



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

DoW Army AKN Virtual Training, February 24 & 26, 2026

Agenda

All times Pacific Standard Time (PST)

Tuesday, February 24

All times Pacific Standard Time (PST)

0900 (65 min) — Welcome, Introductions, and the Avian Data Lifecycle

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

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

1005 (40 min) — AKN Project Data 101: project database, programs, protocols, and sampling units

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?
- What is a Protocol?
- 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)
- What are Sampling Units?

1045 (60 min) — AKN Project Data 101: Sampling Units and Researchers

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

- EXERCISE 1: Creating the Point Count sampling unit hierarchy (PDF (Exercise1-CreateSamplingUnits.pdf))
- 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)
- What are 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)

1145 (35 min) — AKN Project Data 101: 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)

1220 (30 min) — AKN Project Data 101: 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))

1250 (10 min) — Day 1 Wrap-up

1300 — Adjourn

Thursday, February 26

All times Pacific Standard Time (PST)

0900 (5 min) — Day 2 Introduction

0905 (5 min) — Editing Observation Data

0910 (20 min) — 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)

0930 (25 min) — AKN Warehouse Data 101

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

- What is a Data Warehouse?
- Case Study: USFS Region 8
- 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)

0955 (5 min) — Data Ownership, Sharing, and Contractors

1000 (30 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 exploring avian species regionally, linked from the DOD AKN Portal)
- EXERCISE 4: Create a species list with RAIL Tool (PDF ([Exercise4-CreateSpeciesListWithRAILTool.pdf](#)))

1030 (10 min) — BREAK

1040 (50 min) — Looking for trends

We will explore solving some of the specific problems that are faced by DoW 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: ADALO

1130 (10 min) — Avian Data Life Cycle Round up

1140 (60 min) — DoW AKN Program Overview

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

- DoW AKN Program Overview
- AKN Tools and Resources

- Case Study: Colonial Waterbird

1240 (10 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>))

1250 (10 min) — Wrap-up, Pluses and Deltas

Day 2 review.

- Plus/Delta (PDF (PlusDelta.pdf))
- Final questions

1300 — Adjourn