



Implementation of the DoD Coordinated Bird Monitoring Plan

Project # 09-440

Background:

The Department of Defense (DoD) is subject to several regulations establishing responsibilities for monitoring migratory birds. The Sikes Act requires all military installations with significant natural resources to prepare and implement Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) that guide the conservation and long-term management of natural resources. Most INRMPs include monitoring. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to evaluate and disclose the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions which also require that the status of bird populations be monitored. In 2006, DoD signed an MOU with the US Fish and Wildlife Service under which DoD will identify and monitor migratory species that could be affected by military activities.

Many biologists on DoD installations are not familiar with modern bird survey methods including design of sampling plans, choice of field methods, analyses, and data management. The CBM Plan is designed to provide them up-to-date information so that they can use monitoring resources wisely.

Objective:

The DoD Coordinated Bird Monitoring Plan provides a comprehensive approach for helping DoD fulfill its responsibilities under the regulations described above. It establishes goals and objectives for monitoring birds, provides guidelines on selection of field methods, describes DoD's role in large-scale monitoring programs, and identifies additional actions that would help DoD biologists.

Summary of Approach:

The CBM Plan contains the following recommendations:

1. The design of monitoring and assessment programs

for birds should include a statement of goals and objectives, selection of field methods using an "expert system" developed for the CBM Plan, preparation of metadata, and storage of the data in a long-term repository.

2. The DoD Legacy Resource Management Program, Environmental Security Technology Certification Program, and Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program should be encouraged to continue their significant contributions to the foundations of bird monitoring.

3. Appropriate monitoring should be conducted to identify species of concern on installations.

4. Participation in well-designed, large-scale surveys on land that DoD manages will provide DoD with information important to bird conservation.

Benefit:

DoD now has a comprehensive plan for fulfilling its obligations to monitor birds on DoD land, guidelines for how to conduct all phases of the monitoring, and recommendations for participating in large-scale monitoring programs.

Accomplishments:

The CBM Plan has been completed and the database has been extensively tested. The Plan is posted on a DoD CBM page

(<http://iwcbm.dev4.fsr.com/IWCBM/default.asp?PageID=117>).



DoD Coordinated Bird Monitoring

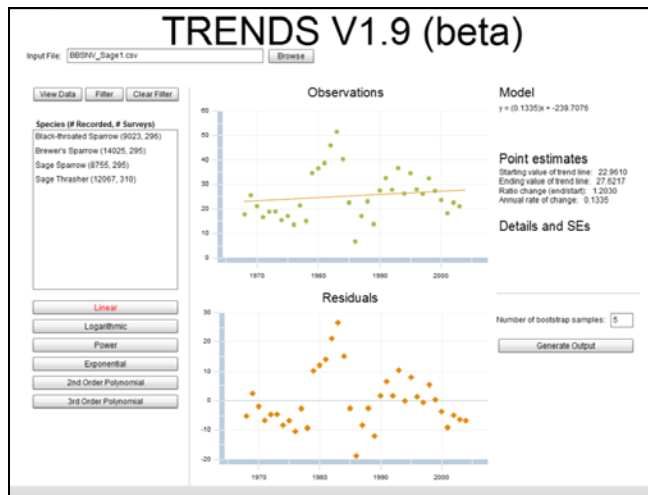


What do you want to do?

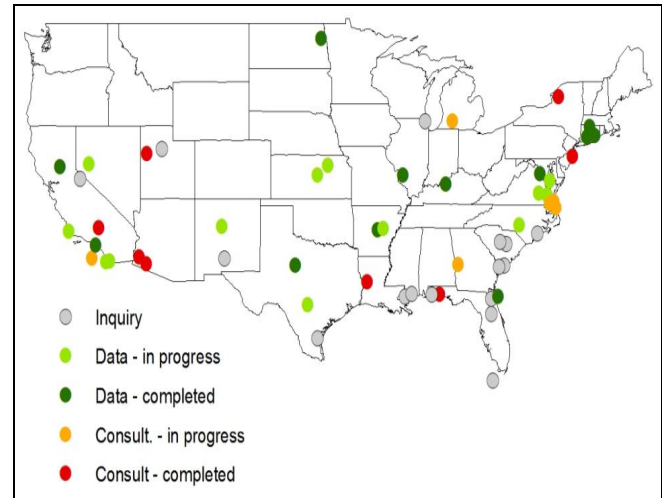
1. Decide [where to store my data](#)
2. Use the [Coordinated Bird Monitoring Database](#) (CBMD) for data entry or retrieval
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 - [DoD Partners in Flight](#)
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 - [Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology](#)
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 - [Point Reyes Bird Observatory](#)
 - [Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences](#)
 - [Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory](#)

Screenshot of CBM web page

A “Coordinated Bird Monitoring Database” has been established by the US Geological Survey which DoD installations may use for long-term storage of their bird monitoring data. The database stores data of any kind, offers five levels of security, and includes several “decision support tools” such as trend analysis program shown below.



In addition, an implementation Plan has been initiated under which consultation by USGS biologists is offered to DoD installation. Some of the installations assisted are shown below.



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