

African Bird Breeding Schedule

Q: It's September and my Senegal is going nuts looking for a nest. He's shredding paper, hiding behind couch cushions and more protective of his cage than usual. What gives? I thought that birds bred in the spring? Are African birds on a different cycle?

Jean Pattison, also known as "The African Queen," explains:

Your Senegal is right on schedule. African parrots seem to start their breeding season when the daylight hours become shorter. In Florida, where mine are all outside, they actually start copulating in September and October, with chicks starting to hatch about the end of December. This also seems to be the norm for most of the rest of the country.

When working with pet African parrots, you might want to discourage this type of behavior by removing any types of hiding areas (dark corners, etc.) or material that could substitute as nest bedding (newspaper, cardboard, etc.). You might also want to remove mirrors or other objects of your bird's affection, because these too might stimulate breeding.