

NOTES ON THE LONGEVITY OF CAPTIVE BIRDS

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BECAUSE the controlling factors are manifold in each case, longevity records of wild birds seldom indicate the length of life a physiologically 'normal' bird may attain if the conditions to which it is exposed are relatively ideal throughout its life. Disease, meteorological conditions, food shortages, the types of food obtained, predation and many other influences may all play a part in appreciably shortening its potential life span.

However, birds maintained under captive conditions are not exposed to predators, nor are they, theoretically at least, subjected to vicissitudes of weather and food supply. Hence, longevity records of captive birds may often be more indicative of the potential length of life of a species than are records of unconfined and unprotected birds.

The following data, gleaned from the files of the Zoological Gardens of San Diego, California, serve to supplement past compilations of a similar nature. Each record represents a specimen still living in the collection. However, the list is not to be considered a complete one, for in a collection which has included thousands of birds over a period of nearly thirty years, it has been more often than not impossible to account for individual specimens, particularly in such species as reproduce readily and prolifically in captivity. Furthermore, specimen records were poorly and sporadically kept during the early days of the zoo's existence.

The following list has been divided into sections, each consisting of those birds now in the collection received by the zoo during a given year. When more than one extant specimen of a species was acquired during the same year, the number of surviving examples follows the name. If no number is given, the name of each species represents a single bird. The list is comprised of specimens received from 1924 to 1940 inclusive. Since I submitted the present manuscript, two of the birds listed under date of 1927 have died as noted below. Date of final record, herewith, is May 25, 1948.

1924

KING VULTURE, *Sarcoramphus papa*
BATELEUR EAGLE, *Terathopius ecaudatus*

1925

BARRED OWL, *Strix varia helveola*

1926

DUSKY HORNED OWL, *Bubo virginianus saturatus*

1927

CAPE CROWNED CRANE, *Balearica pavonina regalarum*
KAGU, *Rhynochetos jubatus*¹
LEADBEATER'S COCKATOO, *Kakatoe leadbeateri*
BARE-EYED COCKATOO, *Kakatoe s. sanguinea* (2)
SATIN BOWERBIRD, *Ptilinorhynchus v. violaceus*
PIPING CROW, *Gymnorhina t. tibicen*²

1929

ANDEAN CONDOR, *Vultur gryphus*
CHIMACHIMA, *Milvago chimachima*
FISHING OWL, *Ketupa k. ketupa*

1930

FRAZAR'S OYSTER-CATCHER, *Haematopus ostralegus frazari*
SILVER GULL, *Larus novae-hollandiae* (2)
SLENDER-BILLED COCKATOO, *Kakatoe tenuirostris*

1932

MARABOU STORK, *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*
GOLDEN EAGLE, *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*
BLUE-CROWNED CONURE, *Aratinga acuticaudata haemorrhous*
SENEGAL PARROT, *Poicephalus senegalus*

1933

BALD EAGLE, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (2)
GREAT BLACK COCKATOO, *Probosciger aterrimus*
JANDAYA CONURE, *Aratinga jandaya*
BLACK-HEADED CAIQUE, *Pionites melanocephala*
FISHING OWL, *Ketupa k. ketupa*

1934

WHITE-FACED GLOSSY IBIS, *Plegadis guarauna*
ANDEAN CONDOR, *Vultur gryphus*
SNOWY OWL, *Nyctea scandiaca*

1935

COMMON EMU, *Dromiceius n. hollandiae n. hollandiae* (2)
AUDUBON'S CARACARA, *Polyborus cheriway audubonii*
EAST AFRICAN CROWNED CRANE, *Balearica pavonina gibbericeps* (2)
CRESTED SERIEMA, *Cariama cristata* (2)
BOOBOOK OWL, *Ninox novaeseelandiae booobook* (2)

1936

NORTH AFRICAN OSTRICH, *Struthio camelus camelus*
COMMON CASSOWARY, *Casuaris casuaris*
COMMON EMU, *Dromiceius n. hollandiae n. hollandiae*
CRESTED SCREAMER, *Chauna torquata*
GALAPAGOS HAWK, *Buteo galapagoensis* (2)

¹ Died in February, 1948, after 20 years and 9 months in the zoo.

² Died in July, 1947, after 20 years and 2 months in the zoo.

INDIAN VULTURE, *Pseudogyys bengalensis*
 GREAT BLACK COCKATOO, *Probosciger aterrimus*
 CITRÓN-CRESTED COCKATOO, *Kakatoe sulphurea citrino-cristata*
 LEADBEATER'S COCKATOO, *Kakatoe leadbeateri*
 MOLUCCA COCKATOO, *Kakatoe moluccensis*
 CLARK'S NUTCRACKER, *Nucifraga columbiana*

1937

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*
 WHITE STORK, *Ciconia c. ciconia* (2)
 BRUSH TURKEY, *Alectura lathamii*
 GALAPAGOS FINCH, *Geospiza* sp.

1938

PERUVIAN PELICAN, *Pelecanus occidentalis thagus* (3)
 FRIGATE BIRD, *Fregata m. magnificens*
 BOATBILL, *Cochlearius cochlearius* (2)
 CRESTED SCREAMER, *Chauna torquata*
 MAGELLAN GOOSE, *Chloephaga picta* (2)
 KING VULTURE, *Sarcoramphus papa*
 GOLDEN EAGLE, *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis* (2)
 GRIFFON VULTURE, *Gyps f. fulvus* (2)
 SOUTHERN CARACARA, *Polyborus plancus* (2)
 DUSKY GULL, *Larus fuliginosus* (2)
 GALAPAGOS DOVE, *Nesopelia g. galapagoensis*
 YELLOW-BILLED DOVE, *Columbigallina cruziana*
 WHITE-EARED CONURE, *Pyrrhura leucotis*
 ORANGE-FLANKED PARRAKEET, *Brotogeris pyrrhopterus*
 TOVI PARRAKEET, *Brotogeris jugularis*
 SPECTACLED OWL, *Pulsatrix p. perspicillata*
 YELLOW-WINGED HONEY CREEPER, *Cyanerpes cyaneus*
 ORANGE WEAVER, *Pyromelana franciscana*
 RED-BILLED WEAVER, *Quelea quelea*
 MARSH TROUPIAL, *Trupialis militaris*
 POPE CARDINAL, *Paroaria dominicana* (2)
 BRAZILIAN CARDINAL, *Paroaria cucullata*
 HICKS'S SEED-EATER, *Spermophila aurita* (2)

1939

TIGER BITTERN, *Tigrisoma lineatum*
 WILD MUSCOVY, *Cairina moschata* (3)
 TAWNY HAWK, *Heterospizias meridionalis*
 SCLATER'S CURASSOW, *Crax fasciolata sclateri* (2)
 PILEATED GUAN, *Penelope pileata*
 PAINTED QUAIL, *Excalfactoria chinensis*
 SARUS CRANE, *Grus a. antigone*
 RED RAIL, *Laterallus rubra*
 PICUI DOVE, *Columbina picui*
 BROWN-THROATED CONURE, *Aratinga pertinax aeruginosus* (2)
 VENEZUELAN PARROLET, *Forpus passerinus* (2)
 RED-VENTED PARROT, *Pionus menstruus* (2)

FINSCH'S AMAZON, *Amazona finschi*
SNOWY OWL, *Nyctea scandiaca*
LESSON'S MOTMOT, *Momotus momota lessonii*
CRESTED CACIQUE, *Ostinops decumanus*
SILVER-BLUE TANAGER, *Thraupis cana* (2)
YELLOW-RUMPED TANAGER, *Ramphocelus icteronotus*
MAROON TANAGER, *Ramphocelus carbo* (2)
VENEZUELAN CARDINAL, *Richmondia phoenicea*

1940

SINGLE-WATTLED CASSOWARY, *Casuarius u. unappendiculatus*
MEDITERRANEAN PELICAN, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
BLACK-BACKED HERON, *Ardeola speciosa*
GREATER ADJUTANT, *Leptoptilos dubius* (2)
BRAHMINY KITE, *Haliastur indus intermedius* (3)
CROWNED EAGLE, *Stephanoaetus coronatus*
PONDICHERRY VULTURE, *Sarcogyps calvus*
GREEN PEAFOWL, *Pavo muticus* (3)
MANCHURIAN CRANE, *Grus japonensis*
SILVER-NAPED CRANE, *Grus vipio* (2)
DEMOISELLE CRANE, *Anthropoides virgo* (4)
LAND RAIL, *Rallus philippensis* (2)
JAVAN PURPLE SWAMPHEN, *Porphyrio poliocephalus indicus* (4)
NICOBAR PIGEON, *Caloenas n. nicobarica* (4)
VICTORIA CROWNED PIGEON, *Goura victoria* (2)
CITRON-CRESTED COCKATOO, *Kakatoe sulphurea citrino-cristata* (2)
UMBRELLA-CRESTED COCKATOO, *Kakatoe alba* (2)
ALEXANDRINE PARRAKEET, *Psittacula eupatria nipalensis*
MOUSTACHED PARRAKEET, *Psittacula alexandri fasciata*
BLYTH'S HORNBILL, *Aceros plicatus subruficollis*
ASHY-CROWNED FINCH-LARK, *Eremopterix grisea*
FORMOSAN BLUE PIE, *Urocissa caerulea*
BLACK GORGETED JAY-TERUSH, *Garrulax pectoralis*
MALAYAN FAIRY BLUEBIRD, *Irena puella*
WHITE MYNAH, *Leucopsar rothschildi* (2)

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