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News, Notes, Comments

Errata: Please change the Volume Number (right hand bottom) on the front cover of the Jul-Sep 2015 issue (most recent prior issue of *NABB*) from 43 to 40. The *NABB* production coordinator apologizes for this error.

An Appeal

Lacking sufficent material for a complete issue of NABB for Vol 40, No. 4, the NABB editorial board authorized publication of a combined issue of Vol. 40, No. 4 with Vol. 41, No. 1 to be referenced as Vol. 41, No. 1 2016 for citation purposes.

Please consider this notice as an appeal for manuscripts and other material for publication in NABB.

Lesser Goldfinch:

New Longevity Record

Starr Ranch Bird Observatory has been operating a (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) MAPS banding station since 1999. The banding station is located on the 1618 hectare wildlife refuge, Audubon Starr Ranch, in southern Orange County, CA. The habitat around the banding station consists of riparian dominated by western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), oak woodland dominated by coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and coastal sage scrub dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*). The station consists of 16 twelve-meter mist nets. Eight nets are run stacked and eight nets are run alone. The MAPS station is located at 33°36′34.30"N 117°33′49.09"W.

On 17 Jul 2009, a Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus* [*Carduelis*] *psaltra*) was banded with the number 1980-27191 at the Starr Ranch MAPS banding station. The bird was processed and released as an AHY male. This bird was recaptured five other times at the MAPS banding station (see Table 1). At the last recapture, the band was removed due to the condition of the band being so worn the numbers could hardly be read. The metal of the band had become very thin and was stuck to part of the bird's leg. The old band was safely removed and replaced with a new 0A band on the opposite leg, number 2750-83206. The bird was processed and released, aged as an ASY male. No photos were taken. This represents a new longevity record for this species. The previous record was 5 yr, 8 mo (Lutmerding and Love 2015) and the new age record held by this bird is minimum 7 yr old. The previous record dates back to 1960 and was retrieved from a deceased female.

The Lesser Goldfinch showed a small weight increase from its original banding (see Table 1), but after that the weight has remained fairly constant. The frequency of recapture and lack of fat (see Table 1) indicate this bird is most likely a resident bird.

This record is important for several reasons. Lesser Goldfinches in southern California show only a 40% adult survival rate (Albert 2015, DeSante et al. 2015). It is important to document the longevity of the birds that survive. This record shows a 23% increase in longevity from the previous record. Relatively little data exists on average life span and survivorship for Lesser Goldfinches (Watt and Willoughby 2014). This record is supplementing data on Lesser Goldfinch life history that is poorly documented. This longevity record provides an example of a bird that is continuing to survive amid southern California's current four year drought. As this drought persists, it is important to monitor bird populations in these areas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Star Ranch MAPS station

Table 1. Chronology of Lesser Goldfinch banded with Band #1980-27191 and later replaced with Band #2750-83206. Fat and cloacal protuberance scoring follows MAPS protocol.

DATE	AGE	SEX	WEIGHT (G)	FAT	CLOACAL PROTUBERANCE
7 Sep 2009 (banded)	AHY	M	9.1	0	2
7 May 2010	AHY	M	9.8	0	2
23 Jul 2010	ASY	M	10	0	3
26 May 2011	ASY	M	9.9	0	3
22 Jun 2013	ASY	M	10.4	0	3
29 Jun 2015 (band replaced)	ASY	M	9.7	1	3

Three Additional Recaptures of Long-Distance Migrating Rufous Hummingbirds

Coastal southcentral Alaska is known as the northern extent of the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus)* breeding range (61° N). The species migrates from Alaska and the Pacific Northwest southward to its wintering grounds in Mexico and along the Gulf of Mexico coast of the southeastern United States to southeast Texas, southwestern Arizona, and southern California into Baja, CA (Healy and Calder 2006).

The first foreign recapture of a Rufous Hummingbird in AK was at the Chenega Bay banding station (60° 03′ 38" N, 148° 00′ 56" W). Reported by Kate McLaughlin on 28 Jun 2010, the recapture was a second-year female banded by Fred Dietrich on 13 Jan 2010 in Tallahassee, FL. (30° 28′ 45" N 84° 16′ 06"W). This recapture marked the first link between the breeding grounds of coastal southcentral Alaska and the wintering grounds in the southeastern United States and is the longest