



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/lamna/>

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## LaMNA Banding Database Infrastructure is Ready!

After long, arduous, and detailed work on our databasing infrastructure and data processing methods, we are overjoyed and proud to inform all banders that LaMNA now has the capacity to fully document and preserve your data and, depending on your interest, make it available on the Internet via the Avian Knowledge Network. We will soon be approaching you to ensure you understand what this means and decide if you want to take advantage of this service. Briefly put, our sole interest is to ensure that your data are well-documented, preserved and, should you decide so, advertised on your behalf for cooperative work with other agencies or institutions. We will also make available visualization tools that you can use to point to your dataset and produce graphics and tables that would facilitate any summaries and reports you may want to do on your data.

If you are interested in these developments, please do not hesitate in contacting Linda Long, our database manager ([llong@fs.fed.us](mailto:llong@fs.fed.us)), or Leo Salas, the LaMNA Banding Data Coordinator ([lsalas@prbo.org](mailto:lsalas@prbo.org)). You may also find very informative to read the LaMNA Data and Tool Sharing Policy, now available on-line and as a document download at [http://www.klamathbird.org/lamna/data\\_sharing\\_policy.htm](http://www.klamathbird.org/lamna/data_sharing_policy.htm).

## LaMNA Meeting Held at Joint Ornithological Societies Meeting, Portland, Oregon, August 6, 2008

**Present:** C. John Ralph (U.S. Forest Service and Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory), John Alexander (Klamath Bird Observatory), Katherine Brewster (University of Saskatchewan), Jay Carlisle (Idaho Bird Observatory), Felipe Chavez-Ramirez (Platte River Whooping Crane Trust), Ryan Fisher (University of Regina), Robert Mulvihill (Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Powdermill Bird Observatory), Eben Paxton (University of Southern Mississippi), Susan Sharbaugh (Alaska Bird Observatory), and Susan Wethington (Hummingbird Monitoring Network).

LaMNA held an informational meeting during the joint annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, and Society of Canadian Ornithologists on August 6.

Members were briefed on the data processing tools and our progress on uploading data to the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) banding data schema. Over 74,000 banding records have now been uploaded from the Klamath Bird Monitoring Network (which includes Redwood Sciences Laboratory, Klamath Bird Observatory, and other cooperators) to the AKN website (see [http://www.avianknowledge.net/content/datasets/project?code=kbnm\\_band](http://www.avianknowledge.net/content/datasets/project?code=kbnm_band)). We are now ready to accept banding data from network members and we encourage you to get in touch with us about how you can contribute your banding data. Please contact C. J. Ralph (cjr2@humboldt.edu) for further information.

The topic of hummingbird banding was brought up and we discussed how this data can fit into the banding data schema. We certainly don't want to leave even the smallest bird behind!

We also discussed web-based data visualizations. Once a contributor's data is in the network, these tools will provide contributors with methods to visualize and summarize their data with graphs, maps, and other interactive tools.

LaMNA is also a powerful networking tool for researchers. We encourage members to use the newsletter as a means to get out your research and findings, as well as a way to generate cooperative projects between members. Please submit articles for the newsletter to Linda Long at [llong@fs.fed.us](mailto:llong@fs.fed.us).

## **Avian Influenza Sampling – It's Not Just for the Birds Anymore!**

U.C.L.A.'s Center for Tropical Research has recently expanded their avian influenza virus (AIV) sampling from banded landbirds to include the humans that band them. At the recent joint meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists held in Portland, Oregon, Emily Curd and her colleagues had a booth where, in addition to posters and other information about the project, they took blood samples from 190 bird banders! This part of their research looks at the incidence of AIV transmission from birds to humans, and whether the strain distribution in humans reflects the strain distributions in birds.

If you are interested in donating your blood to this project, UCLA may have booths at other meetings. Otherwise, they are more than willing to take your sample by mail. They will send you the required materials for dry shipping of specimens if you fill out a consent form and questionnaire. Please contact Emily Curd at [eecurd@ucla.edu](mailto:eecurd@ucla.edu) for further information.

Emily also reported on some of their recent findings from AIV samples in Washington and Idaho in 2006. They are finding about a 10% infection rate in breeding birds there. They plan to look at migrants next, and then run the samples for the rest of the Pacific Flyway for all seasons for which samples were collected.

More information on UCLA's AIV research can be found at their website: [http://www.ioe.ucla.edu/ctr/research/AvPath/avian\\_influenza\\_main.html#research](http://www.ioe.ucla.edu/ctr/research/AvPath/avian_influenza_main.html#research).

## **Monitoring The Night Sky: Migrant Birds In The Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion**

A new age in bird "watching" has been unveiled with our ears to the sky. The Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) and US Forest Service's Redwood Sciences Laboratory (RSL) long-term efforts to monitor birds in the northern California and southern Oregon have taken on a new and exciting aspect, in the form of white buckets affixed to the top of our facilities. These buckets are actually nocturnal bioacoustics monitoring devices (i.e., microphones) designed to record the calls of migratory birds as they fly through our Bioregion moving south towards their wintering habitats in the southern United States, Mexico, and Central and South America.

Fall migration is a critical time for songbirds, and a better understanding of migration ecology is essential for the success of migratory bird conservation efforts. Since 1990, the two institutions' "Klamath Bird Monitoring Network," has been tracking migrant songbirds using a combination of survey and mist-netting techniques. We are now adding value to our migration monitoring efforts by listening to birds that pass over our monitoring stations during their nighttime migratory flights. Our new nocturnal bioacoustics monitoring devices have been connected to computers running all night this fall at KBO's Upper Klamath Field Station near Fort Klamath, Oregon, KBO's Willow Wind Headquarters in Ashland, Oregon, RSL's Trinity River Field Residence near Weaverville, California, and at two locations in Arcata, California – the Redwood Sciences Laboratory and Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory. This nocturnal migration monitoring effort is being implemented in cooperation with the Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Powdermill Nature Reserve. If you have any questions about the Klamath Bird Monitoring Network migration monitoring efforts please call John Alexander (541-201-0866) or C.J. Ralph (707-825-2992).

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**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.