

## LONGEVITY RECORD FOR THE LEAST SANDPIPER: A REVISION

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Abstract.—A male Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) bred at 16+ yr of age, not 17+ as previously reported (Miller and Reid, J. Field Ornithol. 58:49-51, 1987). Extensive European banding programs have revealed much older scolopacids.

### REVISIÓN DE UN REGISTRO DE LONGEVIDAD EN *CALIDRIS MINUTILLA*

Resumen.—Un macho de *Calidris minutilla* se reprodujo a la edad de 16 años y no a los 17 como previamente informado (Miller y Reid, J. Field Ornithol. 58:49-51, 1987). El extensivo programa Europeo de anillaje revela escolopacidos de mucha mayor edad.

A recently published record of breeding by a 17-yr-old male Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) (Miller and Reid 1987) must be revised. The bird was judged by the bander to be at least one year old when captured, not two years old as indicated on the "Certificate of Appreciation" received by EHM for reporting the band recovery. Thus the bird was at least 16 yr old when recaptured on its nest in 1985. This remains as a longevity record for the species and apparently for the family Scolopacidae as based on North American records.

Longevity records from European studies surpass ours for the Least Sandpiper. Cramp (1983) reported a 17-yr-old Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*), and Ryzewski (1978) noted a Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) aged 19 yr 8 mo. Staav (1983) summarized Swedish records, including 19 yr 1 mo for Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), 24 yr for Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), and 31 yr 7 mo for Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*); the latter appears to be a longevity record for the family. Ryzewski (1978) also reported an old Dunlin, aged 19 yr 9 mo. Staav's estimate for Dunlin is extremely unlikely given accepted mortality rates; at an annual mortality rate of only 30%, for example, the likelihood of reaching 24 yr is about 0.02%. P. E. Jönsson (*in litt.*) suggests that mortality estimates for calidridines (and shorebirds in general) are far too high, and that careful population studies will reveal rates for adults of 10-20%, as in his study in southern Sweden. With annual mortality

of 20%, Least Sandpipers would have about a 3% chance of living to 16 yr of age, so would certainly be captured in fair numbers in population studies like ours on Sable Island. Long-term studies on breeding populations are badly needed to allow such older birds to be detected, and hence to allow more accurate estimation of vital rates.

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