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Newsletter of

LANDBIRD MIGRATION MONITORING NETWORK OF THE AMERICAS

http://www.klamathbird.org/lammna*l*

July/August 2005

LaMMNA Holds meeting at Cooper Ornithological Society Annual Meeting
June 17, 2005

We met at Humboldt State University, Arcata, California, concurrent with the Cooper Ornithological Society's Annual Meeting. Jaime Stephens took notes, a summary of them is below:

Participants were:
Canadian Wildlife Service: Ricky Dunn; *Humboldt State University*: Matt Johnson; *Klamath Bird Observatory*: John Alexander, Bob Frey, Jaime Stephens; *Redwood Sciences Laboratory*: Pablo Herrera, Kim Hollinger, Linda Long, Sherri Miller, C.J. Ralph; *Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory*: David Hanni; *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*: Terry Rich; and *University of Rhode Island*: Peter Paton.

Introduction
C. J. Ralph gave an overview of LaMMNA: what it is and what we are trying to do, expanded from the web site (http://www.klamathbird.org/lammna/).

Updates
Newsletter outreach. June newsletter has been sent out to the Migration Monitoring Network Station List. Will be put up on the web page as well.

Data progress. We have completed a first draft of the Oracle database for banding data and have tested the structure with some RSL data. We have some data from KBO at a BLM site, and will be trying to get that into the database structure by late July.

What next? Points and Thoughts about LaMMNA
Relationships with the Bird Banding Lab in regards archiving banding data. They receive the minimum data they need like band number, age, sex, etc. There is a lot more data taken on a bird that is not archived, like molt and condition. Thoughts: At this point, as we understand it, they do not plan on expanding upon their current operations.

Including data beyond migration monitoring. For example, eBird/Cornell provides the census database structure for all seasons. Thoughts: we do plan include all stations who desire to archive their data, no matter the season, although our focus is on migration monitoring. We are presently focused on getting the banding database structure completed to complement the census database at eBird.

The Canadian Migration Monitoring Network model. If it was working at full strength, it would be a good model, but needs a full-time position to get products out in terms of analysis of data. It has been helpful with regular coordination among stations and data analyses have been updated. Thoughts: With LaMMNA, we are now planning that analysis would be a separate, and a later, step.

Relationship of eBird and Avian Knowledge Network at Cornell. Thoughts: the Avian Knowledge Network is the potential public face of LaMMNA, so we are pushing forward to get ourselves positioned for beginning that transfer of data.

Governance of LaMMNA. We had a discussion of the governance model of LaMMNA. We are currently working under the PIF model of a consensus-driven approach, with PIF's Monitoring and Inventory Working Group acting as LaMMNA's umbrella organization. As things stand now, governance of LaMMNA will be through conference calls and working together at ornithological meetings.

NABCI. Terry Rich brought up that NABCI's monitoring subcommittee is working on various models of monitoring and may work with Cornell. LaMMNA really needs to collaborate with NABCI.

Potential Subjects of agenda for upcoming meetings and conference calls
- Protocols and metadata, data agreement Vegetation protocols and databases
- Incorporation of GIS, spatial layers with Avian Knowledge Network
- Vegetation analysis as a potential product
- Identifying at-risk datasets, e.g., graduate students
- Reaching out to South and Central America, and demonstration of the reasons for them to join with us.

Goals for discussion over the next 6 to 12 months
- Compile outreach list, such as graduate students
- Create poster and "canned" presentation for LaMMNA that members can use for outreach.
- Newsletter
- Estimate the amount of time it will take to import the data, without any editing
- Identification of the level of quality control of the data

Upcoming Meeting

We are holding a meeting on LaMMNA and methods for archiving data and plans for retrieval at the upcoming American Ornithologists' Union Annual Meeting (see below). Agenda items will include: (1) update on data integration and methods of retrieval; (2) finalization of the structure of the LaMMNA Governance Council; (3) identifying at-risk datasets; (4) choosing among forms of Nodes as to their operation and structure; (4) sources of funding for Members; and (5) making decisions on the structures of data schema.

- August 23-27: American Ornithologists' Union Annual Meeting, University of California-Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California. http://www.aou.org/2005meeting/

Point Reyes Meeting for Developing LaMMNA Data Base

One of the biggest challenges facing LaMMNA is how to incorporate the data into a database that is accessible, and that also has privacy possibilities. To meet this need, last year a group of a dozen biologists, GIS specialists, and computer applications specialists met at the Marconi Center near Point Reyes, and north of San Francisco. Among the principal purposes was to explore how a highly-complex data base, such as that generated by banding, could be integrated into the basic template of eBird of Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. At present, eBird is primarily a space and time-delineated compilation of bird species and numbers. Banding data, of course, is far more complex, more analogous to specimen data from a museum, with the individual attributes of each bird captured, such as breeding state, weight, and measurements. Further, it has important applications for making map-based demographic models of migrants for managers and scientists.

The resulting schema from the meeting for banding data can be seen on our web page, and form the basis for incorporating our data into the Avian Knowledge Network of the Lab of Ornithology, a full partner in LaMMNA. Participants included knowledgeable specialists representing the Laboratory of Ornithology, Bird Studies Canada, Mexico, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Klamath Bird Observatory, University of California at Davis and Berkeley.

eBird and LaMMNA

The program called "eBird" is an internet-based project developed within a broader program named "Bird Source" by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. In eBird, individuals can go on-line at http://www.ebird.org/ to record their bird counting observations in a map-based context, and retrieve them at a later date. In addition, the cumulative eBird database is used by birdwatchers, scientists, and conservationists who want to know more about the distribution and movement patterns of birds across the continent. One aspect of this system is that individuals usually enter observations one at a time. At the moment, most larger data sets can not be downloaded to the site, although we are working with Cornell's Steve Kelling to get a proposal for funding this within the month.

So, what does this have to do with LaMMNA? As we outlined above, we are working hard in an effort to standardize a banding schema, to complement their primarily census-related schema. We are beginning to use these schemas to archive data from our participating Network stations. These data will be accessed in the near future by eBird and their participants, with the usual privacy standards in place for these types of data. Network stations would have the option to participate in this project when they archive their data.

The most unique aspect of this system is that it is not merely a repository of flat files of data, instead, it is a highly user-friendly system of data retrieval and analysis; one that is highly capable of providing map-based products of great use to all.

We currently have a draft schema for banding data that we have tested with sample data from RSL and BLM-funded data from KBO. We will use it to test the ability of eBird to use the schema to retrieve similar data. At the same time, we will test the Network data tracking protocols. An integral part of the development of the interaction with LaMMNA is the ability to render map-based information.

Current Research

The following paper was given at the Cooper Ornithological Society meeting in Arcata, California this past June and has been submitted to the Auk for publication. For further information, contact Jason E. Osenkowski at Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Great Swamp Headquarters, PO Box 218, West Kingston, RI 02892

Using Banding Stations to Monitor Avian Population Trends: A 33-Year Assessment of Adjacent Coastal Stopover Sites. *Jason E. Osenkowski, Peter W. C. Paton, and Douglas Kraus.* If stopover sites accurately monitor avian population trends, then trend estimates should be similar between nearby banding stations. We compared long-term (1969-2001) population trends between two banding stations in Rhode Island, Kingston Wildlife Research Station (KWRS) and Block Island Banding Station (BIBS). Each species' annual indices of abundance were calculated from a multiple regression model using daily capture rates as the dependent variable. Of 24 species analyzed, 21 species exhibited significant linear declines at one or both stations. There was a high degree of conformity in trend slope directions observed at each banding station. However, annual fluctuations and trend estimates exhibited a lower degree of conformity, although this improved for transient species. Both stations showed similar trends to data collected at Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences in Massachusetts, although all three stations exhibited more negative trends than Breeding Bird Surveys for northern New England and closed boreal forests. Our results demonstrate that nearby banding stations are monitoring population trends similarly. However, there is a fair amount of noise in migration data. Trend estimates based on data collected from banding stations are valuable for monitoring regional population trends; hence, banding stations can be used to supplement existing large-scale monitoring programs by providing information for species that currently warrant improved monitoring.

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.