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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest  
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### Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* in Nigeria

On 5 December 1993, I visited Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary, Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands, northern Nigeria (12°45'N, 10°35'E). About 10,000 Palearctic ducks were present on the lake, mainly Pintail *Anas acuta* and Garganey *A. querquedula*. Among the main flock of about 4000 Pintail was a single male Mallard *A. platyrhynchos*. It was in pristine breeding plumage and showed no sign of any plumage aberrations, such as are seen on almost all captive "Mallards" in northern Nigeria, many of which appear to be hybrids of some description. This, combined with the fact that it was part of a large flock of wild Palearctic ducks, strongly suggests that the bird was of wild origin.

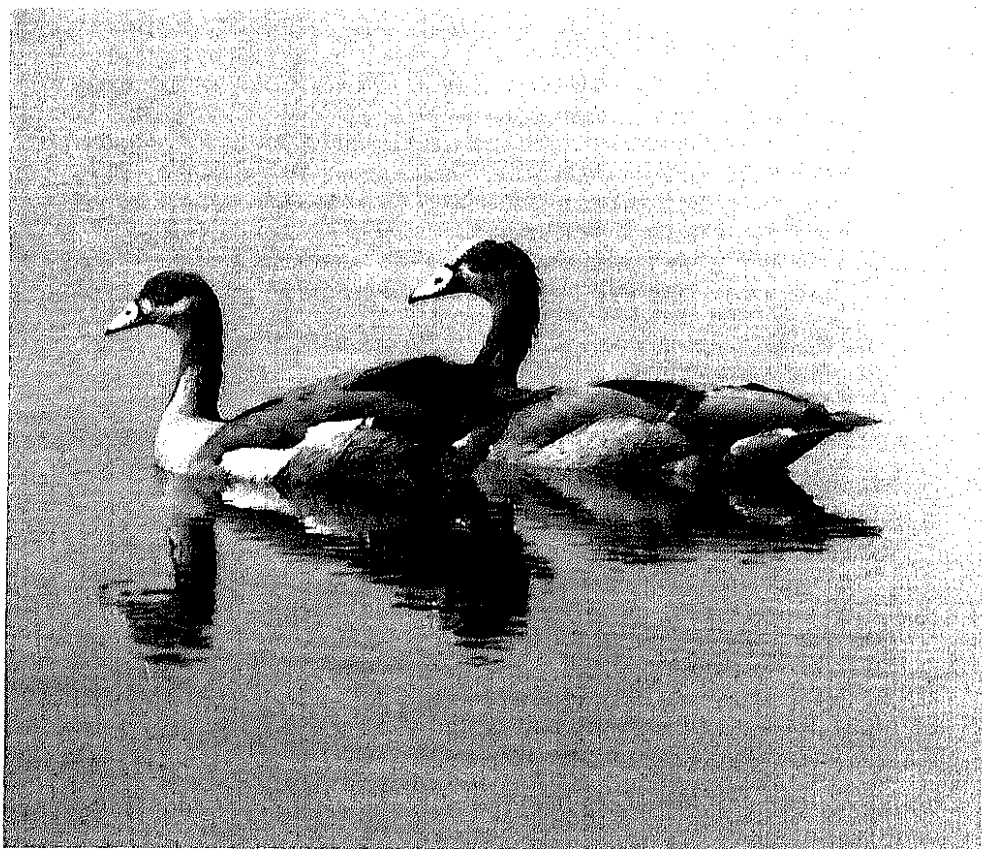
Brown *et al.* (1982) describe the Mallard as a vagrant to West Africa, and this bird is accepted by Elgood *et al.* (1994) as the first substantiated record for Nigeria.

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Egyptian Goose – Oie d'Egypte – *Alopochen aegyptiacus*  
Photo: Michael Gore