Developing a Centralized Digital Archive of Vouchered Animal Communication Signals (VACS)

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Primary Institutions

- Macaulay Library, Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates
- Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science
- University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute
- Texas Natural Science Center, University of Texas
- California Academy of Sciences

Secondary Institutions

- American Museum of Natural History
- Peabody Museum, Yale University
- Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History
- Zoologisk Museum, Københavns Universitet
- Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi

TCN: Vouchered Animal Communication Signals

TCN Goals:

• Digitize and make accessible animal communication signals associated with physical voucher specimens

• Establish direct and transparent links across collections between physical voucher specimens and digitized recordings

TCN Research Theme:

Understanding the tempo and mode of animal signal evolution

Paramormyrops - Ivindo R.

P. *"teugelsi"*

P. *"tenuicauda"*

P. *"SN9"*

P. *hopkinsi*

P. *longicaudatus*

P. *curvifrons*

P. *gabonensis*

P. *"szaboi"*
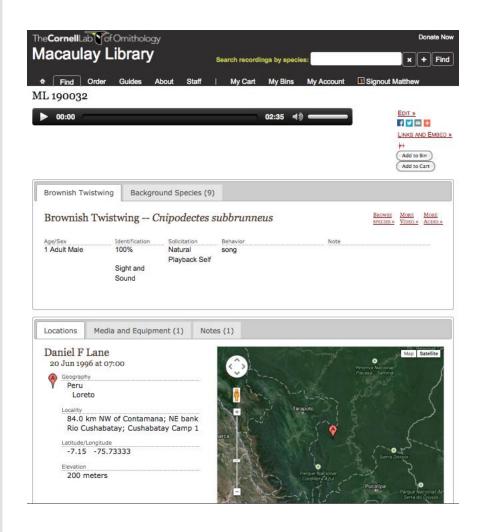
P. *"magnostipes" I*

P. *"magnostypes" II*
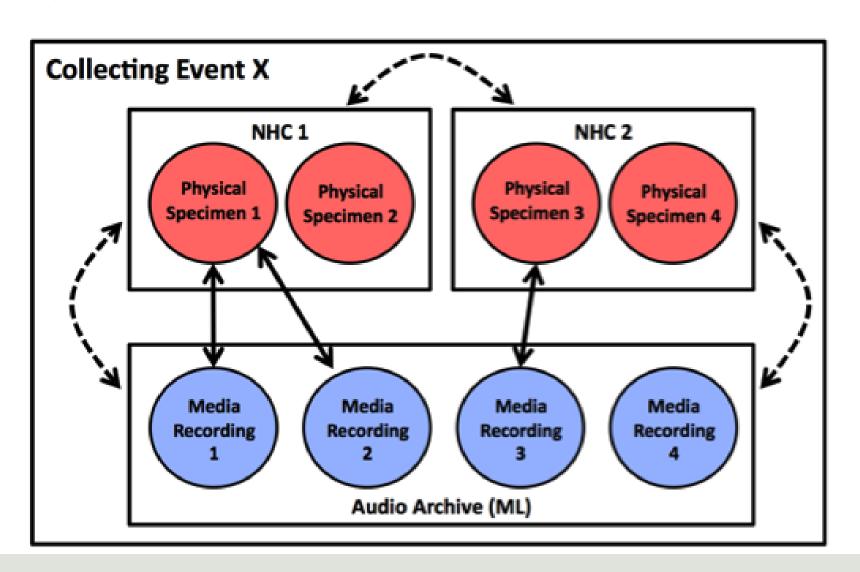
P. *kingsleyae*

P. *"vadamans"*

Goal #1: Digitize Media & Make Accessible

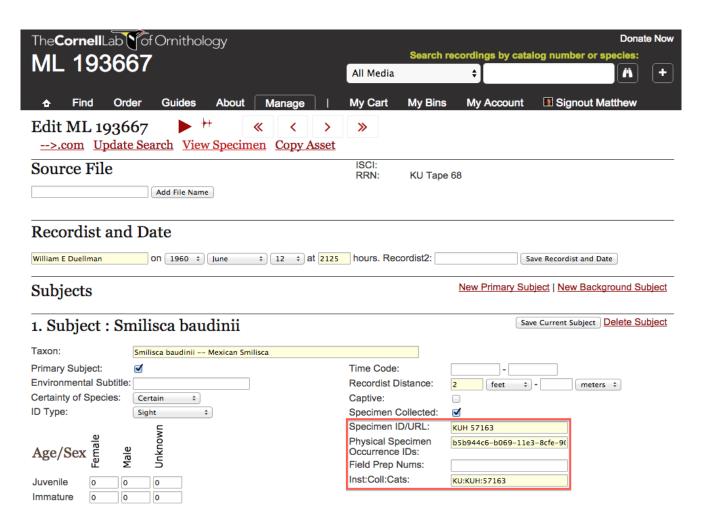| Institution	Total Archived Recordings
Univ. of Kansas	10,750
Cal Academy	3,200
Smithsonian	2,000
LSU	1,400
TNHC	1,200
Yale	1,000
Total	19,550

Goal #2: Establish Links Across Collections

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Data Management, Access, and Use

- Seven TCN partner datasets have been published to iDigBio, totaling more than 1.1 million data records

- MP3 proxies of all archived audio recordings are playable via the ML web site and the iDigBio data portal

- Higher-resolution WAV sound files are available free to researchers via the ML web site

- Nearly 6,000 recordings made by TCN recordist-collectors have already been delivered via the ML web site

Network Management

- Organized and hosted major workshop and meeting on the digitization of vertebrate specimens

- Workshop participation from 70 staff/researchers from museums and other institutions across U.S.

- Individual communication with partner institutions during audio digitization and archival process

- Future TCN-wide communication efforts to ensure full linkages between collections

Next Steps

• Continue with digitization and archival work at ML

• Apply the successful collection linkage process, including data publishing, to specimens at additional partner institutions