

TROPICAL BIRDING

Madagascar Custom Tour

15th October – 1st November, 2019

TOUR LEADER: Charley Hesse. **TOUR ASSISTANT:** Linjo Johnarson.

Report & photos by Charley Hesse. All photos were taken on this tour.



This was a relaxed birding and nature tour that in addition to our usual sites, added a few extra cultural diversions, shopping opportunities plus a visit to Aye-Aye island on the east coast. We visited a large range of different habitats, from the Spiny Forest, salt pans and offshore island of Nosy Ve in the Southwest, the transitional forests of Zombitse NP, the stunning rock formations of Isalo NP, the eastern rainforests of Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia NPs, and finally the waterways of Pangalanes Channel on the east coast. Birding was the main focus and we saw representatives from all Madagascar's endemic and near-endemic bird families, including: Long-tailed, Pitta-like & Short-legged Ground-Rollers, Subdesert Mesite, Velvet Asity, Cuckoo-Roller & Sickle-billed Vanga. A big part of the Madagascar tour is of course the Lemurs, and we saw 16 species, including members from all 5 families! Some of the highlights were close encounters with Ring-tailed Lemurs, Indri and the unforgettable Aye-Aye. Lets not forget the numerous reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, dragonflies, other insects and fascinating plant life. Tropical Birding has a long history of tours in Madagascar and we always ensure we secure the very best birding guides available, many of whom were real characters. Not to mention our wonderful assistant Linjo who charmed the group and kept us informed about this fascinating country and its residents.

16th October – Tana to Ifaty

After some arrival day birding yesterday around the hotel grounds we were ready to begin the tour proper. There is always a bit of anxiety about the reliability of domestic flights in Madagascar, but ours to the town of Tulear in the southwest went off without a hitch. The departure times are forever changing and this year's put us in Tana just in time for lunch in town. The drive to the town of Ifaty, just a little further north is much quicker now that the new Chinese-built road has been finished. We made several stops along the way around the ponds and marshes that make up the Belalanda Wetlands. We started picking up our first shorebirds in the shape of **Black-winged Stilt**, **White-fronted**, **Kittlitz's**, **Common Ringed** and the endemic race of **Three-banded Plover**. Nearby we also had our first **Little Egret**, **Namaqua Dove**, **Madagascar Bee-eater** and **Madagascar Cisticola**. Several **Madagascar Swifts** and **Mascarene Martins** were flying over the reedbeds.



Enjoying the mangroves and mudflats near Ifaty.

We reached a row of mangrove trees that line a river mouth. At low tide, the mud was exposed and it was also very good for shorebirds, including **Black-bellied Plover**, many **Whimbrel**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Common Greenshank** and the uncommon **Terek Sandpiper**. We also had **Striated & Gray Herons**, plus a beautiful pair of **Malagasy Kingfishers** fishing from the mangrove roots. In the nearby dry scrub we also saw **Subdesert Brush-Warbler**, **Madagascar Bulbul**, **Souimanga Sunbird** and **Sakalava Weaver**. We had one last birding stop at some salt pans near Ifaty. The afternoon wind was blowing strongly, and the **Curlew & Common Sandpipers** and **Common Greenshank** were hunkered down trying to stay sheltered. We also saw our first **Madagascar Coucal** feeding on the ground nearby. It had been a productive first day and we were excited to start our exploration of the spiny forest tomorrow.

17th October - Ifaty Spiny Forest

After an early breakfast we drove to reserve, arriving at sunrise. As we got our things together for the morning walk, we had a pair of **Madagascar Magpie-Robins** hopping around the edge of the parking lot, and a small nesting colony of **Sakalava Weavers** in a big tree. We set off on the trails, and quickly picked up several species, including **Crested Drongo**, **Archbold's Newtonia**, **Souimanga Sunbird**, some very vocal **Common & Stripe-throated Jeries**, plus **Madagascar Bulbul**. One of the main targets for the day was the **Long-tailed Ground-Roller** and on the way we saw a soaring **Madagascar Harrier-Hawk** and we were shown a nesting **Madagascar Nightjar**. We reached the spot for the ground-roller and the guides already had it waiting for us under a bush. When it saw us, it took off running but the local guides were in placed to encourage it back to the spot for us to take pictures. The bird calmly stood there whilst we snapped away, then ran off at speed, not to return. It had been a stunning encounter with one of the best birds on Madagascar. As we continued our tour of the forest we had great views of a pair of **Madagascar Sparrowhawks** mating, **Common Newtonia**, plus **Red-tailed & Lafresnaye's Vangas**. We also had fly-bys of **Madagascar Turtle-Dove**, **Madagascar Cuckoo**, **Gray-headed Lovebird** and **Lesser Vasa Parrot** which we hoped we would have better views of later.



You don't see this every day; a pair of Madagascar Sparrowhawks mating.

The guides had more nests staked out; firstly, a **Hook-billed Vanga** nesting in the crotch of a tree and then our next most wanted bird, **Subdesert Mesite** of which the male was doing the incubating. It was getting hot and we were done in the forest for the morning, but we had one last bit of birding a few minutes away. We went in search of the rare **Madagascar Plover** on the south side of town. There is a pair resident there and we located them quickly. It had been an extremely productive morning and we now had several hours off until the late afternoon when it had cooled off enough to resume our birding. On the way back in, we stopped at a fruiting tree where another Tropical Birding group were already looking at a **Madagascar Green Pigeon**. In our afternoon walk around the forest, we added **Madagascar Bee-eater**, **Madagascar Buttonquail**, **Running Coua** and **Madagascar Hoopoe**. Just before dark our local guide also found us a pair of incredibly cute **Lesser Hedgehog Tenrecs**. After a short rest in the bus, we went back into the forest with our flashlights for a night walk, on which we saw 2 **Gray-brown Mouse-Lemurs** and **Petter's Sportive Lemur**. What a day it had been!



Fascinating birds of the Spiny Forest: Long-tailed Ground Roller & Sickie-billed Vanga.

18th October - Ifaty to La Table

Today was our last morning in the spiny forest and we started off well with great views of **Madagascar Green-Pigeon** perched on a distant baobab. We started along the familiar trail system and had more views of some of the common birds here, like **Souimanga Sunbird**, **Crested Drongo**, plus **Common & Stripe-throated Jeries**. We saw the rare **Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk** again which we followed for a while, then had some more **Madagascar Swifts** flying overhead. One of our targets for the morning was the fascinating **Green-capped Coua** which the guide located then encouraged to walk towards us. It performed well, then even flew up into a low tree for great photos. The other main bird target was the **Sickle-billed Vanga** which sports a long, curved bill. Our local guide found a nest and we enjoyed scope views before it flew closer for photos. One of our group bowed out feeling a bit dehydrated and returned to the bus.



Red-shouldered Vanga is found in the Coral Rag Scrub near Tulear.

We continued our walk, some of us seeing **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher**, although the remaining sightings were all reptiles. We found, and handled the beautiful **Mahafaly Sand Snake**, then also located the **Three-eyed Lizard** and **Merrem's Madagascar Swift** which are both members of the Iguana family. We had plenty of time to pack our bags and take a short rest before we said goodbye to the lodge staff and start our drive back to Tulear, where we enjoyed a wonderful pizza lunch before checking in to our comfortable hotel. When it had cooled off a bit, we went out for our afternoon excursion to a place called La Table, which is a plateau covered in dry, spiny scrub. This seemingly inhospitable environment held quite a few birds and we saw **Namaqua Dove** and **Madagascar Lark**. Our 2 targets though, were **Verreaux's Coua** and **Red-shouldered Vanga**. Our excellent local guides did a great job in locating them and we had excellent views of both species. The vanga, which was only described about 20 years ago, posed particularly well for photos. With all our targets in the bag, we made our way back to Tulear for dinner.

19th October – Nosy Ve & Anakao

Today we were visiting the island of Nosy Ve and to get on the boat we needed to take a wooden zebu cart ride across the mudflats which was a rather unique experience. We set off for Nosy Ve and on the way saw our first **Great Crested Tern**. As we arrived at the northern tip of the island, we saw several fishing boats hauled up on the beach which didn't bode well for the skittish **Crab Plover**. The tide was just starting to fall and sandbar just off the tip was becoming exposed. There was a group of birds there, including several of our hoped for **Crab Plovers**, some **Lesser Crested Terns** and a single large, dark gull. This turned out to be Madagascar's second record of **Sooty Gull**. What a great start! Without landing here, we powered to the southern end of the island where we had a wet landing. We started to walk around, exploring the nearby bushes for **Red-tailed Tropicbird** nests of which we found several, and even had some birds flying around above our heads.



A treat awaited us on Nosy Ve: Crab Plovers, Lesser Crested Terns & a vagrant Sooty Gull.



Nesting Red-tailed Tropicbird on Nosy Ve & a Green-capped Coua strutting its stuff at Arboretum D'antsokay.

We also saw a dark morph **Dimorphic Egret**, **Madagascar Cisticola** and the interesting **Three-eyed Lizard**. After enjoying the tropicbirds for a while, we got back on our boat for a short snorkelling trip out onto the reef and saw a good variety of reef fish including damselfish, wrasses, butterflyfish and pipefish. After this, our speedboat took us across to the adjacent resort of Anakao, where we found the endemic **Littoral Rock-Thrush**, and then enjoyed a nice lunch before taking the boat back to Tuléar. In the afternoon we visited Arboretum D'Antsokay where we had an informative tour introducing the interesting local plant life with an excellent local guide. We also had great views of **Green-capped Coua** which posed beautifully for photos. and also saw **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher**, **Madagascar Kestrel** and a couple of **Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bats**.

20th October – Zombitse & Isalo

After a quick breakfast in the lobby, we left Tulear in the dark on our way to Zombitse National Park, 3 hours away. We had a stake out after 2 hours for the difficult **Madagascar Sandgrouse**. We reached a point with a good view over a small valley where sandgrouse had been seen in the past. We saw **Grey-headed Lovebirds**, **Madagascar Bee-eaters** and **Black Kite** while we waited, but it wasn't long before we had 2 pairs of **Madagascar Sandgrouse** flying over the valley. We arrived at Zombitse National Park which holds several key species in the transitional forest. We met our local guides and the first bird they showed us was a **Giant Coua** with their very striking, bright blue and purple facial skin. By the road we had our first **Malagasy Spinetails**. We set off into the forest around the loop trail and soon came across **Coquerel's Coua**, which is like a smaller version of the Giant. The 'must see' bird in this forest is the **Appert's Tetraka** which is found here and nowhere else. It didn't take long before we were all having 'too close for bins' looks of a pair feeding on the ground.



Appert's Tetraka has a very limited distribution in transitional forest.

During our short time in the park, we also had great views of **Lesser Vasa Parrot**, **Cuckoo-Roller**, **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Long-billed Bernieria** and **Rufous Vanga**. The park is also a great place for owls and the guides took us to see a **Torotoroko Scops-Owl** with its head sticking out of a hole in a tree. Our guide next heard a **White-browed Owl** calling nearby and we went to find it. Once we had it, we brought over the clients one by one so as not to flush it. Our main mammalian target here was the **Verreaux's Sifaka** and we watched a family group at close range for some time before it was time to leave, so we thanked our local guides and drove on to our luxurious hotel beside the Isalo National Park. After lunch and a rest, we took a late afternoon walk on the grounds of the hotel. We walked out onto an open grassland and saw **African Palm-Swift**, **Madagascar Bee-eater**, **Madagascar Kestrel** and **Madagascar Cisticola**. Our main target here was the **Madagascar Partridge** and we found a group of 4 by a lake. We enjoyed a delicious meal and were able to have an early night having already seen our owls.

21st October - Isalo NP

After yesterday's very early start, today's 7am breakfast was described as 'humane' by the group. With half the group down with tummy issues, we drove up to the Isalo National Park with our reduced number. We went through the entry formalities and met our local guide. We were hiking up the Namaza river valley which was scenically beautiful. We had several nice sightings on the way up, including close views of a pair of **Madagascar Green Sunbirds**, some close **Madagascar Buttonquail** females plus males with adorable fluffy chicks, plus our best views so far of **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher** and **Madagascar Hoopoe**. It wasn't all birds though, and we also had a rather photogenic **Merrem's Madagascar Swift** lizard, our first frog of the trip and many butterflies including the **Brilliant Blue**. Unfortunately, there were no ring-tailed lemurs around the camp ground so we hiked higher up the trail and found a female of our target **Benson's Rock-Thrush**. It was getting hot, and we set off back down picking up our first **African Stonechats** on the way. After a leisurely lunch back at the hotel, we had a nice rest followed by an afternoon walk around the hotel garden. We explored the edges to the stream and found another 3 species of frogs and several butterflies. The rocky outcrops surrounding the gardens had many **Dumeril's Madagascar Swift** lizards running across them and we had a nice **Madagascar Hoopoe** perched too.



Madagascar Buttonquail & Madagascar Hoopoe.

22nd October – Anja to Ranamafana

After breakfast, we checked out and started our long driving day. It was spectacular scenery and we got out briefly to take a photo and found a lizard called **Grandidier's Madagascar Swift**. There was also a huge rock that is known locally as the Pope's Hat. Just before lunch, we stopped at the community reserve of Anja where we had a short visit to see the famous **Ring-tailed Lemurs**. They didn't disappoint, and we had an enjoyable time watching their antics, especially the young ones as they practiced jumping around. We also picked up the rare breeding endemic **Madagascar Pond Heron**, a single **Red-billed Teal** and heard our first **Madagascar Cuckoo** of the trip. We thanked our guides and continued on to the town of Ambalavao where we had lunch. During the afternoon drive, we lucked upon a pair of **Madagascar Partridges** which ran along the side of the road before being flushed by a car coming the other way. We carried on with a brief stop in the bustling university city of Fianarantsoa before finally arriving at Ranamafana in the evening.



Ring-tailed Lemurs at Anja Community Forest.

23rd October – Ranomafana NP

We had only one full day in Ranomafana National Park and we were going to explore the lower section of the park. After a very early breakfast, we drove up to the park HQ, and spent some time birding around the parking lot. Here we had a singing **Rand's Warbler**, a beautifully plumaged **Red Fody** and a pair of **Madagascar Starlings** which came in to feed on the seeds of the **Traveller's Palm**. One participant was still recovering from illness so stayed behind in the parking lot to bird a bit more, adding **White-headed Vanga** & **Madagascar Buzzard**. The rest of us set off on a hike down a steep valley, across a bridge and up the other side. We took it nice and slow, and had a few nice sightings on the way, including our first **Nelicourvi Weaver** and **Spectacled Tetraka**. The forest was beautiful, but fairly quiet, until we came across a calling **Pitta-like Ground-Roller** which we managed to get in the scope and enjoyed views of it vocalising. It turned out to be a good birding day and we came across a mixed species flock containing **Madagascar White-eyes**, **Common Newtonia** and **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher**. We also had good views of **Blue Coua** and added our first **White-throated Oxylabes**, another accomplished skulker, although with patience, most people got decent views.



Ring-tailed Vontsira is a member of the Malagasy Carnivore family.

One of the highlights of the morning was an encounter with the handsome **Ring-tailed Vontsira**, which looks similar to a mongoose. We had a break at a rather scenic viewpoint where we saw the beautiful **Peacock Day Gecko**. On the way down, our guides found us one of the best camouflaged animals in the world; the **Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko**, which hung upside down and looked just like a dead leaf. In the afternoon, we took a drive to look for **Baron's Mantella** which is surely one of the most beautiful frogs in the world. We were also shown the fascinating **Giraffe-necked Weevil**. From here, we went directly to our night walk which started with a couple of **Rufous Mouse Lemurs** which are attracted to the edge of the road by guides who smear banana on the trunks of trees. The diminutive prosimians turned up just after dusk and started licking the banana while dozens of tourists took their picture. Next, we were shown an undescribed species of dwarf lemur allied to Crossley's. These night walks are excellent for chameleons, and we found 3 species, namely **Side-striped**, **O'Shaughnessey's** & **Short-nosed Chameleons**. We also found a **Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog** and an **Eastern Tree Boa**. What a day it had been!



Amazing herps from Ranomafana: Baron's Mantella & O'Shaunessey's Chameleon.

24th November - Ranomafana NP to Antsirabe

It was our last morning at Ranomafana and we only had a couple of hours to pick up some final targets. Having explored the lower trails of the park yesterday, today we were heading to the upper section known as Vohiparara. On the drive up, we had some **Madagascar Starlings** flying up from the side of the road. We stopped for photos at a viewpoint over the rushing river below and the spotters found us frogs to photograph nearby. At Vohiparara, we set off along the trail and soon came across a mixed flock with **Blue, White-headed & Pollen's Vangas**. Next, we had our best views so far of **Blue Coua**. We had another good frog morning with 3 additional species including a pandanus frog and 2 *Mantydactylus* species. We heard that one of our spotters had found a Red-bellied Lemur and we started heading towards it. A couple of people stayed behind on the main trail. The rest of us scrambled up a hill only to find that the lemurs had left. As it turned out, the people we had left down below ended up seeing a **Ranomafana Bamboo Lemurs** which we missed.



Traditional Malagasy Dancing in Ambositra.

We were almost out of time, so started to make our way back to the bus. On the way, we saw a **Long-billed Bernieria** and also had a **Pitta-like Ground-Roller** hopping along the trail. Back at the bus, we thanked our incredible local guides and set off for Ambositra. After a short distance, our assistant Linjo spotted a **Milne-Edward's Sifaka** by the side of the road. We all got out but the lemurs started hopping through the trees, away from the road. We followed them along a trail up the hill, and most of us had decent views. We had lunch in the town of Ambositra at a restaurant famous for traditional **Malagasy dancing**. This town is famous for handicrafts, especially inlaid wooden boxes. After lunch we visited a workshop where a local man demonstrated how they were made and of course following that we had the opportunity to buy some of these delightful objects. In the afternoon we drove on to Antsirabe where we spent the night.

25th October – Antsirabe to Andasibe

Today was mainly a travel day, and we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast before enjoying another cultural diversion. Antsirabe is famous for its handicrafts and we visited several workshops where we were shown how they were made. First off, we visited a Zebu horn workshop where they showed us how they went from the horn to becoming salt and pepper shakers or salad spoons which several people bought in the shop afterwards. Next, we walked down the road to a shop that specialised in making miniature bicycles and cars out of recycled products like Coca Cola cans, fishing wire and flip flops. The same family also had silk and embroidery workshops. We also had the opportunity to call in at the post office to pick up some stamps for postcards before getting back on the road a little later than planned and driving on to the outskirts of Tana for lunch. The last site on the main tour included a rough road so we said goodbye to our wonderful bus driver and had all our bags transferred across to 4 high clearance vehicles. We set off on the winding road to Andasibe, and stopped at a bridge over the Mangoro River. We scanned the river but there was no sign of the Madagascar Pratincole. After another long driving day, we arrived at Andasibe for dinner and prepared ourselves for the next 3 full days of birding this amazing area.



We were treated to a fascinating display of how miniature bicycles were made.

26th October – Analamazaotra Special Reserve

Today we were visiting the Analamazaotra Special Reserve, 15 minutes from our hotel. After buying our tickets, we set off on the trails and got off to a great start with a nice scope views of a **Blue Coua**, the amazingly well-camouflaged **Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko**, a day roosting **Malagasy Scops-Owl**, then a group of **Eastern Gray Bamboo Lemurs**. Our father and son team of guides had a special stakeout for **Madagascar Flufftail**, and with a bit of patience, we got good views of a male who shot out onto the trail, took one look at our group and dived back into the thick vegetation. **Madagascar Wood-Rail** was next and a pair of these also cooperated well giving us great views. We had heard **Madagascar Brush-Warbler** a few times, but we got our first good look at them, followed by a fantastic **Collared Nightjar**, beautifully camouflaged on the forest floor. We climbed up to the top of a small plateau and in this upper section, we were shown **Diademed Sifakas** which posed nicely for photos. As we walked around the trails we saw a few interesting bird species too, such as **Nelicourvi Weaver**, **Blue Vanga**, **Long-billed Bernieria**.



Indri is the largest living lemur.

Our main mammal target of the reserve was the **Indri**, the largest living lemur. Our guides found us a small family group in the top of some tall trees, and they even started calling right next to us. Afterwards they found us some lower ones that were much better for photographs. It was late morning and it was time to be getting back to the hotel for lunch, but we had one last lemur species, **Common Brown Lemur**. We descended the plateau and on the way out, saw a pair of **Madagascar Coucals**, and our first **Greater Vasa Parrots**. In the late afternoon, we went back out and we found **White-throated Rail** from a small bridge over a river. Then, we found **Madagascar Green-Pigeon** feeding in a low fruiting tree, we had more views of **Eastern Grey Bamboo-Lemur**, and a Madagascar Cuckooshrike nest in the top of a tall tree. After dark, we took a night walk at the orchid garden where we saw 4 species of chameleons, **Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko** **Goodman's Mouse Lemur** and **Crossley's Dwarf-Lemur**.

27th October – Mantadia National Park

Today we had a day trip to Mantadia National Park. It wasn't so far but owing to the poor state of the road, it took an hour and a half to get there. We had a birding stop on the way to try for Madagascar Rail but there was no response. The biggest targets of the day were the ground-rollers. These are very tricky birds to see, but the guides know just where to look. We had a few tries for them on the way in but there was no sign. We did pick up **Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher** and had great views of this beautiful bird. We continued searching the trails for ground-rollers which still eluded us, but we did add some other excellent birds during the morning, including **Madagascar Buzzard**, **Blue Pigeon**, **Tylas Vanga**, **Ward's Flycatcher** and Jerry even saw a **Nuthatch Vanga**. We also added **Lowland Streak Tenrec** which spiked my hands when he tried to cut off its escape route. Our excellent guide had left us with his assistant and went looking for ground-rollers alone. He started shouting for us to come and when we got to the top of a steep slope, we saw he had found us a **Short-legged Ground-Roller** with a chameleon in its mouth. It was close, unafraid of our large group, and was the perfect photographic subject.



Once you find a Short-legged Ground-Roller, they can be very confiding.

Today Scaly Ground-Roller proved more difficult, and despite our best efforts, we were unable to get views of any. We came out of the forest and walked up to a small lake, and on the way, some of us saw a single **Madagascar Munia**. We arrived at the lake where we saw our target **Madagascar Grebe** plus **Madagascar Swamp-Warbler**. There were also **Malagasy Spinetail**, **Broad-billed Rollers** and **Madagascar Bee-eater** active nearby and even some **Indri** staring down at us from the tree tops. After a picnic lunch, our guide walked around the back of the lake to see if he could find us Meller's Duck. He couldn't, but he did find a pair of **Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs**. Those that could manage it, he led down a steep slope for scope views of this critically endangered species. We started back down the road back to the cars, then started our ride back to the lodge where we rewarded ourselves with some well-deserved downtime before dinner.

28th October – VOIMMA Community Reserve

Having enjoyed the Analamazaotra Special Reserve and Mantadia National Park, the third ‘must see’ park was the VOIMMA Community Reserve. Luckily it was also the best place to look for three of our remaining targets, namely **Madagascar Crested Ibis**, **Nuthatch Vanga** and **Red-breasted Coua**. The first 2 supposedly had active nests in the reserve. After breakfast, we drove down to the entrance to the reserve where our 2 local guides were waiting. We started the loop trail which was pretty quiet. We were taken off trail by our guide and shown 2 **Collared Nightjars** that were sat so close to each other, they looked like conjoined twins. We heard a **Nuthatch Vanga** nearby and rushed along the narrow trail but only a few people in the group got to see it. We were told not to worry as we were taken to **Nuthatch Vanga** nest where we enjoyed great views of a male sat on it. We were also shown a **Madagascar Wood-Rail** nest with a bill sticking out of it. We went to check out one **Madagascar Crested Ibis** nest, but nobody was home. One of our guides found a pair out foraging and we followed them to glimpse them flushing up and flying over the river.



Who said digiscoping is dead? A Nuthatch Vanga on the nest taken from a respectful distance.

We checked out another nest and this time there was a one sat there. We moved around a bit trying to find the best window and finally we all had good views of an adult bird. Two targets down, one to go. We still needed the **Red-breasted Coua**. We had heard one calling and moved to where we thought it was located. After a bit of effort, we finally got one calling, then spotted it, creeping silently through the forest. One by one we got the clients on the skulky bird, until it rushed across the trail, hopped up into a tree and flew quickly across the river. Three for three. On our way out, we came across a nice mixed flock and had really nice views of **Madagascar Cuckooshrike**, **Nelicourvi Weaver** and **Long-billed Bernieria**, before we all returned to the hotel to rest after our very successful morning. After lunch and a rest, we took a short afternoon walk from the hotel. By the side of the road we saw **Madagascar Brush Warbler**, **Madagascar White-eye**, a pair of **Madagascar Starlings** in the scope and some **Greater Vasa Parrots** flying to roost in the large *Eucalyptus* trees. We tried for **Madagascar Rail** in the marsh along the road, but it was a bit too dry. We heard them in the distance, but they weren't coming any closer. We enjoyed our final dinner the hotel.

29th October – Andasibe to Pangalanes Channel

Due to the closure of one of our lodges in the run up to this tour we had changed the itinerary somewhat. We were now very excited to be visiting the east coast of Madagascar in search of the legendary **Aye-Aye**. There is a series of large lakes and channels, some man-made, and known collectively as the Pangalanes Channel. These are accessed by boat from the lakeside village of Manambato, and it is to there that we drove in the morning. On the way, we stopped briefly in the town of Brickaville to refuel and there, amazingly, we saw a pair of **Madagascar Praticoles** on the roof of a hotel. Next to them were some **House Sparrows** which are a surprisingly rare introduced species here. Before we got on the boat at Manambato, we saw some **Madagascar Bee-eaters** and also our first **Sooty Falcon** of the trip. It was a hot and windy afternoon, so the boat ride was a bit longer than expected and some of us received a rather refreshing spray. It was a relief to arrive and after a late lunch everybody was happy to relax and take a swim before our main activity of the evening. On a small island off the edge of the lake, a small reserve had been created, where several **Aye-Ayes** had been reintroduced. They had subsequently bred on the island. There were several feeding stations where coconuts were placed to attract them. Just after dark, we arrived on the island and the visitors were split into smaller groups to make the animals easier to see and photograph. As soon as we arrived at our feeding station, an **Aye-Aye** had just turned up and was starting to rip open the fruit. The photographic opportunities were fantastic and we enjoyed a good 30 minutes of watching this wonderfully weird and unique animal at close range. It was a privilege to see and certainly one of the highlights of the trip.



One of the world's weirdest animals and one of the highlights of our trip.

30th October - Pangalanes Channel to Antananarivo

We had a very long journey back to Tana today, so we made an early start and after breakfast, set off in our boats across the lake and back along the Pangalanes Channel. It was very scenic and interesting to get a glimpse of people's lives here but there weren't many birds to see. We did however get our first **Frances's Sparrowhawk** of the trip and some people saw their first **Crested Coua**. Of course, we had some of the commoner species, such as **Madagascar Bee-eater**, **Madagascar Bulbul** and **Souimanga Sunbird**. The water was a good deal calmer than on the way here. A small group of terns were perched on some of the fish traps, and we identified them as **Lesser Crested & Common Terns**. We had a long drive so quickly transferred to the vehicles and set off. We had one last activity planned on the way back, and that was a trip to a wonderful **reptile park**. After finishing our packed lunch at the picnic tables, we were guided through some highlights of the collection. Although the animals were captive, it gave us an opportunity to see some amazing reptiles and amphibians from all over Madagascar and we had some wonderful photo opportunities. On the last stretch of the drive to Tana, some people picked up a few interesting birds like **Hamerkop**, **Striated Heron** and **Malagasy Kingfisher**. We checked in to our comfortable and historical hotel based in the old city, well positioned for our final activities tomorrow.



Two highlights were Tomato Frog & Lined Leaf-tailed Gecko.

31st October – Antananarivo

We had a full day in Tana and were going spend the morning at the main birding site here, Lake Alarobia. After breakfast we drove down to the park and again the traffic was much lighter than usual although none of the clients would believe it. We entered the walled reserve to find a small lake absolutely filled with wild ducks. So this is where they had all been hiding! The majority were **Red-billed Ducks** and **White-faced Whistling-Ducks**. There were also many nesting egrets and herons, and amongst the common **Squacco Herons** and **Little Egrets**, we were able to find a few **Black Herons** and 2 **Madagascar Pond-Herons**. The latter, an endangered breeding endemic to Madagascar. We also added a beautiful little **Malagasy Kingfisher**.



White-faced Whistling-Ducks were numerous at Lake Alarobia.

We continued scanning the edge of the small island and I eventually picked out a pair of the endangered endemic **Meller's Duck** and several **Knob-billed Ducks**. We continued our walk around the lake and at the far end, a couple of us glimpsed a **White-throated Rail** although it couldn't be coaxed back out of the reeds. From the other side I also found a pair of the dinky little **Hottentot Teal**. Unfortunately, the Madagascar Harriers that had been seen by some participants, just before the tour were nowhere to be seen. We passed a pleasant couple of hours here before getting back in the vehicles and doing a spot of souvenir shopping at an arts centre. After a late, outdoor lunch we returned to the hotel to begin our packing and wind down bit. In the evening, we ate at one of Tana's finest restaurants, reminiscing about our favourite parts of a very memorable tour.

BIRD LIST

Taxonomy follows eBird/Clements online checklist v2019.

Anatidae (Ducks & Geese)

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Seen at Pangalanes & Alarobia.

Dendrocygna viduata

Knob-billed Duck

Seen at Alarobia.

Sarkidiornis melanotis

Meller's Duck

Endangered. Two pairs seen at Alarobia.

Anas melleri

Endemic

Hottentot Teal

Seen at Alarobia.

Anas hottentota

Red-billed Teal

Seen at Anja, Mantadia & Alarobia.

Anas erythrorhyncha

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse & Allies)

Madagascar Partridge

Near-threatened. Seen at Isalo and on the way to Ranomafana.

Magaroperdix madagascariensis

Endemic

Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)

Greater Flamingo

Vulnerable. Seen at Belalanda.

Phoenicopus roseus

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

Madagascar Grebe

Vulnerable. Seen at Mantadia.

Tachybaptus pelzelni

Endemic

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

Rock Pigeon

Introduced. Commonly seen in towns.

Columba livia

Madagascar Turtle-Dove

Seen at Ifaty, Isalo, Andasibe & Mantadia.

Streptopelia p. picturata

Endemic subspecies

Namaqua Dove

Seen at Belalanda, Ifaty, Tulear & Isalo.

Oena capensis aliena

Endemic subspecies

Madagascar Green-Pigeon

Seen at Ifaty & Andasibe.

Treron australis xenius

Endemic subspecies

Madagascar Blue-Pigeon

Seen at Mantadia.

Alectroenas madagascariensis

Endemic

Mesitornithidae (Mesites) - endemic family

Subdesert Mesite

Vulnerable. Seen at Ifaty.

Monias benschi

Endemic

Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)

Madagascar Sandgrouse

Seen on the way to Zombitse.

Pterocles personata

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

Crested Coua

Seen at Ifaty, Zombitse & Pangalanes.

Coua cristata

Endemic

Verreaux's Coua Near-threatened. Seen at La Table.	<i>Coua verreauxi</i>	Endemic
Blue Coua Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe & Mantadia.	<i>Coua caerulea</i>	Endemic
Green-capped Coua Seen at Ifaty & Tulear.	<i>Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps</i>	Endemic
Red-fronted Coua Heard at Andasibe & Ranomafana	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>	Endemic
Coquerel's Coua Seen at Zombitse.	<i>Coua coquereli</i>	Endemic
Running Coua Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Coua cursor</i>	Endemic
Giant Coua Seen at Zombitse.	<i>Coua gigas</i>	Endemic
Red-breasted Coua Seen at Andasibe	<i>Coua serriana</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Coucal Seen or heard at several sites.	<i>Centropus t. toulou</i>	Endemic subspecies
Madagascar Cuckoo Seen at Mantadia. Heard at Ranomafana & Andasibe.	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	Breeding endemic
<u>Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and allies)</u>		
Collared Nightjar Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Gactornis enarratus</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Nightjar Seen at Ifaty & Andasibe. Heard at Isalo.	<i>Caprimulgus m. madagascariensis</i>	Endemic subspecies
<u>Apodidae (Swifts)</u>		
Malagasy Spinetail Seen at Zombitse & Mantadia	<i>Zoonavena g. grandidieri</i>	Endemic subspecies
Madagascar Swift Seen at Belalanda, Ifaty, Isalo & Ranomafana.	<i>Apus b. balstoni</i>	Endemic subspecies
African Palm-Swift Seen at Isalo, Ranomafana & Andasibe.	<i>Cypsiurus parvus gracilis</i>	Endemic subspecies
<u>Sarothruridae (Flufftails)</u>		
Madagascar Wood-Rail Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Canirallus kioloides</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Flufftail Seen at Andasibe. Heard at Ranomafana & Mantadia.	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>	Endemic
<u>Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)</u>		
Madagascar Rail Heard near Andasibe.	<i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
White-throated Rail Seen at Andasibe & Alarobia. Heard at Mantadia	<i>Dryolimnas c. cuvieri</i>	Endemic subspecies
Eurasian Moorhen Seen at Alarobia & Mantadia.	<i>Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorhoa</i>	

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Seen at Belalanda.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
Seen at Belalanda.

Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Seen at Belalanda.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*
Seen at Belalanda & Ifaty.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
Seen at Belalanda.

Madagascar Plover *Charadrius thoracicus*

Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at Ifaty.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris bifrontatus*

Endemic subspecies

Seen at Belalanda.

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus tenellus*

Endemic subspecies

Seen at Belalanda.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Seen at Belalanda, Ifaty & Tulear.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
Seen at Belalanda.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
Seen at Ifaty.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
Seen at Belalanda.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Seen at Ifaty & Andasibe.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Seen at Belalanda, Ifaty & Tulear.

Turnicidae (Buttonquail)

Madagascar Buttonquail *Turnix nigricollis*

Endemic

Seen at Ifaty & Isalo.

Dromadidae (Crab Plover)

Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola*
Seen on Nosy Ve.

Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)

Madagascar Pratincole *Glareola ocularis*

Breeding endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at Brickaville & Pangalanes.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*
A single juvenile was seen at Pangalanes.

Common Tern

Seen at Pangalanes.

*Sterna hirundo***Greater Crested Tern**

Seen at Nosy Ve.

*Thalasseus bergii***Lesser Crested Tern**

Seen at Nosy Ve & Pangalanes.

*Thalasseus bengalensis***Kelp Gull**

Seen by one client at Ifaty.

*Larus dominicanus melisandae***Endemic subspecies****Sooty Gull**

A very rare vagrant seen on Nosy Ve.

*Ichthyaetus hemprichii***Phaethontidae (Tropicbirds)****Red-tailed Tropicbird**

Seen at Nosy Ve.

*Phaethon rubricauda***Scopidae (Hamerkop)****Hamerkop**

Seen at the sandgrouse spot on the way to Zombitse & near Tana.

*Scopus umbretta***Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)****Gray Heron**

Seen at Belalanda & Ifaty

*Ardea cinerea firsas***Endemic subspecies****Great Egret**

Seen in numerous rice paddies throughout our tour.

*Ardea alba***Little (Dimorphic) Egret**

Commonly seen near water.

*Egretta garzetta dimorpha***Black Heron**

Seen at Alarobia.

*Egretta ardesiaca***Cattle Egret**

Commonly seen in open areas.

*Bubulcus ibis***Squacco Heron**

Seen at Alarobia.

*Ardeola ralloides***Madagascar Pond Heron**

Seen at Anja & Alarobia.

*Ardeola idea***Regional breeding endemic****Striated Heron**

Seen at Belalanda, the sandgrouse spot, at Andasibe & on the way to Tana.

*Butorides striata rutenbergi***Endemic subspecies****Black-crowned Night-Heron**

Seen at Alarobia.

*Nycticorax nycticorax***Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)****Madagascar Ibis**

Near-threatened. Seen at Andasibe.

*Lophotibis cristata***Endemic****Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)****Madagascar Harrier-Hawk**

Seen at Ifaty & Mantadia.

*Polyboroides radiatus***Endemic****Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk**

Seen at Ifaty

*Aviceda madagascariensis***Endemic****Frances's Goshawk**

Seen at Pangalanes.

*Accipiter f. francesii***Endemic subspecies**

Madagascar Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Near-threatened. A pair seen mating at Ifaty.		
Black (Yellow-billed) Kite	<i>Milvus migrans parasitus</i>	
Commonly seen throughout. <i>M.m.migrans</i> was seen at the sandgrouse spot.		
Madagascar Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>	Endemic
Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia Heard at Isalo.		
<u>Strigidae (Owls)</u>		
Malagasy Scops-Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>	Endemic
Seen at Andasibe & heard at Mantadia.		
Torotoroka Scops-Owl	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Seen at Zombitse & Isalo.		
Madagascar Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Seen at Ranomafana.		
White-browed Owl	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>	Endemic
Seen at Zombitse.		
<u>Leptosomidae (Cuckoo-Roller)</u>		
Cuckoo-Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>	Regional endemic
Seen at Zombitse, Andasibe & Mantadia. Heard at Ranomafana,		
<u>Upupidae (Hoopoes)</u>		
Madagascar Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>	Endemic
Seen at Ifaty & Isalo.		
<u>Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)</u>		
Malagasy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis v. vintsioides</i>	Endemic subspecies
Seen at Alarobia, Belalanda, Isalo, Andasibe-Mantadia & Tana.		
Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Seen at Mantadia.		
<u>Meropidae (Bee-eaters)</u>		
Madagascar Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	
Seen at Belalanda, Ifaty, Tulear, Isalo, Mantadia & Pangalanes.		
<u>Coraciidae (Rollers)</u>		
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus g. glaucurus</i>	Breeding end. subspecies
Seen at Isalo, Andasibe & Mantadia.		
<u>Brachypteraciidae (Ground-Rollers) – endemic family</u>		
Short-legged Ground-Roller	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>	Endemic
Vulnerable. Seen at Mantadia.		
Pitta-like Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>	Endemic
Seen at Ranomafana.		
Long-tailed Ground-Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>	Endemic
Vulnerable. Seen at Ifaty.		
<u>Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)</u>		
Madagascar Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	Regional endemic
Seen near Alarobia, Ifaty, Tulear, Isalo & Mantadia.		

Sooty Falcon Seen at Manambato.	<i>Falco concolor</i>	
<u>Psittacidae (Parrots)</u>		
Greater Vasa-Parrot Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>	Endemic subspecies
Lesser Vasa-Parrot Seen at Ifaty, Zombitse & Andasibe-Mantadia. Heard at Ranomafana,	<i>Coracopsis nigra n./libs</i>	Endemic subspecies
Grey-headed Lovebird Seen at Ifaty, La Table, on the way to Zombitse & Isalo.	<i>Agapornis canus</i>	Endemic
<u>Philepittidae (Asities) – endemic family</u>		
Velvet Asity Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe.	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>	Endemic
<u>Vangidae (Vangas)</u>		
Archbold's Newtonia Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>	Endemic
Common Newtonia Seen or heard at all forest sites.	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>	Endemic
Tylas Vanga Seen at Andasoibe-Mantadia.	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>	Endemic
Red-tailed Vanga Seen at Ifaty, Zombitse & Andasibe-Mantadia. Heard at Ranomafana,	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Red-shouldered Vanga Vulnerable. Seen at La Table.	<i>Calicalicus rufocarpalis</i>	Endemic
Nuthatch Vanga Seen at Mantadia & Andasibe.	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>	Endemic
Chabert Vanga Seen at Ifaty, La Table, Ranomafana, Andasibe & Mantadia.	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>	Endemic
Crossley's Vanga Heard at Ranomafana & Andasibe.	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>	Endemic
Blue Vanga Seen at Zombitse, Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia	<i>Cyanolanius m. madagascarinus</i>	Endemic subspecies
Hook-billed Vanga Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>	Endemic
Ward's Flycatcher Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia.	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>	Endemic
Rufous Vanga Seen at Zombitse & Ranomafana.	<i>Schetba rufa</i>	Endemic
Sickle-billed Vanga Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Falculea palliata</i>	Endemic
White-headed Vanga Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe. Heard at Ifaty	<i>Artamella viridis</i>	Endemic
Pollen's Vanga Near-threatened. Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>	Endemic
Lafresnaye's Vanga Seen at Ifaty & La Table.	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>	Endemic

Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)**Madagascar Cuckooshrike***Coracina cinerea***Endemic**

Seen at Andasibe.

Dicruridae (Drongos)**Crested Drongo***Dicrurus f. forficatus***Endemic subspecies**

Seen at almost all sites.

Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)**Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher***Terpsiphone m. mutata***Endemic subspecies**

Seen at all forest sites.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)**Pied Crow***Corvus albus*

Widely seen throughout.

Alaudidae (Larks)**Madagascar Lark***Mirafr hova***Endemic**

Seen at La Table & at the sandgrouse spot.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)**Plain (Brown-throated) Martin***Phedina palidicola cowani***Regional endemic**

Seen en route to Ranomafana & Tana.

Mascarene Martin*Phedina borbonica***Regional endemic**

Seen at many sites.

Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)**Madagascar Bulbul***Hypsipetes m. madagascariensis***Endemic subspecies**

Seen at most sites.

Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers and Allies)**Madagascar Brush-Warbler***Nesillas t. typica***Endemic subspecies**

Seen at Tana & Andasibe-Mantadia. Heard at Ranomafana

Subdesert Brush-Warbler*Nesillas lantzi***Endemic**

Seen at Belalanda, Ifaty, La Table & Anakao.

Madagascar Swamp-Warbler*Acrocephalus newtoni***Endemic**

Seen at Alarobia, Belalanda & Mantadia.

Bernieridae (Malagasy Warblers) – endemic family**White-throated Oxylabes***Oxylabes madagascariensis***Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana. Heard at Mantadia.

Long-billed Bernieria*Bernieria madagascariensis***Endemic**

Seen at Zombitse, Ranomafana, Andasibe & Mantadia.

Thamnornis*Thamnornis chloropetoides***Endemic**

Seen at Ifaty.

Yellow-browed Oxylabes*Crossleyia xanthophrys***Endemic**

Heard at Ranomafana.

Spectacled Tetraka*Xanthornix zosterops***Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe & Mantadia

Rand's Warbler Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia.	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>	Endemic
<u>Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)</u>		
Common Jery Seen at Ifaty, Tulear, Zombitse, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia, Pangalanes & Alarobia.	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>	Endemic
Green Jery Seen at Ranomafana. Heard at Andasibe-Mantadia	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>	Endemic
Stripe-throated Jery Seen at Ifaty, Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia.	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Cisticola Seen at Belalanda, Nosy Ve & Isalo.	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>	Regional endemic
<u>Zosteropidae (White-eyes)</u>		
Madagascar White-eye Seen at Alarobia, Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia.	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>	Regional endemic
<u>Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)</u>		
Madagascar Magpie-Robin Seen at all forest sites.	<i>Copsychus albospecularis</i>	Endemic
Forest (Benson's) Rock-Thrush Seen at Isalo.	<i>Monticola s. bensoni</i>	Endemic
Littoral Rock-Thrush Seen at Anakao.	<i>Monticola imerina</i>	Endemic
African Stonechat Seen at Isalo & Andasibe-Mantadia.	<i>Saxicola torquatus sibilla</i>	Endemic subspecies.
<u>Sturnidae (Starlings)</u>		
Common Myna Introduced. Commonly seen throughout.	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	
Madagascar Starling Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia.	<i>Saroglossa aurata</i>	Endemic
<u>Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)</u>		
Souimanga Sunbird Seen at most sites.	<i>Cinnyris souimanga s./apolis</i>	Endemic subspecies
Madagascar Sunbird Seen at Isalo, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia & Pangalanes.	<i>Cinnyris n. notatus</i>	Endemic subspecies
<u>Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)</u>		
Madagascar Wagtail Seen at Tana, Isalo, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia & Pangalanes.	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	Endemic
<u>Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)</u>		
Nelicourvi Weaver Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia.	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>	Endemic
Sakalava Weaver Seen at Ifaty & Tulear.	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>	Endemic
Red Fody Seen at most sites.	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	Regional endemic

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)

Madagascar Munia *Lonchura nana* **Endemic**
 Seen at Tana, Andasibe & Mantadia.

MAMMAL LIST

Mammal Taxonomy follows Mammals of Madagascar (2007) by Nick Garbutt.

Cheirogaleidae (Mouse & Dwarf Lemurs)

Grey-brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus griseorufus* **Endemic**
 Seen at Ifaty.

Rufous Mouse Lemur *Microcebus rufus* **Endemic**
 Seen at Ranomafana.

Goodman's Mouse Lemur *Microcebus lehilahytsara* **Endemic**
 Seen at Andasibe.

Crossley's Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus crossleyi* **Endemic**
 Seen at Andasibe.

Dwarf lemur sp *Cheirogaleus sp.* **Endemic**
 The dwarf lemur found at Ranomafana is now thought to be an undescribed species.

Lepilemuridae (Sportive Lemurs)

Petter's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur petteri* **Endemic**
 Seen at Ifaty.

Lemuridae (True Lemurs)

Ranomafana Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur ranomafanensis* **Endemic**
 Seen at Ranomafana,

Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur griseus* **Endemic**
 Vulnerable. Seen at Andasibe.

Ring-tailed Lemur *Lemur catta* **Endemic**
 Near-threatened. Seen at Anja.

Common Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus* **Endemic**
 Near-threatened. Seen at Andasibe & Pangalanes.

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur *Varecia variegata* **Endemic**
 Critically endangered. Seen at Mantadia & heard at Ranomafana,

Indridae (Woolly Lemurs, Sifakas & Indri)

Verreaux's Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi* **Endemic**
 Vulnerable. Seen at Zombitse.

Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus edwardsi* **Endemic**
 Endangered. Seen at Andasibe.

Milne-Edwards Sifaka *Propithecus diadema* **Endemic**
 Endangered. Seen at Ranomafana.

Indri *Indri Indri* **Endemic**
 Endangered. Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia.

Daubentoniidae (Aye Aye)

Aye-Aye *Daubentonia madagascariensis* **Endemic**
 Endangered. Seen at Pangalanes.

Eupleridae (Malagasy Carnivores)**Ring-tailed Mongoose***Galidia elegans***Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana.

Hipposideridae (Old World Leaf-nosed Bats)**Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat***Hipposideros commersoni***Endemic**

Seen at Ifaty

Tenrecidae (Tenrecs)**Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec***Echinops telfairi***Endemic**

Seen at Ifaty.

Lowland Streaked Tenrec*Hemicentetes semispinosus***Endemic**

Seen at Mantadia & Andasibe.

Nesomyidae (African Rodents)**Eastern Red Forest Rat***Nesomys rufus***Endemic**

Seen at Mantadia

REPTILE LIST

Taxonomy follows A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Madagascar: 3rd Edition (2007) by F. Glaw and M. Vences.

Testudinidae**Radiated Tortoise***Geochelone radiata*

Seen at La Table.

Spider Tortoise*Pyxis arachnoides*

Seen at Ifaty

Chamaeleonidae**Brown Leaf Chameleon***Brookesia superciliaris***Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe.

Short-horned Chameleon*Calumma brevicornis***Endemic**

Seen at Andasibe.

Big Nose Chameleon*Calumma nasutum***Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana.

Band-bellied Chameleon*Calumma gastrotaenia***Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe. The Short-legged Ground-Roller we saw had caught one of these.

Parson's Giant Chameleon*Calumma parsoni***Endemic**

Seen at Andasibe.

O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon*Calumma oshaughnessyi***Endemic**

Vulnerable. Seen at Ranomafana.

Oustalet's Chameleon*Furcifer oustaleti***Endemic**

Seen at Zombitse

Warty Chameleon*Furcifer verrucosus***Endemic**

Seen at Ifaty & Tulear.

Two-banded Chameleon*Furcifer balteatus***Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana.

Opluridae

Three-eyed Lizard Seen at Ifaty & Nosy Ve.	<i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Merrem's Madagascar Swift Seen at Ifaty, Tulear & Isalo.	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Swift sp Seen at Anakao.	<i>Oplurus fierinensis</i>	Endemic
Dumeril's Madagascar Swift Seen at Isalo.	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>	Endemic
Grandidier's's Madagascar Swift Seen near Isalo.	<i>Oplurus grandidieri</i>	Endemic

Gekkonidae

Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko Seen at Ranomafana	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>	Endemic
Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>	Endemic
Sakalava's Madagascar Velvet Gecko Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>	Endemic
Common House Gecko Seen at Tulear & Andasibe.	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	
Fish Scale Gecko Seen at Tulear.	<i>Geckolepis maculata</i>	Endemic
Rainforest Dwarf Gecko Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Lygodactylus miops</i>	Endemic
Standing's Day Gecko Vulnerable. Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>	Endemic
Thicktail Day Gecko Seen at Tulear.	<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>	Endemic
Lined Day Gecko Seen at Ifaty, Ranomafana, Andasibe & Tana.	<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>	Endemic
Peacock Day Gecko Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>	Endemic

Gerrhosauridae

Malagasy Keeled Plated Lizard Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Tracheloptychus madagascarensis</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Plated Lizard Seen at Mantadia-Andasibe.	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>	Endemic

Scincidae

Elegant Skink Seen at Isalo.	<i>Trachylepis elegans</i>	Endemic
Gravenhorst's Skink Seen at Ranomafana	<i>Trachylepis gravenhorsti</i>	Endemic

Boidae

Eastern Madagascar Tree Boa Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
---	----------------------------------	----------------

Colubridae**Snake sp**

Seen at Ranomafana.

*Compsophis boulengeri***Endemic****Striped Madagascar Garter Snake**

Seen at Isalo.

*Thamnophis lateralis***Endemic****Bernier's Striped Snake**

Seen on Nosy Ve

*Dromicodryas bernieri***Endemic****Mahafaly Sand Snake**

Seen at Ifaty.

*Mimophis mahfalensis***Endemic****AMPHIBIAN LIST**

Taxonomy follows A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Madagascar: 3rd Edition (2007) by F. Glaw and M. Vences.

Dicroglossidae**Mascarene Ridged Frog**

Seen at Isalo.

*Ptychadena mascareniensis***Microhylidae****Mahonoro Tree-hole Frog**

Seen at Ranomafana

*Plethodontohyla notoosticta***Endemic****Mantellidae****Undescribed *Blommersia* sp.**

Seen at Isalo.

Blommersia sp. aff. *wittei* "Isalo"**Endemic****Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog**

Seen at Ranomafana.

*Boophis madagascariensis***Endemic****Tsarafidy Pandanus Frog**

Seen at Ranomafana.

*Guibermantis pulcher***Endemic****Bridge Frog sp.**

Seen at Isalo.

*Gephyromantis corvus***Endemic****Undescribed *Mantidactylus* sp.**

Seen at Isalo.

Mantidactylus sp. aff. *ulcerosus* "Isalo"**Endemic****White-whiskered Madagascar Frog**

Seen at Ranomafana.

*Mantidactylus melanopleura***Endemic****Ivohimanita Madagascar Frog**

Seen at Ranomafana.

*Mantidactylus majori***Endemic****Central Madagascar Frog**

Seen at Ranomafana

*Mantidactylus opiparus***Endemic****Baron's Mantella**

Seen at Ranomafana.

*Mantella baroni***Endemic****BUTTERFLY LIST****Papilionidae****Mocker Swallowtail**

Seen at Zombitse

*Papilio dardanus***Endemic subspecies****Cream-lined Swallowtail**

Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia

*Papilio delalandei***Endemic**

Citrus Swallowtail

Seen at Ifaty, Zombitse, Anja, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia & Tana.

Banded Blue Swallowtail

Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia,

Blue spotted Swallowtail

Seen at Zombitse.

Madagascar Lady

Seen at Mantadia.

Madagascar Giant Swallowtail

Seen at Belalanda, Ifaty & Isalo.

*Papilio demodocus**Papilio oribazus**Papilio epiphorbus**Graphium endochus**Pharmacophagus antenor***Endemic****Regional endemic****Endemic****Endemic****Pieridae****Small Grass Yellow**

Seen at Isalo & Mantadia

Malagasy Grass Yellow

Seen at Isalo.

Madagascar Migrant

Seen at Zombitse & Isalo.

Madagascar Orange Tip

Seen at Ifaty, Zombitse & Isalo.

Giant Orange Tip

Seen at Isalo.

African Wood White

Seen at Ranomafana.

Antsianaka Caper White

Seen at Zombitse.

Grandidier's Caper White

Seen at Ifaty.

African Common White

Seen at Anakao

Madagascar Dotted Border

Seen at Ranomafana.

*Eurema brigitta pulchella**Eurema floricola floricola**Catopsilia thauruma**Colotis evanthe**Colotis lucasi**Leptosia alcesta**Belenois antsianaka**Belenois grandidieri**Belenois creona**Mylothris phileris***Endemic****Regional endemic****Endemic****Endemic****Endemic****Endemic****Rionidae****Madagascar Metalmark**

Seen at Ranomafana.

*Saribia tepahi***Endemic****Lycaenidae****Dark Grass Blue**

Seen at Isalo

*Zizeeria knysna***Nymphalidae****African Monarch**

Seen at most sites.

Common Evening Brown

Seen at Isalo.

Madagascar Satyr sp.

Several species seen at Isalo, Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia.

Indian Ocean Satyr sp

Several species seen at Isalo, Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia.

*Danaus chryssipus aegyptius**Melanitis leda**Strabena sp**Heteropsis sp***Endemic**

Painted Lady Seen at Tana	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	
Banded Commodore Seen at Ranomafana	<i>Precis andrejama</i>	Endemic
Gold-striped Commodore Seen at Ranomafana	<i>Precis eurodoce</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Brown Pansy Seen at Isalo & Ranomafana.	<i>Junonia goudotii</i>	Regional endemic
Yellow Pansy Seen at Isalo.	<i>Junonia hierta paris</i>	Endemic subspecies
Brilliant Blue Seen at Ifaty, Zombitse & Isalo.	<i>Junonia rhadama</i>	Regional endemic
Madagascar Beauty Seen at Mantadia.	<i>Salemis anteva</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Diadem Seen at Mantadia.	<i>Hypolimnna dextera</i>	Endemic
Spotted Sailor Seen at Isalo.	<i>Neptis saclava</i>	
Polka Dot Seen at Isalo.	<i>Pardopsis punctatissima</i>	
[Acraea sp.] Seen at Zombitse.	<i>Acraea ranavalona</i>	Endemic
OTHER INVERTEBRATES		
Comet Moth Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Argema mittrei</i>	
Madagascar Hissing Cockroach Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Gromphadorhina portentosa</i>	
'Kung Fu' Cricket Seen at Ifaty.		
Giant Pill Millipede Seen at Mantadia.	<i>Zoosphaerium sphaeromimus</i>	
Flatid Leaf Insect Seen at Isalo.	<i>Phromnea rosea</i>	
Giraffe-necked Weevil Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Trachelophorus giraffa</i>	
Golden Orb Web Spider Commonly seen throughout.	<i>Nephila sp.</i>	