



# DoD Participation in the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN): the Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How

*DoD AKN Virtual Training, May 20 & 22, 2025*

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## Agenda

*All times Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)*

### **Tuesday, May 20**

*All times Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)*

0900 (45 min) — Welcome, Introductions, and the Avian Data Lifecycle

Welcome to the DoD / AKN workshop on using the AKN technologies for managing and utilizing avian data in the AKN.

- Welcome and introductions
- Review the workshop agenda
- Logistics
- What to do if you encounter technical problems
- The Avian Data Lifecycle

## 0945 (20 min) — AKN Project Data 101

We will cover how the AKN represents observational data and how to find the best way to organize and curate your data in a project database.

- How the AKN organizes data
- What is a Program?
- What is a Project Database?

## 1005 (5 min) — BREAK

## 1010 (65 min) — Managing Project Metadata - Protocols and Sampling Units

We will cover how to create and manage metadata in our Project Database.

- Protocols and Sampling Units
- Choosing and managing protocols (DEMONSTRATION of Biologist (<https://data.pointblue.org/science/biologists/>) for *Protocol Research* and *Manage Protocols for Project*)
- EXERCISE 1: Creating the Point Count sampling unit hierarchy (PDF ([Exercise1-CreateSamplingUnits.pdf](#)))
- BREAK - when you are finished with Exercise 1, you are welcome to take a break until class resumes at 11:15.

## 1120 (15 min) — Managing Project Metadata - Researchers

We will continue learning how to create and manage metadata in our Project Database.

- Download the sampling units into a GIS file (DEMONSTRATION of Biologist (<https://data.pointblue.org/science/biologists/>) for *Download Locations to GPS, GIS and more*)
- Researchers
- Demonstration - Adding researchers (DEMONSTRATION of Biologist (<https://data.pointblue.org/science/biologists/>) for *Assign Researchers to Project*)

## 1135 (25 min) — Entering Observation Data

We will cover how to enter observation data into the Project Database that is defined by the metadata we created.

- EXERCISE 2: Enter and proof a point count field survey (PDF ([Exercise2-EnterPointCountObservations.pdf](#)))
- Downloading your point count data (DEMONSTRATION of Biologist (<https://data.pointblue.org/science/biologists/>) for *Download Observations*)

## 1155 (10 min) — BREAK

## 1205 (25 min) — Bulk loading data to a Project

We will cover how to bulk load data into the Project Database.

- Templates for uploading, and batch processing
- EXERCISE 3: Bulk loading sampling locations (PDF ([Exercise3-BulkLoadingSamplingUnits.pdf](#)))

## 1300 — END DAY 1

# Thursday, May 22

*All times Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)*

## 0900 (20 min) — Managing Project Data - Data Sharing Levels

We will give an overview of what data sharing levels we have and how the project leader controls them.

- Data sharing levels and the AKN tools that use them.
- Setting data sharing levels (DEMONSTRATION of Biologist for *DataSharingLevels*)
- Motivations for sharing data

## 0920 (30 min) — AKN Warehouse Data 101

We will cover how data flows and is made available to other tools and users across DoD and the AKN.

- What is a Data Warehouse?
- Case Study: USFS Region 8
- Data ownership guidelines/policies and agreements.

## 0950 (50 min) — Discovering observation data

We will cover how to discover other projects using the AKN.

- Demonstration of RAIL Tool
- EXERCISE 4: Create a species list with RAIL Tool (PDF (Exercise4-CreateSpeciesListWithRAILTool.pdf))
- Downloading data from a Warehouse using Data Download (DEMONSTRATION of Data Downloader (<https://data.pointblue.org/apps/downloader/>))

## 1040 (10 min) — Break

## 1050 (35 min) — Looking for trends

We will explore solving some of the specific problems that are faced by DoD facilities.

- Case Study: Migratory Shorebird Project
- Looking at data in Analyst (DEMONSTRATION of Analysts (<https://data.pointblue.org/apps/analysts/>) for *data review*)
- EXERCISE 5: Using the Analyst and Observations Map (PDF (Exercise5-ExploreSpeciesAndTrendsWithObservationsMapandAnalyst.pdf))
- Case Study: Relative Conservation Responsibility

## 1125 (60 min) — DoD AKN program updates

We will cover plans and updates for DoD and the AKN.

- DoD AKN Program Overview
- Case Study: Colonial Waterbirds
- AKN Tools and Driving AQN Questions

## 1225 (15 min) — Next Steps for You

We will show how you will add new users as a Project Leader.

- Creating a new log-in for a biologist or project leader (DEMONSTRATION of steps to register and approve a new user)
- Assigning roles to project personnel (DEMONSTRATION in ProjectLeaders (<https://data.pointblue.org/apps/projectleaders/>))
- Creating a new researcher (DEMONSTRATION in ProjectLeaders (<https://data.pointblue.org/apps/projectleaders/>))

## 1240 (20 min) — Wrap-up, Pluses and Deltas

We will evaluate the course and make sure everyone is clear on Office Hours.

- Pluses and Deltas
- Reminder of office hours
- Final questions