



DEQ and VDGIF Require Surveys for the State-Threatened Upland Sandpiper in Virginia



The survey season for upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) is fast approaching (next week)! The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) are requiring habitat surveys and/or species specific surveys in Loudoun, Frederick, Fairfax, Prince William, Culpeper and Fauquier counties. Projects in other, more southern counties may be required to complete surveys if appropriate habitat exists.

Upland sandpipers in Virginia nest in open farming areas with mixes of habitat including sod fields, grazed to tall pastures and/or hayfields and/or fallow or early stage old fields. Breeding and nesting territories typically include telephone poles, fence posts, scattered small trees or shrubs, etc., which are used as perches. Migrant upland sandpipers arrive in Virginia in late March or early-to-mid April. Nesting begins shortly after birds arrive at breeding locations. Young have been reported in the nest from late May through June. The young remain in the nest for a short time and can be seen away from the nest from early June. Family groups remain together until post breeding migration which begins in mid to late August and continues through the first week of September.

While habitat surveys can be completed at any time during the year, specific surveys are required to be completed in April, May and June. Failure to schedule your surveys during the appropriate survey window could lead to delays in permit issuance, permit suspension and/or significant project delays.

WEG has experienced professionals available to assist you with surveys or any issues that may arise regarding this or any other listed species in Virginia. For more information, please contact one of our Ecology Project Managers: Williamsburg (757) 220-6869, Richmond (804) 267-3474, Herndon (703) 437-3096 or Fredericksburg (540) 785-5544.