



City of New York
Department of Parks & Recreation
Natural Resources Group

Salt Marsh Sparrow Project

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Saw Mill Creek Park

- The Natural Resources Group has conducted breeding bird surveys in Saw Mill Creek Park since 1992.
- Areas surveyed are predominantly salt marsh habitat with associated upland.
- Since 1998 there have been three restoration projects to enhance this ecosystem.

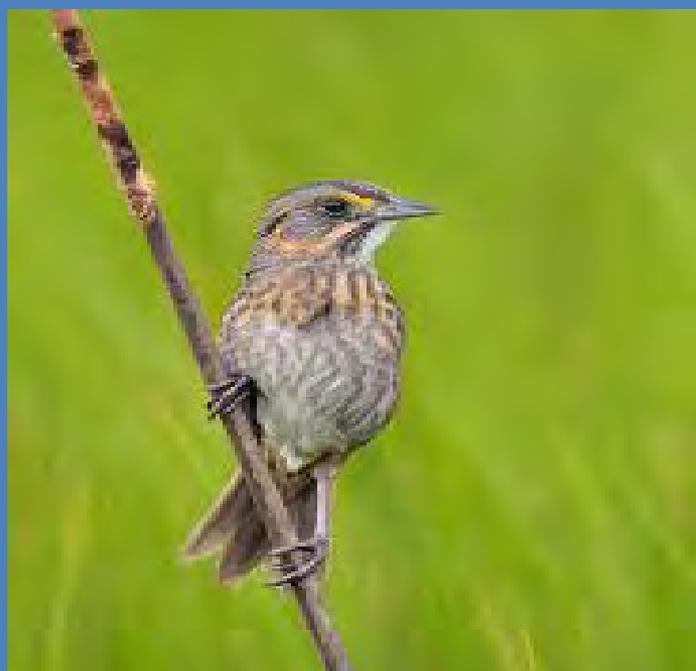


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Seaside Sparrows & Sharp-tailed Sparrows

Seaside sparrows (*Ammodramus maritimus*) and Sharp-tailed sparrows (*Ammodramus caudactus*) are two species of concern for us to monitor as indicators of a functioning salt marsh.

Sesp is listed as T/E/SC for NY State and both are considered SGCN



Seaside sparrows (*Ammodramus maritimus*)



Sharp-tailed sparrows (*Ammodramus caudactus*)



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Salt Marsh Sparrow Habitat





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Berm Removals and Study Area





Restoration

- The projects all removed fill material or berms placed on the marsh surface in the early part of the 20th century.
- These projects magnified the reach of daily tidal flushing of the marshes and enhanced both the high and low marsh character of the area.
- Monitoring was completed four years prior to and a minimum of two breeding seasons after each restoration.



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Restoration





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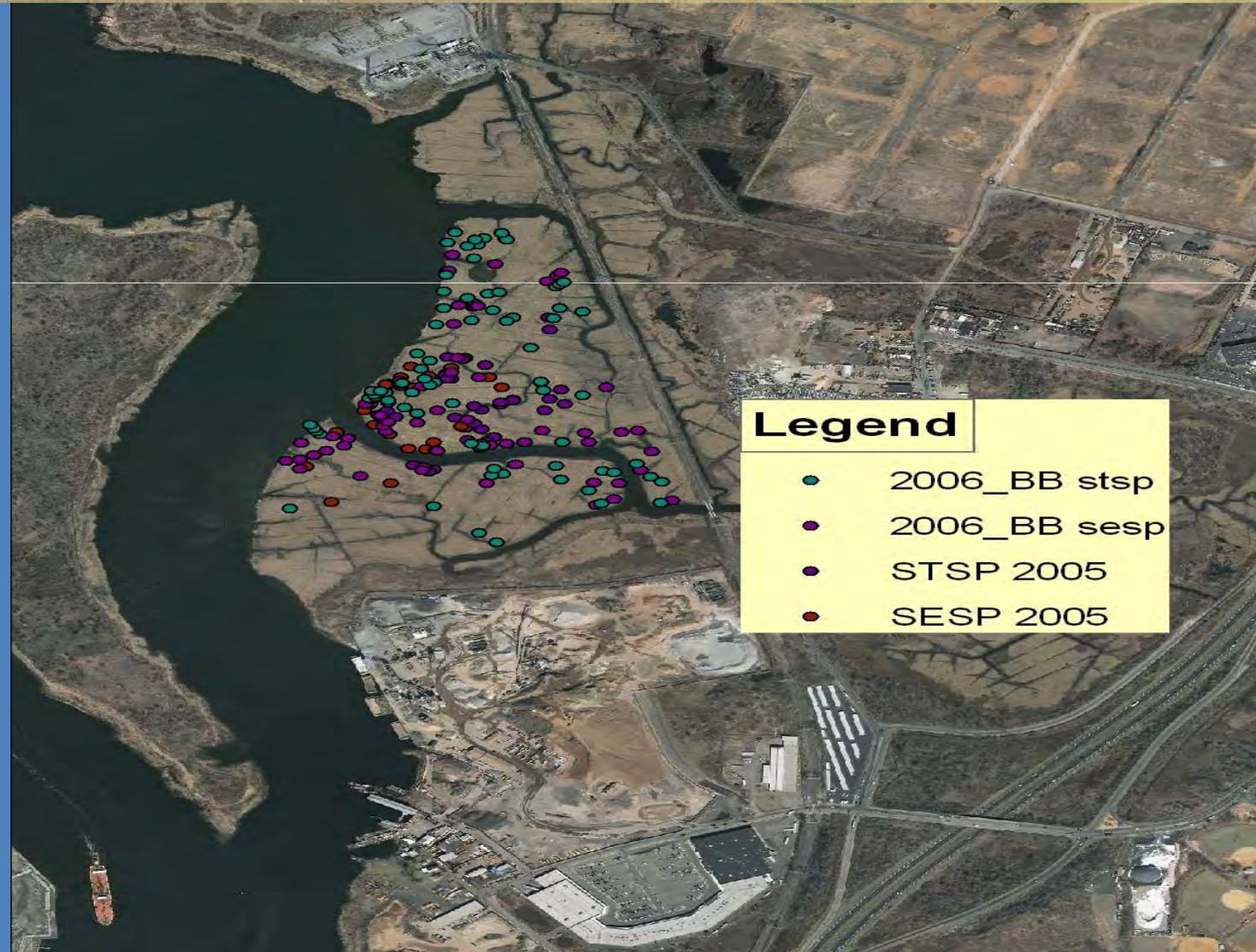
Survey Protocol

- Area covered using spot counts
- Territories are established by examining the data from 8 separate visits to the site during the breeding season.
- Based on the location of key behaviors, a low impact nest search begins.



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Survey results from 2005 and 2006



Legend

- 2006_BB stsp
- 2006_BB sesp
- STSP 2005
- SESP 2005



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Confirmed Nesting

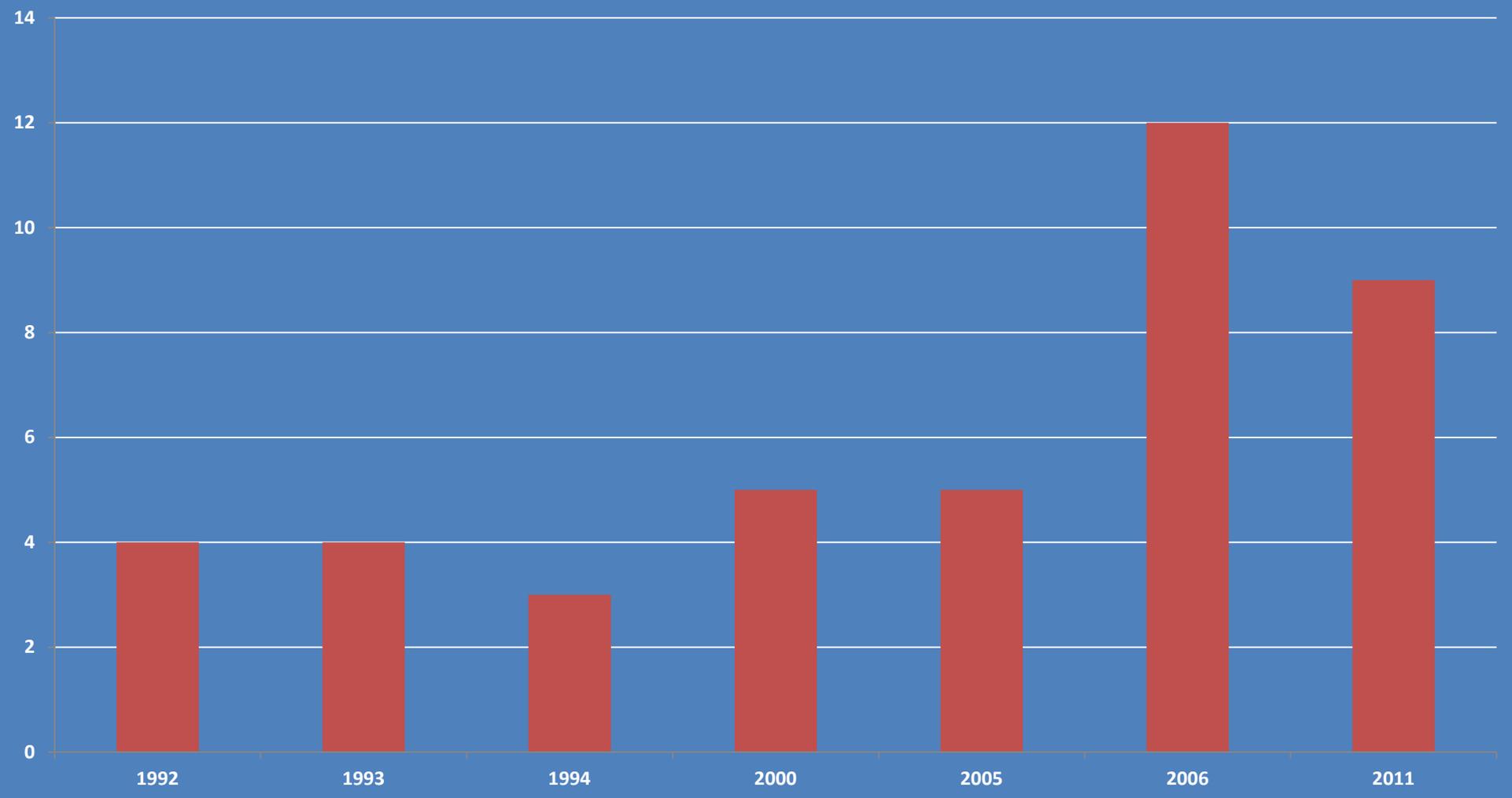




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Sharp-tailed Sparrows

Nesting Territories

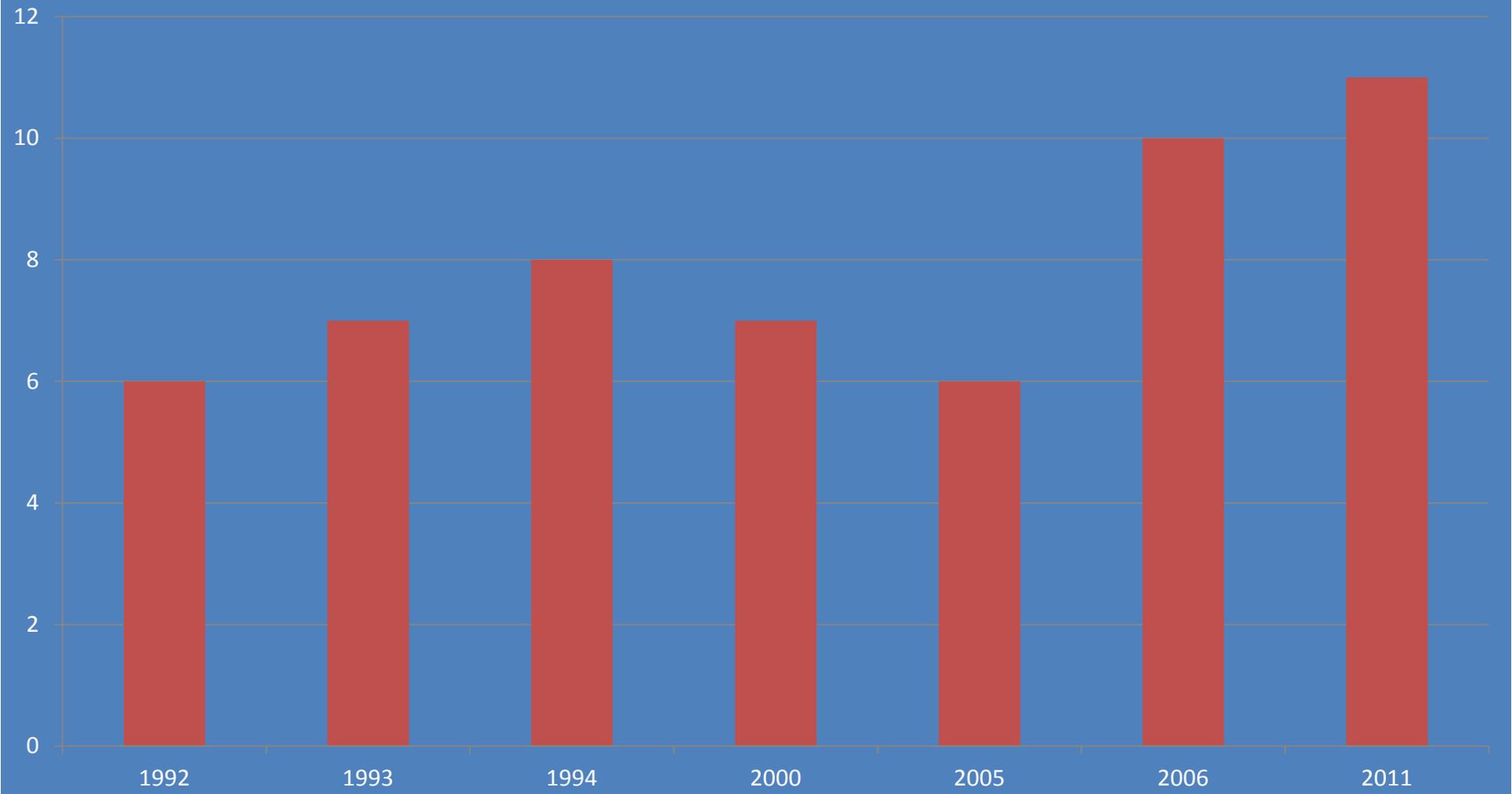




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Saeside Sparrows

Nesting Territories - Seaside Sparrow





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Discussion

- Connection to region wide survey
- Establishing territory status