



***The Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative supported by EMAN
and NABIN is linked to The Species Analyst by the
Miistakis Institute for the Rockies***

Large scale bird conservation planning, such as that conducted under NABCI and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, requires a substantial amount of occurrence data to 'truth' planning efforts. Such data is available from breeding bird surveys and Christmas bird counts but can also be derived from historical sources.

Given advances in bioinformatics, such data can be simultaneously routed from distributed repositories and routed through customized portals to meet various decision-making needs. The Miistakis Institute for the Rockies has developed a prototype portal focussing on Birds of the Canadian Rockies, in consultation with NABCI, Y2Y, EMAN and NABIN partners. The result is a map-based data display system that answers specific questions about species distributions and habitat requirements.

A general example of the use of the prototype could be; a bird expert could have a theory about the habitat range of a species. The hypothesis would be rejected or accepted based on the current (real time) distribution and habitat type that the prototype provides on a mapping interface. A conservation plan would then be developed/altered based on this information.

The prototype is being developed simultaneously to a Canadian Wildlife Service equivalent focussing on seabirds and toxicology. The results will inform other proposed portals on environmental assessment, invasives, species at risk and ecological monitoring being discussed at the EMAN National Meeting in April, 2002.