



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

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

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

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It has been an exciting time for the past few months as we get closer to a final banding data schema and having data uploaded to the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). There have also been several meetings, which we report on here.

LaMNA Meeting at Cooper Ornithological Society Meeting Moscow, Idaho, June 22, 2007

Present: John Alexander (Klamath Bird Observatory; note taker), Jay Carlisle (Idaho Bird Observatory), Roy Churchwell (San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory), Joan Hagar (USGS), Keith Hobson (CWS), Barbara Kus (USGS), Anders Olson (University of Wisconsin), C. J. Ralph (USFS, Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory), Susan Skagan (USGS), Jeff Smith (Hawk Watch International)

LaMNA Database Schema

C. J. R. passed out the abbreviated list of variables that are proposed for the LaMNA master data base (see the most recent version at http://www.klamathbird.org/lamna/LaMNA_database_Master_variable_list_20070821.xls). Everyone was asked to compare it with the variables taken at their stations. If you follow the MAPS protocol (old or new), those variables are easily mapped.

Reports from individual programs working with LaMNA and AKN

- Institute of Bird Populations (IBP) – John A. explained that they are currently keeping their dataset largely proprietary, as the added value of their editing is considerable. Communications are ongoing with them. The original, and possibly, the IBP-verified data, can certainly be contributed to LaMNA by individual banders.
- Raptor Population Index – Jeff S. told that this program will be working directly with the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN), and are working on some aspects of auxiliary data that are not currently part of AKN.
- Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM) – Susan S. told us that PRISM and their cooperators are currently waiting in the wings with their banding (and perhaps census) data and also want to make sure their auxiliary data are stored.

Mission of LaMNA

C. J. R. noted that our current mission is to acquire data for preservation and availability, and asked participants what barriers exist to accomplishing this mission. Proprietary interests in data were the main concern, both in access and data-use policies. This engendered a wide-ranging discussion involving the following:

- Careful management of the data-sharing and ownership policies by LaMNA was considered important.
- Make it clear that the public will have greater access to data in the LaMNA data set, as compared to other programs.
- Emphasize the five privacy levels (http://www.klamathbird.org/lamna/PrivacyStatement_20070821.pdf) for proprietary data archived with LaMNA (also see below under Second “Boat House Group” Meeting)
- Species-specific controls can be in place to assure that access to locations for sensitive species (e.g., T&E) can be controlled through AKN
- In general, data in the AKN is open unless contributors specify otherwise
- Meta-analyses vs. specific datasets – The amount of credit in a publication depend upon amount of an individual’s data that is used in an analysis.
- Erroneous conclusions can be drawn from unfamiliarity with data, making a strong argument for collaboration with the data’s owner
- Most analyses would likely be species-specific
- Effective metadata will be the key to understanding the nuances of data
- Data-mapping procedures are currently being developed by LaMNA with Cornell.

LaMNA Outreach and Products:

Participants discussed how to increase our outreach to potential data contributors, particularly advertising the advantages of being part of LaMNA, such as tracking publication rates on archived data, data summaries, and power analyses. Those applications and other services should be available within 6-8 month with the efforts of Leo Salas, LaMNA banding coordinator.

We also discussed the need to reach out to the LaMNA community to contribute to the newsletter, so as to increase ownership.

Governance of LaMNA:

Currently it is the Partners in Flight (PIF) Model, that is, if you wish to play, come and play; and if you have an idea for a project, go ahead and work on it. There are working committee chairs (e.g. Bart and Ralph on the PIF Monitoring committee). Conference calls will be scheduled again on a monthly basis so those who are interested can participate.

Other topics covered at the meeting included funding for bringing data into the network through National Conservation Needs, LaMNA and large-scale projects, and a report on the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. You can see more detailed minutes from the meeting at <http://www.klamathbird.org/lamna/>.

The Second ‘Boat House Group’ Meeting on LaMNA Upper Klamath Lake, Oregon, July 18, 2007

A group of LaMNA principals met at Upper Klamath Lake outside Rocky Point, Oregon, this time with representatives of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (CLO) on July 18. C. J. Ralph from Redwood Sciences Laboratory (RSL), John Alexander, Jaime Stephens, and Keith Larson from Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO), Leo Salas, LaMNA Banding Data Coordinator,

met with Steve Kelling, Marshall Iloff, and Brian Sullivan from CLO to discuss issues relating to the LaMNA data node, AKN banding data structure, and data sharing.

How do nodes work in relationship to AKN, and what the concept of a node entails? The primary focus of AKN nodes is for regional outreach and data-gathering for the AKN, along with development of region-specific data visualizations and hosting of data that falls outside the Bird Monitoring Data Exchange (BMDE) schema. This regional focus allows nodes to develop tools for conveying region-specific information to users, land managers, and others. In contrast, the visualizations being developed in the AKN are hemispheric in scale, looking for broad patterns, such as that on eBird.

LaMNA is a distinct project that funnels banding data to an AKN data node hosted by RSL and KBO. Still under development is how those data will be funneled to AKN. AKN would prefer that each LaMNA contributor be listed as a separate contributor rather than as a part of a larger dataset. This aspect is expected to be operational by October.

Some of the goals for LaMNA and timelines were laid out. So far, we have a working banding data schema, with the next step to publish this schema on the AKN website. By next year, LaMNA should be actively porting data from contributors to the AKN. LaMNA also needs to complete a full metadata schema, increase our outreach to potential contributors, and create visualizations to interface with the data.

Data security and access was also discussed. Data access levels are:

- First level: Only the owner is able to access the data. This provides backup to the owner against possible data loss.
- Second level: Outside access is allowed only in restricted, broad-scale applications such as mapping on a county scale.
- Third level: Outside access is allowed for basic Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) variables (location, date, and species), but access would not be allowed to other BBL variables (sex, measurements, etc.) or data that are restricted by the owner (such as endangered species).
- Fourth level: Outside access is allowed to all variables by users that are approved by the owner.
- Fifth level: Full outside access is allowed to all data and all variables with full owner acknowledgment.

These levels would need to be identified for each LaMNA contributor.

One of the next steps is for LaMNA to reach out to contributors. We have built a continent-wide list of potential contributors that we will soon be able to help through the process of contributing data. There are many additional sources of data that need to be reached, such as single-year banding stations, academic studies (such as Master's theses), target banding, and historic (paper) data. These potentially lost datasets can be prioritized by dataset size, vulnerability, quality, and/or historical context.

Avian Influenza Update

It was a good spring sampling season, especially considering the low number of kits available. Kits were sent out to 22 organizations, and we received back 1,100 swabs and feathers. We also sent out kits to 10 organizations for summer sampling.

Reporting of sampling results continues to come in. As UCLA and its cooperators continue to develop and refine the cutting-edge sample processing techniques, we will be informed of the results at an increased rate. As our LaMNA samplers know, the technique we are using involves dead viral samples, as opposed to the live sampling taking part in most AI studies. This technique has some strong advantages, especially that it will allow sampling to continue when using live samples is no longer feasible, such as if (when?) the bird flu reaches the American continents.

In the meantime, UCLA is continuing to send out reports to cooperators as they receive their results. They are also developing a web page where result summaries can be viewed by everyone.

New Web Page Address and Design

The LaMNA web page has undergone some revisions. First, the address has changed to reflect the “loss” of one M, so it is now <http://www.klamathbird.org/lamna/>. Secondly, the structure has changed to what we hope is a more easily-navigated web page. There have also been some updates to the Meetings and Data Archiving pages. We hope you will check it out and let us know what you think!

Interested in membership or learning more about LaMMNA? See our web page at <http://www.klamathbird.org/lammna/> for details and a membership application form.