

The Best of Madagascar

Naturetrek Tour Report

23rd October – 13th November 2023



Parson's Chameleon



Mongoose Lemur



Giant Coua



Giraffe-necked Weevil

Tour report and photos by Quentin Bloxam



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Day 1

Monday 23rd October

The group joined an Ethiopian Airlines flight late in the evening in London, headed for Addis Ababa.

Day 2

Tuesday 24th October

The group arrived safe and sound after the long overnight journey, and successfully made the connection on to Antananarivo (better known as ‘Tana’). After clearing immigration and purchasing our visas in Madagascar’s very new international terminal, we met up with Parson, our local tour guide, who advised us on where to change our money to the local currency of ariary. Then we were transported by our driver CoCo to our hotel for the night, the Combava. After a short rest, we all crossed the road to see what birds were in the rice paddies. There were a number of ‘white egrets’ and a Squacco Heron. Suddenly we were all covered in little black flies, and to make matters worse it started to rain, so we beat a hasty retreat to the hotel garden where we watched a lovely flock of Red Fodies, with many of the males in full colour. A roosting Black-crowned Night-heron was spotted in the canopy of one of the larger trees in the garden. We all ordered our supper and retired to our rooms for a pre-dinner freshen up! Just before dinner, Parson gave us a presentation on the whole trip and explained some of the difficult issues being experienced by Madagascar and its people. We all enjoyed a very good dinner and retired to bed.

Day 3

Wednesday 25th October

We had an early breakfast at 06.00, then proceeded to our first proper excursion of the tour: a visit to Lake Tsarsaotra. Lake Tsarsaotra is a fascinating series of small lakes in a privately owned area in the city of Tana. It has become a haven for many species of waterfowl in particular whistling ducks, and occasionally the rare Meller’s Duck – although sadly not today. We spent an enjoyable two and a half hours walking around the lake, seeing large numbers of White-faced Whistling Ducks, Red-billed Teals, Hottentot Teals, Squacco Herons, Black-crowned Night-herons, Black Herons and a beautiful Malagasy Pond Heron, with its lovely blue bill. There were numerous nesting Cattle Egrets (as well as Great Egrets) present. In addition, we saw two lovely day geckoes, a Malagasy Kestrel and Yellow-billed Kites circling overhead, a Madagascan Swamp Warbler, and a female Souimanga Sunbird. This was all topped off with some attractive butterflies.

After leaving the lake we drove to Ambatolampy for a pleasant lunch at La Pineta, then headed on for another three-hour drive to Antsirabe. We made a few stops to see Madagascan Stonechats, Brown-throated and Mascarene Martins and, on our last stop, to watch a pair of Hamerkops. On the way to the hotel we visited an aluminium pot-making operation: it was fascinating to see pieces of aluminium collected throughout Madagascar being put into open-topped kilns and being melted down into lumps of aluminium, before being fashioned into small pots and figures of baobab trees, lemurs and other items. We arrived at the delightful Couleur Cafe hotel. A real bonus was to see a pair of roosting Madagascan Nightjars on the roof of one of the bungalows. We all retired to our rooms to freshen up for a pleasant dinner, after which we had our first session filling in the checklist.

Day 4

Thursday 26th October

After saying a farewell to our nightjars, we left the hotel for the long drive to Ranomafana at 07.00. The first of several roadside stops was at a spring running down the rock face. There were a number of sundew plants and one flowering orchid of the *Cynorkis* genus, plus a Hamerkop and Mascarene Martins. The next stop allowed us to watch a small colony of nesting Olive Bee-eaters flying in and out of their burrows in the bank. We also had a very nice view of a male Souimanga Sunbird (which conveniently landed on the fence just a meter from some of us), and saw Malagasy Kestrel and Malagasy Black Swift. Then drove through hillsides covered in xeric *Tapia* trees, a fire-resistant species which is also the food plant of the local silkworm. The next stop was to have a picnic lunch at Ankazomivy, a small remnant piece of forest bordered by a small marshland area, where a local guide flushed out a pair of Madagascar Snipe. A very nice swallowtail butterfly was also seen. Our penultimate stop was at the small town of Ambohimahasoia where there were large nesting colonies of Dimorphic and Cattle Egrets, with one Malagasy Pond Heron also on view. This colony was on local government land right next to the road. We finally arrived at Setam Lodge in Ranomafana at 18.35. As we checked in, a pair of roosting Mascarene Martins was seen just by the reception entrance: a nice way to start our visit.

Day 5

Friday 27th October

After a good breakfast, we left Setam Lodge for our first excursion in the Ranomafana National Park. Our senior guide was Jean Crie, and his spotters were Delor and Biko. The weather was cloudy, and drizzly rain meant we had our waterproofs on! On the way in we saw a fabulous Giraffe-necked Weevil. We had good views of Golden Bamboo Lemur, and the one remaining Giant Bamboo Lemur very accommodatingly descended onto the forest floor within a few meters of the group. This was a great experience, but it was sad to see that there is only one of this species left in this forest, for reasons that remain unclear. Later on we saw a group of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs. During the walk we saw a number of birds, the highlight being a Red-tailed Vanga and a Spectacled Tetraka on her nest. In addition, our guides found a Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko and several stick-insects. Because of the rain we saw two large, active land snails (*Helicophanta versicalis*) and a pill millipede. As we crossed the bridge on our return we saw a Malagasy Kingfisher. When we arrived at the car-park, we had the opportunity to buy some good quality vanilla and wild peppercorns from local people.

We returned to the lodge for a good lunch followed by a rest, before going to the Vohiparara Forest to look for Milne-Edwards' Sifaka. Unfortunately, it drizzled with rain throughout the afternoon, so very little was seen other than a Tylas Vanga at the end of the walk. Then we went straight out on our night walk at 17.15. We watched mouse lemurs licking the branches by the side of the road, as the guides had smeared bananas on to the branch! We found three species of chameleons: Blue-legged, Nose-horned and a lovely O'Shaughnessy's. Tired and soaked, we returned to the lodge for pre-dinner hot showers and a change of clothes.

Day 6

Saturday 28th October

At 07.15 we left for the second forest of Vohiparara, stopping to view a sleeping Madagascar Tree Boa by the roadside. We continued to search for Milne-Edwards' Sifaka, but again sadly without success. The highlight was a lovely Blue Vanga. Later on, two of us had close views of a Blue Coua which flew across the trail and landed in a bush close by. In the afternoon we returned to the main National Park for three hours. After diligent searching, Jean Crie found a Pitta-like Ground Roller, which stayed on the path long enough for us to enjoy. Another night

walk followed, with no rain this time! The usual mouse lemurs feeding on the smeared banana were seen, plus similar roosting chameleons to the previous night. One of our guides captured a small snake for us to photograph before releasing it back into the forest.

Day 7

Sunday 29th October

We left Ranomafana at 07.00 for the long drive to Isalo. We drove on a road of variable quality from the green rice fields of the highlands to the 'cast grass savanna' of the dry western region. We made a stop at the community run lemur project of Anja. We started with views of a large Oustalet's Chameleon, followed by a tour by one of the village guides to see Ring-tailed Lemurs. There are now significant numbers of this stunning lemur species here: there were many babies, and the lemurs looked in very good health. The entry money raised from the tourists goes back into the community and pays for a replanting programme to increase the habitat for the lemurs. The droppings from the animals are collected and planted. The droppings contain the appropriate seeds plus their own fertiliser. The local guide informed us that the trees grow significantly faster than if they are planted without their lemur fertiliser! This is an excellent project and one that we hope will continue to protect this charismatic species. We continued our drive to the very comfortable Hotel Jardin de Roy.

Day 8

Monday 30th October

Today we visited the canyon forest of Namaza in the company of our local guide Nirina. On the first part of the trail he pointed out Web-casting Spiders, a spider which lives up to its name by dropping a web 'net' onto its prey from above. He also pointed out Snout Bugs and the famous Flatid Leaf-bugs, another unusual insect species whose nymphal stage is white with waxy spikes, which mouse lemurs are known to lick for sugar! They then turn into adult planthoppers with pink wings, sitting in a line on the branches as if queuing for a bus. At the end of the trail we arrived at an open area and were treated to the spectacle of a family of Verreaux's Sifakas. This is a leaf-eating lemur, famous for its bipedal bouncing when on the ground: one young baby was experimenting with its leaping abilities from one branch and back to its parents. Walking on through dry forest, we saw a number of bird species, but the highlight was a Forest (formerly Benson's) Rock Thrush. We then wandered slowly back down the same trail in very hot sun to our bus.

Following lunch, Parson took us for a walk around the hotel grounds, including the sister hotel nearby. The walk went through some magnificent boulder scenery with interesting specialist plants, in particular *Pachypodium* or elephant foot plants. The last part of the walk was through a small wetland area where we saw a White-throated Rail.

Day 9

Tuesday 31st October

We departed at 05.00 to continue our journey to Ifaty, passing first through the sapphire town of Ilakaka. The accidental discovery of high-quality sapphires some decades ago turned a village of 200 into a booming town of 20,000 people! On the outskirts we watched people panning the river for sapphires, a safer alternative to mining for these jewels. After nearly two hours we stopped at the interesting dry forest of Zombitse. After many years of deforestation, this forest is now a national park, with a single main road effectively dividing the woods into two areas. The forest holds a number of interesting species, including a locally-endemic bird (Appert's Tetraka) and a nocturnal lemur species (Zombitse [Hubbard's] Sportive Lemur). As we pulled up next to the park entrance, we

saw beautiful Madagascan Green Pigeons sitting in the treetops by the roadside. We walked for three and a half hours, and were rewarded with sightings of both the Appert's Tetraka, and a sleepy Zombitse Sportive Lemur resting outside its tree roost hole. In addition, we saw Madagascan Magpie-Robins, Long-billed Bernieras and Malagasy Paradise Flycatchers. Unfortunately, we didn't see any sifakas: our local guides said that they are usually seen on the opposite side of the road, and by the time we crossed over they had moved on.

After a picnic lunch we continued our journey to the 'Table Mountain', an area of degraded spiny forest that has Red-shouldered Vanga and Verreaux's Coua present. We spent an hour searching for these species and were eventually successful, getting brief views as they flew over our heads. We drove on to our accommodation at the Hotel Le Paradisier near Ifaty, for a late supper and then bed.

Day 10

Wednesday 1st November

Today we had a pre-breakfast tour of the protected area of spiny forest at Reniala. It was an interesting tour with much information on baobab tress and spiny forest ecosystem dynamics presented to us by our local guide. Good local birds were recorded, the highlights being the Long-tailed Ground Roller and the Subdesert Mesite, both endemic to this tiny area. We also came across the Three-eyed Lizard, a monotypic iguanid species of Madagascar, so called because the obvious 'pineal-gland eye' on the top of its head. We admired some stunning baobab trees. One even had a sleeping Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec in a bark crevice, and another housed a nesting Madagascan Harrier-Hawk high up in the branches. Also seen were Running and Crested Couas, Common and Stripe-throated Jeries, and a Velvet Gecko. We returned to the hotel for breakfast then packed up for our flight back to Tana, stopping briefly to see Kittlitz's and Three-banded Plovers in some roadside wetland areas. We arrived back in Tana and transferred back to the Hotel Combava.

Day 11

Thursday 2nd November

We made another very early start to catch our plane to Mahajunga where we were met by our drivers, two 4x4s and a people carrier, ready for a comfortable three-hour drive to our accommodation at the Blue Vanga Lodge, near the Ankarafantsika National Park. We enjoyed a Sickle-billed Vanga nest on a tree besides the Durrell tortoise-breeding facility (sadly no longer open to visitors, due to concerns about theft of the highly-endangered Ploughshare Tortoises which are reared here). We had time to enjoy boat trips around the lake, seeing Madagascan Jacana (plus fledgling), large numbers of Cattle Egrets in the reed beds, Striated Herons and the target species, the magnificent (and Critically Endangered) Madagascan Fish Eagle, rarely ever seen at any other site. Supper at the Blue Vanga was followed by a night walk with our local guides, Olga and Raymond. Sportive lemurs and mouse lemurs were seen, as well as roosting Oustalet's Chameleons and tiny geckoes clinging on to the end of overhanging twigs.

Day 12

Friday 3rd November

We had an early start at 05.30 to search for Schlegel's Asity in the Retendika circuit with Olga and Raymond, and after an intensive search we found one! It was high up in the trees, but binocular views were good, and some even managed photographs. We returned to the Blue Vanga for breakfast before departing to the National Park for a forest walk. We climbed up to the top forest area and enjoyed excellent views of Van Dam's Vanga, as well as a stunning Blue Vanga, and Red-capped and Crested Couas. We also enjoyed views of an active pair of Peyrieras'

Woolly Lemurs, which was most unusual as they are generally nocturnal. A couple of snake species were also seen. First was the impressive 'menarana' a large black-and-yellow snake moving through the leaf litter, hoping to find a lizard or frog. It is more formally-known as the Malagasy Hog-nosed Snake, as it has a scale plate on the tip of its nose which it uses to turn up soil when looking for lizard eggs during the wet season. The second snake was a small brown one which has the wonderful scientific name of *Mimophus mahafalensis* – the Big-eyed Snake. Then we retired for a late lunch in the compound of the park. The group decided against a further night walk.

Day 13

Saturday 4th November

We returned to the main Ankarafantsika park at 07.00. On arrival we were treated to the wonderful sight of a group of Coquerel's Sifakas in the low trees of the compound. They were all very near and completely at ease with our group being so close. We had an excellent time just watching and taking photos of this beautiful lemur. As we started our walk we also saw a group of Common Brown Lemurs, but they were higher in bigger trees than the sifakas. Our three-hour walk in the dry forest produced a roosting Golden-brown Mouse Lemur at the entrance to its tree hole, and another group of Peyrieras' Woolly Lemurs. Birds seen included a Madagascan Ibis (at the nest), and a nesting white-morph Malagasy Paradise-flycatcher with beautiful long, white tail feathers. Red-capped Couas were seen on the trail, and Crested Couas were in the trees. A Brown Mesite was observed on the forest floor: this is a shy and difficult species to find. On the reptile front, a number of Spiny-tailed Iguanids were seen at the side of the trail: this is a large, spectacular lizard with its armoured tail making any predator think twice about taking it on for a meal.

After a great morning we retired to the park veranda for lunch, via a small lake where we watched a Striated Heron consuming a tilapia for its lunch. During our lunch we were treated to a large beautiful Koch's Giant Day Gecko on the roof beams. A second Malagasy Hognose Snake was seen hunting on the forest floor beside the veranda. After lunch we had another boat trip and saw mostly the same birds as before, with the addition of African Darter. To finish off, we had the bonus of seeing a family of Mongoose Lemurs at the forest edge. This is an interesting species which is (a) sexually dimorphic (the males having red fur around the neck) and (b) semi-nocturnal species, whose favourite food is flowers at the right time of the year.

Day 14

Sunday 5th November

Today was a transfer day. We departed from the Blue Vanga and drove to the airport for our flight. The wildlife we had seen at Ankarafantsika was outstanding, with wonderful close views of lemurs and some unique bird species, and a couple of lake trips to add to the experience. On arrival back in Tana, we transferred to our familiar hotel, the Combava.

Day 15

Monday 6th November

Today we left early to fly south to the coastal town of Tulear, and then transferred to the private reserve of Berenty, a tamarind gallery forest with some remnant patches of spiny forest. All this sits in hundreds of hectares of sisal plantations, making it effectively an island of forest and wildlife. After arriving and settling in to our rustic and pleasant bungalows, we started our first forest walk at 16.00. Verreaux's Sifakas and Ring-tailed Lemurs are common and very habituated to the presence of tourists here, so we all had very close views of these two species. Unfortunately, a previous owner of this reserve introduced a group of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs into the forest.

This species does not naturally occur here and is in direct competition with the Ring-tailed Lemur, as both have a similar diet. As the introduced lemur is dominant, it appears that the well-being of the Ring-tailed Lemurs has been affected: many we saw had very poor coat condition. The sifakas (happily) appear to be unaffected, probably because they are leaf-feeders and do not compete with the brown lemurs. This is also the best place to see 'dancing' sifakas as they bounce along on their back legs when they cross open ground. There are many open areas at Berenty, so it is easy to observe this behaviour. We also saw a sleeping Western Woolly Lemur, plus some good birds: Giant Coua, Malagasy Turtle Doves, Common Jery, Frances's Sparrowhawk, Nelicourvi and Sakalava Weavers, a large colony of Cattle Egrets and a Madagascar Buzzard being mobbed by Pied Crows.

Day 16

Tuesday 7th November

We made another very early start, in this instance to look for Madagascar Sandgrouse in the surrounding fields. Sadly we only saw two birds flying in the distance, after which we returned for a late breakfast, followed by a forest walk in the tamarind area. The highlight was distant views of a colony of Madagascar Flying Foxes. This colony has been here for many years and visitors are not allowed to approach the colony closely, in order to keep disturbance to a minimum. We had a good sighting of another Malagasy Paradise-flycatcher on its nest, and a Madagascar Magpie-Robin. We also found some Hissing Cockroaches under the bark of a dead tree. A surprise was to see a Humming-bird Hawk-moth, which reminded us of home!

After lunch we rested through the heat of the day, with temperatures reaching 35°C. At 16.00 we visited an area of spiny forest. The walk was very productive and we saw a host of species include two Spider Tortoises (only found in spiny forests), Three-eyed Lizards, roosting mouse and White-footed Sportive Lemurs, and a Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec sleeping in a baobab crevice. Further highlights included Velvet Gecko, more Hissing Cockroaches, a scorpion and (bird-wise) a pair of Madagascar Green Pigeons, Madagascar Buttonquail, Namaqua Doves, Torotoraka Scops Owl, Grey-headed Lovebirds, sunbirds and weavers.

After this walk we returned to our bungalows to ready ourselves for a night walk in a different spiny forest area, where we found active mouse lemurs and one White-footed Sportive Lemur. By the side of the trail we found a large roosting Spiny-backed (Warty) Chameleon, which we were careful not to disturb. After a fulfilling day we returned for our evening meal and retired to bed.

Day 17

Wednesday 8th November

Some of us made another early start to search for the elusive Madagascar Sandgrouse, which again sadly proved elusive! After breakfast we returned to a different part of the gallery forest and had good views of roosting White-browed Owls. Next was the tree nursery, where a number of forest trees (including spiny forest baobabs) are propagated from seeds. In this area we watched a Spiny-backed Chameleon at the top of a tree searching for its breakfast, plus Olive Bee-eaters and (feral) Rock Doves. We returned for lunch and then visited a museum with information on the local culture. Leaving the museum, we returned to the spiny forest that we had night walked the previous evening. On this visit we saw a mole cricket unearthed by our guide, more roosting mouse lemurs and a roosting Torotoraka Scops Owl.

Day 18

Thursday 9th November

After another very early start, we made our journey back to Mahajunga to catch our flight back to Tana. As we had free time in Tana, we opted for a return visit to Lake Tsarsaotra where as well as seeing all the waterfowl once again, we added Fulvous Whistling Duck.

Day 19

Friday 10th November

At 06.30 we were reunited with our excellent driver CoCo to make the five-hour drive to Andasibe, where we arrived in time for lunch at the Feon' ny Ala hotel and restaurant. It had a lovely veranda area looking out over a small river and reed beds bordering the Analamazoatra forest. It was quite a challenge to eat lunch while being distracted by birdwatching!

During lunch, Parson received a message that Fossas were being seen by the park entrance: we were a little sceptical that they would still be there by the time we had finished lunch. However, when we got there all became clear, as there were a pair mating up on a branch in a pine tree, and they can mate for up to three hours at a stretch! The Fossa is the largest carnivore in Madagascar and feeds mainly on lemurs. It has semi-retractable claws and flexible ankles, enhancing its tree-climbing abilities. They occur throughout the forests of Madagascar but are secretive and hard to see: we were extremely lucky to be in the right place at the right time. Next was a visit to the VOIMMA community-run forest, where we had excellent views of a pair of Madagascar Ibis (a beautiful bird which is normally difficult to see), and a similarly cryptic Rainforest Scops Owl. A loud and strident call attracted our attention and we tracked down a group of Indris, the largest lemur species. One came very close before the group bounded away through the forest. We walked along the road for a short distance and had a brief view of a Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher: this species lives in the forest feeding on small reptiles and insects, rather than the more conventional fish. We finished by seeing a Madagascar Owl very high in a pine tree. We then met up with our bus and transferred to our accommodation for a night at the Grace Lodge hotel.

Day 20

Saturday 11th November

Today we checked out of Grace Bay and made our first morning visit to the Analamazoatra National Park, accompanied by our 3 guides Patricia, Dominique and Michael. We soon found a family group of Diademed Sifakas, the largest and one of the most beautiful of Madagascar's lemur species. With golden-coloured fur on its arms and leg, and slate grey on its body, it is a wonderful lemur to see. One female had a youngster on her back and we watched them all feeding before we moved on to find our next target species, the Indri. The Indri (local name Babakoto) is a specialist leaf-feeding lemur, eating up to 42 different plant species. It is also the largest lemur species of all. Once again, we were fortunate to find another family group who at one stage started to call, an ear-splitting experience not easily! This forest has become one of the most popular sites for ecotourists to visit, and we shared this experience with a number of other visitors. However, it is this popularity that generates a regular income for the park, which in turn ensures its protection. Fortunately, the lemurs seemed unfazed by all the visitors standing under their feeding trees!

After satiating ourselves with of Indri and Diademed Sifakas, we continued walking the forest trails, mainly birdwatching. We saw a number of vangas including the stunning Blue Vanga, but the best was a Nuthatch Vanga, a small, rare and difficult species which was a treat to watch as it ran up and along tree branches. Our guide found

an incredibly camouflaged Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko lying flat on a tree trunk. We carried on to the forest lake and on the way saw a Lesser Bamboo Lemur: it was presumably a solitary male, as this species is usually sociable. Some of the group continued along the lakeside trail hoping to see ground rollers, while the rest relaxed in a little hut waiting to see Common Brown Lemurs which were in the area.

After a visit to a local craft shop, we continued to our hotel for the last two nights, the Relais de Mantadia. This was a lovely hotel, with the only issue being that all the accommodation was on steep hillside steps, so to reach your room entailed being a cross between a mountain goat and a lemur! After lunch we visited the forest opposite the main reserve, mainly for birdwatching, and then on to a night walk in the VOIMMA forest. We had good views of a number of vangas, namely Tylas, Ward's and Rufous. In the peripheral woodland we encountered an impressive male Parson's Chameleon which spied an insect and caught it with its telescopic tongue. Sometimes it pays to be at the back of the queue! During the night walk we had views of Goodman's Mouse Lemurs, Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog, a Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko, and a roosting female Parson's Chameleon.

Day 21

Sunday 12th November

Today we made a major excursion to the primary forest of Mantadia. It took around two hours to drive down a rough sandy track in 4x4s before reaching the forest entrance. At this point our group divided into two: a lemur-spotting group and a birdwatching group. The lemur group were hoping to see Red-bellied and Variegated Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs, this being the first site on our trip to give us a chance for these species. On arrival at the park entrance, Dominic rushed off to search and very quickly returned to lead us to a family of Red-bellied Lemur. This is another lemur species that lives in breeding pairs and not in groups. At first, they were some distance away, feeding on small fruits, but after around ten minutes they moved into another part of the forest and came much closer. We noticed the mother was carrying a small baby, and we were also able to see the distinctive white eye patches on the male. We continued, with Dominic disappearing into the distance looking for the ruffed lemurs. These proved much harder to find, so in the meantime we enjoyed seeing a beautiful Malagasy Painted Frog: with its green and orange colouration it resembled the South American poison dart frogs. We also came across a Madagascar Fire Millipede, a harmless and also beautiful invertebrate. One of our group was lucky enough to have a brief glimpse of a Scaly Ground Roller, another secretive forest bird.

At last, after a couple of hours, we were led by Dominic to a family of Variegated Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs. They were very cooperative and moved in the trees alongside the trail so we all had excellent views. After three and a half hours we emerged from the forest and proceeded to a small lake. Last year it had a breeding pair of Little Grebes nesting on the edge of the lake, but since then there has been excavation at one end of the lake resulting in a significant drop in the water level and the grebes had gone. We did have an enjoyable time watching Olive Bee-eaters flying over the water, and a Malagasy Kestrel was seen sitting on a dead tree. After a picnic lunch we returned to our hotel after another long bumpy drive.

Day 22

Monday 13th November

Today was our last day in the Madagascar forest, and the lemur group returned to the VOIMMA Forest for a final Indri experience. We were not disappointed as we quickly found a family group with a youngster. After watching the group feeding and the young one exploring the trees, we were treated to the group calling right above us. It was an amazing send off and with our ears ringing we returned to the Feon' ny Ala to meet up with the birders.

Their highlight had been a Madagascan Flufftail, a small, secretive bird related to rails. They used to be seen occasionally by the lake in the main reserve, but have recently become increasingly difficult. After lunch we drove back to Tana for our last evening together.

Day 23

Tuesday 14th November

We had plenty of time to relax and get packed, ready for the transfer to the airport and the long flight back to London, again via Addis Ababa.

Conclusion and Final Thoughts

Tours to Madagascar are not always straightforward and so this one proved with a couple of the tour group needing some medical support which I am happy to say was of the highest standard. Upset tummies are often the norm and once again this unfortunately proved to be the case. It was a testimony to the fortitude of the group that they dealt with the discomfort with such good grace. As always the positive side was the amazing wildlife experiences we all enjoyed, there are few places in the world where you are able to see many of the animals in such close proximity let alone having one's eardrums ring for some time from the call of the indri! Out of all the wildlife encounters we had, seeing the mating Fossa was the most unusual. In all the many years that I have visited Madagascar it is only twice that I have seen this iconic carnivore outside the Kirindy Forest where they are very habituated. I sincerely hope that the wildlife encounters and meeting the wonderful people of Madagascar will live long in everybody's memories.

My thanks go to our wonderful local guide and naturalist Parson Andrianirina, who apart from educating us on the wildlife we saw, organised our daily routines with superb efficiency and good cheer. To all the many local forest guides and drivers mentioned in the text go my profound thanks. Finally to all the participants of the tour whose good humour and obvious delight in all the positive experiences of Madagascar was lovely to be a part of. Misoatra betsaka to you all.

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Hubbard's Sportive Lemur

Species lists

Lemurs

Common name	Scientific name	October-November 2023																				
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
LEMURS:																						
Cheirogaleidae																						
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>																			✓		
Greater Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus major</i>									✓												
Crossley's Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus crossleyi</i>																			✓		
Lepilemuridae																						
James's Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur jamesorum</i>				✓																	
Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>									✓		✓										
Zombitse Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur hubbardorum</i>									✓												
White-footed Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur leucopus</i>															✓						
Lemuridae																						
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 rufifrons</i>			✓	✓										✓	✓						
Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubiventer</i>																				✓	
Mongoose Lemur	<i>Eulemer mongoz</i>											✓										
Variiegated Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>											✓									✓	
Indridae																						
Peyrieras' Woolly Lemur	<i>Avahi peyrierasi</i>											✓										
Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>					✓									✓	✓	✓					
Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>											✓	✓	✓								
Diademmed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>																			✓		
Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>																		✓	✓	✓	✓

OTHER MAMMALS:		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Fossa	<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>																	✓			
Lowland Streaked Tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>																			✓	
Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>								✓												
Tomb Bat	<i>Taphozous mauritanus</i>								✓		✓	✓									
Madagascan Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>															✓					

Amphibians

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																				
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
* = Indicates a species is endemic																						
Frogs																						
a Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis doulioti*</i>							✓														✓
Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis*</i>				✓															✓		
Tsarafidy Madagascar Frog	<i>Guibemantis pulcher*</i>			✓	✓																	
Betsileo Reed Frog	<i>Heterixalus betsileo*</i>																				✓	
Malagasy Painted Frog	<i>Mantella madagascariensis*</i>																				✓	
Mascarene Ridded Frog	<i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i>							✓														
Ivohamanita Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus majori*</i>			✓	✓																	
Scaphiophryne spinosa																					✓	

Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																				
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
* = Indicates a species is endemic																						
Chameleons				✓	✓		✓												✓	✓	✓	
Brown Leaf Chameleon	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>																		✓			
Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>																			✓		
Blue-legged Chameleon	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>			✓	✓																	
Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>			✓	✓																	
O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>			✓	✓																	
a Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii cristifer</i>																		✓	✓		✓
'Jewel' Chameleon	<i>Furcifer lateralis</i>							✓														
Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓											
Rhinoceros Chameleon	<i>Furcifer rhinoseratus</i>										✓											
Spiny-backed Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>									✓								✓				
Lizards, Geckos & Skinks.																						
Collared Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>										✓	✓										
Spin-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cvclurus</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓								
Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Oplurus (Chalarodon) madagascariensis</i>							✓	✓				✓					✓				
Four-lined Iguanid	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>							✓														
Grandidier's Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tolampyae</i>										✓											
Madagascar Velvet Gecko	<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>								✓									✓				
Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>				✓															✓		
Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>																			✓		
Lined Dav 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 Dav Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>								✓													
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	✓	✓								✓											
Elegant Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis (Mabuya) elegans</i>								✓												✓	
Gravenhorst's Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis c.f. aravenhorstii</i>								✓		✓							✓				
Broad-tailed Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>											✓										
Ornate Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus ornatus</i>				✓																	
Snakes.																						
Big-eyed Snake	<i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>							✓	✓		✓											
Western Cat-eyed Snake	<i>Madagascarophis colubrinus occidentalis</i>						✓															✓
Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>				✓																	
Malagasy Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Leioheterodon madagascariensis</i>											✓									✓	
Turtles & Tortoises.																						
Spider Tortoise	<i>Pyxis arachnoides</i>																		✓			

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

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																			
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>																	✓			
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	✓										✓					✓				
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	✓															✓				
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>															✓	✓				
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	✓	✓														✓				
Hottentot Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>	✓															✓				
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>															✓					
Madagascar Ibis*	<i>Lophotibis cristata</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>	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			
Humblot'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>								✓			✓				✓					✓
Frances's Sparrowhawk*	<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>								✓						✓						✓
Henst's Goshawk*	<i>Accipiter henstii</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>											✓									
Brown Mesite*	<i>Mesitornis unicolor</i>											✓									
Subdesert Mesite*	<i>Monias benschi</i>								✓												
Madagascar Wood Rail*	<i>Canirallus kioloides</i>																				✓
Madagascar Flufftail*	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>																				✓
Madagascar Rail	<i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>																				✓
White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>								✓												✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓															✓		✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																			
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Madagascar Buttonquail*	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>														✓						
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>							✓													
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>								✓												
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>							✓												✓	
Madagascar Jacana*	<i>Actophilornis albinucha</i>									✓		✓									
Madagascar Snipe*	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</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>	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓				
Crested Coua*	<i>Coua cristata</i>								✓		✓	✓		✓	✓						
Blue Coua*	<i>Coua caerulea</i>			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓	✓						✓
Red-capped Coua*	<i>Coua ruficeps</i>											✓	✓								
Green-capped Coua*	<i>Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps</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>								✓					✓	✓						
Verreaux's Coua*	<i>Coua verreauxi</i>								✓												
Madagascar Cuckoo*	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>				✓																
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>						✓			✓					✓						
Torotoroka Scops Owl*	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>								✓						✓						
Rainforest Scops Owl*	<i>Otus rutilus</i>																	✓			
White-browed Hawk-Owl*	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>						✓	✓							✓						
Madagascar Owl*	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>																	✓			
Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>					✓															
Collared Nightjar*	<i>Gactornis enarratus*</i>																			✓	
Madagascar Nightjar*	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>	✓	✓						✓	✓					✓						
Madagascar Spinetail*	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>																				✓
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus gracilis</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓									✓			✓
Malagasy Black Swift*	<i>Apus balstoni</i>		✓																		
Cuckoo Roller*	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>							✓			✓	✓									
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓					✓	✓
Short-legged Ground Roller*	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>																			✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Scaly Ground Roller*	<i>Geobiastes squamiger</i>																			✓	✓
Pitta-like Ground Roller*	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>				✓															✓	✓
Long-tailed Ground Roller*	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>								✓												
Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher*	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</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>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Greater Vasa Parrot*	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>									✓	✓										
Lesser Vasa Parrot*	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓										✓
Grey-headed Lovebird*	<i>Agapornis canus</i>						✓	✓							✓						
Velvet Asity*	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>			✓																	
Schlegel's Asity*	<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>										✓										
Red-tailed Vanga*	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>			✓																	✓
Hook-billed Vanga*	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>							✓			✓	✓									
Van Dam's Vanga*	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>										✓										
Sickle-billed Vanga*	<i>Falculea palliata</i>										✓	✓									
White-headed Vanga*	<i>Artamella viridis</i>						✓		✓	✓		✓									
Chabert's Vanga*	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>										✓				✓				✓		
Blue Vanga*	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>				✓						✓								✓	✓	✓
Rufous Vanga*	<i>Schetba rufa</i>																			✓	✓
Tylas Vanga*	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>			✓																✓	
Nuthatch Vanga*	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>																			✓	
Common Newtonia*	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>			✓				✓	✓		✓										
Ward's Vanga*	<i>Pseudobias wardi</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>		✓		✓															✓	✓
Subdesert Brush Warbler*	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>			✓				✓	✓						✓						✓

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2023																				
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Madagascar Swamp Warbler*	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>	✓																				
Long-billed Bernieria (Tetraka)*	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>							✓			✓									✓		
White-throated Oxylabes*	<i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>											✓							✓	✓		
Thamnornis* (Subdesert Tetraka)	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>								✓													
Spectacled Tetraka*	<i>Xanthomixis zosterops</i>				✓														✓		✓	
Appert's Tetraka*	<i>Xanthomixis apperti</i>				✓			✓													✓	
Rand's Warbler (Tetraka)*	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>				✓																✓	
Common Jery*	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓								
Stripe-throated Jery*	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>				✓				✓	✓											✓	
Madagascar Cisticola**	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓							✓							
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>			✓				✓	✓							✓			✓		✓	
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓									✓		✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	25	26	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
BUTTERFLIES:																				
	Papilionidae																			
Green Lady Swallowtail	<i>Graphium cyrnus cyrnus</i>					✓				✓										
Madagascar Swordtail	<i>Graphium evombar</i>										✓									
Mocker Swallowtail	<i>Papilio dardanus meriones</i>						✓				✓									
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>		✓				✓			✓										✓
Cream-lined Swallowtail	<i>Papilio delalandei*</i>						✓				✓									✓
Madagascar Giant Swallowtail	<i>Pharmacophagus antenor*</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									
	Pieridae																			
African Migrant	<i>Catopsilla florella thauruma*</i>		✓			✓	✓				✓			✓				✓		✓
Madagascan Orange Tip	<i>Colotis evanthe*</i>					✓	✓	✓			✓			✓						
Broad-bordered Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta pulchella</i>		✓						✓		✓		✓							
	<i>Eurema floricola</i>			✓		✓	✓							✓		✓	✓			
	Nymphalidae																			
Madagascan Forest Nymph	<i>Aterica rabena*</i>								✓		✓			✓						
Madagascar Green-veined Emperor	<i>Charaxes antamboulou*</i>			✓																
African Monarch or Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>																			
Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone epiclelia</i>	✓	✓								✓	✓								
Brilliant Blue	<i>Junonia rhadama*</i>	✓					✓				✓					✓		✓		
Banded Commodor	<i>Precis andremiaja</i>	✓												✓		✓				
Commodor	<i>Precis eurodoce</i>								✓											✓
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓																		
	Hesperiidae																			
Madagascar satyr sp	<i>Herteropsis</i> sp			✓																
Spotted sailor	<i>Neptis saclava</i>										✓									
MOTHS:																				
	Saturniidae																			
Comet Moth	<i>Argema mittrei</i>																			✓
	Sphinginae																			
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum</i> sp.													✓						

Common name	Scientific name
BUTTERFLIES:	
	Papilionidae
Green Lady Swallowtail	<i>Graphium cyrnus cyrnus</i>
Madagascar Swordtail	<i>Graphium evombar</i>
Mocker Swallowtail	<i>Papilio dardanus meriones</i>
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>
Cream-lined Swallowtail	<i>Papilio delalandei*</i>
Madagascar Giant Swallowtail	<i>Pharmacophagus antenor*</i>
	Pieridae
African Migrant	<i>Catopsilla florella thauruma*</i>
Madagscan Orange Tip	<i>Colotis evanthe*</i>
Broad-bordered Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta pulchella</i>
	<i>Eurema floricola</i>
	Nymphalidae
Madagascar Forest Nymph	<i>Aterica rabena*</i>
Madagascar Green-veined Emperor	<i>Charaxes antamboulou*</i>
African Monarch or Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone epiclelia</i>
Brilliant Blue	<i>Junonia rhadama*</i>
Banded Commodor	<i>Precis andremiaja</i>
Commodor	<i>Precis eurodoce</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
	Hesperiidae
Madagascar satyr sp	Herteropsis sp
Spotted sailor	Neptis saclava
MOTHS:	
	Saturniidae
Comet Moth	<i>Argema mitrei</i>
	Sphinginae
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum</i> sp.

OTHER INVERTEBRATES:	
Emperor type Dragonfly	<i>c.f. Anax imperator</i>
Rainbow Milkweed Locust	<i>Phymateus saxosus</i>
Mole Cricket	<i>Gryllotalpidae</i> sp.
Praying Mantis	<i>Polyspilota</i> sp.
Hissing Cockroach	<i>Gromphadorhina portentosa</i>
Cicada (large)	<i>Tibicinidae</i> sp.
Ant-lion sp.	-
Stick Insect	-
Flatid Leaf-bug	<i>Phromnia rosea</i>
Plataspid Shield Bugs	<i>Libyaspis coccinelloides</i>
Snout Bug or Flat-backed Weevil	<i>Zana tenebrosa</i>
Firefly	<i>Lampyridae</i> sp.
Giraffe-necked Weevil	<i>Trachelophorus giraffa</i>
Pill Millipede (Large Brown)	<i>Sphaerotherium</i> sp.
Madagascar Fire Millipede	<i>Aphistogoniulus</i> sp.
Madagascar Golden Orb-web Spider	<i>Nephila madagascariensis*</i>
Thorn Spider (Orange)	<i>Gasteracanthinae</i> sp.
Thorn Spider (Yellow / Black)	<i>Gasteracanthinae</i> sp.
Malagasy Green Lynx Spider	<i>Peucezia madagascariensis</i>
Darwin's Bark Spider	<i>Caerostris darwini*</i>
Web-casting Spider	<i>Deinopsis</i> sp.
Scorpion	<i>Opisthacanthus madagascariensis</i>
Giant white spider	<i>Nephilengys livida</i>