



Newsletter of the

LANDBIRD MONITORING NETWORK OF THE AMERICAS

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

March 2009

INVITATION: Document and Preserve Your Data with LaMNA

With our data tracking and processing system up and running, we are now accepting data sets for curation through LaMNA and into the Avian Knowledge Network. Our system does the following:

- collects all the information needed to “understand” your data, including information about you and your institution (that is, the “metadata”),
- preserves a copy of your dataset “as is” in two different repositories with persistent backup systems in place,
- prepares and passes the dataset for archiving into the Avian Knowledge Network vault (a third repository),
- advertises to others the existence of your dataset (should researchers opt to use your data, they would ask you first for permission and negotiation of credits – you may also release your data without restrictions), and
- provides information about your dataset to the National Biodiversity Information Infrastructure and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.
- Finally, our system generates a set of reports about your data—quality checks such as taxonomic validity and other complex analyses unique to banding data—which we share with you, lest your dataset is in perfect order! Your dataset need not be perfect (we have yet to see an immaculate dataset!); it is preserved and

processed, regardless of the outcome of these tests.

Our system is so successful and flexible, that it has been extended to process other types of avian data such as various census data collected using point count and area search methods.

At the moment, we are processing data from diverse sources such as the Big Sur Ornithology Laboratory, Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences, a 6-year project from the 1970’s in a remote mountain in the Great Basin, a project from Belize, and another one from Costa Rica. We have also received a dataset from Fort Hunter Liggett Environmental in California. More than 250,000 records from the Klamath Bird Monitoring Network are already up on the web in the national and global inventories, and backed up at three different locations with complete metadata.

For further information, contact any of us at LaMNA headquarters.

–Leo Salas, PRBO Conservation Science
(lsalas@prbo.org)



What about Census Data?

There have been many articles in our newsletters about the progress on the banding database and how to submit this data to LaMNA. However, many of our members do not band birds but monitor populations through various census methods and may be feeling a bit left out. Also, members who run banding stations often conduct census surveys to supplement their banding data. So, what about these data—does anyone want them? The answer is a resounding “Yes”!

[The Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#) has been receiving census data for several years and will happily accept your data. They currently have about 50 partners that have contributed such data, including non-governmental organizations (e.g., New Jersey Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited), government agencies
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(e.g., Maryland Department of Natural Resources), and universities (e.g., University of Montana). They accept a wide variety of data, including large-scale landbird census projects, shorebird surveys, Breeding Bird Atlas data, and waterbird surveys. Projects range in size from more than 10 million records (eBird and Project Feeder Watch) to 500 records (New Jersey Managed Grassland Bird Survey). So there is a place for everyone's data!

Census data can be submitted through the LaMNA data node or directly to the AKN. Please contact Linda Long at llong@fs.fed.us or 707-825-2947 if you are interested in submitting your data through LaMNA. To submit data directly to the AKN, check out their submission information at <http://www.-avianknowledge.net/content/contribute>.

–Linda L. Long, U. S. Forest Service,
Redwood Sciences Laboratory (llong@fs.fed.us)

The Lost Has Been Found – Continuing Saga of the Hart Mountain Banding Data

Or how persistence pays off! Many years ago Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt, who co-founded Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) with me, conducted a constant effort banding station in a high mountain oasis in southern Oregon (for background on Dick, see <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Auk/v109n03/p0646-p0647.pdf>). Many people from the High Desert Museum, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, PRBO, and others, had seen the data, but tales returned of trailers burning with the data inside, or data sheets composting in back storage rooms. I felt I was looking for the “Lost Temple of Hart Mountain”. Over the last several years, we pursued these many leads to no avail, but we kept sending out emails and making phone calls.

It was with delight I received an email last summer from Ken Voget, a bander near Lava Hot Springs in southeast Idaho, who said: “you can quit looking as I have all of Dick's stuff from Blue Sky and Hart Mountain. ...What I have is in 3-ring binders, each containing multiple years, from 1973 through 1984. There is a separate binder that is entirely recaptures. I also have two ‘copies’ of Dick's original manuscript ‘Birds of Hart Mountain and Vicinity’ which he had drafted (soon to be available on the LaMNA web site). There were also numerous slides which Dick had taken over the years of the Camp Creek birds, particularly the rarities, or most notables (such as the breeding Flammulated Owls). I do not have the slides and as far as I know, they were still in Dick's possession when he died.”

We have organized the data, made copies of all of it, and are prepared, when we get a bit of funding, to enter this into LaMNA's data archive. It is a wonderfully unique data set, taken by a highly-skilled bander that takes us back in time at a location right at the edge of the Klamath Bird Monitoring Network, a network of more than 50 banding stations in the Klamath Siskiyou Bioregion.

Soon these data will join others making a resource that you can all access for all time. We still would like to hear about the slides that Dick took!

– C. John Ralph, U.S. Forest Service,
Redwood Sciences Laboratory (cjr2@humboldt.edu)



The Western Hummingbird Project and Workshop

Hummingbirds are the feathered jewels of the migratory bird world that receive relatively little attention from a conservation standpoint, yet there are indications that populations of at least some species are declining. Current widespread monitoring efforts such as BBS and MAPS stations are not designed to optimally capture and collect the level of data necessary to understand hummingbirds.

The US Forest Service and the [Hummingbird Monitoring Network](#) are working together to develop and implement the Western Hummingbird Project which will address hummingbird conservation issues in western North America. This program will build international partnerships and collaborations with western FS regions, non-profit organizations, universities, and other governmental agencies at federal and state levels. The conservation programs developed will include habitat restoration and enhancement, monitoring, research, and education/outreach. The mission of the Western Hummingbird Project is to work together to maintain thriving hummingbird populations and their habitats throughout western North America through focused, monitoring, research, and education/outreach and through the creation of broad partnerships within the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Our intent is to investigate what hummingbirds in North America need to survive, successfully reproduce, and sustain viable populations and to inform policy makers so habitats can be managed in a way that help hummingbirds and thrive. The products of this partnership will
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include conservation action plans and recommendations to land management agencies.

To begin this new initiative, the first Western Hummingbird Project workshop will be held April 15-20, in conjunction with the Cooper Ornithological Society's annual meeting in Tucson, Arizona and will provide a forum for focused discussions on issues related to hummingbird conservation. Workshops goals are to create a common understanding about the state of knowledge and conservation of hummingbirds, identify gaps in our knowledge, and develop recommendations for key actions and projects that will best use the available resources to advance hummingbird conservation.

For more information, contact Susan M. Wethington, Hummingbird Monitoring Network, 520-394-2350, swething@dakotacom.net, or USFS Pacific Southwest Region biologists, Diana L. Craig (707-562-8930, drcraig01@fs.fed.us), or Cheryl Carrothers (707-562-8929, ccarrothers@fs.fed.us).

–Susan M. Wethington, Hummingbird Monitoring Network (swething@dakotacom.net)



Northern Saw-whet Owl.
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Upcoming Meetings of Interest

- **The Wilson Ornithological Society and Association of Field Ornithologists Joint Annual Meeting**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 9-12. <http://www.wosafo2009.org/jointConf.php>
- **Cooper Ornithological Society Annual Meeting**, Tucson, Arizona, April 16-18. <http://www.birdmeetings.org/cos2009/>. See the article on a special workshop for the Western Hummingbird Project above.
- **American Ornithologists' Union Annual Meeting**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 12-15. <http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/>. There will be a special workshop "Get the most out of your data through proper archiving and sharing" before the meeting on Wednesday, August 12. Speakers will include Steve Kelling from the Avian Knowledge Network. For more information, contact: Ellen Paul, Ornithological Council, ellen.paul@verizon.net.



Black Oystercatchers. © Linda L. Long

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