



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/>

June 2006

NSF-funded Implementation of Banding Data Base Project: LaMMNA's Partnership with Cornell Lab of Ornithology and PRBO

Good news was received recently with the probable funding of a LaMMNA project to implement gathering banding data into an international data base of primarily capture data following the LaMMNA data protocol. As envisioned, we will be working closely with the Lab's Information Science Team led by Steve Kelling, and collaborating with computer scientists, bioinformatics experts, and data managers to organize banding's rich data sources into a unified structure. Grant Ballard at Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) is also a key player with us on this effort, called the Avian Knowledge Network, that is using new strategies to enable partners to retrieve data from organized data sources that will include census data as well as banding information.

Most importantly will be the development of techniques and tools for exploring your data, opening up new possibilities for quickly analyzing vast quantities of data using your own Internet access to high-performance computers at the Lab. These techniques will provide ways to visualize the data with high-resolution maps, graphs, and tables of results.

Our primary goal, when the funding is finalized, is to enable our cooperators to combine their data with the LaMMNA data base. In this regard, we hope to have some funding to get your (our collaborators!) data entered and organized.

We will have more information for you shortly on this exciting development.

Avian Influenza Project Update: Spring Monitoring Completed!

LaMMNA has just successfully completed its first season of avian influenza monitoring and we thank all those who participated. A total of 33 member organizations from 21 states participated, representing a wide range of operations from small, single-operator stations to large multi-station observatories. They captured 20,000 birds during their spring operations at 40 stations. Of those, they sampled 1,000 birds with cloacal swabs, pulling tail feathers for DNA analysis. The samples are now on their way to UCLA for analysis.

The season was not without its challenges, however, and it was definitely a learning experience for all involved. One of the biggest challenges was getting sampling kits and

equipment ordered, made up, and sent to the stations with enough time remaining to maximize the number of samples. Eleven stations did not receive kits in time for spring sampling. Because of the great effort of all cooperating stations, 10% of the birds captured during the season were sampled. Everyone was very patient as we worked through these and other learning experiences, and it has left us better organized for the upcoming seasons.

We are now working on funding for summer and fall influenza monitoring, and have some promising possibilities near at hand. Remember, please contact Linda Long (llong@fs.fed.us, 707-825-2947) or C. John Ralph (cjr2@humboldt.edu, 707-825-2992) if you are interested in participating.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Estimating the Numbers of North American Birds

Jon Bart

Estimating population sizes for North American bird species has become a high priority for Partners in Flight and other bird conservation organizations. Knowledge of population size helps us set numerical conservation targets at the local, regional, and continental level. These targets, in turn, help us set specific habitat objectives. Such estimates also are useful in mitigation work and in designing and evaluating major conservation programs. Population sizes – both current and target numbers – also resonate well with Congress and other political groups as they decide what resources to allocate for research, conservation, and management programs.

Partners in Flight has decided to undertake two citizen-science projects to improve our knowledge of species' population sizes in North America. One project involves surveys modeled on the Breeding Bird Survey but on which detection cues (songs, visual cues, notes) are recorded. The other project involves intensive surveys of a few birds in restricted patches of habitat where observers record details of vocal activity during short time intervals.

If you would consider participating in either of these surveys, please visit the web site for these projects, <http://greatbasin.nbj.gov/cbm/> and click on "Population Size Estimates" for further details.

Call for Newsletter Articles

One of the driving forces behind LaMMNA is the desire to increase the communication between bird migration researchers. We would love to have short, informative articles from our membership to share with the others in the network through this newsletter. Possible contributions could include current research projects your station, recent unpublished abstracts, human-interest stories, and requests to other members for joint research projects, such as the Current Research article above. Please submit your articles and ideas to Linda Long (llong@fs.fed.us) or C. John Ralph (cjr2@humboldt.edu). Articles should be no more than a page in length.

Upcoming Meeting

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 help organize and 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 (http://www.klamathbird.org/lammna/LaMMNA_May_15_2006_Newsletter.pdf) for further information on these workshops.

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.