

Conserving tidal marsh birds in our changing land & seascapes

NEW YORK – Summary of key findings

I. Saltmarsh Vital Statistics:

- New York supports 11,199 ha of saltmarsh
- Saltmarsh comprises <0.01% of the land area of New York

II. SHARP Field Effort:

- 130 survey points visited in 2011 and 2012
- 4 demographic study plots, encompassing 12 ha total, investigated by SUNY ESF crews
- 193 birds banded among 3 species
- 206 nests monitored across 4 species



III. Survey Results:

- 4,376 ha of saltmarsh surveyed by SHARP
- 21 SGCN observed; tied with Connecticut and Maine for 4th highest in northeast region
- Key tidal marsh bird responsibilities:
 - **Saltmarsh Sparrow:** 4th highest abundance in northeast region, 9% of northeast regional population
 - **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 700 individuals, highest in northeast region, 54% of northeast regional population using tidal marshes
 - **Common Tern:** 16,200 individuals, highest in northeast region, 38% of northeast regional population using tidal marshes
 - **Willow Flycatcher:** 1,300 individuals, 3rd highest in northeast region, 24% of northeast regional population breeding in tidal marshes
 - **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 900 individuals, 2nd highest in northeast region, 47% of northeast regional population using tidal marshes
- Abundance estimates of focal species: (95% CI)
 - **Clapper Rail:** 1,655 individuals (1,111 to 2,198 individuals)
 - **Willet:** 5,400 individuals (3,313 to 7,486)
 - **Nelson's Sparrow:** none detected, outside species' normal breeding range
 - **Saltmarsh Sparrow:** 5,260 individuals (3,998 to 6,521)
 - **Seaside Sparrows:** 2,964 individuals (2,073 to 3,855)
- Trend estimates of focal species in USFWS Region 5 :
 - **Clapper Rail:** significant declines estimated at -4.6% annually since 1998
 - **Willet:** no evidence of population change, 95% CI overlapped zero
 - **Nelson's Sparrow:** significant declines estimated at -4.2% annually since 1998
 - **Saltmarsh Sparrow:** significant declines estimated at -9.0% annually since 1998

SHARP

Information to conserve tidal marsh birds in our changing land & seascapes