

Comores

2018 Tour Report



Moheli Scops Owl

*Text by tour leader Michael Mills
Photos by Michael Mills and Ken Longden*

SUMMARY

Our first tour to the fascinating islands of Comoros was a resounding success. With airlines behaving well we had no trouble finding all the endemic birds, which included four terrific scops owls.



Mayotte Scops Owl

We started off in the lowlands of Grande Comore where Grande Comore Drongo showed well and we saw our first Comoro Blue Pigeon, Comoro Olive Pigeon, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Kirk's White-eye, Humblot's Sunbird, Grande Comore Brush Warbler, Cuckoo Roller and Frances's Sparrowhawk. Next on our itinerary was the laid-back island of Mohéli, where an afternoon outing produced Comoro Thrush, Mohéli Brush Warbler and fantastic views of Mohéli Scops Owl. The following day the Saint Antoine area turned up Mohéli Green Pigeon, Blue Vanga and the very rare local form of Comoro Cuckooshrike. An evening seawatch produced some very distant Persian Shearwaters and a mini pelagic Lesser Frigatebird, Masked Booby and Brown Noddy. Anjouan Island was our next port of call, where high human population densities meant it was hard to get into pristine habitat. The

local form of Crested Drongo came easily, as did Comoro Fody and Anjouan Scops Owl. The next day we explored more widely, finding Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher, Striated Heron, Cuckoo Roller, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Comoro Thrush and Anjouan Brush Warbler. Leaving the Union of Comoros we then spent a couple of nights on Mayotte, part of France, where Frances's Sparrowhawk, Mayotte Scops Owl, Mayotte White-eye, Mayotte Sunbird and Mayotte Drongo were seen with ease, and we also found Comoro Fody and Crab Plover. For the final part of the trip we returned to Grande Comore to conquer Mt Karthala. On the upper slopes we enjoyed good views of Karthala White-eye, and lower down we found Karthala Scops Owl, Humblot's Flycatcher, Comoro Thrush, Grande Comore Fody and Madagascar Spinetail.

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

DATES

6-16 October 2018

LEADER

Michael Mills

ITINERARY

6 Oct: arrive Grande Comore. Introduction to lower altitude forests of the Salimani area of Grande Comore.

7 Oct: Grande Comore to Moheli. Evening in central highlands.

8 Oct: full day on southern Moheli.

9 Oct: Moheli pelagic and flight to Anjouan. Evening in native forests

10 Oct: Full day on Anjouan

11 Oct: Anjouan to Mayotte. Afternoon at Pic Combani.

12 Oct: full day on Mayotte, visiting Pic Combani, Lac Korihani and Pointe Mahabo.

13 Oct: Labbetoir on Mayotte. Then fly to Grande Comore.

14 Oct: full day on Mount Karthala up to 2100 m altitude.

15 Oct: Mount Karthala to Moroni

16 Oct: depart from Comoros.



(Comore) Blue Vanga

REPORT

The volcanic islands of the Comoros lie midway between Madagascar and the African continent, and their relative isolation have allowed a high level of endemism to evolve among their birds. Each of the four islands hold endemic species, plus distinctive endemic subspecies, and it was our aim to find as many of these as possible during our inaugural Comoros bird tour.

Our flight from Nairobi deposited us on Grande Comore Island in the wee hours of the morning, and we headed straight to our comfortable hotel to grab a few hours of sleep. After a later-than-normal start the next day we headed off to some lower-altitude forests in the Salimani area at the south-western foot of Mt Karthala, where our main aim was the rare Grande Comore Drongo, the only Grande Comore endemic not usually seen on Mt Karthala. En route we passed by some coastal wetlands where we were surprised to see **Great Egrets** on the rocky shoreline, where one would normally expect to see Dimorphic Egret; a trend repeated throughout the islands.



Grande Comore Drongo

Arriving in the Salimani area, the first endemics were evident around us as soon as we stepped out of the car. Both the attractive **Comoro Blue Pigeon** and **Comoro Olive Pigeon** were studied in the scope within a few minutes, and a noisy **Lesser Vasa Parrot**, much browner and smaller and sounding quite different from its Madagascan counterpart, was watched feeding on some fruit. **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher** put in its first appearance, and a **Grande Comore Brush Warbler** was seen briefly in some dense thickets. Both **Kirk's White-eye** and **Humblot's Sunbird** were common, and we enjoyed good views of **Madagascar Green Sunbird** and **Greater Vasa Parrot** too. Exploring further afield we finally found **Grande Comore Drongo** on three occasions, and enjoyed some excellent views of this rare species. By now it was starting to warm up, so we decided to head back to the hotel to catch up on sleep before making an afternoon outing above Moroni in some degraded forest and farmland, which turned up **Cuckoo Roller** and **Frances's Sparrowhawk**.



Comore Green Pigeon

The next morning we were back in Hahaia well in time for our flight to Mohéli, slightly anxious to see whether airline service had improved as much as reported in recent years. We were relieved that the flight ran smoothly and on-time, and that this was consistently repeated throughout the tour.

Landing on Mohéli gave us the first hint of how distinctive each of the four islands was. While Grande Comore was relative calm and organised, Mohéli was a more low-key, laid-back affair. We reported to our basic beachside hotel for lunch before ascending the steep slopes into the interior of the island in the afternoon. On the way we spotted a roadside female **Madagascar Harrier**. **African Palm Swifts** were numerous and a **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted in flight. We quickly found the two local forms of **Madagascar Green Sunbird** and **Humblot's Sunbird**, and then our first **Comoro Thrush**. **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher** was also seen well, as was a female **Tambourine Dove**. Later in the afternoon we positioned ourselves near a known territory of scops owls, and within seconds

were watching a lovely rufous phase **Moheli Scops Owl** at close range. Nearby our attention was diverted to a couple of showy **Moheli Brush Warbler**, but we continued to admire the owl on and off for about an hour, and it was later joined by its brown phase partner.

The next morning we explored the remoter forests in the south of the island, pausing to watch **Ring-necked Dove** and **Madagascar Turtle Dove** in the road on our way there. Before arriving at the forest edge we were pleased to find four **Moheli Green Pigeons** perched in a fruiting fig tree. We admired them for some time, alongside **Comoro Blue Pigeon**, before continuing up the steep, forested slopes to Chalet St Antoine. On the way we notched up **Moheli Bulbul**, **Comoro Thrush** and **Moheli Brush Warbler**, but the highlight of the march up was several confiding **Blue Vanga** seen at close range, moderately different in plumage and vocalisations from the Madagascan birds. At the top we admired **Madagascar Black Swift** and **Madagascar Green Sunbird** at close range. The

walk down produced probably the rarest bird of the trip in the form of a pair of the local race of **Comoro Cuckooshrike**, with both sexes seen well. Further down a male **Cuckoo Roller** was seen well, perched, and we finally found a male **Comoro Fody** on the edge of the forest. **Moheli Green Pigeon** was admired again in its fruiting tree, this time joined by **Comoro Olive Pigeon**, and **Greater Vasa Parrots** were active around where we'd parked our car. Our drive back to town was delayed slightly by running out of fuel – fortunately there was some on sale less than 200 m away – and at the hotel an evening seawatch produced some very distant **Persian Shearwaters**. Before leaving Moheli the next day we decided to give the shearwaters one more go by doing a mini-pelagic, and although we didn't see any shearwaters we did see good numbers of **Brown Noddy** and **Masked Booby**, and a single **Lesser Frigatebird**. From Moheli we made our way to Anjouan via Grande Comore, seeing **White-tailed Tropicbird** from the plane as we came into land on Grande Comore.

On arrival in Anjouan we were struck by the large numbers of people and more aggressive atmosphere, especially on the road; it certainly was our least favourite island, although the scenery was spectacular. After popping into our beachside hotel we dropped off bags and headed out to a remote part of the island where some better forest patches were relatively accessible. It was a long and winding road across the mountainous interior, but when we arrived at our destination we were immediately rewarded with a male **Comoro Fody** and a party of **Crested Drongo**. **Anjouan Sunbirds** were evident, and **Greater Vasa Parrots** and **Comoro Blue Pigeons** easy to see. As the sun set we positioned ourselves in the known territory of a pair of scops owls, and after a short bout of playback a pair of **Anjouan Scops Owl** flew in and landed beside us. They were quite excitable and moved around a lot, but we obtained several excellent views of them, the darkest and plainest of the Comoros scops owls. We arrived back at the hotel a couple of hours later, tired but very satisfied.



Anjouan Scops Owl



Frances's (Mayotte) Sparrowhawk

The next day was more relaxed, and we started off with some pre-breakfast birding in the highlands not far from our hotel. Several **Comoros Thrushes** showed well and we found **Anjouan Brush Warbler** and more **Anjouan Sunbirds** and **Madagascar Turtle Doves**. After breakfast we took a long drive along the coast, where we found a couple of **Striated Herons** and a lone **Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher**. A coastal wetland held several **Common Moorhens**, with young, and we noted their pure white undertails which meant that they did not belong to the expected Malagasy region subspecies. They were joined by a couple of **Little Grebe** and **Common Greenshank**. In the afternoon we returned to the forested area visited the previous day and this time quickly found our main targets still missing; a male **Cuckoo Roller** was watched on its perch for ages, and a male and two female **Madagascar Paradise Flycatchers** were seen well, before we returned to the hotel.

From Anjouan we took the short flight to neighbouring Mayotte island, which was clearly in a different country! We were now in France, and although the poorest part of the European Union it was clearly far wealthier than its Comorian neighbours. Landing on Petit Terre we took the short ferry ride across to Grande Terre, and were then transferred to our lodge in the tranquil surrounds of Pic Combani. Our first **Frances's Sparrowhawk** was spotted on the roadside wires just before arriving at the lodge, and around the lodge itself it didn't take long to find **Mayotte Drongo** with its spectacular fishtail. Despite being mid-afternoon several **Mayotte Scops Owls** were vocal and seen very well, and we found **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher**, **Mayotte Sunbird**, more **Frances's Sparrowhawk** and **Mayotte White-eye** with little trouble. The next day we visited Lac Korihani before breakfast where large numbers of **Common Moorhen** were accompanied by a single **Allen's Gallinule** and



Comore (Grande Comore) Fody

eight **Madagascar Pond Herons**. After breakfast Pointe Mahabo turned up a single male **Comoro Fody**, plus improved sightings of **Mayotte Sunbird** and **Mayotte White-eye**. Two white-phase male **Madagascar Paradise Flycatchers** were seen too, and **Madagascar Turtle Dove** showed well. Then it was back to Pic Combani for a relaxed afternoon with repeat views of most of the endemics and a perched male **Cuckoo Roller**.

Leaving Mayotte we returned to the Union of Comoros after a short stint of wader watching at Labattoir on Petit Terre. There were remarkably few birds, but we did manage to find seven **Crab-Plover**, a **Grey Heron**, a single **Lesser Crested Tern** and a few other odds and ends. While waiting at the airport for our flight to Grande Comore a **White-tailed Tropicbird** flew by.

Back on Grande Comore the final part of our trip involved climbing the region's highest mountain, the impressive volcano of Mount Karthala. We set

off early in the morning and drove as far as our car could make it, before setting off on foot with a long climb ahead of us. **Lesser Vasa Parrots** were flying around, a male **Cuckoo Roller** was seen perched nearby, and **Grande Comore Bulbul** was seen well, but we were excited to see a sturdy 4x4 approaching us. The driver stopped and we quickly ascertained that they were researchers from the local government department who were heading up the mountain for work. What luck that they were so friendly and had enough room in the vehicle for us, so within another 20 minutes we found ourselves where the road ended at 1600 m altitude! From here we continued upwards by foot, watching out for white-eyes of which there were many. However, they were all **Kirk's White-eyes**, and it was only when we reached 1950 m that we heard the distinctive calls of **Karthala White-eye** and after a short chase tracked down a pair of birds feeding at eye level. We spent some time studying them alongside a large number of **Kirk's White-**

eyes before they moved off. **African Stonechat** was the most common bird and non-breeding fodies appeared to be **Madagascar Fodies**, a surprise at this altitude. We continued upwards to 2100 m, large numbers of **Madagascar Black Swift** being joined by a single **African Palm Swift** and single, out of range **Mascarene Martin**. Here we found another **Karthala White-eye** and our first **Grande Comore Brush Warbler** of the day before starting the hike back down. One more group of **Karthala White-eyes** was admired at 1850 m, again alongside many **Kirk's White-eyes**. Reaching the forest edge we saw **Madagascar Spinetail** well but briefly, and as we descended into the forest zone we started to see **Comoro Fodies**, **Comoro Cuckooshrike** and **Grande Comore Brush Warblers**. More **Grande**

Comoro Bulbuls were seen, and lower down two parties of **Humblot's Flycatchers** and **Comoro Thrush**. Arriving back in camp we had a short rest before watching **Madagascar Spinetail** flit around the treetops, and once it was dark a short walk up the road produced excellent views of **Karthala Scops Owl**, our final endemic of the trip! Camping was reasonably comfortable and the next morning we again tracked down **Humblot's Flycatcher**, **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher**, **Lesser Vasa Parrot** and **Comoro Cuckooshrike**, before walking back down to the vehicle. A double flat tyre delayed our return to Moroni slightly, but a quick phone call sent another taxi and we were soon back in our hotel resting up for our flight home.



Greater Vasa Parrot



Karthala Scops Owl



Karthala White-eye



Cuckoo-Roller

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

E = SPECIES ENDEMIC TO COMOROS, AS RECOGNISED BY IOC

ESS = SUBSPECIES ENDEMIC TO COMOROS, AS RECOGNISED BY IOC

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix africana* - heard above 1600 m on Mt Karthala

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis* – seen on Anjouan and Mayotte

Persian Shearwater (Moheli Shearwater) *Puffinus persicus temptator* **ESS** – two seen distantly off Mohéli

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus lepturus* – seen on Grande Comore and at the airport on Mayotte

Striated Heron *Butorides striata rhizophorae* **ESS** – seen very well on Anjouan

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea firasa* – seen on Mayotte

Madagascar Pond Heron *Ardeola idae* – several seen well at Lac Korihani on Mayotte

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* – seen widely

Great Egret *Ardea alba melanorhynchos* – seen in good numbers in coastal areas of all islands

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra melanops* – seen well off Mohéli

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel iredalei* – one seen well off Mohéli, and another two seen here at greater distance were probably also this species

Frances's Sparrowhawk (Comoro Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter francesiae griveaudi* **ESS** – good views of one perched bird on the lower slopes of Mt Karthala, Grande Comore

Frances's Sparrowhawk (Mayotte Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter francesiae brutus* **ESS** – at least six seen exceptionally well at Pic Combani on Mayotte

Madagascar Harrier *Circus macroscleas* – one female on Mohéli, one male on Anjouan and two good sightings of males on Mt Karthala on Grande Comore

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius parasitus* – one young bird on southern Mohéli

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni* – one seen well at Lac Korihani on Mayotte

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus meridionalis* – several birds with young seen near Moya on Anjouan had pure white undertails and probably belonged to this subspecies, previously unrecorded on Comoros

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorhoa* – seen in impressive numbers at Lac Korihani on Mayotte

Crab-plover *Dromas ardeola* – seven young birds seen at Labattoir on Mayotte

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* – seen at Labattoir on Mayotte

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* – one seen at Lac Korihani on Mayotte

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* – seen on Mohéli

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* – seen on Mohéli, Anjouan and Mayotte

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* – seen on Mohéli, Anjouan and Mayotte

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* – seen on Anjouan

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* – Seen on Mohéli and Mayotte

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus pileatus* – seen in good numbers off Mohéli

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis bengalensis* – one seen on Mayotte

Comoros Olive Pigeon *E Columba pollenii* – seen in small numbers on all four islands, with our best views on Anjouan and Grande Comore

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* – seen in small numbers

Madagascar Turtle Dove *Nesoenas picturata comorensis* **ESS** – seen on all four islands, with memorable sightings on southern Mohéli and at Pointe Mahabo on Mayotte

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria* – one female was seen well on Mohéli

Comoros Green Pigeon *E Treron griveaudi* – four birds seen very well where feeding in a fruiting fig tree on southern Mohéli

Comoros Blue Pigeon *Alectroenas sganzzini sganzzini* **ESS** – seen regularly on all four islands, but most numerous on Mt Karthala

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba hypermetra* – heard on Anjouan and Mayotte

Karthala Scops Owl *E Otus pauliani* – good views of a single bird on Mt Karthala. Perched higher up than the other scops owl, but still sat out in the open for long periods

Anjouan Scops Owl *E Otus capnodes* – terrific views of a pair on Anjouan

Mohéli Scops Owl *E Otus moheliensis* – fantastic views of a pair, one brown and one rufous, on Mohéli

Mayotte Scops Owl *E Otus mayottensis* – several birds seen at point blank range in broad daylight at Pic Combani on Mayotte

Madagascar Spinetail (Karthala Spinetail) *Zoonavena grandidieri mariae* **ESS** – seen fairly briefly at 1600 m on Mt Karthala, and one flew low around the treetops at our campsite allowing good views

African Palm Swift (Madagascar Palm Swift) *Cypsiurus parvus griveaudi* **ESS** – common on Mohéli and Anjouan, rather rare on Grande Comore and Mayotte. One was noted at 2100 m on Mt Karthala, among the numerous Madagascar Black Swifts

Madagascar Black Swift *Apus balstoni mayottensis* **ESS** – seen very well in the highlands on all four islands, but most numerous on Mt Karthala

Cuckoo Roller (Grande Comore Cuckoo Roller) *Leptosomus discolor gracilis* **ESS** – two males seen perched, one very well, on the lower slopes of Mt Karthala

Cuckoo Roller (Anjouan Cuckoo Roller) *Leptosomus discolor intermedius* **ESS** – exceptionally good views of a perched male in the highlands of Anjouan

Cuckoo Roller (Madagascar Cuckoo Roller) *Leptosomus discolor discolor* – perched males were seen well on Mohéli and Mayotte

Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis vintsioides johanna* **ESS** – a single bird was seen very well on coastal Anjouan

Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus superciliosus* – seen well on all four islands

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus radama* – good flight views of one on central Mohéli

Greater Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis vasa comorensis* **ESS** – seen well on Grande Comore, Mohéli and Anjouan, but most numerous on Mt Karthala

Lesser Vasa Parrot (Comoro Vasa Parrot) *Coracopsis nigra sibilans* **ESS** – several seen very well on the lower slopes of Mt Karthala

Mascarene Martin *Phedina borbonica madagascariensis* – one seen at 2100 m on Mt Karthala may be a first country record for Comoros

Blue Vanga (Comoro Blue Vanga) *Cyanolanius madagascarinus comorensis* **ESS** – about 10 birds seen very well at St Antoine on Mohéli

Comoros Cuckooshrike *E* (Grande Comore Cuckooshrike) *Coracina cucullata cucullata* **ESS** – some very good sightings of grey morph birds on Mt Karthala on Grande Comore

Comoros Cuckooshrike *E* (Mohéli Cuckooshrike) *Coracina cucullata moheliensis* **ESS** – good views of a pair at St Antoine on Mohéli. Very rarely seen

Grand Comoro Drongo *E Dicrurus fuscipennis* – three good sightings at Salimani on Grande Comore

Crested Drongo *Dicrurus forficatus potior* **ESS** – several good sightings on Anjouan. Genetic evidence indicates that it is a very recent arrival on Anjouan from Madagascar

Mayotte Drongo *E Dicrurus waldenii* – five excellent sightings at Pic Combani on Mayotte

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* – common and widespread

House Crow *Corvus splendens* – at least two seen at our hotel on Anjouan; an unpleasant shock

Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone mutata pretiosa* **ESS** – several good sightings of males and females on Mayotte, including two white males at Point Mahabo

Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher (Pale Paradise Flycatcher) *Terpsiphone mutata vulpina* **ESS** – a trio of one male and two females was seen well on Anjouan

Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher (Pale Paradise Flycatcher) *Terpsiphone mutata voeltzkowiana* **ESS** – quite a few seen very well on Mohéli

Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher (Pale Paradise Flycatcher/Grande Comore Paradise Flycatcher) *Terpsiphone mutata comorensis* **ESS** – several seen well on the lower slopes of Mt Karthala on Grande Comore

Madagascar Bulbul *Hypsipetes madagascariensis madagascariensis* – common and seen on all four islands

Grand Comoro Bulbul *E Hypsipetes parvirostris* – quite a few seen above 700 m altitude on Mt Karthala on Grande Comore

Moheli Bulbul *E Hypsipetes moheliensis* – quite a few seen above 350 m altitude at St Antoine on Mohéli

Anjouan Brush Warbler *E Nesillas longicaudata* – several good sightings on Anjouan, where widespread

Grand Comoro Brush Warbler *E Nesillas brevicaudata* – about four good sightings on Mt Karthala, from 200-2000 m altitude

Moheli Brush Warbler *E Nesillas mariae* – three good sightings in the highlands of Mohéli

Madagascar White-eye *Zosterops maderaspatanus anjuanensis* **ESS** – a few seen well on Anjouan

Madagascar White-eye *Zosterops maderaspatanus comorensis* **ESS** – a few seen well on Mohéli

Kirk's White-eye *E Zosterops kirki* – abundant on Mt Karthala on Grande Comore, and seen all the way up to 2050 m altitude

Mayotte White-eye *E Zosterops mayottensis* – fairly common on Mayotte, where seen at Pic Combani, Point Mahabo and Labattoir

Karthala White-eye *E Zosterops mouroniensis* – three sightings of two, one and four birds at 1950 m, 2100 m and 1850 m altitude, respectively, on Mt Karthala on Grande Comore

Comoros Thrush *E (Grande Comore Thrush) Turdus bewsheri comorensis* **ESS** – two excellent sightings on Mt Karthala on Grande Comore

Comoros Thrush *E (Moheli Thrush) Turdus bewsheri moheliensis* **ESS** – several good sightings in the highlands of Mohéli

Comoros Thrush *E (Anjouan Thrush) Turdus bewsheri bewsheri* **ESS** – several seen well in the central highlands of Anjouan

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus voeltzkowi* **ESS** – many seen above 1600 m on Mt Karthala on Grande Comore

Humblot's Flycatcher *E Humblotia flavirostris* – three good sightings on Mt Karthala on Grande Comore

Madagascar Green Sunbird (Comoro Green Sunbird) *Cinnyris notatus moebii* **ESS** – a few very good sightings on Grande Comore

Madagascar Green Sunbird (Comoro Green Sunbird) *Cinnyris notatus voeltzkowi* **ESS** – seen very well in the highlands of Mohéli

Humblot's Sunbird *E Cinnyris humbloti humbloti* **ESS** – many seen well on Grande Comore

Humblot's Sunbird *E Cinnyris humbloti mohelicus* **ESS** – quite a few good sightings on Mohéli

Anjouan Sunbird *E Cinnyris comorensis* – several seen very well on Anjouan

Mayotte Sunbird *E Cinnyris coquerellii* – a few good sightings at Pic Combani and Pointe Mahabo

Madagascar Fody *Foudia madagascariensis* – common in more open habitats on all four islands, where it greatly outnumbers Comoro Fody

Comoros Fody (Grande Comore Fody) *E Foudia eminentissima cosobrina* **ESS** – several pairs seen well in forest between 1000 m and 1500 m on Mt Karthala. The most distinctive form on the islands; often feeding nuthatch-like on branches

Comoros Fody *E Foudia eminentissima anjuanensis* **ESS** – a few good sightings of males in the highlands of Anjouan



Comore Blue Pigeon



Mayotte Drongo



Frances's (Comore) Sparrowhawk



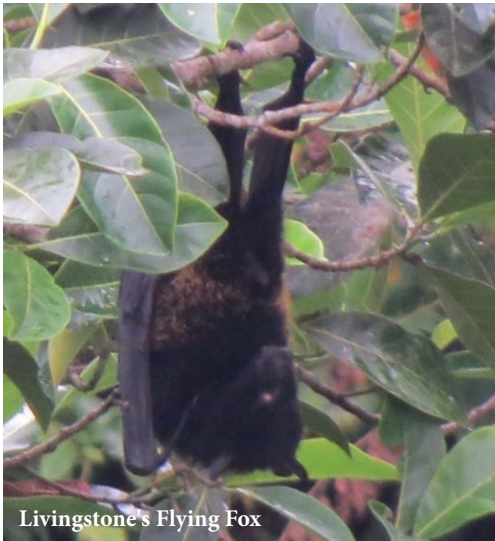
Comore Cuckooshrike (Moheli)



Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher (Mayotte)



Masked Booby and Brown Noddy



Livingstone's Flying Fox



Comore Olive Pigeon



Forest on Moheli