

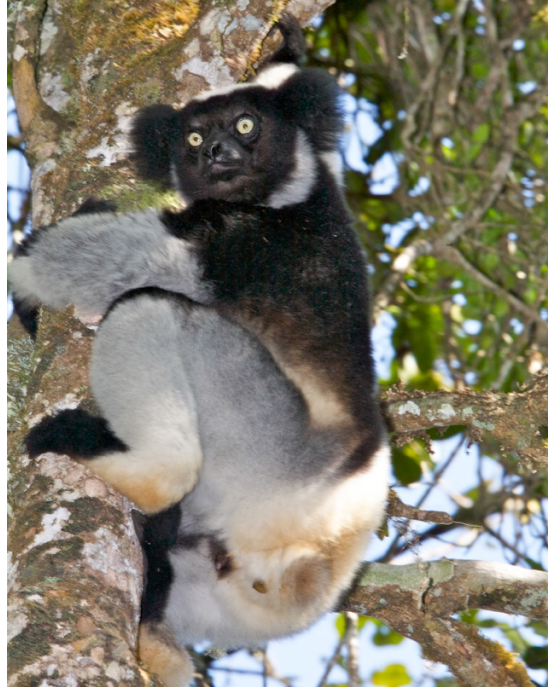
The Best of Madagascar

Naturetrek Tour Report

24th October – 16th November 2022



Eastern Woolly Lemur



Indri



Short-horned Chameleon



Littoral Rock Thrush

Tour report and images by Quentin Bloxham



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Day 1

Monday 24th October

Our tour started with flights from the UK via Addis Ababa, landing in Tana the following day.

Day 2

Tuesday 25th October

Arrived in Antananarivo at 13.15. All baggage arrived safely. Met up with Desiri after the usual visa performance. All exchanged money at the airport and transferred to the Hotel Combava. Settled into the rooms and met up for dinner at 19.30. Desi and I gave a group briefing on the process of providing information on daily travel and forest excursions for each day. As well as a checklist discussion every evening.

Day 3

Wednesday 26th October

Left hotel at 07.30 after a good breakfast and made our way to Lac Alarobia. Before leaving the hotel, a pre breakfast bird spotting was enjoyed by a few that recorded manikins, Madagascar Fodys, Madagascar Wagtail and a roosting Night Heron. At the lake many hundreds of waterfowl were seen, mainly Red-billed Teal and White-faced Whistling Duck. More importantly several Hottentot Teal and major spot of the day - two Mellors Duck, one of the rarest of Madagascar's ducks. Also large numbers of egrets, Great White Egrets, Cattle Egrets, Dimorphic Egrets. One beautiful Malagasy Pond Heron with a lovely blue bill. Black Herons and a Madagascar Kingfisher were also seen. A Peregrine Falcon was perching next to one of the sideponds. We then embarked on the long drive to Ansirabe, driving past rice paddies being worked by Malagasy families and their zebu. Much of the land is sadly deforested with roads bordered by introduced Eucalyptus blue gum trees which are used for charcoal or firewood. On the way we saw from the minibus a number of Cattle Egrets, kites and a Madagascar Kestrel.

Arrived at the comfortable and picturesque hotel Cafe Couleur at 17.20. Short bird watching time in the hotel gardens recorded Madagascar Wagtails and fodys. A pleasant evening was had by all and after filling the days checklist we retired to bed.

Day 4

Thursday 27th October

An early morning walk around the gardens resulted in observations of Olive Bee-eaters, Malagasy Bulbul, fodys and a wagtail nesting in one of the garden trees.

We left Ansirabe at 07.00 for the long drive to Ranamafana. Driving to Ambootra, we stopped at a roadside breeding colony of stunning Olive Bee-eaters and a few beautiful Grey-headed Lovebirds. A real bonus to see them so close.

We stopped on the way at Ankazomivavy Forest - a small community-run remnant forest where we saw a Madagascan Snipe flying at great speed from one small roadside wetland area to another on the opposite side of the road. Also a group of Red-billed Teal, plus Souimanga Sunbird. One of our party was lucky enough to see a Red-fronted Coua at the forest edge. We briefly stopped to see a large colony of egrets and Black Herons by the roadside

at a roadside village. Arrived at Ranamafana at 17.15. after stopping at the waterfall Namorona which is close to the Setam Lodge where we would be staying for three nights. We were able to see sundew carnivorous plants on the rock face as well as bright eye frogs. Dinner was fun as we all recounted the highlights of the day before retiring to bed.

Day 5

Friday 28th October

We left for National Park at 06.45.

The day started well as Desi spotted a Pitta-like Ground Roller adjacent to the trail. During a long physically demanding walk, saw Golden Bamboo Lemurs and the last remaining Greater Bamboo Lemur. Last time I was here three years ago there were only two but now one has gone. There is still no explanation as to why this species had declined so significantly. We then found a Streaked Tenrec on the trail which was exciting as they are normally nocturnal. Very pretty with black and yellow streaks on its spines. Madagascar Tenrecs are a primitive small insectivorous mammal unique to this island, arguably fitting a similar niche to our hedgehogs. On the way to the lookout point, we saw a tiny Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko, an extraordinary dead leaf mimic. This was found by one of the extraordinary local guides. After a stop at the lookout point returned to the bus and on the way saw a pair of Red-bellied Lemurs, but they were high up and difficult to see. After lunch left for the forest. This time to a different forest block called Vohiparara which is a further 20 minute drive past the main Ranamafana park entrance. We spent some time looking for Milne Edwards Sifaka, but we did not succeed unfortunately but came across another pair of Red-bellied Lemurs and this time, had wonderful view of the male with his white eye patches eating small fruits on a tree right by the trail. We returned at 17.45 and started the night walk. We watched a Rufous Mouse Lemur feeding on bananas rubbed on a roadside bush by some of the local guides. After a short time, we decided we were all ready for some rest, and the very heavy rain starting made the decision straightforward!

Day 6

Saturday 29th October

Somewhat later start (07.45) to revisit the Ranamafana National Park again. Mainly for birdwatching and recorded Tyler's Vanga, Red-tailed and Blue Vanga, Crested Drongo, Madagascar Cuckooshrike, another Pittalike Ground Roller. A calling Cuckoo Roller drifted over our heads high up over the forest canopy. Common Jery and Madagascar Lark were also seen. Other bird species recorded were Chabert's Vanga, Malagasy Bulbul and Madagascar Magpie-Robin. We then received a message that a family of Black and White ruffed Lemurs had been found so we all moved to them and enjoyed an hour or so watching and listening to their distinctive and very loud call. An interesting fact for this species is that it makes a nest for its babies for the first few days before carrying them as other lemur species do.

After this, we returned to the lodge for lunch before departing at 14.45 for the afternoon walk. Phillip and Jane revisited Vohiparara forest the rest further up the road to a degraded area to look for Giraffe-necked Weevil and the guide to find the colourful frog, *Mantella madagascariensis*. They found two weevils but no frogs. Yet again we had to abandon the walk due to a violent thunderstorm and heavy rain. So picked up a very wet Phillip and Jane and returned to the lodge. Our night walk on the road started at 17.45 after the rain stopped. We saw a number of roosting chameleons - five species in all, including the tiny Short-nosed, Blue-legged, Glaw's, Horn-nosed and O'Shaughnessy's. Bright-eyed frogs were very active, most certainly because of the recent rain. We finished at 19.05

just as the rain started again. All agreed it had been a very productive stay at Ranamafana, only missing out on the beautiful Milne Edwards sifaka which was disappointing and surprising.

Day 7

Sunday 30th October

We left Setam Lodge at 07.00 for Isalo. After several hours of driving (with a stop to look at a paper making operation where we saw a large Oustalet's Chameleon, arguably the largest chameleon species of Madagascar), we continued our drive seeing Cattle Egrets, Pied Crows, many of the Indian Mynas and Black Herons from our minibus.

We then reached the community run project at Anja which protects over 400 Ring-tailed Lemurs in a protected forest block ringed by majestic inselbergs. This project has been overseen by the local community for a number of years and tree planting to increase the area is ongoing. Conducted tours are undertaken by members of the community and it is heartening to see what can be accomplished by a local community to protect one of the flagship lemur species of Madagascar. We watched a fine looking troop with number of females with eight week old babies. We also found another large male Oustalet's Chameleon. We enjoyed a picnic lunch (attended by a couple of the village dogs) before we continued on to the Jardin de Roy hotel in Isalo. This is a lovely hotel built with local stone and surrounded by spectacular mountainous rocks. We ended the day with a very nice dinner. All were a little tired and retired to our very pleasant bungalows and bed.

Day 8

Monday 31st October

An early walk around the grounds recorded several Madagascan Hoopoes as well as Broad-billed Rollers, wagtails and Crested Drongos. Also Spiny-tailed Iguanid were just waking up to sun themselves on the rocks and a Slender Colubrid Snake was basking on one of the flower beds. We left the hotel at 07.00 for Canyon de Maki, birdwatching on the way and seeing Crested Drongos, sunbirds, roller, bee-aters. Oustalet's and Jewel Chameleon were seen on our walk along the trail and our guide found a roosting Torotoroka Scops Owl. Our guide pointed out to us a little group of Flatid Leafbugs - these unusual invertebrates have a larval form with white fronds on their backs, which metamorphose into pink planthoppers. The local people informed us Mouse Lemurs lick these nymphs as they are sugary. Further along the trail we came across a group of Ring-tailed Lemurs and in the picnic area, a sleepy family of Verreaux's Sifaka. Three years ago there was only one, so others have come in and there was one baby. Lucky for us and good news for the sifakas! Continuing on to the rock pool at the end of the trail, we saw the Forest Rock Thrush - one of the target species in this area. We all then climbed the steep trail up to the view point to enjoy the spectacular views of the rocky formations from the top plateau. Also a Malagasy Green Sunbird. On the way we stopped to watch a beautiful kingfisher enjoying its lunch of a hapless bright eyed frog! We saw another Forest Rock Thrush on the way back. Then a long and very hot walk back to bus for a late lunch at the hotel. We went for an afternoon walk at 16.30 towards the other hotel, finding a close view of a Broad-billed Roller plus drongos, a Lesser Vasa Parrot, Souimanga Sunbirds and Common Mynas. Then it was back to hotel for dinner.

Day 9

Tuesday 1st November

Left hotel after a good breakfast at 07.00 to Zombitse. We dove through the disturbing Safire mining town, across the gold panning river (the bridge was collapsed). This was once a small village until a local farmer picked up a small

attractive stone which turned out to be one of the world's best quality sapphires, after which there was a population explosion as miners and dealers all moved in, clear felling all the trees and excavating deep holes and tunnels in the ground to mine the sapphires. It is a disturbing sight. We arrived at Zombitse National Park at 09.10. A beautiful dry forest - now a protected area. There had been rain the previous night and the forest was full of scent from mimosa trees. We had a lovely walk and saw Zombitse Sportive Lemur in a low to the ground tree hole. This is a regional endemic and a nocturnal species. It was very nervous due to people being so close and the refuge being so low. On other occasions, I have seen them in much higher refuge tree holes and as a consequence, less nervous. Other highlights were a roosting White-browed Hawk-Owl and a Torotoroka Scops Owl. A Giant Coua, a Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher with white streamer tail and a very large spear snake climbing vertically up a dead tree, named as such because local myth says it hangs on trees and drops on anybody walking underneath thereby spearing the unfortunate individual. Well spotted by the eagle-eyed Nigel, we estimated that it was over a meter long. Ended with a lovely view of a family of Verreaux's Sifakas having breakfast in a tree full of fresh leaves. The group included a very lively youngster bouncing from one adult to another and generally making a nuisance of itself, but well tolerated by the sifaka group.

We then drove to the arboretum which took much longer than normal due to the deterioration of the roads. We had a good lunch then a brief tour of the arboretum before leaving for the Paradisier hotel, arriving at 17.30. We stopped briefly on the way to watch a pair of Black-winged Stilts with two chicks and a pair of Kittlitz's Plovers with one chick. We went for a short nightwalk around the hotel before dinner and saw three Grey Mouse Lemurs before we retired to bed.

Day 10

Wednesday 2nd November

We had a very early start to visit the spiny forest of Chezza. Before leaving the hotel there was a Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat flying around in the hotel lobby. This was a new spiny forest area for me as on past tours we visited a different forest. It is a 50 hectare community protected and run forest. On the way in Nigel spotted a roosting Running Coua, a pleasant change to see this species stationary as normally they are darting through the understory. We also came across a nocturnal snoozing White-fronted Sportive Lemur, lots of birds including a Madagascan Harrier-Hawk, Common Jerboa, more sunbirds and Crested Drongos. However the highlight was a Subdesert Mesite, sitting on a branch making for wonderful photos and also a Long-tailed Ground Roller which was herded in our direction by our enthusiastic guides. Lovely baobab trees were a feature. The diminutive Three-eyed Lizards were common at the side of the trails, so called because of the pineal (third) eye which is very obvious on the species. This is a monotypic iguanid species of Madagascar. We finished our walk at 08.30 and returned to hotel for a nice breakfast, after which some went swimming in the sea and the hotel swimming pool. At 16.30, we visited the nearby salt pans for bird watching and recorded a number of waders including White-fronted and Kittlitz's Plover, with Madagascan Cisticola, Common Mynas and Pied Crows also recorded. On the way back to the hotel we stopped to see a beautiful Three-banded Plover and Black-winged Stilts.

Day 11

Thursday 3rd November

We all packed up a small backpack for our next stay and left our main luggage with our trusty minibus driver. We left the hotel at 06.30 to catch boat to Nosy Ve and then on to Anakoa. A pleasant surprise was that transport to the motor boat was by a tractor and trailer. Zebu carts are no longer used which is a good change as the zebu cart

drivers treat their animals badly. The Boat took about an hour to get to Nosy Ve where we all disembarked and walked around the island. We had the opportunity to watch a group of Crab Plovers as well as Grey Heron and Dimorphic Egrets. Saw a few of the beautiful Red-tailed Tropicbirds flying overhead and then found a nest with one bird sitting and a second bird close by. There seems to have been a significant reduction in the number of tropicbirds from past years, I'm unsure why, but suspect an increase in human disturbance could be a factor. We continued our walk to a raised platform area and four of us went for a swim, tried snorkelling but the current was too strong and we were not far enough out to get to any coral heads. After an hour and a half we continued on to Anakoa and were greeted by Catherine of Safari Vezo who is the owner. Everybody moved into their bungalows which we all agreed were very quiet. We had a good lunch then rested during the heat of the day. At 16.30 went for a bird watching walk behind the property but due to the poor habitat, it was only a short walk. However we did see a Littoral Rock Thrush on a bush. Very similar to the Forest Rock Thrush we saw at Isalo. Returning to the hotel ground we came across two Big-eyed Snakes and a Malagasy Brush Warbler. We then returned to our bungalows and then dinner.

Day 12

Friday 4th November

Left the resort at 06.30 to catch the flight from Toaliara only to find that Air Madagascar had changed the flight time to 17.00. This is not that unusual on Madagascar unfortunately. As we moored the boat we spotted Bar-tailed Godwits and Whimbrels on a nearby mudflat. This meant we spent for most of the day in the grounds of the Victory Hotel where we had lunch. Thankfully it was a nice hotel but we felt our time could have been better spent if we had made Tana as scheduled. Eventually made the flight and arrived at Hotel Combava at 19.20, ordered our evening meal and enjoyed their nougat ice cream - a speciality of the hotel and retired to bed.

Day 13

Saturday 5th November

We had to leave the hotel very early to check in to our flight to Ft. Dauphin which didn't depart until 07.00. We arrived at the airport to the sound of a Madagascan Nightjar and walked to the plane to the sound of mynas! One endemic species the other introduced! A few Mascarene Martins were zooming around over our heads. The hotel kindly made up breakfast boxes for the group for those who wanted such an early meal! We arrived at Ft Dauphine at 09.30 and transferred to one four by four and a minibus. The road had had significant repairs for the first hour then at Androahela, the road deteriorated until we reached Berenty at 13.00. Thanks to the repairs, the drive took less time.

After sorting out our rooms, we had lunch in a side building as the original restaurant is being upgraded. A friendly and happy couple looked after us and our dietary requirements including ketchup! After lunch we rested until 16.15 and then went for a walk around the area outside the gallery forest. We watched 'dancing' Verreaux's Sifakas and many Ring-tailed Lemurs and finally the introduced Red-fronted Brown Lemurs. All the Ring-tailed Lemurs, in particular around the accommodation blocks looked to be in poor health. They appear underweight and have poor coat condition. Is this a consequence of conflict between the Ring-tailed and the introduced Brown Lemurs? Maybe also a consequence of a long dry season? We watched a group of Madagascan Sandgrouse fly overhead as well as a number of Crested Coua, Madagascan Magpie-Robins, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Pied Crows and Greater Vasa Parrots. We also saw a compound of Spider Tortoises which were very active, unsure of their origin but possibly they were confiscated reptiles. There was a pen of young crocodiles which had been a bycatch of the local fishermen

that got tangled up in their nets. A very cooperative White-footed Sportive Lemur was sitting by its roosting hole near the tortoise pen providing a great photo opportunity. On the way back we saw two Madagascan Green Pigeons in a tree. We finished walk at 17.40.

The night walk started at 18.30. We walked along trail by bungalows and then into the peripheral of the gallery forest, just as the rain started. We saw a White-browed Hawk-Owl on a branch over the trail, with some of the group abandoned the walk due to the rain. A few continued and were rewarded with sights of Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs as well as the Grey Mouse Lemur. A roosting Spiny-backed Chameleon was seen on an overhanging branch.

We finished our walk at 19.20 and rejoined the rest of the group for dinner.

Day 14

Sunday 6th November

We had an early morning bird walk at 05.00. Firstly we went to a nearby field to spend time watching a pair of Madagascan Sandgrouse feeding. Then into the gallery forest, saw numerous kestrels, Broad-billed Roller, mynas, bulbul, a Black-crowned Night Heron flew over us and we were dive bombed by an irritated Yellow-billed Kite which had a nest nearby. Quite an experience as it flew very close to our heads! We managed to get to a reasonable distance to view the famous Madagascan Flying Fox colony that live in the reserve. This colony is strictly controlled now and visitors are not allowed to move close to their roosting trees. We had good views of Verreaux's Sifaka families with babies and were close to a group of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs. Our sleepy White-footed Sportive Lemur was in the same tree hole which we passed on our way for breakfast. We continued another walk at 09.00 for two hours. Many lemurs were seen, including a territorial dispute between two groups of sifakas. Quite a sight to see one group bouncing between the trees and on the ground as they chased off the invaders. Michael spotted a resting sportive lemur very high in a tree, peering over a branch at us on the ground. A number of bird species including, a roosting White-browed Hawk Owl, bulbul, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Souimanga Sunbird, Giant Coua, Madagascan Magpie-Robin, Malagasy Coucal, Common Jery and Grey-headed Lovebirds. Also various butterfly species identified by Phillip - our butterfly specialist, dragonflies and a group of Flatid Leaf-bugs. Nigel spotted a Madagascan Tree Boa resting on a branch. A great spot and his second snake up a tree spot! We returned for lunch, then rested up until 16.00 when we visited a block of isolated spiny forest. Before going to the forest we were taken to a local museum. A number of artefacts well presented in cabinets, however there was no lighting so it was very difficult to read the labels. We visited a block of spiny forest, 140 hectares in area and watched a lovely group of sifaka with a baby, then the guide found a young Running Coua in a bush. Unfortunately it started to rain heavily and we had to make dash for our vehicles. So no night walk today.

Day 15

Monday 7th November

Another early morning walk to the spiny forest we visited yesterday pm. All the rain yesterday evening freshened up the forest. Ring-tailed Lemurs and sifakas were abundant. Great views of a Running Coua and at least 12 Grey-headed Lovebirds feeding on the flowers of an octopus tree. Our Local guide dug up a scorpion in some dead bark and a bunch of Hissing Cockroaches. There were a number of millipedes and one centipede was made to show itself! A sleeping Grey Mouse Lemur was seen in a twiggy bush and as well as a sportive lemur. Highlight, for me anyway, was towards the end of the walk we came across an active Spider Tortoise. We then drove back for breakfast followed by a visit to the museum with better light and then into the forest again for our final walk. The previous

evenings rain seems to have brought out numerous pill millipedes. Many bird species but the highlights being a Hook-billed Vanga and a roosting Barn Owl. This owl species is rarely seen in this forest and it made our owl count up to four. We then had a very clear view of a sportive lemur brought about great excitement towards the end of our walk. A perfect end to our stay in Berenty. We drove back to Ft Dauphin and moved into the Hotel LeDauphin which we all agreed has seen better days!

Day 16

Tuesday 8th November

We departed for Tana on the morning from Ft. Dauphin airport, seeing a Madagascan Elegant Skink in the airport grounds. The plane left at 09.00 and arrived in Tana at 11.45. We were then transported to the Hotel Combava for lunch and all retired to our rooms for the afternoon. We had dinner at 17.30, then retired for the evening in preparation for the long journey in the morning.

Day 17

Wednesday 9th November

We left the hotel at 06.30 and undertook the long drive to Ankarafantsika - due to the state of the roads and other slow vehicles. We arrived late afternoon at the Blue Vanga hotel. This hotel is quite basic with electricity only on from 18.00 to 22.30. we went for a night walk and saw mouse lemurs and a roosting Oustalet's Chameleon and a Rhinoceros Chameleon. One of our party felt unwell so we shortened the walk and returned to the Blue Vanga for dinner and bed.

Day 18

Thursday 10th November

We started with an early morning bird walk at 05.45 looking for Schlegel's Asity in the forest by the Lake Ravelobe opposite the Ampijaroa reserve, but despite intensive searching we failed to see one. However did see a Hog-nosed Snake, Spiny-tailed Iguana, Hook-billed Vanga, Magpie-Robin and Paradise Flycatcher. At the end of the walk we managed to see a White-breasted Mesite – another rarity. We returned to the main park entrance to continue our walk where, almost immediately, we saw a Van Dam's Vanga a rarity and an endemic to this forest. Continuing on we had good views of Red-capped Coua, and finally a group of Coquerel's Sifaka.

We returned to the Blue Vanga for lunch after which we returned to the park for a boat trip around the nearby lake Ravelobe, in a small flat bottom boat with probably the smallest outboard engine inexistence but perfect for slowly meandering around the lake edges. We started off with a very nice view of a Humblot's Heron followed by a close view of a Purple Heron, a Reed Cormorant and a few White-faced Whistling Duck. Then the highlight of the 'cruise' an extremely close encounter with a magnificent Madagascan Fish Eagle. We were allowed to coast right up to the log it was resting on before it decide enough was enough and flew off. This is yet another endemic bird species and Ampijaroa is the only place in Madagascar where it can be easily seen. A little further on we came across a second eagle on the waters edge and a juvenile in a tree just, above the bird on the bank. In all my many trips to Ampijaroa I have never had such closeen counters with these rare birds. Sadly and unusually we did not see any crocodiles. We finished the boat trip and returned to the park compound.

We then spent an hour having delightful views of sifakas and a brief glimpse of a Sickle-billed Vanga before returning to the Blue Vanga for our last night there.

Day 19

Friday 11th November

Left the Blue Vanga at 06.00 for the long drive to Tana. All was going well until finally the decidedly 'ill' vehicle gave up the ghost and ground to a halt in a cloud of steam. After many attempts to contact others in the group via WhatsApp, we managed to make contact with Desi through the car rental office who returned with one of the other vehicles. Leaving a disconsolate driver with his broken vehicle. The three of us were transported back to the main group, we repacked our luggage to make room for Desiri and me to sit on the floor. Regrettably we had lost much time so by the time we hit the outskirts of Tana we got caught up in their rush hour and did not get to the Hotel Combava until 18.00. Quite a long day!

Day 20

Saturday 12th November

We left the Hotel Combava at 07.00 for Andasibe in a minibus. We managed to clear Tana in 45 minutes which was good. However the road for the next three hours was not as good. We finally arrived at Andasibe at midday and moved into the very pleasant Mantadia Lodge.

We had a good lunch then departed at 15.15 for a walk in the community run forest of V.O.I.M.M.A Reserve. We immediately observed a number of bird species, notably Long-billed Tetraka, Chabert's Vanga, Souimanga Sunbirds, Nelicourvi Weaver, Common Jery. Further along the trail we encountered a family of Common Brown Lemurs that were very close to us which was exciting. We then came across a group of Indri. They were high in the trees as it was late afternoon they were getting ready to roost for the night but as it was our first sight of this emblematic species, it was welcome! At 18.15 we started our night walk, moving carefully along the narrow trails we were fortunate to see a number of interesting nocturnal species. Our first Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko and notably a Goodman's Mouse Lemur - a regional endemic. A Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur was seen high up in the trees and a real treat was to see a Western Tuft-tailed Rat spotted by Phillip. A small endemic rodent rarely seen.

Day 21

Sunday 13th November

Up bright and early for our first foray into the Alalamazoatra Reserve. This is arguably the premier site for wildlife eco-tourism. An area of 15000 hectares of secondary and primary forest. Within minutes of walking down the trail I was flung into the understory by a highly excited Desi to stop me walking into a family of Grey Bamboo Lemurs. They were very close to the ground feeding on bamboo shoots. An extraordinary diet as raw bamboo contains a toxin that converts into cyanide in the gut, not something we should try, but bamboo lemurs thrive on it. We had a wonderful time just watching these endearing little lemurs right by our feet tearing away at the bamboo and eating the pith. Moving up into the forest we soon came upon a family of Diademmed Sifakas, along with indri considered the largest of Madagascar's lemurs. We spent some time watching the beautiful lemur with its golden coloured arms and legs and slaty grey coloured coat as they bounced from one sapling trunk to the next and we followed them down the hillside for while, before they left us behind.

Continuing on, our guide Claude took us to a pair of Indri with a four month old youngster. For over an hour we watched the antics of the young one jumping from mum to dad and back again, the adults were extremely tolerant of this disturbance during their breakfast! What was so enjoyable is that because we arrived in the forest early, we were on our own without any other groups.

Reluctantly we moved on only to encounter a second group who started to call, we all ran beneath them to experience this amazing sound that left our ears ringing for some time. On we went to the lovely forest lake and recorded a Nuthatch and Blue Vanga and at the side of a small bridge there was a Hog-nosed Snake enjoying the sun. After lunch, we visited the Orchid Lake and the fringing forest. Sadly, since Covid, this area has deteriorated, nearly all the orchids have gone and no water in the lake. We did however climb up an adjacent slope and saw a roosting Madagascan Owl which was very welcome. We continued on to a roadside night walk, again was disappointing with very little seen. Although we heard frogs calling, it was so dry that they were low to the ground and impossible to see. We were due to visit the Mantadia reserve the next day, however we were informed that the track was in a really bad state and it would take two hours to get there and two to get back. Given that we had already seen the Diademed Sifaka and Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur in Ranamafana, plus the fact that we had another very early start and long drive the next day before embarking on our journey home, I advised that our time would be better spent in the main reserve.

Day 22

Monday 14th November

We had an early start to visit Alalamazoatra again but this time followed a trail along the side of the lake. We had a nice walk but did not see very much so we went back into the main forest area where we came across the family of Indri with the baby. We enjoyed watching its antics again, but left after a while as several groups of tourists came in and it became somewhat crowded.

We retired for lunch and decided to revisit the community supervised forest for our last forest walk. We started the walk bird watching on the way, saw the usual suspects, sunbirds, magpie robins, tetrakas and another Chabert's Vanga. We then came up to a group of Indri feeding in a tree. As we enjoyed our last Indri experience, Desi and a community guide wondered off, retuning after about 20 minutes. Desi gave me the thumbs up and I knew exactly why! We gathered the group together and walked down a small trail and stopped to enjoy our very last lemur experience, a family of the elusive and nocturnal Eastern Wooley Lemur. They were just becoming active in preparation for their nightly activity. There was one juvenile who like all youngsters was bouncing around the adults. A perfect end to our Madagascar adventure.

Day 23

Tuesday 15th November

We left our luxury lodge in the early hours for our drive to the Ivato airport to catch our international flights home.

Day 23

Wednesday 16th November

As we waited for our luggage we had the excitement of waiting with a very well know TV personality, one of our group chatted with her for a while and Anne asked her if she would be so kind as to give him a goodbye hug, and she did! Rumour has it that John is still reeling from the experience!

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Species lists

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	October/November 2022																							
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Lemurs																									
	<i>Cheirogaleidae</i>																								
Grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>									✓					✓	✓									
Grey-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>												✓												
Golden-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus ravelobensis</i>																✓								
Rufous Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>					✓																			
Goodman's Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>																				✓				
Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus medius</i>																				✓				
Greater Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus major</i>																				✓	✓			
White-fronted Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemuridae</i>										✓														
Zombitse Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur hubbardorum</i>									✓															
White-footed Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur leucopus</i>										✓			✓	✓	✓									
	<i>Lemuridae</i>																								
Grey Bamboo Lemur	<i>Haplemur griseus griseus</i>																					✓			
Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Haplemur aureus</i>					✓																			
Greater Bamboo Lemur	<i>Prolemur simus</i>					✓																			
Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>							✓	✓				✓	✓	✓										
Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>																	✓		✓		✓			
Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur ruffrons</i>					✓								✓	✓	✓									
Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubiventer</i>					✓																			
Southern Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata editorum</i>						✓																		
	<i>Indridae</i>																								
Eastern Woolly Lemur	<i>Avahi laniger</i>																				✓		✓		
Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>									✓	✓			✓	✓	✓									

		October/November 2022																							
Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>																		✓						
Diademmed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>																					✓			
Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>																				✓	✓	✓		
Other mammals																									
Lowland Streaked Tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>					✓																			
Western Tuft-tailed Rat	<i>Eliurus myoxinus</i>																				✓				
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>			✓																					
Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat	<i>Hipposideros commersoni</i>										✓														
Madagascan Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>														✓										
Joanna Lumley	<i>Homo pulcherrimadea</i>																							✓	✓

Reptiles & Amphibians (* = endemic, C = captive)

		October/November 2022																							
Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Frogs																									
Madagascar Jumping Frog	<i>Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis*</i>						✓																		
Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis*</i>				✓		✓														✓				
Free Madagascar Frog	<i>Guibemantis liber*</i>					✓																			
Fort Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus femoralis*</i>					✓																			
Pandanus Frog	<i>Mantidactylus pulchuler</i>																						✓		
Chameleons																									
Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>						✓														S	✓			
Blue-legged Chameleon	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>						✓																		
Glaw's Flap-necked Chameleon	<i>Calumma glawi</i>						✓																		

Common name	Scientific name	October/November 2022																							
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>						✓														?				
O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>						✓																		
Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii parsonii</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>														✓	✓	✓								
Lizards, Geckos & Skinks																									
Elegant Skink	<i>Trachylepis elegans</i>																✓								
Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>										✓									✓	✓				
Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Oplurus (Chalarodon) madagascariensis</i>									✓	✓	✓					✓	✓							
Marked Madagascar Swift	<i>Oplurus saxicola</i>										✓														
a Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tuberosus</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>																✓								
Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata bifasciata</i>					✓																			
Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata lineata</i>																					✓	✓	✓	
Koch's Giant Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis kochi</i>																				✓				
Thick-tail Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>										✓														
Peacock Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>						✓	✓																	
Standing's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>										✓														
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>					✓													✓	✓			✓		
Dwarf Plated Lizard	<i>Tracheloptychus madagascariensis</i>											✓													
Elegant Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis (Mabuya) elegans</i>										✓							✓							
Gravenhorst's Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis c.f. gravenhorstii</i>																✓								
Broad-tailed Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>																				✓		✓		

Common name	Scientific name	October/November 2022																							
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Ornate Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus ornatus</i>					S	✓																		
Snakes																									
Big-eyed Snake	<i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>										✓	✓													
Madagascar Lined Snake	<i>Bibilava (Liopholidophis) lateralis</i>								✓														✓		
Three-lined Snake	<i>Liophidium trilineatum</i>																		✓						
Zebu-killing Snake	<i>Ithycyphus miniatus</i>									?															
Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>															✓									
Malagasy Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Leioheterodon madagascariensis</i>																		✓			✓			
Sea Snakes																									
Black with White markings	<i>Hydrophiinae sp.</i>																								
Turtles & Tortoises																									
Spider Tortoise	<i>Pyxis arachnoides</i>													C	C	✓									
Radiated Tortoise	<i>Geochelone radiata</i>								✓	✓	✓														
Angonoka (Plough-share) Tortoise	<i>Astrochelys yniphora</i>																			C					
Flat-tailed Tortoise	<i>Pyxis plancauda</i>																			C					
Big-headed Turtle														C						C					
Others																									
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>													C	C										

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	October/November 2022																							
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			✓															✓						
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>			✓																					
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				✓																				
Meller's Duck*	<i>Anas melleri</i>			✓																					
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>			✓	✓																				
Hottentot Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>			✓																					
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>								✓	✓				✓	✓	✓									
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>																				✓				
Red-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubicauda</i>											✓	✓												
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			✓											✓										
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>			✓						✓															
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			✓													✓		✓						
Malagasy Pond Heron*	<i>Ardeola idae</i>			✓																					
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>											✓													
Humboldt's Heron*	<i>Ardea humbloti</i>																			✓					
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>																			✓			✓		
Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>		✓	✓	✓												✓				✓	✓			✓
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>			✓	✓												✓		✓						
Dimorphic Heron	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>			✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>			✓										✓							✓				✓
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>																	✓	✓						
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>																			✓					
Madagascar Harrier-Hawk*	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>										✓					✓									
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
Madagascar Fish Eagle*	<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>																			✓					
Madagascar Buzzard*	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>				✓		✓		✓							✓			✓			✓			
White-breasted Mesite*	<i>Mesitornis variegatus</i>																		✓						
Subdesert Mesite*	<i>Monias benschi</i>										✓														
Madagascar Flufftail*	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>						H																		

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		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>			✓		H				✓															
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>																					✓			
Madagascar Buttonquail*	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>													✓											
Crab-plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>											✓													
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>									✓	✓														
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>									✓	✓	✓													
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>									✓	✓	✓													
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>									✓	✓														
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>										✓														
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>									✓	✓														
Madagascar Snipe*	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>				✓																				
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>												✓												
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓												
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>												✓												
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>										✓	✓													
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							✓			✓									✓		✓			
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>									✓	✓	✓													
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>												✓												
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>										✓														
Kelp (Madagascar) Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus melisandae</i>												✓												
Greater Crested (Swift) Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>												✓												
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>												✓												
Madagascar Sandgrouse*	<i>Pterocles personatus</i>													✓	✓										
Rock Dove [Feral]	<i>Columba livia feral</i>			✓	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓			✓	✓		✓				✓	
Malagasy Turtle Dove*	<i>Nesoenas picturatus</i>			✓						✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓					
Madagascar Green Pigeon*	<i>Treron australis</i>												✓	✓						✓					
Madagascar Blue Pigeon*	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>																					✓	✓		
Malagasy Coucal**	<i>Centropus toulou</i>			✓						✓					✓	✓								H	
Crested Coua*	<i>Coua cristata</i>				H						✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						
Blue Coua*	<i>Coua caerulea</i>						✓	✓														H	✓		

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		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Red-capped Coua*	<i>Coua ruficeps</i>																								✓
Red-fronted Coua*	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>				✓		✓																		
Coquerel's Coua*	<i>Coua coquereli</i>																								✓
Running Coua*	<i>Coua cursor</i>										✓					✓	✓								
Giant Coua*	<i>Coua gigas</i>									✓						✓	✓								
Madagascan Cuckoo*	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>				H		✓		✓																
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>																								✓
Torotoroka Scops Owl*	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>								✓	✓										✓	H				✓
Rainforest Scops Owl*	<i>Otus rutilus</i>															H									
White-browed Hawk-Owl*	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>									✓					✓	✓	✓								
Madagascan Owl*	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>																								✓
Collared Nightjar*	<i>Gactornis enarratus*</i>																								✓
Madagascan Nightjar*	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>									✓					✓	H	✓								
Madagascan Spinetail*	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>																								✓
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus gracilis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓				✓	✓			
Cuckoo Roller*	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>									H	✓														H
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>								✓	✓						✓	✓								✓
Pitta-like Ground Roller*	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>					✓	✓																		
Long-tailed Ground Roller*	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>											✓													
Malagasy Kingfisher*	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>			✓					✓																✓
Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓						✓	✓			
Madagascan Hoopoe*	<i>Upupa marginata</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓								
Malagasy Kestrel*	<i>Falco newtoni</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓
Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>																								✓
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			✓																					
Greater Vasa Parrot*	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>										✓				✓	✓	✓								
Lesser Vasa Parrot*	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>					✓			✓	H															✓
Grey-headed Lovebird*	<i>Agapornis canus</i>				✓				✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓							
Velvet Asity*	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>				✓	✓	✓																		
Red-tailed Vanga*	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>						✓																✓		✓

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		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Hook-billed Vanga*	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>														✓	✓			✓						
Van Dam's Vanga*	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>																		✓						
Sickle-billed Vanga*	<i>Falcolea palliata</i>										✓								✓						
White-headed Vanga*	<i>Artamella viridis</i>								✓										✓						
Chabert's Vanga*	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>																		✓		✓				
Blue Vanga*	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>					H	✓															✓			
Rufous Vanga*	<i>Schetba rufa</i>																		✓						
Tylas Vanga*	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>						✓															✓			
Nuthatch Vanga*	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>																					✓			
Common Newtonia*	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>						✓			✓	✓							✓			✓		✓		
Crossley's Vanga*	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>					✓																			
Madagascan Cuckooshrike*	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>						✓																✓		
Crested Drongo**	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher**	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>					✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Madagascan Lark*	<i>Eremopterix hova</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓									✓		✓					
Malagasy Bulbul**	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Mascarene Martin**	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓						✓				✓	✓			✓				
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>			✓		✓																			✓
Malagasy Brush Warbler**	<i>Nesillas typica</i>			✓	✓	H	H			✓		✓	✓			✓				✓	H		✓		
Subdesert Brush Warbler*	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>										✓		✓												
Madagascan Swamp Warbler*	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>				H																				
Long-billed Bernieria (Tetraka)*	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>																				✓		✓		
White-throated Oxylabes*	<i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>						✓																		
Spectacled Tetraka*	<i>Xanthomixis zosterops</i>						✓														✓	✓	✓		
Rand's Warbler (Tetraka)*	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>						✓															✓	✓		
Common Jery*	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>						✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓									
Green Jery*	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>							✓																	
Stripe-throated Jery*	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>										✓		?												

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Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Madagascar Cisticola**	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>								H	✓	✓	✓					✓						✓		
Malagasy White-eye**	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓								✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Madagascar Starling*	<i>Hartlaubius auratus</i>						✓																✓		
Madagascar Magpie-Robin*	<i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓				✓		
Littoral Rock Thrush*	<i>Monticola imerina</i>											✓													
Forest Rock Thrush*	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>								✓																
Madagascar Stonechat*	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>				✓				✓											✓		✓	✓		✓
Souimanga Sunbird**	<i>Cinnyris sovimanga</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓				✓		
Malagasy Green Sunbird**	<i>Cinnyris notatus</i>					✓		✓	✓		✓														
Nelicourvi Weaver*	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>						✓											✓			✓	✓	✓		
Sakalava Weaver*	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>									✓	✓				✓	✓									
Red Fody*	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓				✓	✓		✓	✓				
Forest Fody*	<i>Foudia omissa</i>										✓					✓									
Madagascar Mannikin*	<i>Lepidopygia nana</i>				✓			✓														✓	✓		
Madagascar Wagtail*	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>		✓		✓		✓		✓												✓	✓	✓	✓	

Others

		October/November 2022																							
Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Butterflies																									
	<i>Papilionidae</i>																								
Green Lady Swallowtail	<i>Graphium cyrnus cyrnus</i>				1	✓			1																
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>						1		1			✓								1	✓	✓			
Banded Blue Swallowtail	<i>Papilio oribazus</i>					✓																1	1		
Madagascar Giant Swallowtail	<i>Pharmacophagus antenor*</i>								1	1															
	<i>Pieridae</i>																								

		October/November 2022																							
Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Albatross White	<i>Appias sabina confusa</i>														✓										
Grandidier's Caper White.	<i>Belenois grandidieri</i>										✓														
African Migrant	<i>Catopsilla florella thauruma*</i>												✓		✓										
Madagascan Orange Tip	<i>Colotis evanthe*</i>								1	✓	✓				1	1									
Malagasy Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema floricola</i>						1								1	✓									
African Wood White	<i>Leptosia alcesta sylvicola*</i>																								
Madagascan Metalmark	<i>Lycaenidae</i>						1																		
Indian Satir	<i>Riodinidae</i>						1																		
Common Diadem	<i>Nymphalidae</i>														1										
Red 'Clearwing'	<i>Acraea sp.</i>								1	1					✓	✓									
African Monarch or Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>			✓	✓	✓			1	1				1	1	1									
Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone epiclelia</i>								1																
Brilliant Blue	<i>Junonia rhadama*</i>												✓		1	1									
Banded Commodor	<i>Precis andremiaja</i>						✓																		
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>								✓																
	<i>Hesperiidae</i>																								
Spotted Sailer							✓																		
Other invertebrates																									
Emperor type Dragonfly	<i>c.f. Anax imperator</i>								✓																
Rainbow Milkweed Locust	<i>Phymateus saxosus</i>								1?																
Praying Mantis	<i>Polyspilota sp.</i>					1									✓		1				1				
Hissing Cockroach	<i>Gromphadorhina portentosa</i>								1							1		1	✓		1				
Ant-lion sp.	-															✓									
Stick Insect	-					1	✓														1				
Flatid Leaf-bug	<i>Phromnia rosea</i>								1	1				1	✓				1			1			

		October/November 2022																							
Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Plataspid Shield Bugs	<i>Libyaspis coccinelloides</i>								1																
Giraffe-necked Weevil	<i>Trachelophorus giraffa</i>						1																		
Pill Millipede (Large Brown)	<i>Sphaerotherium sp.</i>															1									
Giant Centipede	<i>Scolopendra c.f. subspinipes</i>															1									
Large Black Millipede	-						1									1		?							
Madagascar Golden Orb-web Spider	<i>Nephila madagascariensis*</i>			1	1											✓									
Orb-web Spider	<i>Nephila sp.</i>																				1				
Thorn Spider (Yellow / Black)	<i>Gasteracanthinae sp.</i>				P																	1			
Web-casting Spider	<i>Deinopis sp.</i>																				?				
Others																									
Terrestrial Molluscs:																									
Giant African Land Snail	<i>Achatina fulica</i>																				1				
Crustacea:																									
Marine:																									
Terrestrial Hermit Crab	<i>Coenobita sp.</i>															✓									
Echinoidea:																									
Sea Urchin	-																								

Noted flora

A Tree Fern	<i>Cyathea madagascariensis</i> *
African Water-lily	<i>Nymphaea nouchali</i> (<i>N. stellata</i>)
Madagascan Periwinkle	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> *
Elephant's Foot	<i>Pachypodium rosulatum</i> *
Papaya	[<i>Carica papaya</i>]
Madagascan Sundew	<i>Drosera madagascariensis</i>
A Crown of Thorns	<i>Euphorbia bevilanensis</i> *
Tapia	<i>Uapaca bojeri</i> *
Madagascar Buddleja	<i>Buddleja madagascariensis</i> *
Water Hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>