

LONGEVITY RECORD FOR THE BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW: AN EXTENSION

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Abstract.—A female Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*) collected on Laysan Island on 30 Apr. 1991 was at least 23 yr and 10 mo old, making it the oldest known scolopacid in North America. Resightings of Bristle-thighed Curlews marked on Laysan from 1988 to 1990, and recent encounters with two of the 95 curlews banded in 1967, suggest an annual survivorship of >85%.

REGISTRO DE LONGEVIDAD EN *NUMENIUS TAHITIENSIS*: UNA EXTENSIÓN

Sinopsis.—Una hembra de *Numenius tahitiensis* capturada en la Isla de Laysan el 30 de abril de 1991, tenía al menos 23 años y 10 meses de edad, lo que hace de este espécimen el registro más antiguo conocido entre las especies de escolopácidos en Norte América. Registros visuales de *N. tahitiensis* marcados en Laysan durante 1988 y 1989, y registros recientes de dos de los 95 ejemplares marcados en 1967, sugieren una supervivencia anual mayor de 85%.

On 31 Aug. 1989, I saw a banded Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*) on Laysan Island, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and read the band number (564-00019) through a spotting scope. The bird had been banded on 4 Sep. 1967 by Roger Clapp on Lisianski Island, 225 km WNW of Laysan (Marks et al. 1990). At a minimum age of 22 yr and 2 mo, it was the oldest known scolopacid in North America (see Miller and McNeil 1988). On 30 Apr. 1991, I collected this curlew on Laysan Island to assess fat content at the start of spring migration. I opened the body cavity and determined that the bird was an obese female (body mass = 773 g, wing chord = 249 mm, tarsus length = 63.7 mm, exposed culmen length = 92.3 mm). When I collected the bird, >70% of the approximately 300 curlews present on Laysan were uniquely color-banded on their tibiotarsi. I deliberately avoided collecting color-banded curlews and would not have shot this bird had I known it was banded (USFWS aluminum band on tarsus). This encounter extends the longevity record for Bristle-thighed Curlews (and for North American scolopacids) to 23 yr and 10 mo.

Based on resightings of individually marked birds, the annual survival rate for Bristle-thighed Curlews wintering on Laysan was 80–90% from 1988 to 1990 (J. S. Marks and R. L. Redmond, unpubl. data). Encounters with birds banded previously would provide an independent appraisal of this estimate. In 1967, 95 curlews were banded on Laysan and Lisianski islands (Clapp and Wirtz 1975, Ely and Clapp 1973). Since 1988, two of these birds have been encountered on Laysan alone (the collected bird plus another captured in 1988 and resighted in 1989; see Marks et al. 1990). Given that researchers have spent very little time on Lisianski

Island, and that aluminum bands can be difficult to detect, it is likely that several other curlews banded in 1967 were alive between 1988 and 1990. This would suggest a mean annual survivorship of 85–90% for curlews from this 1967 banding cohort.

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