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the rest of the body was whiter. A second sighting of an albino Spur-winged Goose with the same description was made on 17 January 1993 at a fadama pond near Damasa, about 9 km NW of the location of the previous sighting. About 500 other normal conspecifics and about 3000 Garganeys *Anas querquedula* were in the same pond. A game guard in the wetlands made similar observations in 1987 and 1993 while patrolling an area near Nguru lake, about 36 km NW of Damasa (H. Hassan pers. comm.). It is not known whether these records were of the same individual.

Although albinism is not unusual in birds, there is not, to my knowledge, any report of its occurrence in Spur-winged Geese.

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On the laying period of the Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* in the delta of the River Senegal

Brown *et al.* (1983) indicate that the laying period in Senegal of the Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* extends from July to October, i.e. over the rainy season. However, in early 1993, we observed six different broods of this species, all in the delta of the River Senegal: a pair with one duckling about one week old on 18 January (Senegal); an adult with nine juveniles about three-quarters of the size of the adult on 17 January (Senegal); a pair with six juveniles about one third the size of the adults on 30 March (Senegal); a pair with four juveniles about half the size of adults on 22 January (Mauritania); a pair with four juveniles about half to two-thirds the size of the adults on 22 January (Mauritania); a pair with five juveniles about two-thirds the size of the adults on 24 January (Mauritania).

Assuming an incubation period of 28-30 days and a fledging period of 75-80 days (Brown *et al.* 1983), the laying dates of the January observations ranged from early October to around 10 December, and for the March observation the beginning of February.

Similar observations outside the period defined by Brown *et al.* (1983) have previously been made by Jarry (*in* Morel & Morel 1990) who discovered two nests in the Djoudj National Park in January 1975 while Dupuy (1976) and Roux *et al.* (1977) report families respectively from October to February and from 15 October to 15 February and till May, which indicate laying in February. We therefore conclude that the laying period is not limited to July-October but can continue until January or February, particularly when aquatic resources are not limited. With the artificial flood due to the Diama Dam, it is possible that the Egyptian Goose is now able to breed during a longer period than formerly.

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A long-lived Common Bubul *Pycnonotus barbatus* in Nigeria

Keith *et al.* (1992) quote an 18 year-old individual from Chad as the longest-lived Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* in the wild. As this record has not been published, details ought to be put on record.

The bird concerned was ringed (British Trust for Ornithology ring no. CR40257) at Mallamfatori, Lake Chad (Nigeria) (13°37'N, 13°20'E) on 27 August 1968 and retrapped on 27 September. It was recaptured and released on 4 February 1987 (information kindly supplied by the B.T.O). It was half way through active primary moult in August and September 1968, and was most probably already adult (juvenile birds had only a partial moult at that time). This species breeds in the area mainly from March to May (pers. obs.), before the rains. This would mean that it hatched in the first half of 1967 or earlier, and was 19 years old when recaptured. From its wing length (101 mm) it was probably a male: the range for 38 non-juveniles (March-May) was 93-104 mm (mean 96.6), and the species shows fairly well-marked sexual dimorphism in size (Britton 1972; pers. obs.).

The locality of the 1987 recapture was reported as Maiduguri, some 193 km from where the bird was ringed, but I am sure it would in fact have been at Mallamfatori, as the person who reported it gave his address as the Lake Chad Research Institute, which has a station there (though its postal box, and hence address, is in Maiduguri).

As reported by Keith *et al.* (1992), there is an even older record for this species from a captive bird, and an increasing number of passerine species have produced comparable results in the wild. These figures need to be compared to the considerably shorter mean life expectancies quoted by these authors (1.4-2 years), but I believe the