U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Initiative Happenings

Partnering with the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)

October 2014

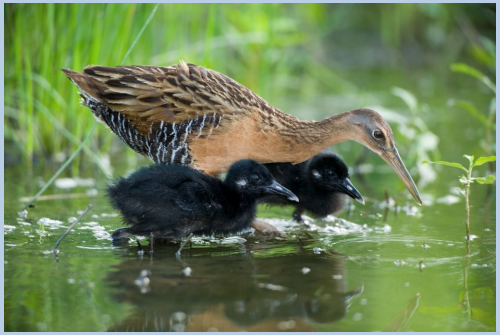
Natural Resource Program Center

I&M assesses the status and trends of refuge lands, waters, and biota at multiple geographic scales. To this end, I&M is providing support for the migration of Refuge bird data to the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) - a centralized data information system supported by partnerships with institutions and government agencies. This ensures that Refuge bird data are accessible to the larger scientific community, supporting broad landscape-scale analysis.

Two national and regional avian protocols, the USGS Point Count and Marshbird databases, and all their associated data, have been moved to the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN).

Using these nationally and regionally approved I&M protocols saves refuges time and effort in the field. The interface has been designed specifically for I&M-approved protocols, making data entry easy and intuitive. Data sharing levels are set by the researcher.

Contact your regional I&M Coordinator or Data Manager to learn more about how to access and use these new tools and find out more about what I&M is doing for you.



Region 1 **Strengthening Partnerships and Sharing Information**

Region 1 I&M has been working hard to migrate Landbird Point Count and Marshbird databases to AKN. Partnering with Klamath Bird Observatory and Region 1 Migratory Birds program, the Avian Knowledge Northwest (AKNW) node has been customized for storing, summarizing, and serving bird point count data collected in refuges in the Pacific Northwest.

The next step is to upload Legacy Point Count data sets from three refuges into the AKN. A team of refuge biologists will identify types of data summaries needed for refuge reporting. Reporting tools created by other nodes will be served on the AKNW node and, if necessary, new tools will be created and available for other nodes to use.

This project will also include outreach and support to refuge staff, spreading the word about the availability of this tool and providing guidance and technical support to refuge users.

Region 3 **Monitoring Marshbirds in Clarence Canyon NWR**

Difficult to monitor, secretive marshbirds (rails, bitterns and grebes) are recognized as one of the Midwest's highest bird conservation priorities. Clarence Cannon NWR manages 17 units of high-quality emergent marsh and moist soil habitat. The refuge has cooperated with private land owners and the Universities of Missouri and Arkansas, as well as the Missouri Department of Conservation, to collect spring and fall marshbird data since 2002.

The refuge also participates in the Integrated Waterbird Monitoring and Management (IWMM) initiative. Information from these surveys has assisted with wetland management decisions on refuge lands. Together, the datasets are being used to develop an optimization tool for management of breeding marshbirds and nonbreeding waterfowl habitats. Both data sets will be available on the AKN database for collaborative use in the near future.

Region 3, along with other regions and database specialists, continues to review AKN data and applications during the preparation of the site's public interface.