



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/>

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Important New Monitoring Opportunity
Bird Flu Monitoring at LaMMNA Banding Stations

In cooperation with many organizations and agencies, LaMMNA is taking the lead in recruiting migration season mist-netting stations to take vitally needed samples to help protect the peoples and birds of the Americas. For details, see the LaMMNA web page.

Bird flu has been of increasing concern to the public as more cases of infected waterfowl and even landbirds are reported across Asia, Europe, and Africa, with the possibility of transmission between the avian hosts and humans. Although no sick birds have been reported in North America, waterfowl monitoring is either in place or planned for much of the U.S. and Canada. But what about birds other than waterfowl? There is increasing concern that it might be crucial to know more about other potential bird hosts to minimize its potential catastrophic effects on humans. In recent years and months, the real possibility is emerging that within the several thousand species of landbirds and shorebirds, there is a substantial possibility that a virus which has the ability to jump, for example, from a duck to a snipe, and then to a sparrow, might just be the sort of virus with the ability to move with alacrity into humans. Infected passerines will likely penetrate into more areas inhabited by humans than would the waterfowl that are currently suggested to be the more common H5N1 vectors.

LaMMNA, Institute for Bird Populations, North American Banding Council, Partners in Flight Monitoring Working Group, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, Klamath Bird Observatory, PRBO Conservation Sciences, as well as our many other of our close collaborators, are organized and ready to take on the tasks involved with such a continental program to monitor this disease in birds. Several governmental, academic, and non-governmental entities also have deep interest and abilities in bird monitoring, and we are taking advantage of mustering several hundred stations across Canada and the U.S. and into Central America to take samples from the various species of birds captured, including landbirds and shorebirds. Through these interacting networks and organizations, we have the ability to rapidly deploy trained teams of biologists in a minimum of several hundreds of stations across the continent.

In recent months, LaMMNA personnel have contacted most of the banding stations in our network to inform the banding station operators about our involvement with the bird flu monitoring, update our station database, and get more detailed information on banding operations. We thank all of you who have expressed interest in this monitoring effort. We will be getting more detailed information out to you soon. If we have not yet contacted you and you would like to be involved, please contact C. John Ralph (cjr2@humboldt.edu) or Linda Long (llong@fs.fed.us). Feel free to pass this information on to other banders and have them get in touch with us.

Protocols for Submitting Banding Data

One of the central purposes of LaMMNA is to provide for centralized data archiving, management, and analysis, while at the same time providing data security to those who wish to archive, but are not ready to share such data. We have completed and tested protocols for submitting data to the centralized archive at the Redwood Sciences Laboratory with the cooperative of the Klamath and Point Reyes Bird Observatories. We invite all members of LaMMNA to submit their banding data to the archive. There is no need to reformat data, as data will be archived in the format that they are received until the standardized banding database schema is completed. Information on submission protocols can be found at http://www.klamathbird.org/lammna/Data_submission_web.pdf.

This is the first step in a detailed process for making data accessible data over the internet. We are actively working on the database schema that will be used to store data. It has been recently revised and is being tested. The newest schema can be found at http://www.klamathbird.org/lammna/bdschema_revised_8-16-05.pps and the variable list at http://www.klamathbird.org/lammna/Banding_variable_descr.htm. Further information can be found on the LaMMNA home page.

LaMMNA Helps Colombia Kick Off National Banding Scheme with Advanced Banding Course

Pablo A. Herrera, US Forest Service, Redwood Sciences Laboratory

Members of LaMMNA helped the non-profit organization ProAves Colombia (<http://www.ProAves.org>) unveil Colombia's new banding program, Sistema Nacional de Anillamiento (SNA), who hosted the country's first advanced bird banding course on the island of San Andrés from 20 October to 2 November 2005. Sixteen partner organizations from four countries (Colombia, England, Nicaragua, and the United States) came together to present two weeks of instruction to 60 participants from Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru. Personnel from the LaMMNA member organizations Klamath Bird Observatory (Bob Frey and Keith Larson) and Redwood Sciences Laboratory (Pablo Herrera), along with six instructors from other countries, presented daily instruction emphasizing different skill sets related to the operation of constant effort mist-netting stations. Topics included net setup and operation, bird extraction, bird handling, safety, ethics, ageing and sexing techniques (including the use of standardized codes), collecting biometric data, hummingbird banding, and proofing and editing data. Instructors also presented evening lectures covering additional topics on specimens, analysis, local and international conservation programs and, of course, the Landbird Migration Monitoring Network of the Americas!

Although hampered for a couple of days by weather conditions from Hurricane Beta, participants banded a total of 3,792 birds, including seven new species for the island! At the course's conclusion, instructors provided skill assessments to both the participants and to ProAves, so that they can begin to track the qualifications of bird banders for the country. ProAves plans to outfit several new research and monitoring programs throughout the country this year through loans of banding equipment to many of these qualified banders. So, starting this spring, be on the lookout for Neotropical migrants wearing aluminum bands with a 6-digit alphanumeric code and sporting the SNA web address (<http://www.sna.org.co>)!

Publications Added to Home Page

We have added new publications to the home page in the past few months. We hope to keep this section current with information that will be informative and useful to our members. If you have suggestions, please contact Linda Long and we will get links up to those publications. Our most recent additions include:

Ralph, C. John and Terrell D. Rich, editors. 2005. **Bird Conservation Implementation and Integration in the Americas: Proceedings of the Third International Partners in Flight Conference**. 2002 March 20-24; Asilomar, California; Volumes 1 and 2. Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-

GTR-191. Albany, CA: Pacific Southwest Research Station, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; 1,294 p. This has many articles related to monitoring, including mist netting. It is available free of charge from Dick Schneider (rschneider@fs.fed.us), in a CD version and a limited number of printed copies are also available.

Hussell, David J. T. and C. John Ralph. 2005. **Recommended methods for monitoring change in landbird populations by counting and capturing migrants.** North American Bird Bander 30(1):6-20. Contains the long-circulated protocol for monitoring landbirds at migration-monitoring stations; strongly-suggested reading for all folks involved with migration monitoring.

Blancher, Peter, André Cyr, Sam Droege, David Hussell, and Len Thomas. 1994. **Results of a U.S./Canada workshop on monitoring of landbirds during migration and recommendations towards a North American Migration Monitoring Program (MMP).** Unpublished report. The outcome of the joint Canada-U.S. government-appointed task force to promulgate consistent migration monitoring in northern North America.