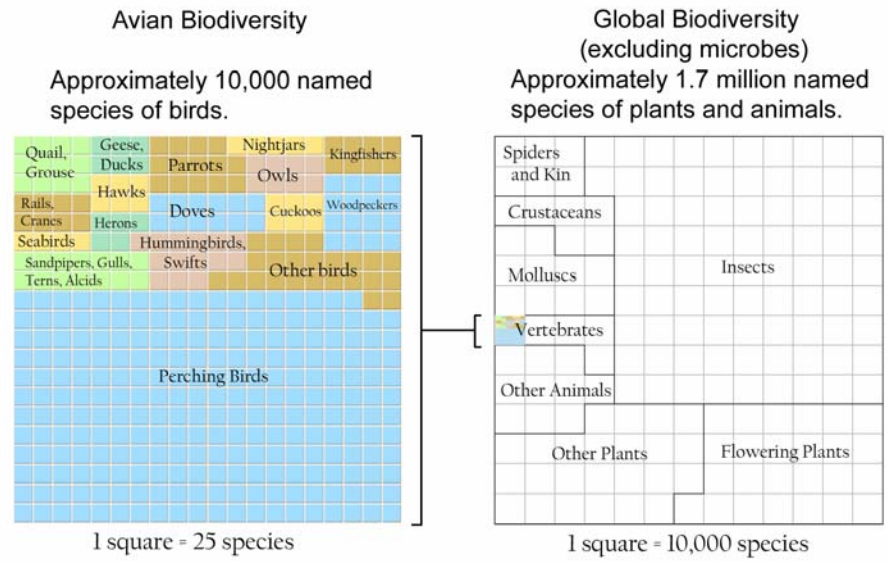
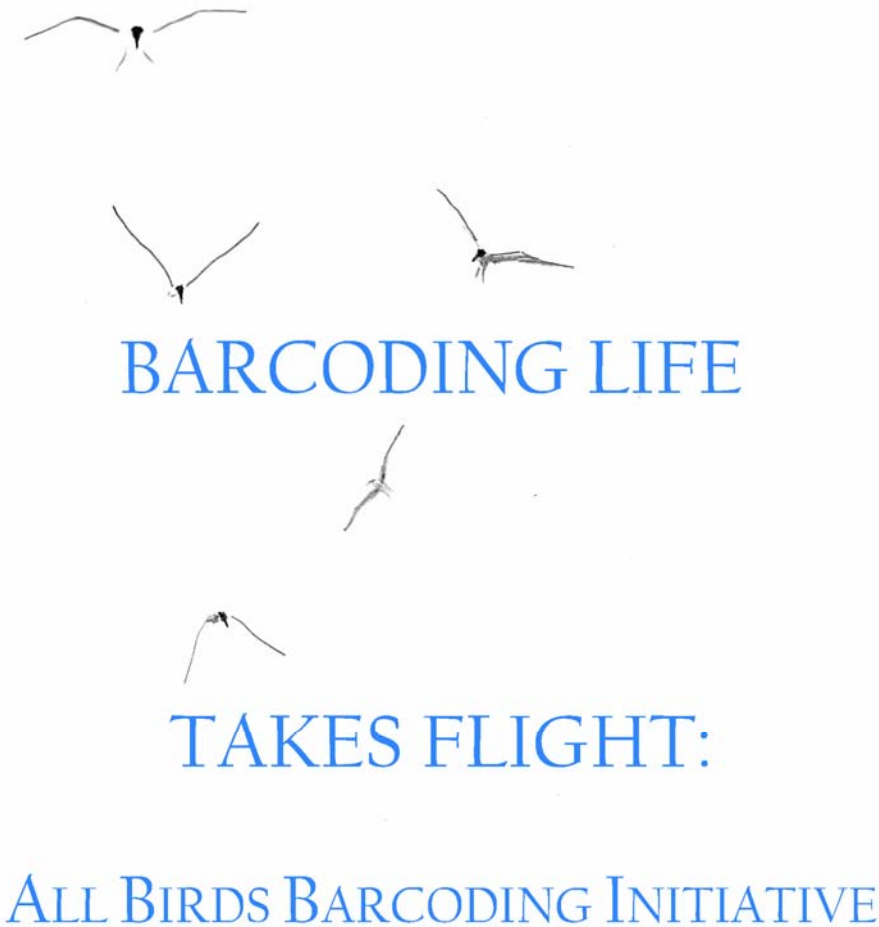


**The All Birds Barcoding Initiative (ABBI)** aims to establish a public archive of DNA barcodes for all birds, approximately 10,000 species, by 2010. Beginning with Darwin's finches, avian study has led to powerful insights into evolution, speciation, and population biology. Because species limits are better understood in birds than in any other large group of animals, birds are an ideal group for exploring the efficacy of barcodes. **ABBI** will help identify possible limitations to barcoding, such as emerging species or those that hybridize regularly. As a global avian survey, **ABBI** will likely contribute to the recognition of many new bird species.

**ABBI** is a flagship project of the **Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL)**, an international initiative devoted to developing DNA barcoding. **ABBI** was launched at the First International Conference on Barcoding Life, held at The Natural History Museum, London, 7-9 February 2005.



**NEEDS AND RESOURCES STATEMENT**  
Mark Stoeckle, The Rockefeller University  
v2.0 11 August, 2005



**CONSORTIUM FOR THE BARCODE OF LIFE (CBOL)** is an international alliance of natural history museums, herbaria, zoos, botanical gardens; research organizations devoted to biodiversity, conservation, bioinformatics, and genetics; government agencies, NGOs and private sector companies.

**CBOL's** mission is to develop the potential of DNA barcoding as a practical tool for species identification in taxonomic research, biodiversity studies and conservation, and in diverse applications that use taxonomic information in service to science and society. For more information, see <http://barcoding.si.edu/>.

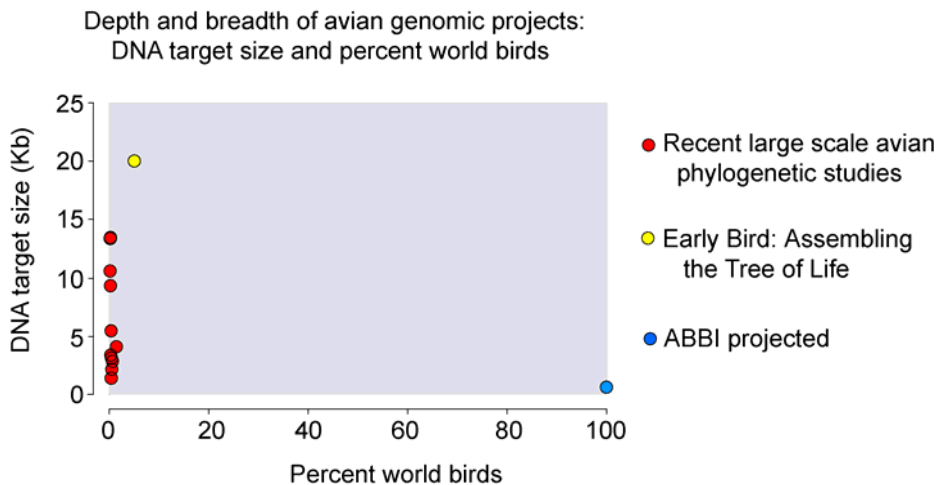
A comprehensive library of avian barcodes linked to identified specimens will be an enduring resource for ornithologists, ecologists, public health officials, and the interested public. DNA barcoding can be applied equally to intact specimens, single feathers collected from live birds in banding or customs operations, or fragments of birds involved in aircraft collisions, for example.



Photos courtesy Carla Dove

According to the FAA, avian strikes cost civil aviation an estimated \$1.2 billion annually, including \$500 million in damage to aircraft and 500,000 hours of civil aircraft downtime. Identification of bird species involved in airstrikes enables targeted interventions that reduce presence of these species near airfields and helps manufacturers improve aircraft design.

**ABBI** is one of the first “broad and shallow” explorations of the genomic landscape of biodiversity. The enormous data set of sequences and associated specimen information will be of interest to those studying evolution, population biology, and biodiversity, as well as to avian experts. **ABBI** will help drive development of efficient strategies for processing tissue specimens from a variety of sources. It is anticipated that about 50,000 specimens will be analyzed, representing an average of five for each of 10,000 species.



## What does ABBI need to do and what resources are available to accomplish the goal of barcoding all bird species by 2010?

### Need 1. Establish list of target species.

**Resources:** Several recent expert taxonomic compilations of world birds are available. Establishing the target list will enable ABBI to distribute tasks, track progress, and avoid duplication of effort. The reference list can be updated regularly and shared online.

Checklists of World Birds	Updated
Monroe and Sibley 1993. Checklist of World Birds.	1993
Wells 1998. World Bird Species Checklist	1998
Dickinson 2003. Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World, 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition.	2003
Clements 2000. Birds of the World: A Checklist, 5 <sup>th</sup> edition	2005
Zoological Nomenclature Resource for World Birds ( www.zoonomen.net)	2005

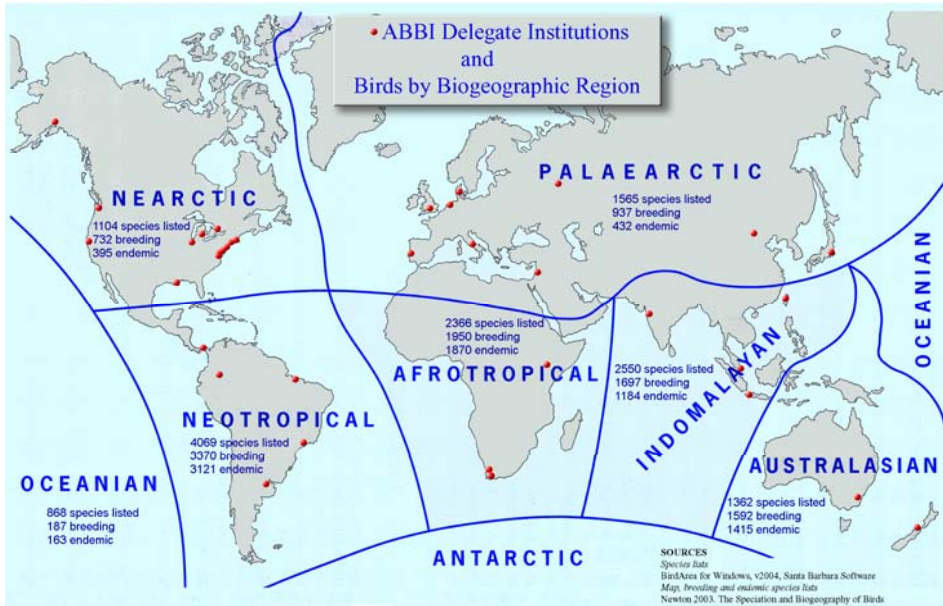
### Need 2. Locate specimens.

**Resources:** A compilation of avian tissue collections prepared for ABBI shows that at least half of the world’s bird species are already represented in tissue collections. Expanding and regularly updating this list will enable efficient organization of barcoding efforts and help determine if and when museum skins need to be sampled or new collecting is needed.

Collection	Tissue specimens	Species represented
Australian Museum	1,433	308
Burke Museum	21,699	1817
Field Museum	20,485	2056
Indonesian Museum	861	211
Louisiana State University	34,766	3282
Museo Argentino	376	99
Museum of Comparative Zoology	1,582	286
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology	8,900	432
Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences	13,000	1937
Smithsonian Institution	20,000	1709
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute	9,033	716
Zoological Museum of Copenhagen	24,000	2409
<b>Totals</b>	<b>156,135</b>	<b>5,765</b>

### Need 3. Establish organizational framework.

**Resources:** Organization by biogeographic region, with regional teams and team leaders will enable ABBI to accomplish its goals efficiently.



### Need 4. Establish sampling strategies within species.

**Resources:** Results so far show barcode differences within bird species are much smaller than between species, and overlaps between species are uncommon. Thus for most species a small sample of specimens can be used to establish diagnostic barcodes. More detailed sampling may be needed in some cases, particularly for wide-ranging species, species that hybridize regularly, closely related sister species, and those with well-marked subspecies or geographic variation. Experts in avian taxonomy and population biology will help establish scientific sampling strategies that reliably capture differences within and among species.

### Need 5. Identify permit issues.

**Resources:** Analysis of museum specimens is governed by a host of regulations, both within institutions and by governments, often with multiple agencies involved. In some cases it is not possible to transport specimens. Regional ABBI leaders can help determine the best fastest and least expensive strategy for processing specimens. Outreach efforts to institutions and regulatory agencies in advance of specimen requests and providing support for collections may help speed the process.

### Need 6. Steer specimens to sequencing facilities.

**Resources:** Sequencing facilities are available in many localities. The most efficient strategy will likely combine centralized sequencing at high-throughput centers and more local analysis of specimens where permitting limits sample movement. Efficient processing of specimens requires close communication between collection and sequencing facility personnel so that possible problems, such as mislabeling of specimens or inability to amplify DNA, are quickly detected and corrected.

### Need 7. Establish a shared software platform and standards for data submission and access.

**Resources:** The Barcode of Life Database (BoLD) offers a software platform that could be used for assembling, integrating, tracking, and analyzing the data. Shared access among ABBI researchers as the database is populated will help speed the project along. BoLD is directly linked to GenBank, providing a stable, permanent home for barcode data. Strict data standards for barcode records have already been established by CBOL and GenBank, including a requirement that each record be linked to a voucher specimen and validated species name.

the animal kingdom  
**Barcode of Life**

Identify Animal | Project Management | Database Query

Manage Users | Review Projects |

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT - Birds of North America [TZBNA]**

Options	Project Data	Select	Start Date: 2003-07-11	Sequences/Specimens			
Submit Specimens	Download	<input type="checkbox"/>		438/438			
Upload Sequences							
Modify Project Properties							
<b>Analysis (selected items)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identification	<input type="checkbox"/> Specimen ID	<input type="checkbox"/> Sequence ID	<input type="checkbox"/> Sequence Length	<input type="checkbox"/> Properties	<input type="checkbox"/> Common Name	<input type="checkbox"/> B
Sequence Composition	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1B-3244	TZBNA241-03	692	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cooper's Hawk	UC
Distance Summary (Fast)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1B-3685	TZBNA288-03	652	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cooper's Hawk	UC
Distance Summary (Full)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1B-3306	TZBNA297-03	668	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Goshawk	UC
Taxon ID Tree	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1B-3677	TZBNA293-03	694	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Goshawk	UC
Amino Acid Tree	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	1B-3242	TZBNA238-03	693	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sharp-shinned Hawk	UC
Taxon Congruence (tree)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	SVN 844	TZBNA027-03	691	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Myna	UC
Taxon Congruence (dist)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	SVN 850	TZBNA018-03	692	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Myna	UC
Compare Images	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Artibeus marularia</i>	1CC 1RR1	TZBNA131-	692	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotted	UC
Distribution Map							

Barcode of Life Database (BoLD) can provide an accessible repository for analyzing and tracking ABBI data.

### Need 8. Identify funding strategies.

**Resources:** The project will be widely distributed and can therefore seek funding from a variety of sources. The high visibility of birds suggests that support from individual donors and private foundations can make a major contribution. Regulatory agencies involved in airline safety, wildlife

management, trade in endangered species, or public health authorities interested in control of West Nile virus in avian reservoirs, for example, may be interested in supporting the project. Finding ways to lower unit costs and including support for collections that provide specimens will help the project succeed. High volume sequencing centers can analyze tissue specimens for approximately \$5/specimen, suggesting a unit cost of \$10/specimen is feasible. Costs may be substantially greater in low volume centers, for analysis of dried specimens, or where new collecting is needed. Where new specimens are needed, efforts can be made to utilize ongoing collecting operations.

#### **Need 9. Publication strategy.**

**Resources:** ABBI is expected to be a high profile research project because it will likely suggest the presence of many new species of birds and is the first large-scale exploration of the fine structure of genomic biodiversity. At least three types of publications are envisioned: All Birds by geographic area (e.g. All Birds of Oceania), All Birds by taxonomic category (e.g. All Woodpeckers), and analytic studies that focus on nucleotide and protein sequence data independent of avian biology. These papers can be submitted as the effort moves along. In addition, ABBI can plan a multi-author All Birds paper to be published in a major scientific journal in 2010. Exploring publication strategy at the outset will help guide collaborations.

#### **Need 10. Timeline.**

**Resources:** Tangible, realistic goals of barcodes compiled by region and taxon will provide concrete evidence of progress, help attract public interest, and recruit private and public support.

### **Sources**

#### *Avian and Global Biodiversity*

Clements J. 2000. *Birds of the World: A Checklist*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. 867 pp. Ibis Publishing Company.

Tudge C. 2000. *The Variety of Life*. 684pp. Oxford University Press.

#### *Large-scale avian genomic projects*

Edwards SV, Jennings WB, and Shedlock AM. 2005. Phylogenetics of modern birds in the era of genomics. *Proc Royal Soc London B* 272: 979–992.

#### *Avian biogeography*

Bird Area for Windows, version 2004. Santa Barbara Software.

Newton I. 2003. *The Speciation and Biogeography of Birds*. 668 pp. Academic Press.

### **Additional information**

**Ten Reasons for Barcoding Life** are described in a brief illustrated brochure (<http://phe.rockefeller.edu/barcode/docs/TenReasonsBarcoding.pdf>)

**Barcoding Life, Illustrated** outlines the goals, rationale, and results so far of this new technology for biodiversity science ([http://phe.rockefeller.edu/PDF\\_FILES/BLIllustrated26jan04print%20v1-3.pdf](http://phe.rockefeller.edu/PDF_FILES/BLIllustrated26jan04print%20v1-3.pdf).)

More information on DNA barcoding is available at <http://barcoding.si.edu> (CBOL), <http://www.barcodinglife.org/> (University of Guelph), and <http://phe.rockefeller.edu/BarcodeConference/> (The Rockefeller University).