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News, Notes, Comments

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Note on Longevity of North American Birds

A recent search through the banding data from PRBO Conservation Science's mist netting and banding efforts in California found new maximum survival records for nine species and two subspecies. Two of these species are not yet listed in the Bird Banding Laboratory's (BBL) records. Seven of these individuals were captured at the Palomarin Field Station near Bolinas, CA. The Palomarin study area includes a mix of coastal sage scrub and Douglas fir forest. Twenty nets are run six days a week between 1 May and 1 Dec, and three days a week between 1 Dec and 30 Apr.

Three new longevity records were made by individuals caught at Pine Gulch, a nearby banding site situated in a deciduous riparian forest patch adjacent to the Bolinas Lagoon. The ten nets at this site are run once each seven-day period 15 Aug - 31 Oct, and once every ten-day period the remainder of the year.

The new longevity record for Western Wood-Pewee was set by a bird caught at a riparian oak/willow forest along the Sacramento River near Gerber, CA. This site has been maintained as a MAPS (Monitoring of Avian Productivity and Survivorship) and nest-searching site since the summer of 1995.

Mist netting and banding is one of the few methods available for determining the longevity of birds. All banders are encouraged to search their records and contribute to our knowledge of avian longevity. Klimkiewicz and Futcher authored the most recently published list of longevity records in 1989 (Longevity of North American Birds Supplement 1. *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:469-494), and an updated list of longevity records verified by the BBL is available online at: <<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/homepage/longvist.htm>>

Species not mentioned in BBL list:

Townsend's Warbler #1930-29736 was first captured in March 1993 as an AHY, recaptured on four occasions and was last captured in February 2002. This Palomarin winter resident had an esti-

mated age of 9 years and 8 months.

Nuttall's White-crowned Sparrow #1291-01751 was first captured in June 1982 as a HY, recaptured on 40 occasions and was last recaptured in May 1991. This Palomarin resident had an estimated age of 8 years and 11 months.

Puget Sound White-crowned Sparrow #1411-49791 was first captured at Pine Gulch in February 1996 as a SY and was recaptured in February 2001. This subspecies is typically a coastal migrant, and this individual had an estimated age of 5 years and 8 months.

New maximum survival records for species currently listed by the BBL:

Red-shafted Flicker: The oldest bird verified by the BBL was 7 years and 7 months old. #1083-08509 was first captured in August 1989 as a HY and was last captured in March 1998. This Palomarin resident had an estimated age of 8 years and 9 months.

Western Wood-Pewee: The oldest bird verified by the BBL was 6 years and 1 month old. #1980-39525 was first captured as an AHY near Gerber, CA, on the Sacramento River in July 1995, re-captured on three occasions, and last captured in July 2002. This Neotropical migrant had an estimated age of 8 years and 1 month.

Hutton's Vireo: The oldest bird verified by the BBL was 6 years and 6 months old. This vireo, #1440-92440, was first captured by PRBO in June 1977 and last recaptured December 1983. An older bird and new record, #1790-46811, was first banded as a HY in June 1993, recaptured on six occasions, and was last captured in May 2000. This Pine Gulch resident had an estimated age of 6 years 11 months.

Barn Swallow: The oldest bird verified by the BBL was 8 years and 1 month old. #1610-88605 was first captured at Palomarin in May 1984 as an AHY, recaptured on six occasions, and was last captured in April 1992. This Neotropical migrant had an estimated age of 8 years and 10 months.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee: The oldest bird verified by the BBL was 7 years and 9 months old. #1790-58682 was first captured in July 1992 as a HY, recaptured on four occasions, and was last captured in December 2001. This Palomarin resident had an estimated age of 9 years and 6 months.

Varied Thrush: The oldest bird verified by the BBL was 4 years and 9 months old. This thrush, #0702-74337, was originally captured as an AHY by PRBO in January 1978 and last recaptured in March 1982. An older bird and new record, #0752-20380, was first captured in December 1984 (age not taken), recaptured on six occasions, and was last captured in January 1990. This Palomarin winter resident was at least 5 years and 7 months old.

Orange-crowned Warbler: The oldest bird verified by the BBL was 6 years and 9 months old. #3500-04816 was first captured as a HY in October 1995, recaptured four winters, and was last captured in November 2002. This Pine Gulch winter resident had an estimated age of 7 years and 5 months.

Wilson's Warbler: The oldest bird verified by the BBL was 6 years and 10 months old. #1930-29827 was first captured as an AHY at Palomarin in May 1993, recaptured on eight occasions, and was last captured in June 1999. This Neotropical migrant breeder had an estimated age of 7 years.

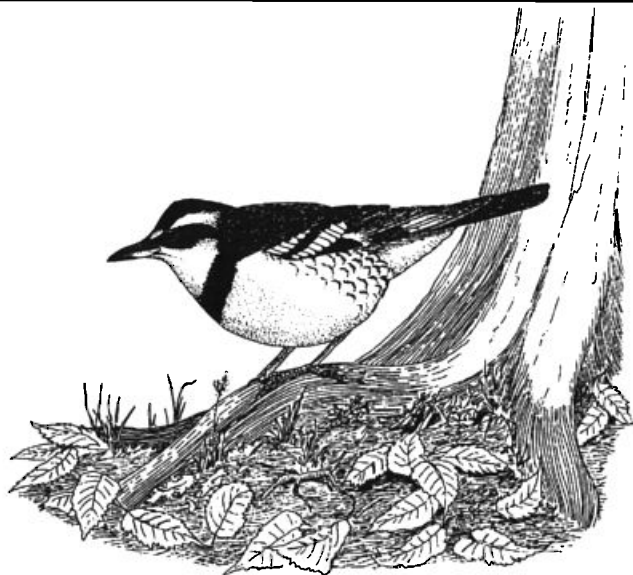
Acknowledgments

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West Nile Virus - What Ornithologists and Bird Banders Should Know

Get the facts at: <<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/WNV.html>>. Posted on the web 15 Apr 2003 by the Ornithological Council, this is a four-page summary of what banders need to know about West Nile Virus (WNV). From the introductory paragraph: "The Ornithological Council—a consortium of 11 scientific ornithological societies in the Western Hemisphere—consulted with a number of experts to compile this fact sheet about the risks of WNV to ornithologists and bird banders and to provide the most up-to-date public health recommendations for those handling live birds, carcasses, or tissue that is potentially infected with WNV."



Varied Thrush
by George West