**SHORT NOTES**

Nest of Philby's partridge *Alectoris philbyi* predated by cobra *Naja haje arabcica*.

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On the 12th May 1989 at approximately 1700 hours I caught an adult Arabian cobra (1.55m) in a wadi south of Taif, Saudi Arabia. The snake was sun bathing, probably as an aid to its digestion and had difficulty in moving because its stomach was full. After the capture I made it regurgitate by pressing gently on its stomach and pushing towards its mouth. The snake regurgitated nine intact eggs of Philby's partridge. By candling, I estimated them to be around 12-13 days of incubation. However, all embryos were dead, possibly due to the shock of the snake's movements.

The Arabian cobra is known to feed on rodents, small birds, frogs and fish (Gasperetti 1989) but egg consumption has never been reported before. As the cobra shares common habitat with the Philby's partridge, a case such as this may not be such a rare occurrence.

As the Arabian red-legged partridge *Alectoris melanocephala* and sand partridge *Ammoperdix heyi* also occur in the same habitat, their nests and chicks may also be prey to the cobra.

Reference


**STOP PRESS**

The results of a three-month ICBP project on the white-breasted guineafowl *Agelastes meleagrides* in Tāi National Park, Côte d'Ivoire will shortly be published in the new ICBP journal *Bird Conservation International*. This threatened Galliform is endemic to the Upper Guinea forest block of West Africa, where it is found only in undisturbed closed forest. In the hunter-free environment of Tāi National Park, groups of around 16 guineafowl range over 1km² of open forest floor. The population of the whole park may number 30-40,000 birds, which may be as many as half the world’s total population.

Further research on this species in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in the Gola Forest Reserves, Sierra Leone, has been temporarily suspended due to conflicts within the area.