

News, Notes, Comments

HUTTON'S VIREO: LONGEVITY RECORD and INTERESTING MOVEMENT

This note announces a new longevity record and describes dispersal for an individual Hutton's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*).

PRBO Conservation Science (formerly Point Reyes Bird Observatory) has been mist-netting songbirds since 1965 at the Palomarin Field Station (37°56'N, 122°45'W), located in the Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County, CA. The habitat there is mixed evergreen hardwood forest and coastal scrub (DeSante and Geupel 1987). In 1994 we extended our mist-netting efforts to nearby Pine Gulch (37°55'N, 122°41'W), a deciduous willow-alder riparian forest patch adjacent to the Bolinas Lagoon and managed by Marin County Open Space District.

Banding records indicate that the Hutton's Vireo in question (band #1790-46811) was first captured at the Palomarin Field Station on 16 Jun 1993 and aged as a juvenile by its juvenal plumage and skull pneumatization (the skull was up to one-third ossified). The bird was caught three days later in the same area, but not again until 31 May 1995, at Pine Gulch, a distance of 4.5 km from the original banding location. This bird was recaptured five more times at Pine Gulch, with the most recent capture on 4 Jun 2004. Assuming a May 1st hatch date in 1993, this Hutton's Vireo would be 11 yr 1 mo old at the time of its recapture in June 2004, a longevity record for this species. The current published longevity record for the species is 6 yr 11 mo and is from Pine Gulch (Maute 2003). Longevity records for eight other vireo species range from 6 yr 1 mo to 13 yr 1 mo, with the second highest longevity record amongst vireos now belonging to Hutton's Vireo (Klimkiewicz 2002).

Of additional interest to us is the dispersal of this individual to a site 4.5 km away. This resident, non-migratory vireo is reported to have some post-breeding elevational movement in Oregon, California, and Arizona (Davis 1995); however, the Palomarin Field Station and Pine Gulch are both near sea level. In addition, in Mojave Desert, CA, young have been found at distances of up to 120 km from their closest potential natal site (Davis 1995).

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We have not previously documented such movement ourselves except for this individual. In fact, upon examining captures from Palomarin and an adjacent site ("Uppers"), where we began mist netting in 1992, we find that only one of 208 individuals (with 290 recaptures in total) since then has been recaptured at a distance greater than 0.5 km from its original capture location. Although the banding area at the Palomarin Field Station and adjacent "Uppers" can recover birds up to 1 km apart, most significant movements were less than 0.4 km. According to our banding data, no other Hutton's Vireo has moved between our Palomarin sites and Pine Gulch (where we have banded 22 and recaptured 30 Hutton's Vireos). This individual is our first well-documented occurrence of dispersal for this species.

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**Angeline Chessey
and Kristen Dybala**
PRBO Conservation Science
4990 Shoreline Highway
Stinson Beach, CA 94970-9701
achessey@hotmail.com