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## Short Notes — Notes Courtes

### Nest of the Nkulengu Rail *Himantornis haematopus* in Gabon

In 1993, we discovered a nest of the Nkulengu Rail at Makande (0°40'S, 11°54'E) in central Gabon. It was a few hundred metres from a major river (the Offoué), but in an area that does not flood in the wet season. The habitat was mixed lowland forest, which had been selectively logged three years previously. The undergrowth was thick and tangled, mostly of Marantaceae (a predominance of *Haumania liebrechtsiana*). The nest was about 1.5 m above the ground, on a flat liana tangle, above a small path regularly used by forest antelope and other small mammals. It was constructed of sticks and, seemingly, parts of the liana tangle itself, but few details could be seen, as the parent bird was sitting on the nest. The bird continued to sit, eyeing us but without moving, and we left after a few minutes.

Two subsequent visits about week apart were made to the nest: on the first visit the bird was still sitting, and we left immediately. On the next visit the bird had gone, and examination of the nest revealed no eggs or fragments thereof: either the young had already hatched and left, or had been predated.

The only other published record of a nest of this species known to us was made by Brosset (pers. comm. to Urban *et al.* 1986). This was described as a large thick structure of twigs and leaves, 1.2 m high in the undergrowth, and sounds similar to the nest seen at Makande. This nest was “far from water” although this rail is known to occur often by water.

We are grateful to Dr Paul Posso of IRET, Gabon and Annie Gautier-Hion for the opportunity to work at Makande Field Station. FM thanks Alick Cruickshank and Patrice Christy for teaching her about birds! The field work was supported by grants from the European Union (DG VIII-Bruxelles and the Gabonese delegation), the Ministère de l'Environnement and CNRS (France), the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species, the Percy Sladen Memorial Fund, and the Boise Fund.

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Received 18 July 2003

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