

Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Workshop on Intelligent Systems: A Festschrift for Richard Volz , TAMU, College Station, TX

# Collaborative Observation of Natural Environments (CONE)



Dezhen Song  
Texas A&M University



Smithsonian

Microsoft

Panasonic

intel.

## Thanks to:

Ni Qin, Yiliang Xu, Chang Young Kim, Ji Zhang TAMU

Ken Goldberg, UC Berkeley

Ron Rohrbach, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

John Fitzpatrick, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

David Luneau, U Arkansas

John Rappole, Smithsonian

Selma Glasscock, Welder Wildlife Foundation

National Science Foundation

The Nature Conservancy

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Arkansas Electric Cooperative

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge

# outline

- networked telerobots and project cone
- automated observation: ivory billed woodpecker
- engaging citizen scientists: bird range change in south texas

**YOU HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!**

# **FLASH-MATIC TUNING** BY ZENITH

**ONLY ZENITH HAS IT!**



A flash of magic light from across the room  
(no wires, no cords) turns set on, off, or changes  
channels...and you remain in your easy chair!



**YOU CAN ALSO SHUT OFF LONG,**

**ANNOYING COMMERCIALS**

**WHILE PICTURE REMAINS ON SCREEN!**



With a beam of magic light

this Zenith "flash tuner"

works TV miracles!

**Absolutely harmless to humans!**

Here is a truly amazing new television development—and only Zenith has it! Just think! Without budging from your easy chair you can turn your new Zenith Flash-Matic set *on*, *off*, or *change channels*. You can even *shut off annoying commercials* while the picture remains

on the screen. Just a flash of light does it. There are no wires or cords. This is not an accessory. It is a built-in part of several new 1956 Zenith television receivers.

Stop at your Zenith dealer's soon. Zenith-quality television begins as low as \$149.95.\*

***If it's new...it's from Zenith!***

**YOU HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT**

\*Manufacturer's suggested retail price. Slightly higher in Far West and South.

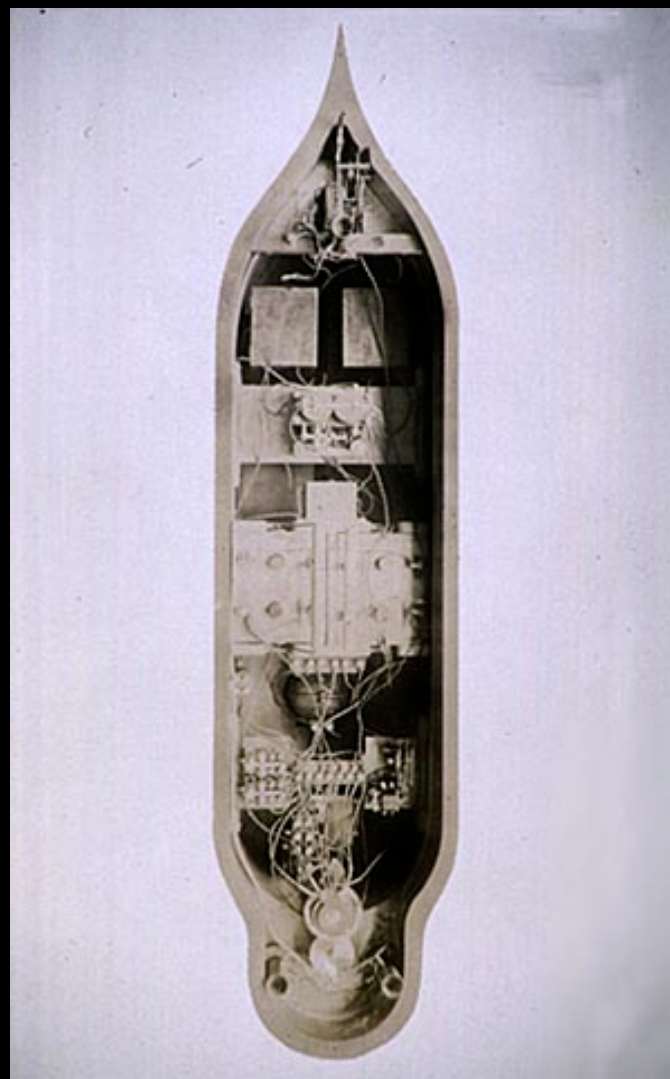
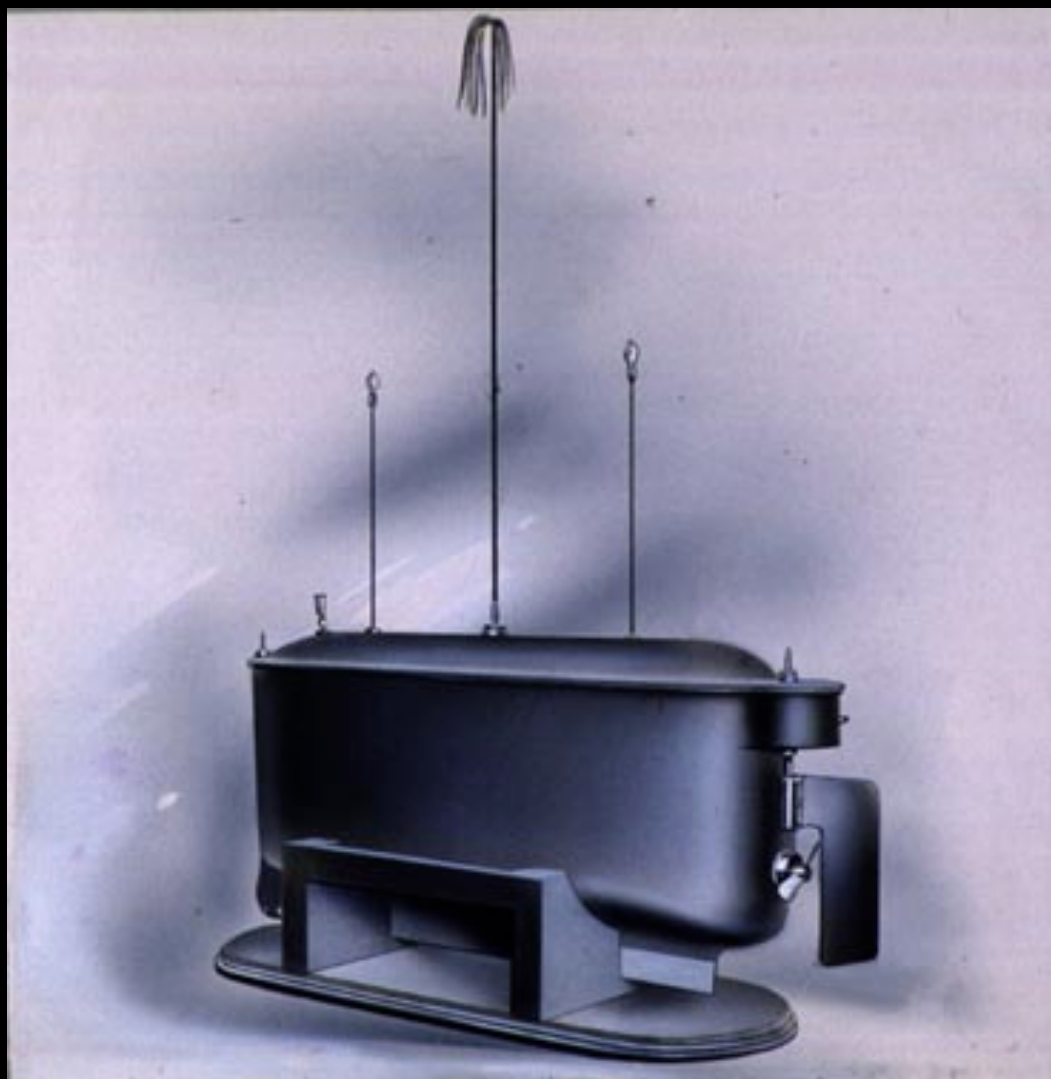
*The Bismarck (Model X2264EQ). 21". Flash-Matic Tuning, Cinébeam®, Ciné-Lens. Blond grained finish cabinet on casters. Also in mahogany color (X2264RQ). As low as \$399.95.\**

## **ZENITH**

**The royalty of TELEVISION and radio**

Backed by 36 years of leadership  
in radionics exclusively

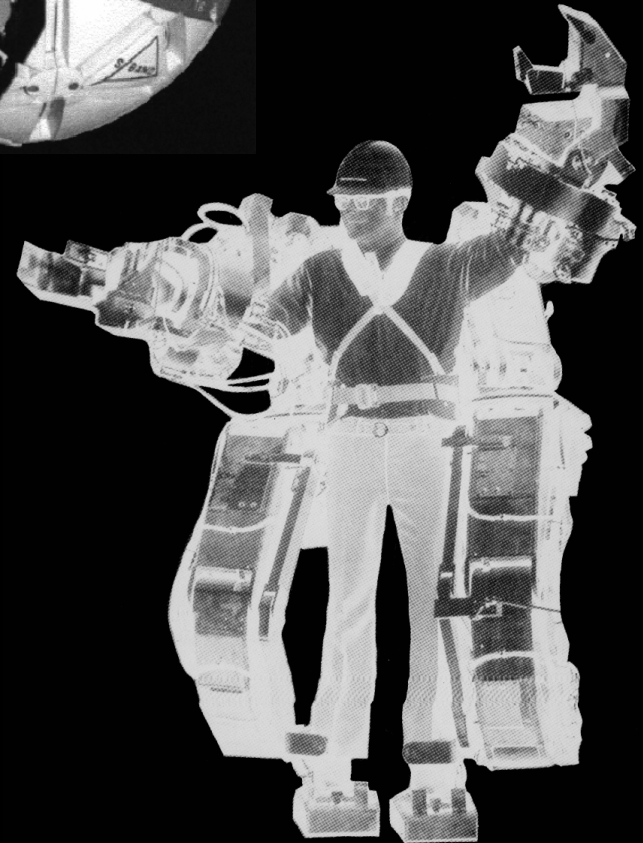
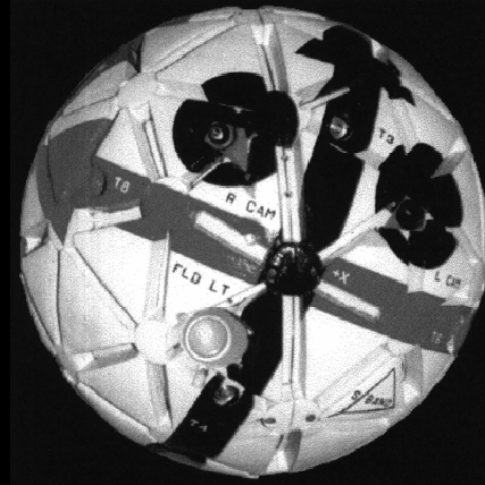
ALSO MAKERS OF FINE HEARING AIDS  
Zenith Radio Corporation, Chicago 39, Ill.



nikola tesla (1898)

# teleoperation: related work

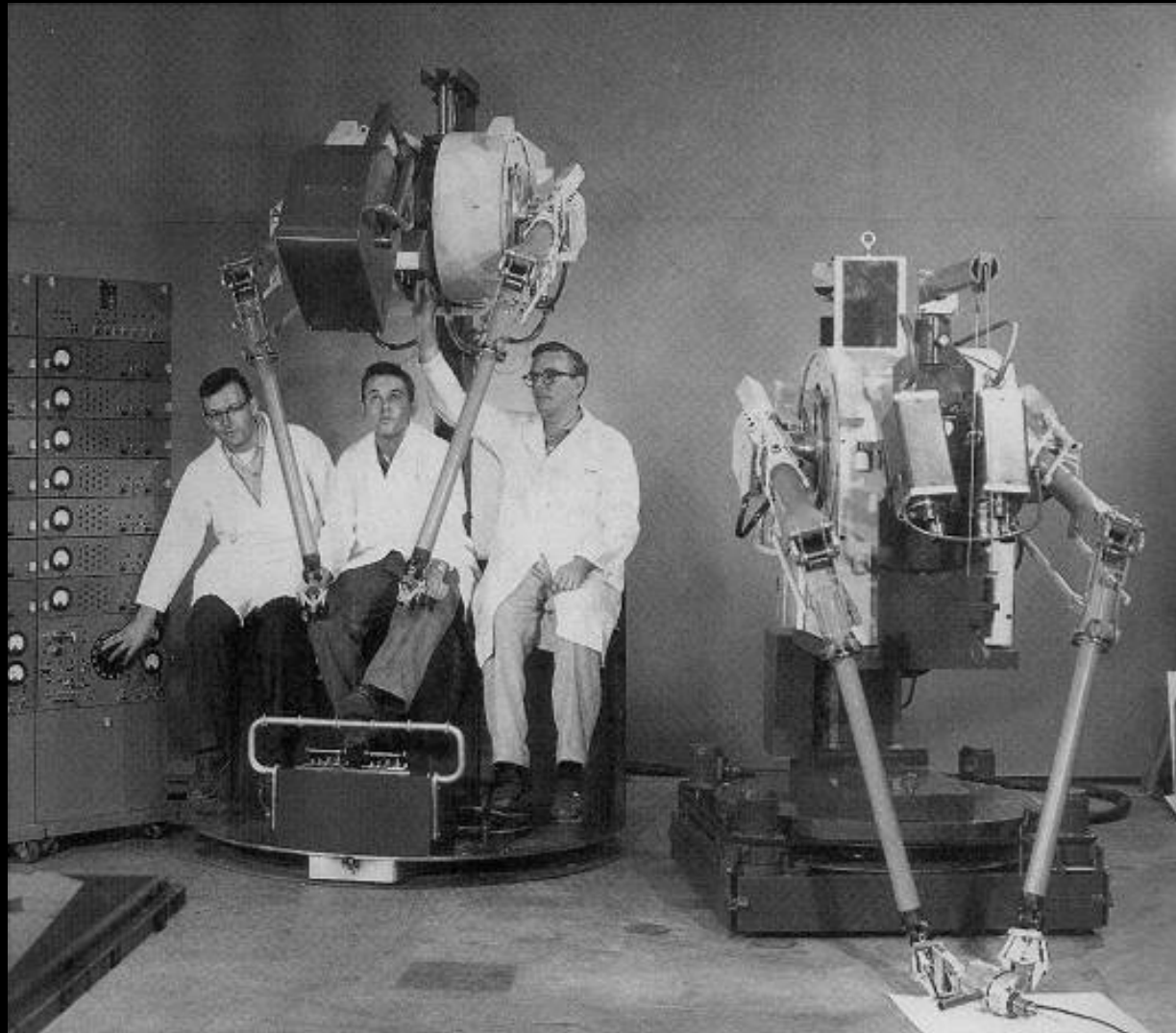
- Tesla, 1898
- Goertz, '54
- Mosher, '64
- Tomovic, '69
- Salisbury, Bejczy, '85
- Ballard, '86
- Volz, '87-
- Sheridan, '92
- Sato, '94
- Goldberg, '94-
- Presence Journal '92-
- O. Khatib, et al. '96





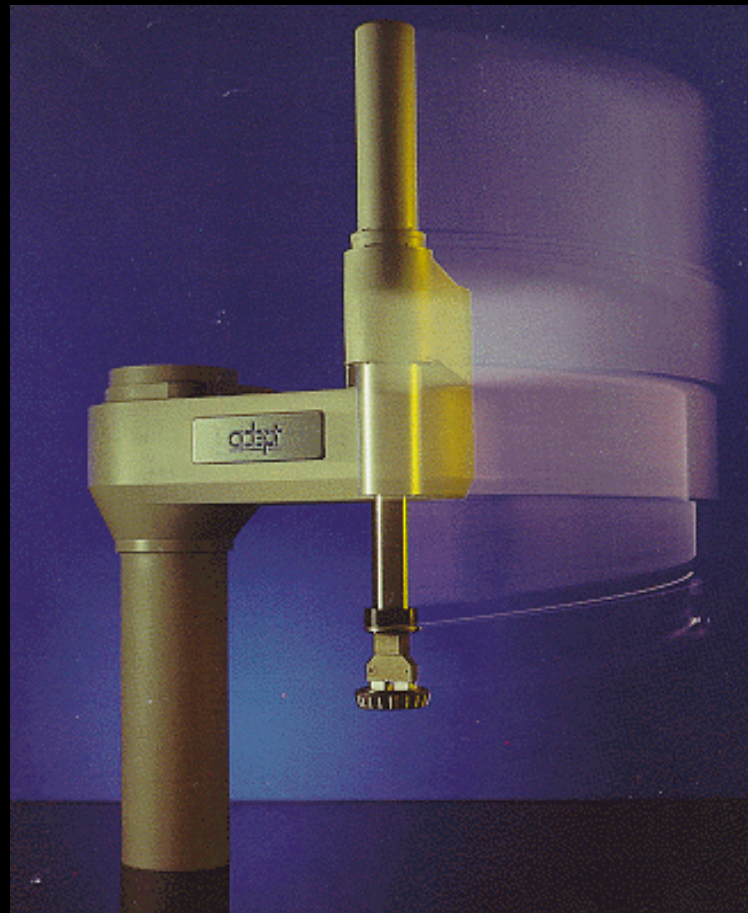
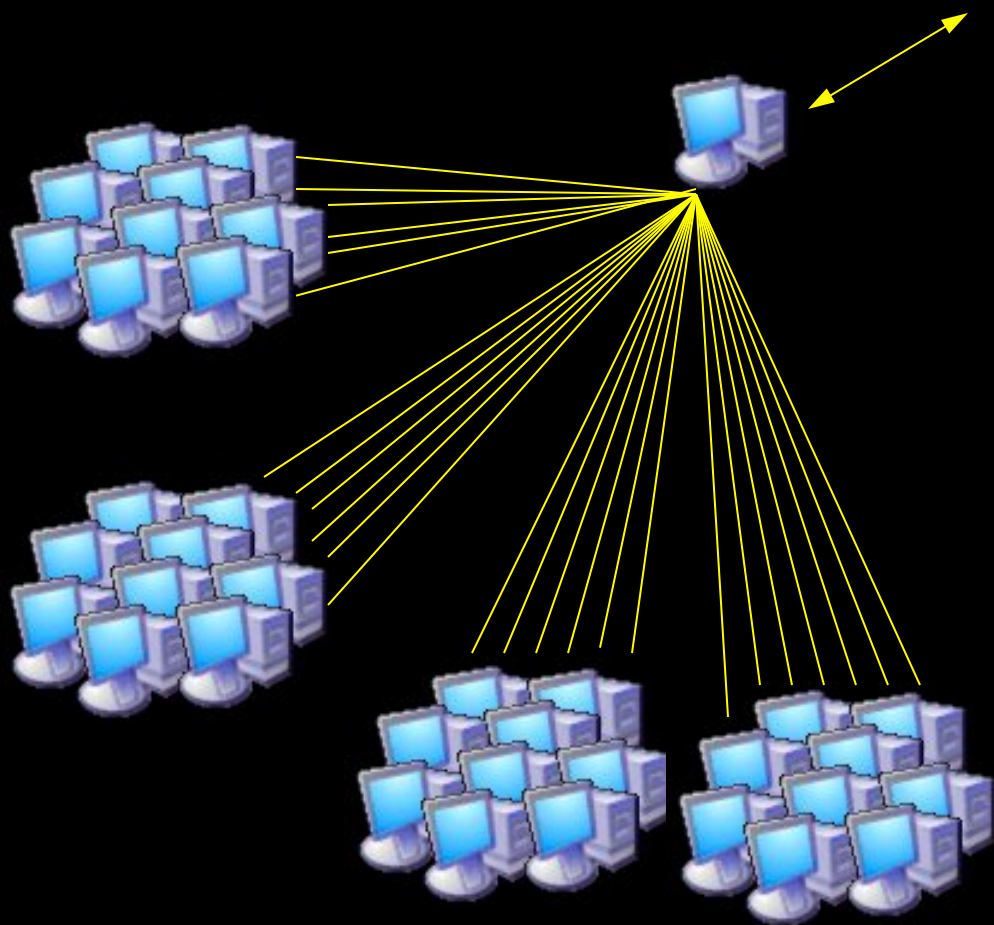




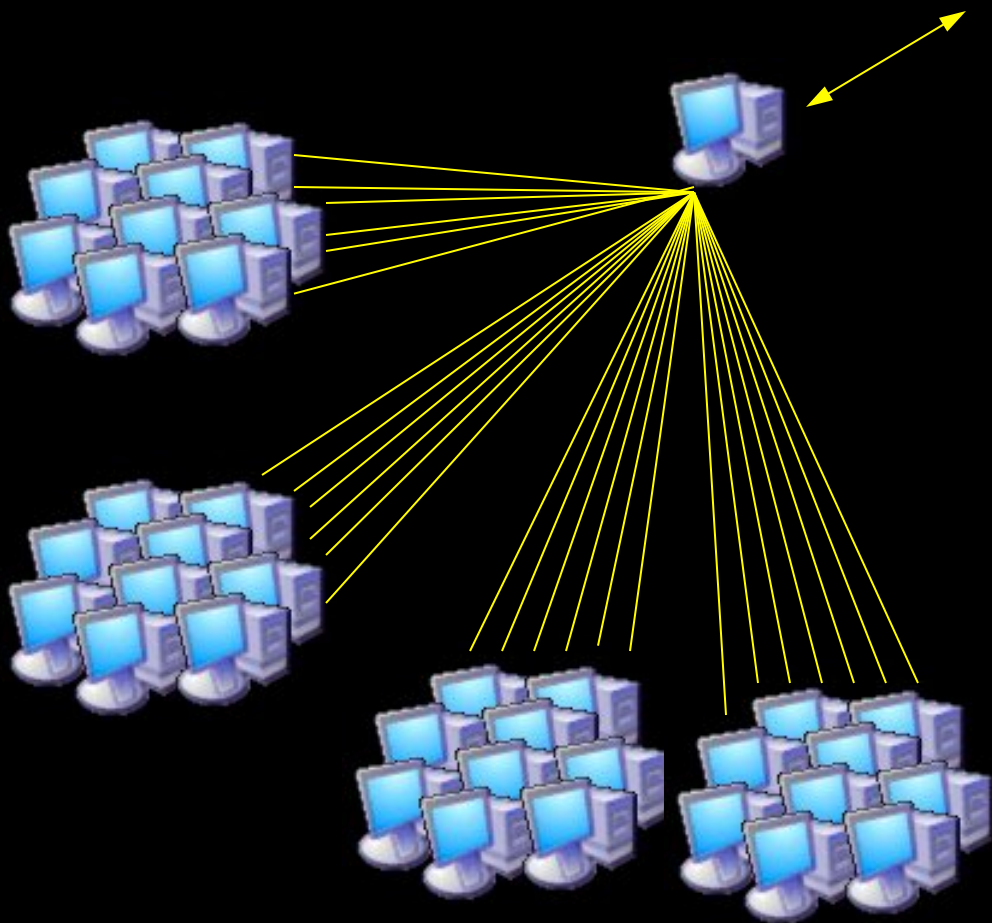


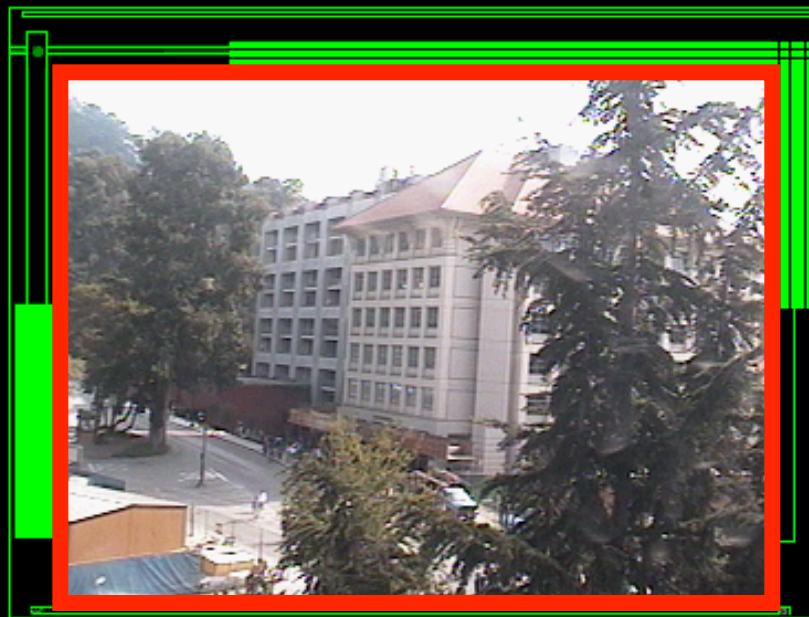
collaborative control

# networked telerobots



# networked robotic camera

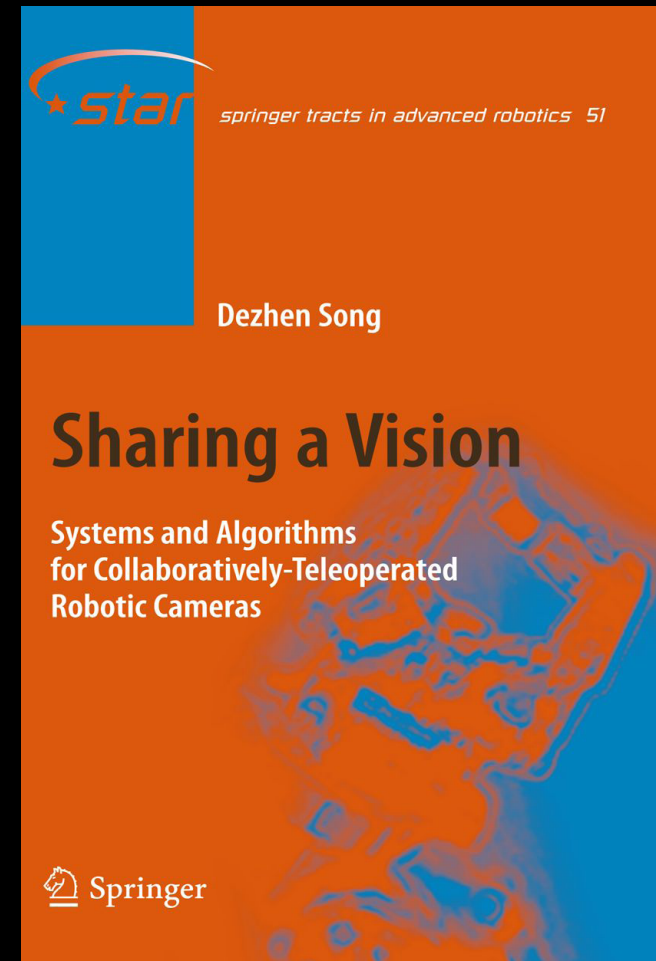




Frame Selection Problem: Given  $n$  requests, find optimal frame

# frame selection algorithms

| Processing  | Zoom     | Type   | Complexity  |
|-------------|----------|--------|---|
| Centralized | Discrete | Exact  | $O(n^2)$  |
| Centralized | Discrete | Approx | $O(nk \log(nk))$ ,<br>$k=(\log(1/\epsilon)/\epsilon)^2$ |
| Centralized | Contin.  | Exact  | $O(n^3)$  |
| Centralized | Contin.  | Approx | $O((n + 1/\epsilon^3) \log^2 n)$                        |
| Distributed | Discrete | Exact  | Server: $O(n)$ ,<br>Client: $O(n)$                      |
| Distributed | Contin.  | Approx | Server: $O(n)$ ,<br>Client $O(1/\epsilon^3)$            |
| p-Frame     | Discrete | Approx | $O(n/\epsilon^3 + p^2/\epsilon^6)$                      |



biological observation is  
arduous, expensive, dangerous, lonely



cone

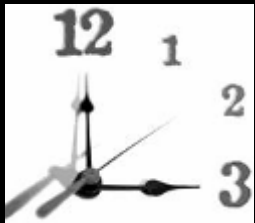


Sensor  
Network

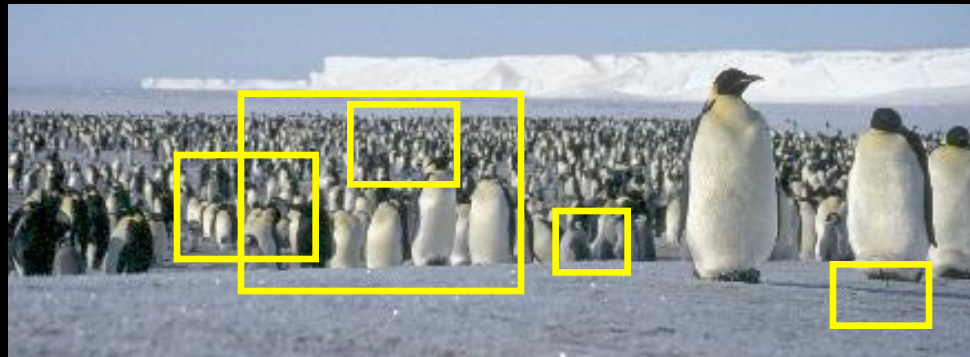


Biologists

Collaborative frame selection:



Periodic Checks



Motion Sensors



Students



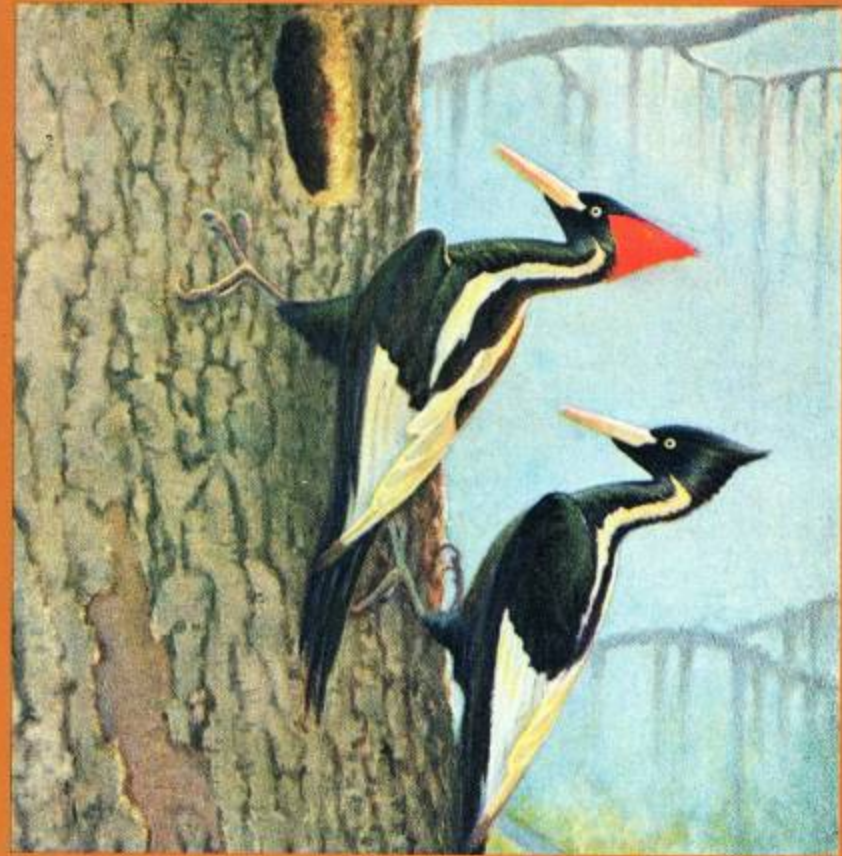
# outline

- networked telerobots and project cone
- automated observation: ivory billed woodpecker
- engaging citizen scientists: bird range change in south texas





\$2.00



# The Ivory-billed Woodpecker

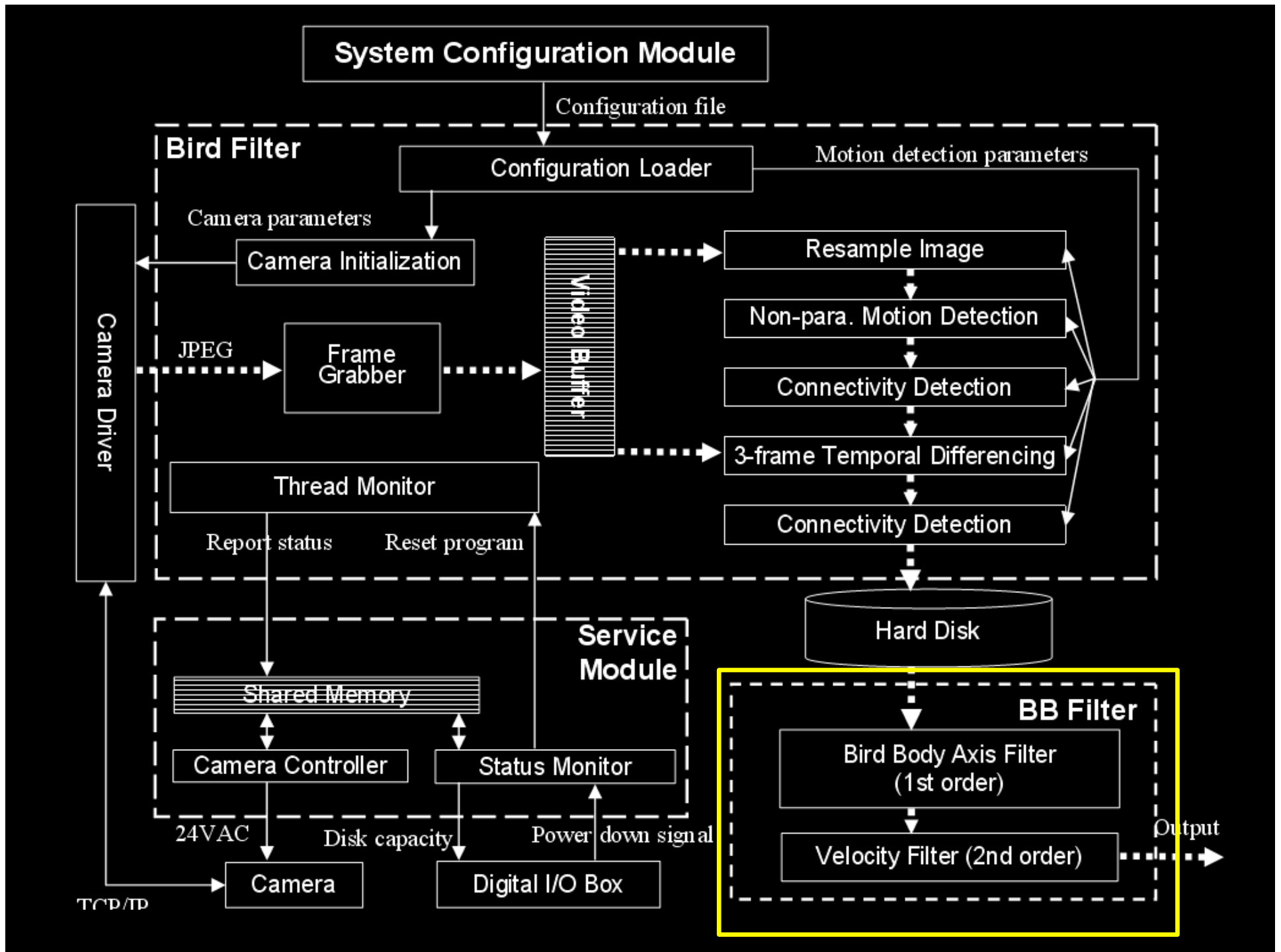
by James T. Tanner











# Detecting Rare Birds

- Low occurrence (e.g., <10 times per year)
- Short duration (e.g., < 1 sec. in FOV)
- Huge video data for human identification.
- Setup and maintenance in remote environments.



# Design Goals

- Accuracy
  - low false negative
- Data reduction
  - filtering the targeted bird
- Easy to setup and maintain
  - monocular vision system





# Natural cameras

- Crittercam
- DeerCam
- Africa web cams at the Tembe Elephant part
- Tiger web cams
- James Reserve Wildlife Observatory
- Crane Cam
- Swan Cam



# Related Work

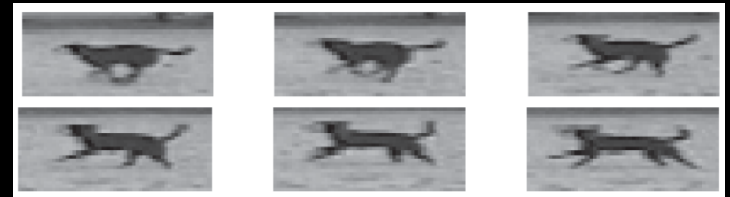
- Motion detection and tracking

- Elgammal, Grimson, Isard ...



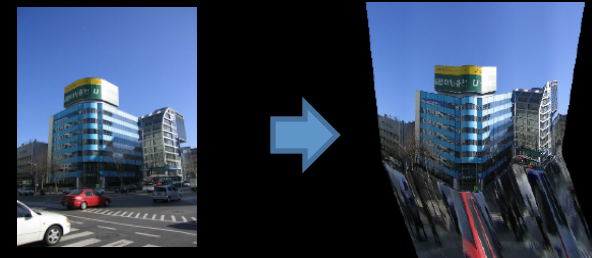
- Periodic motion detection

- Culter, Ran, Briassouli ...



- 3D inference using monocular vision

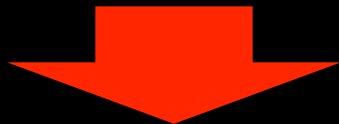
- Ribnick, Hoiem, Saxena ...



# Related Work

- Kalman Filter
  - SLAM, tracking, recognition ...
  - Convergence

- ample observation data
- manageable noise



- less than 11 data points
- significant image noise



# Bird detection problem

- Input

- targeted bird body length  $l_b$  and speed range  $\mathcal{V} = [v_{\min}, v_{\max}]$ .
- a sequence of  $n$  images containing a moving object

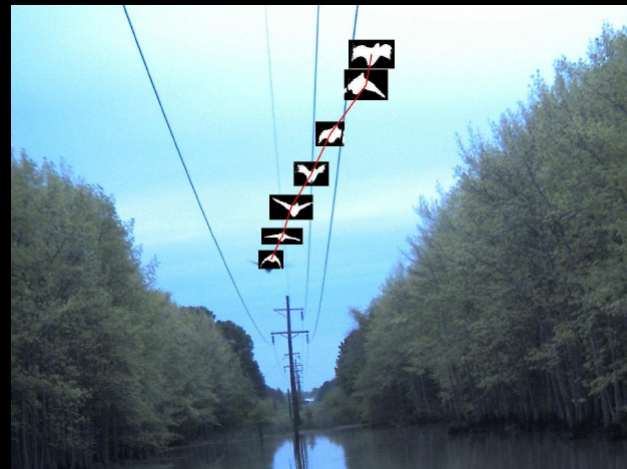


- Output

- to determine if the object is a bird of targeted species

# Assumptions

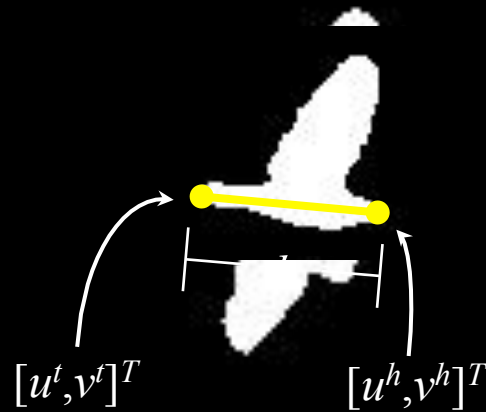
- Static monocular camera
  - High resolution
  - Narrow FOV
- Single bird in FOV
  - Motion segmentation
- Constant bird velocity
  - High flying speed
  - Narrow camera FOV



# Conjecture 1: Invariant body length



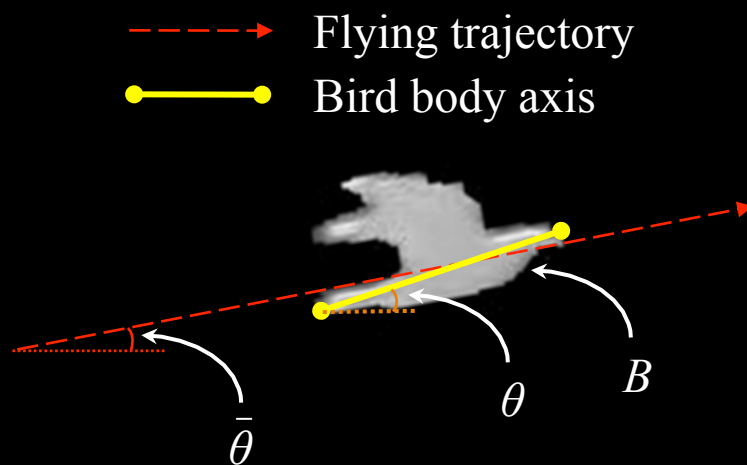
# Conjecture 1: Invariant body length



$$\mathbf{z} = [u^h, v^h, u^t, v^t]^T \text{ (observation)}$$

# Bird Body Axis Filtering

- Conjecture 2: Body axis orientation close to tangent line of trajectory



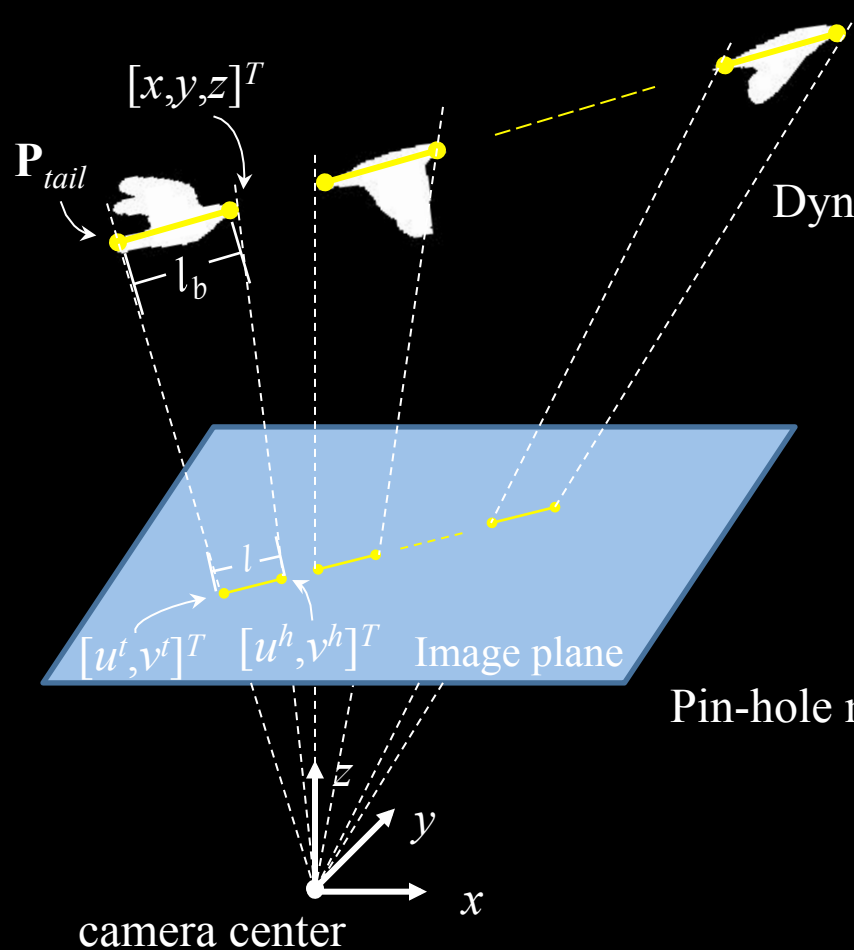
Difference between  $\theta$  and  $\bar{\theta}$  on 61 bird sequences:

$$\mu_b = 0.8^\circ; \quad \sigma_b = 8.3^\circ$$

$$z = \operatorname{argmax}_{\substack{(u^h, v^h) \in B \\ (u^t, v^t) \in B}} l, \text{ s.t. } \theta \in [\bar{\theta} - 2\sigma_b, \bar{\theta} + 2\sigma_b]$$



# Modeling A Flying Bird



$$\mathbf{p} = [x, y, z]^T \quad \mathbf{v} = [\dot{x}, \dot{y}, \dot{z}]^T$$

Dynamics:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{p}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{v}} \end{bmatrix} = [\dot{x}, \dot{y}, \dot{z}, 0, 0, 0]^T = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

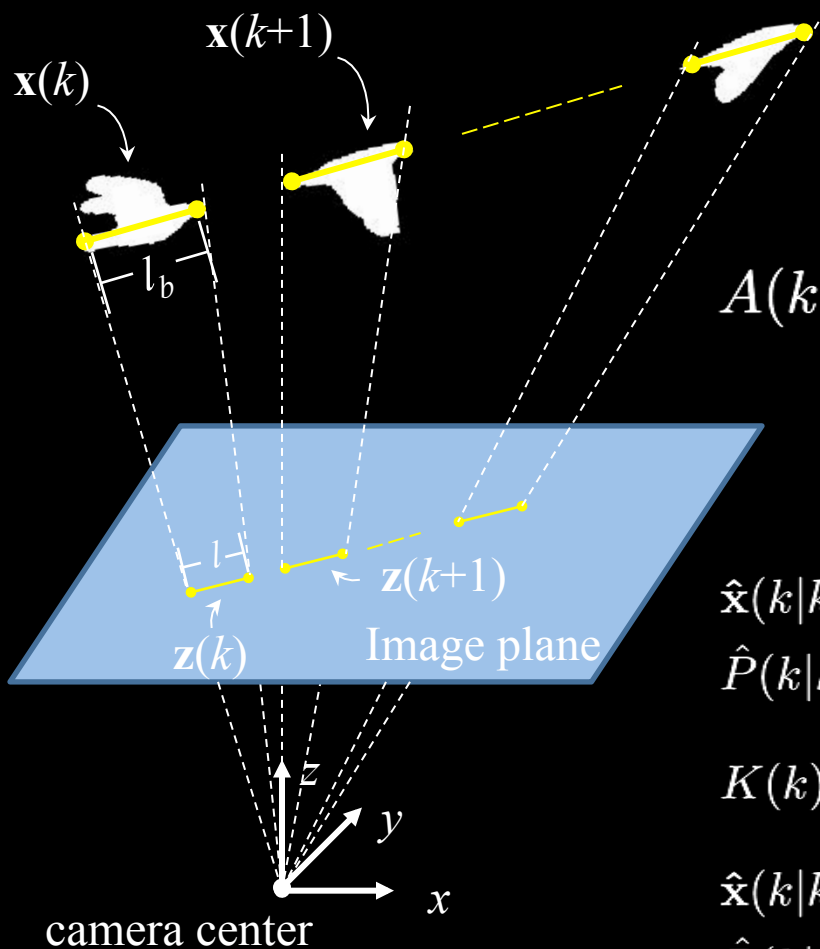
Tail:  $\mathbf{P}_{tail} = [x^t, y^t, z^t]^T = \begin{bmatrix} x - \dot{x}l_b / \|\mathbf{v}\| \\ y - \dot{y}l_b / \|\mathbf{v}\| \\ z - \dot{z}l_b / \|\mathbf{v}\| \end{bmatrix}$

Pin-hole model:

$$\mathbf{z} = \begin{bmatrix} fx/z \\ fy/z \\ fx^t/z^t \\ fy^t/z^t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} fx/z \\ fy/z \\ f \frac{x\|\mathbf{v}\| - l_b\dot{x}}{z\|\mathbf{v}\| - l_b\dot{z}} \\ f \frac{y\|\mathbf{v}\| - l_b\dot{y}}{z\|\mathbf{v}\| - l_b\dot{z}} \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{w}$$

$$:= h(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{w}$$

# Extended Kalman Filter



$$\mathbf{x}(k+1) = A(k+1)\mathbf{x}(k) + \mathbf{q}(k),$$

$$\mathbf{z}(k) = h(\mathbf{x}(k)) + \mathbf{w}(k),$$

$$A(k+1) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{3 \times 3} & \Delta T(k+1|k)\mathbf{I}_{3 \times 3} \\ \mathbf{0}_{3 \times 3} & \mathbf{I}_{3 \times 3} \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}(k|k-1) = A(k)\hat{\mathbf{x}}(k-1|k-1),$$

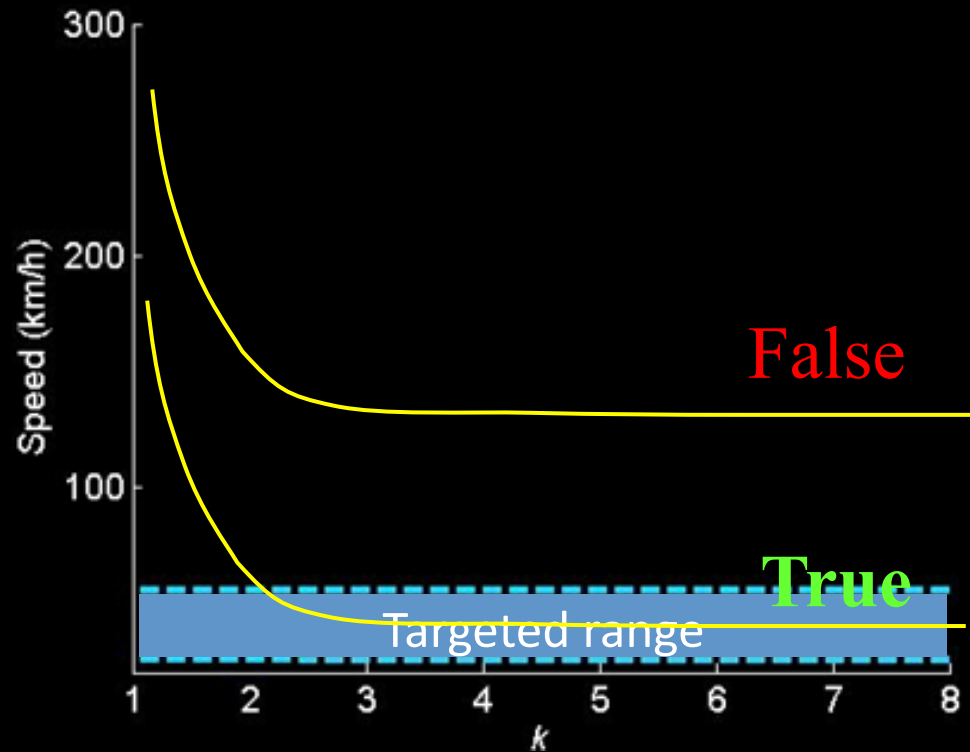
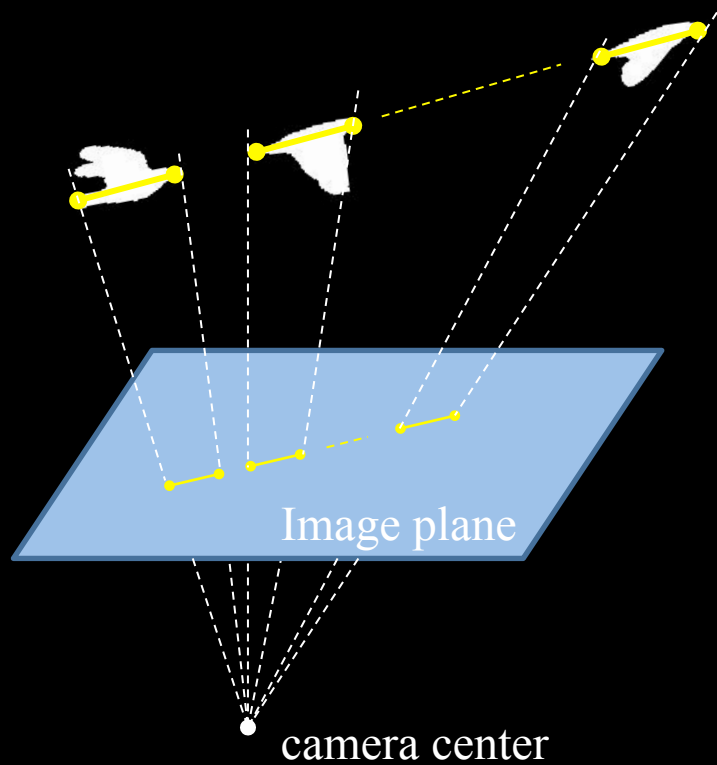
$$\hat{P}(k|k-1) = A(k)\hat{P}(k-1|k-1)A^T(k) + Q(k),$$

$$K(k) = \frac{\hat{P}(k|k-1)H^T(k)}{H(k)\hat{P}(k|k-1)H^T(k) + W(k)},$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}(k|k) = \hat{\mathbf{x}}(k|k-1) + K(k)(\mathbf{z}(k) - h(\hat{\mathbf{x}}(k|k-1))),$$

$$\hat{P}(k|k) = (\mathbf{I}_{6 \times 6} - K(k)H(k))\hat{P}(k|k-1),$$

# Determine Species for Noise-free Cases



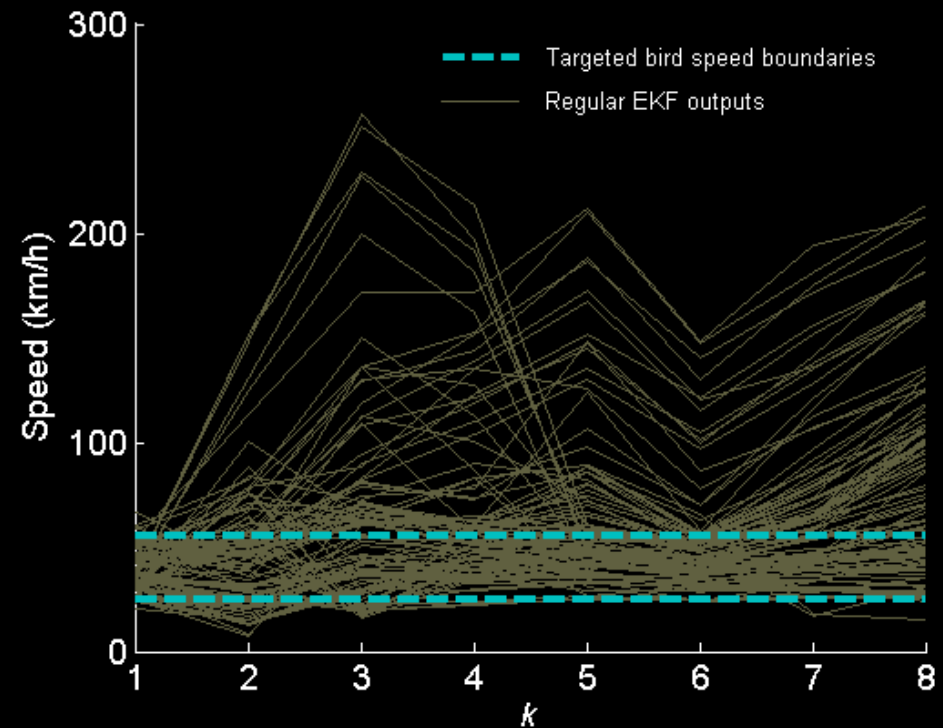
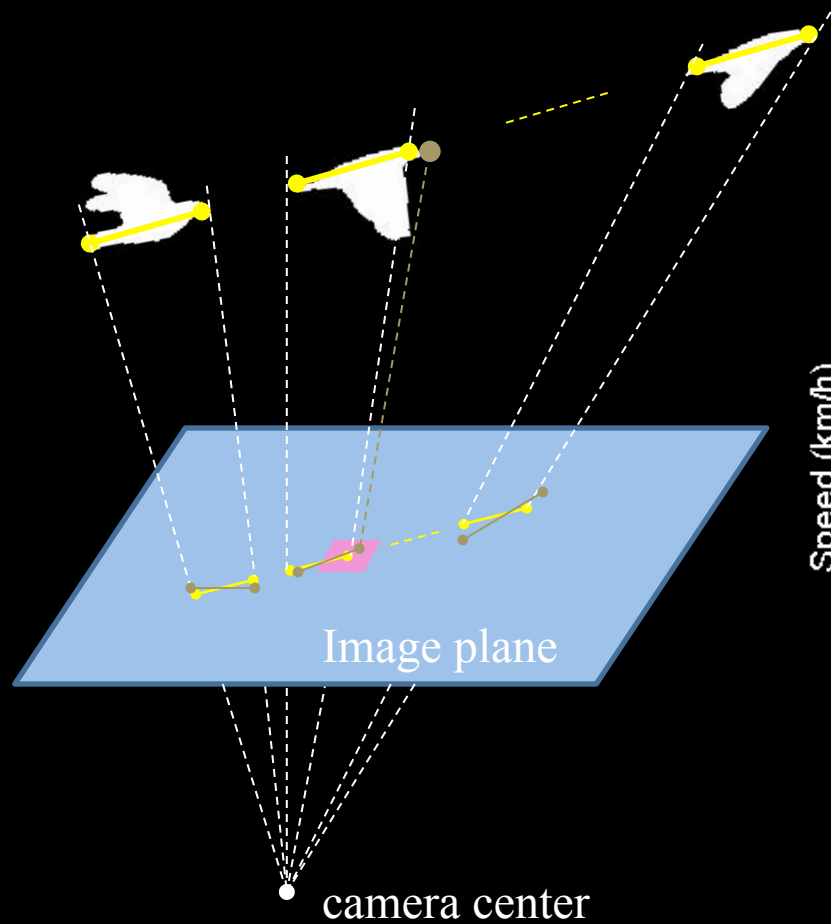
# EKF Convergence Metrics

EKF converges  $\iff \|\hat{\mathbf{v}}(k|k) - \hat{\mathbf{v}}(k-1|k-1)\| \rightarrow 0$

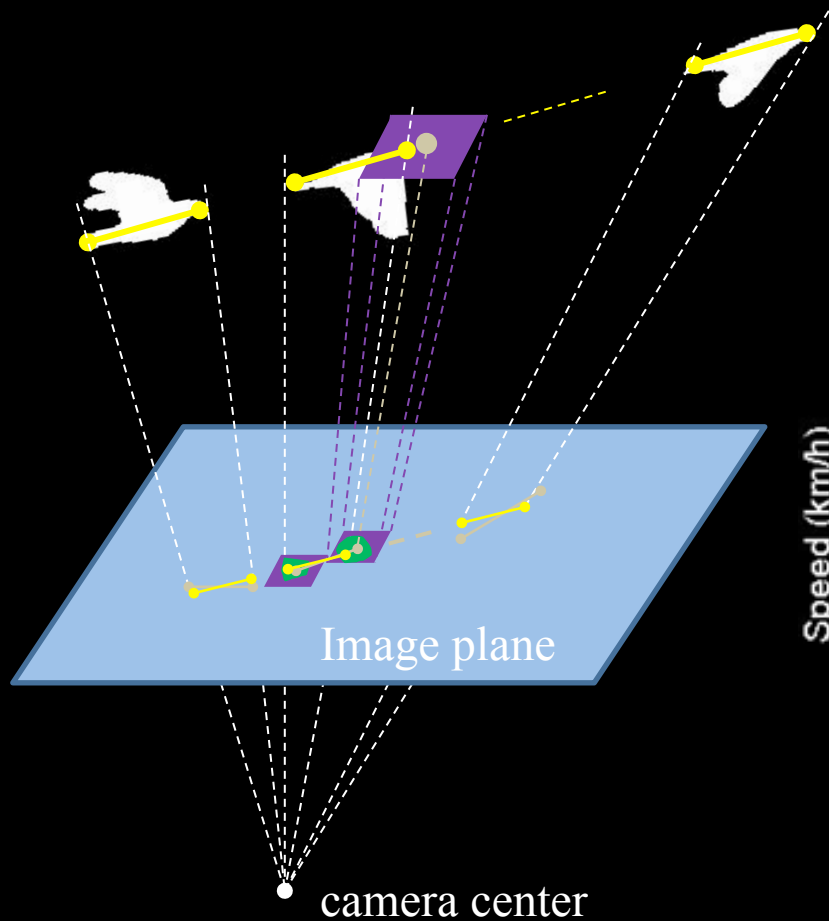
$$\varepsilon(\mathbf{X}^{1:n}) = \sum_{k=2}^n \omega(k) \|\hat{\mathbf{v}}(k|k) - \hat{\mathbf{v}}(k-1|k-1)\|$$

$$\omega(k) = E \left( \frac{\|\hat{\mathbf{v}}\|}{\|\hat{\mathbf{v}}(k|k) - \hat{\mathbf{v}}(k-1|k-1)\|} \right)$$

# Estimation with Observation Noises



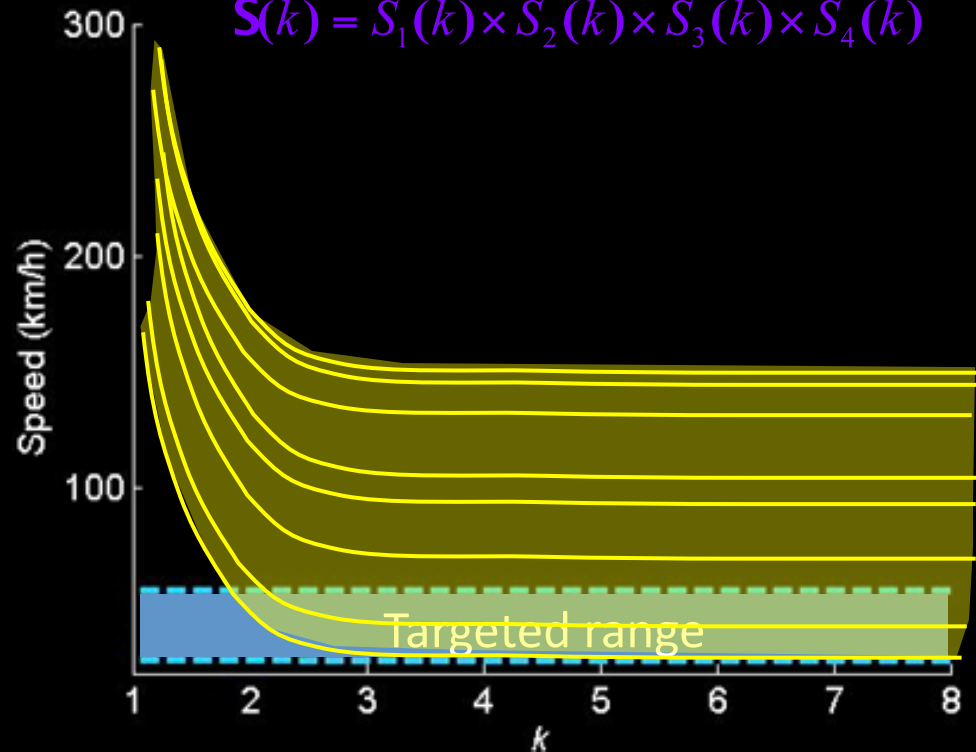
# Probable Observation Data Set (PODS)



$$S_1(k) = [u^h(k) \pm \tau] \quad S_2(k) = [v^h(k) \pm \tau]$$

$$S_3(k) = [u^l(k) \pm \tau] \quad S_4(k) = [v^l(k) \pm \tau]$$

$$\mathcal{S}(k) = S_1(k) \times S_2(k) \times S_3(k) \times S_4(k)$$



$$\varepsilon(\mathbf{X}^{1:n}) < \delta$$

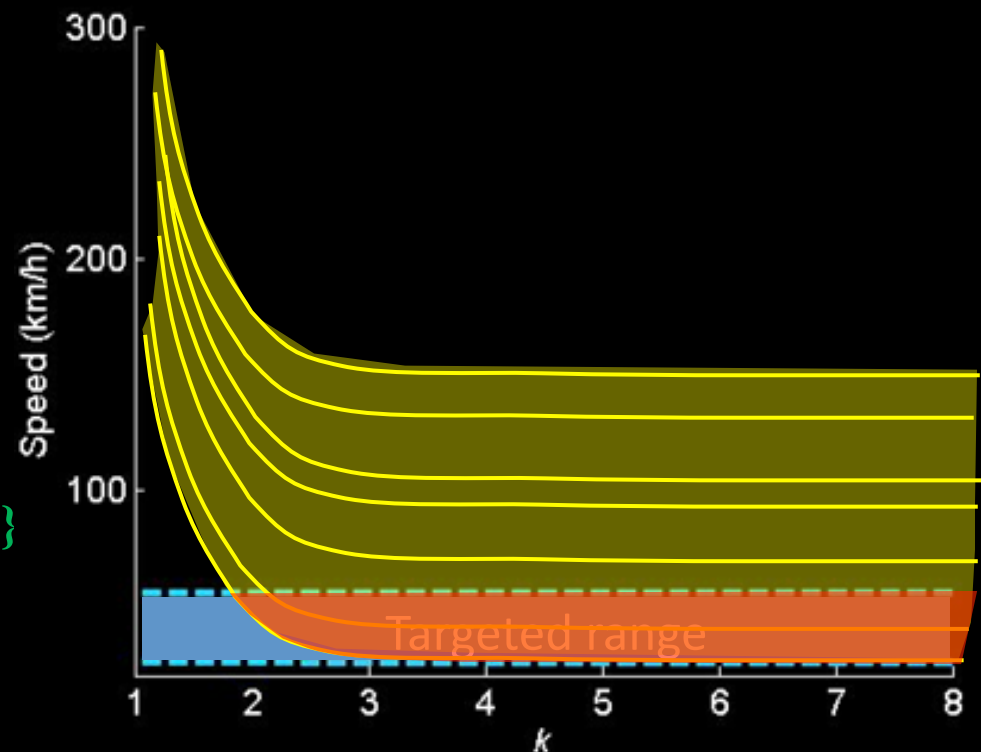
# PODS-EKF

Decision-making:

$$I(\mathbf{Z}^{1:n}) = \begin{cases} 1 \text{ (accept) if } \mathbf{V} \cap \mathcal{V} \neq \Phi \text{ and } \mathbf{Z}^{1:n} \neq \Phi \\ 0 \text{ (reject) otherwise} \end{cases}$$

PODS:

$$\mathbf{Z}^{1:n} = \{\mathbf{Z}^{1:n} \mid \mathbf{z}(k) \in \mathbf{S}(k) \text{ and } \varepsilon(\mathbf{X}^{1:n}) < \delta\}$$



# PODS-EKF Approximate Computation

$$\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}^{1:n} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}(k) \in \mathcal{S}(k)} \varepsilon(\mathbf{X}^{1:n})$$

Subject to:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}(k|k-1) = A(k)\hat{\mathbf{x}}(k-1|k-1),$$

$$\hat{P}(k|k-1) = A(k)\hat{P}(k-1|k-1)A^T(k) + Q(k),$$

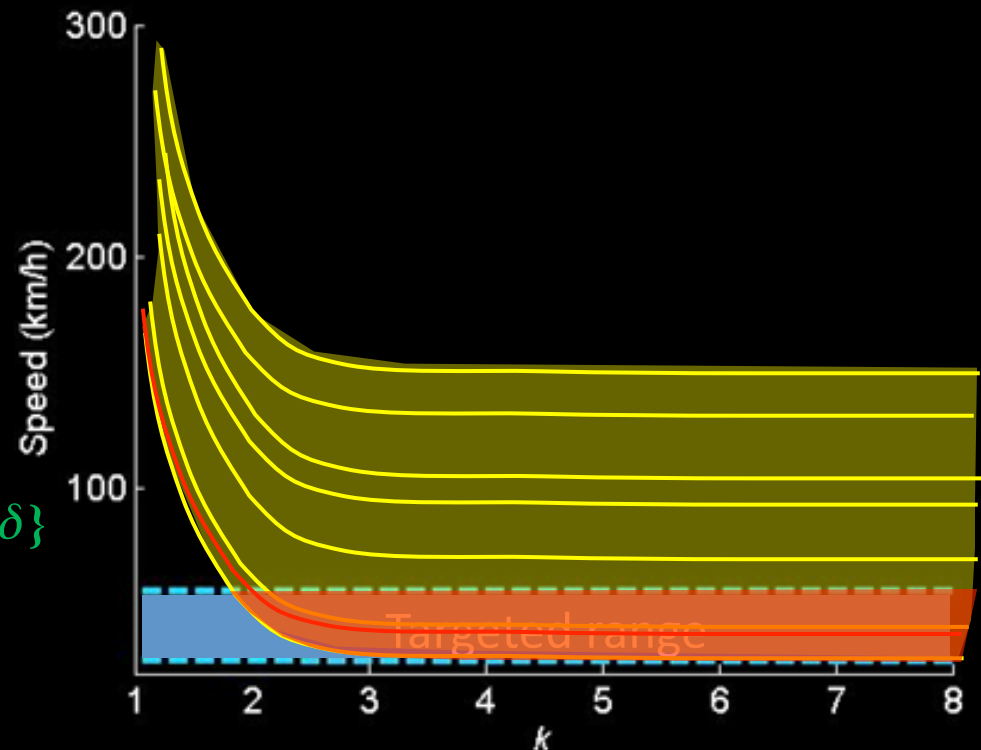
$$K(k) = \frac{\hat{P}(k|k-1)H^T(k)}{H(k)\hat{P}(k|k-1)H^T(k) + W(k)},$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}(k|k) = \hat{\mathbf{x}}(k|k-1) + K(k)(\mathbf{z}(k) - h(\hat{\mathbf{x}}(k|k-1))),$$

$$\hat{P}(k|k) = (\mathbf{I}_{6 \times 6} - K(k)H(k))\hat{P}(k|k-1),$$

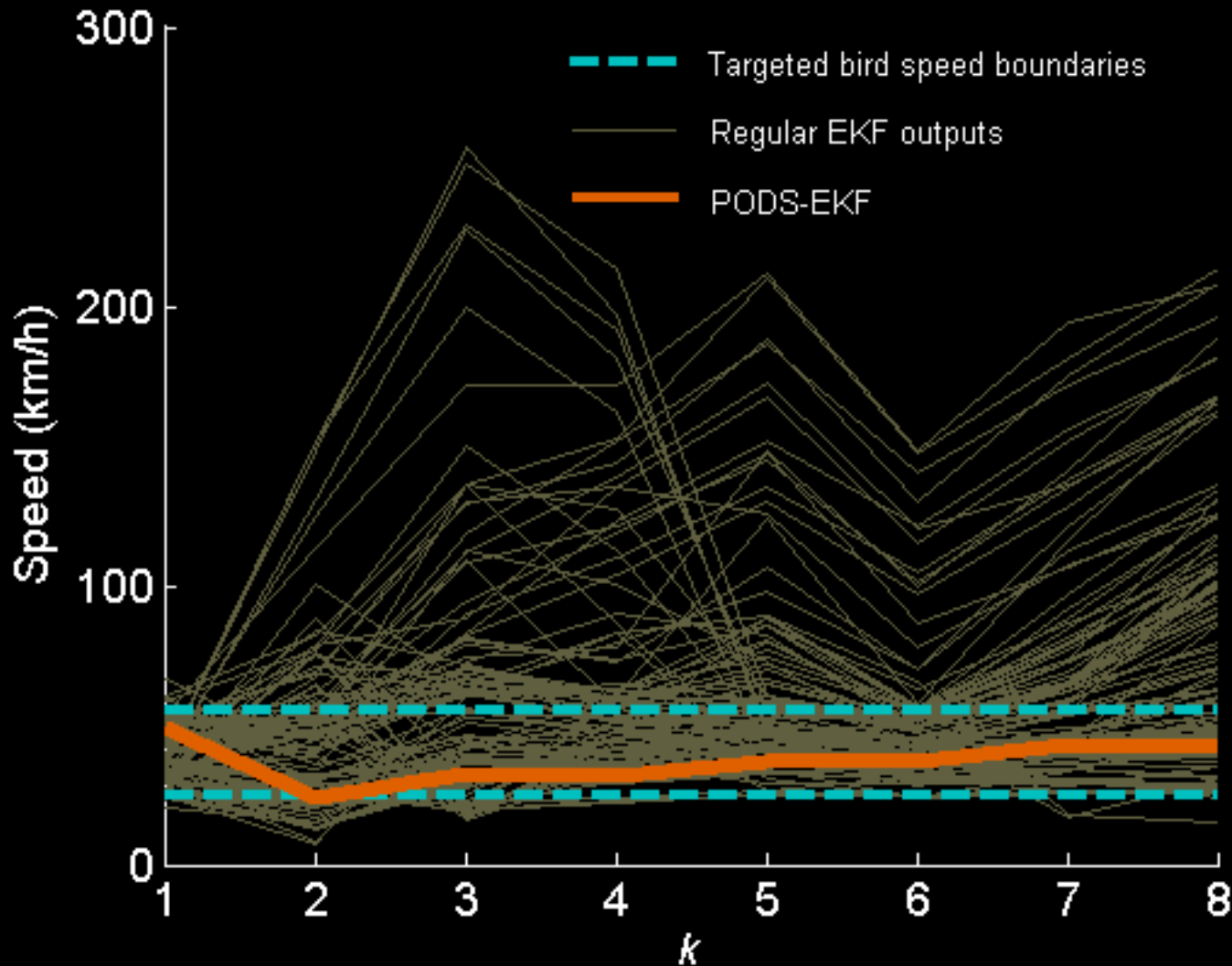
$$\mathbf{Z}^{1:n} = \{\mathbf{Z}^{1:n} \mid \mathbf{z}(k) \in \mathcal{S}(k) \text{ and } \varepsilon(\mathbf{X}^{1:n}) < \delta\}$$

$$\|\tilde{\mathbf{v}}(n|n)\| \in \mathcal{V}$$





# PODS-EKF Approximate Computation



Dezhen Song and Yiliang Yu, *A Low False Negative Filter for Detecting Rare Bird Species from Short Video Segments using a Probable Observation Data Set-based EKF Method*, IEEE Transactions on Image Processing (Accepted, in press)

# Algorithm

---

**Algorithm 1:** PODS-EKF based Bird Detection Algorithm

---

**input** :  $n$  frames with a segmented motion sequence  
**output**: TRUE or FALSE for the targeted species.  
**for** *the segmented motion block in  $i$ -th frame* **do**  
    └ calculate the geometric center point  $C_i$  of the bird;  
Connect  $C_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  to generate a piecewise linear trajectory;  
Obtain  $\bar{\theta}$  from the trajectory;  
**for** *the segmented motion block in  $i$ -th frame* **do**  
    └ Obtain  $z(i)$  using the BBAF in (2);  
Initialize the EKF using (20) and (21);  
Solve the constrained nonlinear optimization problem in (14);  
**if**  $\|\tilde{\mathbf{v}}(n|n)\| \in \mathcal{V}$  **AND**  $\varepsilon(\tilde{\mathbf{X}}^{1:n}) < \delta$  **then**  
    └ **return** TRUE;  
**else**  
    └ **return** FALSE;

---

# Experiments and Results

## Experiments:

- Testing phase: May 2006 to Oct. 2006 in Texas A&M campus
- Field phase: Oct. 2006 to Oct. 2007 in Brinkley, AR

















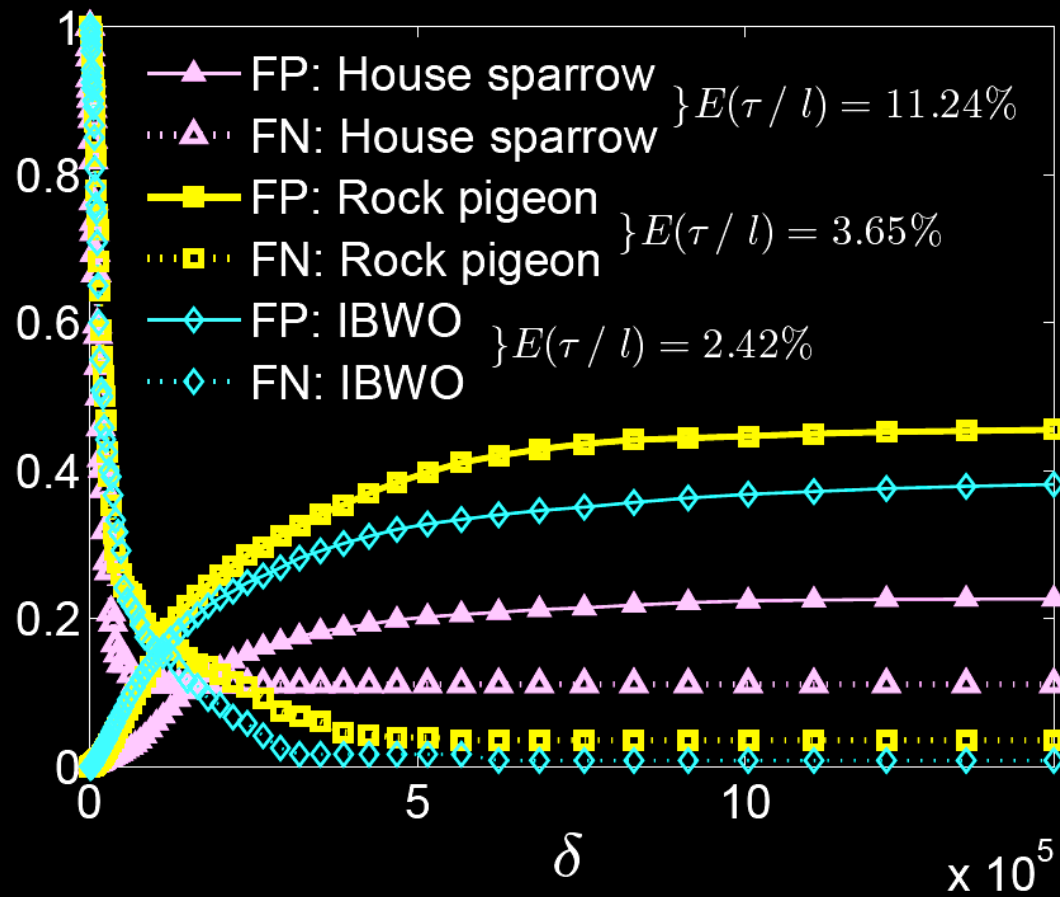
*Gene's*  
*Restaurant & Barbeque*

OPEN 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Brinkley, Arkansas 216 Exit  
870-734-9965



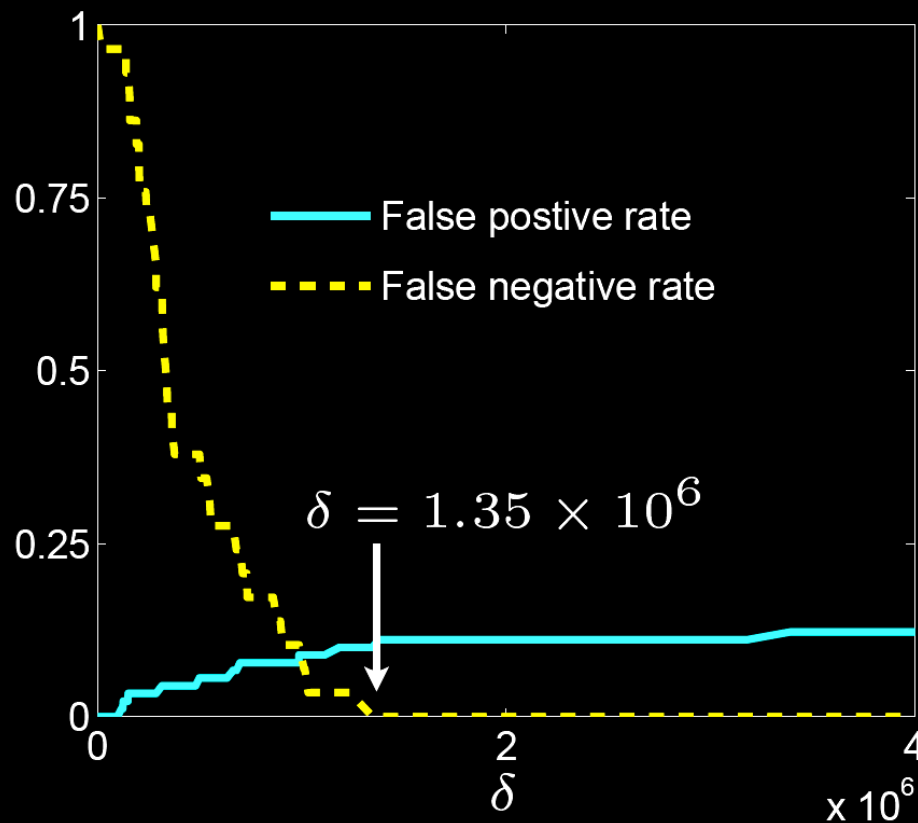
**WE BELIEVE**

# Simulation on three birds



# Physical Experiment on Rock Pigeon

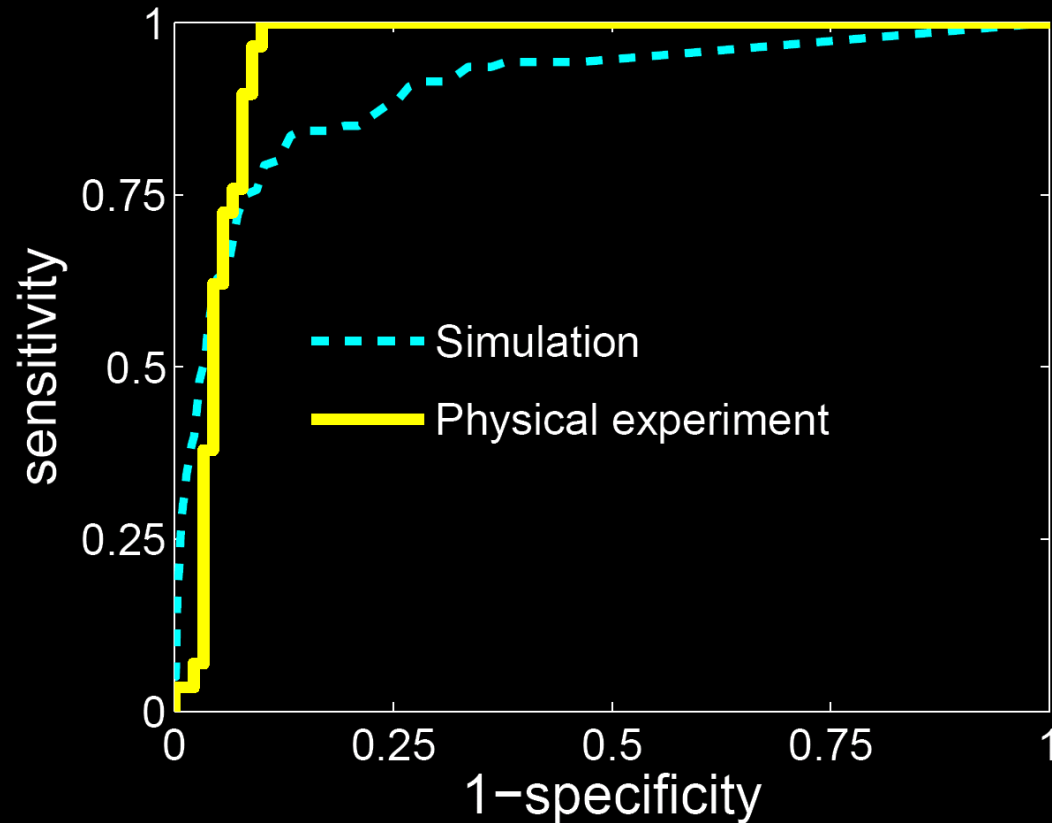
|                      | Pigeon | Not pigeon |
|----------------------|--------|------------|
| Predicted pigeon     | 29     | 9          |
| Predicted not pigeon | 0      | 81         |



Insects, falling leaves, other birds, etc.



# ROC Curves for Rock Pigeon



Area under ROC curve: 91.5% in Simulation; 95.0% in Experiment.







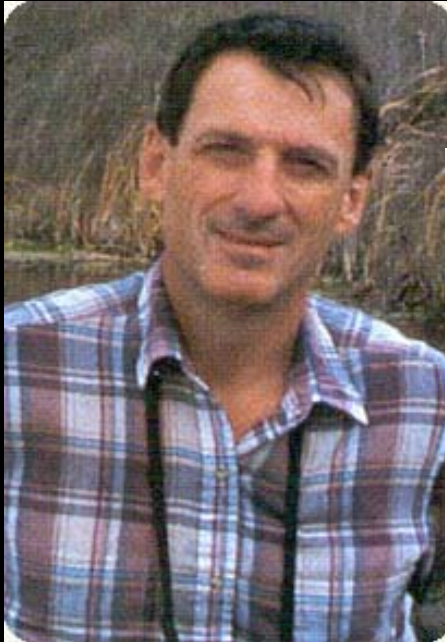


## Results:

- **No Ivory-billed Woodpecker!**
- Sensitivity: <10% false negative rate
- Data reduction:
  - 146.7MB out of 29.41TB raw data
  - data reduction rate 99.9995%
- Robustness: running continuously in the Arkansas wilderness for 12 months

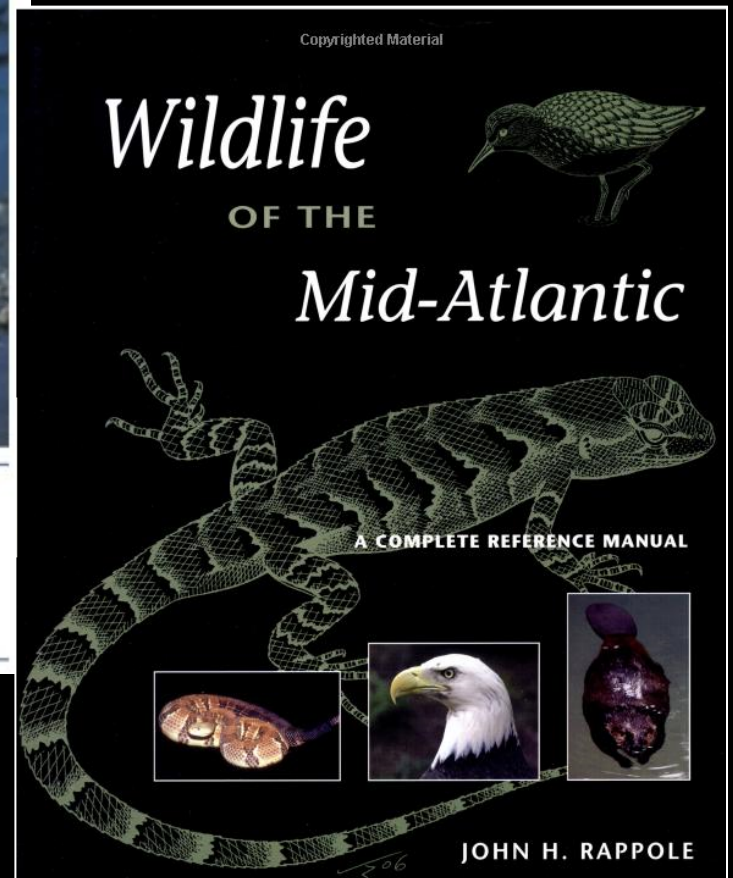
# outline

- networked telerobots
- automated observation: ivory billed woodpecker
- engaging citizen scientists:  
bird range change in south  
texas



*Birds of the Texas Coastal Bend  
Abundance and Distribution*

by John H. Rappole AND Gene W. Blacklock



# Project CONE-Welder



Remote natural environment with robotic camera



Relay station




Citizens from around the world participate in operating the robotic camera

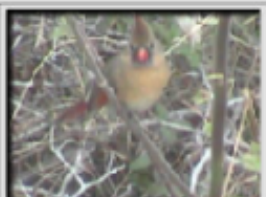


Welcome Chat Gallery Score Statistics


Refresh prev 1 / 3574 next Show Categories

11/26/08 10:46am  
  
txbird #118280

11/26/08 10:28am  
  
kryptonkay #118267

11/26/08 10:23am  
  
kryptonkay #118264

11/26/08 10:22am  
  
vanilla #118259

11/26/08 10:22am  
  
peteinkayworth #118258

11/26/08 10:22am  
  
vanilla #118252



A zoomed-in view of a bird in a field, with a black overlay containing navigation controls: a power button, a directional pad with a camera icon, and a zoom slider with minus and plus signs. A green bird icon is visible at the bottom right of the overlay.

 **CONE WELDER**  
COLLABORATIVE OBSERVATORIES FOR NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS  
Please email [support.cone.welder@gmail.com](mailto:support.cone.welder@gmail.com) with problems/suggestions/etc.  
(please note which browser version and operating system you are using)

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Welcome

Chat

Gallery

Score

Statistics

2/19/09 9:47am by kryptonkay

Rating(5) ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆



Northern Cardinal / *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Animal:

Birds

Name:

Northern Fulmar / *Fulmarus glacialis*

Return

Northern Fulmar / *Fulmarus glacialis*



classify

eyes23blue says:

beautiful! the colour and the pose! \*-\*

vanilla says:

Sweet!

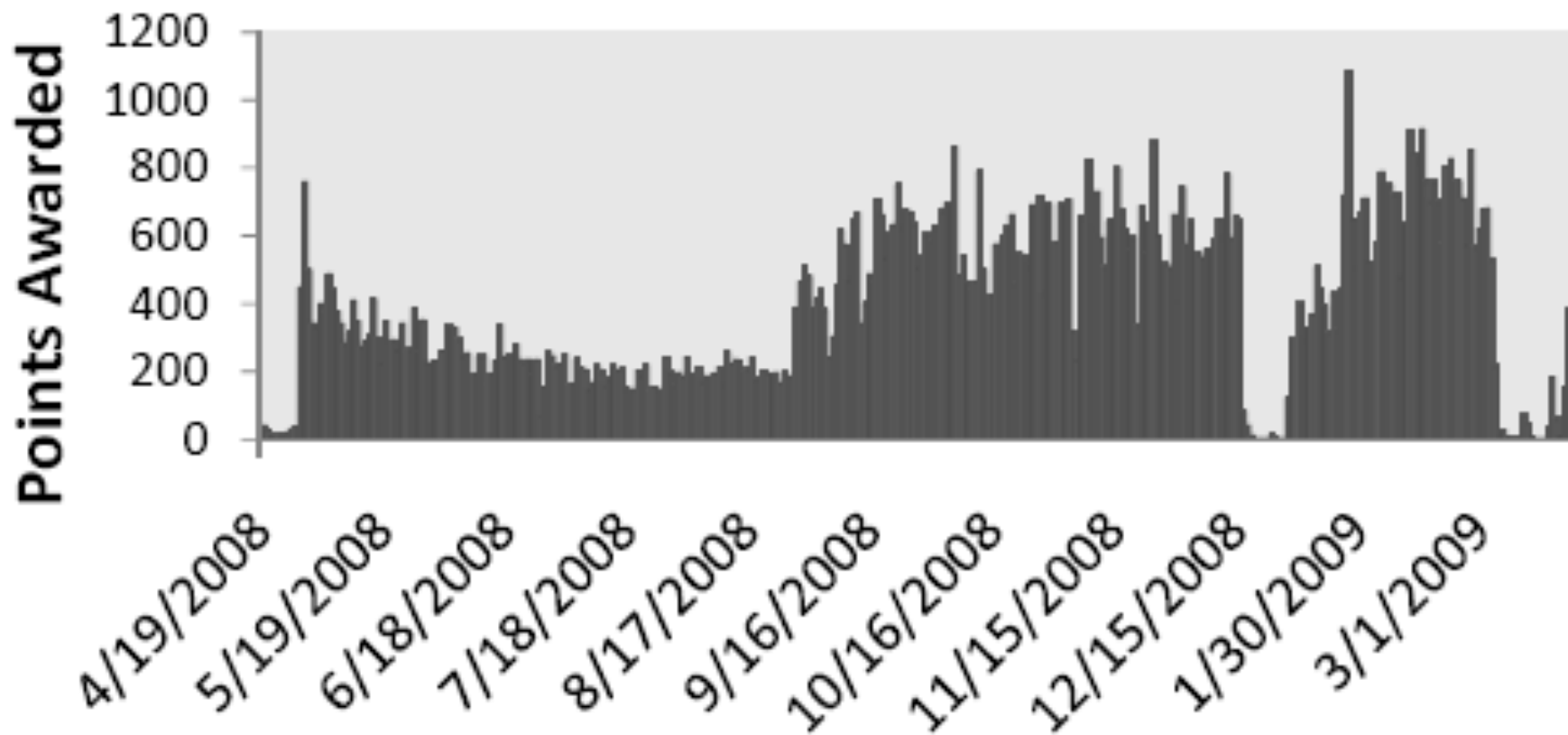
birdbrain says:

Great!!!

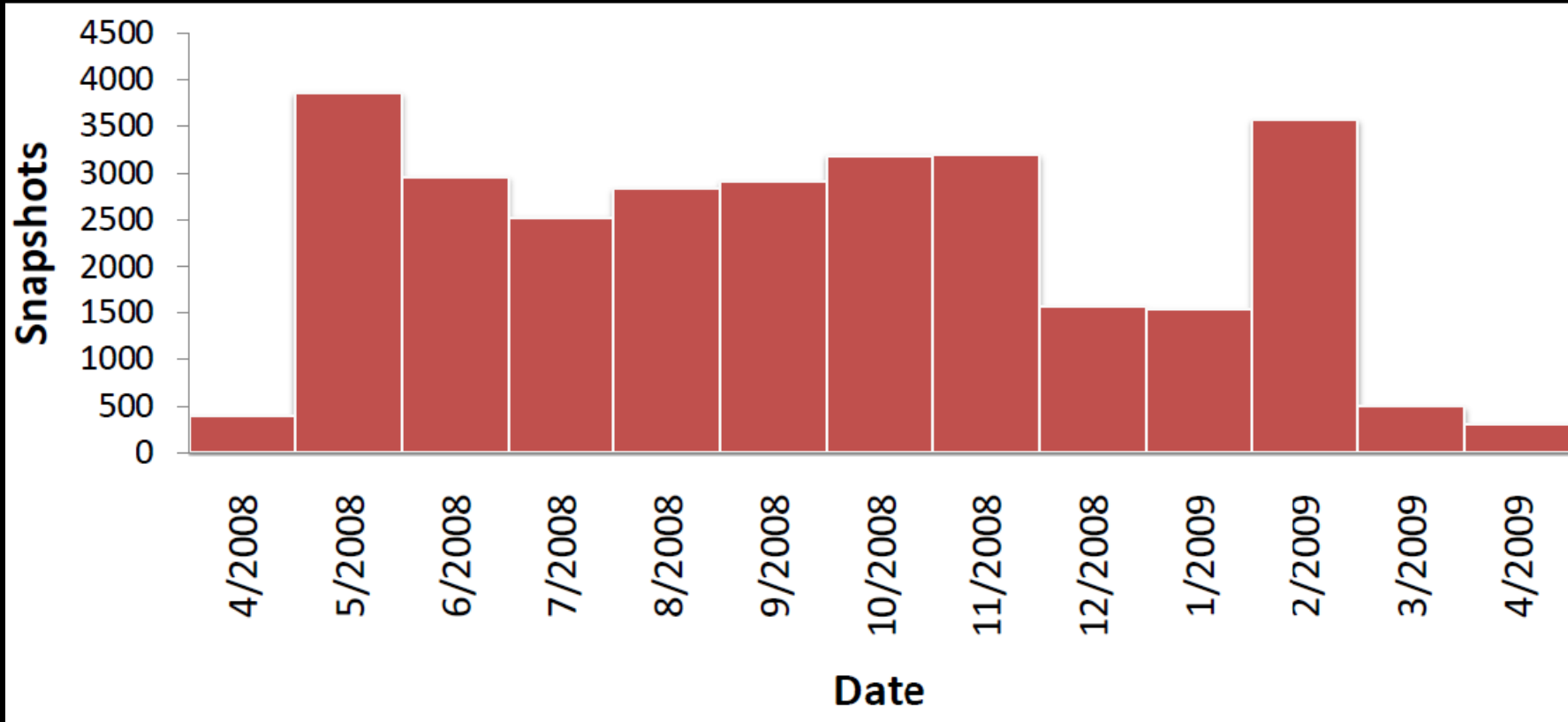
avatar99 says:

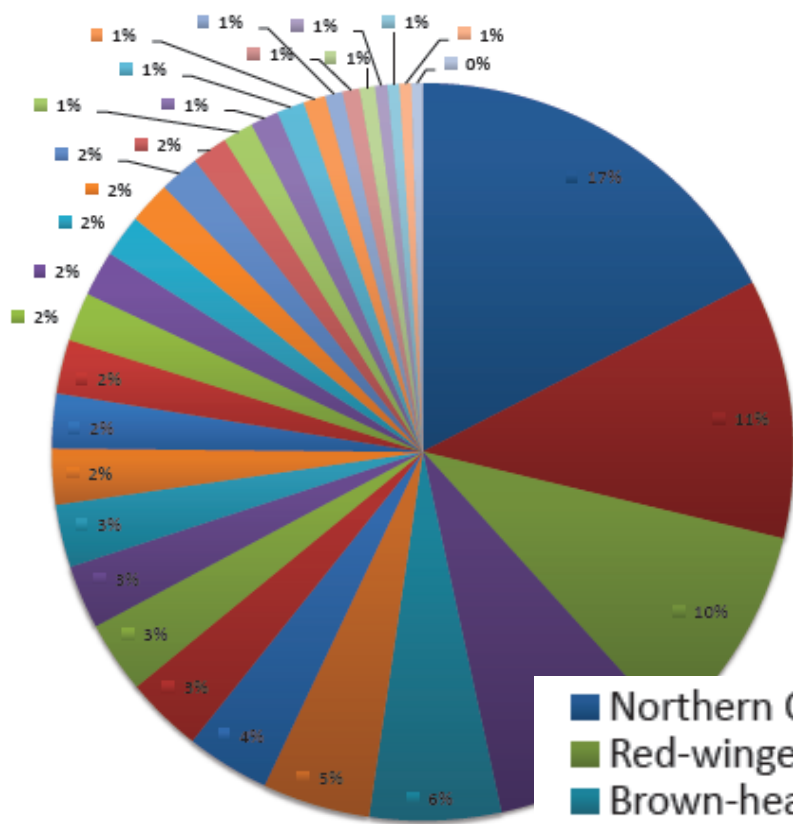
Nice one, KK

Add Comment

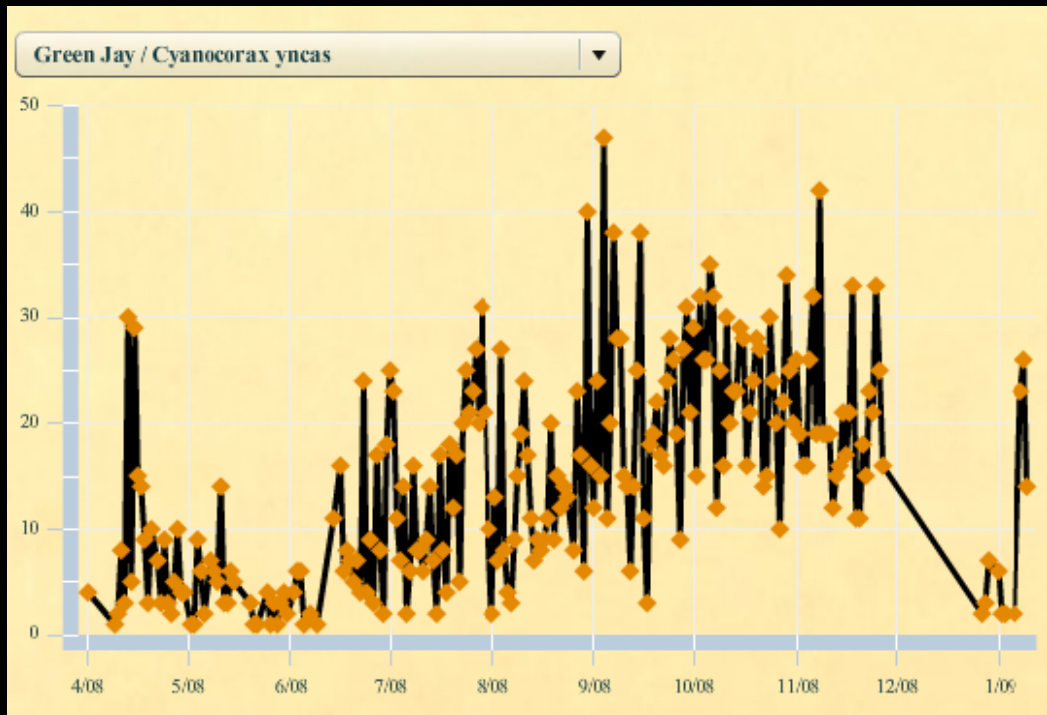








- Northern Cardinal
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Javelina
- No Classifiable Species
- Buff-bellied Hummingbird
- Black-chinned Hummingbird
- Barred Owl
- Northern Mockingbird
- American Goldfinch
- Golden-fronted Woodpecker
- Insect
- Green Jay
- Inca Dove
- White-tail Deer
- Bronzed Cowbird
- Raccoon
- Chipping Sparrow
- Great-tailed Grackle
- Feral Hog
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Fox Squirrel
- Great Kiskadee
- Painted Bunting



# observed range change

| Species  | Photos |
|--|--------|
| Green Jay ( <i>Cyanocorax yncas</i> )                      | 3659   |
| Bronzed Cowbird ( <i>Molothrus aeneus</i> )                | 1710   |
| Buff-bellied Hummingbird ( <i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i> )  | 1671   |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird ( <i>Archilochus alexandri</i> ) | 768    |
| Great Kiskadee ( <i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i> )             | 516    |
| Eastern Bluebird ( <i>Sialia sialis</i> )                  | 144    |
| Audubon's Oriole ( <i>Icterus graduacauda</i> )            | 28     |
| Couch's Kingbird ( <i>Tyrannus couchii</i> )               | 12     |

# Current and Future Work

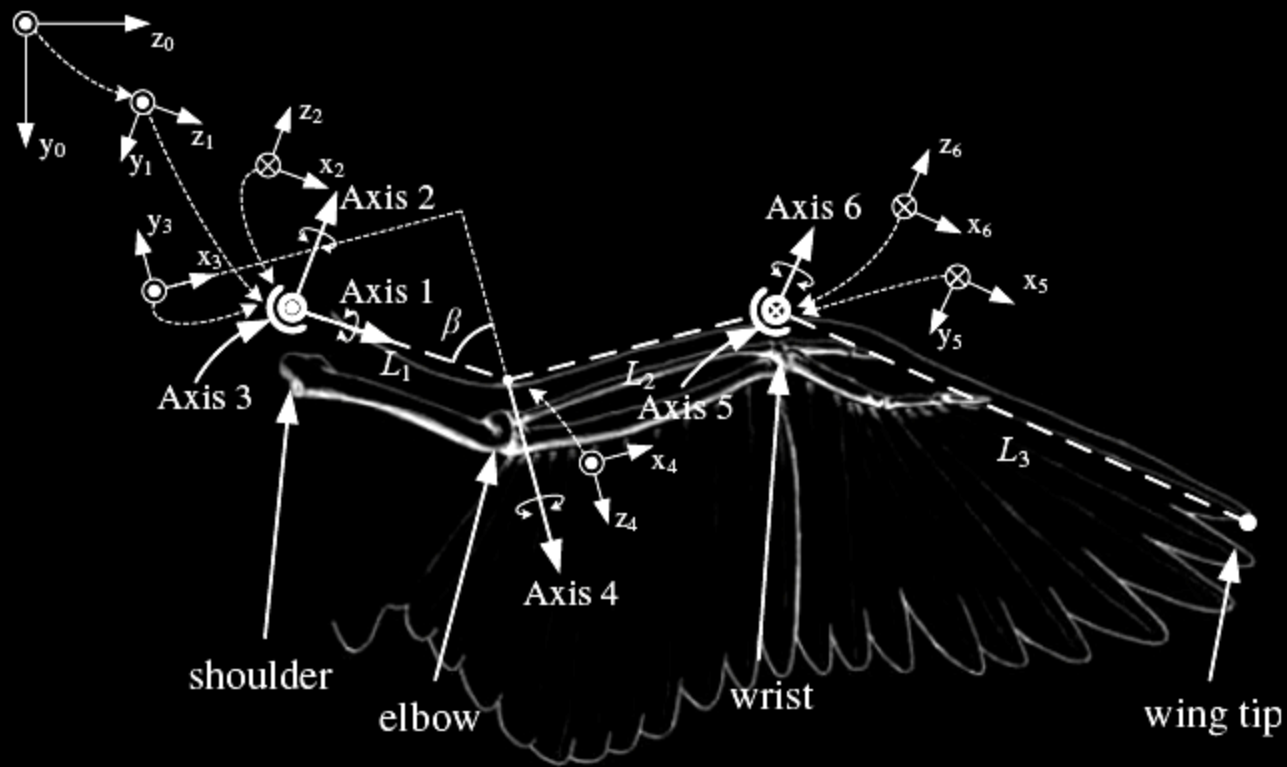


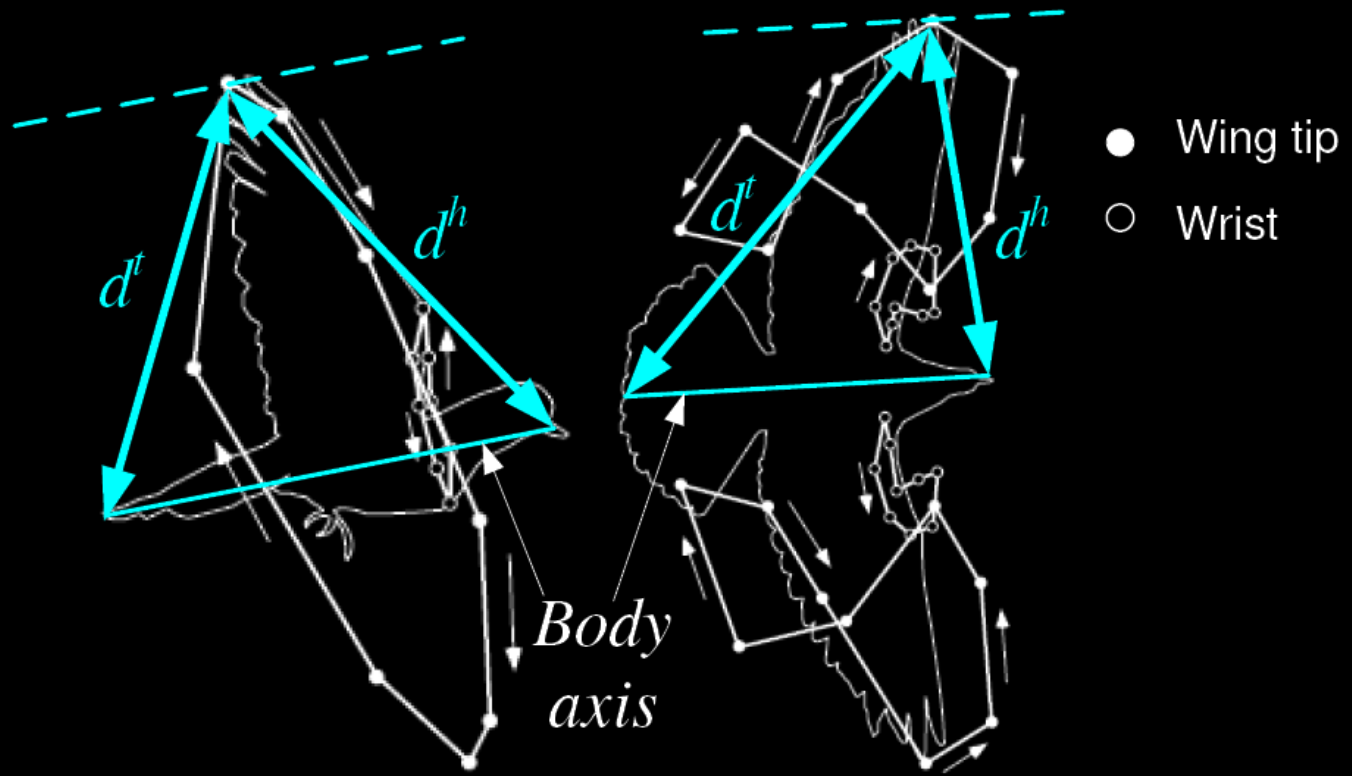
# Current and Future Work

- Examine wing-flapping motion
  - Wing beat frequency is unique for each species



# Wing Kinematic Model



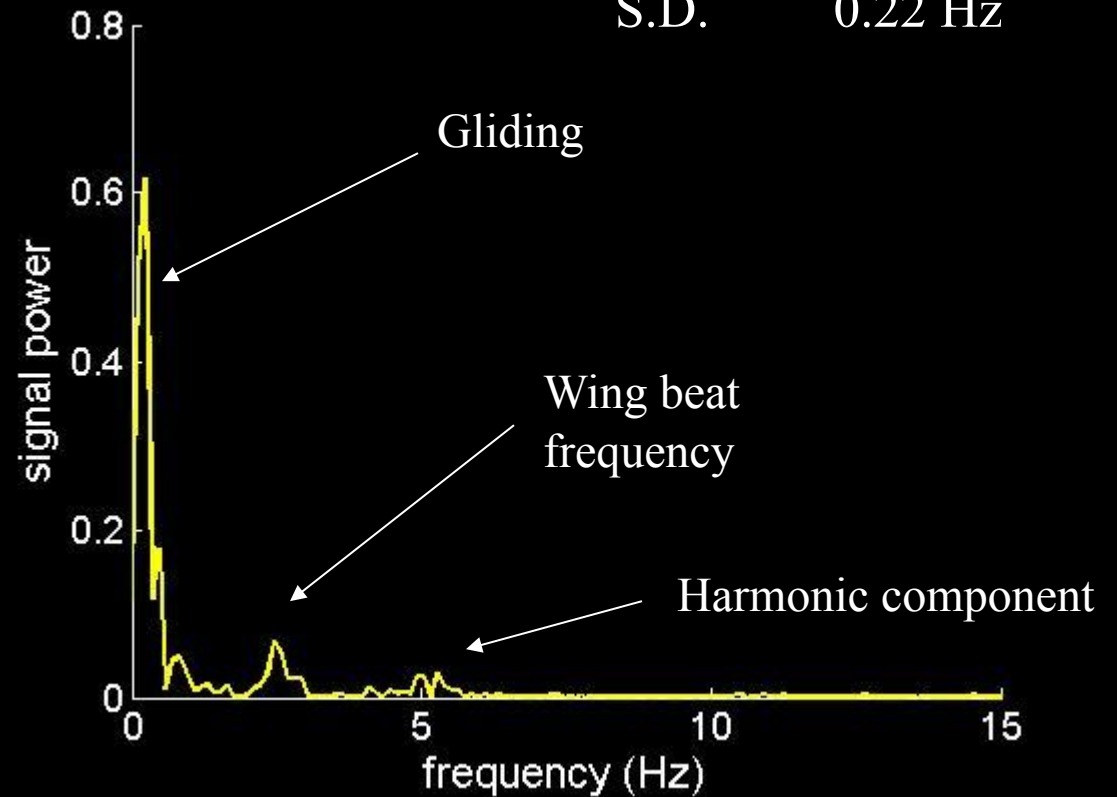


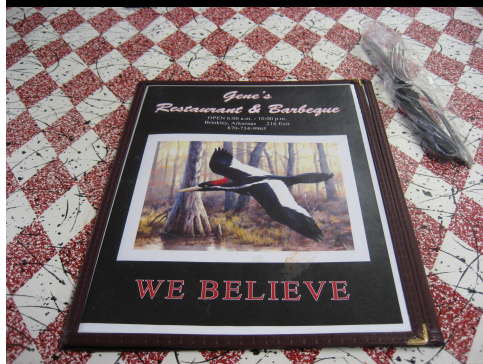


# Preliminary Results



Seagull:                      Mean      2.74 Hz  
   S.D.      0.22 Hz





Thanks!

Websites:

<http://telerobot.cs.tamu.edu>

<http://www.c-o-n-e.org>

<http://rbt.cs.tamu.edu/>

