

LONGEVITY OF ALDABRAN BIRDS

While working as Warden of the Research Station on Aldabra in the Indian Ocean from July to November 1986, I trapped and ringed a sample of the resident landbirds at the Head Quarters. No ringing of these birds had been carried out there since the mid-1970s. As several of the species handled are of restricted range, there is possibly little, if any, known data on their longevity, and this brief note may be of some interest and worth.

TOTAL NUMBERS OF BIRDS TRAPPED

SPECIES	NEW	RETRAP	AGE OF RETRAP (YEARS)
Souimanga Sunbird <i>Nectarinea souimanga</i>	6	1	10
Malagasy White-eye <i>Zosterops madagasputana</i>	9	0	-
Aldabra Drongo <i>Dicrurus aldabranus</i>	2	0	-
Malagasy Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	4	3	10, 11, & 12
Red-headed Forest Fody <i>Foudia eminentissima</i>	8	0	-
Malagasy Coucal <i>Centropus toulou</i>	1	0	-
Pied Crow <i>Corvus albus</i>	13	1	12

None of the birds retrapped were aged when first ringed, thus ages on retrapping are minimum figures. In addition, an incompletely read colour-ring combination was noted on a Red-headed Forest Fody in the field. By a process of elimination this individual was a minimum of either 11 or 14 years old. The sunbird retrap was a male.

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