

# You Can Help!

**Be a friend to wildlife by helping with these important research projects.**

## NEW!! Finch Survey

Sarah Knutie, a graduate student at the University of Utah, has worked with purple finches in Minnesota for the past 3 seasons. She is starting a long-term monitoring study of purple finch population status and distribution/range, and needs volunteers that are interested in monitoring purple finches, house finches, and pine siskins at their feeders. This will require very little work – only 1-2 hours a month between March and September - depending on your interest and time. If you would like more information, please e-mail Sarah at [purple.finches@gmail.com](mailto:purple.finches@gmail.com) with your name, City/County/State, and months of the year you see purple finches. She will contact you with further information on what you can do to help.

Chimney Swift Arrival Dates are important to the folks at [www.chimneyswifts.org](http://www.chimneyswifts.org) Their web site has lots of interesting material on swifts and their preservation, as well as North American-wide charting of arrival dates. Report your first swift sightings to them at e-mail [DWA@austin.rr.com](mailto:DWA@austin.rr.com)

## BATS need our help - NOW!

It is no secret that bats in the Northeast are in steep decline. DEC is seeking volunteers for a new acoustic bat survey that will be an annual event for the foreseeable future. Volunteer participants will drive selected routes after sunset one evening in June, using DEC equipment to pick up their high-frequency sounds and count the bats. Two people per car and a laptop are required. The state supplies acoustic detection equipment, software and training. Total time commitment can be as short as 3 or 4 hours. Although the 2010 survey period will be May 29 - July 4, please contact Mr. Herzog in April or early May so training can be arranged. Volunteers are needed in our area. For more information please contact:

Carl Herzog, Wildlife Biologist  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233  
518-402-8908 E-mail: [cjherzog@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:cjherzog@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

## Grassland Sparrow Project

This spring Noah Perlut from the Department of Environmental Studies, University of New England in Biddeford, Maine, will begin his 9<sup>th</sup> season studying and banding Savannah Sparrows and Bobolinks in the Champlain Valley of Vermont. Adults are banded with three colored leg bands and one USFWS service metal band, while nestlings are banded with a single USFWS service metal band, nearly always on the right leg. Noah is asking for our help if we see banded birds in our area. Please email him with the species, color bands (be sure to notice which legs had which colors and in what order), and most important, location. Contact information follows.

Noah Perlut  
Department of Environmental Studies, University of New England  
11 Hills Beach Road, Biddeford, ME 04005  
207-602-2778 E-mail: [nperlut@une.edu](mailto:nperlut@une.edu)

Mallard eggs needed for DEC study of the Hudson River

If you do any birding or hiking along the Hudson, you have no doubt seen the strange-looking covered platforms erected along the shoreline from Fort Edward to Mechanicville. They are part of an on-going project to collect Mallard eggs for study of PCB levels in waterfowl—part of the Hudson River Natural Resource Damage Assessment. These platforms will be monitored by DEC personnel; however, data from any mallard nest found within a half mile of the Hudson River would be valuable as well. If you find a nest in your travels, please take GPS readings if possible (this will make returning to the nest site easier) and contact Sean Madden, using the information below.

Sean Madden, Biologist 1 (Ecology)

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