

Trophic ecology of the Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa* at Bahía Lomas, Tierra del Fuego, Chile

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Using stable isotope analysis, we investigate the diet of Red Knots of the subspecies *rufa* at Bahía Lomas, Chile, their main over-wintering site in the West Atlantic Flyway. Benthic sampling showed that the most abundant and available potential prey for knots is the clam *Darina solenoides* and the isotope analysis confirmed that this is their main food resource. However, 91% of *Darina* were <6.0 mm in length, much smaller and therefore less profitable than size-classes chosen by knots at other sites. We speculate as to whether this apparently poor quality food supply could have contributed to the catastrophic decline in the *rufa* population recorded over the past decade.