

LONGEVITY OF BIRDS IN CAPTIVITY.

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BUT little is known of the length of life of birds. Bird banders are doing some valuable work along these lines, but even their data must necessarily be very incomplete. It is difficult to state how much longer a bird will live in the wild than in captivity. In the wild state very little is known of the duration of life. It is, however, extremely doubtful if any birds live long enough to die of old age, as their lives are traveled on a road beset with dangers, and eternal vigilance and hard work are the price of living. Thousands of birds meet violent deaths yearly either by being killed by other birds, mammals or reptiles, flying against buildings or wires during their migration, or are shot by hunters. Besides this, many perish because of the vicissitudes of the weather and lack of food. They certainly have many advantages in captivity, the greatest of which is the protection from their enemies. There is never a scarcity of food or drink and they are protected from severe weather at all times. It is also a fact that some specimens in captivity do die of diseases of the heart, blood and kidneys which are diseases so common in human old age.

It is, however, difficult to say whether the length of life is shortened by captivity or not. I have, prepared the following list showing the duration of life of a few species in captivity in the Philadelphia Zoological Garden, which I hope will be of interest.

Among the Passerine birds the Yellow-headed Blackbird heads the list with 18 years, the Jungle Babbler, 16 and the Himalayan Chough, 14. The Hyacinth Macaw lived 27 years and a Horn-bill 24. Among birds of prey the Griffon Vulture lived 27 years, while a Gray Goose led the water birds with 26 years.

AVES.

PASSERES.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Received</i>	<i>Died</i>
European Raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>)	July 19, 1912	July 29, 1924
Jackdaw (<i>Corvus monedula</i>)	Oct. 10, 1913	Mar. 20, 1922
American Magpie (<i>Pica hudsonica</i>)	Sept. 18, 1917	Sept. 24, 1924

European Jay (<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>)	Mar. 4, 1919	Jan. 2, 1925
Himalayan Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus himalayanus</i>)	May 19, 1909	Jan. 23, 1923
Common Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	Jan. 3, 1918	Mar. 24, 1924
Australian Starling (<i>Calornis metallica</i>)	July 19, 1917	Aug. 26, 1924
Pied Mynah (<i>Sturnopastor contra</i>)	April 9, 1914	July 28, 1924
Silky Cowbird (<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>)	Mar. 29, 1918	April 30, 1924
Colombian Grackle (<i>Quiscalus assimilis</i>)	Dec. 27, 1916	May 18, 1924
Yellow-headed Blackbird (<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>)	Oct. 4, 1910
Bishop Weaver (<i>Pyromelana franciscana</i>)	Sept. 29, 1913	May 11, 1923
African Silverbill (<i>Aidemosyne cantans</i>)	May 18, 1914	Jan. 23, 1922
Spotted Munia Finch (<i>Munia punctulata</i>)	Oct. 10, 1916	Mar. 25, 1924
Java Sparrow (<i>Munia oryzivora</i>)	Nov. 13, 1919	Jan. 12, 1925
Yellow-bellied Finch (<i>Sporaeigthus flaviventris</i>)	Sept. 3, 1919	Sept. 5, 1924
Masked Finch (<i>Lagonosticta larvata</i>)	May 28, 1918	Sept. 5, 1924
Gouldian Grass Finch (<i>Poephila gouldiae</i>)	Nov. 10, 1914	April 8, 1924
Guttural Finch (<i>Spermophila gutturalis</i>)	June 20, 1916	May 21, 1924
Indian Gray Shrike (<i>Lanius lahorta</i>)	May 14, 1914	Nov. 4, 1922
Jungle Babbler (<i>Crateropus canorus</i>)	April 19, 1908	Nov. 15, 1924
Madras Red-vented Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus haemorrhous</i>)	Oct. 29, 1914	Mar. 31, 1923
Red-eared Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>)	May 28, 1918	Mar. 19, 1924

PICARIAE.

Green-billed Toucan (<i>Rhamphastos dicolorus</i>)	Aug. 9, 1912	Mar. 23, 1923
Concave-casqued Hornbill (<i>Dichoceros bicornis</i>)	May 11, 1904
Gray Touracou (<i>Schizorhis concolor</i>)	June 20, 1914	Jan. 11, 1924

PSITTACI.

Swainson's Lorikeet (<i>Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae</i>)	Oct. 31, 1908	Mar. 26, 1923
Roseate Cockatoo (<i>Cacatua roseicapilla</i>)	May 4, 1911	Mar. 16, 1922
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (<i>Cacatua galerita</i>)	June 5, 1912	June 2, 1924
Crested Ground Parrakeet (<i>Calopsitta novae-hollandiae</i>)	Mar. 17, 1918	June 18, 1924
Hyacinthine Macaw (<i>Ara hyacinthina</i>)	Feb. 20, 1912	April 19, 1923
Mexican Conure (<i>Conurus holochlorus</i>)	July 22, 1893	Feb. 28, 1920
White-eared Conure (<i>Conurus leucotis</i>)	Mar. 19, 1902	Oct. 2, 1924
Red-vented Parrot (<i>Pionus menstruus</i>)	Oct. 23, 1917	April 3, 1924
Green-thighed Caica (<i>Caica leucogaster</i>)	Nov. 15, 1918	Sept. 15, 1924
	Nov. 25, 1919	July 26, 1924

Yellow-thighed Caica (<i>Caica xanthomera</i>)	Nov. 22, 1914	July 30, 1924
Blossom-headed Parrakeet (<i>Palaeornis cyanocephalus</i>)	Jan. 4, 1905	Oct. 10, 1923

ACCIPITRES.

Lesser-Spotted Eagle (<i>Aquila pomarina</i>)	{ May 22, 1898	Oct. 1, 1920
	{ May 22, 1898	Aug. 10, 1917
Malayan Brahminy Kite (<i>Haliastur intermedius</i>)	Oct. 17, 1907	Dec. 7, 1922
White-headed Carrion Hawk (<i>Ibycter chima</i>)	May 1, 1918	May 22, 1924
Griffon Vulture (<i>Gyps fulvus</i>)	Nov. 26, 1901
Kolbs Vulture (<i>Gyps kolbi</i>)	{ May 12, 1908
	{ May 12, 1908
Bearded Vulture (<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>)	Aug. 27, 1898	Mar. 16, 1916

GALLI.

Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	April 2, 1912	May 21, 1924
Eastern Wild Turkey (<i>Meleagris gallopavo silvestris</i>)	May 29, 1919	Dec. 21, 1924
Razor-billed Curassow (<i>Mitu mitu</i>)	Nov. 22, 1914	July 2, 1922

ALECTORIDES.

Asiatic White Crane (<i>Grus leucogeranos</i>)	Aug. 23, 1904
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GAVIÆ.

Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	June 1, 1917	July 3, 1924
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STEGANOPODES.

Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>)	Oct. 24, 1909	July 13, 1922
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HERODIONES.

American Egret (<i>Ardea egretta</i>)	Jan. 5, 1917	June 30, 1924
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ANSERES.

Mute Swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>)	{ Aug. 7, 1909
	{ Oct. 10, 1912
Black Swan (<i>Cygnus atratus</i>)	{ April 18, 1907	May 25, 1916
	{ June 26, 1912	July 2, 1924
Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>)	{ Oct. 30, 1907	Mar. 1, 1923
	{ May 7, 1915
Whistling Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>)	{ Mar. 16, 1898	Jan. 24, 1906
	{ Mar. 16, 1904	Aug. 17, 1913

Trumpeter Swan (<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>).....	{ Dec. 11, 1895	Feb. 27, 1908
	{ Dec. 11, 1895
Egyptian Goose (<i>Chenalopex aegyptiaca</i>)..	May 3, 1896	Nov. 24, 1921
Black & White Goose (<i>Anseranas semi-</i> <i>palmata</i>).....	July 19, 1917	Nov. 5, 1924
White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i> <i>gambeli</i>).....	May 20, 1910	Jan. 5, 1922
Gray Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>).....	May 22, 1898	Jan. 29, 1924
Blue Goose (<i>Chen caerulescens</i>).....	May 12, 1911	Jan. 16, 1922
Cackling Goose (<i>Branta canadensis min-</i> <i>ima</i>).....	May 25, 1915	Mar. 19, 1924
Ruddy Sheldrake (<i>Casarca casarca</i>).....	June 12, 1913	Nov. 23, 1923
Gadwall (<i>Chaulelasmus streperus</i>).....	Jan. 22, 1908	Mar. 25, 1924
Pochard (<i>Fuligula ferina</i>).....	July 30, 1917	Oct. 12, 1924
Red-head Duck (<i>Marila americana</i>).....	{ Feb. 8, 1908	Nov. 2, 1924
	{ Jan. 22, 1908	Oct. 24, 1922
Mandarin Duck (<i>Aix galericulata</i>).....	April 28, 1916	Dec. 14, 1924

STRUTHIONES.

Somali Ostrich (<i>Struthio molybdophanes</i>)..	April 20, 1909	Dec. 7, 1923
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Where the date is omitted in the second column the bird is still living, while it is practically certain that all birds were at least two years old when received.

Zoological Gardens, Philadelphia.