

# Madagascar

Naturetrek Tour Report

27 October - 19 November 2013

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Hubbard's Sportive Lemur by Sarah Richards



Chabert's Vanga by Tony Wardell



White-faced Whistling Duck by Tony Wardell



Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher by Sarah Richards

Report compiled by Nick Acheson



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## Introduction

So it was that the editorial board of *Lemurs Weekly* (readership: four, three of them prosimians) found themselves in Madagascar on a fact-finding mission. Readership had been flagging, the readers ageing (and in many cases being split into ever more species with diverse reading interests) and competition from other prosimian publications growing ever stronger. Their mission was simple: to save *Lemurs Weekly* or have an enormously enjoyable time trying

## Day 1

**Sunday 27th October**

Today the editorial board (minus the editor of the Australian edition and those two Brits who were doing prior research on our Tana readership) met in Paris for an initial board meeting. A plan was made for the following three weeks and the night was spent in the unrivalled luxury of the Ibis Hotel at Charles de Gaulle. At *Lemurs Weekly* we know how to live!

## Day 2

**Monday 28th October**

Every journey must have its filler days (and thanks to the twin evils of Air France and Air Madagascar our tour was to have one or two). Today was one of airports, planes and middle-of-the-night queues for visas. But by the end of it we were in Madagascar, in the company of Desi, our fantastic leader, companion, friend and interpreter of all things natural and cultural in Madagascar. It took us no time at all to vote him on to the board of *Lemurs Weekly*...

## Day 3

Tuesday 29th October

Madagascar at last! Home of the lemurs and of *Lemurs Weekly*. It was good to have got here, though today didn't work out quite as we had planned. In the morning we visited Tsarasaotra. The keener readers of *Lemurs Weekly* will have spotted that there are no lemurs to be seen at Tsarasaotra. This is quite true; nor indeed would we see any lemurs for several days to come. But *Lemurs Weekly* is an all-encompassing publication and part of our mission to save it was to broaden the range of articles we offer. Today we were investigating a possible article on wetland birds and Tsarasaotra didn't disappoint. The lake surface bobbed and shimmered with hundreds of Red-billed Teal and White-faced Whistling-Ducks (now why are they called that, I wonder?) and in the twigs of fallen trees at the water's edge were Madagascar Kingfishers. The papyrus island was loud and bright with Squacco Herons, Dimorphic Egrets, Knob-billed (Comb) Ducks and Black Egrets and in the trees were the happy chips of Madagascar Fodies and the booming sobs of Madagascar Coucals. Overhead were Yellow-billed Kites, Madagascar Kestrels and a Madagascar (formerly Réunion) Harrier and either side of the path, like sentinels, were an Oustalet's and a Jewel Chameleon. Hottentot Teal, Madagascar Pond Heron, Mascarene Martin... one could go on. We definitely felt Tsarasaotra deserved a feature in *Lemurs Weekly*, possibly even a pull-out colour supplement.

The afternoon was less thrilling. ...As was the evening. ...And the night. Air Madagascar chose today to throw its toys out of the pram, stranding no fewer than three Naturetrek groups: Cathy's in Fort Dauphin, Kerrie's in Toliara and ours in Tana. Finally, late in the night, after a very long wait at Tana airport, a round of drinks and dinner on Air Madagascar, and a second round of drinks on Naturetrek, we boarded a plane which had just arrived from Réunion and flew to Toliara. We should have been in Ifaty tonight but we contented ourselves with staying in the very comfortable Victory Hotel in Toliara prior to our journey to Ifaty the following morning.

## Day 4

Wednesday 30th October

So to Ifaty we travelled today, finally getting our editorial teeth into the glorious wildlife of Madagascar. We were expertly driven by Héry and his assistant Rija. Our first stop was at a brackish marsh not far from Toliara where Kittlitz's Plovers skittered along the edge of the water while Three-banded Plovers stood more stolidly in the shade of poolside rushes. In the surrounding bushes were Souimanga Sunbirds (the first of many, many, many) and Madagascar Manikins. The journey was not without hiccup as, driving around a lorry which was stuck in the sand, we too got ourselves stuck in sand. We chose at this point to go for a wander (as Rija and several local lads dug us out). We walked under the scorching sun of mid morning, and were rewarded for our pains by encounters with a bizarre Madagascar Coucal with white wing feathers, Madagascar Bee-eaters and, for some, a first Subdesert Brush Warbler (*'tik tik tik'*).

Having settled into the lovely Nautilus hotel, with the waves of the Mozambique Channel lapping gently beneath our rooms and Whimbrel trilling by, in the late afternoon we wandered through the salt pans and surrounding degraded spiny forest. Pied Crows laughed at us from a dead *Casuarina*, Madagascar Kestrels mobbed them, Ruddy Turnstones scuttled along the bunds between salt pans and in a brackish ditch we saw both a single Black-winged Stilt and – all too briefly – a female Greater Painted Snipe. *The Salt pans of Ifaty*... we saw great potential for an article here.

## Day 5

Thursday 31st October

It is in the nature of lemur journalism that sometimes, to cover a tricky story, one must gird one's loins at an absurd hour of the morning. This morning we were covering a story on rare birds in the spiny forest for *Lemurs Weekly* and to this end we left for Reniala at 04:30. In return for our efforts, and those of our very sharp-eared guide Dabé, the rare spiny forest birds could not have been more obliging. Seven Subdesert Mesites – a spiny forest tongue-twister – greeted the dawn in a tight huddle along a branch. Nearby a Green-capped Coua trotted along a path and a Thamnornis Warbler wriggled through the prickly undergrowth. We were pleased to see this bird as we were planning a special feature on the newly created endemic family the Bernieridae. We were interested in how the Thamnornis Warbler felt about no longer being a warbler, being shoved in a family with the artists-formerly-known-as-greenbuls and having its name changed to Subdesert Tetraka. Find out what we learned in the March issue of *Lemurs Weekly*.

Keen not to be outdone, an Archbold's Newtonia sang from the top of a low tree, a Madagascar Harrier-Hawk bathed in the morning sun, Sickle-billed Vangas ('waaaah') put in an appearance and a Banded Kestrel – Yes! Banded Kestrel! – dropped in to a tree by the path. We would have been happy at seeing just these glorious bird but the best was still to come. We walked to the edge of the forest, where all three Madagascar parrots were to be seen together, and had superb looks at a Long-tailed Ground-Roller who – clearly not a reader of the field guides or of *Lemurs Weekly* – hopped up a tree and posed for the photographers in full view. Superb!

From here we travelled to Toliara and on, by creaky zebu-cart and boat (not creaky) to Anakao. Safari Vezo has an incomparably beautiful setting and we were soon happily settled into its stylishly simple bungalows, admiring the Littoral Rock-Thrushes who live around the dining room.

In the middle of the day we visited the island of Nosy Ve, the only breeding site of the Red-tailed Tropicbird in Madagascar. Greater Frigatebirds circled over us as we came in to land and no sooner had we reached the coral beach than we were watching a Crab Plover, a Grey Plover and a Black-tailed Godwit in a strange threesome, and a large roost of Great Crested, Lesser Crested and Roseate Terns. We wandered along the beach, accompanied by a ridiculously tame Madagascar Cisticola hunting for food in the shell-sprinkled strandline, until we reached the nesting grounds of the Tropicbirds where adult birds in rose-pink plumage and dishevelled chicks crouched under bushes, away from predators and the punishing heat of the day. Tonight we slept with the songs of Madagascar Nightjars in our ears, our minds and our dreams.

## Day 6

Friday 1st November

Alas today, after an all too brief sojourn by the sea, we travelled back to Toliara (non-creaky boat and creaky zebu-carts, remember?). The journey was broken by the brief and distant appearance of a pod of Bottle-nose Dolphins. From Toliara we flew to Fort Dauphin. Mindful, no doubt, of our august positions on the editorial board of *Lemurs Weekly*, Air Madagascar upgraded almost all of us (but sadly not all of us) to the dizzy heights of business class where, in addition to the standard boiled sweet to stop our ears popping on landing, we were treated to a slender square of dark chocolate. I'll never want to fly economy again...

In the afternoon we walked from our Fort Dauphin hotel to the sea where we were hoping to research a story on Humpback Whales for *Lemurs Weekly*. The Humpbacks were a little distant to interview, if we're honest, but

Kelp Gulls (now Madagascar Gulls – it’s hard to keep up) made some dramatic fly-bys and Caspian Terns were also to be seen. In the evening a few of us explored the garden of the Dauphin Hotel seeing a Cat-eyed Snake, African Giant Land Snails and some enormous Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches.

## Day 7

## Saturday 2nd November

Today’s research mission was more landscape and seascape-inspired (a two-page photographic feature, we were thinking) for today we visited Lokaro. Our expedition involved a short drive from Fort Dauphin, a long ride in motorised boats (one of which nearly wasn’t motorised for a while at the start), a pleasant walk with our excellent guide Jean-Philippe along the beautiful coastline, and, for many of us, a bracing swim in a beautiful bay. All very idyllic! Here we saw our first Madagascar Buzzards, plenty of Red-billed Teal, carnivorous *Nepenthes* pitcher plants, and a *Heterixalus boettgeri* tree frog (who, not content with being seen, leapt from one member of the group to another, variously visiting cameras, shoulders, hats and lips). On the journey back we were beset by very heavy rain and most of us ended up wholly soaked. This was to prove the only soaking on an otherwise weather-blessed tour. In the evening, as the rain abated after dinner, we strolled around the hotel garden making the acquaintance of Hissing Cockroaches and a delightfully putty-coloured *Boophis tephraeomystax* tree frog.

## Day 8

## Sunday 3rd November

To the forest! At last the editorial board of *Lemurs Weekly* was heading to the forest and, dare I say it, the lemurs (and we’d like to express our sincere thanks to Air France and Air Madagascar for conniving to make our itinerary so complicated). Route Nationale 13; What’s to be said about this masterpiece of civil engineering? I am sure that in the sixties, shortly after Madagascar’s independence, it was a fine road. It’s just a shame that not much has been done to look after the road since then. However, the painfully slow speed at which we navigated the potholes was a positive advantage to us, as we worked on a story covering the wildlife to be seen along RN 13. Our spotting team of Desi, Jean-Philippe and Rajean (our fantastic driver) picked up Spiny-backed Chameleons, *Dypsis decaryi* palms, Madagascar Magpie Robins, Sakalava Weavers and a host of other goodies as we went.

On reaching Berenty, I was confident that in no time we would break our long spell without lemurs. There are always, always, always Ring-tails everywhere you look and Verreaux’s Sifakas in the trees around camp. But not today! We arrived in a rainstorm and, though I didn’t know it when I confidently predicted we’d be wading through lemurs, the perfidious primates had all taken refuge under solar panels and on window ledges. Loud was the mirth at my expense over our lemur-less lunch. As we headed out into the forest in the afternoon the lemur-wading began! Ring-tailed Lemurs trotted through camp (treacherous creatures!), Verreaux’s Sifakas huddled in the trees at the forest edge, a White-footed Sportive Lemur peered dozily from his daytime roost and, not far into the forest, we were surrounded by hybrid brown lemurs. The editorial board of *Lemurs Weekly* wanted lemurs and now, by George, they had lemurs!

On our gentle walk through the beautiful gallery forest they also had Crested Couas, Madagascar Paradise Flycatchers, Madagascar Coucals, Helmeted Guineafowl and a host of other endearing animals.

At dusk we ventured into the forest again and here were yet more lemurs. In addition to lots of White-footed Sportives (now, under cover of nightfall, eponymously sportive) here we met the wonderfully energetic Grey

Mouse Lemur and, as a bonus mammal, the friendly-faced Dormouse Tuft-tailed Rat. There was plenty more to be seen here: White-browed and Totoroka Scops Owls singing from the trees above our heads, Madagascar Nightjars over the car park as we set off, giant millipedes, giant pill millipedes and roosting Spiny-backed Chameleons. A feature on the gallery forest of Berenty by night? Definitely!

## Day 9

## Monday 4th November

Early this morning we explored the spiny forest close to Berenty. Our first stop was to interview a beautiful Dumeril's Boa which had been found close to some of the staff accommodation. As we left the boa to go about its business, three Madagascar Sandgrouse flew in to the airstrip (where else would they land?), saving us a search for them in the sisal fields. In the beautiful spiny forest we met a Running Coua at very close quarters and peered into bundles of twigs to see fluffy objects we could just make out as roosting Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs. Verreaux's Sifakas bounced through the spiny octopus trees, defying physics to land on these savagely spiky plants unhurt.

After breakfast we re-entered the gallery forest. Broad-billed Rollers were noisy and bright here as we paid a visit to the celebrated roost of Madagascar Flying Foxes. Paradise Flycatchers fluted and Common Newtonias chipped and we reckoned Berenty was a very fine place for exploring Madagascar's lovely dry forests.

Over lunch we explored the fascinating Berenty Museum which explains the physical and mythological worlds of the Antandroy people who inhabit the surrounding landscape. And in the afternoon we made the journey to Anjapolo, perhaps the loveliest patch of spiny forest on the Berenty estate, where we compared the various Didieraceae: *Didierea madagascariensis* (rosettes of strap-like leaves), *Alluandia procera* (pairs of oval leaves on branched columns), *Alluandia ascendens* (pairs of heart-shaped leaves on tall, unbranched columns) and *Alluandia dumosa* (low, tangled shrubs). Also here we admired the yellow flowers of the mouse-trapping *Uncarina decaryi* and met a delightfully diminutive Spider Tortoise going about his business in the thorny undergrowth.

Our afternoon walk to the Mandrare River was quiet but our third jaunt to the spiny forest, by night, was almost embarrassingly good. Each Octopus tree seemed to have its own White-footed Sportive Lemur or Grey-brown Mouse Lemur (adorable, we all agreed). Several Spiny-backed Chameleons were found, a roosting pair of Magpie Robins was admired at close quarters and we even bumped into a Dumeril's Boa. All in all, a very fine day in the forests of a very fine place.

## Day 10

## Tuesday 5th November

Early today we set off on a mission: to find a Frances' Sparrowhawk to interview for *Lemurs Weekly* as this was our best chance of meeting this lovely species. We half achieved our goal, in that we found a Frances' Sparrowhawk. However, he was so high in the sky that we took his response to our request for an interview to be a quiet 'no comment'. We were kept busy though by lots of Paradise Flycatchers and sustained interviews with Sifakas and hybrid brown lemurs, both of which seemed very keen to share their views on life in the gallery forest. After breakfast we drove back to Fort Dauphin. Our flight in the afternoon took us back to Tana.

## Day 11

Wednesday 6th November

Another flight this morning – also miraculously on time – was to Mahajanga in northwest Madagascar, where we were met by our friendly, helpful driver team Lala and Yves. They drove us along the excellent road to Akarafantsika, through groves of cashew trees, palm-studded savannahs, and the homes of the Sakalava people. We reached the lodge on the park's edge by late afternoon and, almost immediately, we saw a group of dippily lovely Coquerel's Sifakas (in the distance by our cabins) and a very tame Collared Iguanid (in the car park).

No rest for the editors of an internationally acclaimed primate publication. In the hot, dusty evening we found ourselves, torches in hand and headlamps at the ready, walking along a track on the edge of the park in search of a new selection of lemurs and chameleons. The wildlife-watching here was so good that the editorial board was forced to consider a special supplement to cover it. Several Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemurs were seen almost before we left the bus (what cuties!) and shortly thereafter we had a brief and unconvincing view of the local endemic Golden-brown Mouse Lemur.

A family of three Mongoose Lemurs fed in a tall tamarind tree above us and – thrillingly! – a Greater Hedgehog Tenrec scuttled through dry leaves beside the track and, ignoring all the august literature on the habits of hedgehog tenrecs, took tenuous refuge up a tree (there's an article just begging to be written, right there). For the reptiles, Oustalet's Chameleon made a re-appearance, accompanied by a couple of slender Rhinoceros Chameleons. All in all, we decided, a very fine use of an evening!

## Day 12

Thursday 7th November

As our trip to Ankarafantsika had been curtailed by Air Madagascar, today we were on an editorial mission: to see as much of the park's wildlife as we could in one day. We started by Lac Ravelobe, where our mission to see several scarce birds was partly successful; Coquerel's Coua, Long-billed Tetraka and Madagascar Cuckooshrike all joined the list with ease but other local specialities were harder to come by. We put a tremendous effort into finding the dazzling Schlegel's Asity but – alas – only a couple of you were able to see it. After breakfast, our luck turned. In the searingly hot forest we found families of day-active Coquerel's Sifakas and day-roosting Western Avahis (Woolly Lemurs) right by one another, as an impressive Brown Hog-nosed Snake slithered by. Also here in the forest we encountered Common Brown Lemurs, Red-capped Couas and a White-breasted Mesite but we had no luck with Van Dam's Vanga, despite a great deal of looking and listening.

In the afternoon we divided ourselves, by turns, between wetlands. While one group floated on Lac Ravelobe, the other visited a nearby pond. On Ravelobe a Humblot's Heron towered over the many Purple Herons on the floating mats of water hyacinth. In the shallows were many Nile Crocodiles while White-faced Whistling-Ducks sat nearby, apparently unaware of the danger. On the near shore was a very obliging Madagascar Kingfisher while on the far shore one of our groups had a point-blank audience with a pair of Madagascar Fish-Eagles. Meanwhile at the nearby lake, both groups saw African Pygmy Geese, a Madagascar Little Grebe and a single Madagascar Jacana. Mission accomplished.

In the evening, well, we felt it would be rude not to pay the night-mammals a visit so we saw three very good Golden-brown Mouse-Lemurs, a sprinkling of Dormouse Tuft-tailed Rats, a Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat and a family of Common Brown Lemurs, unusually active into the night.



## Day 13

Friday 8th November

Today was a very long day. We started in Ankarafantsika and we finished in Andasibe. The less said about the rest the better. One thing, however, was outstanding and more than deserving of a mention: our ever-smiling driver team of Georges and Héry who would take superb care of us all the way from Tana to Toliara.

## Day 14

Saturday 9th November

Today was a very good day. It had Indris in it. It also had Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs in it, and Diademed Sifakas and – amazingly – Crested Ibis, Madagascar Flufftail and Collared Nightjar on their nests. But I'm getting ahead of myself...

This morning, in the company of our excellent local guide Maurice, we went to Analamazaotra. This is always a fine reserve and this morning it was superb. As we walked into the reserve Rand's Warblers warbled from the treetops and a splendid male Forest Fody put in an appearance. We very cautiously – one by one – visited the nest of a Madagascar Flufftail, where the beautiful male sat on the eggs. Nearby Maurice found a family of Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs and almost everyone was able to admire them before they pinged off into their dense stand of bamboo.

From here it got better and better. A Crested Ibis stood on its messy nest in the top of a tall tree and a Collared Nightjar lay, near invisible, on its nest in the heart of an epiphyte. A Rainforest Scops Owl was visited at its roost and nearby a family of Eastern Avahis were similarly asleep. But this morning the day-lemurs took the prizes, even above such fantastic birds. A family of Diademed Sifakas shot through the trees around us before dozing right above us on low branches. Very close by we came across a small group of Common Brown Lemurs feeding on the ground. And the stars of the show were the Indris whose song we heard pouring through the forest and who allowed us to approach and observe them closely.

In the afternoon many of you visited Lemur Island, and disported yourselves disgracefully with the tame lemurs; others took themselves off for a walk; while still others accompanied Maurice and me in search of the Madagascar Rail. Not only did we see the rail superbly, we also saw Madagascar Swamp Warblers singing in front of us, clouds of Mascarene Martins and several jolly Madagascar Stonechats. As the youth of today would put it: result!

Our success continued into the evening when we took a night walk along the edge of Analamazaotra. Here were Nose-horned and Short-horned Chameleons and a single Crossley's Dwarf Lemur, busy wrecking a banana flower. Despite our lofty editorial relationship with lemurkind, tonight we went to bed all lemured-out.

## Day 15

Sunday 10th November

The readership of *Lemurs Weekly* has long been clamouring for an in-depth article on the state of lemur morale in Mantadia so, with Maurice as our guide, today we travelled along the bumpy road to this beautiful forest park. Along the bumpy road we stopped to look for Brown-throated Martins and were delighted to find a characteristically photogenic pair of Madagascar Pygmy Kingfishers.

The forest was quiet this morning, except for superb encounters with Diademed Sifakas and Indris, and despite hours of searching, and hearing them in the distance, we were unable to track down the beautiful Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs.

We lunched by the dam at the old graphite mine with Madagascar Spine-tailed Swifts and Madagascar Buzzards in the sky above us, Swamp Warblers hopping through emergent vegetation, and Meller's Ducks swimming away across the water of the lake.

Tonight we went up hill and down dale at the beautiful Mitsinjo private reserve, expertly guided by Pierre. I gave Pierre a list of the critters we were especially keen to meet and he found them all, even the rarest and most recherché! We would definitely have to run a *Lemurs Weekly* feature on Mitsinjo. Our reptile targets were the lovely Short-nosed Chameleon (which, you may remember, is a particular favourite of mine), the equally lovely Broad-browed Stump-tailed Chameleon (and it's a good job it's a slow-mover as by the time you've said that name it could be half way to Mozambique) and the extraordinary Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko (also no slacker in the Monty Python naming of creatures stakes). In a trice Pierre found them all. And as a couple of bonus herptiles he threw in a *Boophis madagascariensis* treefrog and a *Boophis aglavei*. Among the mammals, our targets were Goodman's Mouse Lemur and the near mythical Hairy-eared Dwarf Lemur, with which Pierre is one of the most experienced trackers anywhere. He found them both. The Dwarf Lemur scampered up the trunk of a slim tree and huddled in its crown for long enough for us all to admire its absurdly lovely ear-puffs. The Mouse Lemur – characteristically – pinged between trees but allowed everyone an excellent view. There was also a roosting Pygmy Kingfisher, there were stick insects, there was an Eastern Avahi. It was an excellent night walk!

## Day 16

Monday 11th November

Today we made the long drive to Antsirabe, stopping along the way at the Mandrare River to see a Madagascar Pratincole slicing through the skies above our heads. As we reached Antsirabe, we noticed a marked change in the landscape and consequently agriculture; the cooler climate of these higher altitudes allowing the cultivation of European crops and the keeping of European dairy cattle.

## Day 17

Tuesday 12th November

Over breakfast vanilla was purchased from a friendly lady on the pavement outside our hotel (we thought this would come in handy for our new cookery column). By the time we left, the news that vasa were in town had reached all the street vendors for miles and we were beset with offers of T-shirts and fake semiprecious stones ('No, they're real, really they're real, really.').

We drove from here to the celebrated snipe marsh. Despite Desi's great efforts, today the Madagascar Snipe were not to be seen but we were very pleased with the Red-billed Teal on the marsh, the Madagascar Stonechats on the surrounding bushes and the Baillon's Crake which bolted for cover across the water's edge.

After a picnic lunch at Ialatsara, we reached Ranomafana late in the afternoon. Straight away we were once more into the breach, on a night walk with our excellent lead guide Jean-Chry. We called first at the Brown Mouse Lemur stake-out where, according to local custom, banana had been smeared on the branches of roadside trees. At dusk the Mouse Lemurs bounced in from the forest to binge on banana before heading off into the night.

Glaw's, O'Shaughnessey's and Blue-legged Chameleons also joined us this evening. To be honest, by this point the chameleons were impressing us so much that we were considering a sister publication: *Chameleons Weekly*.

## Day 18

## Wednesday 13th November

Today was quite simply the best I've ever spent in Ranomafana. That sounds so good I'll say it again: today was the best day I've ever spent in Ranomafana. Having been robbed of a whole day in the park, (who can think of the two airlines which might be responsible for that?), I was worried that we would lose out on wildlife here. We did not. Not even remotely. This morning was sensational!

Led by our guides Jean-Chry and Berthin, with our superbly gifted spotters Bako and Zo already in the forest, we went into Talatakely, passing our first pure, wild Red-fronted Brown Lemurs on the way (remember: the animals in Berenty are introduced and are hybrids between this species and the Red-collared Brown Lemur *Eulemur collaris*). Pausing only to admire a staggeringly camouflaged Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko, we powered straight to the Golden Bamboo Lemurs who were conveniently right on the main trail. Having had our fill of Golden Bamboos, we decided to up the rarity of our Bamboo Lemurs a notch so we went straight to Talatakely's last remaining pair of Greater Bamboo Lemurs.

No sooner had we watched the Greater Bamboos sufficiently than news came that Berthin had – barely believably – found a pair of Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs. These were a fair walk away but everyone agreed that it was well worth the effort to see my favourite lemur of all (what an accolade, from the founding editor of *Lemurs Weekly*). This gorgeous pair ate and bounced in the top of a short tree, and were hugely admired and much photographed by us all. Just as we were about to leave the B&WRLs we got a BOGOF for our efforts as a family of handsome Milne-Edwards' Sifakas sprang through the very trees by which we stood.

Pitta-like Ground Rollers came next, en route to a roost of Peyriéras's Avahis (a recent, and still for many putative, split from the Eastern Avahi; either way they're adorable). Before leaving the park we paused for a while at Belle Vue where Peacock Emerald Day Geckos trotted along posts and rails. And on our way back to our hotel, Centrest, we saw a Madagascar Tree Boa by the side of the road. All this before lunch! What an issue of *Lemurs Weekly* we were planning around it! Lunch was fairly exciting too, as a giant male Parson's Chameleon and a smaller female Belted Chameleon made their appearance in the hotel garden.

In the afternoon, having exerted ourselves so splendidly in the morning, we decided to take things gently. We left Zo and Bako at Vohiparara in the hope that they would find a Small-toothed Sportive Lemur for us and ourselves took an easy stroll in (very successful) search of Madagascar Painted Frogs and Giraffe-necked Weevils. Our subsequent walk around Vohiparara was quiet (no Small-toothed Sportives, alas) but we did meet some very lovely *Guibemantis pulcher* tree frogs hunkered in the leaf axils of *Pandanus* palms.

Our night walk petered out even before nightfall as most of you had run out of editorial energy. However, before it petered out we met more Red-fronted Browns and more of the same chameleons as we had seen the night before. A splendid day, by any standards!

## Day 19

## Thursday 14th November

Today was taken up by the long drive to Isalo via Fianarantsoa (the place of good learning), Ambalavao (where we picked up our sandwiches for lunch), Anja (hordes of friendly Ring-tailed Lemurs in fine pelage), Ihoosy (capital town of the cattle-herding Bara people). Our destination was the beautiful Satrana Lodge on the edge of Isalo National Park.

## Day 20

## Friday 15th November

With our local guides Fleuris and Haja, today we visited the Namaza Canyon in Isalo. It was – expectedly – jolly hot but we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Lemur-wise it felt almost as though we were back in Berenty, as Ring-tails accompanied us along the first stretch of the path (where a Zebu-killing Snake was also elegantly strewn through a tree above our heads) and in the forest we met a very friendly Verreaux's Sifaka. Further on a Benson's (Forest) Rock Thrush flitted through the trees as we reached a secluded natural pool where the most daring members of the group swam with giant eels.

In the afternoon we pottered around our stylish hotel, relaxed by the pool, sipped THBs and, once the sun had dropped, wandered through the surrounding grassland in search of birds. There were a few birds, but they were mostly Common Mynas and Madagascar Cisticolas; nothing to set the printing presses of *Lemurs Weekly* blazing.

## Day 21

## Saturday 16th November

After an early breakfast at Satrana we drove on to Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park, past the sapphire slum of Ilakaka and through the parched grasslands inhabited by the Bara people. It was very hot at Zombitse so, despite the great beauty of the forest, we saw few birds and we failed in our mission to find the endemic Appert's Tetraka. The endemic lemur was more obliging and we saw two utterly adorable Hubbard's Sportives peering (utterly adorably) from their roost holes. The reptiles were pretty good too: a *Blaesodactylus sakalava* bark gecko sheltered in the knot left by a fallen branch, a dazzling Standing's Day Gecko hid between the twin trunks of a baobab (*Adansonia za* for the baobab fetishists), little *Lygodactylus tolampyae* geckos scuttled on the bark of trees, Oustalet's Chameleons blended tastefully with the grey-brown tangles in which they hid, and Three-eyed Iguanids trotted nonchalantly across scorching hot sand. Other highlights included a Giant Coua (who nearly robbed us of Hubbard's Sportive Lemur by scaring the first one into its roost hole before we reached it) and a charmingly tame family of Verreaux's Sifakas in which one male was very dark indeed, marked similarly to a Coquerel's Sifaka.

As we reached Toliara in the middle of the day, we crossed into the land of the Mahafaly people, whose impressive tombs are to be seen alongside the road. We lunched (delicious!) at the Toliara Arboretum, and in the afternoon were guided through the gardens and forest by Farah and her enormous smile. We renewed our acquaintance with many species we had seen in this area right at the start of the tour, including spiny forest plants (*Didierea*, *Alluandia*, *Euphorbia*, *Kalanchoe* and *Commiphora*), reptiles (Spiny-backed Chameleon) and birds (Green-capped Coua and Sakalava Weaver). Amazingly for this late stage in our wide travels, we added two new reptiles here: the subtly patterned Changeable Day Gecko and the handsome Spiny-tailed Iguanid.

## Day 22

Sunday 17th November

Our flight to Tana from Toliara took most of the morning today. In Tana our Chinese lunch was decidedly more successful than our last meal in the Orchid Restaurant and in the evening we had a delicious meal at the Savannah Restaurant, just over the road.

## Day 23

Monday 18th November

To be honest I didn't have great expectations (good title: someone should use that) of Lemurs Park today. It's not that we don't enjoy our visits here and it's not that Lemurs Park isn't attractive and interesting. I just felt that after three weeks of seeing spectacular wildlife all over the south, east and west of Madagascar, you would be underwhelmed by seeing captive lemurs (albeit at liberty in very pleasant surroundings). 'Don't worry,' said Desi, 'The moment they see the first lemur they'll all have their cameras out.' Desi was right.

It was wonderful, in fact, to meet so many of the cast of lemurs we had seen in the wild and reflect on the beautiful places in which we had seen them. Here were Red-fronted Brown, Common Brown and Mongoose Lemurs, here were Coquerel's Sifakas and Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs (with newborn twins), here were Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs and a Ring-tail. Here too were some new species for us (you'll have to come back to see these ones in the wild): Crowned Sifaka and Western Grey Bamboo Lemur. We had lunch, with Green Sunbirds flitting through the tops of the trees nearby. On our way back we visited a traditional market where baskets and besoms were bought from bemused locals. The crayfish you declined. In the evening, we checked-in (how I love Air France), and flew home. And just like that, it was over.

## Thanks

A great number of charming, helpful, knowledgeable, generous, friendly people conspired to make our trip so successful. We are hugely grateful to them all for welcoming us to their beautiful country and offering the best of themselves to help us enjoy it. Many were behind the scenes but some of the most important among them were:

**Guides:** Reniala: Dabé; Berenty: Jean-Philippe; Ankarafantsika: Amedée, Olga and Gérard; Andasibe: Maurice; Mitsinjo: Pierre; Ranomafana: Jean-Chry, Berthin, Bako and Zo; Ifaty: Fleuris and Haja; Zombitse: Zafy and Remila; Toliara Arboretum: Farah; and Lemurs Park: Héry.

**Drivers:** Arrival in Tana: Dani; Around Toliara/Ifaty: Héry and Rija; around Fort Dauphin/Berenty: Rajean; around Ankarafantsika: Lala and Yves; Andasibe and RN7: Georges and Héry.

All-singing-all-dancing-expert-guide-comedian-fixer-and-friend:

Desi.

(Nobody else would do!)

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	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																				
			29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
30	Greater Hedgehog Tenrec	<i>Setifer setosus</i>									✓						✓						
31	Dormouse Tuft-tailed Rat	<i>Eliurus myoxinus</i>						✓				✓											
32	Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>															✓						
33	Madagascar Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>											✓										
34	Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat	<i>Hipposideros commersoni</i>											✓										
35	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>				✓																	
36	Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>				✓																	

## Birds

1	Madagascar Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelni</i>	✓									✓			h								
2	Greater Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>			✓																		
3	Red-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>			✓																		
4	Madagascar Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola idae</i>	✓																				
5	Common Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	✓									✓	✓										
6	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓																				
7	Striated (Green-backed) Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>		✓		✓	✓					✓				✓	✓						
8	Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	✓								✓	✓	✓			✓	✓						
9	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓				
10	Black Egret	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	✓																				
11	Dimorphic Egret	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓					✓	✓		✓				
12	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				✓						✓	✓				✓						
13	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓							✓											
14	Humblot's Heron	<i>Ardea humbloti</i>										✓	✓										
15	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	✓		✓		✓						✓			✓	✓		✓				
16	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>									✓	✓	✓										
17	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	✓				✓											✓			✓		
18	Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>	✓																				
19	Meller's Duck	<i>Anas melleri</i>													✓					✓			
20	White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	✓				✓					✓	✓										
21	African Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>										✓											
22	Comb (Knob-billed) Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	✓															✓	✓	✓			
23	Madagascar Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>										✓	✓										



	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																				
			29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
24	Madagascar Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>			✓									✓									
25	Madagascar Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>					✓		✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
26	Madagascar Harrier	<i>Circus macroscleles</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	Banded Kestrel	<i>Falco zoniventris</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																
37	Madagascar Rail	<i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>												✓									
38	Madagascar Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>												✓									
39	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓							✓				✓									
40	Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</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	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>		✓	✓																		
49	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>		✓	✓																		
50	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>		✓																			
51	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		✓	✓	✓																	
52	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>			✓																		
53	Madagascar Snipe	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>					✓																
54	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓	✓	✓		h	✓														
55	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓			✓								✓	✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																				
			29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
56	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		✓	✓						✓												
57	Curllew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		✓																			
58	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>				✓	✓																
59	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>				✓								✓									
60	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>										✓											
61	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>			✓																		
62	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>			✓																		
63	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>			✓	✓																	
64	Madagascar Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles personatus</i>							✓														
65	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				
66	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					
67	Madagascar Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>												✓									
68	Madagascar Green Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>						✓				✓											
69	Madagascar Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia picturata</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓			h								
70	Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓												
71	Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>			✓							✓			✓								
72	Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>			✓			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			h					
73	Madagascar Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	h	✓	✓			
74	Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>										h		h	✓	h	h	h	h	h	h		
75	Green-capped Coua	<i>Coua olivaceiceps</i>			✓				✓														✓
76	Red-capped Coua	<i>Coua ruficeps</i>										✓						✓					
77	Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>			✓				✓	✓													
78	Giant Coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>						✓	✓														
79	Coquerel's Coua	<i>Coua coquereli</i>										✓											
80	Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>												h	✓	✓	h	h					
81	Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>						✓	✓			✓											
82	White-browed Owl	<i>Ninox supercilialis</i>						✓	✓														
83	Rainforest Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>												✓		h	h						
84	Torotoroka Scops Owl	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>						✓	✓									h					
85	Collared Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus enarratus</i>												✓									
86	Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>		✓	✓	h	h	✓	✓		h	✓								h			
87	Madagascar Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni</i>														✓	✓	✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																				
			29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
88	Madagascar Spine-tailed Swift	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>												✓									
89	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>				✓		✓			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓				
90	Brown-throated Sand Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>											✓	✓									
91	Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	✓							✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
92	Madagascar Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo vintsioides</i>	✓				✓	✓				✓		✓		✓	✓						
93	Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx madagascariensis</i>												✓									
94	Madagascar Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
95	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>						✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	h	✓						✓		
96	Madagascar Cuckoo-Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>										✓			h			h			h		
97	Pitta-like Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>													✓			✓					
98	Long-tailed Ground Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>			✓																		
99	Schlegel's Asity	<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>											✓										
100	Madagascar Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
101	Long-billed Tetraka	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>											✓										
102	Madagascar Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	h	✓			✓	✓	h			
103	Madagascar Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓				h						
104	Littoral Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola imerinus</i>			✓	✓															✓		
105	Benson's (Forest) Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei bensoni</i>						✓															
106	Common (Madagascar) Stonechat	<i>Saxicola (torquata) sibilla</i>												✓	✓	✓	✓						
107	Madagascar Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	✓							✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
108	Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		h			h		h			
109	Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>						✓	✓			✓		h	h			h					
110	Archbold's Newtonia	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>			✓																		
111	Madagascar Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓								✓		✓	✓			
112	Madagascar Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra hova</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓										✓			
113	Madagascar Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>		✓										✓	✓		✓						
114	Madagascar Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>	h											h				h					
115	Subdesert Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>		✓	✓					✓													
116	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>	h	h		✓	✓	h	✓			✓		✓			h	✓	✓	h			
117	Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>			✓			✓															
118	Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>												✓	h			✓	h				
119	Madagascar White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>						✓						✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				



	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																				
			29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11	Frog	<i>Mantidactylus lugubris</i>																					
12	Broad-browed Stump-tailed Chameleon	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>														✓							
13	O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>															✓	✓					
14	Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>												✓		✓							
15	Malthe's Chameleon	<i>Calumma malthe</i>													✓								
16	Short-nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>														✓						✓	
17	Glaw's Chameleon	<i>Calumma glawi</i>															✓						
18	Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>																✓					
19	Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>												✓			✓						
20	Belted Chameleon	<i>Calumma balteatus</i>																✓					
21	Blue-legged Chameleon	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>															✓	✓					
22	Rhinoceros Chameleon	<i>Furcifer rhinocerotus</i>									✓	✓											
23	Spiny-backed Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>						✓	✓														
24	Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	✓			✓				✓	✓								✓	✓			
25	Jewel Chameleon	<i>Furcifer lateralis</i>	✓																				
26	Three-eyed Iguanid	<i>Chalerodon madagascariensis</i>		✓	✓				✓														
27	Collared Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>										✓	✓										
28	Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>																				✓	
29	Four-lined Iguanid	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>															✓						
30	Iguanid	<i>Oplurus saxicola</i>					✓																
31	Big-headed Gecko	<i>Paroedura bastardii</i>						✓	✓														
32	Day gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tolampyae</i>									✓												
33	Day Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tuberosus</i>						✓	✓														
34	Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>																			✓		
35	Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>													✓								
36	Bark Gecko	<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>							✓														
37	Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata bifasciata</i>												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
38	Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata lineata</i>																					✓
39	Four-eyed Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>																✓					
40	Pale-bellied Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma leiogaster</i>		✓		✓	✓																
41	Standing's Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>																				✓	
42	Changeable Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>																				✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																				
			29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
43	Koch's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis kochi</i>									✓	✓	✓										
44	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓					
45	Skink	<i>Trachylepis aureopunctata</i>								✓													
46	Skink	<i>Trachylepis elegans</i>								✓													
47	Broad-tailed Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>										✓	✓										
48	Madagascar Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>													✓	✓							
49	Peters' Dwarf Plated Lizard	<i>Tracheloptychus petersi</i>								✓													
50	Big-eyed Grass Snake	<i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>						✓			✓												
51	Madagascar Lined Snake	<i>Bibilava lateralis</i>								✓		✓		✓									
52	Cat-eyed Snake	<i>Madagascarophis colubrinus</i>				✓																	
53	Zebu-killing Snake	<i>Ithyocyphus miniatus</i>																				✓	
54	Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>																		✓			
55	Dumeril's Boa	<i>Acrantophis dumerili</i>								✓		✓											
56	Brown Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Leioheterodon modestus</i>										✓											
57	Spider Tortoise	<i>Pyxis arachnoids</i>								✓													
58	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>										✓	✓										

## Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!