



1816 S. Oak Street • Champaign, IL 61820
T 217-333-6880 • F 217-244-0802
www.inhs.illinois.edu

May 5, 2015

Boulder Ridge HOA
PO Box 7146
Champaign IL 61826

Dear Boulder Ridge HOA,

My team and I are working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to study locally breeding mallards in the Champaign-Urbana region during the summer of 2015. We are seeking local partners that will allow us access to water bodies on which to conduct our research. We have identified your lake/pond as a candidate site and are writing today to request permission to access your property for a brief period of time. We will be live-trapping ducks using a small, temporary trap. After capturing ducks, they will be examined, leg-banded and released unharmed. These leg bands will allow us to examine the movements and behavior of local ducks relative to long-distance migrants. This work would occur between June 1 and August 1 and would last only a couple of weeks within that period. Our trap would be discretely placed away from human activity and marked with informational signage. Our research protocol has been approved by the University of Illinois' Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee to ensure the well being of the animals involved. We are targetting mallards, but this work may also disturb locally-nesting geese as well. This work will contribute significantly to the conservation and management of waterfowl in Illinois. We appreciate your willingness to consider this request. If you would be so kind, please email me at the address below to have any questions answered and inform me of your decision. We look forward to hearing from you. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. O'Neal".

Ben O'Neal, Ph.D.
Illinois Natural History Survey, Affiliate Biologist
Franklin College, Assistant Professor of Biology
101 Branigin Blvd.
Franklin IN 46131
317-738-8303
boneal@franklincollege.edu