



P.O. Box 80235 ♦ FAIRBANKS, AK 99708 ♦ WWW.AKSONGBIRD.ORG

Dear Ms. Summerlin,

Please accept this application from the Alaska Songbird for the Co-op Market Grocery and Deli's 2015 Lend-a-Hand program. The Alaska Songbird Institute is a 501(c)3 based in Fairbanks. Our mission is the conservation of Alaska's boreal songbirds through ecological education and research.

We believe that conservation begins with understanding ecosystems through personal experience and relevance, and so our strategy is to integrate education and research throughout everything we do. Our work consists of two community-based conservation projects on Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, the Creamer's Field Migration Station and the Swallow Ecology Project. Both projects are building long-term ecological data sets on boreal songbirds, while providing powerful, hands-on learning opportunities for students, teachers, community volunteers, and members of the general public.

Our projects are important to bird conservation. Songbirds are largely understudied and many species are in decline. Our rare, long-term data sets are a critical tool for recording and understanding changes in bird populations. Our projects also provide a concurrent record of environmental and climatic change in the surrounding boreal forest, the birthplace of many North American birds, which is undergoing rapid and significant change.

However, what really makes ASI and our projects unique and important to the Fairbanks community is PEOPLE! Local students, teachers, and volunteers are essential to our work, and are engaged throughout the scientific process. Being on the front lines of conservation science makes it accessible, exciting, and relevant the diverse participants in our K-12 field trips, internships, and volunteer & mentoring programs. All of these programs strive to build scientific literacy in our community, while our work with youth, teens, and university students focuses on building the creativity, confidence, motivation, and skills necessary to create the next generation of conservation scientists.

Our Lend-a-hand request is specifically to help fund the Creamer's Field Migration Station for spring and fall migration in 2015. Your support will allow us to collect data on the timing, productivity, and survivorship of migratory songbirds in the Fairbanks area for the 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. At the same time, it will provide opportunities for up to 3,000 people including 2,500 students and teachers, to experience field research first hand, observe wild birds up close, and interact with working scientists. This firsthand experience can help our community make informed choices that contribute towards bird conservation and the environment now and into the future.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing from you!

April Harding Scurr  
Science Director  
Alaska Songbird Institute