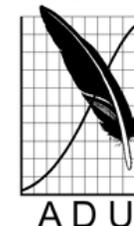


# Ornithological Observations



An electronic journal published by BirdLife South Africa and the Animal Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town



Ornithological Observations accepts papers containing faunistic information about birds. This includes descriptions of distribution, behaviour, breeding, foraging, food, movement, measurements, habitat and plumage. It will also consider for publication a variety of other interesting or relevant ornithological material: reports of projects and conferences, annotated checklists for a site or region, specialist bibliographies, and any other interesting or relevant material.

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## THE OLDEST DARK-CAPPED BULBUL?

**Malcolm Wilson**

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## THE OLDEST DARK-CAPPED BULBUL?

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On 15 January 2012 at 17:00 we retrapped a Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* whilst staying at friends in whose garden I have been ringing at since 1997.

It was at the start of a 3 week ringing expedition around Uganda and as usual I start the trip at this site in Munyonyo, near Ggaba, outside Kampala (N00°15 and E32°38). Over the years I have ringed more than 600 birds of over 100 species at this site. A total count of 216 species was seen at the site over the years.

Dark-capped Bulbul is a fairly common species in the garden and in Uganda in general, but I have succeeded to capture and ring only 27 individuals at this particular site.

The retrapped individual was originally ringed at 07:00 on 29 October 1997 as an adult female. The bird had a brood patch, was in primary moult and weighed 36.5 g when it was first ringed. When retrapped the bird was in good health. It was just completing primary moult - 555554430 (where 5 = newly completed feather and 0 = old unmoulted feather). It had a mass of 38.5g and the tail and wing measured 90 mm and 98 mm respectively (given that P5 is the longest and was fully grown).

This bird was retrapped after 14 years, 2 months and 17 days – possibly a longevity record for this species.

I have only ever retrapped one other Dark-capped Bulbul in the garden, an individual adult which was ringed on 28 October 1997 and was retrapped on 12 December 1998 – just more than 13

months later. In my experience not many Dark-capped Bulbuls are retrapped at the sites in Uganda.



**Dark-capped Bulbul**

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Trevor Hardaker gave permission for his photo to be added to the original paper – Ed.