

Madagascar

Naturetrek Tour Report

24 October - 15 November 2007

Report compiled by Chris Kehoe



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Day 0

Tuesday 23rd October

Pre-tour: Paris

In order to guarantee catching our next morning flight from Paris CDG we assembled at the Ibis Hotel there during the evening via various flights from the UK.

Day 1

Wednesday 24th October

Outbound to Antananarivo, Madagascar Weather: cool and wet on arrival.

We departed Paris a little over one hour late at 11.30 on an Air France service to Antananarivo (Tana), the capital of Madagascar. Eleven hours later, and just 30 minutes late, we touched down in a thunderstorm at 22.25 (local). Our luggage eventually appeared on the carousel, we met Rivo, our local guide, in the arrivals hall and quickly loaded the bus for the short drive to the Tana Plaza Hotel where we were in our rooms soon after midnight.

Day 2

Thursday 25th October

Tana Zoo; en route to Antsirabe Weather: dry, sunny and warm.

A couple of people were on the hotel terrace before breakfast at 07.30 and saw some of the more ubiquitous Madagascan specialities like Madagascar Fodys and Wagtails and Mascarene Martins as the city below began to bustle. Our chief objective today was to drive south to Antsirabe from where we would have a more manageable journey next day to our first major destination of Ranomafana. First stop today though was at Tana Zoological and Botanical Gardens where we had a brief introduction to some of the local fauna; highlight amongst the inmates was a busy Fosa, a species very hard to find in the wild. In addition there was a small selection of wild birds including a mixture of Egrets and Herons in a large heronry, a few White-faced Whistling Ducks and Madagascar Malachite Kingfishers and Kestrels.

We arrived in the small town of Ambarolamby for lunch at a small restaurant before pressing on and arriving at our overnight hotel in Antsirabe at 16.30. Some chose to explore the town a little before darkness fell.

Day 3

Friday 26th October

En route to Ranomafana

Weather: dry and warm until evening when wet and cool at Ranomafana.

We left Antsirabe at 08.30 and made a few brief landscape photo stops before arriving in Ambositra a couple of hours later. A scan of the river near Fatihita produced three Madagascar Little Grebes and other bits and pieces. After a short refuelling stop and picking up a few provisions we were on our way again but stopped at the roadside near Camprobin to eat our packed lunch. At 14.30 we reached the turn off for Ranomafana and set off there on the newly paved road. Thick cloud and drizzle marked our arrival at the Hotel Domaine Nature where we quickly checked-in before taking a stroll along the road. Highlights before the rain intensified and we gave up and had a coffee were our first Chabert's Vangas, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher and White-eyes and Crested Drongos.

Day 4

Saturday 27th October

Ranomafana

Weather: thick low cloud and drizzle or rain all day, rather chilly

Rain continued through the night and through much of our first day at Ranomafana. Undeterred, we left after breakfast at 05.00 in the company of local guides Fidy and Jean Chrys and spent five hours exploring trails in the rather soggy National Park. Highlights this morning included three different species of Lemur: Red-bellied, Eastern Woolly and the critically endangered Greater Bamboo Lemur. Birds were also in evidence despite the rain with highlights being Velvet Asity and Common Sunbird-asity and White-throated Oxylobes. While watching a particularly obliging male Velvet Asity at Belle Vue a Ring-tailed Mongoose popped out of the bushes right beside us. Later in the day we returned once more to the Belle Vue area where a Fanaloke (Striped Civet) put on a good display. While making our way back down towards the bus a Pitta-like Ground-roller bounced along the path ahead of us in the fading light.

Day 5

Sunday 28th October

Ranomafana

Weather: mostly dry and bright with a couple of light showers, warmer

Early risers saw Madagascar Blue Pigeon and Green Jery along the road before breakfast. After breakfast the group divided to pursue different interests. Rivo and Jean Chrys' group concentrated along the road near Vohiparara, with some people revisiting the main reserve with Jean Chrys later on. There was plenty of opportunity to linger and photograph some of the reptiles and invertebrates and new Lemurs seen included Red-fronted Brown and the recently discovered Golden Bamboo Lemur.

Keener birders accompanied Fidy to Vohiparara where highlights included local specialities like Yellow-bellied Sunbird-asiy and Red-fronted Coua with a supporting cast of Blue Coua and several others, a Milne-Edward's Sifaka was a notable mammalian diversion.

In the evening some chose to return to Belle Vue, where several Brown Mouse Lemurs put on a good show and some saw two Collared Nightjars, while the others returned to Vohiparara and caught a glimpse of Rufous-headed and Pitta-like Ground Rollers amongst commoner species.

Day 6

Monday 29th October

En route to Isalo via Anja and Horombe

Weather: Dry and mostly bright at Ranomafana until breakfast when rain set in, hot and sunny from Fianarantsoa westwards.

Early risers set off towards Vohiparara once more and spent a couple of hours birding along the road near there before breakfast. First stop was at a stakeout for Forest Rock Thrush which eventually obliged before we spent quite some time trying to locate a singing Cryptic Warbler on a wooded hillside, our patience eventually rewarded with decent scope views. Other species seen before breakfast at 08.00 included Forest Fody, Rand's Warbler and Blue Vanga.

After breakfast we boarded the bus for the day long journey to Isalo. Rain in the hills soon gave way to sunny weather as we had a short coffee break in Fianarantsoa. Lunch at Ambalavao was followed by a short visit to see the Ring-tailed Lemurs at the new community reserve at Anja. The rest of the day was spent on the road travelling through an increasingly arid and spectacular landscape that included a journey across the impressive high plateau of Horombe. Just after dark a Marsh Owl provided a good diversion and at 19.15 we were checking-in at the rather splendid Jardin du Roy hotel for a two night stay.

Day 7

Tuesday 30th October

Isalo Weather: sunny and hot

A pre-breakfast stroll along the sand track connecting the hotel to the main road produced good views of several Madagascar Bushlarks, Cisticolas and Bee-eaters as numerous Yellow-billed Kites rose in to the rapidly warming air and began to soar above a superb desert landscape. Most people opted to spend the morning in the vicinity of the hotel where, after some searching, we finally found three Benson's Rock Thrushes, our main avian target here, but other species included numerous Broad-billed Rollers and Madagascar Hoopoes; Cuckoo-roller and Sooty Falcon both flew over.

In the evening, when the fierce heat of the day began to subside, we set off in the bus in pursuit of Madagascar Partridges and soon succeeded in finding one (or rather Lala, our bus driver, did and called us back just as we were about to start a sweep of the opposite hillside!). Back at the hotel there was time to relax and enjoy a wonderful desert sunset as a thunderstorm threatened but never quite materialised.

Day 8

Wednesday 31st October

En route to Tulear via Zombitsie

Weather: sunny and hot

Armed with packed breakfasts we set off westwards just before dawn at 05.00 and 90 minutes later arrived at Zombitsie National Park where local guide Flaubert was waiting to meet us. A two hour stroll through the pleasant dry forest there soon produced our primary target in the shape of some very obliging Appert's Bulbuls, a species that occurs virtually nowhere else in the world. Other birds seen included White-browed Owl and several Cuckoo-rollers while Verreaux's Sifaka was a welcome addition to our mammal list.

A couple of hours later we arrived at Tulear Botanical Gardens where we were greeted by a large colony of Sakalava Weavers. While lunch was being prepared a tour of the botanical gardens succeeded in finding a roosting huddle of Grey Mouse Lemurs, Running Coua and Madagascar Buttonquail. After lunch a short drive delivered us to the Paille en Queue hotel where there was time for a short rest, or swim, during the heat of the afternoon. An evening stroll through the coral rag scrub of Tulear Tablelands produced distant views of a couple of Verreaux's Couas, a dozen flying Madagascar Sandgrouse and superb views of a pair of Sickle-billed Vangas.

Day 9

Thursday 1st November

Anakoa

Weather: sunny and hot

Breakfast at the hotel preceded a short bus journey to the coast where Zebu carts were waiting to transfer us 100m through knee deep water to our waiting boat. The 90 minute boat journey that delivered us to Anakoa was punctuated by a stop to watch cliff nesting Grey and Humblot's Herons and some saw a Storm Petrel species (probably Wilson's) briefly. At Anakoa we quickly checked-in but soon regrouped in order to visit Nosy Ve, a desert island visible offshore. On arrival at Nosy Ve 20 minutes later we had a brief look at some roosting Lesser Crested and Common Terns before some took the option of a little snorkelling while everyone else settled in for 90 minutes to watch stunning Red-tailed Tropicbirds as they came and went at close range to feed young concealed under scrubby bushes.

On our return to the mainland it was time for lunch and a rest in the midday heat but in the cool of late afternoon some time was spent exploring the area behind the chalets where several Littoral Rock Thrushes were found amongst the numerous Subdesert Bush Warblers and others. Just before the light faded altogether a Madagascar Nightjar showed briefly.

Day 10

Friday 2nd November

En route to Tulear/ Ifaty

Weather: sunny and hot

We returned to Tulear straight after breakfast, seeing another probable Wilson's Storm Petrel en route. On arrival some went to do a little shopping or to visit the Post Office while the others had a rest at a pleasant seafront hotel where a few commoner waders and a couple of Caspian Terns were seen. Having regrouped we set off north along the coast where a stop to look at some birds on an offshore sandbar resulted in the discovery of two Crab Plovers amongst the commoner waders present. After a couple of hours on a rather bumpy road we arrived at the Paradisier Hotel at Ifaty in time for lunch.

Later in the afternoon some of the group retraced our route part way back to Tulear in search of Reunion Harriers. In the event none were seen but compensation came in the shape of a Little Bittern, a couple of Hottentot Teals and repeat views of Crab Plovers (now three) that now shared their sand spit with several thousand Common Terns.

Day 11

Saturday 3rd November

Ifaty Weather: sunny and hot

We began the day early with a pre-breakfast excursion to nearby Renala Private Reserve where a couple of hours were spent exploring the network of trails through the spiny forest. Even before we reached the visitors centre one of our key targets was found when two Long-tailed Ground Rollers appeared along a side track and remained in view on and off for five minutes. The group then divided, keener birders opting for the potentially energetic pursuit of Sub-desert Mesites but in the event this species gave itself up more easily than is often the case. Both groups then saw an essentially similar array of species with particular highlights in this very rich area being Green-capped, Crested and Running Couas, Lafresnaye's, Hook-billed, White-headed, Red-tailed and Sickle-billed Vangas, Archbold's Newtonia, Thamnornis Warbler and Madagascar Harrier-hawk, all against a backdrop of impressively gigantic Boababs.

We returned to the hotel for a leisurely breakfast before a morning of free time. Some went snorkelling, others made use of the swimming pool while the rest just took it easy in the attractive setting. By 15.00 the temperature had begun to subside so we set off back towards Ifaty in search of Madagascar Plovers. First stop was at some roadside pools near the hotel gate where White-throated Rails performed alongside Three-banded Plovers and others. Much time was then spent scanning across a large expanse of salt flats where Kittlitz's Plovers were numerous before we eventually found a couple of White-fronted Sandplovers mixed in with them and soon after a pair of the hoped-for Madagascar Plovers. We also enjoyed good views of a perched Peregrine before the light began to fade and we returned to the hotel in time to see Madagascar Nightjars feeding over the car park.

Day 12

Sunday 4th November

Ifaty; en route to Tulear Weather: sunny and hot

Before breakfast a walk along the Paradisier entrance road and a short visit to the roadside pools near the gate provided repeat views of Madagascar Buttonquails, Crested Couas, White-throated Rail and several others. After a leisurely breakfast and some final packing we set off towards Tulear with an en route stop to look at waders and others; the Crab Plovers were still present and with them was a single Greater Sandplover. On arrival in Tulear we checked-in once more to the Paille en Queue, had lunch and then settled down for an afternoon of leisure and rest.

Day 13

Monday 5th November

Tulear Tablelands; en route to Berenty via Fort Dauphin; Berenty

Weather: sunny and hot, quite breezy at Fort Dauphin

A few indefatigable souls ventured out to Tulear Tablelands before breakfast but the hoped-for Red-shouldered Vangas were playing hard to get despite calling. Running Couas and Sickle-billed Vangas put on a good show

though and a Lafresnaye's Vanga was seen briefly. After breakfast we made our way to the airport. The hour long flight to Fort Dauphin left on time and we arrived there at 11.00 and soon set off on the three hour drive to Berenty. As the road to Berenty is in a poor condition it was a rather bumpy ride but we eventually arrived and checked-in before exploring the area around our rooms. Ring-tailed Lemurs were immediately in evidence, in fact we had to ensure our rooms were properly secured to keep them out! As the temperature subsided a small troop of delightful Verreaux's Sifaka came dancing their way out of the dense gallery forest and settled into some smaller trees near the café allowing excellent views and photo opportunities before dancing off again. An hour long night walk in the nearby spiny forest produced Red-tailed Sprotive Lemurs and Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs.

Day 14

Tuesday 6th November

Berenty

Weather: sunny and hot

A full day at Berenty commenced with a pre-breakfast stroll through the gallery forest where our local guide Jocelin soon led us to a fine roosting White-browed Owl, soon after we were watching a Torotoroka Scops Owl at close quarters. Just around the corner three Madagascar Green Pigeons posed for the scope in the early morning sun and nearby a White-footed Sportive Lemur peered out of its roost hole. We came across several troops of Ring-tailed Lemurs and Verreaux's Sifakas as well as numerous commoner birds such as Paradise Flycatchers, Common Jerys and Magpie Robins.

After breakfast some accompanied Rivo and Jocelin on a walk, seeing several Giant Couas and others, while others chose to rest on what was probably the hottest day of the tour. When the temperature subsided in the evening we returned to the gallery forest for excellent extended views of Giant Couas, and repeat views of several of the birds and animal we had seen in the morning, and also visited a large gathering of Madagascar Flying Foxes.

Day 15

Wednesday 7th November

Berenty; en route to Fort Dauphin

Weather: sunny and hot

The Verreaux's Sifakas that had been rather elusive the previous afternoon put on a fine display near the café before breakfast along with the ever present Ring-tailed Lemurs and a range of commoner bird species. There was ample time to pack and further explore the immediate area before lunch and our journey back to Fort Dauphin. By 16.30 we had left the bus in Fort Dauphin and begun a 30 minute walk to the tip of a headland south of there where we hoped to find Humpback Whales. Immediately on arrival a huge tail fluke appeared just a few hundred metres away, it belonged to a female Humpback and she and her youngster remained in good view for the 40 minutes we were there. More distantly, at least another 10 whales were seen. Once back at the bus a 30 minute drive delivered us to our lagoon edge hotel near the airport and we soon settled down for dinner

Day 16

Thursday 8th November

En route to Majunga via Tana

Weather: sunny and hot

Early risers saw a Kelp Gull or two near the hotel before breakfast. Transport to the airport eventually arrived and we left on a flight to Tana on time at 09.30, some saw a couple of whales below as we ascended. On arrival we had several hours to spare before our onward flight to Majunga so visited Tarasoatra Lake for a few hours, a

small oasis in the bustling city where we ate a packed lunch. A large heronry here contained many Cattle and Dimorphic Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons and Squacco Herons, a couple of scarce Madagascar Pond Herons were also found. A group of seven Madagascar Little Grebes was a surprise find here and large numbers of ducks included many White-faced Whistling-ducks, several Red-billed Teal and a handful of Comb Ducks. After a few hours of soaking up this spectacle we headed back to the airport where our flight to Majunga left on time and arrived 45 minutes later at dusk. A short drive delivered us to the pleasant Piscine Hotel where we had time to wash and change before dinner and drinks...and for some an extended Karaoke session!

Day 17

Friday 9th November

Ampijoroa

Weather: mostly sunny and hot either side of lunchtime rain

After breakfast we set off south towards Ampijoroa at 08.00. After a couple of hours we stopped at Amboromalandy Lake for a leg stretch and saw a selection of waders and several Glossy Ibises in the adjacent rice fields. Soon afterwards we arrived at Ampijoroa Forest station, settled into our rooms and had lunch, though not before some had paid a short visit to the nearby Lac Ravelobe and managed to see a Madagascar Fish Eagle, one of the rarest birds in the world! During lunch a small troop of Coquerel's Sifakas moved through the trees opposite and several birds were seen including some very obliging Sickle-billed Vangas and others that were nesting close to the restaurant. After a short siesta we gathered near the restaurant once more as numerous birds appeared in the car park trees including White-headed Vangas, Long-billed Green Sunbirds, Madagascar Green Pigeons and both species of Vasa Parrots. Most attention though was focussed on a very obliging troop of Coquerel's Sifakas that bounced through the trees. Highlights of a night walk before dinner were several Common tenrecs and a good selection of nocturnal Lemurs including Milne-Edwarde's Sportive Lemur.

Day 18

Saturday 10th November

Ampijoroa

Weather: sunny and hot

An early start saw us visiting an area of dry forest north of the Forest Station in the hope of seeing two of its most notable avian inhabitants: White-breasted Mesite and Schlegel's Asity. The Mesites showed quickly and we then divided into two groups to explore the narrow trails. By the time we regrouped 90 minutes later everyone had also seen the Asity and other notable species including Coquerel's Coua and Madagascar Crested Ibis.

After breakfast a walk through the higher forest west of the forest station succeeded in finding our key targets in the shape of Van Dam's Vanga and Red-capped Coua and we also saw a roosting Torotoroka Scops Owl and several other species before returning to the restaurant for cold drinks on a very hot day. As the heat subsided we set off in two groups on a boat trip around Lac Ravelobe, obvious highlights were a pair of Madagascar Fish Eagles, Banded kestrel and Sooty Falcon, Allen's Gallinules and many other bird species along with several rather large Nile Crocodiles. A night walk produced Lesser Hedgehog Tenrecs and a Golden-brown Mouse Lemur.

Day 19

Sunday 11 November

Ampijoroa, en route to Tana via Majunga

Weather: dull and drizzly in the morning, dry and bright later, hot.

The day began rather wet so plans to return to the nearby forests were put on hold for a while, though this did give us the opportunity to admire a couple of showy Mongoose Lemurs near the restaurant. The rain eased sufficiently to encourage us out but returned again soon after we arrived at the forest and persisted until breakfast time a couple of hours later. However, those who had missed Van Dam's Vanga and Red-capped Coua yesterday still managed to catch up with them and a trickle of more familiar species was seen. After breakfast the weather slowly brightened and we spent the rest of the morning at leisure around Ampijoroa, some opting to spend time at the watchtower overlooking the lake where three African Openbills were a surprise find amongst the assembled waterbirds. After lunch we set off back to Majunga and caught a flight to Tana where we returned to the Plaza Hotel for the night before heading to Andasibe the next morning.

Day 20

Monday 12th November

En route to Andasibe; Andasibe

Weather: dry, bright and warm

After an early breakfast we loaded up the bus and set off eastwards towards Andasibe. One short stop was made en route to look for Madagascar pratincoles on the Mangoro River but none were in evidence so we pressed on and arrived at Vakona Lodge for a two night stay around midday. After settling in and having lunch we set off in the company of Maurice, our local guide, and went in pursuit of some of the local specialities at nearby Perinet. A walk at Perinet Special Reserve failed to produce the hoped for Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs but a little while later a small group were found along the road near there. Sneaking into the forest along the road Maurice led us to the roost site of an excellent Collared Nightjar which sat amongst the leaf litter a few metres away.

Soon afterwards we visited the pool in the nearby Orchid Garden and quickly located the hoped for Crested Ibis which showed well before the light began to fade. A visit was made to a nearby café where, right on cue, a couple of Furry-eared Dwarf Lemurs appeared just after dark. While some of the group remained behind for more views of the Lemurs others set off on a short night walk along the road which succeeded in finding the recently described Goodman's Mouse Lemurs. Attempts to have dinner were interrupted by Rivo's discovery of an Aye Aye in the Vakona Lodge grounds and most people managed a reasonable view before it was lost to sight, a Lowland Streaked Tenrec was also noted.

Day 21

Tuesday 13th November

Andasibe all day

Weather: dry, bright and warm

After an early breakfast we set off along the bumpy road to Mantadia National Park, the keener birders alighting before the park entrance to do some birding along the road and the rest pressing on to go in pursuit of Lemurs with Rivo. Early highlight for both groups was Short-legged Ground Roller. Mammals were in rather short supply this morning and ironically enough it was the birders who came across a group of Diademed Sifakas. Both groups spent some time admiring a spectacular Scaly Ground-roller as it came regularly with worms to its subterranean nest hole where young had evidently just hatched. Other birds seen this morning included Madagascar Little Grebe and Starling and a good selection of Vangas and others. After lunch several group members opted to avoid the bumpy journey back to Mantadia and instead visited the captive Lemurs at the lodge's 'Lemur Island' or explored the hotel grounds. Back at Mantadia a fine selection of birds were found including Pitta-like Ground Roller, Madagascar Flufftail, White-throated Oxylabes, Blue Coua and, as we were returning towards the lodge, a Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher that, after some time, finally perched in clear view.

Day 22

Wednesday 14th November

Andasibe, en route to Tana

Weather: drizzly in the morning, dry and bright later.

Our final morning was devoted to looking for Indri at Perinet Special Reserve and three were duly found and gave prolonged good views and whistled away. Three Diademed Sifakas also put on a good display. There was time to pack before lunch, after which we set off back towards Tana. A stop at the Mangoro River again was rewarded this time when a pair of Madagascar Pratincoles were found on rocky islands where they gave decent scope views. Back at Tana there was ample time for a wash and change and a bite to eat before it was time to transfer to the airport, say our goodbyes to Rivo and check-in for our flight to Paris.

Day 23

Thursday 15th November

Inbound

Having negotiated the lengthy check-in queues at Tana Airport we settled into the departure hall for a short wait before our flight left on time at 00.50. We arrived in Paris a little earlier than our scheduled time of 10.30 and had ample time for coffee and croissants before boarding our various onward flights to the UK

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Systematic Lists

Birds:

Species order, nomenclature and taxonomy follows Morris and Hawkins' Birds of Madagascar: A Photographic Guide (Pica Press), 1998. Endemic species are marked 'E' after the scientific name, range restricted species (those occurring only on Madagascar and some nearby island) are marked 'RR'; 'e' and 'rr' indicate endemic and range restricted subspecies.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis*

A single non-breeding plumage bird on the lake near Jardin du Roy, Isalo was probably this species and at least the large majority of 60 or so small Grebes on Lac Belalanda between Tulear and Ifaty certainly were as several were in their characteristic breeding plumage

Madagascar Little Grebe *Tachybaptus pelzelni* E

Three on the river near Fatihita near Ambositra were followed by three adults and four juveniles at Lac Alarobe in Tana, the first seen here for several years according to Rivo; finally, one was at the traditional site on the small lake at Mantadia.

[Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

Boat trips to and from Anakoa produced two brief sightings of Storm Petrels that were presumably this species]

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda rubricauda*

At least 20 of these gorgeous birds were seen very well at their breeding colony on Nosy Ve where they were feeding young concealed under bushes

Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

One was seen briefly at Lac Alarobe in Tana

African Darter *Anbinga rufa*

Just one was recorded, at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus podiceps* e

A male showed well a couple of times near Lac Belalanda between Tulear and Ifaty

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

Most of the 40 seen were in Tana though at least a dozen were at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa with a few at scattered sites elsewhere

Common Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Fairly common and widespread in suitable habitat after the first were seen at Tana Zoo

Madagascar Pond Heron *Ardeola idea* E

Two or three breeding plumage birds were noted at Lac Alarobe in Tana, it is possible that some in other plumages were overlooked there or at Lac Ravelobe, Ampijoroa

'Western' Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis ibis*

Fairly common and widespread with large breeding colonies at Tana Zoo, Lac Alarobe and Lac Ravelobe

Green-backed or Striated Heron *Butorides striatus rutenbergi* e

Most wetland sites visited held a handful, over 30 were recorded in total

Black Egret *Egretta ardesiaca*

Up to 50 were at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa after smaller numbers had been seen earlier in Tana

Dimorphic Heron *Egretta dimorpha* RR

Fairly common and widespread, present at all major wetlands and regularly noted in wet ricefields as we passed

Great Egret *Ardea* (or *Casmerodius*) *alba melanorhynchos*

Regularly encountered at wetlands and in some rice fields

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea madagascariensis* e

Three or four were noted at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea firsas* rr

Three or four were around the cliffs between Tulear and Anakoa with small numbers at a few wetland sites

Humblot's Heron *Ardea humbloti* E

Two were attending a nest on the cliffs between Tulear and Anakoa and a couple more showed well at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

Ones and twos were occasionally seen in ricefields as we travelled

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus*

One at Lac Alarobe in Tana was presumably the individual that has been there for many years; more unusually, three were at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa on our final morning there. A rare bird in Madagascar.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus*

Hundreds were at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa with smaller numbers in ricefields adjacent to nearby Lac Amboromalandy

Madagascar Crested Ibis *Lophotibis cristata* ssp. E

Four were seen running along a forest track at Ampijoroa (ssp. *urschi*) and one showed very well at Perinet Botanical Gardens with another briefly at Mantadia (ssp. *cristata*)

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

One was noted along the river at Berenty (NL)

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Up to 100 were at lakes in Tana, about 50 were along the coast near Ifaty with a similar number at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa, smaller numbers were at a couple of other scattered wetlands

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos*

At least four were at Lac Alarobe in Tana

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha*

The most common and widespread duck with small numbers at many wetlands visited

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*

Two showed well at Lac Belalanda between Tulear and Ifaty

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptus parasitus*

Fairly common in more arid areas of the south and west, especially numerous at Isalo where about 100 were seen

Madagascar Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vociferoides* E

A pair were seen regularly at Lac Ravelobe, Ampijoroa, the rarest bird seen on the tour and classified as Critically Endangered by BirdLife International.

Madagascar Harrier-hawk *Polyboroides radiatus* E

A very distant bird at Isalo was followed by good views on the nest at Renala Reserve, Ifaty and near the Paradisier Hotel nearby

Frances's Sparrowhawk *Accipiter francesiae francesiae* RR e

A pair and their offspring showed very well at Berenty, a couple of unidentified Accipiters seen elsewhere may also have been this species

Madagascar Buzzard *Buteo brachypterus* E

Up to six were recorded at Ranomafana, two around Andasibe and three at Zombitsie, a couple more were seen while travelling between sites

Madagascar Kestrel *Falco newtoni newtoni* RR e

Fairly common and widespread, at least 40 were seen

Banded Kestrel *Falco zoniventris* E

Two showed rather poorly during our boat trip around Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*

Three sightings of flying birds at Isalo were followed by a perched bird at Ampijoroa

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus radama* rr

We enjoyed good views of a perched bird near Ifaty.

Madagascar Partridge *Margaroperdix madagascariensis* E

One seen from the moving bus east of Ihosy was followed next day by brief views on the ground and good flight views of a male at Isalo

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

A couple at Isalo were followed by a handful at Tulear and Berenty. Perhaps introduced

White-breasted Mesite *Mesitornis variegatus* E

At least three or four were seen, and others heard, at Ampijoroa

Subdesert Mesite *Monias benschi* E

One found by the trackers at Renala Reserve near Ifaty showed well in a tree

Madagascar Buttonquail *Turnix nigricollis* E

A couple showed briefly at Tulear Botanical Gardens but up to six were regularly seen along the approach road to the Paradisier hotel at Ifaty, another was at Ampijoroa

Madagascar Flufftail *Sarotbrura insularis* E

A male responded strongly to Maurice's recording at Mantadia and gave repeated good views down to a few feet

White-throated Rail *Dryolimnas cuvieri cuvieri* RR e/ E

A single at Isalo was followed by two or three at Ifaty and Ampijoroa. Another subspecies occurs only on Aldabra but is flightless so this seems likely to be elevated to endemic species status at some point

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyryla alleni*

One at Jardin du Roy preceded two or three at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorrhoa* rr

One was at Lac Belalanda between Tulear and Ifaty, Two or three were at Lac Alarobe in Tana with another at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa

Madagascar Jacana *Actophilornis albinucha* E

Up to four were found at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa

Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola*

Up to three showed well on sandbars a few kilometres south of Ifaty, at least two were there each time we passed

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus himantopus*

The 20 or so noted were at near Ifaty/Tulear and Ampijoroa

Madagascar Pratincole *Glareola ocularis* RR

At our second attempt we had good views of a pair at the Mangoro River crossing west of Andasibe. A breeding endemic that winters in East Africa

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula tundrae*

At least three were found on the coast near Ifaty

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius pecuarius*

A handful were at Tulear, in pools near Ifaty and near Ampijoroa but up to 40 gathered on salt flats near Ifaty

Madagascar Plover *Charadrius thoracicus* E

A pair was finally tracked down amongst the numerous Kittlitz's Plovers on salt flats near Ifaty

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris bifrontatus* e

In total 10 were found at two sites near Ifaty

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus tenellus*

Two or three were mixed in with other plovers on salt flats near Ifaty

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* probably *crassirostris*

One was seen on a sandbar near Ifaty

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

About a dozen were seen along the coast between Anakoia and Ifaty

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica lapponica*

One was seen at Nosy Ve

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*

About 40 were seen along the coast between Anakoia and Ifaty

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

About 20 were noted around Tulear and Ifaty

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Widespread in small numbers

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres interpres*

A few were scattered along the coast between Anakoia and Ifaty

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

A few were scattered along the coast between Anakoia and Ifaty

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

About 10 were noted around Tulear and Ifaty

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus vetula*

Two were recorded near Fort Dauphin

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia caspia*

Ten were noted along the coast between Tulear and Ifaty

Greater Crested Tern *Sterna bergii enigma* rr

About 20 were noted along the coast between Tulear and Ifaty

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis bengalensis*

A gathering at Nosy Ve contained about 20 birds and a similar number more were seen along the coast north of there

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo hirundo*

A huge roost of small terns on sandbars south of Ifaty contained at least 3000 birds and at least the large majority were this species (we didn't really have time to scrutinise them for something else)

Saunders's Tern *Sterna saundersi*

At least five were with other terns south of Ifaty, this species is identified by range as it is indistinguishable from Little tern (which could theoretically occur) in non-breeding plumage

Madagascar Sandgrouse *Pterocles personatus* E

One showed well in flight at Tulear Tablelands, where another 10 were more briefly seen, and 14 flew past at Berenty

Madagascar Turtle Dove *Streptopelia picturata* RR e

Most well wooded areas held several with the highest numbers at Berenty and Ampijoroa where up to 30 per day were recorded

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis aliena* e

Quite common in arid areas of the south and west after the first at Isalo

Madagascar Green Pigeon *Treron australis* ssp RR ee

Three were seen at Berenty (ssp. *xenia*) and a dozen or more at Ampijoroa and around Andasibe (ssp. *australis*)

Madagascar Blue Pigeon *Alectroenas madagascariensis* E

Two at Ranomafana preceded about 10 at sites near Andasibe

Greater Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis vasa vasa* RR e

Up to ten per day were recorded at Ampijoroa and around Andasibe. Some of the unidentified Vasa Parrots seen earlier may also have been this species

Lesser Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis nigra nigra* and *libs* RR e

Regularly seen in all wooded contexts after the first at Ranomafana, over 100 were recorded

Grey-headed Lovebird *Agapornis canus* E

After the first at Isalo this attractive little parrot proved to be locally quite common at and around Tulear and at Ampijoroa

Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus rochii* RR

Much more often heard than seen; heard almost everywhere with at least eight actually seen. A breeding endemic that winters in Africa

Giant Coua *Coua gigas* E

One was heard and glimpsed at Zombitsie but at least six showed very well at Berenty

Coquerel's Coua *Coua coquereli* E

One was glimpsed at Zombitsie and at least four showed very well at Ampijoroa

Red-fronted Coua *Coua reynaudii* E

Two were seen at Vohiparara

Running Coua *Coua cursor* E

Four were seen at three sites at Tulear and Ifaty

Red-capped Coua *Coua ruficeps* E

Half a dozen showed well at Ampijoroa

Green- or Brown-capped Coua *Coua olivaceiceps* E

One at Tulear Botanical gardens was followed by at least three at Ifaty

Crested Coua *Coua cristata* E

Four at Ifaty were followed by at least 10 at Berenty (ssp. *pyropyga*) and half a dozen were at Ampijoroa (ssp. *dumonti*)

Verreaux's Coua *Coua verreauxi* E

A total of three were seen at the Tulear Tablelands over two visits

Blue Coua *Coua caerulea* E

Two were at Vohiparara and another at Mantadia, further birds were heard at both sites

Madagascar Coucal *Centropus toulou* RR

Common and very widespread, seen and heard almost every day

Torotoroka Owl *Otus madagascariensis* E

One was seen on our chalets at Isalo and roosting birds were found at Berenty and Ampijoroa

White-browed Owl *Ninox superciliaris* E

Singles showed well at Zombitsie and Berenty where a couple more were seen more briefly

(African) Marsh Owl *Asio capensis*

One showed along the road across Horombe Plateau just after dusk

Collared Nightjar *Caprimulgus enarratus* E

Two roosting birds at Ranomafana were followed by another near Perinet

Madagascar Nightjar *Caprimulgus madagascariensis madagascariensis* RR e

One at Isalo was followed by another at Anakoa and regular encounters at Ifaty, four were found at Perinet

Madagascar Spinetail *Zoonavena grandidieri grandidieri* RR e

A fleeting bird at Ifaty was followed by regular encounters with small numbers at Perinet and Mantadia

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus gracilis* e

Dozens at Isalo were followed by several more at Ampijoroa

Alpine Swift *Apus melba willsi* e

After one south of Tana at least thirty were seen as we travelled from Ranomafana to Isalo and another was over Perinet

African Black Swift *Apus barbatus balstoni* e

Up to 100 were regularly found over central Tana with others en route to and at Isalo

Little Swift *Apus affinis theresae*

A handful were seen over central Tana on our first morning

Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo vintsioides vintsioides* RR e

About 20 were noted with at least one at all wetland areas visited

Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher *Ceyx madagascariensis* E

One was seen perched along the road to Mantadia after a couple had been seen briefly in flight there earlier

Madagascar Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus*

Common and widespread away from upland forests, hundreds were seen

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus glaucurus* rr

Fairly common and widespread except along the coast near Tulear and Ifaty. The race *glaucurus* is a breeding endemic that migrates to Africa

Short-legged Ground Roller *Brachypteracias leptosomus* E

Two were seen well at Mantadia

Scaly Ground Roller *Brachypteracias squamigera* E

One showed superbly as it delivered worms to newly hatched young at Mantadia, one of the avian highlights of the tour

Pitta-like Ground Roller *Atelornis pittoides* E

One showed well just before dusk at Ranomafana and two more were found at Mantadia NP

Rufous-headed Ground Roller *Atelornis crossleyi* E

An elusive bird (possibly two or three) showed very fleetingly just before dusk at Vohiparara

Long-tailed Ground Roller *Uratelornis chimaera* E

Three were seen during our early morning jaunt to Renala Reserve at Ifaty

Cuckoo-Roller *Leptosomus discolor discolor* RR e

A couple at Vohiparara were followed by about 20 others seen or heard at Isalo, Zombitsie, Ifaty, Ampijoroa and around Andasibe

Madagascar Hoopoe *Upupa marginata* E

Regularly encountered in more arid areas after the first at Anja, about 15 were recorded.

Velvet Asity *Philepitta castanea* E

One of three, a superb male, gave excellent extended views during our first morning at Ranomafana; another was at Mantadia

Schlegel's Asity *Philepitta schlegeli* E

A total of six were noted during a pre-breakfast excursion at Ampijoroa, one male in particular gave brilliant extended views at close range allowing its improbably bright eye wattle to be fully appreciated

Common Sunbird-Asity *Neodrepanis coruscans* E

Four were in flowering trees at Ranomafana and another was at Mantadia

Yellow-bellied Sunbird-asity *Neodrepanis hypoxantha* E

Up to four at Vohiparara included a superb male

Madagascar Bush Lark *Mirafra bova* E

Fairly common in more arid areas

Mascarene Martin *Phedina borbonica madagascariensis* RR e

Rather common and very widespread

Brown-throated Sand Martin *Riparia paludicola cowani* e

Singles were seen on three occasions at widespread wetland sites, others could easily have been missed

Madagascar Wagtail *Motacilla flaviventris* E

Fairly common away from more arid areas, up to 10 per day were seen on occasion

Ashy Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina cinerea* ssp RR ee

Ranomafana Ampijoroa (ssp. *cinerea*) and Ifaty (ssp. *pallida*) produced a total of about 15 birds

Madagascar Bulbul *Hypsipetes madagascariensis madagascariensis* RR e

Fairly common and very widespread

Long-billed Greenbul *Bernieria madagascariensis* E

About 20 were seen at Ranomafana/ Vohiparara, Zombitsie, Ampijoroa and Mantadia

Spectacled Greenbul *Bernieria zosterops* E

Ten at Ranomafana and Vohiparara were the only ones seen

Appert's Greenbul *Bernieria apperti* E

At least four were seen and others heard at Zombitsie

Grey-crowned Greenbul *Bernieria cinereiceps* E

One was seen briefly at Vohiparara

Red-tailed Vanga *Calicalicus madagascariensis* E

A brief bird at Vohiparara was followed by one at Ifaty and two at Mantadia

[Red-Shouldered Vanga *Calicalicus rufocarpalis* E

Several were heard but not seen at Tulear tablelands]

Rufous Vanga *Schetba rufa* E

one was heard at Zombitsie but at least six showed well at Ampijoroa

Hook-billed Vanga *Vanga curvirostris* E

Singles were seen at Ifaty, Berenty and Ampijoroa

Lafresnaye's Vanga *Xenopirostris xenopirostris* E

Two brief individuals at Tulear Tablelands were followed by a two more obliging birds at Ifaty

Van Dam's Vanga *Xenopirostris damii* E

One was sitting on a nest and at least two more were seen at Ampijoroa

Sickle-billed Vanga *Falculea palliata* E

After the first, a nesting pair, at Tulear Tablelands this spectacular bird was seen well at Ifaty and Ampijoroa

White-headed Vanga *Artamella viridis* E

About five were at both Ifaty and Ampijoroa

Chabert's Vanga *Leptopterus chabert* ssp E

Overall the most frequently seen Vanga with small groups observed in all areas except Berenty and Isalo. birds seen from Tulear to Ifaty were of the race *schistocercus* which differs from the widespread nominate race in showing much white on the base of the tail

Blue Vanga *Cyanolanius madagascarinus madagascarinus* RR e

A total of 10 were found at Ranomafana, Ampijoroa and Mantadia

Tylas Vanga *Tylas eduardi* E

Three were seen at Ranomafana and Vohiparara. Some studies indicate that this species is actually an Oriole

Littoral Rock Thrush *Monticola imerinus* E

At least six birds were in the vicinity of Anakoa where fledged young were seen

Forest Rock Thrush *Monticola sharpei* E

One of two singing birds at Ranomafana eventually gave some distant views

Benson's Rock Thrush *Monticola bensoni* E

Three of four were found at Isalo

Madagascar Magpie-robin *Copsychus albospecularis* E

Quite common and widespread with several seen at virtually all sites visited

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* ee

Occasionally seen along roadsides south and west of Tana (probably mostly ssp. *ankaratrae*) and around Andasibe (ssp. *sibilla*)

White-throated Oxylabes *Oxylabes madagascariensis* E

A handful showed well at Ranomafana while most of the group were watching a Greater Bamboo Lemur nearby and another was seen at Mantadia

Madagascar Yellowbrow *Crossleyia xanthophrys* E

One showed very briefly at Vohiparara

Madagascar Brush Warbler *Nesillas typica* E

Quite common, though more often heard than seen, away from more arid areas

Subdesert Brush Warbler *Nesillas lantzii* E

Regularly seen and often heard in more arid areas such as at Anakoa and Ifaty

Madagascar Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus newtoni* E

A couple at Vohiparara were followed by a couple more at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa

Thamnornis Warbler *Thamnornis chloropetoides* E

Two showed well at Ifaty

Rand's Warbler *Randia pseudozosterops* E

Two singing birds at Ranomafana were followed by another at Mantadia

Common Newtonia *Newtonia brunneicauda* E

Seen, or at least heard in almost all wooded contexts away from the driest areas of the south and west, especially common at Ampijoroa

Dark Newtonia *Newtonia amphichroa* E

One was seen at Mantadia, where others were heard; also heard at Vohiparara

Archbold's Newtonia *Newtonia archboldi* E

At least three were seen at Ifaty

Madagascar Cisticola *Cisticola cherina* RR

Quite common in dry grassland contexts in the south and west

Common Jery *Neomixis tenella* E

Very common and widespread

Green Jery *Neomixis viridis* E

A couple of singing birds were seen at Ranomafana, others may have been overlooked

Stripe-throated Jery *Neomixis striatigula pallidior* E

Two or three were recorded at Ifaty

Cryptic Warbler *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi* E

A singing bird eventually gave itself up at Vohiparara where this subtle species was first described as recently as 1992

Wedge-tailed Jery *Neomixis flavoviridis* E

At least six were seen at Vohiparara

Ward's Flycatcher *Pseudobias wardi* E

Two or three were at Mantadia, some recent studies suggest that this species is actually a Vanga

Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone mutata mutata* RR e

Regularly seen in a range of wooded contexts, about 30 were recorded, several were seen found sitting on nests

Souimanga Sunbird *Nectarinia souimanga* ssp RR e

Very common and widespread, one of the most frequently seen species; birds in the south are of the endemic subspecies *apolis*, the rest belong to the nominate race

Long-billed Green Sunbird *Nectarinia notata notata* RR e

Very small numbers were at Ranomafana, Ampijoroa and sites near Andasibe, about 10 were seen in total

Madagascar White-eye *Zosterops maderaspatanus maderaspatanus* RR e

Fairly common and very widespread being seen in small numbers almost everywhere away from the arid areas in the west

Madagascar Mannikin *Lonchura nana* E

Small numbers were found at Ranomafana, Ampijoroa and Vakona Lodge

Nelicourvi Weaver *Ploceus nelicourvi* E

Fairly common in humid upland forest at Ranomafana and around Andasibe, several nests were seen

Sakalava Weaver *Ploceus sakalava* E

Common in more arid areas in the west after the first at Tulear, recorded daily at sites near there, at Berenty and Ampijoroa

Madagascar Red Fody *Foudia madagascariensis* E

Fairly common and widespread in disturbed habitats and some arid contexts, particularly common in the middle of Antananarivo where occupying a niche typically filled by Sparrows elsewhere

Forest Fody *Foudia eminentissima* E

Unequivocal Forest Fodys were recorded at Vakona Lodge while birds closely resembling this species but showing traits thought by some authors to be suggestive of hybrids with Madagascar Fody were seen at Ranomafana and Mantadia

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* (Introduced from India)

Present virtually everywhere in quite large numbers but scarce in primary forest habitats at higher elevations

Madagascar Starling *Saroglossa aurata* E

A nesting pair showed well at Mantadia, others were heard there

Crested Drongo *Dicrurus forficatus forficatus* RR e

Quite common and very widespread, seen virtually daily

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Particularly common in more arid areas but present virtually everywhere away from Ranomafana and Andasibe

Mammals

Species order follows the Naturetrek checklist, taxonomic changes amongst the Lemurs follow Mittermeier et al Lemurs of Madagascar (Conservation International) 2006 (2nd ed.).

Indri *Indri indri*

Three showed very well and bellowed out their evocative calls at Perinet Special Reserve and others were heard at Mantadia

Diademed Sifaka *Proithecus diadema*

Three at Mantadia were followed next day by three more at Perinet Special Reserve

Milne-Edward's Diademed Sifaka *Proithecus edwardsi*

One showed briefly but well at Vohiparara

Coquerel's Sifaka *Proithecus coquereli*

Up to 30 were seen at Ampijoroa where one troop of 10 or so gave repeated excellent views and did a lot of bouncing around

Verreaux's Sifaka *Proithecus verreauxi*

Three were at Zombitsie but 10 or more at Berenty stole the show as they danced about near the cafe there

Eastern Woolly Lemur *Avahi laniger*

One was seen at Ranomafana

Western Woolly Lemur *Avahi occidentalis*

One was recorded at Ampijoroa

Ringed -tailed Lemur *Lemur catta*

Up to 30 were at Anja and at least twice that number in various troops were at Berenty

Mongoose Lemur *Lemur mongoz*

A pair were seen on two occasions near the restaurant at Ampijoroa

Red-bellied Lemur *Lemur rubiventer*

Five at Ranomafana were followed by one at Andasibe

Common Brown Lemur *Lemur fulvus*

Small numbers were noted at Ampijoroa and Perinet

Red-fronted Lemur *Lemur rufus*

Ten at Ranomafana were followed by about 20 at Berenty

Greater Bamboo Lemur *Hapalemur simus*

One showed very well on our first morning at Ranomafana

Grey Gentle Bamboo Lemur *Hapalemur griseus*

Four were seen at Perinet and Mantadia

Golden Bamboo Lemur *Hapalemur aureus*

One was seen at Ranomafana

Grey Mouse Lemur *Microcebus murinus*

Five were found at Tulear Botanical Gardens

Brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus rufus*

Six were seen at Belle Vue, Ranomafana

Goodman's Mouse Lemur *Microcebus lehilahytsara*

Three were recorded at Perinet where this species was first described as recently as 2005

Grey-brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus griseorufus*

Two were seen at Berenty

Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus crossleyi*

Two or three were seen at Perinet

Milne-Edwards Sportive *Lepilemur edwardsi*

At least two were recorded at Ampijoroa

White-footed Sportive *Lepilemur leucopus*

One was found at Berenty

Small-tooth Sportive *Lepilemur microdon*

One was recorded at Ranomafana

Red-tailed Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur ruficaudalus*

Three were noted at Berenty

Aye Aye *Daubentonia madagascariensis*

One at Vakona Lodge was a surprise find!

Fanaloka (Striped Civet) *Fossa fossana*

A habituated individual gave some close views at Belle Vue, Ranomafana

Ringed-tailed Mongoose *Galidia elegans*

One or two showed well at Belle Vue, Ranomafana

Lowland Streaked Tenrec *Hemicentetes semispinosus*

One was seen at Vakona Lodge

Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec *Echinops telfairi*

Two were seen at Ampijoroa

Common Tenrec *Tenrec ecaudatus*

Nine were recorded at Ampijoroa

Eastern Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus*

At least five were recorded at Ranomafana and Vohiparara

Western Tuft-tailed Rat *Eliurus myoxinus*

Two were recorded at Ampijoroa

Madagascar Flying Fox *Pteropus fufus*

A roosting site at Berenty contained at least 50 animal

Madagascar Free-tailed Bat *Tadarida fulminans*

Identified by Nettie's bat detector at Isalo

Mauritian Bomb Bat *Tapbozous mauritianus*

Several were recorded at Ampijoroa

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Up to 10 were visible from a headland at Fort Dauphin where two, a mother and calf, showed brilliantly at close range throughout our 40 minute stay; next day a couple more were seen from the aeroplane as we departed the area!

Reptiles An array of Chameleons were recorded including:

Short-nosed Chameleon *Calumma gastrotaenia*

Nose-horned Chameleon *Calumma nastuta*

Oustalet's Chameleon *Furcifer oustaleti*

Jewel or Carpet Chameleon *Furcifer lateralis*

Short Horned or Elephant-eared Chameleon *Calumma brevicornis*

Casqued or Spiny-backed Chameleon *Furcifer verrucosus*

Rhinoceros Chameleon *Furcifer rhinoceratus*

Other reptiles included:

Lined Plated Lizard *Zonosaurus laticaudata*

Spiny-tailed Iguana *Oplurus curvieri*

Southern Spiny-tailed Lizard *Oplurus cyclurus*

Lined Day Gecko *Phelsuma lineata*

Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus fimbriatus*

Madagascar Tree Boa *Sanzinia madagascariensis*

Lined Snake *Liopholidophis lateralis*

Three-eyed Lizard *Chalarodon madagascariensis*

Collared Iguana *Oplurus cuveri*

Dwarf Plated Lizard *Trachloptychus madagascariensis*

Koch's Day Gecko *Phelsuma madagascariensis*

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*

Madagascar Ground Boa *Acrantophis dumerili*

Night Snake sp *Ithyocyphus* sp