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EDITORIAL

The publication of this copy of *Lanioturdus* has been considerably delayed and this copy covers the June, September and December 1999 editions. It will immediately strike you that this is probably the least substantial copy of the magazine for a long time. We have a problem – for some reason 1999 seems to have represented the low point of everyones birding and ornithological careers – the articles and other materials have just not come in at all this year.

The success of the magazine and the Club as a whole depends on member participation. The committee recognises that most members are passive for the most part and choose to go their own way for most of their birding. However, we can't rely on just a few people to keep us going all the time. We need new members, new activities and new vision for the future. This is really a plea to you to get more involved in the future and to help the committee keep the Club going. If we are unable to keep bringing *Lanioturdus* out on a regular basis we are in real trouble.

On the positive side of things – the Club in conjunction with the Namibia Nature Foundation and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, is planning to start up a number of new projects as well as revive a number of older ones, including Raptor Road Counts and some form of atlassing in the future. We will probably put out a special edition of *Lanioturdus* in the New Year giving details of each of the projects.

A wonderful festive season to all of you – and good birding.



BIRD OF THE MONTH

MONTEIRO'S HORNBILL

*Tockus monteiri**

Monteirose Neushoringvoël, Monteirotoko

Identification: Size medium to large. Head and neck silver-grey, streaked with black and white; back and wings grey-brown, spotted white on wings; outer rectrices all white; bill large, deep red; inner secondaries white in flight. Immature: Like adult, but bill smaller, pale orange eye brown; feathers tipped light brown.

Bare parts: Iris brown black to red-brown; skin around eye blackish. Bill dark red, base yellow tip purplish. Legs and feet brown to purplish black.

Voice: Harsh crowing tok tok tok takaak,takaak, etc.

Food: Insects, rodents,fruit shoots, pollen.

Breeding: Season: February to March (after good rains).
Clutch: 3-4, 4-5 eggs (rarely 2- 6); white tinged greyish with white pores.
Incubation: 24-25-27 days.

Nest: Hole in rock face, hole in tree; up to 39m above ground; entrance sealed, even when large, to form narrow vertical slit; sealing may take 14 days, using mud, feathers and nest debris.

* 462 - Roberts' Birds of Southern Africa

