

# Madagascar's Lemurs

Naturetrek Tour Report

19 October – 3 November 2013

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Hubbard's Sportive Lemur



Parson's Chameleon



Madagascar Plover



Verreaux's Sifaka

Report compiled by Kerrie Porteous

Images by Jeff Webster



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour Leaders: Kerrie Porteous  
(Boss) Jeff (Zanarison) Zephyrin

Participants: Roger McDaniel  
Sylvia McDaniel  
Karen Andrews  
Peter Kelsall  
Keith Kelsall  
Jan Wall  
Jeff Clausen  
Sue Webster  
Jeff Webster

## Day 0

**Saturday 19th October**

Departed the UK

## Day 1

**Sunday 20th October**

Paris to Tana

We left Paris on an Air France flight to Tana. The flight was long and uneventful, which was perhaps just as well since it preceded the chaos that is the Madagascar visa process! We picked up our bags, and met our guide (Boss) Jeff in the arrivals hall, before changing some money and making our way to the Orchid Hotel and on to bed.

## Day 2

**Monday 21st October**

Tana to Antsirabe

We met for breakfast and for the first time our group was complete, having caught up with Jeff W and Sue who had arrived the day before and spent an enjoyable afternoon being shown the sights and sounds of Tana by (Boss) Jeff. The birders were out in the hotel grounds early, with Peter and Keith reporting Madagascar Bee-eater, Madagascar Hoopoe, Madagascar Fody, and Namaqua Dove (or, to some, "the pigeon with the red beak").

Our first stop was the Lemurs Park on the outskirts of Tana, where the lemurs have been rescued from their previous lives, mostly being kept unsuitably as pets. We made friends with Coquerel's Sifakas, Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs and Common Brown Lemurs, amongst others. A rather adorable if incredibly scrawny Crowned Sifaka was a recent addition to the park, and we watched her and her new boyfriend as they danced between the trees for us. There was plenty of 'wild' wildlife too, with four Oustalet's Chameleons starting things off nicely for the reptiles. Madagascar White Eye, Souigmanga Sunbird, a Common Sunbird Asity were perhaps the early avian highlights, with Great Egrets and Cattle Egrets easily spotted on the journey to the park.

After lunch, we drove down the first section of Route National 7, stopping for a brief shopping opportunity and then straight on to Antsirabe, our base for the night. We spotted a few birds from the bus along the way - Mad

Stonechat, Common Mynah, and a Madagascar Kestrel soaring overhead. As we drove through the towns we spotted the posters for the 41 candidates taking part in the presidential elections later this week. (Just) Jeff and Sue were particularly delighted to drive past their favourite candidate (Presidential Candidate No. 3) and his calypso-music-playing-bus one more time before leaving Tana behind.

## Day 3

Tuesday 22nd October

### Antsirabe to Ranomafana

Today we completed the long drive from Antsirabe to Ranomafana. Not long after leaving Antsirabe we stopped by the road to photograph the rice paddies and had Brown-throated Sand Martins swooping past, and at the same time saw our first Hamerkop, though it did its best to blend in with the muddy banks of the rice paddy. Further on we stopped to stretch our legs, and walked down the road overlooking the river with Stonechats, Madagascar Magpie Robins, a rather lovely stick insect found by (Boss) Jeff, and a beautiful Swallowtail butterfly.

Breaking the journey, we paused in Ambositra where (Boss) Jeff showed us round a small wood carving workshop, and we enjoyed a drink in the not so Grand (but perfectly lovely and friendly) Hotel. Lunch was eaten by a pond covered in water lilies, where we saw our first Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher, along with many more Stonechats and a Yellow-billed Kite. Rija, our driver's helper, found us a rather smart Mascarene Grass Frog which obliged us by staying still long enough for its photograph to be taken, before hopping back from whence it came.

We arrived at our hotel in Ranomafana just before it was beginning to go dark, so we had a very quick turnaround and went back up the road to find the Brown (Roufus) Mouse Lemurs outside the entrance to the national park. We were in luck, and arrived in time to see them ping-pong from branch to branch seeking out the banana that the guides had smeared earlier to lure them out. We then embarked on a night walk with Jean Chrys, finding Glaw's, Nose-horned and Short-horned Chameleons in quick succession. We enjoyed a growling chorus from the *Boophis madagascariensis* frogs and a Golden-orb web spider before it was time to return to the bus and back to our hotel for a quick change before dinner and bed.

## Day 4

Wednesday 23rd October

### Ranomafana National Park

An early breakfast today and we were at the entrance to the park as it opened. Our trackers, Beko and Ju, did what they do best and headed straight into the park to start searching for the lemurs that we were so keen to see. Meanwhile, before we'd even crossed the river on our way to the main park trails, we came to an abrupt stop on account of the song of a White-throated Oxylabes by the side of the path (viewed with mixed success), and very soon after, a stunning Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher that we all enjoyed good views of. We also noted a lovely Spectacled Tetraka sitting on her nest, with the male dashing backwards and forwards bringing supplies. Soon enough we got the word that the Golden Bamboo Lemur - our number one target for today and the reason that Ranomafana National Park was created back in 1991 - had been sighted nearby.

The news left us suitably energised, and we quickly made our way to the spot and enjoyed clear views of two of these beautiful, rare creatures eating bamboo (as Bamboo Lemurs will tend to do). Eventually we moved on, but

didn't have to wait long before we found two Red-bellied Lemurs, a male and a female, accompanied by a rather dashing Tyla's Vanga. It continued well for the birds, as next we found a stunning Pitta-like Ground Roller, a brief glimpse of a Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo, whose friends and family we'd been hearing call all morning, and our first Paradise Flycatcher.

Next, it was back to the lemurs, and our first Sifakas - in Ranomafana it is the dark chocolatey-brown Milne-Edwards Sifakas that we find. These beautiful lemurs leaped through the trees before us, and we followed them down the hill and stopped with them for a rest. We enjoyed watching them as they stopped to peer around the tree trunks at us, before taking flight again. No sooner had the Sifaka excitement come to an end, than we had a call to say the Greater Bamboo Lemur had now also been spotted. There is only one pair of Greater Bamboo Lemurs left in the national park, sadly a father and daughter making chances of breeding very unlikely. Although we worried for their prospects, we did enjoy watching the pair in the tree canopy.

Our final lemur of the morning was the Ranomafana subspecies of the Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur. Jeff W had been treated to a special preview of this lovely little lemur earlier in the morning whilst lagging behind with Bertain and myself, but fortunately these lemurs must have known that the rest of the group wanted to see them too, as they reappeared for us just as we began to make our way out of the park. Reptiles were scarce this morning, but our guides did find us an aptly named *Uroplatus phantasticus* - or Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko.

We went back out in the afternoon enjoying sightings of bright Forest Fody and Nelicourvi Weaver amongst other birds, and we spotted a Tree Boa resting at the side of the road. Our guides also found us two Giraffe-necked Weevils and a beautiful Painted Mantella Frog. We continued our walk down the road on the edge of the road as the heavens opened, but we stuck it out and glad we were too, as just before dark a large troop of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs began to gather in the treetops above us, waiting for us to move on so that they could cross the road on their way to their preferred night time roost.

## Day 5

Thursday 24th October

### Ranomafana National Park

We had hoped the huge thunderstorm of the previous night would have done away with all the rain in Ranomafana, but sadly we woke to more rain this morning (the price you pay for visiting a rainforest). Not to be deterred, we set off to the Vohipara area of the reserve, and although it was a quiet start, as the rain began to ease the birds began to resurface. A Blue Coua, growling in the treetops, was our first spot, and we soon saw Madagascar Cuckoo Shrike, Long-billed Tetraka flitting in the tree tops, Stripe-throated Jerry, and two Madagascar Swamp Warblers in the trees by the side of the river. It wasn't a completely lemur-free morning; two rather soggy (and still adorable) Milne-Edwards Sifakas appeared for us briefly.

This evening we returned by popular demand to enjoy the Brown Mouse Lemurs once again - and they performed well as ever. Whilst we were waiting, Jean Chrys found us another Giraffe-necked Weevil, a Glaw's Chameleon, and we enjoyed good views of Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo and Red-fronted Coua.

## Day 6

Friday 25th October

### Ranomafana to Isalo

This morning we left Ranomafana behind, and made our way to the community reserve at Anja. Here, we enjoyed wonderful views of our first Ring-tailed Lemurs, with young ones piggy-backing and learning to leap on their own. Some found it hard to tear their eyes away long enough to look at anything else, but those who did noted Madagascar Stonechat, noisy Madagascar Bulbuls, Yellow-billed Kites and two beautiful Madagascar Kingfishers. As we returned to the bus our guide, Adrian, pointed out a most grumpy looking Oustalet's Chameleon, high in a tree.

Next it was back to Ambalavao, and a short tour round a paper making factory before lunch. Soon, though, it was time to hit the road again for the long drive to Isalo, first winding up over the Horombe Plateau before heading straight on to Isalo. Some dozed, whilst others noted Madagascar Bush Larks and Yellow-billed Kites soaring above us, and Jeff W spotted our first Helmeted Guineafowl. We arrived at our hotel just before dark, and in good time for dinner.

## Day 7

Saturday 26 October

### Isalo National Park

Most of us met just after dawn in the gardens of the beautiful Jardin du Roy hotel for an early morning bird walk. And glad we were too that we made the effort, as Madagascar Bee-eaters, Grey-headed Lovebirds, Madagascar Hoopoe, Broad-billed Roller, Forest Rock Thrush and Souimanga Sunbirds entertained us on our way around.

After breakfast we set off for the Namaza Canyon, with our guide for the morning, Narina. Keeping the birders happy were Madagascar Mannikins, Madagascar Cisticola, a beautiful male Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher and a Madagascar Buttonquail with three tiny chicks. It was just a 20 minute walk to the campsite, where a troop of Ring-tailed Lemurs were in the trees overhead. After enjoying their antics we carried on, and it wasn't long before we came to a small group of very sleepy Red-fronted Brown Lemurs. Though Narina and Jean Chrys searched hard, our target lemurs for the day, the Verreaux's Sifakas, just didn't want to be found. On our return journey we found another angry looking Oustalet's Chameleon and our first Spiny-tailed Iguanid.

Most enjoyed a relaxing afternoon before we met again in the evening to take a sunset walk through the grounds. Once again there was much to enjoy, with Greater Vasa Parrots and superb views of a Madagascar Cuckoo-Roller perhaps being the highlight for most.

## Day 8

Sunday 27th October

### Isalo to Ifaty

This morning we were up before the sun, and on the road as dawn broke, heading to the beautiful Zombitse National Park, about an hour's drive to the south west. We arrived to flocks of Lesser Vasa Parrots and a Crested Coua, which seemed to bode well for the morning.

Having missed the Sifakas the day before, these were top of our list for the morning's walk. And we needn't have worried, for just 20 minutes in we found ourselves surrounded by these gorgeous creatures, enjoying their leafy breakfast and leaping through the treetops around us. We were perhaps equally delighted to find not one but two Hubbard's Sportive Lemurs (three, counting the tiny baby snuggled in with the first). These nocturnal lemurs often sit out of their roost holes in the morning light, staring worriedly down with their huge eyes as we stare back, wondering how best to fit them into our suitcases.

The final 'must see' at Zombitse is the extremely localised Appert's Tetraka, only found in this fragment of forest. Luck remained on our side, for after some initial fleeting glimpses we found this little bird for a second time, and everyone enjoyed a good view. Before returning to our vehicle we marvelled at an 800 year old *Adansonia za* baobab tree, photographed a beautiful *Phelsuma standingi* - or Standing's Day Gecko, spotted a Rufous Vanga, and for a few, enjoyed a second glimpse of the lovely Verreaux's Sifakas.

Continuing west, our next stop was the Arboretum on the edge of Toliara. Here we got our first real taste for the endemic plants of the spiny forest which we would soon be visiting. Birding highlights here were undoubtedly a Green-capped Coua charging through the undergrowth, our first Sakalava Weaver, and a roosting Madagascar Nightjar. Keeping up appearances for the reptiles were a tiny *Phelsuma mutabilis*, a Spiny-tailed Iguanid, and a new chameleon for us - the Spiny-backed Chameleon. A very spiny morning all round.

After lunch it was time to tackle the bumpy road to our beachside hotel for the next two nights. Reddish-grey Mouse Lemurs are often spotted in the grounds just after dark, and tonight we were in luck – the sharp eyes of Jeff C spotted the bright eye shine in the beam of his torch, and we enjoyed watching them pinging through the trees before dinner.

## Day 9

Monday 28th October

### Ifaty

We had another early start this morning to visit the beautiful spiny forest reserve at Reniala, before the sun became too hot. We had two key targets today; the Sub-desert Mesite and the Long-tailed Ground Roller. We did well. Soon word came out that the first was frozen on a baobab branch, so we pressed forward to find a female doing just that. Photos were taken, and we went straight on to find the male, slightly harder to spot through the branches but very much visible all the same. After spotting Archibold's *Newtonia* and a perched a Harrier Hawk, we went on the find the Roller. You couldn't have scripted it; the group were in position, our guides had just encouraged it towards us, we'd had our first glimpse, and a zebu cart trundled into view, accompanied by 4 mad barking dogs, rushing in and out of the trees. Needless to say, our bird scarpered (who wouldn't?). But, we needn't have worried, he came back again, and we were soon able to appreciate him in all his long-tailed glory! After a trio of Vangas (Hook-billed, Lafreysne's, Sickle-billed), it was time to return to our hotel for breakfast.

For the rest of the morning most of the group chose to relax, whilst Jeff W, Sue, Roger and I went out on a trip to the nearby reef. Though we thought we would be heading out in a glass bottomed boat, it soon transpired that we would in fact be heading out on a traditional wooden pirogue, complete with sail made from rice sacks! (Note to self, if it seems unbelievably cheap, there is probably a reason for that).

Anyhow, we all agreed that it was a much more authentic experience all round (!) and Jeff and I enjoyed the underwater world of the Mozambique Channel – with more fish in fact that we thought we were likely to see. Parrott Fish, Angel Fish, Butterfly Fish, Puffer Fish...and many, many more were all out in force.

In the late afternoon we gathered on the beach to look for Madagascar Plover (amongst others). We found Whimbrel, Grey Plover, Common Ringed Plover, but no Madagascar Plover... Jan commented that it would probably be outside my room when I got back later, and of course it was. Cue a mad rush around everyone's rooms!! This evening we enjoyed the Mouse Lemurs once again, and during dinner singers and dancers from the local village came by to entertain us (and we learnt that one of us in particular is quite the mover!)

## Day 10

Tuesday 29th October

### Ifaty to Toliara to Tana

This morning most of the group returned to the Reniala Reserve once again, this time for a rather more bird-focused visit, with success in the form of Red-tailed Vanga, Thornmornis Weaver, White-headed Vanga, Crested Coua and Running Coua. After a bit of road-side shopping for some members of the group, it was time to return to our hotel for breakfast, and our journey back along the coast to Toliara.

We arrived in Toliara around lunchtime and the group settled in at the Hotel Victory for lunch whilst (Boss) Jeff and I headed to the airport to check us in for our flight back to Tana later that afternoon. All was going to plan: we were checked in, luggage handed over, and all returned to the airport, ready to go....needless to say Air Mad had other intentions for us! This is the part of the report where I gloss over the details... various things happened including returning to the Hotel Victory for our second meal there in one day, standing at the departure gate at midnight wondering if those lights in the sky might be our plane, waving manically at a fellow Naturetrek group as they crossed the Tarmac having arrived from Tana on the plane we would soon return on, witnessing a near bust-up between two groups of tourists (none of us, of course!) on the plane, and finally getting to bed just after 2am. An authentic Malagasy experience, brought to you by Air Madagascar.

## Day 11

Wednesday 30th October

### Tana to Andasibe

Well, they say no rest for the wicked....and there was no rest for Naturetrekkers in Madagascar this morning either as we were on the road at 8am, keen not to lose out on any further time in Andasibe. We arrived at the lovely Vakona Lodge at lunchtime, and headed out in the late afternoon to meet our wonderful guide, Maurice, and his assistant, Lelainey. We had time for a quick walk in the national park itself before it closed, and in that time we managed to see a White-throated Rail, Madagascar Turtle Dove, Nuthatch Vanga, Tyla's Vanga, Madagascar Coucal, a lovely little Short-horned Chameleon and two beautiful Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs. Earlier in the day Maurice had found a Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko by the side of the road, and luckily for us it hadn't moved, enabling us to marvel at this master of camouflage. After a caffeine boost at Feon ny Ala, we met our next two guides for a nocturnal walk in the Mitsjino Reserve. The chameleons were out in force, with Short-horned and Nose-horned Chameleons and two *Brookesia superviliaris* in the leaf litter. We also had lovely views of a roosting Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher and a tiny Goodman's Mouse Lemur.

## Day 12

Thursday 31st October

### Mantadia National Park

This morning we set off down the bumpy road from Vakona Lodge deep into Mantadia National Park. As we got off our bus Maurice pointed out a Madagascar Starling, on its own as they often are here, unlike our own back home, and a Madagascar Tree Boa, warming up in the sun on the grass. Our first stop in Mantadia was to see a roosting Collared Nightjar - this species is silent, unlike those we saw and heard further west, but similarly intricately camouflaged amongst the leaf litter.

An hour or so into our mornings walk, we came across one of the stars of the day: a family group of Diademed Sifakas, often agreed to be the most beautiful of all the sifakas, and they certainly looked so today. We watched the family grooming and leaping through the trees, one with a baby on her back, for half an hour or so, soaking up the magic. Eventually we decided to move on, with the plan being to find our second lemur target of the day - the Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs. We heard them before we saw them, grunting loudly as they do. It wasn't long until we had them in our sights too, and before long we all had sore necks from staring high into the tree tops, watching a pair feasting on fruit and flowers high above us! Then, just around the corner (if the forest had corners) we came upon a daytime roost of Eastern Avahis (Woolly Lemurs), dozing and gazing out at us sleepily. A successful morning all in all!

We timed it well, exiting the forest and jumping back onto the bus just as it started showering, had time to eat our sandwiches and then the sun came out again. Before setting off back to the lodge we took a very short walk to a small lake, where we watched a Nelicourvi Weaver weaving its nest, and saw Meller's Duck (briefly), Madagascar Little Grebe, Swamp Warblers and Broad-Billed Rollers. Our journey back to the lodge yielded another brief sighting of the beautiful Diademed Sifakas, and then Maurice had one final trick up his sleeve. Stopping a little way away from the lodge, we went back from the road into the forest just 100m to where Maurice had seen roosting Long-eared Owls that morning. Once we got our eyes in, sure enough, there were two beautiful owls, roosting high in the trees, apart from each other a little like they'd had a tiff. Perhaps they had... The afternoon was spent by most on Vakona Lodge's own 'Lemur Island' – getting up close and personal with Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs, Common Brown Lemurs and Eastern Bamboo Lemurs.

## Day 13

Friday 1st November

### Andasibe-Périnet

Today was Karen's birthday, and for her birthday she requested an Indri. Whilst Naturetrek don't advocate the gifting of lemurs from the forests, we do like to do our best to arrange private viewings for significant birthdays... First though, we enjoyed a Purple Heron at breakfast and entered the park to howls of Indri. We saw *Phelsuma lineata* day geckos, bright green on the wooden bridge, Lesser Vasa Parrots, and for some, a Madagascar Sparrowhawk. A male and a female Red-bellied Lemur scampered through the trees overhead, and we spent another lovely half hour watching a family of Diademed Sifakas grooming each other in the trees. We then followed Maurice deeper into the forest, and of course he knew exactly what he was doing, because about half an hour later we found ourselves watching the antics of an Indri family – mother, father and baby. The father stayed a little way back, hanging in the tree, whilst the baby bounced to and from its mother – gaining a little confidence and then panicking and jumping back to the safety of her back. We must have watched the family for an hour, before eventually they leaped away out of sight.



We visited a Madagascar Crested Ibis nest on the edge of the forest (a bright red head poking out of said nest), and, happily, met the one daytime lemur we had yet to meet – the Common Brown Lemur. It was widely agreed in the group that this lemur has been mis-named; perhaps something along the lines of “Beautiful yet Widespread Brown Lemur” would be more appropriate. We stopped at Feon ny Ala for lunch, and arriving back at Vakona Lodge in the afternoon, found a wonderful Comet Moth just off the path in the lodge grounds.

We reconvened later for a second night adventure into the Mitsjino Reserve. It was another excellent evening for the chameleons, with Short-horned and Nose-horned Chameleons and *Brookesia superciliaris*. We finally saw a Tree Boa where its name suggests it should be – in a tree – but it was, all in all, the night of the nocturnal lemurs. We enjoyed good views of Goodman’s Mouse Lemurs and Eastern Avahis, and fantastic views of the Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur – two brief sightings followed by a brilliant view just at the end of the walk, and we all enjoyed watching the little lemur rooting around in a tree for fruits.

## Day 14

Saturday 2nd November

### Andasibe to Tana

We had a final morning this morning in the forests of Andasibe, with Stripe-throated Jerry, White-throated Rail, Blue Pigeon, Madagascar Kingfisher, Ward’s Flycatcher Vanga, a Blue Coua (eating a frog), Collared Nightjar and Madagascar-Cuckoo Roller all turning up for us one last time. We enjoyed another sighting of the Common Brown Lemurs, and worked our way through the forest to where the Indri family was once again, spending another memorable half hour watching the baby Indri playing in the trees.

After an early lunch back at the lodge, it was time to set off for Tana. We broke the journey on the way with a brief stop at the Mangoro River to check for Madagascar Pratincole – with success! – and then wound our way into Tana and to the craft market for some final souvenir shopping (much to the dismay of some, and delight of others). Back at the Orchid Hotel later we had time for a quick shower and a repack, before heading across the road for our final dinner together. Before long it was time to bid farewell to Jeff and Sue, and later to (Boss) Jeff, and head back to Tana’s Ivato Airport, get checked-in, and start our journey back to the UK.

## Day 15

Sunday 3rd November

We arrived back in the UK this morning after a changeover at Paris, hugged goodbye, and went our separate ways home.

## Thanks

So many people helped to make our trip successful, and so we have many people to thank! Firstly, thank you to our drivers, for their safe, responsible driving, especially Héry, who drove us all the way from Tana to Toliara and Ifaty. Thanks also to all of our local guides and wildlife-spotters, including Berthin, Bako and Ju in Ranomafana, Narina in Isalo, and Maurice and Lelainey in Andasibe-Mantadia, and particularly to Jean Chryst who came with us from Ranomafana down to Ifaty so that we could benefit from his superb wildlife knowledge and birding skills. Final thanks go to you all for your good company, enthusiasm, and sense of adventure when it was most required! We hope that you loved this country as much as we do, and I hope that we are able to travel together again sometime in the not too distant future...

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Brown Mouse Lemur

## Species List

Mammals (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	October													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
1	Grey-brown (Reddish-grey) Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>								✓	✓					
2	Brown (Rufous) Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>		✓		✓										
3	Goodman's Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>										✓		✓		
4	Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus crossleyi</i>												✓		
5	Hubbard's Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur hubbardorum</i>								✓						
6	Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus griseus</i>										✓	✓			
7	Ranomafana Grey Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus ranomafanensis</i>			✓											
8	Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>			✓											
9	Greater Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur simus</i>			✓											
10	Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>					✓	✓								
11	Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>												✓	✓	
12	Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufifrons</i>			✓			✓								
13	Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>			✓									✓		
14	Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata varietgata</i>												✓		
15	Eastern Woolly Lemur	<i>Avahi laniger</i>												✓	✓	
16	Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>							✓							
17	Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>												✓	✓	
18	Milne-Edwards' Sifaka	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>			✓	✓										
19	Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>												✓	✓	

Birds (H = heard only)

1	Madagascar Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelni</i>												✓	
2	Common Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>										✓			
3	Striated (Green-backed) Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>				✓									
4	Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		✓	
5	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>					✓	✓	✓						
6	Black Egret	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	✓												
7	Dimorphic Egret	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓		✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	October													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
8	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>													✓	✓
9	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		✓				✓							✓	
10	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>							✓							
11	Meller's Duck	<i>Anas melleri</i>			✓									✓		
12	Madagascar Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>									✓	✓				
13	Madagascar Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>		✓								✓				✓
14	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
15	Madagascar Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>													✓	
16	Madagascar Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>		✓					✓							
17	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>						✓	✓							
18	Madagascar Wood Rail	<i>Canirallus kiolooides</i>					H		H							
19	Subdesert Mesite	<i>Monias benschi</i>							✓							
20	Madagascar Button-quail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>							✓							
21	White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>											✓			✓
22	Madagascar Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>					H									
23	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>													✓	
24	Madagascar Pratincole	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>														✓
25	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>									✓					
26	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								✓	✓	✓				
27	Madagascar Plover	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>								✓	✓					
28	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>									✓					
29	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓												
30	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>									✓	✓				
31	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓												✓
32	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓				
33	Madagascar Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>														✓
34	Madagascar Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia picturata</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>							✓	✓						
36	Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			H
37	Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>			✓	✓				✓				✓	✓	
38	Madagascar Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>			H	✓		✓	H	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	H	H	✓	✓	H	H	H	H		H	H	H	H	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	October													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
40	Green-capped Coua	<i>Coua olivaceiceps</i>									✓					
41	Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>									✓	✓				
42	Giant Coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>									✓					
43	Red-fronted Coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>				✓										
44	Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>				✓						H	✓			✓
45	Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>								✓		✓				
46	Madagascar Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>												✓		
47	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>													✓	
48	Rainforest Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>													✓	
49	Collared Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus enarratus</i>													✓	
50	Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>			✓		H	H	✓	✓	✓			H	H	
51	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>														
52	Madagascar Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni</i>							✓							
53	Madagascar Spine-tailed Swift	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>						✓								
53	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>			✓											
55	Brown-throated Sand Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>		✓												
56	Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>		✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Madagascar Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo vintsioides</i>		✓			✓			✓			✓			✓
58	Madagascar Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓				
59	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>							✓						✓	
60	Madagascar Cuckoo-Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>							✓					H	H	✓
61	Pitta-like Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>			✓											
62	Long-tailed Ground Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>									✓					
63	Common Sunbird Asity	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>	✓													
64	Madagascar Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Appert's Tetraka	<i>Bernieria apperti</i>								✓						
66	Long-billed Tetraka	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>				✓										
67	Spectacled Tetraka	<i>Bernieria zosterops</i>			✓											
68	White-throated Oxylabes	<i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>			✓											
69	Crossley's Babbler	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>			✓											
70	Madagascar Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus albospecularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Madagascar Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>	✓					✓	✓			✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	October													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
72	Forest Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>			✓	✓			✓							
73	Common (Madagascar) Stonechat	<i>Saxicola (torquata) sibilla</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓								
74	Madagascar Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
75	Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
76	Ward's Flycatcher-Vanga	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>													✓	
77	Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>				✓					✓					
78	Archbold's Newtonia	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>								✓						
79	Madagascar Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>							✓							
80	Madagascar Bush Lark	<i>Mirafrha hova</i>				✓	✓									
81	Madagascar Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>				✓				✓				✓		
82	Madagascar Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typical</i>				✓				✓	✓					
83	Thamnornis Warbler	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>										✓				
84	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>										✓				
85	Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>				✓					✓	✓				
86	Green Jery	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>											✓		H	
87	Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>			✓	✓										
88	Madagascar White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓		✓	
89	Madagascar Green Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia notata</i>	✓	✓					✓							
90	Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia sovimanga</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
91	Nuthatch Vanga	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>										✓				
92	Chabert Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓		✓				
93	Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falculea palliata</i>									✓	✓				
94	Rufous Vanga	<i>Schetba rufa</i>								✓						
95	Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>								✓		✓				
96	Lafresnaye's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>									✓					
97	Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>									✓					
98	Tylas Vanga	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>			✓	✓							✓		H	
99	Madagascar Cuckoo Shrike	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>				✓				✓						
100	Madagascar Starling	<i>Saroglossa aurata</i>												✓		
101	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
102	Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
103	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	October													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
104	Madagascar Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
105	Forest Fody	<i>Foudia eminentissima</i>			✓											
106	Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>								✓	✓	✓				
107	Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>			✓									✓		
108	Madagascar Mannikin	<i>Lonchura nana</i>							✓					✓		✓

## Reptiles &amp; Amphibians

1	Mascarene Swamp Frog	<i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i>		✓												
2	Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>		✓	✓											
3	Painted Mantella Frog	<i>Mantella madagascariensis</i>		✓	✓											
4	Frog	<i>Mantydactylus pulcher</i>				✓										
5	Frog	<i>Mantydactylus albogotatis</i>			✓											
6	A Tree Frog	<i>Heterixalus luteostriatus</i>						✓								
7	A Tree Frog	<i>Heterixalus punctus</i>													✓	
8	Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>		✓								✓			✓	
9	Short-nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>										✓				
10	Glaw's Chameleon	<i>Calumma glawi</i>		✓		✓										
11	Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>										✓			✓	
12	Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>		✓	✓							✓			✓	
13	Belted Chameleon	<i>Calumma balteatus</i>			✓											
14	Spiny-backed Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>								✓						
15	Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓						
16	Brown Leaf Chameleon	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>										✓			✓	
17	Three-eyed Iguanid	<i>Chalerodon madagascariensis</i>									✓	✓				
18	Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>							✓	✓						
19	Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>			✓											
20	Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>										✓				
21	Bark Gecko	<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>									✓					
22	Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata bifasciata</i>		✓	✓											
23	A Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma laticaudata</i>													✓	
24	Standing's Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>								✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	October													
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
25	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>		✓		✓										
26	Skink	<i>Trachylepis elegans</i>											✓		✓	
27	Broad-tailed Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>					✓									
28	Dwarf Plated Lizard	<i>Tracheloptychus madagascariensis</i>											✓		✓	
29	Perinet Snake	<i>Ithycyphus perineti</i>		✓												
30	Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>			✓								✓	✓		
31	Grass Snake	<i>Colubidae spp.</i>											✓		✓	



Ring-tailed Lemurs