

# The Best of Madagascar

Naturetrek Tour Report

10th October – 2nd November 2022

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Blue-legged Chameleon



Cuckoo Rollers



Long-tailed Ground Roller



Verreaux's Sifaka

Tour report and images by Eric Barnes

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## Summary

Madagascar, an island where evolution went wild. The world's fourth biggest island, separated from the African continent during the age of dinosaurs, allowed an amazing variety of life to evolve from a few colonising ancestors. Primates that rafted across the Mozambique Channel, diversified into the 100+ lemur species that occupy the island.

Bird families like the Mesites, Ground-Rollers, Asities, Vangas and the sub family of large ground cuckoos, the Couas, make this like no other place on Earth. We encountered all these birds on our trip exploring the eastern rainforests, deciduous woodlands and spiny forest. Hiding in these diverse landscapes, are half the world's 150 species of Chameleon!

Sadly, time seems to be running out for Madagascar. So much of its native habitat has been destroyed and the infrastructure is neglected for personal causes. There is a sense of urgency when we visit, that it will never be quite as good the next time.

## Day 1

**Monday 10th October**

### London to Ethiopia

Team Madagascar departed Heathrow at 9pm from Terminal 2 for Addis Ababa. The evening flight gave people ample time to get to the airport comfortably.

## Day 2

**Tuesday 11th October**

### Addis Ababa to Madagascar

Arriving in the early morning in Addis Ababa. allowed us some transit time birding. Addis Airport is more productive than most. Waves of African Sacred Ibis left their overnight roosts, Black Kites and Pied Crows got in the air as the temperature rose. White-collared and Speckled Pigeons, Dusky Turtle Doves, a Northern Fiscal, Spotted Flycatcher and a Whitethroat fed from a barbed wire fence. An Abyssinian Thrush, and two Egyptian Geese on top of a building were a little unexpected. An Augar Buzzard watched over us as we boarded, rounding off a short transfer to our flight to Madagascar.

We were picked up by Charles at Tana airport and driven to the Combava Hotel. The courtyard was noisy with Madagascar Fody and Madagascar Bulbul calling. A Black crowned Night Heron was roosting in the car park, whilst a couple of Olive Bee-eaters hunted above our heads. Flocks of Cattle Egrets, Squacco and more Night Herons, headed to their roost sites. A Malagasy Kestrel surveyed the paddies for food. Mascarene Martins, Madagascar Spinetail and Malagasy Black Swifts hawked low. A Madagascar Swamp Warbler give us distant scope views, whilst Madagascar Wagtails strutted their stuff by the hotel veranda.

We had a huge three course meal before getting an early night.



Malagasy Bulbul

## Day 3

Wednesday 12th October

### Tana to Ranomafana via Ansirabe

The dawn chorus started at 05:15 but we had a lie in, aiming for a leisurely 07:15 departure. Unfortunately, we were scuppered by the fuel problems associated with the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. The locals decided that mixing kerosene with diesel would make it go a bit further. The reality of it was, the bus didn't go very far at all!

Getting a new bus meant we had time to catch up with some of the common local birds. A Black Heron did its cloak and dagger routine on a constant loop in search of prey. A couple of Malagasy Malachite Kingfishers hunted the same pool at times. Malagasy Kestrel gave perched views across the road on a TV antenna. Malagasy Bulbul, Madagascar Fody and Madagascar Mannikin were busy in the courtyard, whilst three roosting Black crowned Night Herons tried to evade Curt's gaze by looking very un-bird like!

Eventually we got moving to Lake Tsarasaotra, an oasis tucked in the hustle and bustle of Antananarivo. Heaving with waterfowl and herons, we walked round at a leisurely pace taking in the phenomenal bird activity. After a three hour circular trip we thought we had exhausted all the birds until Peter found four Meller's Ducks! This was to add to the Humblot's Heron, Malagasy Pond Heron, 1,000 Red billed Teal, 500 White-faced Whistling Duck, 40 Hottentot Teal, 50+ Black crowned Night Herons and Squacco Herons, a single breeding plumage Striated Heron and Fulvous Whistling Duck. There were some colourful butterflies, which were even more difficult to photograph than the birds!



White-faced Whistling Ducks



Photographing butterflies and Madagascar Heron

Around 13:20, we headed towards Antsirabe via a slightly prolonged lunch stop. This delayed our arrival at the Coulear Café where we eventually arrived around 20:15 via roadside white rabbits. A late dinner ensued and we got to bed as early as possible in preparation for the next day.

## Day 4

Thursday 13th October

### Antsirabe to Ranomafana

A 06:30 breakfast with a wide variety of choices from traditional Malagasy curried beans to mulberry jam, catered for all. We got on the bus at 07:20 for our long drive to Ranomafana.

There were few birds at our half way stop en route to Ambalamakana marsh. A Hamerkop, a single Peregrine, half a dozen Malagasy Kestrels, and a Madagascar Lark were the highlights.

At the marshes, we saw Madagascar Snipe a few times, while Three-banded Plovers tried to hide. Rainbow Milkweed Locusts and our first of many chameleons, Jewel Chameleon, enthralled us.

We had our sandwiches and some local oranges we picked up en route before completing our journey to Ranomafana, where we arrived around 17:05.



Madagascan Snipe and Jewel Chameleon

We sorted our rooms out before heading off on a night walk. Our hopes for lemurs and chameleons were both delivered. First was a Brown Mouse Lemur and this was swiftly followed by a Blue-legged Chameleon. Over the course of two hours we had five species of chameleon including the tiny Short-nosed, Stub-nosed and Short-horned Chameleon, several more Blue-legged and a couple of O'Shaunasee's. A Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog and a Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur ended the night show. A swift dinner, interrupted by a hand sized moth, before heading off to bed in preparation for a 5 am start.



Madagascan Bright-eyed Frog and O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon

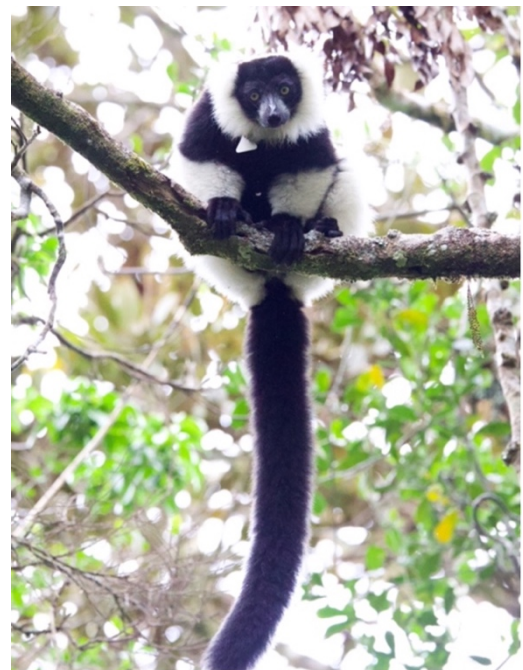
## Day 5

Friday 14th October

### Ranomafana

A 5 am breakfast set the scene for outings in the National Parks. We were on the forest trail by 05:45. The day started with a Madagascar Buzzard on its nest, followed by great scope views of one perched by the river's edge. Spectacled Tetraka on a nest and an early family group of Golden Bamboo Lemur was a great start. Weaving in and out of the forest trails we terrified a couple of Madagascar Wood Rails before bumping into a Pitta-like Ground Roller. Madagascar Flufftail gave us the typical fleeting views crossing the footpath. Throughout the morning, our birding was punctuated with lemur sightings.

A bird flock involving Nelicourvi Weavers, Madagascar Paradise Flycatchers, Crested Drongo, Tylas and Red-tailed Vanga, was disturbed by a group of vocal Black and White Ruffed Lemurs. We tracked down these impressive beasts, many of whom seemed to have transmitter collars on them. This was then followed by the Milne-Edwards Sifakas feeding low and close. Their proximity made them seem quite huge, but they were surprisingly agile lemurs, when they decided to move.



Golden Bamboo Lemur and Black and White Ruffed Lemur

Another small flock of Blue and Chabert's Vangas was followed by a pair of Red-bellied Lemurs. The group was tiring from this Lemur boot camp and started to head back to the bus, whilst the die hards persisted in tracking down a Rufous Vanga. The sun was now high in the sky and a Madagascan Tree Nymph was the only sighting of note as we exited our walk.

A Blue Coua crossed the road outside the restaurant but only Eric was in there to view it.

After a large lunch, most of us headed to Vohiparara in search of Rufous-headed Ground Roller. A Red-fronted Coua was the only bird of note prior to the mind blowing Cuckoo Roller courtship display. Around this time, one of the party began to feel unwell so a couple of us headed back. The walk back produced a fine Red Forest Rat and a troop of about ten Red fronted Brown Lemurs.

The others who stayed behind managed to add Dark Newtonia, Common Sunbird-Asity and Ward's Vanga to their list.

The 6pm night walk produced roosting Mascarene Martins, Blue-legged, Nose-horned, O'Shaughnessy's, Stripe-sided and Short-nosed Chameleon. The Brown Mouse Lemur and Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur showed again.

## Day 6

Saturday 15th October

### Ranomafana

Another 5am breakfast and on the bus for 05:30. A couple of people wanted a bit of a rest, as they weren't feeling 100%. Those that went out were treated to scope views of a distant Rand's Warbler, followed by a short steep climb for a male Forest Fody in full song.

We bumped into another birdwatching group early on and decided to head in a different direction from them. A steep climb in search of Brown Mesite drew a blank. A perched Madagascar Cuckoo was a welcome find, after its persistent call had taunted us day and night, almost since we arrived. A few high flying Red-fronted Brown Lemurs weren't co-operative and we bailed out on them quickly. A male Velvet Asity was a real beauty, as was the unexpected Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher. Another family group of Milne-Edwards Sifakas seemed quite at home with us. It was pure delight to see them going about their search for their next meal. A pair of Pollen's Vangas put in an appearance, as did a single Crossley's Vanga. Next, a party of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs coming down to a stream to drink. Quite a treat looking down on them in perfect light.

We met the other tour who had found a Scaly Ground Roller. We took their offering but then left to reduce the attention this particular bird was getting from the birdwatchers.

We came across a Red-fronted Coua and then a couple of Red-bellied Lemurs, which ended up grooming each other after feeding. A bird nearby flock included Madagascar Cuckoo-shrike, Blue Vanga, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Madagascar White-eye, Nelicouvi Weaver and Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher.

By 10 am we started to head out of the forest and eventually got back to the van around 10:45. Some hard bargaining for vanilla didn't shift the price much, but Judy made the whole affair very entertaining.

After a hearty lunch, we went in search of Baron's Painted Frog and Giraffe-necked Weevil. Despite the harsh dry conditions, the spotters managed to find both these amazing beasts for us. Whilst in the car park, an Ornate Girdled Lizard and an Emperor Dragonfly sp showed near a small bridge. We walked through Vohiparara hoping for our third Ground Roller without any success. A little flurry of activity near the end of the walk produced fine views of Red-fronted Brown Lemur and Milne-Edwards Sifaka. A few feet got wet whilst we connected with White-throated Rail and Madagascar Coucal.

An early dinner got us ready for some extra sleep at the end of a long but thoroughly enjoyable day.

## Day 7

Sunday 16th October

### Ranomafana to Isalo

A leisurely 05:45 breakfast was the last of the introductory Malagasy breakfast treats. Today's did not look particularly appetising but turned out to be best so far, it was the equivalent of a Malagasy Doughnut!

The locals continued to sell vanilla and spices by the bus. The going price for a packet of vanilla was about 15-20 Ariary.

We started the long drive across to Isalo at 06:30 and stopped briefly at the waterfall near the entrance of Ranomafana for photographs.

Four hours later we stopped to pick up on our first Oustalet's Chameleon and a pet Radiated Tortoise. Thirty minutes later, we were at D'Anja NP. We picked up Adrien, one of the founding members of the reserve who enlightened us on the lengths five of them went through to secure this blossoming ecotourist reserve.

The story of how they used the science of rice cultivation to turn the villagers perception of the Ring-tailed Lemurs around from foe to friend. Over the last 15 years, the Ring-tailed Lemur numbers have swelled to 700 individuals. The locals get 6 x more rice per square foot and the whole area benefits from the money brought in by tourists. A heart-warming success story in every way.

The reserve itself was a niche ecosystem with. We saw many African Monarchs, Boettger's Reed Frog, which was so metallic bronze in colour we first thought it was a beetle! Yellow-lined Frogs were also amongst the same plants and both were no more than about 1 centimetre long! A young green female Oustalet's Chameleon was not the chosen one to be hand fed locusts. The resident large male got the pleasure of demonstrating his amazing tongue! Much of the time was spent enjoying the troops of relaxed Ring-tailed Lemurs with their hyperactive six week old young! It was a very special treat to be contributing to the health of this Lemur community. We moseyed back to the picnic tables and had our lunch before the long drive to Isalo.

Crossing the Horombe Plateau we saw the odd Madagascar Cisticola, and many Madagascar Larks. We were  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way along our journey when Charles spotted a Marsh Owl on the ground! We reversed back to see it and it gave us good views before it decided to fly off.

We got into the exquisite Le Jardin du Roy hotel where we were met with a refreshing Hibiscus Drink. We settled down for a fine meal and tried to get to bed early in preparation for a 5 am start.





Oustalet's Chameleon and young Marsh Owl

## Day 8

Monday 17th October

### Isalo

Charles managed to get us in to Isalo a little earlier than most people. Our 05:30 start on the bus paid dividends. There was some light rain the night before and we seemed to be seeing one great thing onto another.

First the White-throated Rails paraded around the paddy fields. Madagascar Green Sunbirds toyed with the photographers. An African Stonechat, Olive Bee-Eaters getting into a nest, Peregrine being dive bombed by a Malagasy Kestrel, a White-headed Vanga showed well by the path, a distant Forest Rock Thrush sang, Malagasy Turtle Dove foraged around a picnic table, a Malagasy Hoopoe and then came a flurry of activity!

Two roosting Rainforest Scops Owls, a Malagasy Bulbul nesting by the path, Madagascar Cuckoo being mobbed by three Common Jerys, two Madagascar Buttonquails sat tight but visible to all, a White-browed Owl showed well, Forest Rock Thrush was seen well all be it, in a very tight window. The Ring-tailed Lemurs were ridiculously close to us on the main path to the picnic area. A decent sized male Oustalet's Chameleon was nearly at our feet. Flatid Leaf-gugs, a Snout Bug hiding in plain view and a web throwing Spider added to the spectacle.



Oustalet's Chameleon and White-browed Owl

The temperature was rising and we headed back to our lovely accommodation having filled our boots. We got back just in time for breakfast at 10am.

The afternoon was a time to unwind in preparation for an early start the following morning. Some swam and wandered around the accommodation. There were many Four Lined Lizards, Olive Bee-eaters, a few Madagascar Hoopoes, African Palm Swifts and Grey-headed Lovebirds around the chalets. A short walk skirting round the impressive rocky mastiffs gave us good views of Lesser Vasa Parrot, Madagascar Kestrel, Malagasy Malachite Kingfisher, Crested Drongo, Madagascar Turtle Dove and Malagasy Paradise Flycatchers. Prit managed to find a Madagascar Partridge.

An early dinner and a rum punch ended a fine day.

## Day 9

Tuesday 18th October

### Isalo via Zombitse to Ifaty

A pre-dawn start at 05:15 and Russian roulette with the hot drinks. Half a dozen Madagascar Nightjars sang as the sun flooded the sky orange at Jardin du Roy. A 90-minute drive to Zombitse to meet our guides and explore this special forest.



A Giant Coua strutted its stuff, Cuckoo-Rollers displayed overhead, a Torotoroka Owl sat at eye level at its roost hole. We hoped for lemurs, but they were in short supply. A couple of Apert's Tetrakas showed well and some even managed photo. A White-browed Owl showed well at his roost site. We were just about to leave when Charles managed to find a Verreaux's Sifaka and Misa called it. We were treated to a half hour display of the Sifakas dancing above our heads.

Eventually we tore ourselves away.



Giant Coua and Verreaux's Sifaka

Most of us snoozed on the long trip to Auberge du Table, missing a phenomenal red dust devil. The lunch was excellent and bird life by the pool matched the good food. Olive Bee-eaters were calling and dipping in the pool, as did a male Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher. Madagascar Magpie Robins, Malagasy Kestrel, Sakalava Weaver, Mascarene Martins and Malagasy Black Swift were in the air as we approached the bus for the spiny forest. We lost some time enjoying the Sifakas and would have to do the botanical gardens another day.

The spiny forest surrendered the Red-shouldered Vanga and some of us managed to see a distant Lafresnaye's Vanga. Curt and then Eric got embroiled with a barb like ball, effectively stapling fingers together. Thankfully the local guide knew how to best disengage from this structure. There were few other birds in the forest. We managed Sub-desert Brush Warbler, Chabert's Vanga and Madagascar Lark before departing for our hotel in Ifaty.

The food for dinner was not as good as the lunchtime meal but the company as good as ever.

## Day10

Wednesday 19th October

### The Spiny Forest

A 05:30 start got us near to Reniala on a parallel back road. We plodded through the red sand in anticipation of finding the specialities of the spiny forest. We were not disappointed.



Madagascan Sparrowhawk and Baobab in the Spiny Forest

First the spotters pushed out a Long-tailed Ground Roller, a truly spectacular bird. Next followed a male Sub-desert Mesite, sitting at right angles to a low branch. We then weaved our way into the Reniala Reserve. A female Madagascan Sparrowhawk showed well through the scope and then a male appeared and they copulated! A Greater Vasa Parrot put in a limited appearance, but the Madagascar Harrier Hawk stayed near its nest.

Those at the front had Thamnornis (Subdesert Tetraka), Archbold's and Common Newtonia sang and eventually the Running Coua surrendered and gave decent views.

We headed back to the hotel for breakfast. The afternoon was spent at our leisure until 16:30 when we headed to the Ifaty Salt pans. There was a feast of plovers; Kittlitz's and White-fronted and then a Madagascar Plover was seen briefly, a few Striated Herons, a group of eight Curlew Sandpipers, some Common Greenshank and a Ringed Plover filled the time before our next trip back to the spiny forest.

Petter's Sportive Lemur, followed by a Grey Mouse Lemur. Hissing Cockroach, Big headed Gecko, and a cute Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec put in an appearance. A colourful large bush cricket completed the day in the spiny forest and we headed back to dinner around 20:15.

## Day 11

Thursday 20th October

### Nosy Ve to Anokoia

We had a lie in today and a 06:30 breakfast. At 07:15 we got on the bus to head towards Toliara. The zebu had broken down (!), so we had a tractor booked to take us the short distance from the shore to the boat. There were large groups of Whimbrel on the shore. Our speedboat crawled along because of some issues with the fuel and the 1 hour trip took a little longer. A Greater Crested Tern was the only seabird. At least five Red-tailed Tropicbirds were visible before we landed, albeit from a distance. The sun was hot, but we plodded round.



Red-tailed Tropicbird

A group of about a dozen Grey Plover, a few Turnstone and a large young Tropicbird chick in its nest, was an added bonus. Grandidier's Lizard posed on the boardwalk and we also saw a Madagascan Cisticola. No sign of any Crab Plovers triggered a short jog along the shoreline, but to no avail. A few White-fronted Plovers were a poor second.

Back on a new boat, we made the crossing to Anaoka and straight into the restaurant for lunch.

A 4pm walk around the hotel ground produced a few Madagascan Buttonquail, Subdesert Brush Warbler and the first of many Littoral Rock Thrushes. An unexpected daytime roosting Madagascan Nightjar gave all the group fine views. The Littoral Rock Thrushes performed around a burnt area of recently cleared scrub.



Littoral Rock Thrushes

## Day 12

Friday 21st October

### Nosy Ve to Tana

A short walk round the hotel compound repeated some of the birds seen the previous evening. Littoral Rock Thrushes were belting out their territories. Subdesert Brush Warbler skulked around the thorny bushes, occasionally hopping on the ground to feed.

The café cat put in a brief appearance, only to scurry off at the sight of a fully armed birder. No sign of last night's Nightjar. The family party of Madagascan Buttonquail continued to scatter away every time we saw them. A few Red Fodies, and fly through Madagascan Turtle Doves were also seen. It was pleasant enough but there were no real gems. It didn't take long to get our bags together for a 06:30 breakfast. A large female Spiny-tailed Chameleon was also looking for her breakfast. We topped up our water and got on the boat. Somehow Prit managed not to get on with the rest of us! A few of us forgot to hand back our room keys and in the process of handing them over, a 10000 Ariary note was released into the water. Kane managed to turn the boat round and retrieve it, and as a reward it was kindly donated to him. As we approached Toliara, there were number of waders, mainly Whimbrel but also some smaller plovers and a few Sanderlings.

Soon we were at the Arboretum. Madagascar Kestrels mated on the roof, Stripe-throated Jerys were building their nests. We had a fascinating tour of the plants, most of which were endemic. A couple of Green-capped Couas tried to stall us getting on our bus to the airport.



Green-capped Coua (*Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps*)

We repacked our bags inside the terminal building and Eric sneaked through with a carry on back approaching his body weight.

The afternoon was spent hunting for bonbons, whilst Gwen held up the birding flag by staking out the veranda overlooking the paddy fields. Little Swift was seen amongst the Spine tailed Swifts and Mascarene Martins. About a dozen Night Herons left their roost, to signal the end of the day.

## Day 13

Saturday 22nd October

### Tana to Berenty

A 7am flight meant a 5 am departure. In his sleep deprived state, Eric managed to leave his telescope under his pillow. It was arranged for the driver to retrieve it whilst we all checked in.

The flight was smooth and straightforward. We were picked up at Fort Dauphin by Olivere. Part of the road to Berenty was being mended. There were still craters similar to those on the moon that had to be navigated with some skill. It took a little over three hours to get to Berenty. We stopped briefly for a small group of Hamerkop, a Sakalava Weaver colony and a quick look for Lafresnaye's Vanga. This triggered a race to set up stalls of small souvenirs by some small children.

At Berenty we were introduced to a limited food menu and Ring-tailed Lemurs hovering around the restaurant. A short break was followed by an afternoon walk. The dancing Sifakas in the car park were the highlight and a couple of showy White-browed Owls supported the cast.

Our one hour night walk produced White footed Sportive Lemur, Rufous brown mouse lemur and a Madagascar Nightjar.

## Day 14

Sunday 23rd October

### Berenty

A leisurely 05:30 start to the gallery forest at Berenty. We had to get in position early for the Madagascar Sandgrouse and they did not disappoint. Five splendid birds were seen well through the telescope.

We then walked into the forest, Red-fronted Brown Lemurs, like all the lemurs at Berenty, went about their daily life without being intruded on by our presence. Quite a treat in any reserve. Good habitat management, the lack of hunting and time has made all the difference to the local animal behaviour.

The birding highlights included Giant Couas, a pair of Frances's Sparrowhawk, Hook-billed Vanga, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Grey-headed Lovebirds and multiple Crested Coua sightings. A roosting Barn Owl showed how skittish birds can be. Many White-footed Sportive Lemurs were seen on the walk, making us wonder why they were scarce the night before.



Frances's Sparrowhawk and White-footed Sportive Lemur



We arrived back about 09:30 and had breakfast and a break until the next walk at 16:30. We hoped for Sickle-billed Vangas in the car park around noon, but they never materialised.

The afternoon walk was attended by all except Curt, who wisely wanted to enjoy more dancing Sifakas. The spiny forest was a little quiet. A single Brown-capped Coua and two Spider Tortoises were the highlight. Gwen found a fallen Sakalava Weavers nest.

## Day 15

Monday 24th October

### Berenty to Fort Daulphin

A 5am assault on Berenty started well with Madagascar Green Pigeons and Broad-billed Rollers in the car park. The Ring-tailed Lemurs bounded out of the forest to greet us but were disappointed with the lack of fruit being offered to them.

White-footed Sportive Lemur and a pair of Frances's Sparrowhawk showed extremely well in the early morning light. A Giant Coua strutted on a wall, Malagasy Turtle Doves shot through. Crested Couas gave up their quest to avoid us. Malagasy Kestrels and Lesser Vasa Parrots seemed to be everywhere. Gwen found a pile of feathers once belonging to a White-browed Owl. Grey-headed Lovebirds, Malagasy Coucal, Malagasy Paradise Flycatchers, many common Jerries and a couple of Madagascan Cuckoo-shrikes put in an appearance. The Barn Owl remained true to its roost.

We wanted to get out of the forest to see the Sifakas but we missed the first troop because they were too early and the latter troop found it too hot to bother leaving the forest to dance across the car park.

After a leisurely breakfast, we packed and got ready for our long drive back to Berenty.

Gwen and I gave the trail one last try and were rewarded with a sinister group of Helmeted Guineafowl. some exiting looking dragonflies, three Giant Couas and a couple of Hoopoes.

We made good time on the trip back to Fort Daulphin, stopping to look for Kelp Gull, which were seen distantly offshore. Better yet, Peter spotted a couple of Humpbacked Whales and we all got on to them.

We made it to the run down Hotel Le Dauphin for dinner at 18:30. An old colonial French hotel that has seen better days! Some of us got some sleep that night.

Madagascan Nightjar called intermittently through the night.

## Day 16

## Tuesday 25th October

### Fort Daulphin to Tana

A walk down the road to Le Dauphin's sister hotel for breakfast, but not before Prit managed to sneak in a Wards Vanga.

The flight to Tana was straight forward. A few Madagascan Larks were on the tarmac, whilst we waited to board.

We checked into the upmarket Relais de Plateaux for an amazing French meal with a Madagascan twist. After lunch, a group walked a kilometre into town to a supermarket for coffee and chocolate.

We managed to squeeze in another meal before catching up on our sleep, in preparation for another long drive courtesy of Air Madagascar cancelling our internal flight.

## Day 17

## Wednesday 26th October

### Tana to Ankarafantisika

A 6am breakfast and out of the hotel by 06:15 was the plan, scooping up as much breakfast as we would require for the morning. We were a little tardy and the traffic started to build up as we battled out of Tana. We were in a convoy of three 4x4 vehicles, which seem a vastly superior way of negotiating the poorly maintained roads. It was 430kms between Tana and the Blue Vanga Lodge. The main highway was a well tarmacked road, and the traffic wasn't particularly heavy.

Unfortunately, we then had a delay cause but a car hitting the back of one of our vehicles. Thankfully we all had our seatbelts on and no major injuries were sustained but the paperwork delayed us about an hour. We managed Madagascar Cisticola and a few Mascarene Martins whilst the drivers sorted themselves out.

We carried on, eventually stopping for a later lunch about 2pm at Betsiboka.

There was a tip off about some Madagascan Pratincoles at the Betsiboka river crossing and Prit managed to pick them up as we drove across the bridge. How could we not stop?

Three pratincoles later, we got back in the vehicles to head to Ankanafantisika. We were treated to a spectacular sunset and arrived a little before 7pm. We abandoned our night walk and went straight for food and a wash. It was very hot, humid by this time and showers managed to keep things bearable.

## Day 18

## Thursday 27th October

### Ankarafantisika NP and Lac Ravolobe

An early start - 05:30 in the car was the designated plan and back for a late breakfast.

Our local guides, Olga and Justin were exceptional. They delivered multiple Schlegel's Asities, encouraged a small group of White-breasted Mesites to our feet and two pairs of Van Dam's Vanga buzzing about our heads! Not to mention a few Coquerel's Couas, Madagascar Buttonquail, Rufous and Chabert's Vanga.

The Park HQ carpark provided wonderful views of Broad-billed Roller, Madagascar Hoopoe, Lesser Vasa Parrot a large group of Grey-headed Lovebirds. The only mammals of the morning were two roosting Mongoose Lemurs. After a super five hours in the forest, we retired for a very late breakfast.



Schlegel's Asity and White-breasted Mesite

Charles rested on his laurels and organised a 17:00 boat trip around Lac Ravalobe for the Madagascar Fish Eagle. It was a flat-bottomed boat that didn't quite manage to fit us all on board. Charles and Justin stayed on shore.

The usual expected herons were seen, plus a couple of Humblot's. The Madagascar Fish Eagles were both near their nest and gave reasonable views. After about an hour we were back on shore and were on to a group of Coquerel's Sifakas in the dimming light.

We drove a short distance to start a night walk. This was productive with good views of Golden-brown Mouse Lemur, a Rhinoceros Chameleon, a Leaf nosed Bat sp., an Eastern Grey Mouse Lemur and two Western Woolly Lemurs.

A good day but we had a fair drive back to Tana tomorrow.

## Day 19

Friday 28th October

### Ankarafantisika to Tana via Ambondromamy

We prepared ourselves for the drive back to Relais dex Plateaux in Tana, but first we needed better views of Sickle-billed Vanga and Coquerel's Sifaka. Olga and Justin did not disappoint. Three Sickle-billed Vangas in the HQ car park, followed by the Coquerel's Sifakas just where we left them. They put on an excellent show in good light.

By 06:20 we were done and dusted and ready for our trip south. There were some formalities that needed doing and we waited for the park to open at 06:30. Unfortunately the chap running the permits did not turn up till nearly 7 am. Once the entrance fees were paid, we headed south. We stopped briefly for Madagascar Jacana about 08:30. The area was quite busy, and we failed to find any. The Madagascar Pratincoles showed from the moving vehicle readily. Our convoy stopped for some sandwiches and carried on. As we approached, we had a wild mixture of hail stones, thunder and lightning.

We got to Tana just after 6pm and settled down to another lovely meal at Relais dex Plateau.



Coquerel's Sifaka

## Day 20

Saturday 29th October

### Tana to Andisibe

We had a late start at 7pm for the drive to Perinet. It was a busy dusty road despite it being Saturday. We stopped opposite the Hotel Feon'ny Ala where we managed to pick up a couple of Madagascan Blue Pigeons. After lunch we checked into our hotels prior to going on an afternoon walk with Maurice and his daughter Natasha.



Parson's Chameleon and Rainforest Scops Owl

The walk started slowly but eventually they found us a bright green Parson's Chameleon. This was followed by a Rainforest Scops Owl, beautifully positioned in its roosting hole. We hurried to find a Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko and then headed in for the night walk. Crossley's Dwarf Lemur and Goodman's Mouse Lemur showed a couple of times despite the light rain. Maurice tried calling out a Madagascar Owl, which Natasha saw but could not be relocated.

A couple of nightjars left their daytime roost, they were said to be Madagascan but they did not call and nobody saw any white on their wings. A Leaf-nosed Bat fluttered across our headlights as we headed back for a late supper.

## Day 21

Sunday 30th October

### Mantadia and Miitju

The planned 20km drive to Mantadia was complicated by a last-minute shortage of 4x4 vehicles. Thankfully two of the party were keen to spend more time with the local lemurs. We agreed to arrange for Natasha to take them to see the Indri.

The rest of us set off at 05:45 and arrived at the starting point of our walk around 07:10. Along the route we had some Greater Vasa Parrots, Malagasy Green Sunbird and a Velvet Asity. Soon after we arrived at the car park

people drifted into the bushes to use the facilities. At which point Maralin flushed a Madagascar Wood Rail. This was probably the best bird of the day! A couple of Red-bellied Lemurs showed well but most of us failed to get a decent picture.

When we got on the trail, Maurice did his usual magic and produced excellent views of White-throated Rails. We crisscrossed the rainforest trails in search of a mixed flock or calling ground rollers but both were thin on the ground. We did hear some flocks but struggled to get on to what we wanted. Small numbers of Common Brown Lemurs showed well. Eventually a group of Blue Couas preformed for all. The terrain was pretty up and down but luckily everyone was fit enough to cope with this. We came across a couple of Black and White Ruffed Lemurs. Common Brown Lemurs kept popping out of the undergrowth and a Madagascar Blue Pigeon was scoped. At one point, one of the group was caught swinging off the path on a vine!

We tried a different path on the way out of Mantadia. Those riding shotgun managed more lemurs including a gorgeous Diademed Sifaka and a couple of Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs.

In the evening we went for a night walk. We clocked up many chameleons and another late supper.

## Day 22

Monday 31st October

### Perinet

A 05:30 start with an early morning walk along the road with Maurice and Natasha. Rand's Warblers and Stripe-throated Jeries sang full throttle. The occasional Madagascan Blue Pigeon perched for a scope view. Common Brown Lemurs peered through the vegetation. We walked slowly into the forest and came across an ancient animist alter. It looked like it was going to be quite a quiet two hours until the Malagasy Pygmy Kingfisher started to hunt a few metres in from the trail.

We got back for a 07:30 breakfast and then a quick turnaround.

We were back at Park HQ and ready for the main feast. Top of the menu was a pair of roosting Rainforest Scops Owls. We were soon on a less than obliging Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur. Next were Common Brown Lemur followed by a very orange young Parson's Chameleon.

We were hurried on to some lowdown Indri and soon the show began. Indri howling and leaping from trunk to trunk. Babies clutching on fearlessly. After about 20 minutes of this we were told of a group of showy Diademed Sifakas. On arrival, one of the Sifakas was nonchalantly eating his breakfast encircled by an enthralled audience.

Over the next 45 minutes we had staggering views of this beautiful Sifaka. At one point it seemed that Curt and Prit were going to join the family troop. Most of us headed down the main trail in search of more jewels of the forest, whilst Prit and Natasha went back for more views of the wonderful Indri.



Clockwise from top left – Indri, Diademed Sifaka, Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur

Soon we hit a bird flock including a couple of Nuthatch Vangas, Madagascar Cuckoo-Shrike, Blue Vangas, Crested Drongo and Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher. Maurice searched several areas for Collared Nightjar but drew a blank. A Blue Coua crossed the path and Chabert's Vangas flitted amongst the tree tops as we exited Perinet.

We headed to Feon'ny Ala for lunch. The view over the forest provided some wildlife opportunities. Malagasy Malachite Kingfisher, a fly by Madagascar Blue Pigeon, Madagascar Wagtail, Common Brown Lemurs, Souimanga Sunbird and a Malagasy Kestrel as we left.

A small group of us headed back to Perinet, whilst the others decided to take a break. Those that went back were rewarded with staggering views of Common Brown Lemurs and the Eastern Bamboo Lemur was more cooperative. We seemed to be the only ones in the park but despite our stealthy progress, the Crested Ibis tore through the foliage before anyone could clap eyes on it. The lake had some White-faced Whistling Ducks and a Malagasy Kingfisher was hunting unperturbed by our presence. The park closed at 4pm, so, we had to leave the forest sooner than we wished. Most of the group went back to pack, whilst Eric walked along the road for two hours before the night walk. His jaunt provided more close encounters with Common Brown Lemur and a fly over Cuckoo-Roller.

Around 18:15, a small group of us walked the road in search of yesterday's Eastern Woolly Lemurs. The walk started well with a Ankafana Bright-eyed Frog scoped about 10 m off the ground in a tree. A beautiful bright green tree frog with red and white eyes and speckled pale blue throat. A Crossley's Dwarf Lemur scurried along a limb.



Ankafana Bright-eyed Frog

Our night walk was all along the road on a mission for the Woolly Lemurs, whilst most other parties did the forest first. We could now see a long string of lights heading our direction and tried to keep ahead. In front of us a group barked something in Malagasy - one quite understood or believed what he had said. We strolled on about another 100 metres and noted a long tail in their spotlight quite far back in the forest. As our binoculars looked for the rest of the presumed lemur, we moved our binoculars along a stretched out sandy coloured torso ending in a feline faced young Fossa! It then picked itself up and did a U-turn on the limb and disappeared into the darkness. You couldn't script it.

Slightly deflated that not everyone got views, we had a half-hearted search for the Woolly Lemurs and then curtailed our night walk because of the planned early start in the morning.

Madagascan Nightjars rhythmically sang near the pool, as the last Red Island night called us to our slumber.

## Day 23

Tuesday 1st November

### Perinet to Tana

A 05:00am start to mitigate against any potential traffic problems. A Malagasy White-Eye sang its melodious but uncharacteristically White-eye like song. The bus got to Tana smoothly, stopping for a fortunate last chocolate round shop at a petrol station on the outskirts of Tana. We arrived at the airport around 11am. Hamerkops and the usual herons were peppered along our journey.



Mascarene Martins near the airport car park and a fly by Malagasy Kestrel at the airport was the last bird.

The new airport was very quiet, with only three flights departing. Two of these were for nearby islands in the Indian Ocean! Duty free was shut and the only food and drink was sold from a small food cart, where everything seemed to be priced at three euros.

The Ethiopian Airbus left on time and smoothly delivered us to Addis Ababa, where we had some time to wait.

The shops and restaurants kept us entertained for a while, and more Ethiopian Coffee than recommended was consumed before the night flight to Heathrow!

## Day 24

## Wednesday 2nd November

### Tana to Heathrow via Addis Ababa

The reality of winter in the UK was thrust upon us when we arrived at Heathrow at the end of the adventure of a lifetime! I'm sure it will take some time for our experience to percolate through to our core, but it really was a wonderful adventure on an island largely stripped of its habitat except around the National Parks. These National parks were filled with a myriad of wonderful beasts, birds and insects like no other place on earth.

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## Species lists

## Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	October/November 2022																				
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>LEMURS:</b>																						
<b>Cheirogaleidae</b>																						
Grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>									1								1				
Grey-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>											3										
Golden-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus ravelobensis</i>																	4				
Rufous Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>			2	2																	
Goodman's Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>																			2		
Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus medius</i>			1	1																	
Crossley's Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus crossleyi</i>																			2		1
<b>Lepilemuridae</b>																						
White-footed Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur leucopus</i>											3	6	2								
Petter's Sportive Lemur										1												
<b>Lemuridae</b>																						
Grey Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus griseus</i>																			4		1
Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>				5																	
Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>						40	10				30	70	40								
Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>																				8	18
Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufifrons</i>				8	18						5	12	12								
Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubiventer</i>				6	5															2	
Mongoose Lemur	<i>Eulemer mongoz</i>																			2		
Variagated Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>				6																2	
<b>Indridae</b>																						
Eastern Woolly Lemur	<i>Avahi laniger</i>																				2	
Western Woolly Lemur	<i>Avahi occidentalis</i>																			2		

		October/November 2022																					
Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>								4				25	40	15								
Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>																	5	8				
Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>																				2	5	
Milne-Edwards' Sifaka	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>				3	8																	
Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>																				7	10	

## Other mammals

		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>																					
Fossa	<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>																					1
Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>									1												
Eastern Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>				1	2																
Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat	<i>Hipposideros commersoni</i>																		1			
Madagascan Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>													40								
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>														2							

## Reptiles and Amphibians

Common name	Scientific name
* = Indicates a species is endemic	
<b>Frogs</b>	
Ankafana Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis luteus*</i>
Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis*</i>
Boettger's Reed Frog	<i>Heterixalus boettgeri*</i>

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>
<b>* = Indicates a species is endemic</b>	
Yellow-lined Frog	<i>Heterixalus luteostriatus*</i>
Baron's Painted Frog	<i>Mantella baroni*</i>
<b>Chameleons</b>	
Brown Leaf Chameleon	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>
Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>
Blue-legged Chameleon	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>
Short-nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>
Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>
O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>
Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii parsonii</i>
a Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii cristifer</i>
'Jewel' Chameleon	<i>Furcifer lateralis</i>
Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>
Rhinoceros Chameleon	<i>Furcifer rhinoseratus</i>
Spiny-backed Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>
Big nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma falax</i>
<b>Lizards, Geckos &amp; Skinks.</b>	
Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>
Grandidier's Iguanid	<i>Oplurus grandidieri</i>
Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Oplurus (Chalarodon) madagascariensis</i>
Big-headed Gecko	<i>Paroedura pictus</i>
Samelty leaf Tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus samelty</i>
Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>
Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>
Pale-bellied Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma modesta leiogaster</i>
Peacock Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>
Standing's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
Madagascar Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>
Ornate Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus ornatus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>* = Indicates a species is endemic</b>	
Four-lined Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus quadrilineatus</i>
<b>Snakes.</b>	
Big-eyed / Mahafaly Sand Snake	<i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>
Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>
<b>Turtles &amp; Tortoises.</b>	
Spider Tortoise	<i>Pyxis arachnoides</i>
Radiated Tortoise	<i>Geochelone radiata</i>
Angonoka (Plough-share) Tortoise	<i>Astrochelys yniphora</i>

Birds (H = Heard only, \* = Endemic, \*\* = Regional Endemic)

Common name	Scientific name	October/November 2022																							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1		
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>		500														2	20	12				7		
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna</i>		1																						
Meller's Duck*	<i>Anas melleri</i>		4																						
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>		1000	8																					
Hottentot Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>		40																						
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>												12	5	8										
Madagascar Partridge*	<i>Margaroperdix madagarensis</i>							1																	
Red-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubicauda</i>										12														
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	5	50+												6										
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		1						2	1									4		1	1			
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	10	50+								4							100	✓	3				6	
Malagasy Pond Heron*	<i>Ardeola idae</i>		2																						

Common name	Scientific name	October/November 2022																					
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	40+	✓			6						1	✓		15	✓	✓	150	✓	✓			✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>									2													
Humblot's Heron*	<i>Ardea humbloti</i>	1																2					
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		1															2	2				
Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	30	2									14	✓				1	4	✓	6			
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	30											2		10								3
Dimorphic Heron	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	30	✓			3		2	✓	2	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		1								4								4				3
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>																1						
Madagascar Harrier-Hawk*	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>							1															
Frances's Sparrowhawk*	<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>												2	4									
Madagascar Sparrowhawk*	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>							2															
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptus</i>	2	6			8		✓	2	✓		✓	✓	✓	2	✓	4	✓	4	2	1		✓
Madagascar Fish Eagle*	<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>																2						
Madagascar Buzzard*	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>		2	2	4				2									2		1	1		
White-breasted Mesite*	<i>Mesitornis variegatus</i>																3						
Subdesert Mesite*	<i>Monias benschi</i>								1														
Madagascar Wood Rail*	<i>Canirallus kioloides</i>			2																	1		
Madagascar Flufftail*	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>			1																H	H		
White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>	H			2		2														2		
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	8																1		1			
Madagascar Buttonquail*	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>						2			4	4					3					4		
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>							2															
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>									12													
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>							1		1													

		October/November 2022																					
Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Madagascar Plover*	<i>Charadrius thoracicus</i>								1														
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>								5														
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>		2						1														
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>								6	2													
Madagascar Snipe*	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>		1																				
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>								4	150	80												
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>									2		H											
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>																	2	1				
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>									8	15	2											
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>											2											
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>									8													
Madagascar Pratincole*	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>																3		4				
Kelp (Madagascar) Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus melisandae</i>														6								
Greater Crested (Swift) Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>										1												
Madagascar Sandgrouse*	<i>Pterocles personatus</i>													5									
Rock Dove [Feral]	<i>Columba livia feral</i>		20	✓				3				✓					✓		✓	✓			✓
Malagasy Turtle Dove*	<i>Nesoenas picturatus</i>								1		3		6	7			4	1		1			
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>								4	6	3	6		20+		10	3	6	3				3
Madagascar Green Pigeon*	<i>Treron australis</i>							4				4		8									
Madagascar Blue Pigeon*	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>																		2	6	4		
Malagasy Coucal**	<i>Centropus toulou</i>			H		2	H	4	1		H	H	H	2	2			2		H	1	5	
Crested Coua*	<i>Coua cristata</i>												2	12	15			2					
Blue Coua*	<i>Coua caerulea</i>				2	1															5	2	
Red-capped Coua*	<i>Coua ruficeps</i>																	1					

		October/November 2022																					
Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Green-capped Coua*	<i>Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps</i>								1			2											
Red-fronted Coua*	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>			1	1	1							1								1		
Coquerel's Coua*	<i>Coua coquereli</i>								1										2				
Running Coua*	<i>Coua cursor</i>									1													
Giant Coua*	<i>Coua gigas</i>								1				5	6									
Madagascan Cuckoo*	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>			H	H	1	H	1										H		1	6H	6H	H
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>												1	1									
Torotoroka Scops Owl*	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>							2	1	H			H	H									
Rainforest Scops Owl*	<i>Otus rutilus</i>																			1		2	
White-browed Hawk-Owl*	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>							2	1				4	2									
Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>						1																
Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>								1	H	2	H	1		H	H	1			2	2	1	H
Madagascan Spinetail*	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>	6	6	✓								6											
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus gracilis</i>				2			15					2		2	2		1	5	5	2		1
Malagasy Black Swift*	<i>Apus balstoni</i>	1							2														
Little Swift												1											
Cuckoo Roller*	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>				2				3										2				1
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>												1	2				6	3	1		1	
Scaly Ground Roller*	<i>Geobiastes squamiger</i>					1																	
Pitta-like Ground Roller*	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>				2																		
Long-tailed Ground Roller*	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>									2													
Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher*	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i>					1															H		1
Malagasy Kingfisher*	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>		4	1				1				1	1					1					2
Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	2	2				2	12	12	6	2	H	6	4	2		3	4	6	1	2	H	



Common name	Scientific name	October/November 2022																				
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Madagascan Hoopoe*	<i>Upupa marginata</i>						2	5				H		2			1	2				
Malagasy Kestrel*	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	2	2	6			1	5	3	3	1	2	2	4	4			1	2		1	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			1				1														
Greater Vasa Parrot*	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>								2													
Lesser Vasa Parrot*	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>					1		1		2		2	3	15			6	4		2	3	
Grey-headed Lovebird*	<i>Agapornis canus</i>							20		15		2	4	4	6			15				
Velvet Asity*	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>			1F		2														1	1	
Schlegel's Asity*	<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>																5					
Common Sunbird-Asity*	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>				1																	
Red-tailed Vanga*	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>				2	5			1											2H	1	
Red-shouldered Vanga*	<i>Calicalicus rufocarpalis</i>							1														
Hook-billed Vanga*	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>											H	4	H				H				
Lafresnaye's Vanga*	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>							1														
Van Dam's Vanga*	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>															4						
Pollen's Vanga*	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>					2																
Sickle-billed Vanga*	<i>Falculea palliata</i>																	1	3			
White-headed Vanga*	<i>Artamella viridis</i>							1													H	
Chabert's Vanga*	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>				2	1		1	3									1				4
Blue Vanga*	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>				4															H		4
Rufous Vanga*	<i>Schetba rufa</i>				1													2				
Tylas Vanga*	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>				3																H	1
Nuthatch Vanga*	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>																				1	2
Dark Newtonia*	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>				2	H																
Common Newtonia*	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>				3	1			1	1								H			H	5

Common name	Scientific name	October/November 2022																				
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Archbold's Newtonia*	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>									1												
Ward's Vanga*	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>				1										1						H	2
Crossley's Vanga*	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>				1	1																
Madagascan Cuckooshrike*	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>					2								2							H	1
Crested Drongo**	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>			3	2	2		2	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		1	4	3	2	6	✓	2
Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher**	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>				2	3		5	4	2		1	1	6	4		1	6		4	5	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	10		8				30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	4		✓				
Madagascan Lark*	<i>Eremopterix hova</i>			1				10		2	2		1		6	2	6		6			1
Malagasy Bulbul**	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	5	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Mascarene Martin**	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	2	12	10	✓	6	✓		2			4	6			10	6				1	
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>		1																		2	
Malagasy Brush Warbler**	<i>Nesillas typica</i>		1	2	H	H															6H	H
Subdesert Brush Warbler*	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>	1								1		6	8	2		1						
Madagascan Swamp Warbler*	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>	1																				
Long-billed Bernieria (Tetraka)*	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>									1									3			
Wedge-tailed Tetraka*	<i>Hartertula flavoviridis</i>																				H	
Thamnornis* (Subdesert Tetraka)	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>									1	2											
Spectacled Tetraka*	<i>Xanthomixis zosterops</i>				6	3																1
Appert's Tetraka*	<i>Xanthomixis apperti</i>									2												
Rand's Warbler (Tetraka)*	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>				H	1														H	H	2
Common Jery*	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>				H	3	3	6	6			1	3	2	10	5					2	2
Green Jery*	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>					1																

		October/November 2022																					
Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Stripe-throated Jery*	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>									4		4	4								H	4	
Madagascar Cisticola**	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>			1	H		2	5	H		6		2	1			2		1		2	1	
Malagasy White-eye**	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>					6									2				6	2	5	1	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	10	30	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Madagascar Magpie-Robin*	<i>Copsychus albospecularis</i>				3	3	2	3	6	3			1	2	6			4			1	3	
Littoral Rock Thrush*	<i>Monticola imerina</i>										10	4											
Forest Rock Thrush*	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>							1															
Madagascar Stonechat*	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>			4				2									1			4	2		4
Souimanga Sunbird**	<i>Cinnyris sovimanga</i>			3	✓	6	3	8	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Malagasy Green Sunbird**	<i>Cinnyris notatus</i>			1		1		4													1		
Nelicourvi Weaver*	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>				4	3																	
Sakalava Weaver*	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>								10	2		2	3	20	2								
Red Fody*	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	12	20	3				8	12		5	6		6		3	3			3	2		2
Forest Fody*	<i>Foudia omissa</i>					1	1					1											
Madagascar Mannikin*	<i>Lepidopygia nana</i>	1	3	2			6																
Madagascar Wagtail*	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	2	2	1		4	1										2		1	2	2		

## Invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Butterflies</b>	
	<b>Papilionidae</b>
Green Lady Swallowtail	<i>Graphium cyrnus cyrnus</i>
Madagascar Swordtail	<i>Graphium evombar</i>
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>
Banded Blue Swallowtail	<i>Papilio oribazus</i>
Madagascar Giant Swallowtail	<i>Pharmacophagus antenor*</i>
	<b>Pieridae</b>
Brown-veined White	<i>Belenois aurota</i>
Yellow Painted Caper White	<i>Belenois helcida*</i>
Madagascan Orange Tip	<i>Colotis evanthe*</i>
Malagasy Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema floricola</i>
	<b>Nymphalidae</b>
-	<i>Acraea ranavalona</i>
Madagascan Forest Nymph	<i>Aterica rabena*</i>
African Monarch or Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Brown Pansy	<i>Junonia hedonia</i>
Brilliant Blue	<i>Junonia rhadama*</i>
Banded Commodor	<i>Precis andremiaja</i>
	<b>Satyridae</b>
Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda leda</i>
Madagascan Leopard	<i>Phalanta madagascariensis</i>
Indian Ocean Satyr	
<b>MOTHS:</b>	
	<b>Cossidae</b>
-	<i>Hirtocossus sp.</i>
	<b>Saturniidae</b>
Madagascan Emperor Moth	<i>Bunaea Aslauga</i>
Walker's Owl	<i>Erebus walkeri</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>OTHER INVERTEBRATES:</b>	
Emperor type Dragonfly	<i>c.f. Anax imperator</i>
Black splashed Elf	<i>Tetrathenis polleni</i>
Madagascar Jungleskimmer	
Desert Locust	<i>Schistocerca gregaria</i>
Rainbow Milkweed Locust	<i>Phymateus saxosus</i>
Mole Cricket	<i>Gryllotalpidae sp.</i>
Hissing Cockroach	<i>Gromphadorhina portentosa</i>
Ant-lion sp.	-
Stick Insect	-
Flatid Leaf-bug	<i>Phromnia rosea</i>
Snout Bug or Flat-backed Weevil	<i>Zana tenebrosa</i>
Firefly	<i>Lampyridae sp.</i>
Giraffe-necked Weevil	<i>Trachelophorus giraffa</i>
Madagascar Golden Orb-web Spider	<i>Nephila madagascariensis*</i>
Web-casting Spider	<i>Deinopis sp.</i>
Coquerel's Wasp Spider	<i>Argiope coquereli*</i>
Tree hole Spider	-

## Fish

<b>FISH:</b>	
<b>Marine:</b>	
Longnose Butterflyfish	<i>Forcipiger flavissimus</i>
Moorish Idol	<i>Zanclus cornutus</i>
Sergeant Major	<i>Abudefduf saxatilis</i>
Jewel Damselfish	<i>Microspathodon chrysurus</i>
Parrotfish sp.	-
Clownfish sp.	-
Brown Surgeon Fish sp.	<i>Acanthurus sp.</i>
Crowned Squirrelfish	<i>Sargocentron diadema</i>
Pipefish	<i>Syngnathinae sp.</i>

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Yellow-tailed' Puffer-fish	<i>Tetraodontidae sp.</i>
Toby sp.	<i>Canthigaster sp.</i>
Wrasse sp.	<i>Labridae sp.</i>
Captain Fish' or Threadfin	<i>Polynemidae sp.</i>
Mud Skipper	<i>Periophthalmus argentilineatus</i>
Flying Fish	<i>Exocoetidae sp.</i>
<b>Fresh Water:</b>	
Blotched Snake-head	<i>Channa maculata</i>
Eel sp.	-
Catfish'	-