

2002

Two Longevity Records for Alder Flycatcher (*empidonas Alnorum*): (1) 7yr 0mo at Alaska Bird Observatory

Carol Erwin

Dave Shaw

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

Recommended Citation

Erwin, Carol and Shaw, Dave (2002) "Two Longevity Records for Alder Flycatcher (*empidonas Alnorum*): (1) 7yr 0mo at Alaska Bird Observatory," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 27 : Iss. 4 , Article 5.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol27/iss4/5>

This Abstracts Of Theses and Dissertations is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

Towhees which takes into account the sex of the bird. I recommend that the band size for Spotted Towhees be stated as it is for Eastern Towhees: Females: 1A - 2; Males: 2 - 1A. Since the sex of birds in juvenal plumage cannot always be ascertained, I advise that these birds be measured with a leg gauge and banded with the best fitting band size.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Mr. and Mrs. John C. Fell for their generosity in allowing the use of their property for bird-banding research.

LITERATURE CITED

- Greenlaw, J.S. 1996. Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*). In *The birds of North America*, No. 263 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
- Pyle, P. 1997. Identification guide to North American birds. Pt. 1: Columbidae to Ploceidae, Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, CA.

Rita R. Colwell
281 Margarita Court
Los Altos, CA 94022

Note on Second Oak Titmouse Brood

In *The Birds of North America*, Cicero (2000) reports "...some evidence that pairs *may* raise 2 broods on occasion." (My emphasis.)

Through our cavity-nesting dispersal banding study for the California Bluebird Recovery Program, we have confirmed an instance of an Oak Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*) raising two broods in a single season.

A female Oak Titmouse (#930-99243) was banded 19 Apr 2000, while incubating in a nest box in an oak-pine woodland off Sand Ridge Road near Somerset, CA. Approximately a year later, on 12 Apr 2001, she was recaptured while incubating in another nest box 83 m NW of the original banding. The first location was on a wooden post; the second was a box mounted on a studded-T fence post.

On 29 Apr 2002, she had moved 5 m S to another nest box erected in late 2001 and attached to a large California black oak. She was recaptured while incubating four eggs. On 3 May, the four chicks were banded and subsequently fledged. On 9 Jun, she was again recaptured in the same nest box on the same nest. A small quantity of fur had been added but no major additions had been made to the nest. She had six eggs. On 18 Jun, the six chicks were banded and successfully fledged.

LITERATURE CITED

- Cicero, C. 2000. Oak Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*) and Juniper Titmouse (*Baeolophus ridgwayi*). In *The birds of North America*, No 485 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.

Hatch Graham
PO Box 39
Somerset, CA 95684
Assisted by Carol Willburn

TWO LONGEVITY RECORDS FOR ALDER FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax alnorum*):

(1) 7 yr. 0 mo. at
Alaska Bird Observatory

The Alaska Bird Observatory (ABO) has been mist netting migratory landbirds at Creamer's Field Migration Station (CFMS [64°50' N, 147°50' W]) since 1992. Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) is one of a number of species that regularly breed at Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Fairbanks, or use the area as a stopover site during migration. Thirteen Alder Flycatchers banded by ABO personnel have been recaptured in mist nets from 1993 to 2002. One of these birds was an adult female that was banded in 1993 and recaptured in 1999 (Table 1). Banding records indicate the presence of a brood patch during both data collection procedures, suggesting that the bird was still reproductively active when she was at least seven years old. The published longevity record for Alder Flycatcher is three years and two months of age (Clapp et al. 1983, Klimkiewicz 2002). This note updates the longevity record for this species.

Table 1. History of Female Alder Flycatcher 1950-75222 Banded at Creamer's Field Migration Station, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Date	Age	Sex	Brood Patch?	Wing Chord (mm)	Tail (mm)	Wgt. (g)	Minimum Age at Time of Capture
6/5/1993	AHY	F	Y	68	53	12.2	11 months
7/7/1999	AHY	F	Y	68	57	12.9	7 years 0 months

The median spring passage date for Alder Flycatcher is 10 Jun. Adults depart each fall at median date of 28 Jul, while immatures depart at median date of 10 Aug (Benson and Winker 2001). This female was hatched prior to or during 1992, most likely at the end of June or early July. When the female was first captured in early June 1993, the brood patch was described as having evident vascularization with some fluid present under the skin, indicating that the female was probably in the process of nest construction, or had begun laying the clutch but had not yet started incubating. When captured in early July 1999, the bird's brood patch was described with vascularization having mostly disappeared and the fluid under the skin mostly gone, indicating that the female was no longer incubating or brooding. This female weighed more at ≥ 7 years of age than when first captured six years earlier, possibly due to timing of capture in relation to life history events (loss of weight from egg production versus fattening for migration).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank all of the many volunteers who helped out at the station during the past eleven seasons and who give generously of their time, energy, humor, and enthusiasm.

LITERATURE CITED

- Benson, A-M. and K. Winker. 2001. Timing of breeding range occupancy among high-latitude passerine migrants. *Auk* 118:513-519.
- Clapp, R.B., M.K. Klimkiewicz, and A.G. Fitcher. 1983. Longevity records of North American birds: Columbidae through Paridae. *J. Field Ornithol.* 54:123-137.

Klimkiewicz, M.K. 2002. Longevity records of North American birds. Version 2002.1. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD.

Carol Erwin, Migration Program Manager
Dave Shaw, Field Biologist
Alaska Bird Observatory
PO Box 80505
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708



Alder Flycatcher
by George West