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

DOD AKN Regional Training, Camp Edwards, August 19-21, 2025

Agenda

All times Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

Tuesday, August 19

All times Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

0800 (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 and facilities
- What to do if you encounter technical problems
- The Avian Data Lifecycle

0845 (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?

0905 (5 min) — Stretch Break

0910 (50 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 Project Leaders (https://www.dodakn.org/manage-data/#get-data-in) for configuring protocols, linked from the DOD AKN Portal)
- EXERCISE 1: Creating the Point Count sampling unit hierarchy (PDF (Exercise1-CreateSamplingUnits.pdf))

1000 (15 min) — BREAK

1015 (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 Project Downloader (https://www.dodakn.org/manage-data/#discover-data) for downloading sampling units, linked from the DOD AKN Portal)
- Researchers
- Demonstration - Adding researchers (DEMONSTRATION of Project Leaders (https://www.dodakn.org/manage-data/#get-data-in) for adding researchers to your project, linked from the DOD AKN Portal)

1030 (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 Project Downloader (https://www.dodakn.org/manage-data/#discover-data) for downloading observation data, linked from the DOD AKN Portal)

1055 (45 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))

1140 (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.

- What data sharing levels are available?
- Motivations for sharing data
- Setting data sharing levels (DEMONSTRATION of Project Leaders (https://www.dodakn.org/manage-data/#get-data-in) for setting sharing levels, linked from the DOD AKN Portal)

1200 (60 min) — Lunch Break

1300 (120 min) — Local Presentations

- Local bird survey efforts at Camp Edwards
- Camp Edwards Overview (PDF (DoD_AKN_CampEdwardsOverviewandBirds.pdf)) AKN Bird ID Presentation
- Common Birds at Camp Edwards (PDF (AKN Bird ID Presentation.pdf))

1500 (30 min) — Introduction to field exercise and logistics for Wednesday

- Field Exercise and Data Entry (Part 1)
  - Introduction to field protocol and datasheets
  - Volunteers with Avenza can upload maps

1530 (30 min) — Day 1 Wrap-up

- Plus, Delta
- Setting the stage for Wednesday

1600 — Adjourn

Wednesday, August 20

All times Eastern Daylight (EDT)

0800 (30 min) — Meet at the classroom

- Divide up into groups for each transect, hand out field forms as needed
- Bring clipboards, pencils, binoculars, and a timer (e.g., your phone or watch).

0830 (3 hrs) — Point Count and Area Search surveys in small groups

- See "Field Exercise and Data Entry" for an example filled out field form.

1130 (120 min) — Data entry and lunch

- Field Exercise and Data Entry (Part 2)
  - Upload Sampling Units
  - Enter data

1330 (30 min) — Day 2 Wrap-up

- Plus, Delta
- Setting the stage for Thursday

1400 (120 min) — Office Hours

1600 — Adjourn

Thursday,August 21

All times Eastern Daylight (EDT)

0800 (40 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?
- Data sharing levels and the AKN tools that use them.
- Data ownership guidelines/policies and agreements.

0840 (60 min) — Discovering observation data

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

- (DEMONSTRATION of R.A.I.L. Tool (https://www.dodakn.org/manage-data/#make-decisions) for exploringavian species regionally, linked from the DOD AKN Portal)
- 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://www.dodakn.org/manage-data/#discover-data) for downloading Level 5 data from the Warehouse, linked from the DOD AKN Portal)

0940 (15 min) — BREAK

0955 (35 min) — Looking for trends

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

- Looking at data in Analyst (DEMONSTRATION of Analysts (https://www.dodakn.org/manage-data/#explore-data) for data review, linked via DOD AKN Portal)
- EXERCISE 5: Using the Analyst and Observations Map (PDF (Exercise5-ExploreSpeciesAndTrendsWithDataCatalogAndObservationsMap.pdf))

1030 (60 min) — DOD AKN Update

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

1130 (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://www.dodakn.org/manage-data/#get-data-in))
- Creating a new researcher (DEMONSTRATION in ProjectLeaders (https://www.dodakn.org/manage-data/#get-data-in))

1145 (30 min) — Wrap-up, Pluses and Deltas

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

- Pluses and Deltas
- Parking lot review
- Reminder of office hours
- Final questions

1215 (60 min) — Lunch/Adjourn

You are free to leave at this time if you are not signed up for office hours after lunch.

1315 (2 hrs) — Office Hours

1515 — Adjourn