Kent Island Management Plan Abstract
By Katie Craighill

In order to conserve the diverse collection of species and habitats on Kent Island as well as maintain important study sites for Bowdoin College and other research institutions, I began a habitat management plan, which catalogues the long and short-term management goals and concerns for Kent, Hay, and Sheep Island. The plan also considers the effects of human disturbance on the island and how to reduce human impact by improving facilities, removing detrimental equipment, and managing the influx and disposal of materials.

In Section A (Property Review) this plan compiles information on Kent Island's history and current conditions. In this section I include information about the species of interest on the island and their preferred habitats, in particular savannah sparrows, Leach's storm-petrels, and gulls. We also include an inventory of existing infrastructure on the island. In Section B (Management Recommendations) I provide specific management options and recommendations, which address the identified concerns and management goals of the island. In addition to sections A and B, an extensive Appendix (Section C) has been gathered that contains raw data, maps, lists of species and habitats on the island, photographs, and other pertinent materials for the management plan.

I have started several pilot studies on Kent, Hay, and Sheep Island, including a tree seedling density study, enclosure analysis, pond water quality assessment, and vegetation inventory study. From these studies, I have collected data that will supplement the current information compiled for the habitat management plan. The plan has been developed with the intention that it is open to input and modification from current and future stakeholders.

My experience on Kent Island this summer was a unique introduction to field research. I worked hard during the day, tromping through the dense vegetation on Hay and Kent Island with my quadrat and notebook, and spent my evenings gallivanting around with friends and watching the sunset from the wharf.