

between species across the country and use that information to help predict the possible future distribution and transmission of high pathogenic avian influenza strains (i.e., H5N1 HPAI). Banding station volunteers are collecting cloacal swabs for avian influenza testing and feather samples for corresponding genetic/isotopic connectivity studies. We expect the collection of some 12,000 to 15,000 samples ultimately from this spring/summer. We will discuss the current status of the project, our testing efforts (at Los Alamos National Lab and UCLA), future plans, and the current status of H5N1 HPAI detection from other surveys (e.g., USFWS/USGS Alaska surveys from this spring/summer). Finally, we will discuss the key issue of proper safety practices when handling birds in general and in the case of H5N1 HPAI detection in North America.

RALPH, C. JOHN. LaMMNA: EMPOWERING YOUR BANDING DATA WITH eBAND. U.S. Forest Service, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, 1700 Bayview Drive, Arcata, California 95521. Corresp. author - cjralph@humboldt1.com

The Landbird Migration Monitoring Network of the Americas (LaMMNA) is closely working with Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology to make your banding data compatible with other stations. The first step of integrating data to a common format, or schema, has been accomplished. We are now bringing in large sets of data from a few banding stations, including such diverse entities as decades of Vermont Institute of Natural Science banding, and banders with a season or two of data. I will discuss privacy, access, and security for your data and ideas.

SAKAI, WALTER H. A COMPARISON OF AFTERNOON AND MORNING MIST NETTING EFFORTS. Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405-1628. Corresp. author - sakai_walter@smc.edu.

The Zuma Canyon bird banding station is located in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Los Angeles County, California (34°02'55"N, 118°48'44"W). Banding occurs year round, every 3 to 4 weeks using 10-13 permanent net lanes in a coastal sage scrub, hard chaparral

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habitat. Banding is conducted for five hours Friday afternoon until sunset, and for five hours Saturday morning starting at sunrise.

Most banding stations and banding protocols band during the morning hours. Although there seems to be a number of stations past and present that have banded in the afternoons, there seems to be no literature comparing the efficacy of afternoon (PM) vs morning (AM) banding sessions. Our banding protocol allowed for such a comparison.

In comparing annual banding totals from 1996-2005, I found that the PM sessions caught significantly fewer birds encountered than the AM sessions by year (PM \bar{x} = 302.7 \pm 102.76 vs AM \bar{x} = 387.6 \pm 118.16; paired t-test, p = 0.001, n =9). Significantly (p <0.05) more *Picidae*, *Timalidae*, *Mimidae*, *Parulidae*, and *Emberizidae* were encountered in the AM; however, *Trochilidae*, *Tyrannidae*, *Corvidae*, *Aegithalidae*, *Troglodytidae*, *Regulidae*, *Turdidae*, *Cardinalidae*, *Icteridae*, and *Fringillidae* showed no significant difference (p >0.05) between PM and AM banding.

A comparison looking at individual species and their possible niches (feeding, foraging, migrant vs resident) did show a difference but no obvious patterns. Among the most abundantly encountered birds, Wrentits, Audubon's Warblers, and Spotted Towhees were significantly different (PM < AM) while Bushtits, Common Yellowthroats, Song Sparrows, House Finches, and Hermit Thrushes showed no difference. These findings may be important in such efforts as target netting. *? = The mean number of birds caught per year.

TÓRREZ, MARVIN. BIRD BANDING IN NICARAGUA. National Park Service Park Flight Program, Bandelier National Monument, 15 Entrance Road, Los Alamos, NM 87544. Corresp. author - marvtorrez@yahoo.com.

The history of bird banding in Nicaragua dates from 1996-1997 when the first generation of ornithologists became qualified banders with the help of the United States Agency for International Development (US-AID) and the United States Forest Service. In October 2002, the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) gave the first advanced workshop on sexing and aging passerines birds. The workshop was for Nicaraguan biologists and