

pairs were known to breed each year during the early 1980s.

Thyolo alethe (*Alethe choloensis*).—1991 petition, ICBP endangered, U.S. endangered; a small, ground-dwelling bird of the family Muscicapidae, related to the Old World robins and thrushes; known only from 13 small patches of submontane evergreen forest in southern Malawi and from 2 such areas in northern Mozambique. Suitable habitat already has been largely destroyed through human clearing and encroachment and remaining sites are at risk of destruction (A). About 1,500 pairs are estimated to survive.

Uluguru bush-shrike (*Malaconotus alius*).—1980 petition, ICBP rare, U.S. threatened; a small predatory bird of the family Laniidae, resembling the true shrikes in structure but utilizing more densely vegetated habitat and dwelling in the forest canopy; known only from the Uluguru Mountains in central Tanzania. Because of its dense forest habitat and evident low numbers, this bird has been difficult to locate and little is known of its status. However, the lower slopes of the mountains on which it lives are being steadily cleared and such activity places the species at risk (A).

Seychelles turtle dove (*Streptopelia picturata rostrata*).—1980 petition, ICBP endangered, U.S. endangered; a member of the family Columbidae, somewhat smaller than the domestic pigeon (*Columba domestica*) and generally dark grayish purple in color (Goodwin 1977); formerly found throughout Seychelles, an island nation off eastern Africa. This subspecies declined through hybridization with the related and more adaptable *S. p. picturata*, which was introduced from Madagascar in the mid-19th century (E). *S. p. rostrata* had become very rare by 1965 and pure individuals may have nearly vanished by 1975 (King 1981). However, according to Dr. Mike Rands, who operates the ICBP Seychelles program, and Ms. Alison Stattersfield (letter of November 11, 1993), also of the ICBP and who recently visited Seychelles, the subspecies *rostrata* does survive and is morphologically distinctive, at least on Cousin Island, though some hybridization probably has occurred. Therefore, even if genetically pure populations of this turtle dove no longer exist—which itself is not yet known with certainty—there are groups that could potentially be salvageable for captive breeding experiments and eventual efforts at restoration of a wild population with the predominant original morphological, behavioral, and ecological characters of the subspecies.

Madagascar sea eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*).—1980 petition, ICBP endangered, U.S. endangered; a fish-hunting species of the family Accipitridae, related to and somewhat smaller than the American bald eagle; confined to the rivers, shorelines, and offshore islands of the west coast of central to northern Madagascar. Its numbers have dropped sharply since the last century, with only 96 individuals being counted during the mid-1980s. Although reasons for the decline are unclear, hunting and nest destruction by people (B) are thought to be partly responsible.

Madagascar serpent eagle (*Eutriorchis astur*).—1980 petition, ICBP endangered, U.S. endangered; a raptor of the family Accipitridae, more closely related to the harrier hawks than to most other eagles; until recently, known only from 11 specimens collected over 50 years ago in the eastern forests of Madagascar. In 1988 an individual was observed and in 1990 a dead specimen was recovered, both in northeastern Madagascar (Raxworthy and Colston 1992). On January 14, 1994, a live bird was captured and released (Peregrine Fund, World Center for Birds of Prey, Press Release of April 6, 1994). Thus, the species is known to survive, but it is apparently dependent on large tracts of undisturbed primary rainforest, and such habitat is rapidly being destroyed or adversely modified by human activity (A).

Mauritius fody (*Foudia rubra*).—1980 petition, ICBP endangered, U.S. endangered; a small weaver of the family Ploceidae, feeding on insects, nectar and small fruits; formerly widespread in the upland forests of the island of Mauritius, a part of the nation of the same name in the Indian Ocean. It now is restricted to the southwestern part of Mauritius, where perhaps only 150 breeding pairs survive. More than half of the population had been wiped out in 1973–1974 during a large-scale forest clearing project (A). The remaining birds are subject to intensive nest predation from rats, macaques, and other introduced animals (C).

Rodrigues fody (*Foudia flavicans*).—1980 petition, ICBP endangered, U.S. endangered; another small insectivorous weaver of the family Ploceidae; occurs only on the island of Rodrigues, a part of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. Formerly abundant in a variety of habitats on the island, by 1983 only about 100 individuals survived in remnant patches of evergreen forest. The main problem appears to be competition with the related Madagascar fody (*Foudia madagascariensis*), which was introduced by people and which

evidently has adapted better to all habitats except mature forest (E). Since the latter habitat has been largely destroyed by human activity, the range of *F. flavicans* has been greatly reduced (A). In addition, the species is threatened by predation from introduced rats (C) and by the effects of cyclones (E).

Djibouti francolin (*Francolinus ochropectus*).—1991 petition, ICBP endangered, U.S. endangered; a ground-dwelling, partridge-like bird of the family Phasianidae; restricted to highland forest in the country of Djibouti in northeastern Africa. Its restricted habitat is rapidly being destroyed by overgrazing, clearing, and other human activity (A). The total population is thought to have declined from over 5,000 birds in 1978 to fewer than 1,000 today (Dr. Simon D. Dowell, Chairman, ICBP Partridge, Quail and Francolin Specialist Group, in litt.).

Alaotra grebe (*Tachybaptus rufolavatus*).—1991 petition, ICBP endangered, U.S. endangered; a small diving bird of the family Podicipedidae; known primarily from Lake Alaotra and adjacent marshes in northeastern Madagascar. Human alteration of the limited habitat of the Alaotra grebe (A), especially the introduction of exotic fish, resulted in a great increase there of the much more widespread little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) and to extensive hybridization between the two species (E). It appears that the resulting genetic introgression of the Alaotra grebe may be irreversible.

White-breasted guineafowl (*Agelastes meleagrides*).—1991 petition, ICBP endangered, U.S. threatened; a medium-sized ground-dwelling bird of the family Numididae, related to turkeys and peacocks; originally occurred throughout the rainforest zone from Sierra Leone to Ghana. This species evidently is dependent on primary forest and is unable to survive in the dense undergrowth of secondary forest. It has disappeared from most of its range, mainly because of timber exploitation (A). It also has been severely affected by human hunting pressure (B). About 50,000 individuals may survive, but these are concentrated at only two restricted sites, Tai National Park in Ivory Coast, with 30,000–40,000, and the Gola Forest of Sierra Leone, with an estimated 7,100 (Dr. Simon D. Dowell, Chairman, ICBP Partridge, Quail and Francolin Specialist Group, in litt.).

Raso lark (*Alauda razae*).—1991 petition, ICBP endangered, U.S. endangered; a songbird of the family Alaudidae, closely related to the common Old World skylark; known only from