



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

DoW AKN Air Force Virtual Training, June 9 & 11, 2026

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Agenda

All times Pacific Standard Time (PST)

Tuesday, June 9

All times Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

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 (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/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 (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/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 (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Exercise3-BulkLoadingSamplingUnits.pdf>))

1250 (10 min) — Day 1 Wrap-up

1300 — Adjourn

Thursday, June 11

All times Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

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 (40 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 (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Exercise4-CreateSpeciesListWithRAILTool.pdf>))

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 (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/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

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- 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 (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/PlusDelta.pdf>))
- Final questions

1300 — Adjourn

Exercises

- PRINTABLE PACKET: (ALL EXERCISES (https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/DoWAKN_ExercisePacket.pdf))
- EXERCISE 1: Create sampling units for point count (PDF (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Exercise1-CreateSamplingUnits.pdf>))
- EXERCISE 2: Enter point count observations (PDF (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Exercise2-EnterPointCountObservations.pdf>))
- EXERCISE 3: Bulk loading sampling locations (PDF (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Exercise3-BulkLoadingSamplingUnits.pdf>))
- EXERCISE 4: Create a species list with RAIL Tool (PDF (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Exercise4-CreateSpeciesListWithRAILTool.pdf>))
- EXERCISE 5: Using the Observations Map and Analyst (PDF (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Exercise5-ExploreSpeciesAndTrendsWithObservationsMapandAnalyst.pdf>))
- Exercise 5 Answer Key (PDF (https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Exercise5_Answers.pdf))

Extra credit:

- EXERCISE A: Download sampling units (PDF (https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/ExerciseAExtra-Credit_DownloadSamplingUnits.pdf))
- EXERCISE B: Create and use area search sampling units (PDF (https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/ExerciseBExtraCredit_SpeciesChecklistsAndAreaSearch.pdf))
- EXERCISE C: Using the protocol search tool (PDF (https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/ExerciseCExtraCredit_UsingTheProtocolSearchTool.pdf))
- EXERCISE D: Setting data sharing levels (PDF (https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/ExerciseDExtraCredit_SettingDataSharingLevels.pdf))
- EXERCISE E: Comparing data downloads (PDF (https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/ExerciseEExtraCredit_ComparingDataDownloads.pdf))

Slides

Slides

- Workshop slides (PDF (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/WorkshopSlides.pdf>))

Resources

This page contains helpful resources for after training, such as field data sheets, overview videos, and additional ways to get help

Helpful Documents

- Registering for an AKN account How to register in AKN for DoD (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/RegisteringInAKNSystem-PointBlueScienceCloud-ForDoD.docx>)
- Point Count Survey data sheet PDF (https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/PointCountForm_Simplified.pdf)
- Species Checklist data sheet PDF (https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/SpeciesChecklistgeneric_no_breeding_codes.pdf)
- Area Search data sheet PDF (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/AreaSearchForm.pdf>)
- Demo data sheet PDF (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/DemoDataForm.pdf>)
- Plus/Delta exercise PDF (<https://www.dodakn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/PlusDelta.pdf>)

Post-training support

- Office Hours sign-up here (<https://www.dodakn.org/office-hours-booking-page/>)
- Need technical support with the tools? Send an email to support@pointbluehelp.zendesk.com to submit a ticket. Please include your installation/project, what tool you are using, and any error messages or screenshots that would help!
- Have a DoW-specific question about your project? Email Liz and Zoe at dodakn@erdc.dren.mil

Videos

- Overview of Point Blue Science Cloud (<https://youtu.be/nVwawFpocz4>)
- Protocols in Point Blue Science Cloud (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJ7rYE9w_98)
- Researchers in Point Blue Science Cloud (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zv1I1zqruSM>)
- Sampling Units in Point Blue Science Cloud (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4GdWI0rVbg>)
- How to Register for the Point Blue Science Cloud (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0JY7Zo9ddk>)



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