

Madagascar's Lemurs

Naturetrek Tour Report

3 - 17 October 2012



Belted Chameleon by Andy Harding



Hubbard's Sportive Lemur by Andy Harding



Madagascar Giant Swallowtail by Peter Butler



Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher by Andy Harding

Report compiled by Andy Harding
Images by Andy Harding and Peter Butler



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leaders: Andy Harding Naturetrek
 Rivo Rarivosoa Local Guide

Participants: Dave Allen
 Jane Allen
 Andy Booth
 Mavis Butler
 Peter Butler
 Del Colbert
 Pat Colbert
 Sam Geddes
 Eileen Mathers
 Ian Mathers
 Andrew Mattle
 Ros Reynolds

Day 0

Wednesday 3rd October

Travel from UK to Paris

Day 1

Thursday 4th October

Rainy in Paris, warm in Tana

The group had all travelled to Paris the previous evening, but from different parts of the British Isles and at different times. Ten, as well as the tour leader, stayed in the Hotel Ibis, at Charles de Gaulle airport, overnight and we were able to meet up early the next morning, and make our way to the departure terminal. Andy and Ros had stayed in a different hotel and we met them in the departure lounge. The long flight was in good weather, so uneventful but as usual visa and passport formalities at Tana were protracted and bureaucratic, but eventually we met up with Rivo, our local guide, transferred to the Ibis Hotel and got to bed after a long day...

Day 2

Friday 5th October

Fine and sunny max 23 °C

A late breakfast was taken at 9.00 am. The trip 'briefing' was held on the splendid veranda of the Hotel Orchid where Madagascar Fody and Wagtail and Mascarine Martin were first noted. We then headed off about 25km to the west to the Lemur Park. The traffic en route was slow but almost infinitely variable, allowing us to see at close quarters the myriad small 'shops' and enterprises, usually with a solid throng of people on both sides of the road. Those areas not so dedicated used every square metre for either some kind of agriculture, split into small family owned plots or communal brick 'factories' using the mud which the rainy season brought down annually. Both of these enterprises occupied vast areas but seemed entirely non-mechanised.

Those of a birding bent noted Dimorphic, Cattle, Great White and Black Egrets, the latter with its sun-shading, feeding technique, regularly dotted across the 'paddies' accompanied by Common Squacco Herons. At the Lemur Park itself we took a lengthy walk before lunch. The Lemurs here are nearly all 'rescues' which roam freely, successfully breeding, but in an area where there are 'no truly wild' Lemurs. Nonetheless the eight species found on our walk kept all the cameras clicking, and were both charming and entertaining: an excellent introduction to this fascinating group of mammals. Several species of exotic butterfly enhanced the tour of which only Madagascar Monarch was identified. A Collared Iguana was the reptilian highlight. There were more birds seen than we anticipated, but given that all were new to nearly all of the group, identifying the stars is difficult. Perhaps the males of two species of Sunbird and the Madagascar White-eye win on colour brilliance alone. Lunch was taken in cool and very pleasant surroundings with chicken and zebu being the alternative main courses – both were excellent.

We had to drive through more of the suburban Tana traffic before escaping to the south-west on twisty roads, regularly punctuated by ramshackle (to northern European eyes) villages and poor parking! En route Pied Crow, Striated (aka Green) Heron and Madagascar Nightjar at dusk were added to the bird list. We checked into La Residence Camelia in Antsirabe at around 7.30 pm and we were supping pre-dinner drinks by 8.00 pm. The chicken/zebu choice re-appeared but in very different and delicious guises. Once given detail of the next day's itinerary the group either went for a well-earned sleep or stayed for the evening call-over or log of species seen.

Day 3

Saturday 6th October

Fine, sunny 24°C

After a brief tour to see that Antsirabe was not an entirely one dimensional town, we set off on the long journey, which of course we broke at several points. Among these was Ambositra, which is famous for wood carving and in a fairly short stop most of the group bought some souvenirs. At another point a couple of Hamerkops joined the regular Egret/Heron species in the paddyfields, so we stopped to enjoy scope views. Since a break was timely we walked on for a while, but rapidly split into two groups, with those at the rear still watching herons. Those at the front had excellent views of Lesser Madagascar Cuckoo, while those at the rear saw six Red-billed Teal!

Our next planned birding stop was near the village of Ambatofitorahana. The attraction here was some small areas of marsh, which had not been cultivated. Here Madagascar Swamp Warbler was well seen, Cuckoo Roller displayed over the nearby forest, Madagascar Hoopoe gave a couple of fly-pasts, as did a Purple Heron. Having provided excellent opportunity to see how different Madagascar Stonechat is from our British version, the main target of the visit, Madagascar Snipe, was seen and heard well. We had spent longer here than scheduled but well worthwhile.

Our rather late lunch stop was at Ialatsara, a beautifully set rural restaurant in some of the little remaining forest in that area. Souimanga Sunbird, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher and Cuckoo Shrike were perhaps the best species seen here before and after lunch. Much of our subsequent long journey was through very degraded landscape, so few birds were noted, of which Madagascar Buzzard and Yellow-billed Kite were new to us.

We arrived at the Hotel Cristo near the Ranomafana National Park around 7.00 pm and had dinner at 8.00 pm. The late evening entertainment was exceptional with two spectacular and beautiful Hawkmoths vying with a very large Praying Mantis and a Rhinoceros Beetle for most of the attention, while Day (!) Geckos looked on.

Day 4

Sunday 7th October

Fine Sunny 24°C

Early risers at the beautifully located Hotel Cristo were able to see Crested Drongo and Madagascar Magpie Robin in the gardens. We then went to the entrance to the Talatakely section of the Ranomafana National Park having picked up our two guides and some 'spotters'. To make forest watching more practical we split into two groups. Both groups had wonderful views of 4 Golden Bamboo Lemurs and 2 Greater Bamboo Lemurs, 4 Milne-Edwards Sifakas and a usually nocturnal Small-tooth Sportive Lemur, doing a little sunbathing!

The terrain is demanding – often steep and quite rocky, and above all undulating, which makes seeing these wonderful creatures all that more rewarding – they are not an easy 'gimme'. Birding is often frustrating so getting all of the group to see a bird well often fails, and some desirable species were only reliably identified on call by our expert guide Jean-Cree. That said Pitta-like Ground-Roller is unlikely to be bettered on the trip and decent views of Rand's Warbler, Common Sunbird-Asity, Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo and Tylas Vanga were much appreciated. A good number of beautiful, if mainly unidentified butterflies cruised by. An absolutely tiny Short-nosed Chameleon was probably the most appreciated lizard, and numerous odd bugs were photographed – will they ever get on the list?

We returned to the Hotel Cristo to pack for a move about 15km nearer to the National Park, but first enjoyed a lovely al fresco lunch. Our departure was delayed by a double Chameleon hit. Firstly a large and spectacular Belted Chameleon near the entrance, and then a second smaller cousin in the potted plants. However eventually we made our move and checked in to the Hotel Nature Domain from where we embarked on a late afternoon/night-time walk in the Vohiporara area of the National Park.

On the forest edge from the road birds were a little easier to get to grips with, so Forest Rock Thrush, Common Newtonia and Hook-billed Vanga were much enjoyed. A host of Chameleons of various species, ages and sizes were picked up mainly by torchlight – this group of reptiles were a huge hit with the group. We also had our first look at Giraffe-necked Weevils: they looked rather bigger in the Attenborough programmes. The biggest bonus of all was that when we eventually passed the now deserted stake-out for Rufous Mouse Lemur, one was still present and willing to be seen, if fairly briefly by torchlight. Then back for dinner.

Day 5

Monday 8th October

Fine and sunny 25 degrees C

We awoke to spectacular views across the forest from our bungalows, gathered early for breakfast and picked up the same guides and spotters as yesterday – the target being different areas of the Talatakely area of the forest. Madagascar Starling and Madagascar Blue Vanga were additions to the bird list before we left the car park.

We kept the same groups as yesterday and one group bumped into some Golden Bamboo Lemurs before we even approached the areas in which we hoped to see new species. In the event neither group was disappointed because in addition to the above a group of 8 Red-fronted Brown Lemurs and a very active pair of Red-bellied Lemurs were just reward for the hard work of getting through the forest. Birding highlights for the groups included Hook-billed Vanga on the nest. Madagascar Lesser Cuckoos were regularly seen as opposed to just heard. A huge showy black Millipede and a Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko were the most photographed of the other fascinating finds in the forest.

Lunch was taken back at the hotel after a half-hour excursion into 'town'. The afternoon walk was back in the Vohiporara section of the reserve and here we chanced upon another very active group of Milne-Edwards Sifakas, who were both entertaining and delightful. We were by now used to not seeing everything which Jean-Cree hears, such as Madagascar Turtle Dove and Pollens Vanga but Rufous Vanga was excellent, as was Madagascar Flufftail just outside the forest. We decided against extending the afternoon and evening excursion into night and returned for dinner.

Day 6

Tuesday 9th October

Fine and sunny 28 degrees C

What a fantastic send-off from Ranomafana – a Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher in a small sapling opposite the hotel entrance which stayed for 10 minutes. Today was essentially a transfer day of 350km, with only a few planned stops. First we needed to drive through Madagascar's second largest city, Fianarantsoa. As well as refuelling, and Michel and Rivo organising the picnic lunch, there were souvenir buying opportunities. Further such opportunities arose when we visited the community paper-making project and its shop at Ambalovao. The whole process is done by hand and the decoration beautifully delicate, so they did a good trade.

Back on the wildlife trail our next stop was at Anja, where there is a locally organised reserve, primarily for Ring-tailed Lemurs. There are several groups of these in the forest here and we were soon able to spend about an hour in close proximity to one of them. All ages were represented and several small babies were with their mothers – cuteness personified. It was here we also saw our first Giant Madagascan Swallowtail Butterflies, and, under a shady, straw-roofed canopy enjoyed our lunch.

There was still a long journey ahead, but as we started to climb towards the savannah vegetated plateaux a Madagascar Partridge crossed the road. We stopped for 10 minutes - long enough for a successful flushing operation of a showy male. This success encouraged some fairly concentrated watching as we traversed the vast uniform landscape, but we failed to find the hoped-for Reunion Harrier. Some Black Swifts and a spectacular evening sky which provoked a camera stop were the best we could manage.

It was dark when we reached the Jardin du Roy, and the drink and refreshing facecloth which welcomed us alerted us to a different level of comfort and accommodation. The hotel was set among huge outcrops of rock, which we could just make out in the gathering gloom, and were even more spectacular the next morning.

Day 7

Wednesday 10th October

Fine and sunny max 30 degrees C

The earliest breakfast could be served was 6.40 am, but what a breakfast, superbly presented. Given the opening time of Isalo National Park, this actually only cost us half an hour... In the adjacent village we picked up our main guide, Charles, and two porters to carry our substantial picnic lunches and several extra litres of water.

The track to the forest itself is 17km, and along the way we enjoyed point blank views of Madagascar Bee-eater and Madagascar Bush Lark. We then had about 45 minutes walk to get into the right sort of habitat in the Canyon de Rattes. We stopped just inside the forest while the guides went off in search of our main quarry, and we occupied ourselves birding – Madagascar Magnificent Flycatcher, Coucals and Hook-billed Vanga on the nest, Lemuring with some fairly distant Ring-tails, insecting with Flatid Leaf Bugs, Giant Madagascar Swallowtail and some amazing Shieldbugs (not like those in the UK).

Eventually word came that the hoped-for Verreaux's Sifakas had come down from their night-time roost high on the cliffs and had been found, and we set off. After a fair distance on a track we hacked off into the thicker stuff and – eventually - came upon the Sifakas, with young – a fabulous sight. After spending about half an hour with this troupe we headed off to Canyon Maki, also within the reserve – for our lunch stop. Narrow tracks and many stepping stones later we came across a mini-paradise with cool clear water falling into limpid pools. Our packed lunch was both substantial and very tasty. About half of the party could not help assuaging the heat by standing knee-deep in the water.

With revived feet we headed back and having dropped off our guide and porters we returned to the superbly appointed Hotel Jardin du Roy. We could now fully appreciate its amazing surroundings and how it nested between gigantic rock formations. The swimming pool was irresistible to half a dozen of us but at 5.00 pm half ventured out to the local Lac du Lion, to see Madagascar Pond Heron, Madagascar Little Grebe, Purple Heron and 10 Red-billed Teal, as well as getting excellent views of some commoner species. Dinner was taken at 7.30 pm in preparation for a very early start tomorrow; and later that evening our breakfast was bought to our rooms!

Day 8

Thursday 11th October

Fine, sunny max 29 degrees C

After our coffee, all the bags were ready for loading before 5.00 am and we set off on the drive south. The recently hugely expanded sapphire mining town of Ilakaka was mercifully still quiet as we passed through and after 90 minutes we pulled into the reserve of Zombitse. Local advice suggested that one side of the road was best for Lemurs and the other for birds. So we divided again with a trip length of around an hour. Due in part to the discovery of a Hubbard's Sportive Lemur at its roost, but completely visible at reasonable range but on the wrong side of the road, the visit eventually lasted 2.5 hours! A couple of Verreaux's Sifakas performed well for the Lemur group, and they also saw an interesting subset of the birds; Two Owls, Torotoroka and White-browed, were very visible, if at roost, and kept a watchful eye on us. Madagascar Button Quail scuffed along the ground, Crested Couas were staggeringly bright and Appert's Greenbul, a real speciality here, were well seen. Lastly a fine Coquerel's Coua was tracked down by our guides.

We then headed off for a long stretch until taking lunch just a few kilometres short of Toliara at a very smart restaurant, with a Sakalava Weaver colony and a pool which held a Greenshank. Adjacent to the restaurant is a first-class arboretum, but it was now so hot we decided to miss it out now, but planned to visit it when we came back to Toliara in a couple of days time. In the event, when we drove into Toliara to find adequate supplies of water, and having done so, drove along a sandy track to Ifaty and the Hotel de Paradisier. Of course we stopped at some roadside pools and saw Kittlitz's Plover, Tumstone, Curlew Sandpiper and Black-winged Stilts.

We then had some relaxing time, since it was still very hot when we finally reached the hotel. We reconvened for a short night walk before dinner which produced wonderful views of one of three Reddish-grey Mouse Lemurs and several Madagascar Nightjars. The start of dinner was enlivened by local musicians and dancers and we retired to bed – another early start tomorrow.

Day 9

Friday 12th October

Fine, hot 30 degrees C

The first arrivals for coffee at 5.00 am in the reception area drank by torchlight! 5.20 am saw us en route for the Spiny Forest at Reniala, and after a trudge up a deep sandy track, we met up with our guides. It was decided that we all needed to see the two most iconic birds of the forest the Sub-desert Mesite and the Long-tailed Ground Roller. As it happened 5 Mesites sat huddled together in a row on a branch watching us watching them – brilliant! The Ground Roller was altogether more lively but absolutely beautiful.

Subsequently we split into our now familiar two groups. This is an excellent forest for birds and it is rather more open than rainforest so eventually we had good views of White-headed, Lafresnaye's and the extraordinary Sickle-billed Vangas. Even more striking was the Running Coua and the Green-capped Coua, which is surely faster than a Roadrunner. One or two other species gave us less than brilliant views, but we'll be coming back here again. The largest Baobab Tree in the forest was encircled by seven of the group, just touching hands. This tree is well over 1000 years old. At our beachside resort, outrigger canoes are very much in evidence, and in the forest all the five (at least) trees whose wood is required to construct an 'outrigger' canoe, were identified and their purpose explained.

It gets hot early so we returned to the hotel and several of the group had booked snorkelling later in the morning, but the wind had got up so, unfortunately, so viewing the reef and its inhabitants via the glass-bottomed boat was all that was permitted.

The next organised activity was at 3.30 pm with departure back to the Spiny Forest. A stop at pools en route produced 3 Three-banded Plovers (with red eyes) as well as a few other waders. Little entirely new was seen on this visit, but better views of some species and more ecological information made it a splendid visit to a unique habitat. Just before departing a juvenile Harrier Hawk was disturbed from drinking just outside the reserve reception, frightening everything within a few hundred metres.

More dance and music preceded our arrival for dinner after another nocturnal torch survey of part of the gardens. Dinner was again excellent at this hotel as we have come to expect. ...and another early start tomorrow!

Day 10

Saturday 13th October

Fine, hot 28 degrees C

A repeat of yesterday's very early coffee and two alternative venues: the Spiny Forest at Reniala or the salt pans at Mangily. Those who chose the latter were ultimately rewarded with good numbers of birds seen including several Madagascar White-fronted and Three-banded Plovers, Marsh Sandpipers and a Painted Snipe. A White-throated Rail was another bonus.

The Spiny Forest walk was even more botanically informative than yesterday, but birds were not ignored. A flock of Grey-headed Lovebirds could be seen perched in the next tree to a Harrier-Hawk. Both White-headed and Sickle-billed Vangas were seen well and there was a fortunate encounter with a Running Coua.

We then returned to the hotel for a late breakfast before packing, checking out and then relaxing before lunch. The sea, the activities of the outrigger canoes and the distant reef provided an ideal opportunity for just enjoying sitting and watching. We then drove back through Toliara to visit the Arboretum in somewhat lower temperatures. Rivo's knowledge of the trees and plants of the island and the history of the arboretum, came to the fore.

We were to take an evening flight back to Tana, but had been unable to confirm the flight by phone. So, since it was not far away we went to the airport to check the flight time – to discover it was running an hour late. So while the group went to the Hotel Victory to lounge about for a couple of hours Rivo organised a group check-in. We had our evening meal at the Hotel Victory and returned to the airport just 30 minutes before the flight – plenty of time since formalities and security are pleasingly non-existent. Then it was a short transfer back to the Hotel Orchid.

Day 11

Sunday 14th October

Fine and dry 25 degrees C

An early start and the fact that it was a Sunday meant that Tana traffic was not quite so bad, and we were soon heading out through the familiar patchwork of paddyfields and brick fields en route for Andasibe. We stopped en route at the River Mangora where we had only a distant view of a single Madagascar Pratincole. Just before 11.00 am we reached the private Perinet Reserve, part of the larger Analamazoatra Reserve. Almost immediately we saw Ward's Flycatcher, but the main focus was again Lemurs; 3 roosting Eastern Woolly Lemurs were relatively inactive, and that spot was enhanced by a Red-fronted Coua, but then we came across a Common Brown Lemur which moved off speedily. However it joined up with another and sat placidly in an accessible glade, while we watched from the track. Even more desirable was a larger group of superb Diademed Sifakas, which contained adults that were content to groom and move quietly about, but there were some very lively juveniles playing roly-poly down the hill clinging to one another. For the last half an hour of our time with the Sifakas we had been partly distracted by the calls of the Indri, the largest of the Lemurs. This group of Indri proved highly mobile and for their considerable size, great leapers. We also had to be pretty mobile in quite difficult terrain, but eventually enjoyed fabulous views, before returning to the reserve entrance to take our packed lunch.

As it grew hotter no-one opted to stay in the forest, so we drove to the Vakona Forest Lodge to check-in. A night walk in the Mitsinjo area of forest started at 6.30 pm and both Eastern Woolly Lemurs and Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur were picked out in the torches, as well as an array of Chameleons, Geckos, Spiders and Moths. Then back for dinner.

Day 12

Monday 15th October

24 degrees C Fine and sunny

Another early start, but before setting off a Blue Coua gave much better views than a couple of rather shy birds noted previously. The morning's destination was part of the Mantadia National Park, with Lemurs again the main target. Two Red-bellied Lemurs and a single Black and White Ruffed Lemur were the new species enjoyed. However most people think the Diademed Sifaka the most beautiful of all so seeing more again of these fantastic creatures as well as the largest of all, the Indri, who were calling again, albeit distantly made for an excellent morning. The cream of the birds were Broad-billed Roller and Short-legged Ground-Roller, which was roosting as you would expect, high up in a tree, but highly visible!

After returning and taking lunch a small number of the group visited the nearby 'Lemur Island' – not wild animals but it's difficult to get enough of Lemurs. The 4.00 pm walk was very focussed on two species of birds which Maurice eventually succeeded in tape-luring out – Madagascar Rail and Madagascar Flufftail.

This sojourn almost overlapped with the night patrol which in addition to an interesting array of Chameleons, saw us admiring the evening work of large Orb Spiders constructing their webs to catch their food. They eat the webs just before dawn to retain valuable protein! A tiny Rufous Mouse Lemur was a good find, but the star of the show was a Lowland Streaked Tenrec seen very well on the path by all who had ventured out. We were only a little late for dinner, and looking forward to the morrow.

Day 13

Tuesday 16th October

Mist rapidly clearing, fine 22 degrees C, warmer at Tana

Several of the group either before or after breakfast enjoyed the very attractive male Nelicourvi Weaver building its nest within the complex - over water, yet within a few metres of interested onlookers. A slightly later start still enabled us to be at the entrance to the Perinet Reserve by 7.30am. However we hoped to meet Maurice on the road, rather than at the reserve itself, because that would mean he had located the Long-eared Owls roost – and he did...an adult, much larger than our version of LEO, and a very white and cute baby were fully visible from the road...a great start!

Our intention this morning was to stay as a single group, at least until we had all seen Indri again...and hopefully in full voice, but that is very unpredictable. There were few other visitors in the reserve when we set off and once a group of Indri had been located for a while we were able to have them all to ourselves. Although other groups of Indri could be heard 'singing' in the distance, this group was stubbornly silent!

Eventually those keenest on birds suggested they move off in the hope of seeing new species in this new area of the forest. That venture lasted less than five minutes since our Indri now decided to join in the chorus, so the splinter group rushed back a short distance to share in enjoying an astonishing and magical experience. Eventually the group did divide, with those keenest on birds going off with Maurice, leaving the main party in Monique's care. Maurice was able to point out roosting Eastern Scops Owl and an amazing Collared Nightjar which was so confident in its camouflage it allowed an approach to a couple of feet. How he found the latter defies belief. Half a dozen of the beautiful Diademed Sifakas and a single Woolly Lemur entertained the main group, as well as a variety of insects and Chameleons. When the two groups converged again, two Tree Boas were rather incongruously on the ground, but one of them bedazzled us with its blue sheen.

We then bade farewell to our rainforest guides, but drove only a short distance to our lunchtime restaurant, which also overlooked forest, which we were able to enjoy for a short time after the meal, before starting the journey back to Tana. This went even more smoothly than the journey south, so that we were at the craft market on the outskirts of the capital in plenty of time to peruse at our leisure, the 150 or so stalls and buy souvenirs of every kind imaginable.

We then returned to the Hotel Orchid where everyone had a 'day' room for around 3 hours allowing for repacking and refreshing prior to the flight home. Before actually going to the airport we were able to have our farewell meal in a nearby brasserie, and then after appropriate farewells to Rivo and Vincent, we checked-in and did money-changing operations before moving through security to await our essentially overnight flight back to Paris.

Day 14

Wednesday 17th October

We arrived in Paris on Wednesday morning where once again we dispersed to different gates to take our onward flights to different parts of the UK

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Species List

Lemurs (✓ = recorded but not counted; C = Captive)

	Common name	Scientific name	October													
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
		Cheirogaleidae														
1	Reddish-grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>									✓	✓				
2	Rufous Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>			✓										✓	
3	Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus crossleyi</i>											✓			
		Lepilemuridae														
4	Small-tooth Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur microdon</i>			✓											
5	Hubbard's Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur hubbardorum</i>									✓					
		Lemuridae														
6	Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>	C													
7	Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>			✓	✓										
8	Greater Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur simus</i>			✓											
9	Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>	C					✓	✓							
10	Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>	C										✓			
11	Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufus</i>				✓										
12	Black Lemur	<i>Eulemur macaco</i>	C													
13	Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>				✓									✓	
14	Mongoose Lemur	<i>Eulemur mongoz</i>	C													
15	Black and White Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>	C												✓	
		Indridae														
16	Eastern Woolly Lemur	<i>Avahi laniger</i>											✓			✓
17	Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>								✓	✓					
18	Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>	C													
19	Crowned Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coronatus</i>	C													
20	Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>											✓	✓	✓	
21	Milne-Edwards' Sifaka	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>			✓	✓										
22	Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>											✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	October												
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	

Other Mammals

1	Eastern Ring-tailed Mongoose	<i>Galidia elegans</i>				✓									
2	Lowland Streaked Tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>												✓	
3	Eastern Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>			✓	✓									

Birds (h = heard only)

1	Madagascar Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelinii</i>							✓					✓	
2	Madagascar Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola idae</i>							✓						✓
3	Common Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	✓	✓				✓					✓		✓
4	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>											✓		
5	Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	✓					✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
6	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	✓	✓				✓					✓		✓
7	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
8	Black Egret	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	✓										✓		
9	Dimorphic Heron	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	✓	✓				✓					✓		✓
10	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓					✓					✓	
11	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>								✓					
12	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		✓											
13	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>		✓				✓	✓					✓	
14	Henst's Goshawk	<i>Accipiter henstii</i>					h								
15	Madagascar Harrier- Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>										✓	✓		
16	Madagascar Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>		✓					✓			✓			
17	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptus</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
18	Madagascar Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Madagascar Partridge	<i>Margaroperdix madagascariensis</i>						✓							
20	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>							✓						
21	Madagascar Wood Rail	<i>Canirallus kiolooides</i>													✓
22	Subdesert Mesite	<i>Monias benschi</i>										✓			
23	Madagascar Button-quail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>		✓						✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	October												
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
24	White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>										✓			
25	Madagascar Rail	<i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>												✓	
26	Madagascar Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>				✓								✓	h
27	Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>										✓			
28	Madagascar Snipe	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>		✓											
30	Madagascar Pratincole	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>											✓		
31	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>								✓		✓			
32	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>								✓		✓			
33	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>								✓					
34	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								✓	✓				
35	Madagascar Plover	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>										✓			
36	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>								✓	✓	✓			
37	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>										✓			
38	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>									✓	✓			
39	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>								✓	✓	✓			
40	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								✓	✓	✓			
41	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>										✓			
42	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓		
43	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>								✓					
44	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								✓		✓			
45	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
46	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>								✓	✓	✓			
47	Madagascar Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>				✓		✓							
48	Madagascar Green Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>													✓
49	Madagascar Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia picturata</i>				✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	
50	Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>						✓	✓		✓			✓	
51	Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>						✓		✓	✓			✓	
52	Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>				✓	✓							✓	
53	Madagascar Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	h	✓	✓	✓	✓	h			✓		✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	October												
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
55	Green-capped Coua	<i>Coua olivaceiceps</i>									✓				
56	Coquerel's Coua	<i>Coua coquereli</i>								✓					
57	Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>									✓	✓			
58	Red-fronted Coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>				h						✓		h	
59	Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>		✓		✓							✓		
60	Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>								✓	✓		✓		
61	Madagascar Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>												✓	
62	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>					dead								
63	White-browed Owl	<i>Ninox supercilii</i>								✓					
64	Rainforest Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>												✓	
65	Torotoroka Owl	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>								✓					
66	Collared Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus enarratus</i>												✓	
67	Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>	✓							✓	✓	✓			
68	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>		✓											
69	Madagascar Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni</i>						✓				✓	✓		
70	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>											✓		
71	Madagascar Spine-tailed Swift	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>									✓	✓		✓	
72	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓						
73	Brown-throated Sand Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	✓												
74	Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
75	Madagascar Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo vintsioides</i>	✓					✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
76	Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx madagascariensis</i>						✓					✓	✓	✓
77	Madagascar Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>													✓
79	Madagascar Cuckoo-Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓					
80	Long-tailed Ground Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>									✓				
81	Short-legged Ground-Roller	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>												✓	
82	Pitta-like Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>			✓	✓									
83	Velvet Asity	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>				✓								✓	h
84	Common Sunbird-Asity	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>			✓	✓							✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	October												
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
85	Madagascar Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Appert's Greenbul	<i>Bernieria cinereiceps</i>								✓					
87	Long-billed Greenbul	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>			✓	✓				✓			✓		✓
88	Spectacled Greenbul	<i>Bernieria zosterops</i>				✓									✓
89	White-throated Oxylabes	<i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>			✓	✓									✓
90	Madagascar Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus albospecularis</i>			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
91	Madagascar Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>		✓					✓	✓		✓			
92	Forest Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>			✓										
93	Benson's Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei bensoni</i>							✓	✓					
94	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	✓	✓					✓						✓
95	Madagascar Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	✓	✓		✓							✓	✓	✓
96	Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Ward's Flycatcher	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>											✓	✓	✓
98	Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
99	Dark Newtonia	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>													✓
100	Archbold's Newtonia	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>									✓	✓			
101	Madagascar Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>				✓			✓	✓					
102	Madagascar Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra hova</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓					
103	Madagascar Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>		✓											✓
104	Madagascar Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>	✓	✓										✓	✓
105	Thamnornis Warbler	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>										✓			
106	Subdesert Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>								✓	✓				
107	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>			✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>									✓	✓			
109	Green Jery	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>													✓
110	Wedge-tailed Jery	<i>Neomixis flavoviridis</i>				✓									
111	Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>			✓										✓
112	Madagascar White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓
113	Madagascar Green Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia notata</i>	✓		✓	✓								✓	
114	Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia sovimanga</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	October												
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
115	White-headed Vanga	<i>Artamella viridis</i>									✓	✓			
116	Chabert's Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>			✓	✓					✓		✓		
117	Madagascar Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>				✓									
118	Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falculea palliata</i>									✓	✓			
119	Rufous Vanga	<i>Schetba rufa</i>				✓									
120	Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>			✓									✓	
121	Lafresnaye's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>									✓				
122	Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>			✓	✓		✓		✓			✓		
123	Pollen's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>				✓									
124	Tylas Vanga	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>			✓								✓		
125	Madagascar Cuckoo Shrike	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓								✓	
126	Madagascar Starling	<i>Saroglossa aurata</i>				✓							✓		
127	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
128	Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
129	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
130	Madagascar Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
131	Forest Fody	<i>Foudia eminentissima</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	
132	Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>								✓	✓				
133	Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>			✓								✓		
134	Madagascar Mannikin	<i>Lonchura nana</i>							✓				✓	✓	

Reptiles & Amphibians

Painted Golden Tree Frog, *Mantella madagascariensis*
 O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon, *Calumma oshaughnesyi*
 Oustalet's Chameleon, *Furcifer oustaleti*
 Three-eyed Lizard, *Chalerodon madagascariensis*
 Large-headed Gecko, *Paroedura bastardi*
 Lined Day Gecko, *Pbelsuma lineata bifasciata*
 Gravenhorst's Skink, *Trachylepius gravenhorstii*
 Madagascar Girdled Lizard, *Zonosaurus madagascariensis*
 Radiated Tortoise, *Geochelone radiata*

Brook Frog, *Mantydactylus grandidieri*
 Short-nosed Chameleon, *Calumma gastrotaenia*
 Jewel (Carpet) Chameleon, *Furcifer lateralis*
 Collared Iguanid, *Oplurus cuveri*
 Painted Big-headed Gecko, *Paroedura pictus*
 Peacock Day Gecko, *Pbelsuma quadriocellata*
 Ornate Girdled Lizard, *Zonosaurus ornatus*
 Madagascar Tree Boa, *Sanzinia madagascariensis*

Blue-legged Chameleon, *Chameleo crypticum*
 Nose-horned Chameleon, *Calumma nasuta*
 Belted Chameleon, *Furcifer balteatus*
 Four-lined Iguanid, *Oplurus quadrimaculatus*
 Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko, *Uroplatus phantasticus*
 Common House Gecko, *Hemidactylus mercatorius*
 Four-lined Girdled Lizard, *Zonosaurus quadrilineatus*
 Bell's Hinged Tortoise, *Kinixys belliana*

Butterflies

Citrus Swallowtail, *Papilio demodocus*

Yellow-shouldered White, *Mylothris phileris*

Henotesia sp

Giant Madagascan Swallowtail aka Antenor Butterfly, *Pharmacophagus antenor*

African Monarch, *Danaus chrysippus*

Saribia sp

Clearwing sp, *Acraea* sp

Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*

Banded Commodore, *Precis andremiaja*

Moths

Harlequin Hawkmoth, *Batocnema coquereli*

Striped Hawkmoth sp, *Hyles* sp

Hawkmoth sp, *Theretra* sp

Comet Moth, *Argema mittrei*

Large Green Hawkmoth sp,

Silkmoth sp

Other Invertebrates

Dragonfly (Red), *Trithemis selika*

Praying Mantis, *Mantis* sp.

Cicada, *Tibicinidae* sp.

Rhinoceros Beetle, *Oryctes* sp.

Pill Millipede (Green), *Sphaerotherium* sp.

Orb-web Spider, *Nephila* sp.

Emperor Dragonfly, *Anax imperator*

Cockroach (Black), -

Stick Insect, -

Flatid Leaf-bug, *Phromnia rosea*

Giant Black Millipede, -

Thorn Spider (Orange), *Gasteracanthinae* sp

Painted Giant Locust, *Pyrgomorbus* sp

Hissing Cockroach, *Gromphadorhina portentosa*

Giraffe-necked Weevil, *Trachelophorus giraffa*

Firefly, *Lampyridae* sp.

Golden Orb-web Spider, *Nephila madagascariensis*

Huntsman' Spider, *Holconia* sp.