

FUN FACTS ABOUT BIRD LONGEVITY

Data collected from bird banding records contributes to our knowledge of bird life spans. All the really long-living birds spend much of their life on or around the ocean.



The Champ... Laysan Albatross

The 10 Longest Surviving Species in the US Geological Survey Bird Banding Laboratory Database

1. Laysan Albatross - 50 years and 8 months
2. Black-footed Albatross - 40 years 8 months
3. Great Frigatebird - 38 years 2 months
4. White Tern - 35 years 11 months
5. Sooty Tern - 35 years 10 months
6. Wandering Albatross - 34 years 7 months
7. Arctic Tern - 34 years
8. Red-tailed Tropicbird - 32 years 8 months
9. Black-browed Albatross - 32 years 5 months
10. Atlantic Puffin - 31 years 11 months
11. **Morning Dove** – Holds the record for the oldest land based bird- 31 years and 4 months. This is remarkable because....
 1. Over 70 million are harvested annually by hunters.
 2. Death from non-hunting related causes or “natural causes” (weather, predation) take 4-5 times more birds (280 – 350 million) than hunting does.
 3. It is estimated that between 50-65% of all Mourning Doves die annually. (“no wonder they are mourning”)
 4. Despite this they are one of the 10 most abundant birds in the U. S.
 5. When the population is at its peak in fall, they number almost 500 million birds.
 6. They raise up to six nestlings per year.
 7. The AVERAGE life span is 1.5 years.

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