

# RECORDINGS OF BAT SOUNDS

## GABON

---

**DOC-RBB-GA1** France ca.1958

**Roussettes** (Chauve-souris)

Bat Sounds

**Prod. Co:** La Boite à Musique; Paris

**Rec. Eng:** Pierre Strinati

**Liner Notes:**

**Time:**

**EP:** AMBIANCE SONORE DE LA FORÊT  
AFRICAINNE

**Label:** Éditions de La Boite à Musique PS 1

**Spec:** 7" 45rpm (EP) (Sd 2 – Bd 3)

**Notes:** This is the first known bat recording ever released.

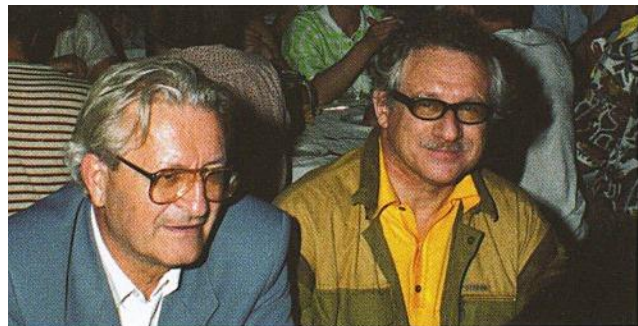
During the course of a visit to the African forest in

Gabon in August 1957 by Villy Aellen and Pierre Strinati (both well-known Swiss speleologists), the latter recorded several nature sounds, bird and animal calls, and two native dances. Using a Nagra tape machine and a Labor microphone, Strinati recorded the cries of a colony of Roussette bats (*Epomops franqueti*) at night in the vicinity of Lastourville. Their harsh cries are emitted at extremely regular intervals as they hang from the trees. These are not cave dwelling bats so technically this recording does not belong in this discography, but bat recordings of any kind are rare.

Villy Aellen was a bat specialist, who was the director at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Geneva, Switzerland and Pierre Strinati is a biospeleologist who has studied and written about cave fauna the world over. Both men authored the remarkable guide to West European show caves, *Guide des grottes d'Europe occidentale*, in 1975, which has since been published in French, German, Spanish, and Italian.

To learn more about Pierre Strinati it is probably best to go to Google images and click around on the various images showing either the man himself or one of his many books on caves.

The photo below shows Hurbert Trimmel of Vienna, one of the founders & a former president of the Union Internationale de Spéléologie, together with Pierre Strinati at the 2013 UIS Congress in Brno, Czech Republic. The Czech flag flies over the main meeting building.



*Villy Aellen et Pierre Strinati lors du centenaire de la spéléologie française à Millau en 1988.*



Photo D. Brison, 2013

**Ref:** Aellen, Villy & Strinati, Pierre 1975, *Guide des grottes d'Europe occidentale*, Delachaux & Niestlé, Neuchâtel  
Pierre Strinati, Images, [google.fr](https://www.google.fr)  
Strinati, Pierre, Personal communication & Donation of this disc, ca.late1970s, Cologny, Switzerland

[caveinspiredmusic.com](http://caveinspiredmusic.com)