

## LONGEVITY RECORD FOR THE SCOLOPACIDAE: 17-YEAR-OLD MALE LEAST SANDPIPER BREEDS

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Abstract.—A male Least Sandpiper banded as a two-year-old, 22 July 1970 on Sable Island, Nova Scotia was recaptured on a nest, 8 June 1985 on Sable Island.

### MARCA DE LONGEVIDAD EN SCOLOPACIDAE: MACHO DE *CALIDRIS* *MINUTILLA* SE REPRODUCE A LA EDAD DE 17 AÑOS

Sinopsis.—Un macho de *Calidris minutilla* que fue anillado a la edad de dos años en la Isla Sable, Nova Scotia, el día 22 de julio de 1970, fue recapturado en su nido el 8 de junio de 1985 en la misma localidad.

On 8 June 1985 Reid trapped a male Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) on its nest at Sable Island, Nova Scotia, where the species is a common breeder (McLaren 1981, Miller 1983). Miller trapped the same individual on its nest within 20 m of the same location in 1975 and 1976. The bird was originally banded (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band number 1230-23204) by Jean Burton on 22 July 1970 on Sable Island in a large program on shorebird migration (references in Miller 1983). He estimated its age as two years, based on plumage and other characteristics (Burton 1970, Burton and McNeil 1976, McNeil and Burton 1972). This establishes a minimum age for the bird of 17 yrs, a record for the Scolopacidae; the previous record for the family was shared by a Sanderling (*Calidris alba*; J. P. Myers, pers. comm.) and a Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*; Clapp et al. 1982) both 14 yrs of age. Previously, the oldest known Least Sandpiper was 11 yrs (Clapp et al. 1982).

The age structure of Least Sandpiper populations is unknown. One bird that was banded as a chick in 1975 (out of 48 chicks) returned and nested on Sable Island in 1976 (Miller 1983), but an extensive 3-yr study in Manitoba failed to reveal any returns of 1- or 2-yr-old birds to their natal area (J. R. Jehl, Jr., pers. comm.). Similarly, no 1-yr-old birds (out of 42 chicks banded) were found breeding in the second year of a study on the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia (EHM unpubl. data).

Our finding of a startlingly old breeding bird, in conjunction with the preceding information, underscores how poor our knowledge is of basic population biology in the species. Estimates of mortality, reproductive maturity, and longevity in calidridine species are sparse, but suggest a range of annual adult mortality rates of 20–50% (Boyd 1962; Hildén 1978; Holmes 1971; Miller 1983; Soikkeli 1967, 1970, 1974). Therefore, the occurrence of a bird breeding at 17 yrs of age would be unusual for any of them. For example, using Hildén's (1978) estimates of 50% first winter mortality and an average annual mortality rate of 19% for adult Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*), which include the lowest estimates reported for calidridines, the probability of surviving to 17 yrs is 1.7%. More typical estimates of, say, 65% and 30% (Boyd 1962), yield a figure of 0.1%. It is reasonable to assume that mortality rates increase with age, so both figures are conservative.

The significance of our observation for calidridine population biology cannot be appreciated until more long-term studies have been carried out (it is noteworthy that the large-scale banding program that led to our find also established an initial longevity record for *C. alba*; Boates and McNeil 1984). However, in our current state of knowledge it seems clear that generalizations about population biology of calidridines should be made with caution.

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## NOTES AND NEWS

**THE ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS** (formerly NEBBA) will hold its annual meeting **1-3 May 1987** at the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Housing and the Saturday program will be at the Arnot Forest Facility. The theme of the meeting will be Monitoring Bird Populations. The featured speakers will be Steve and Evelyn Kress, and Charles Walcott. For information on the meeting contact **SCOTT SUTCLIFFE**, *Chairman, Local Committee AFO, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607-255-4288)*. For information on the scientific program contact **WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.**, *Chairman Program Committee, College of Basic Studies, Boston University, 871 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215 (617-353-2886)*.

**44TH NORTHEAST FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE**, Boston, MA, **3-6 May 1987**. Program information and guidelines for papers available from E. M. POLLACK, *Div. Fisheries and Wildlife, Westboro, MA 01581*.

**THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY** will hold its 68th annual meeting at Utica College of Syracuse University, Utica, New York, **27-31 May 1987**. It will be a joint meeting with the Eastern Bird Banding Association and will be hosted by Utica College and the Kirkland and Oneida bird clubs. **JUDITH W. MCINTYRE**, *Utica College, Utica, NY 13502* will chair the Local Committee. **JON C. BARLOW**, *Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario 5MS 2C6, Canada*, is Chairman of the Scientific Program Committee and invites suggestions for symposia. There will be 2 special art exhibits at the meeting, and field trips will be held throughout. A circular of information will be mailed to members near the end of the year.

**ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SOCIETY**, Williamstown, Massachusetts, **21-26 June 1987**. For information write the Chm. of the Local Committee, **LEE DRICKAMER**, *Dept. Biology, Williams College, Williamstown, MA 01267*.

**COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**, 57th Annual Meeting, **22-26 June 1987**, Snowbird, Utah. Special features of the meeting will be a workshop on telemetry applications and tram rides to the top of Hidden Peak at 11,000 ft elevation. For more information contact the Program Chairman, **MARTIN G. RAPHAEL**, *USFS, 222 South 22nd St., Laramie, WY 80270 (307-742-6621)* or the Local Hosts **MARTHA** and **DAVID BALPH**, *UMC 5210, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322 (801-750-2459)*. More information will follow.

**AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**, 105th Stated Meeting, **10-13 Aug. 1987**, San Francisco, Calif. **LUIS F. BAPTISTA** and **ROBERT I. BOWMAN** will chair the Committee on Arrangements.