



Partners in Flight
Monitoring & Inventory
Working Group



Klamath Bird
Observatory



U.S. Forest Service
Redwood Sciences Laboratory



Bureau of Land
Management



Cornell Laboratory of
Ornithology eBird

Newsletter of
**LANDBIRD MIGRATION MONITORING NETWORK
OF THE AMERICAS**

<http://www.klamathbird.org/lammna/>

15 May 2006

Introducing the new LaMMNA logo

We are pleased to unveil our new LaMMNA logo designed by Gary Bloomfield. The outlines of two birds flying enclose portions of the American continents. The logo depicts the migration of these birds between North and South and symbolizes the need to understand not only the breeding and wintering ecology of Neotropical migrants, but also their ecology along their migration routes. A primary objective of LaMMNA is to bring migration monitoring researchers together to better understand migration ecology.

Avian Influenza Research Project Update

Monitoring begins at LaMMNA banding stations

Avian influenza has become a hot topic. Though it hasn't been found yet in the Americas, many entities are setting up monitoring programs to detect it when it does arrive. Much of the monitoring in North America is concentrated in Alaska, and there, as elsewhere, it has been focused on waterfowl and domestic fowl, but landbird researchers are now getting monitoring programs started. As we reported in an earlier newsletter, LaMMNA has partnered with University of California – Los Angeles, Institute of Bird Populations (MAPS), and many others to begin monitoring landbirds at banding stations across the Americas. We contacted many of you over the past few months and we thank you all for your help and willingness to talk with us about your projects. We surveyed about 150 organizations representing several hundred stations and 34 are now sampling for AI during the spring migration season in the U.S. We are currently contacting stations outside the MAPS network about sampling during the breeding season (now through the beginning of August) and will be contacting fall migration stations soon. Please contact Linda Long (llong@fs.fed.us, 707-825-2947) or C. John Ralph (cjr2@humboldt.edu, 707-825-2992) if you are interested in participating this summer or fall.

Should we even be handling wild birds?

Many banders have expressed concern about banding or even handling wild birds with the possibility of avian influenza appearing in local wild bird populations. We believe that each bander should make their own decision on this issue, so we have linked

documents from the Breeding Bird Laboratory, the Ornithological Council, National Wildlife Health Center, AI researchers, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and others at http://www.klamathbird.org/lammna/avian_flu_index.htm. We recommend that if banders decide to continue, they should practice good hygiene when banding, which has always been a good idea. This includes not eating, smoking, or drinking during banding; washing or sanitizing hands frequently; and sanitizing work surfaces regularly throughout the banding session. For folks wanting a more formal document, the official Forest Service Job Hazard Analysis has been approved by our Research Station, meeting all prevailing federal requirements, and is available upon request.

LaMMNA Workshop in Veracruz, Mexico

LaMMNA will be holding a workshop during the upcoming IV North American Ornithological Conference (NAOC), to be held October 3-7 in Veracruz, Mexico. We plan to get together for progress updates on the Avian Influenza Research Project (see above), data archiving, and progress on web-based data analysis tools. Contact C. John Ralph (cjr2@humboldt.edu, 707-825-2992) for more information or if you would like to help organize and participate in this workshop.

Also at NAOC will be three workshops of extreme interest to banders:

- The first will be during the NAOC itself: **Bird Monitoring Networks of the Americas: From census to outreach**. The purpose of this symposium is to bring together for the first time leaders of bird monitoring networks to demonstrate the communality of the various Networks, and to discuss how bird monitoring principals can be applied across the Americas in a multi-lingual context. A major function of these networks is to prevent the hemorrhage of historic data that is otherwise steadily being lost without such data Networks in place.

After the NAOC will be two concurrent workshops:

- **Advanced Bird-banding and MoSI (Monitoreo de Supervivencia Invernal)** Chair: James F. Saracco: (jsaracco@birdpop.org)
- **Bird Banding in the Americas: Use of the Data, and Developing a Network**, To discuss and explore opportunities for collaboration among programs for bird banding in the Americas, organized by Lesley Howes (Canadian Wildlife Service Bird Banding Office), Monica Tomosy (USGS Bird Banding Laboratory) and Ariel Rojo (SEMARNAT, Wildlife Conservation, Mexico). For further information, contact Lesley (Lesley-Anne.Howes@ec.gc.ca).

The NAOC is a joint meeting with the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, CIPAMEX (La Sección Mexicana del Consejo Internacional para la Preservación de las Aves), Cooper Ornithological Society, Raptor Research Foundation, Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Societe des Ornithologistes du Canada, Waterbird Society, and Wilson Ornithological Society. CIPAMEX is the local host.