



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/>

July/August 2006

Avian Influenza Project Update: Fall Sampling

Summer is almost over and our cooperators at the Institute for Bird Populations' MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) stations are finishing their avian influenza monitoring season. LaMMNA is gearing up for fall monitoring, with sampling kits to be sent out soon to participating members. Fifty-five members have signed up to conduct sampling. There are a limited number of vials available right now, so organizations will be receiving one kit of 50 vials and swabs each. We are continuing to look for funding for additional kits.

We have an update for those members who took samples this spring: UCLA has started analysis of the spring samples and results should start coming in by late August. We will get the results to participating members as it comes in.

Banding Data Analysis and Visualizations

There have been several advances in computer programming related to banding data in the past year. Keith Larson, Klamath Bird Observatory, has developed computer programs for use in the SAS statistical analysis package that streamlines error checking for banding data. These programs compare the entered values to allowable values for a species, similar to Band Manager, and return the invalid record entry for correction. This will speed up the process for many banders to submit data to the Bird Banding Laboratory. He is also in the process of creating programs that will allow banders to get quick visualizations of their data. The programs create graphics and tables of the occurrence by location.

Wade Leitner, who in real time works for National Semiconductor Corporation, is in the process of developing a data entry program for Microsoft Access that also cross-checks values by species. In fact, his passion is banding and programming for banding applications. His program could be used in the field to record data directly into a laptop. It also generates visualizations of the data, such as plots of the numbers, age, sex, and various other parameters of birds by location.

We will be sharing these and other computer advances at the upcoming organizational meeting at the WBBA Annual Meeting in September. See the following article for more details.

LaMMNA Meeting at the Western Bird Banding Association Annual Meeting

LaMMNA will have an organizational meeting on September 14 during the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Western Bird Banding Association (WBBA) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We will be discussing some of the banding data entry and analysis programs that we will be implementing and how they (or similar programs) can be used to access data in the LaMMNA data nodes. There are already some great data entry programs already in place that can be expanded upon, such as MAPSPROG, and folks that will be at the meeting are working on new ways to look at the data with graphics and cool visualizations (see previous article). Contributors using the nodes will not only be able to look at their own data, but compare their data with other nearby stations. We hope this will encourage researchers to contribute their data to the network.

The WBBA meeting will be held September 14-17, 2006 at the Rio Grande Nature Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is hosted by Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc. There will be some great field trips and birding. September is the height of the fall migration season, so there will be some great birds to see! See their announcement at <http://www.westernbirdbanding.org/next-meetings.html> for further details.

Additional Upcoming Meetings

IV North American Ornithological Conference, October 3-7 in Veracruz, Mexico.

Information on the conference can be found on the conference website (<http://www.naoc2006.org/>). LaMMNA will be holding a workshop during the meeting. 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 participate in this workshop. Don't forget the other workshops that LaMMNA is deeply involved in to be held during the NAOC: Bird Monitoring Networks of the Americas: From census to outreach; Advanced Bird-banding and MoSI (Monitoreo de Sobrevivencia Invernal); and Bird Banding in the Americas: Use of the Data, and Developing a Network. See the conference website or last month's newsletter for further information on these workshops (http://www.klamathbird.org/lammna/LaMMNA_May_15_2006_Newsletter.pdf).

Inland Bird Banding Association 2006 Annual Meeting. September 22-23 at Tellico Plains in Tennessee. Further information will be announced at <http://www.aves.net/InlandBBA/>.

Western Bird Banding Association 2006 Annual Meeting. September 14-17 at the Rio Grande Nature Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. See their announcement at <http://www.westernbirdbanding.org/next-meetings.html> for further details. LaMMNA will be holding a meeting on September 14 (see article above for details).

Current Publication

La Tangara is the Newsletter of the International Working Group of Partners in Flight, a Hemisphere - Wide Bird Conservation Initiative. Since its creation in 1995, La Tangara has grown to over 1400 individuals and organizations in the United States, Latin America, Caribbean, and Europe and it is recognized as a critical information exchange mechanism for Neotropical bird conservation. The newsletter is issued bi-monthly and contains information on data exchanges, meetings, web sites, and happenings in the Neotropics. For further information, visit their website at <http://www.latangara.org/indexeng.htm> and see current and past issues of the newsletter at <http://www.latangara.org/archive.htm>.

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.