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LONGEVITY OF RUFOUS-BELLIED THRUSH (*Turdus rufiventris*) AND SAYACA TANAGER (*Thraupis sayaca*) (PASSERIFORMES) IN SÃO PAULO CITY, SOUTHEASTERN BRAZIL

LONGEVIDAD DE ZORZAL COLORADO (*Turdus rufiventris*) Y CELESTINO (*Thraupis sayaca*) (AVES: PASSERIFORMES) EN LA CIUDAD DE SÃO PAULO, SURESTE DE BRASIL

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ABSTRACT: Rufous-bellied Thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*) and Sayaca Tanager (*Thraupis sayaca*) have wide geographic distributions in South America, occur in diverse habitats, and have varied diets. Published longevity records indicate maxima of 8 years for Rufous-bellied Thrush and 6 years for Sayaca Tanager, though such data remain scarce. During bird monitoring in São Paulo city, southeastern Brazil, we recaptured one Rufous-bellied Thrush 1.813 days after banding (minimum age >4.9 years) and photographed one Sayaca Tanager 2.947 days after banding (minimum age >8 years). Both individuals, originally banded as adults, persisted at their original banding site within one of South America's largest urban areas, demonstrating strong site fidelity. The Sayaca Tanager record represents a new maximum longevity for the species. These findings highlight the need to continue documenting neotropical bird longevity, which is essential for conservation planning and population management.

KEYWORDS: age, Atlantic Forest, band recovery, site fidelity, urban habitat

RESUMEN: El Zorzal Colorado (*Turdus rufiventris*) y el Celestino (*Thraupis sayaca*) tienen una amplia distribución geográfica en Sudamérica, encontrándose en diversos hábitats y con dietas variadas. Los registros de longevidad publicados indican máximos de 8 años para el Zorzal Colorado y de 6 años para el Celestino, aunque esta información se basa en datos escasos. Durante el monitoreo de aves en la ciudad de São Paulo, en el sureste de Brasil, recapturamos un Zorzal Colorado 1.813 días después del anillamiento (edad mínima > 4,9 años) y fotografiamos un Celestino 2.947 días después del anillamiento (edad mínima > 8 años). Ambos individuos, originalmente anillados como adultos, permanecieron en el sitio de anillamiento original dentro de una de las áreas urbanas más grandes de Sudamérica, lo que indicaría una fuerte fidelidad al sitio. El registro de longevidad de Celestino marca un nuevo máximo para la especie. Estos hallazgos resaltan la necesidad de continuar documentando la longevidad de las aves neotropicales, lo cual es esencial para la planificación de la conservación y el manejo de las poblaciones.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Bosque Atlántico, edad, fidelidad al sitio, hábitat urbano, recuperación de anillos

Information on bird longevity is important, but it remains scarce in the Neotropical region, according to different authors (e.g., Lentino et al. 2003). In fact, most publications focus on marine and aquatic birds (e.g., Efe et al. 2006; Scherer Neto & Margarido 2026), followed by terrestrial birds (e.g., Lopes et al. 1980; Bornschein et al. 2015), with few reports on birds in urban environments (e.g., Pietersen et al. 2010). The Rufous-bellied Thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*) and the Sayaca Tanager (*Thraupis sayaca*) share similar geographic distributions across South America, occurring throughout the extra-Amazonian region of Brazil, as well as in Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, and Uruguay. Both species inhabit diverse habitats including open forests, savannas, agricultural lands, and urban environments. They feed primarily on fruits and arthropods, though Rufous-bellied Thrush also consumes earthworms while Sayaca Tanager supplements its diet with seeds and plant shoots (Sick 1997; Nazaro & Blendinger 2017; Collar 2020; Hilty 2020). Published longevity records report 2–8 years for Rufous-bellied Thrush (Lopes et al. 1980; Silva-Jr et al. 2020) and 4–6 years for Sayaca Tanager (Lopes et al. 1980), though documentation remains limited, especially for urban populations.

During bird monitoring in the forest grove of Horto Oswaldo Cruz, Instituto Butantan (23°33'59.20"S, 46°43'2.19"W, 722 m a.s.l.), western São Paulo city, southeastern Brazil, we obtained longevity records for both species. On 8 July 2024, an adult Rufous-bellied Thrush was recaptured in a mist net (Fig. 1A). The individual carried a CEMAVE (Centro Nacional de Pesquisa e Conservação de Aves Silvestres) band ID: H76589 and had been banded on 22 July 2019 by the Museu Biológico do Instituto Butantan team at the same location, when identified as an adult. At recapture, measurements were: wing 120 mm, tail 101 mm, exposed culmen 21.6 mm, tarsus 34.9 mm, and mass 81.6 g. The bird showed no active molt and received an additional yellow band. Days later, on 16 August 2024, an adult Sayaca Tanager was photographed at the same site, and its CEMAVE band was identified from the image sequence as ID: G80047 (Fig. 1B). This Sayaca Tanager individual had been banded on 22 July 2016 by the same team and previously identified as an adult.

The time elapsed between banding and recovery was 1,813 days (4 years, 11 months, 17 days) for the Rufous-bellied Thrush and 2,947 days (8 years, 25 days) for the Sayaca Tanager. Since both indivi-



Figure 1. Birds banded and reencountered at Horto Oswaldo Cruz, Instituto Butantan, São Paulo, Brazil. A. Individual of Rufous-bellied Thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*) recovered in July 2024. Photograph: Fabio Schunck; B. Individual of Sayaca Tanager (*Thraupis sayaca*) photographed in August 2024. Photograph: Paino Barros B.

Figura 1. Aves anilladas y reencontradas en el Horto Oswaldo Cruz, del Instituto Butantan, en São Paulo, Brasil. A. Zorzal Colorado (*Turdus rufiventris*) recapturado en julio de 2024. Foto: Fabio Schunck; B. Celestino (*Thraupis sayaca*) fotografiado en agosto de 2024. Foto: Paino Barros B.

duals were banded as adults, these intervals would represent minimum ages. Both birds persisted at their original banding location within São Paulo, the state capital (population ~12 million; IBGE 2026), demonstrating strong site fidelity even in one of South America's largest urban areas. The minimum age of our Rufous-bellied Thrush (> 4.9 years) falls within previously reported ranges for the species, which has been recorded living up to 8 years (Lopes et al. 1980; Silva-Jr et al. 2020). However, our Sayaca Tanager record with a minimum age > 8 years exceeds the 4–6 year range reported by Lopes et al. (1980), constituting a new maximum longevity record for this species.

These observations underscore the value of banding programs and photographic monitoring in urban environments for obtaining longevity data on common species, and reflect the role of urban green areas as viable habitats for these species. Such records address critical knowledge gaps and support conservation planning, population management, and environmental education initiatives. Given the scarcity of longevity studies for Neotropical birds, particularly from urban habitats, continued field documentation remains essential.

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Ethical considerations: Fieldwork complied with current Brazilian federal law and regulations and was undertaken under SISBIO permit 89978-2 and CEMAVE banding permit 4864/1. The study has authorization from the Ethics Committee on the use of animals at the Butantan Institute (CEUA 7161180923).

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