**OMBIRDS:** A new template for creating a media voucher for archiving avian blood and its derivatives

**AUTHORS:** ILDIKO SZABO¹, STEPHANIE CAVAGHAN, GRANT HURLEY, and DARREN E. IRWIN

Cowan Tetrapod Collection, Beatty Biodiversity Museum, University of British Columbia
2212 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z4

¹ Email: ildiko@zoology.ubc.ca

**ABSTRACT:**

- To increase the long-term utility of blood samples and associated data collected from released birds, we have established a protocol for the creation of “Media Vouchers.”
- The OMBIRDS database links information regarding DNA specimens, photographs, sound recordings, and morphometric and locality information.
- Utilization of OMBIRDS standardized protocols facilitates the transfer of avian blood and DNA derivatives from research labs into museum tissue collections and other repositories.
- DarwinCore-formatted OMBIRDS database records are easily transmitted to VertNet and GBIF (multi-museum specimen and biodiversity search engines) for the publication of blood specimen samples.
- The OMBIRDS protocol facilitates the submission of audio and video files to the Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds.
- OMBIRDS media vouchers increase the utility, availability, and awareness of blood samples and associated data for current and future generations of researchers.

The first syllable of the acronym “OM” is derived from the first syllable of the Sanskrit mantra Om Mani Padme Hum. Om is the symbol for wisdom in some cultures. The acronym is designed so that the third letter identifies the taxon, e.g. OMMIRDS for OM of mammal IRDS, OMHIRDS for OM of herps IRDS, etc.

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