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## Longevity Records for North American Hummingbirds

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## (2) 7 yr 1 mo at Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory

Located on the eastern shore of Lesser Slave Lake, about 20 km NNW of the town of Slave Lake, in north-central Alberta, Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO) is Canada's northernmost bird observatory. Migration monitoring has taken place each spring and fall since 1994. The riparian habitat where nets are located is dominated by willow and alder trees and a substantial number of younger trembling aspen and balsam poplar. East of this riparian strip lies a relatively mature boreal mixed wood forest dominated by trembling aspen. The riparian strip provides breeding habitat for many species, including Alder Flycatchers, which are fairly common in the area.

On 10 Jun 2002 and again on 28 Jul 2002, an Alder Flycatcher was recaptured at LSLBO migration monitoring station. This bird (band #1990-60111) was originally banded at LSLBO migration station on 27 Jul 1996 at 0650. The last encounter was almost six years to the day of the original banding. Aged as adult in 1996, this bird is at least seven years one month old (assuming June hatch month) and quite possibly older.

Sexed as a male by presence of a cloacal protuberance, this Alder Flycatcher is presumably a local breeder and has a long capture history at LSLBO. Since its original capture, it has been recaptured 12 times and was missed only in 2001 (see table below).

Table 1. Recapture Dates of Alder Flycatcher #1990-60111 Banded at LSLBO Migration Station 27 Jul 1996.	
Year	Encounter Dates at LSLBO
1997	9, 11, 13, & 14 Jun
1998	25 Jul, 2 Aug
1999	10 Jun, 25 Jul
2000	11 Jun, 9 Jul
2002	10 Jun, 28 Jul

With a minimum age of seven years and one month for #1990-60111, the previous longevity record of three years two months is more than doubled. The

new longevity record is more consistent with those of other *Empidonax* flycatchers ranging from seven to almost 11 years of age. Why the previous longevity record is so much lower than other *Empidonax* flycatchers is unclear. Perhaps difficulty in species identification is a factor. In areas of overlap, most Alder and Willow flycatchers are lumped as "Traill's."

We look forward to future encounters with our "granddaddy" Alder Flycatcher in the years ahead.

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## Longevity Records for North American Hummingbirds

Recent recaptures of banded hummingbirds have extended longevity records for many species. Previously published longevity records (Table 1) and the latest records (Table 2) are given below. Although records of the oldest individual of a species do not indicate a species' life expectancy, the longevity records from many species now suggest that hummingbirds frequently live eight to 10 years. Only four of the 14 hummingbird species regularly found in the United States have longevity records of less than eight years. Two of these, Lucifer (*Calothorax lucifer*) and Violet-crowned (*Amazilia violiceps*), hummingbirds are rare species in the United States. Due to their rarity, few birds have been banded and this likely affects the longevity records. The other two species, Allen's and Costa's hummingbirds, are more common but both have limited ranges in the United States. It is likely that long-term banding programs have not occurred in areas where those species are common.

We thank Ellie Womack and Stacy J. Peterson for reviewing and maintaining the records.

**Table 1. Longevity Records for 14 Species of Hummingbirds.**

<i>Hummingbird species</i>	<i>Published longevity records</i>	<i>References</i>	<i>Recent longevity records from Table 2</i>
Broad-billed ( <i>Cynanthus latirostris</i> )	5 yr 0 mo	Powers and Wethington 1999	9 yr 1 mo
Buff-bellied ( <i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i> )	6 yr 1 mo	Klimkiewicz 1997	9 yr 8 mo
Violet-crowned ( <i>A. violiceps</i> )	3 yr 0 mo	Wethington 2002	
Blue-throated ( <i>Lampornis clemenciae</i> )	8 yr 0 mo	Williamson 2000	
Magnificent ( <i>Eugenes fulgens</i> )	7 yr 10 mo	Powers 1996	9 yr 2 mo
Lucifer ( <i>Calothorax lucifer</i> )	4 yr 1 mo	Russell et al. 1994	
Ruby-throated ( <i>Archilochus colubris</i> )	9 yr 1 mo	Robinson et al. 1996	10 yr 2 mo
Black-chinned ( <i>A. alexandri</i> )	7 yr 0 mo	Baltosser and Russell 2000	9 yr 2 mo
Anna's ( <i>Calypte anna</i> )	8 yr 6 mo	Russell 1996	
Costa's ( <i>C. costae</i> )	no data	Baltosser and Scott 1996	4 yr 1 mo
Broad-tailed ( <i>Selasphorus platycercus</i> )	12 yr 2 mo	Calder 1990	
Rufous ( <i>S. rufus</i> )	8 yr 1 mo	Klimkiewicz 1997	
Allen's ( <i>S. sasin</i> )	4 yr 0 mo	Klimkiewicz 1997	
Calliope ( <i>Stellula calliope</i> )	6 yr 1 mo	Calder and Calder 1994	8 yr 11 mo

**Table 2. Capture Dates, Locations, and Banders of Recent Hummingbird Longevity Records.**

<i>Hummingbird species</i>	<i>Original banding information</i>				<i>Recapture information</i>		
	<i>Age &amp; Sex</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Bander</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Bander</i>
Broad-billed	AHY M	29 Aug 1994	Nogales, AZ	R. O. Russell	3 Jul 2002	Nogales, AZ	S. M. Wethington
Buff-bellied	AHY M	19 Feb 1993	LaPlace, LA	N. L. Newfield	26 Feb 2001	LaPlace, LA	N. L. Newfield
Magnificent	HY M	22 Aug 1993	Ramsey Canyon, AZ	S. L. Williamson	12 Aug 2002	Madera Canyon, AZ	G. C. West
Ruby-throated	AHY F	12 Aug 1991	Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area, OH	S. J. Peters	07 Jul 2000	Mosquito Creek, OH	S.J. Peters
Black-chinned	HY F	29 Aug 1992	Harshaw Creek, AZ	S. M. Wethington	29Aug 2001	Harshaw Creek, AZ	S. M. Wethington
Costa's	AHY F	7 Jul 1998	Morongo Valley, CA	B. A. Carlson	30 Jun 2001	Morongo Valley, CA	B. A. Carlson
Calliope	AHY F	6 July 1990	Troy, MT	K. Burk	22 Jun 1998	Troy, MT	K. Burk

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## Hummingbird Conference

**HumConference 2003, 30 Jul – 3 Aug:** The 5th biennial Hummingbird Research Group Conference will be held Wednesday evening, 30 Jul, through Saturday evening, 3 Aug, at the Audubon California Kern River Preserve in Weldon, CA. There will be banding sessions, workshops, demonstrations, and paper sessions. An NABC Hummingbird Banding Certification Session will immediately precede the conference (see below). For more information contact **Donald Mitchell (EM: dmitchel@pressenter.com; PH: 715-381-9685)**

**North American Banding Council (NABC) Hummingbird Evaluation Sessions: 28-30 Jul 2003, Kern River Preserve, Weldon, CA.** NABC evaluation sessions for hummingbird banders at both the Bander and Trainer levels will be held immediately prior to the 5th Hummingbird Conference (see above). The session is open to up to 12 candidates who are currently permitted (either master or sub-) to band hummingbirds.

Applications and additional information available **after 6 Mar** from Ruth Russell, 2850 N. Camino de Oeste, Tucson, AZ 85745, phone: 520-743-9707, e-mail: rrussell@dakotacom.net. For questions **prior to 6 Mar**, contact Susan Wethington, PO Box 1125, Patagonia, AZ 85745, phone: 520-394-2350, e-mail: swething@dakotacom.net.

There will be opportunity on 28 Jul prior to the start of the evaluation session for candidates to capture and band hummingbirds at the site to familiarize themselves with species new to them.