

LONGEVITY RECORDS FOR MALE AND FEMALE FLAMMULATED OWLS

RICHARD T. REYNOLDS

*Rocky Mountain Forest and Range
Experiment Station
222 South 22nd Street
Laramie, Wyoming 82070 USA*

BRIAN D. LINKHART

*4441 Tule Lake Drive
Littleton, Colorado 80123 USA*

Abstract.—A female Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*), banded as a breeding adult on 14 Jul. 1981 in central Colorado, was last captured on 9 Jul. 1987. On the same study area, a male Flammulated Owl was banded as a nestling on 15 Jul. 1981 and was last recaptured at a nest 2.5 km distant from its natal site on 6 Jul. 1989. These establish the longevity for females at a minimum of 7 yr 1 mo and for male Flammulated Owls at 8 yr 1 mo.

REGISTROS DE LONGEVIDAD PARA MACHO Y HEMBRA DE *OTUS FLAMMEOLUS*

Sinopsis.—Una *Otus flammeolus* hembra, marcada como reproductora adulta el 14 de julio de 1981 en Colorado central, fue capturada por última vez el 9 de julio de 1987. En la misma área de estudios, un *Otus flammeolus* macho, marcado como polluelo el 15 de julio de 1981, fue capturado por última vez en un nido a 2.5 kilómetros de distancia de su lugar de nacimiento, el 6 de julio de 1989. Esto establece la longevidad de las hembras *Otus flammeolus* a un mínimo de 7 años y 1 mes y la de los machos a 8 años y 1 mes.

On 14 Jul. 1981, we trapped and banded a female Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) at its nest on the Manitou Experiment Forest, Teller County, Colorado at 39°0'N, 105°0'W during a long-term study of the owls' biology and habitat (Linkhart and Reynolds 1987; Reynolds and Linkhart 1987a,b; Dunning 1988). This female (U.S. F.&W.S. #1373-33611), which at that time was at least 1 yr old (it is not known whether females breed in their second yr), was last recaptured at its nest on 9 Jul. 1987. In 1982 and 1983, she was recaptured at nests in the same home range where she had been banded. In 1984 she moved to an adjacent home range where she was recaptured at her nests in 1984, 1985, and 1987 (Reynolds and Linkhart 1987a). This establishes the longevity for female Flammulated Owls at a minimum of 7 yr-1 mo.

On 6 Jul. 1989, we trapped a male Flammulated Owl at its nest on the Manitou Experiment Forest. The male was banded (U.S. F.&W.S. #1373-33614) as a nestling on 15 Jul. 1981, approximately 2.4 km from where it was recaptured. The nest of this male was first discovered on 10 Jul. 1987 on the same home range where it was recaptured again in 1988 and 1989. Because this home range was outside our main study area, the range never received an intensive nest search. However, in the 9 yr of this study, the range was occupied by a singing territorial male

each year. This is the first Flammulated Owl banded as a nestling on our study area that returned to nest in the vicinity of its natal site, and establishes the longevity record for male Flammulated Owls at 8 yr-1 mo.

The age structure of this Flammulated Owl population remains unknown. To date, we have banded 86 nestlings and 42 adults in and around our study area. Of these, only 1 nestling has been recaptured as an adult, and 13 of the owls banded as adults have returned to nest; 4 males and 2 females returned 1 yr only, 2 males returned for 2 yr, 2 males for 3 yr, 1 male and 1 female for 4 yr, and 1 female for 6 yr. Longevity records for other small owls are: *Otus asio*, 13 yr-6 mo; *O. kennicottii*, 12 yr-11 mo; *Athene cunicularia*, 8 yr-8 mo (Clapp et al. 1983); *Aegolius acadicus*, 7 yr-5 mo; *Micrathene whitneyi*, 4 yr-11 mo (Klimkiewicz and Futcher, 1989); *O. scops*, 6 yr; *Aegolius funereus*, 8 yr-2 mo; *Athene nocuta*, 9 yr-6 mo (Glutz and Bauer 1980).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank J. Jeansen and Cloud Ridge Naturalists participants for help with the field work. M. K. Klimkiewicz, J. Marks, and R. A. Ryder commented on an earlier draft.

LITERATURE CITED

- CLAPP, R. B., M. K. KLIMKIEWICZ, AND A. G. FUTCHER. 1983. Longevity records of North American birds: Columbidae through Paridae. *J. Field Ornithol.* 54:123-137.
- DUNNING, JR., J. B. 1988. Significant records with marked birds. *N. Amer. Bird Bander.* 13:110-112.
- GLUTZ VON BLOTZHEIM, U. N., AND K. M. BAUER. 1980. *Handbuch der Vogel Mitteleuropas*, Vol. 9. Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft, Wiesbaden.
- KLIMKIEWICZ, M. K., AND A. G. FUTCHER. 1989. Longevity records of North American birds. Supplement I. *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:469-494.
- LINKHART, B. D., AND R. T. REYNOLDS. 1987. Brood division and postnesting behavior of Flammulated Owls. *Wilson Bull.* 99:240-243.
- REYNOLDS, R. T., AND B. D. LINKHART. 1987a. Fidelity to territory and mate in Flammulated Owls. Pp. 234-238, in *Biology and conservation of Northern Forest Owls: symposium proceeding*. USDA For. Serv. Gen. Tech. Rep. RM-142.
- AND ———. 1987b. The nesting biology of Flammulated Owls in Colorado. Pp. 239-249, in *Biology and conservation of Northern Forest Owls: symposium proceeding*. USDA For. Serv. Gen. Tech. Rep. RM-142.

Received 24 Apr. 1989; accepted 5 Dec. 1989.