

Madagascar

Naturetrek Tour Report

16 October - 7 November 2012



Red-fronted Brown Lemur



Coquerel's Sifaka



Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur



Verreaux's Sifaka

Report compiled by Nick Acheson
Images courtesy of Lance Tuckett



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Summary

It's often the case when I write these reports that I quite literally don't know where to begin. Do I rave about Reniala, with its Running Coua perched in the top of a bush in the dawn light, its Subdesert Mesite frozen on a *Didierea* octopus tree, and its Long-tailed Ground-Roller hopping through the spiny forest undergrowth? Do I wax lyrical about Ranomafana, where Greater Bamboo Lemurs bounced through the vegetation above us even as a Broad-browed Stump-tailed Chameleon trundled through the leaf litter beneath us? Or perhaps I'd better get excited about night-walks in Ankarafantsika, Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemurs peering down at us in bemusement, Grey Mouse Lemurs pinging through the bushes, a single, gorgeous Golden-brown Mouse Lemur among them, and a Rhinoceros Chameleon slumbering in the top of a tree? I can't choose between so many highlights so there's nothing for it: I'll have to gush about it all.

The greatest gushing comes, of course, for Madagascar herself and her smiling, friendly people for welcoming us and treating us so well. We're extremely grateful to our careful, kindly, helpful drivers and their assistants, especially Lucien and Eddy who took care of us all the way from Tana to Toliara. We're grateful too to our many excellent naturalists and guides including Jean-Chry, Berthin, Bako and Zo in Ranomafana; Charles in Isalo; Farah at the Arboretum in Toliara; Guy and Rap in Ankarafantsika; Jocelyn in Berenty; and Maurice and Marcelin in Andasibe-Mantadia. Of course we're grateful too to the hundreds of people who worked, in view and behind the scenes, in the many lodges, hotels and restaurants in which we ate and stayed. Together you helped to make our journey around your beautiful country a joy.

Day 0

Tuesday 16th October

Leave the UK

Day 1

Wednesday 17th October

Having arrived late in the night, this morning we took a gentle walk around the small private reserve of Tsarasoatra in Tana. This is a delightful site and offers a splendid introduction to Madagascar's wetland birds. Hundreds of vociferous White-faced Whistling Ducks and quiet Red-billed Teal crowded the lake, while here and there were dinky Hottentot Teal and imposing Comb Ducks. On the main island's papyrus stands were dozens of breeding herons: largely Squacco Herons in immaculately tasteful breeding plumage and white phase Dimorphic Egrets. Among them were Great Egrets, Black Egrets and a couple of exquisite Madagascar Pond Herons (shining white, electric blue bill, loopy crest: what's not to love?). Overhead were Mascarene Martins and Madagascar Black Swifts while the bushes bristled with Madagascar Swamp Warblers and Brush Warblers. Among the many highlights here was a pair of subtly handsome Meller's Ducks and a resplendent Jewel Chameleon: the first of many chameleons on the tour and one of the most attractive of all.

In the afternoon, after lunch in Tana (with another Jewel Chameleon and a pair of Green Sunbirds to keep us entertained), we drove to the highland town of Antsirabe where we spent the night in a lovely family-run hotel.

Day 2

Thursday 18th October

One of the things about exploring remote areas of developing countries is that it involves lots of travel. Today was just such a travel day, on which we drove from Antsirabe to the superb rainforest national park of Ranomafana. The journey was fascinating though, as we were passing through the terraced landscapes inhabited by the Merina people whose attractive two-storey houses perch on hillsides all around.

We stopped for lunch at the private reserve of Ialatsara where O'Shaughnessy's and Blue-legged Chameleons graced the garden's bushes and a beautiful *Boophis elenae* frog clung to a pond-side leaf. The frog theme continued as we reached the spotless Centrest resort in Ranomafana: here a charming *Heterixalus alboguttatus* frog sheltered on a leaf in the garden and three more were to be seen in the lamp shade above the receptionist's desk. There were more herpetiles on our first night walk in Ranomafana – big *Boophis madagascariensis* frogs and a tiny Nose-horned Chameleon – plus a momentary glimpse of our first lemur, a Brown Mouse Lemur.

Day 3

Friday 19th October

If yesterday we only glimpsed a lemur, today we took on the lemurs headlong. Our assault on the primates of Ranomafana began before we'd even reached the Talatakely entrance to the park, for by the roadside was an obliging family of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs. Next, as we walked into the park, we encountered two families of friendly Red-bellied Lemurs. The primate stars of the morning were the Golden Bamboo Lemurs, one of Ranomafana's hallmark species, which we saw extremely well and the handsome Milne-Edwards' Sifakas which, once the crowds had dispersed, we saw superbly too. Madagascar's other mammals also held their own this morning: there were Eastern Red Forest Rats and during our break at Belle Vue we were visited by one of the island's most beautiful creatures, a Vontsira Mena (formerly, though incorrectly, known as Ring-tailed Mongoose) which potted nonchalantly around the platform, just inches from us all.

In the afternoon we visited the Vohiparara range of the park where Giraffe-necked Weevils were appropriately admired, a Thiel's Lined Snake put in an appearance, Forest Fodies decked the trees and Madagascar Buzzards soared over the forest canopy.

As for our night walk, well, it was very fine too. The area's regular Brown Mouse Lemurs put on a splendid display, as did a much more stately Greater Dwarf Lemur. Favourite herptiles here included delicate Glaw's Chameleons and, one of Claude's highlights of the whole tour, a *Boophis luteus* frog hopping across the road.

Day 4

Saturday 20th October

Today's programme followed yesterday's: Talatakely in the morning, Vohiparara in the afternoon. The lemurs, however, moved up another notch, for in the morning we watched the park's last known Greater Bamboo Lemurs at length (though we were also distracted here by a diminutive Broad-browed Stump-tailed Chameleon which Zo had found for us). From here we went to the roost of a Peyri ras's Avahi (or Woolly Lemur) and after much craning of necks and peering into the treetops we all agreed we had just about seen this attractive nocturnal primate.

Over lunch a female Parson's Chameleon and a male Belted Chameleon were given the paparazzi once-over by the entire group in the hotel gardens and in the afternoon we again explored the lovely forest of Vohiparara in search of birds, mammals and herptiles.

Day 5

Sunday 21st October

This was another very long day of travel, not least for our driver team of Lucien and Eddy. Today we drove from Ranomafana to Isalo in the dry west of the island. We stopped before lunch at Anja, the lovely community nature reserve where Claude has helped local people earn a living through protecting their forest and its Ring-tailed Lemurs. In addition to the absurdly friendly and photogenic lemurs, here we met our first Oustalet's Chameleons and Grey-headed Lovebirds. For lunch we drove the short distance to the charming paper factory at Ambalavao.

In the evening, as we drove over the Horombe Plateau, reaching Isalo, we disturbed an African Marsh Owl by the roadside. We spent the night, to the sound of singing Madagascar Nightjars, in the luxurious and dramatically-placed Jardin du Roy on the edge of Isalo National Park.

Day 6

Monday 22nd October

Having driven a very long distance yesterday, our dawn walk this morning saw us in a new eco-region and therefore a new avifauna. Namaqua Doves and Madagascar Turtle Doves potted peaceably around the hotel's paddocks and Madagascar Bee-Eaters perched in the treetops. Nearby Madagascar Cisticolas zipped through the long, dry grass and Four-lined Iguanids bathed in the sun on the great rocks around the garden, all to the song of (Benson's) Forest Rock Thrushes.

We spent the morning visiting Canyon Namaza with our excellent local guide Charles. In the campsite here were more Ring-tailed Lemurs while a little further into the forest were two male Verreaux's Sifakas who sat right by a path and allowed themselves to be photographed superbly.

The afternoon saw us on the plateau on the trail towards the natural swimming pools. Here were Spiny-tailed Iguanids, *Trachylepis elegans* skinks and Big-eyed Grass Snakes. As we came down from the plateau in the evening we watched, and heard, more Ring-tailed Lemurs going to roost in caves in the magnificent cliffs.

Day 7

Tuesday 23rd October

Today was another day of travel and heat, but like our journey to Isalo it was broken by superb stops to watch wildlife. Early in the morning we reached Zombitse National Park. Madagascar Cuckoo Rollers displayed high in the sky above us and a pair of Rufous Vangas built their nest in the cleft of a deciduous forest tree. Our mammal target here was Hubbard's Sportive Lemur and we saw this rare, range-restricted primate at close quarters as he dozed in the mouth of his tree hole. Two new reptiles joined us here too: Three-eyed Iguanids and splendid Standing's Day Geckos.

After driving for the rest of the morning, we stopped for lunch at the Arboretum outside Toliara. Tummies full, in the powerful heat of the afternoon, we visited the Arboretum. Here Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs roosted in several spots and we met our first Spiny-backed Chameleon (I don't know what was wrong with calling this superb animal the Warty Chameleon but tastes change). A Green-capped Coua trotted through the undergrowth and a Madagascar Nightjar sat in a scatter of dead leaves, hoping not to be noticed.

In the evening, as we reached Ifaty, Madagascar Buttonquails scurried across the road ahead of us and Kittlitz's Plovers scuttled along the shore of a brackish lagoon in company with Black-winged Stilts and Curlew Sandpipers.

Day 8

Wednesday 24th October

Dawn this morning saw us at the beautiful Reniala Spiny Forest Reserve with a long list of endemic creatures to see. Some gave themselves up easily: in the burnished light of early morning a Running Coua puffed his lovely apricot throat at us from the top of a spiny bush. Nearby Stripe-throated Jery's, Common Newtonias and a rare Archbold's Newtonia could all be seen singing. A female Subdesert Mesite, despite her rarity and desirability, was easy too as her habit of freezing on seeing a human meant we could trot over and see her as soon as one of the reserve's staff found her. We admired her, photographed her and quickly left, allowing her to unfreeze and get on with her day. Near here the bright descending whistle of Lafresnaye's Vanga was heard and we quickly found this handsome bird in perfect light. Next came the sorrowful wailing of Sickle-billed Vangas and these too flapped past on heavy black wings.

But one spiny forest speciality was missing, the most important of all. We had seen no Long-tailed Ground-Roller. News came that one had been found and we gathered at the appropriate spot in the forest as the reserve's staff gently ushered the bird towards us, for long enough for us to see it. This occasional disturbance to the bird's natural routine is a far, far less drastic price to pay than the loss of the species' habitat, as has happened all around the reserve where no tourists pay to see this and other special birds.

As we left Reniala an Antimena Chameleon clambered through a low bush and was much admired by our group. In the afternoon, after lunch at our Ifaty hotel, we braved a strong wind and went in search of wading birds in the brackish pools. Here were Three-banded Plovers and more Kittlitz's Plovers. After much searching Claude found us a single Madagascar Plover at extremely close range and called us over, almost in disbelief. Mission more than accomplished.

Day 9

Thursday 25th October

This morning, via a short ride over mudflats in zebu carts and an hour-long ride in a speedboat, we reached Anakao where we quickly settled in to our simple but lovely beach hotel, helped by the Littoral Rock Thrushes and Subdesert Brush Warblers in the gardens and the Short-headed Day Geckos clinging to the cabins.

In the afternoon we took the short boat ride to the island of Nosy Ve to visit Madagascar's only known colony of Red-tailed Tropicbirds. From rosy adults to downy juveniles, we saw many of these dramatic birds before strolling along the shore towards our boat. On the way back to our hotel we swung by a sandbar on which Crab Plovers, Roseate Terns and both Lesser and Great Crested Terns could be admired at close quarters. We slept tonight in delightful wooden cabins by the sea, each seeming to have its own singing Madagascar Nightjar.

Day 10

Friday 26th October

Today was another transit day, made all the longer by Air Madagascar's change of flight schedule. In the middle of the day we rested in the gardens of the comfortable Victory Hotel in Toliara, where the uber-keen were able to add the Pale-bellied Day Gecko *Phelsuma leiogaster* to their lists. Several of these unusually shy geckos clung to coconut palms in the garden here. The less keen relaxed and enjoyed a delicious lunch before our evening flight to Tana.

Day 11

Saturday 27th October

Today we travelled to the fabled Berenty Reserve in south east Madagascar, backdrop to just about every film ever made on Ring-tailed Lemurs or Verreaux's Sifakas. The reason for this, as you quickly found when we arrived, is that there are Ring-tailed Lemurs and Verreaux's Sifakas everywhere here. On our gentle afternoon stroll through the gallery forest around camp we also saw roosting Madagascar Spine-tailed Swifts, a dozing Torotoroka Scops Owl and Giant Couas with daring electric blue eye-liner.

In the evening we returned to the gallery forest where many White-footed Sportive Lemurs (one of the loveliest lemurs of all) were to be seen. Here too we saw several Grey Mouse Lemurs shooting through the forest undergrowth and heard Torotoroka Scops Owls all around.

Day 12

Sunday 28th October

Early morning today saw us admiring Madagascar Green Pigeons in the gallery forest and stalking a superb and very confiding group of Madagascar Sandgrouse in the dry river bed as a young Peregrine sliced through the sky above us. Later in the morning our long walk took us, among many other places, to the celebrated roost of Madagascar Flying Foxes.

In the afternoon we visited the lovely spiny forest of Anjapolo, quite different from the spiny forest around Toliara. Here the octopus trees are *Alluaudia* and the red-trunked *Adansonia rubrostipa* baobabs are replaced by white-trunked *Adansonia za*. There's plenty more to see here too. More Sportive Lemurs snoozed in octopus trees and another family of Verreaux's Sifakas paid us a visit. Through the undergrowth trundled several lovely Spider Tortoises and deep in cracks between baobab trunks hunkered *Blaesodactylus sakalava* bark geckos. A fine place is Anjapolo and a fine habitat the spiny forest.

Day 13

Monday 29th October

Reaching Fort Dauphin this afternoon we stretched our legs with the up-hill-down-dale walk to the headland from which it's possible at this time of year to watch Humpback Whales. Many Wedge-tailed Shearwaters carved shapes over the surface of the sea and bulky Kelp Gulls (Madagascar subspecies, naturally) flew past. A Caspian Tern flapped by some distance to sea and, after much straining of eyes, we started to see blown spray from the whales. After the blown spray came tail flukes, flippers, breaches and many distant but very good views of these magnificent animals. We spent the night in the very pleasant Dauphin Hotel in the town.

Day 14

Tuesday 30th October

Today we were due to visit the rainforest of Mandena on the light sands surrounding Fort Dauphin. It was raining heavily when we got up and it continued to rain heavily all day. Nonetheless a few of the craziest of us decided we would visit Mandena all the same. I believe it's true to say I've never before seen so little on a Naturetrek trip to the forest. Aside from a few bedraggled Souimanga Sunbirds we saw almost no animal life. There were highlights though, in the form of earthstars and the spectacular clambering pitcher plant *Nepenthes madagascariensis*. As we returned, quite soaked, to the car park, one of our guides translated the reserve's name for us. Mandena: the place where you get wet. No kidding! This afternoon we travelled back to Tana, in preparation for another big journey tomorrow.

Day 15

Wednesday 31st October

We flew to Mahajanga this morning and drove from there to Ankarafantsika, through the great dry palm savannahs of west Madagascar. As we checked into the simple accommodation at Ampijoroa, handsome Collared Iguanids clung to the posts around the car park. Lesser Vasa Parrots shrieked in the tops of the trees, Broad-billed Rollers gave their loud nasal calls and, looking up into a mango tree by reception, I saw a family of absurdly lovely Coquerel's Sifakas, dozing through the intense heat of the day.

In the afternoon we took to the park's dry forest, almost immediately bumping into Common Brown and Mongoose Lemurs, Broad-tailed Plated Lizards and Crested Couas. Milne-Edwards' Sportive Lemurs were admired dozing in their tree holes, another family of Coquerel's Sifakas swung by and we visited two roosts of beautiful owl-faced Western Avahis.

Our night walk, on the edge of the park, was almost embarrassingly good. There were cute Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemurs everywhere and we had good looks at a couple of Grey Mouse Lemurs. Thus we saw seven of the park's eight species of lemur on our first afternoon, and I haven't even mentioned the Madagascar Fish Eagle and Jacana, the Humblot's Heron and all the other birds we saw around the lake by the cabins.

Day 16

Thursday 1st November

Early this morning we visited the forest by Lac Ravelobe, in search of two of the forest's rarest and most-sought birds: Schlegel's Asity and White-breasted Mesite. The asity's we found with ease (Guy and Rap hadn't told us they knew the location of a nest) and soon we were watching the dappled female come and go from the nest. Occasionally the resplendent male would appear and give a little shimmy of display to his mate. Magnificent! From here we walked on in search of mesites. We checked numerous known territories but no-one was home. In consolation we did come across a splendid Madagascar Hog-nosed Snake which was closely admired and photographed.

So, after breakfast we headed to the forest again in search of mesites and other beautiful wildlife. After some work in the mounting heat we saw all of our targets: Van Dam's Vanga calling from the top of a tree, Red-capped Coua trotting through fallen leaves, Madagascar Blue Vanga in a flurry of other birds, and White-breasted Mesite – a dazzlingly beautiful male calling from the edge of a path to his unseen female.

As the afternoon's heat subsided we took boat rides on Lac Ravelobe, surrounded by Nile Crocodiles, Allen's Gallinules flapping over the floating mats of water hyacinth, an African Darter stock still on a fallen tree, and a Madagascar Fish Eagle perched in a distant tree.

At dusk we took another night walk and found three superb creatures we'd only dreamed of seeing: a locally endemic Golden-brown Mouse Lemur, a Greater Hedgehog Tenrec (who took refuge in a small ditch by the road), and a roosting Rhinoceros Chameleon. We went to bed elated.

Day 17

Friday 2nd November

This morning's walk in the forest brought us our first good look at a Greater Vasa Parrot, after many great encounters with Lesser Vasas. After breakfast we could hardly tear you away from a Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher who, in the manner of his species, stayed very still and allowed you all to take superb photographs. Eventually we tore you away for a last walk in the dry forest of Ankarafantsika where, as ever, Madagascar Bulbuls muttered, Souimanga Sunbirds chipped and Sickle-billed Vangas wailed tragically.

On our return journey to Mahajanga, where we spent the night, we stopped at a large lake and its surrounding rice paddies, finding a Madagascar Jacana for those who had not seen it already, a small group of African Pygmy Geese and a flock of Whiskered Terns far out over the reservoir.

Day 18

Saturday 3rd November

Andasibe-Mantadia is my favourite location for watching wildlife in Madagascar. Having flown back to Tana from Mahajanga, today we made the five-hour journey to this magnificent area, where we met our superb local naturalist Maurice and his designated park assistant (equally charming, helpful and well-informed) Marcelin. Our first walk with them was by night, and very productive it was too. Along the village road, past the entrance to the Analamazaotra Indri Reserve, we saw several Crossley's (Furry-eared) Dwarf Lemurs plus Goodman's Mouse Lemur. Here we also found Short-horned, Parson's and Nose-horned Chameleons.

Day 19

Sunday 4th November

There is no experience more evocative of Madagascar than standing under a tree in which Indris are singing. Today we too stood under a tree in which Indris were singing and each of us was differently moved. Some reflected on the privilege of hearing this all too threatened primate, some reflected on all that we had seen during the tour, some remembered that in two days you would all be leaving Madagascar's beautiful wildlife behind.

Our lemur-watching wasn't done for the day, however. For next we visited a family of Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs, the first of several of these lovely little characters which we saw today. These are the smallest of the diurnal lemurs and are much shyer than many of their cousins. We were delighted to see them so well.

It must be said that we saw the Eastern Avahis (our third species of avahi) less well, though far better than we'd seen Peyriéras' in Ranomafana. Nonetheless we were pleased to see these charming, gentle-faced animals at their roost and as we had lunch we were a very satisfied bunch of lemur spotters. Other delights of the morning included an adult Madagascar Long-eared Owl roosting by the entrance to the reserve and a pair of Nuthatch Vangas hitching up the trunks of slender trees.

More bird highlights were the order of the afternoon with Maurice brilliantly showing us a Madagascar Rail and managing to get some of the birders onto a Madagascar Flufftail. By night we went back into the forest for more Crossley's Dwarf Lemurs and our only Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko of the tour. What a superb day it was...

Day 20

Monday 5th November

If Andasibe-Mantadia is my favourite stretch on the tour, the day we spend in Mantadia National Park is my favourite day of all. Here the lofty forest feels ancient and undisturbed and visitors have a sense of how eastern Madagascar must have felt before humans began to fell its rainforests. Our first visit here was to a family of impossibly beautiful Diademed Sifakas which Marcelin had found feeding in a high tree. Almost equally beautiful were the Pitta-like Ground-Rollers we saw near here hopping through the leaf-litter.

Most popular of all, perhaps, was the Lowland Streaked Tenrec we saw just before lunch, whose brief encounter with Marcelin left our guide's hand bristling with bright yellow spines. Lunch was eaten on the dam of a small reservoir where Meller's Ducks and Madagascar Little Grebes swam in the shallows, Swamp Warblers zipped through overhanging vegetation and Madagascar Starlings called in to a dead tree on the water's edge. What a splendid way to eat one's sandwiches.

After lunch the birders managed a superb Madagascar Flufftail and everyone saw a Madagascar Tree Boa at close quarters. In the evening we visited the lovely community reserve of Mitsinjo where there were more Crossley's Dwarf Lemurs and Goodman's Mouse Lemurs, a Graceful Big-headed Gecko made his appearance and, in addition to several other chameleons, we finally saw a lovely Short-nosed Chameleon.

After dinner, to celebrate the success of the tour, I offered a late night walk in the grounds of Vakona Lodge. I only had three takers for my midnight madness but we saw no fewer than five Crossley's Dwarf Lemurs, four Goodman's Mouse Lemurs, a Lowland Streaked Tenrec and – most marvellous of all – a sleeping male Wills's Chameleon.

Day 21

Tuesday 6th November

It wasn't quite over though. On our drive back to Tana, in preparation for the overnight flight, we saw a single Madagascar Pratincole on rocks in the Mangoro River.

Day 22

Wednesday 7th November

Return to the UK

Thanks

Thank you all for your hard work and your unflagging enthusiasm for Madagascar's peerless wildlife. For this Claude and I are very grateful to you all. We both hope to raise binoculars, cameras, eyes and ears together with you again one day soon. Until then, happy wildlife-watching and photography to you all!

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	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																							
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
26	Madagascar Cuckoo Hawk	<i>Aviceda madagascariensis</i>							✓																	
27	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptus</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓				
28	Frances's Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>							✓				✓	✓			✓				✓					
29	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>												✓												
30	Madagascar Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓				
31	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>					✓																			
32	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>						✓									✓									
33	White-breasted Mesite	<i>Mesitornis variegata</i>																		✓						
34	Subdesert Mesite	<i>Monias benschi</i>									✓															
35	Madagascar Button-quail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>							✓		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓							
36	White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>						h																h		
37	Madagascar Rail	<i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>																				✓				
38	Madagascar Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>																				✓	✓			
39	Allen's (Lesser) Gallinule	<i>Porphyryla alleni</i>																		✓	✓					
40	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓																	✓						
41	Madagascar Jacana	<i>Actophilornis albinucha</i>																		✓		✓				
42	Madagascar Pratincole	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>																							✓	
43	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>									✓	✓														
44	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>								✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓							
45	Crab Plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>										✓														
46	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>									✓	✓														
47	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								✓	✓															
48	Madagascar Plover	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>									✓															
49	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>								✓	✓	✓								✓	✓					
50	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>										✓														
51	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>									✓															
52	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓													
53	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								✓	✓	✓	h	✓												
54	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>									✓									✓	✓	✓				
55	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>										✓														
56	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								✓	✓	✓														
57	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>																							✓	

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			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6							
58	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>												✓																
59	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>																	✓											
60	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>										✓																		
61	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>										✓																		
62	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>										✓																		
63	Madagascar Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles personatus</i>												✓																
64	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓											
65	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓												
66	Madagascar Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>																									✓			
67	Madagascar Green Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>								✓							✓													
68	Madagascar Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia picturata</i>		h				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		h	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓			
69	Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓						✓									
70	Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>									✓											✓								
71	Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>			h	h			✓	✓			✓	h			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
72	Madagascar Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			h	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
73	Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	h	h	h	✓	✓	✓		✓							h		h	h	h			h	h					
74	Green-capped Coua	<i>Coua olivaceiceps</i>								✓																				
75	Red-capped Coua	<i>Coua ruficeps</i>																								✓				
76	Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>									✓																			
77	Giant Coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>								h				✓	✓	✓														
78	Coquerel's Coua	<i>Coua coquereli</i>								✓								✓	✓	h										
79	Red-fronted Coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>			h																									
80	Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>			✓	h																				✓	h			
81	Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>								✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓											
82	Madagascar Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>																							h	✓				
83	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>																												
84	White-browed Owl	<i>Ninox supercilialis</i>								✓					✓															
85	African Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>					✓																							
86	Rainforest Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>																						h	h					
87	Torotoroka Scops Owl	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>													✓	✓					✓									
88	Collared Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus enarratus</i>																								✓				
89	Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>								✓	✓	✓		✓						h	✓									

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																							
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
122	Madagascar Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>	✓																			✓				
123	Madagascar Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>	✓			✓																✓				
124	Subdesert Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>									✓															
125	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓								
126	Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>								✓	✓															
127	Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>			✓	✓																h				
128	Madagascar White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓						✓	✓	✓				
129	Madagascar Green Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia notata</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓													✓					
130	Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia sovimanga</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
131	Nuthatch Vanga	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>																				✓				
132	White-headed Vanga	<i>Artamella viridis</i>			✓									✓						✓	✓					
133	Chabert Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>			h		✓		✓							✓				✓		✓	h			
134	Madagascar Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>				h															✓					
135	Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falcula palliata</i>									✓									✓	✓	✓				
136	Rufous Vanga	<i>Schetba rufa</i>			h	h			✓												✓					
137	Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>																			✓	h	✓			
138	Lafresnaye's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>									✓															
139	Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>			✓									✓							✓		h			
140	Pollen's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>				✓																				
141	Van Dam's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>																			✓					
142	Madagascar Cuckoo Shrike	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>			✓	✓											✓	h			✓	h	✓			
143	Madagascar Starling	<i>Saroglossa aurata</i>																					✓			
144	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			
145	Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
146	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
147	Madagascar Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓															
148	Forest Fody	<i>Foudia eminentissima</i>			✓																	✓	✓			
149	Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓					
150	Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>			✓	✓															✓		✓			
151	Madagascar Mannikin	<i>Lonchura nana</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓										✓					

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			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
Reptiles & Amphibians																										
1	Madagascar Leaf-litter Frog	<i>Aglypodactylus madagascariensis</i>				✓																				
2	Mascarene Swamp Frog	<i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i>					✓																			
3	Frog	<i>Boophis elenae</i>		✓																						
4	Frog	<i>Boophis luteus</i>			✓																					
5	Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>		✓	✓	✓															✓	✓				
6	Frog	<i>Boophis doulioti</i>																			✓					
7	Frog	<i>Guibemantis pulcher</i>			✓	✓																				
8	Frog	<i>Heterixalus alboguttatus</i>		✓																						
9	Frog	<i>Gephyromantis luteus</i>		✓																						
10	Broad-browed Stump-tailed Chameleon	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>				✓																				
11	O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>		✓																						
12	Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>																			✓					
13	Short-nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>																					✓			
14	Glaw's Chameleon	<i>Calumma glawi</i>			✓																					
15	Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>				✓															✓	✓	✓			
16	Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>		✓	✓	✓															✓					
17	Belted Chameleon	<i>Calumma balteatus</i>			✓	✓																				
18	Blue-legged Chameleon	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>		✓																						
19	Rhinoceros Chameleon	<i>Furcifer rhinocerotus</i>																			✓	✓				
20	Spiny-backed Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>								✓		✓		✓	✓	✓										
21	Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>					✓	✓													✓	✓				
22	Jewel Chameleon	<i>Furcifer lateralis</i>	✓																							
23	Antimena Chameleon	<i>Furcifer antimena</i>									✓															
24	Wills' Chameleon	<i>Furcifer willsii</i>																					✓			
25	Three-eyed Iguanid	<i>Chalerodon madagascariensis</i>								✓	✓	✓														
26	Collared Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cuveri</i>																			✓	✓	✓			
27	Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>						✓	✓																	
28	Four-lined Iguanid	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>						✓																		
29	Big-headed Gecko	<i>Paroedura bastardii</i>																			✓					
30	Graceful Big-headed Gecko	<i>Paroedura gracilis</i>																					✓			

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31	Day gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tolampyae</i>																✓	✓							
32	Day Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus pictus</i>		✓																						
33	Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>			✓	✓																				
34	Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>																				✓				
35	Bark Gecko	<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>									✓															
36	Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata bifasciata</i>		✓	✓																					
37	Four-eyed Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>			✓																					
38	Pale-bellied Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma leiogaster</i>										✓	✓													
39	Standing's Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>								✓																
40	Changeable Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>															✓									
41	Koch's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis kochi</i>																✓	✓	✓						
42	Short-headed Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma breviceps</i>										✓														
43	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>							✓	✓																
44	Skink	<i>Trachylepis aureopunctata</i>								✓																
45	Skink	<i>Trachylepis elegans</i>							✓																	
46	Broad-tailed Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>																✓	✓	✓						
47	Madagascar Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>																					✓			
48	Peters' Dwarf Plated Lizard	<i>Tracheloptychus petersi</i>								✓																
49	Big-eyed Grass Snake	<i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>							✓			✓														
50	Madagascar Lined Snake	<i>Bibilava lateralis</i>																	✓							
51	Thiel's Lined Snake	<i>Bibilava thieli</i>			✓																					
52	Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>			✓																		✓	✓		
53	Madagascar Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Leioheterodon madagascariensis</i>																	✓	✓						
54	Spider Tortoise	<i>Pyxis arachnoids</i>															✓	✓								
55	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>																	✓	✓	✓					