

Response to Chouteau and Pedrono: breeding biology of Coquerel's Coua (*Coua coquereli*) in Western Madagascar

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In their publication entitled “Breeding biology of Coquerel's Coua (*Coua coquereli*) in Western Madagascar”, Chouteau and Pedrono (2009) cite three publications by the Swiss ornithologist and paleontologist Dr. Otto Appert and mention on page 55 that “Appert (1966, 1970, 1980) provides only anecdotal information about the reproduction of the Coquerel's Coua (*Coua coquereli*)”. Such an assertion should be carefully deliberated. If Chouteau and Pedrono had read Appert's publications in detail they would not have arrived at such a conclusion. Anyone who examines the evidence, such as the annotated colour photographs in Appert (1980), will recognize the inaccuracy of the statement made by Chouteau and Pedrono. Furthermore, the Southern distribution range for *C. coquereli* given by Chouteau and Pedrono (2009; Fig. 1) is incomplete and partially misleading. A more precise description of the location of *C. coquereli* in this area is provided in Appert (1966, 1970, 1980). Father Otto Appert, as recently summarized (Glutz von Blotzheim 2009), has spent his life in the Mangoky Region, published an extensive body of detailed ornithological work, discovered numerous extinct and existing animal and plant species in Madagascar,

including Appert's Tetraka (*Xanthomixis apperti*; Colston 1972; Cibois et al. 2001) and deserves more respect from scientists working on birds from Madagascar.

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