

31 August 1999

Dear Dr. Kiviat,

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently conducting an ecological risk assessment for the Lower Hudson River PCB Superfund Site. We appreciate the information you provided to us for the Upper Hudson River ecological risk assessment and would appreciate any similar information you may have for the Lower Hudson River (i.e., from the Federal Dam at Troy to the Battery in New York Harbor). A general picture of the health of local wildlife populations in the Lower Hudson River will be developed based on information collected and available literature.

We are particularly interested in information (e.g., population size, location, breeding information, migration) on the species listed below, but would also appreciate information you may have on unusual sightings in the Hudson River area.

Representative Avian Species

Tree swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Belted kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*)

Great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*)

Avian Species of Concern

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

Red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)

Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)

Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

Upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*),

Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*)

Barn owl (*Tyto alba*)

King rail (*Rallus elegans*)

Common nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*),

Eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)

Grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*)

Vesper sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*)

Representative Mammalian Species

Little brown bat (*Myotis* spp.);

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*);

Mink (*Mustela vison*); and

River Otter (*Lutra canadensis*).

Mammalian Species of Concern

Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)  
Eastern woodrat (*Neotoma magister*)

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Helen Chernoff  
Mark Moese

Environmental Scientists

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