

The Best of Madagascar

Naturetrek Tour Report

16th October – 8th November 2023



Sub-desert Mesite, Ifaty by Peter Morris



Madagascar Hoopoe by Paul Hanks



Madagascar Nightjar & chick, Berenty by Peter Morris



Verreaux's Sifaka by Paul Hanks

Tour report by Andy Smith, photos by Peter Morris & Paul Hanks



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Participants: Andy Smith & Claude Rambeloson (leaders) with 10 Naturetrek Clients.

Day 1

Monday 16th October

Most of the group met up at Heathrow in the early evening, in preparation for our overnight flight via Addis Ababa with Ethiopian Airlines.

Day 2

Tuesday 17th October

Overcast and warm in Tana with thundery rain from sunset into the night.

After an early morning transit at Addis Ababa, where we connected with the last two members of our party, we flew on to Antananarivo. Having arrived on time in the early afternoon, we cleared immigration, collected our bags, changed some currency and then met up with Claude and our bus and driver and transferred across the colourful and bustling city to our comfortable hotel. Great Egrets and Squacco Herons were noted in some rice paddies en route and when we arrived at our hotel we were greeted by the twittering of many Red Fodies coming in to roost in the trees in the garden. We settled in, then reconvened a little later for our first dinner together.

Day 3

Wednesday 18th October

Sunny and very warm to mid-pm, then increasingly overcast with some thundery rain.

After breakfast we drove a short way through parts of Tana to the wooded Lake Tsarasaotra. Here we found masses of birds. There were hundreds of Red-billed Teals and White-faced Whistling Ducks, several Hottentot Teals, eight Meller's Ducks, a Comb Duck, 100s of Dimorphic Egrets and Squacco Herons, at least 30 Black Herons, several Cattle Egrets and five very smart Malagasy Pond Herons. We also saw a number of Moorhens, a Malagasy Coucal, some Malagasy Bulbuls and several Malagasy White-eyes and Common Jerries. Non-avian sightings included colourful Lined Day Geckos, a couple of Grandidier's Dwarf Geckos and a few African Tiger butterflies. It was a good start!

We ate lunch at a restaurant on the southern edge of Tana, where Mascarene Martins, Malagasy Black Swifts and a Madagascar Bee-eater were noted from the terrace, then continued south on the N7. The drive, through the Merina Highlands, took us through a scenic patchwork of rice paddies, scrubby hills and characterful villages. At one brief leg-stretch stop towards the end of the afternoon, where we presented something of a novelty to the local children, we found a Malagasy Kestrel, a Madagascar Wagtail and two surprise Madagascar Cuckoos. We arrived at our hotel in Andsirabe a little after dark, settled in and ate dinner.

Day 4

Thursday 19th October

Sunny and warm with scattered cloud and a gentle breeze. Some rain showers in the early afternoon.

Malagasy Brush Warblers, Madagascar Mannikins and a roosting Madagascar Nightjar in the hotel garden started the day well and with breakfast completed we continued our journey. First we headed through Antsirabe town itself, bristling with bicycle rickshaws and then out into the familiar highland scenery of rice paddies, deforested

hills dotted with patches of introduced pines and eucalyptus, and villages of two-storey chimneyless brick houses with wooden shutters and ornate wooden balconies. We passed men ploughing with Zebu, women in small groups bent double planting out rice seedlings in the shallow water, and lads on bicycles transporting charcoal: four sacks each!

We stopped to see some Madagascan Bee-eaters which were nesting in burrows in a road cutting a little north of Ambositra, and then again for our picnic lunch by a marsh and a patch of secondary forest near Ankazomivady. Here we saw Madagascan Stonechat and Cisticola, and Malagasy Turtle Dove, but the hoped for Madagascan Snipe eluded all but one lucky member of the group. Pushing on, we passed through Ambohimasoana with its large Dimorphic Egret colony, stopped at a viewpoint where we noted two distant Madagascan Buzzards and a couple of Yellow-billed Kites, and then eventually turned off the highway and dropped down to Ranomafana town and our hotel for the next few nights.

Day 5

Friday 20th October

Sunny and warm through to mid-pm then overcast and cooler, with some light rain in the evening.

After an early breakfast we set off for Ranomafana National Park and were out on the forest trails a little after 7.00am, ahead of most of the morning's visitors. We had a productive time of it too, enjoying great views of a group of four Red-bellied Lemurs (including a female with a tiny infant), a troop of a dozen or so Red-fronted Brown Lemurs (including one female with twins!), three wonderful Golden Bamboo Lemurs and a pair of handsome Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs. The best of the birds were a Pitta-like Ground Roller, a singing Crossley's Vanga, a trio of Madagascan Cuckoo-Shrikes and a Blue Coua. We concluded the visit with an encounter with a lively Gold-collared Snake and were able to admire its startling bubble-gum pink underside.

We ate lunch back at the hotel, had a short siesta and then headed out again in the late afternoon. First, we stopped a little above Vohiparara village where short searches turned up a couple of stunning Baron's Mantella Frogs and then some Giraffe-necked Weevils: what extraordinary creatures both! Another Blue Coua showed itself well for us here too, before we dropped back down to Ranomafana and finished off with a short night walk along the road by the national park boundary. Here we saw a series of Blue-legged Chameleons, a few Madagascan Bright-eyed Frogs and two amazing little Rufous Mouse Lemurs lured out of the cover of the forest to eat banana smeared onto twigs.

Day 6

Saturday 21st October

Overcast and cool with some sunny breaks in the late morning, and then some drizzle and rain in the afternoon.

This morning we went up to Vohiparara, a higher-altitude section of Ranomafana National Park and less visited than the main part of the park. Indeed, we met few other people whilst we were out and enjoyed some great sightings. Highlights included a Lowland Streaked Tenrec, a dazzling Common Sunbird-Asity, a displaying Cuckoo Roller, a couple of Long-billed Bernierias (Tetrakas), several Blue Couas, some tiny and almost transparent Pandanus Frogs and, at the eleventh hour, an impressive party of Milne-Edward's Sifakas.

After lunch and a break back at the hotel, during which some of the group found a huge male Parson's Chameleon in the garden, we went back up to Vohiparara again. Although it was quiet overall, we did find a female Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher on its exquisitely constructed nest right by the trail, and then a smart male Velvet Asity. The Rufous Mouse Lemurs were out at their usual banana twig site again at sunset and this evening's chameleons included an excellent juvenile male Nose-horned.

Day 7

Sunday 22nd October

Sunny and hot with some scattered cloud and a gentle breeze.

With a long journey ahead of us, we ate an early breakfast and got away from Ranomafana town as promptly as we could. We made a short stop to admire the impressive Namorona waterfalls and found a pair of Mine-Edward's Sifakas with a tiny infant high up in the trees across the valley, plus a nice selection of birds. These latter included two Blue Couas, a flyover Madagascan Blue Pigeon, a Crested Drongo, a singing Madagascan Magpie-Robin, some Malagasy White-eyes and a group of Mascarene Martins and Black Swifts.

We climbed back up to the (awful) N7, proceeded through Fianarantsoa (Madagascar's second city), then the town of Ambavilao, and reached the village of Anja in the late morning. Here, among dramatic granite inselbergs is a relict tract of transitional forest in which the villagers have set up a simple trail system which they guide visitors around. A successful example of a grass-roots co-operative venture, the proceeds go directly to the villagers and Anja is a must-stop site for tourists as they travel the N7. As ever, we had an enjoyable walk around and saw lots of Ring-tailed Lemurs (including many engaging youngsters), several Oustalet's Chameleons (including one that zapped a passing Swallowtail butterfly as we watched!), a Dumeril's Bright-eyed Frog and a Madagascan Hoopoe. We followed the walk with a picnic lunch and then continued on our way.

We reached Ihosy town in the mid-afternoon and then climbed up onto the Horombe Plateau where one short stop gave us some excellent views of several Madagascan Bushlarks, and a second two Madagascan Hoopoes and a passing Purple Heron. Dropping down off the plateau, we passed through Ranohira town into the wonderful sandstone scenery of the Isalo region and so, finally, to our luxurious hotel.

Day 8

Monday 23rd October

Hot and sunny with some scattered cloud. Breezy in the middle of the day.

A pre-breakfast walk around the lovely gardens and grounds of the hotel produced a satisfying selection of birds, with great views of Madagascan Bee-eaters and Hoopoes, and Malagasy Turtle Doves and Coucals, plus Souimanga Sunbirds, Crested Drongos and several delightful Grey-headed Lovebirds.

Post breakfast, we drove the short distance into Isalo National Park where we walked up a wooded valley and into a beautiful gorge. The scenery was consistently spectacular with towering sandstone cliffs all around us and during the course of the morning we encountered some great wildlife. A trio of Verraux's Sifakas were spotted in the inaccessible distance and birds included roosting Madagascar Scops and White-browed Owls, a Madagascan Buttonquail, a pair of Malagasy Paradise Flycatchers feeding three large young in the nest, a Madagascan Buzzard

soaring around the crags and a singing male Forest Rock Thrush. Invertebrates were good too with Snout Bugs, Flattid Leaf Bugs, Net-casting Spiders, a Giant Stick Insect and several Giant Swallowtails all being seen.

After lunch and a siesta back at the hotel, some of us went for a late afternoon walk around the local area. The canyons and rock formations were beautiful in the soft light and as we walked we found some flowering Pachypodiums, noted a pair of Greater Vasa Parrots (the female sporting the bald head she acquires during the breeding season – an odd sight), and enjoyed more views of the local Madagascan Hoopoes.

Day 9

Tuesday 24th October

Sunny and hot with some scattered cloud. Breezy in the middle of the day.

We were up and away from Isalo before dawn and passed through the sapphire-mining settlement of Ilakaka just after sunrise. A little later we arrived at the wonderful Zombitse forest, a relict area of transitional forest in an otherwise severely deforested zone. A good walk here in the company of a group of local guides brought us great views of a Zombitse Sportive Lemur resting outside its tree hole roost, a White-browed Owl, a Rufous Vanga sitting tight in its nest, a pair of Blue Vangas, a displaying Cuckoo Roller, a Crested Coua and a couple of the very localised and subtly attractive Appert's Tetrakas creeping around on the forest floor. A finishing touch as we left were two Standing's Day Geckos, large and colourful, on the wall of the wooden reception hut in the car park.

From Zombitse we continued south-westwards. In the late morning, about 15km short of Tulear, we turned off into an area of coral rag scrub, an uninviting sort of habitat in the midday heat but, after a short search with local guide Dabe, we found the star bird of the area, a Red-shouldered Vanga, an attractively marked fellow and another very range-restricted species. Relatively recently discovered, it occurs only in this kind of habitat and only in a tiny area around Tulear. Our next stop was for lunch at Tulear arboretum, after which we proceeded through town and then north along the coast towards Ifaty. A couple of short roadside stops at some saline pools brought nice views of Kittlitz's Plovers and Curlew Sandpipers and then, towards the end of the afternoon, we arrived at our lovely beachside hotel.

After time to settle in and relax for a while, we met up just after dark for a short nocturnal foray and enjoyed some excellent views of a couple of Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs – very nice indeed! After this it was dinner with a local band for entertainment and then an early night.

Day 10

Wednesday 25th October

Overcast at first becoming sunny with scattered cloud by mid-am. Hot and humid. Windy in the afternoon.

We were up at 4.00am, drinking coffee at 4.30am and away at 4.45am (under a glorious star-studded sky with Venus and Jupiter visible) and into the wonderful Reniala Spiny Forest Reserve shortly after 5.00am. We enjoyed first light with expert local guide Dabe again. This was a truly sensational few hours during which we had spectacular views of a Long-tailed Ground Roller (simply one of the best birds in the world!), a pair of Subdesert Mesites, nest-building Sickle-billed Vangas, Green-capped Coua and a Thamnornis. Additionally, we saw roosting Madagascar Scops Owl and Madagascan Nightjar, a number of singing Stripe-throated Jeries, a brief Running

Coua, a Crested Coua and some Grey-headed Lovebirds. Reptiles were conspicuous too and included Three-eyed Lizards, Peter's Dwarf Lizard, Gold-spotted Skink and Spiny-tailed Iguanid. Phew!

After breakfast back at the hotel and some time to pack up, we were off again back to Tulear for lunch and a tour at the arboretum. Over lunch some Madagascan Bee-eaters and a gorgeous white male Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher took turns to bathe in the swimming pool while Sakalava Weavers potted around in the surrounding trees. Post lunch we made our way to the local airport for our late afternoon flight to Tana. The flight was on time and we arrived back at our familiar hotel in time to settle in before dinner.

Day 11

Thursday 26th October

Sunny, hot and humid with some scattered cloud and a breeze in the afternoon.

Up early again, we transferred back to Tana airport for our morning flight up to Mahajanga. This flight was on time too and we arrived dazed and blinking into the sunshine of Mahajanga a little after 8.00am. Met by a minibus, a couple of 4x4s and a trio of drivers, we loaded up and set off through the busy and colourful town and out into the hinterland beyond. A while later we made a stop at the extensive rice paddies on the edge of Ankazaborona, one of the largest rice-growing area in the country. Many of the paddies were dry at this stage but a scan across the vista revealed over 100 Great Egrets, and dozens each of Black Egrets, Cattle Egrets and Squacco Herons. From here we drove on to Ankarafantsika and our simple but friendly accommodation where we settled in and ate lunch. In the late afternoon we set off on the trails in the Ankarafantsika National Park with local guides Olga and Modest. Ankarafantsika, also known as Ampijoroa, is one of the last remaining blocks of the seasonal dry forest that used to cover much of the north-west of Madagascar. It's a special place and supports a wealth of range-restricted, threatened and endangered species. Highlights on this, our first exploration of the forest, included fabulous views of a quartet of Golden-brown Mouse Lemurs peering at us from the safety of their tree-trunk roost, plus a group of a dozen or so Common Brown Lemurs, a couple of Broad-billed Rollers, a Sickle-billed and a Rufous Vanga on their respective nests, and a White-breasted Mesite, one of the very special birds of the area, walking quietly across the forest floor.

Day 12

Friday 27th October

Sunny with scattered cloud. Hot and humid with a bit of a breeze in the afternoon.

During a morning walking the trails in Ankarafantsika we encountered an exciting range of the local wildlife including a troop of handsome Coquerel's Sifakas, a group of four Western Woolly Lemurs (watching us watching them), a pair of White-breasted Mesites, a Coquerel's Coua, a few Crested Couas, Blue, Rufous and Hook-billed Vangas and a pair of the very localised Van Dam's Vanga. These last were a very welcome sighting and we watched them at close range as they searched the bark of the tree trunks for insects. They seemed to be finding freshly emerged cicadas which they expertly winkled out of the crevices and then devoured. Further interest came in the form of Broad-tailed Girdled Lizards and Collared Iguanids which were both very obvious along the way, and a sizeable Madagascan Hog-nosed Snake.

After lunch and a siesta back at our lodgings, we returned to the national park and split into two groups for boat trips around forest-fringed Lake Ravelobe. While one group boated, the other walked some more of the trails.

Between us we had a great time of it with both groups seeing a Madagascan Fish Eagle, Madagascan Jacanas and Malagasy Kingfisher whilst out on the lake and Coquerel's Sifakas on the trails. One group also saw a Brown Hog-nosed Snake, the others a Hook-billed Vanga on its nest, and all enjoyed seeing a couple of Tomb Bats at their roost in a crevice in one of the carpark trees.

Day 13

Saturday 28th October

Violent thunderstorms overnight preceded an overcast and cool early morning. Hot and sunny by mid-morning with scattered cloud building up again in the afternoon and more thundery rain after dark.

Up early again, we were back on the Ankarafantsika trails shortly after 6.00am. It was pleasantly cool after the spectacular overnight storm and we split into two groups, one focused on the birds and one for more general wildlife. Between us we saw some great stuff. Highlights included a male Schlegel's Asity, Red-capped and Coquerel's Couas, Madagascan Sparrowhawk, Madagascan Buttonquail, Rufous, Blue and Sickle-billed Vangas, Common Brown Lemurs, Coquerel's Sifakas and a huge (1.5m) Madagascan Hog-nosed Snake.

Back out in the late afternoon again, we walked from the national park carpark along the lakeshore road. This proved pretty productive and we enjoyed great views of four very smart White-headed Vangas (three males and a female) engaged in a protracted courtship chase through the treetops, plus a pair of Hook-billed Vangas, another Sickle-billed Vanga on its nest, a couple of Broad-billed Rollers, a Malagasy Kingfisher, a large flock of Cattle Egrets heading to roost, yesterday's Tomb Bats and an Oustalet's Chameleon.

We finished the day with a night walk along a forested track at the edge of the national park. This was very exciting as we saw three single Grey Mouse Lemurs, a Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur, a roosting Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher, a male Rhinoceros Chameleon and a totally extraordinary-looking Spearpoint Leaf-tailed Gecko: wow!

Day 14

Sunday 29th October

Overcast at first, becoming sunny and hot with scattered cloud by mid-morning. Breezy and humid.

After a leisurely start we left Ankarafantsika and began the journey back to Mahajanga. We stopped briefly at the Ankazaborona rice fields again and reached Mahajanga shortly before noon. We had a protracted but very good lunch at a comfortable beachside hotel restaurant and then a bit of poolside leisure time before heading to the airport for our delayed flight back to Tana. Eventually airborne in the early evening, we reached our hotel at 9.40pm, and after a speedy dinner retired for the night.

Day 15

Monday 30th October

Sunny and warm with scattered cloud.

Another leisurely start and then away in a new bus with new drivers eastwards and down towards Andasibe. We stopped en route at the Mangoro river where we noted a Striated Heron, a Malagasy Kingfisher, a Madagascan Wagtail and a couple of Common Sandpipers. We reached Andasibe in time for lunch at Fyonyala, a restaurant with a terrace which looks across a lushly-vegetated stream flowing into the thick forest of Analamazaotra. Two

Indris were visible in the trees opposite as we settled down to eat whilst a Chabert's Vanga, neatly black and white, appeared briefly in one of the treetops and a group of Madagascar Blue Pigeons hurtled down to feed in a fruiting fig tree.

Post lunch, we went for a short walk in the local community nature reserve with veteran guide Maurice and his daughter Natasha. Here we found a bright-green male Parson's Chameleon, an astonishingly well-camouflaged Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko, another Indri (which played hard to get) and roosting Madagascar Scops and Madagascar Long-eared Owls. From here, as the evening closed in, we made our way the short distance to our very comfortable lodge.

Day 16

Tuesday 31st October

Sunny and very warm. Breezy in the afternoon.

After an early breakfast we set off in a team of 4x4's towards Mantadia National Park. The road was pretty bad, but we made reasonable time and we were out on the trails soon enough. Mantadia is a superb tract of rainforest and we enjoyed a good walk around and saw some wonderful things. Top of the bill were a couple of groups of Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs which provided reasonable views in the canopy above us. We also heard distant Indris howling (one of the world's most thrilling animal sounds!) and came across a Red Forest Rat pottering around unobtrusively on the forest floor. An exciting range of birds included a Short-legged Ground Roller, Crossley's and Tylas Vangas, two amazing little Nuthatch Vangas, a White-throated Rail and a brief Red-breasted Coua.

We finished up with a picnic lunch by an old quarry pond filled with water lilies. Here we found two Madagascar Starlings, a Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, a pair of Broad-billed Rollers and several Madagascar Girdled Lizards and enjoyed some fantastic close views of a female Red-tailed Vanga.

Back at the lodge in the mid-afternoon, we took a siesta before some of us went out on a night walk to the community reserve in Andasibe. This turned up trumps with sightings of Goodman's Mouse, Furry-eared Dwarf and Eastern Woolly Lemurs, Lowland Streaked Tenrec, Rainforest Scops Owl, Green and Madagascar Bright-eyed Frogs and a Betsileo Reed Frog – not bad!

Day 17

Wednesday 1st November

Sunny in the morning, overcast in the afternoon. Breezy and very warm.

We went into Analamazaotra this morning, another wonderful stretch of forest, and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Highlights included close encounters with Indris, Diademed Sifakas and some delightful little Grey Bamboo Lemurs, plus a large Tree Boa lying in the sun and a couple of superbly camouflaged Collared Nightjars, one roosting in the shadows on the forest floor and the second on its nest in the crown of a head-high Bird's Nest Palm.

After lunch and a break back at the lodge we headed out again. Our first stop was at the Orchid Garden. Few orchids were evident, but we did find a Madagascar Crested Ibis stalking around in a damp shady gully and a Free

Madagascan Frog (odd name!). We finished up with another night walk in the community reserve (as on the previous evening) and had another great session with three Goodman's Mouse Lemurs, a Weasel Sportive Lemur (very rarely seen), another Lowland Streaked Tenrec and an amazing Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko!

Day 18

Thursday 2nd November

Sunny with scattered cloud. Mild in the morning, very warm in the afternoon.

We went back into Analamazaotra again this morning and split into two groups, one focused on the birds and the other more general wildlife. The birders enjoyed fantastic views of a vocal Madagascan Flufftail out in the open at the edge of the track, a superb Red-fronted Coua, a Ward's Vanga, a Spectacled Tetraka and nest-building Nelicourvi Weavers, whilst the second group caught up with the Diademed Sifakas again and found three Madagascan Wood Rails and a couple of tiny Brown Leaf Chameleons. Both groups saw Indris and the Grey Bamboo Lemurs again so, all in all, it was a successful morning!

Post lunch we went back to Fyonyala where we saw Madagascan Blue Pigeons, Chabert's and Blue Vangas and a White-throated Rail, and then embarked on the drive back up to Tana. The journey took the rest of the afternoon and we arrived at our familiar hotel in the early evening.

Day 19

Friday 3rd November

Sunny in Tana in the early morning. Overcast, breezy and pleasantly mild down south.

We were up early again and back across town to the airport. Our flight to Fort Dauphin in the far south-east of the country departed on time and on arrival we met up with a team of 4x4s and drivers, and began the journey west to Berenty. Our route took us first through a lush patchwork of farmland and rice paddies backed by rugged, forested mountains and then rather abruptly, as we cleared the mountains, into a much drier rain-shadowed region of spiny forest and scrub. The transition was dramatic. Birds along the way on the first stage of the journey included hundreds of Red-billed Teals on one flooded area, a roadside Malagasy Pond Heron and a couple of unexpected Alpine Swifts. In the spiny scrublands we noted singing Stripe-throated Jeries and a few Namaqua Doves.

We reached Berenty in time to settle in before lunch and then in the late afternoon we went for a first walk around the gallery forest. Ring-tailed Lemurs, Red-fronted Brown Lemurs and Verraux's Sifakas were much in evidence and we enjoyed engaging close encounters with all three species. We also found a couple of Warty Chameleons and a nice range of birds including Crested and Giant Couas, a White-browed Owl, Malagasy Turtle Doves and Madagascan Hoopoes, a couple of close Lesser Vasa Parrots and a superb Frances's Sparrowhawk. Out again after dark in a nearby patch of spiny forest, we finished the day with sightings of Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs, Spiny Forest Dwarf Geckos, a scorpion and a large and impressive antlion.

Day 20

Saturday 4th November

Sunny, hot and windy.

Up and out at first light, we drove a short distance to an area of spiny forest and enjoyed an excellent walk through some truly extraordinary habitat. Along the way we had wonderful close views of a group of Verraux's Sifakas in the spiny Octopus Trees, plus Ring-tailed and White-footed Sportive Lemurs. We also found two species of snakes, a Bernier's Lined Snake and a Mahafali Sand Snake, and enjoyed some great sightings of Grey-headed Lovebirds, Crested Drongos, Madagascar Bee-eaters and Madagascar Hoopoe.

In the late afternoon we visited a different piece of spiny forest, also extraordinary and wonderful, where we found a couple of Spider Tortoises (very nice!), an impressive Velvet Gecko and a Madagascar Nightjar on its nest scrape on the ground, with a tiny grey chick poking its head out from beneath it. We finished the day with another night walk, this time in the gallery forest adjacent to the lodge and found Mocquard's and Madagascar Ground Geckos, two very striking and attractive species.

Day 21

Sunday 5th November

Sunny and hot. Windy in the afternoon.

We were up and out shortly after first light again, this time into the gallery forest. It was a beautiful, cool, sunny morning and a pair of Giant Couas stalking around behind the kitchen block started things off very well. A little later, out on the trail, we saw a large troop of Ring-tailed Lemurs approaching us. We hunkered down quietly and they kept on coming and casually sauntered right past us. We saw females carrying tiny infants; larger, more independent youngsters exploring and playing as they went; and other adults pausing to scent mark trees as they passed, scoring the bark with their wrist spurs. It was all captivating to watch and they didn't pay us the least attention: marvellous!

Our route also took us as close as we were allowed to a large Madagascar Flying Fox colony roosting high up in the canopy of the forest. These presented quite a sight (and sound too)! One of the largest fruit bats in the world, with a lovely orange brown pelage, they were settling down for the day with much flapping and squabbling. Beyond this excitement we saw Grey-headed Lovebirds, Crested Couas, Malagasy Kestrels, Lesser Vasa Parrots, Malagasy Coucals, a Madagascar Cuckooshrike, a roosting Barn Owl, Souimanga Sunbirds, Common Jeries, Madagascar Magpie-Robins and a beautiful white male Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher. We also spent a good while down by the river enjoying the expansive views of the surrounding land, and observing and being observed by the friendly but curious locals.

After this we had a relaxing day with a short afternoon walk during which we saw nothing new, but enjoyed further encounters with the local lemurs and Giant Couas.

Day 22

Monday 6th November

Sunny and warm with scattered cloud and a brisk wind in Fort Dauphin; overcast, mild and showery in Tana.

We left Berenty before dawn and retraced our steps to Fort Dauphin, where we ate breakfast at a hotel prior to heading to the airport. Our flight was on time and we arrived back at Tana in the late morning. Transferring to the Combava hotel one last time, we ate a good lunch and then had an afternoon of leisure, during which some of us went to a very nice craft market at the other side of town.

Day 23

Tuesday 7th November

Sunny with scattered cloud, warm and breezy.

We made a leisurely start before our late morning transfer to the airport. We said our goodbyes and gave thanks to Claude, and then checked-in for our flights. Everything went smoothly: our flights departed on time and we all arrived safely back at our various destinations the following morning. It had been quite an adventure!

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all the various local guides and drivers who helped to make our trip a success, to all the members of the group for their part in the experience and especially to Claude for his calm efficiency and consistent good humour.



Madagascar Fish Eagle by Peter Morris and Lowland Streaked Tenrec by Paul Hanks

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Species lists

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																				
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
LEMURS:																						
Grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>											3								3		
Grey-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>							2											3	3		
Golden-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus ravelobensis</i>										4											
Rufous Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>				2	1																
Goodman's Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>															1	3					
Hairy-eared Dwarf Lemur	<i>Allocebus trichotis</i>															1						
Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus medius</i>												1									
Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>												1									
Zombitse Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur hubbardorum</i>								1													
White-footed Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur leucopus</i>																		1	4		
Weasel Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>																1					
Grey Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus griseus</i>																4	7				
Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>				3																	
Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>						25													30	30	40
Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>										12		2			8	5	8				
Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufifrons</i>				12															20	15	35
Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubiventer</i>				5	2																

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																				
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata</i>				2											4						
Eastern Woolly Lemur	<i>Avahi laniger</i>					1										2	1	2				
Western Woolly Lemur	<i>Avahi occidentalis</i>											4										
Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>						3	1											25	30	40	
Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>											7	10									
Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>																2	4				
Milne-Edwards' Sifaka	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>					4	3															
Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>														3	h	1	7				
OTHER MAMMALS:																						
Lowland Streaked Tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>					1										1	1					
Eastern Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>															1						
Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat	<i>Hipposideros commersoni</i>										2	2	2									
Tomb Bat	<i>Taphozous mauritanus</i>											2	2									
Madagascan Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>																		2		30+	

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

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																				
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>		100s									20	4	30								
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>		1																			
Meller's Duck*	<i>Anas melleri</i>		8																			
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>		100s	5															200			
Hottentot Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>		25																			
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>																		10	50	15	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>											1										
Madagascan Ibis*	<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>																1					
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		15																		1	1
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>											2	1		1	1	1	1				
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	2	100	1							10	5	1	2								3
Malagasy Pond Heron*	<i>Ardeola idae</i>		5																1			
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		20	2							10											
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>																			1	1	
Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	25	25	15						5	100	5	2	100	50					2	25	10
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	35	40								30			25	2							70
Dimorphic Heron	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	1	100	100						1	5	10	3		5					1	10	1
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>									1		4				2	1			2		1
Madagascan Harrier-Hawk*	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>										1	2										

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																				
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Frances's Sparrowhawk*	<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>																		1		1	
Madagascar Sparrowhawk*	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>											1										
Henst's Goshawk*	<i>Accipiter henstii</i>					1h												1h				
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptus</i>		1	5			15	5	10	2	10	5	10	10			1	30	15	20	5	
Madagascar Fish Eagle*	<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>		0									1										
Madagascar Buzzard*	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>			2	1			1	1			2	1		1	2	1		1			
White-breasted Mesite*	<i>Mesitornis variegatus</i>										1	2	h									
Subdesert Mesite*	<i>Monias benschi</i>									2												
Madagascar Wood Rail*	<i>Canirallus kioloides</i>				1h														3			
Madagascar Flufftail*	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>															1h	1h	1				
White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>		1	1h		1h			1h						1	1		1				
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		12													2		1				
Madagascar Buttonquail*	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>							1	2				1						1	1	2	1
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>								2													
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								2													
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>								4	3												
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>									2												
Madagascar Jacana*	<i>Actophilornis albinucha</i>										2											
Madagascar Snipe*	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>			1																		

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																							
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>								2	1															
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								4																
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					1									2										
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>								1																
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								10																
Rock Dove [Feral]	<i>Columba livia feral</i>		2	5											3			1	8						
Malagasy Turtle Dove*	<i>Nesoenas picturatus</i>			3				5	4	5		2	8		1		2	3	5	6					
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>						2		10	2	2			3					2	8					
Madagascar Green Pigeon*	<i>Treron australis</i>											1	5								1				
Madagascar Blue Pigeon*	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>				1		1								4				5						
Malagasy Coucal**	<i>Centropus toulou</i>		1	2		2h	1h	5	2	2	2h	1+1h	3h			1+2h	1h	1+2h	1	1	3				
Crested Coua*	<i>Coua cristata</i>								1	1	3h	2	3						6	5	8				
Blue Coua*	<i>Coua caerulea</i>				2	6	2									2h	1	1							
Red-capped Coua*	<i>Coua ruficeps</i>												3												
Green-capped Coua*	<i>Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps</i>									2															
Red-fronted Coua*	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>																	1							
Coquerel's Coua*	<i>Coua coquereli</i>											1	2												
Running Coua*	<i>Coua cursor</i>								1	1										1					
Giant Coua*	<i>Coua gigas</i>																		1	2	4				
Red-breasted Coua*	<i>Coua serriana</i>															1		3h							

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																				
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Verreaux's Coua*	<i>Coua verreauxi</i>								2h													
Madagascar Cuckoo*	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	3	1h	5h	1+4h		1	1h		1h	2+1h	2+2h		1+1h	2h	1h	1h		1	1+1h		
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>									1h	1h						1h			1		
Madagascar Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>						1		1					1	1	1h				1h		
White-browed Hawk-Owl*	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>						1	1				h						1+2h	1+2h	h	h	
Madagascar Owl*	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>													1								
Collared Nightjar*	<i>Gactornis enarratus*</i>															2						
Madagascar Nightjar*	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>			1			1h	1h	2h	1	1+1h		1+1h		2	1h	1h	h	2+2h	1h	2	
Madagascar Spinetail*	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>								1													
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus gracilis</i>				20	10	15	25	5		10			5					5			
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>																		2			
Malagasy Black Swift*	<i>Apus balstoni</i>	4	1	30			6		5										2		2	
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	2																				
Cuckoo Roller*	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>					1			1+1h		1h	1	2h			1h						
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>						1		2	2	5	10			2			2	1	1		
Short-legged Ground Roller*	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>														1							
Pitta-like Ground Roller*	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>			1	1h																	
Rufous-headed Ground Roller*	<i>Atelornis crossleyi</i>					1h																
Long-tailed Ground Roller*	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>								1													

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																				
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher*	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i>																					
Malagasy Kingfisher*	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>												1	1		1	1		2			1
Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>			2	15		1	30	10	10		5	h		2	4				2	1	
Madagascan Hoopoe*	<i>Upupa marginata</i>						3	3	1			h	3						2	3	2	
Malagasy Kestrel*	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	1	3	3			3	2		1					3				1	4	4	2
Greater Vasa Parrot*	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>							2								h						
Lesser Vasa Parrot*	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>				2				1	2	h	2	2			h	h		3	2	10	
Grey-headed Lovebird*	<i>Agapornis canus</i>							8		4									1	15	10	
Velvet Asity*	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>					1																
Schlegel's Asity*	<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>											1h	1									
Common Sunbird-Asity*	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>					1																
Red-tailed Vanga*	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>				5h	1+3h				1						1+1h	2h	2+2h				
Red-shouldered Vanga*	<i>Calicalicus rufocarpalis</i>								1													
Hook-billed Vanga*	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>				1h								2	4				1h	1h	1	2	1h
Van Dam's Vanga*	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>											1h	2	1								
Sickle-billed Vanga*	<i>Falcula palliata</i>									2	1	2	3									
White-headed Vanga*	<i>Artamella viridis</i>			1			1						4									
Chabert's Vanga*	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>									1						1				1		

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																				
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Blue Vanga*	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>					3			3			1	1			1h		4				
Rufous Vanga*	<i>Schetba rufa</i>								1		1	1	3									
Tylas Vanga*	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>															2						
Nuthatch Vanga*	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>															2						
Common Newtonia*	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>				1	2h	1	1	2	3h		5h	1+5h			1	1h		1+1h	1		
Ward's Vanga*	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>																	1				
Crossley's Vanga*	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>				1											1						
Madagascan Cuckooshrike*	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>				3							2					1h			1		
Crested Drongo**	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>				2		1	5	5	5	2	10	15		3	1	1	5	6	8		
Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher**	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>					2		2	4	2		6	10		1	4	3	5	1	5	6	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	2	2	10		1	50	25	30	2	20		1	5	1			2	30	20	20	10
Madagascan Lark*	<i>Eremopterix hova</i>						35			3	1	1		2				3				
Malagasy Bulbul**	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	1	2	2	10	15	10	20	20	10	5	15	20	4	5	10	15	15	2	10	20	
Mascarene Martin**	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>		12		5	4	5			1		2			1	3	1		15		5	
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>		6	6			3															
Malagasy Brush Warbler**	<i>Nesillas typica</i>		1h	5+2h	1+1h	1+5h	2						1h		1h	2h	2h	1+3h				
Subdesert Brush Warbler*	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>									3+2h									1	1h		
Madagascan Swamp Warbler*	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>		2+1h												1							

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																				
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Long-billed Bernieria (Tetraka)*	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>				2h	3			4			2	1			1h	3	3				
Thamnornis* (Subdesert Tetraka)	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>									1												
Spectacled Tetraka*	<i>Xanthomixis zosterops</i>																3	1				
Appert's Tetraka*	<i>Xanthomixis apperti</i>								2													
Rand's Warbler (Tetraka)*	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>				1+5h	1+5h									1h	4h						
Common Jery*	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>		2			2		6	5	1		5	5		2	4	4	3		5	10	
Green Jery*	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>														1							
Stripe-throated Jery*	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>				1			1	3	10							1	1h	10	5	4	1h
Madagascan Cisticola**	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>		2	4			1	2	5	1		1		1				5	3			
Malagasy White-eye**	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>		6		2	2	4									2		5		3	2	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	10	25	20	5	h	25	30	30	20	30	h	h		10	5	1	10	30	70	50	20
Madagascan Starling*	<i>Hartlaubius auratus</i>															2						
Madagascan Magpie-Robin*	<i>Copsychus albospecularis</i>				4	5	3	5	5	6	2	3	3		1	3	4	5	1	2	8	
Forest Rock Thrush*	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>							1														
Madagascan Stonechat*	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>			5				1							2	10	3	5				
Souimanga Sunbird**	<i>Cinnyris sovimanga</i>			2	15	12	5	10	10	20	2	6	20		1	10	5	7		5	5	1
Malagasy Green Sunbird**	<i>Cinnyris notatus</i>			2				2														1

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																							
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
Nelicourvi Weaver*	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>				1h												1h	5							
Sakalava Weaver*	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>								2	5				2					8	10	5				
Red Fody*	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	10	20	15				6												50	5	1	30		
Forest Fody*	<i>Foudia omissa</i>					1	1							1											
Madagascan Mannikin*	<i>Lepidopygia nana</i>			2	1			2								2	2	2					2		
Madagascan Wagtail*	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	2	8		1	2		1							3	5	2	4					1		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>													10										5	



From left to right – Dancing Verreaux’s Sifaka, Berenty, Crested Coua, Berenty, Indri, Analamazaotra NP by Peter Morris

Reptiles and Amphibians

		October - November 2023																				
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
* = Indicates a species is endemic																						
Frogs																						
Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis*</i>				3											1						
Green Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis viridis</i>															1	1					
Dumeril's Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis tephraeomystax*</i>						1															
Free Madagascar Frog	<i>Guibemantis liber*</i>					2											1					
Betsileo Reed Frog	<i>Heterixalus betsileo*</i>															1						
Yellow-lined Frog	<i>Heterixalus luteostriatus*</i>							1														
Baron's Painted Frog	<i>Mantella baroni*</i>				2																	
Mascarene Ridged Frog	<i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i>						1															
Ivohamanita Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus majori*</i>					2																
Chameleons																						
Brown Leaf Chameleon	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>																	2				
Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumna brevicornis</i>																1					
Blue-legged Chameleon	<i>Calumna crypticum</i>				4																	
Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumna nasuta</i>					1										1						
Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumna parsonii</i>					1									1							
'Jewel' Chameleon	<i>Furcifer lateralis</i>							1														
Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>						4		1				2	2								
Rhinoceros Chameleon	<i>Furcifer rhinoseratus</i>												1									
Spiny-backed Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>																		3	4	3	
Lizards, Geckos & Skinks.																						
Collared Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>										2	5	7									

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																				
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>									2												
Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Oplurus (Chalarodon) madagascariensis</i>									10									2	15	10	
Four-lined Iguanid	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>							2														
Mocquard's Ground gecko	<i>Paroedura bastardi</i>																			4		
Madagascar Ground Gecko	<i>Paroedura pictus</i>																			1		
Grandidier's Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tolampyae</i>		2	1								3										
Spiny Forest Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tuberosus</i>																	2				
Rainforest Dwarf Gecko																	1					
Madagascar Velvet Gecko	<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>																			1		
Spearpoint Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus ebenau</i>											1										
Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>															1						
Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>													1								
Pale-bellied Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma modesta leiogaster</i>																		5	5	5	1
Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata bifasciata</i>													1		2	3					
Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata lineata</i>		2	2	4																	
Koch's Giant Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis kochi</i>										1	2	1									
Thick-tail Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>							1		1												
Standing's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>								2													
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	1		1							5	5	5									
Peters' Dwarf Plated Lizard	<i>Tracheloptychus petersi</i>									1												
Gold-spotted Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis (Mabuya) aureopunctata</i>									1											1	
Gravenhorst's Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis c.f. gravenhorstii</i>				1																	
Broad-tailed Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>											5	6									

		October - November 2023																				
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Madagascar Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>															5						
Three-lined Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus trilineatus</i>																			1		
Snakes.																						
Mahafali Sand Snake	<i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>									1											2	
Madagascar Lined Snake	<i>Bibilava (Liopholidophis) lateralis</i>																	1				
Bernier's Striped Snake	<i>Dromicodryas bernieri</i>					1										1				1		
Three-lined Snake	<i>Liophidium trilineatum</i>																					
Collared Bright Snake	<i>Liophidium torquatum</i>											1										
Golden-collared Snake	<i>Liophidium rhodogaster</i>				1																	
Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>																1					
Malagasy Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Leioheterodon madagascariensis</i>											1	2									
Brown Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Leioheterodon modestus</i>											1										
Turtles & Tortoises.																						
Spider Tortoise	<i>Pyxis arachnoides</i>																				2	

Invertebrates

		October - November 2023																				
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Odonata																						
Magenta Dropwing	<i>Trithemis selika</i>							✓														
	<i>Brachythemis leucosticta</i>																					
Banded Groundling	<i>Proplatcnemis malgassica</i>												✓									
Dark Featherleg	<i>Phaon rasoherinae</i>				✓																	
Madagascar Demoiselle	<i>Phaon rasoherinae</i>															✓	✓					

		October - November 2023																				
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>			✓																		
Broad Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum azureum</i>							✓								✓						
Lemur Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum lemur</i>												✓							✓	✓	
Bold Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum stemmale</i>							✓					✓									
Madagascar Cascader	<i>Zygonyx elisabethae</i>					✓																
Silver Widow	<i>Palpopleura vestita</i>			✓									✓									
Striped Junglewatcher	<i>Neodythemis hildebrandti</i>					✓											✓					
Lepidoptera																						
Green Lady Swallowtail	<i>Graphium cyrnus</i>											✓										
Madagascan Striped Swordtail	<i>Graphium evombar</i>												✓									
Mocker Swallowtail	<i>Papilio dardanus</i>								✓													
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>												✓						✓			
Spotted Blue Swallowtail	<i>Papilio epiphorbas</i>					✓																
Madagascar Giant Swallowtail	<i>Pharmacophagus antenor</i>							✓														✓
	<i>Belenois antsianaka</i>																					✓
Grandider's Caper White	<i>Belenois grandidieri</i>									✓												
	<i>Belenois mabella</i>																			✓		
African Migrant	<i>Catopsilia florella</i>																			✓		
Madagascan Orange Tip	<i>Colotis evanthe</i>										✓		✓									✓
	<i>Colotis zoe</i>									✓										✓		
Topaz Arab	<i>Colotis calais</i>									✓									✓			✓
Broad-bordered Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i>					✓																

		October - November 2023																				
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Malagasy Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i>												✓									
Madagascar Black-Eye	<i>Leptomyrina phidias</i>					✓																
Common Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes pirthous</i>					✓														✓		
Madagascar Forest Nymph	<i>Aterica rabena</i>												✓									
Common Joker	<i>Byblia anvatara</i>										✓		✓									
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	
	<i>Heteropsis ankova</i>															✓						
	<i>Heteropsis fraterna</i>		✓			✓										✓						
	<i>Heteropsis ankaratra</i>																			✓		
	<i>Heteropsis vola</i>																	✓				
Malagasy Chocolate Pansy	<i>Junonia goudotii</i>					✓										✓						
Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone</i>					✓		✓				✓										
Brilliant Blue	<i>Junonia rhadama</i>		✓					✓														
Banded Commodore	<i>Precis andremiaja</i>		✓																			
Malagasy Mother-of-Pearl	<i>Protogoniomorpha duprei</i>															✓						
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓																		
Island Policeman	<i>Coeliades pansa</i>																				✓	
Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>				✓																	
Tiny Grass Blue	<i>Zizula hylax</i>		✓			✓																
Purple-brown Hairstreak	<i>Hypolycaena philippus</i>																					✓
	<i>Acraea dammii</i>																			✓	✓	
	<i>Deudorix batikeli</i>									✓												
	<i>Neptis kikedeli</i>							✓														
	<i>Sevenia amazoula</i>											✓										
	<i>Strabena triophthalma</i>					✓												✓				

		October - November 2023																				
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
African Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>																		✓			
Great Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnias bolina</i>					✓																
Madagascar Leopard	<i>Phalanta madagascariensis</i>																			✓		
Madagascar Marsh Amber	<i>Telchinia zitja</i>		✓																			
Malagasy Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris phileris</i>					✓				✓												
Malagasy Watchman	<i>Parnara poutieri</i>					✓																
Plains Cupid	<i>Luthrodes pandava</i>																	✓				
Pointed Tip	<i>Gideona lucasi</i>								✓													
Small-branded Swift	<i>Pelopidas mathias</i>					✓																

Note: some lepidoptera IDs are perhaps uncertain