

Madagascar's Lemurs

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 21 October 2016



Indri, Andasibe - Pete Ward



Rufous Mouse Lemur, Ranomafana - Pete Ward



Colotis zoe Ifaty - Dave McGeever



Motacilla flaviventris Tana area - Ian Martin

Report compiled by Richard Bashford
Images courtesy of Pete Ward, Dave McGeever, Ian Martin and Richard Bashford



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Tour participants: Richard Bashford (leader) & Tovo Nanahary (Local guide & naturalist)
with eight Naturetrek clients

Summary

Madagascar is famous for its wildlife, of course. It is also very big. This trip explores the bottom half of the island, visiting some of the best national parks and some bizarre habitats. Our party had a variety of interests, but we were all, naturally, extremely keen on wildlife – a vital requirement on this tour which involved some considerable efforts to get to the best wildlife sites, but it was worth it. It was summed up nicely by Ian who described the trip as a “phenomenal adventure.”

Day 1

Friday 7th October

London to Paris

Richard, Diana and Peter met at London's Heathrow (actually meeting by sitting at adjacent tables in a coffee shop!), and took the slightly delayed mid-afternoon flight to Paris, landing at 17.55 local time, where we transferred to our hotel for a quick freshen up and a meal in a local restaurant.

Day 2

Saturday 8th October

Paris flight to Tana

The seven of us met at 8am by reception to take the shuttle back and, once through the Paris check-in process, grabbed some breakfast. Our flight took off slightly late and headed south over eastern Europe, Egypt as the sun went down, and Zanzibar in the dark. We landed at 23.10 for the fun-and-games of Tana airport and its many queues. Once through customs, we met Tovo and changed currency for vast wads of ariary. By now, we were ready for some sleep. The bus trip to the hotel was thankfully only a short distance. Wasting no time, we grabbed our keys and said our good nights as we retired to recharge our batteries!

Day 3

Sunday 9th October

Tana Lemur Park

Today, the weather was warm and clear throughout. A few ventured out alongside the nearby paddy fields, noting our first Red Fodys, Madagascan Wagtails and Malagasy Bulbuls in the hotel grounds, plus Great and Dimorphic Egrets, Black and Squacco Herons. We also had good views of Malagasy (also known as Madagascan Malachite) Kingfisher and Malagasy Kestrel before breakfast. Here too were our first close ups of the brick kilns the locals construct – essentially stacks of freshly shaped bricks about to be fired by setting fire to rice husks inserted in gaps in the stacks. They were a common sight on our trip alongside the rice paddies themselves.

We met up with Ian and Lily who had arrived from Taiwan earlier the previous day and set off across the city to the Lemur Park, 20 kilometres out and home to a good range of rehabilitated lemurs which allowed us to get our eye in with some of the many species we hoped to see. Arriving at 10am, we waited for our guide for a few minutes, giving us time to put in our lunch order and see a couple of Spiny-tailed Iguanids. Our guide took us around the park trails, showing us Coquerel's and Crowned Sifaka, Grey Bamboo Lemur and of course Ring-

tailed Lemurs, one with a month-old baby. The trees around the park provided cover for a good number of birds and we saw our first Souimanga Sunbirds, Madagascar White-eye, Common Jery, singing Madagascar Hoopoe and Olive Bee-eaters. Great views of Oustalet's Chameleon were amazing. The three-course lunch followed at 12.30 and took us into the early afternoon, when it was time to hit the road to head south. We were aiming for Antsirabe to break up our journey. We spent a little time at the side of the road overlooking some paddy fields and a lake. Here we saw Mascarene Martins, Madagascar Stonechat and Cisticola briefly. Arriving at 6.50pm, we settled in before a fine meal and time to relax before we would do it all again tomorrow!

Day 4

Monday 10th October

Ialatsara Forest Camp and Ranomafana

We had a short pre-breakfast wander around the garden of the hotel. As promised by the owner, the Malagasy Kingfisher was there, showing well. We had nice views of a Night Heron eyeing the talapia (fish), a Malagasy Green Sunbird and several Fodys, and a Malagasy Brush Warbler chacked, wren-like. By 7.20am we were on our way. We found time to have a short walk within the native Tapia trees, adding Stripe-throated Jery to the trip list, but the Madagascar Cuckoo wasn't showing itself, despite singing throughout.

Onward towards our lunch stop we stopped for a break to browse the local wood carvings with one or two of the group buying a souvenir. We made it to our lunch stop at Ialatsara Forest Lodge, slightly later but the food was very welcome; our meal included goat's cheese baked on bread to start. But it was hard to keep sitting down after our journey and thanks to the wildlife outside – we were up and down to watch geckos and butterflies. Once we'd eaten, we made a short walk to see four Red-bellied Lemurs and two Oustalet's Chameleons, one of which changed colour for us. A very obliging female Forest Rock Thrush perched at the roadside. Onward, we took the opportunity to look at a heronry while our driver filled the bus up. The Dimorphic Egrets probably just outnumbered other species here, but we saw good numbers of Cattle Egret and Night Heron too, including some young. As we approached our hotel in the Ranomafana National Park, it became clear we would have to rush around in order to undertake a dusk walk. We all agreed we'd do that tomorrow instead and checked in, freshened up and had dinner! Tomorrow, the forest proper.

Day 4

Tuesday 11th October

Ranomafana NP trails

The birders were out early... We had breakfast at 4.30am and left for the forest just after 5am. A few minutes later we were parked by the reserve centre and heading down the trail with our guide Stephan and his helpers. Our first bird was Red-fronted Coua which was close but took some time to see. What followed was amazing! Velvet Asity was the next bird, followed by some gorgeous Golden Bamboo Lemurs. We then found a group of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs including a baby. We tracked the strange call of the Pitta-like Ground Roller (perched above our heads in a tree...), Madagascar Wood Rails, four species of Vanga and, the star for most, an astoundingly obliging Scaly Ground Roller.

We had planned to meet Ian and Lily around this time who had opted for a later start. However, it took over an hour-and-a-half longer to meet up because their guide had taken them on a personal tour. Fortunately, by the time we did meet, all of us had seen lots of wonderful Ranomafana wildlife! Our next Vanga was the bizarre

Crossley's Vanga – a small bird walking across the leaf litter towards us. At the forest view point, we scanned, trying to find a Madagascan Cuckoo but failed, as usual. We did find Madagascan Blue Pigeon, Lesser Vasa Parrot and the magnificent Cuckoo Roller. By this time, there were more people in the park but after some forest trail hiking, we caught up with a lone Milne-Edwards' Sifaka. We were able to watch this beautiful animal feeding for quite some time before it made five or so, incredible leaps and was lost to view. Time was moving on and we wanted to try for the rare Greater Bamboo Lemur. After another forty minutes walk, we reached the spot where we were able to watch one of only two in the national park. It was a moving, if somewhat solemn, end to our morning. On the way back to the bus we passed some standing stones where Stephan talked us through the local burial customs.

Back for 12.40, we were ready for lunch. It did take quite a long time to come but was welcome. We then took some time to recharge before leaving again at 5pm for a road walk where a lucky two of the party saw a Fossa cross the road! Stephan, banana in hand, smeared it on roadside bushes. Within a few minutes he was able to show us the amazing Brown Mouse Lemurs. As it got darker, these tiny lemurs showed very well in the torch light. A Collared Nightjar flew over briefly just before it got fully dark. Now was the time for chameleons. We spent the next 45 minutes finding chameleons in the roadside bushes: Blue-legged, the tiny Short-nosed, Spiny-backed, Parson's and Stripe-sided Chameleons were all seen. It was an incredible end to the day. Dinner, checklist and a game of pool later, it was time for bed.

Day 5

Wednesday 12th October

Ranomafana NP trails,

This morning we had a slightly more sedate start with the group on the bus, heading to a different part of the park by 6am. It was a great walk with a fair range of birds (not all seen, unfortunately), but after a good start with Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, we were shown evidence of Giraffe-necked Weevil which fold a leaf over to keep a single egg safe. Looking on an adjacent bush, we found two weevils themselves - utterly fabulous! Next were a group of Red-bellied Lemurs and a Milne-Edwards' Sifaka. A Blue Coua showed well overhead and we watched the bizarre Long-billed Tetraka creeping along a branch. Blue Vanga, the noisy Dark Newtonia and a pair of displaying Red-tailed Vangas were next. The wonderfully named Brown Emutail promised to give us all a good view. At one stage there were three calling either side of the forest track. Unfortunately, apart from a very brief view, they remained obscured. The group of Paradise Flycatchers teased the photographers but one on a nest with its long tail sticking out was more obliging. Heading back to our starting point, one of our spotters found a crayfish. Stephan then asked us to wait while he disappeared into the trees to look for frogs. He found one after ten minutes and then found another four. It was great to see these spectacular creatures so close.

Back to hotel, we had lunch and a short breather before heading out at 3pm. Stephan first took us to local family who had Parson's Chameleons in their trees, and they showed them to us at close quarters. It was fascinating to see them up close, and we then moved on back up the road to look for some wilder wildlife! Well, what a great place we stopped. We finally saw Ward's Vanga singing from a tree top. We even got to see Madagascan Cuckoo after hearing them every day. Other new birds for us were Chabert's Vanga, Madagascan Starling and the very bright Forest Fody. The Madagascan Flufftail did not show so well, despite the efforts of our guides. It called nearby and flew quickly from one patch of grass to another. While watching, we could also hear lemurs calling from the other side of the river valley. Amazingly, our guide found them – Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs. They did stand out against the dark trees but it was still impressive spotting without optics! Far closer were three

Common Brown Lemurs. By now it was getting dusky so we went a little farther up the road to see the mouse lemurs again, joining our fellow Naturetrekkers on the Madagascar's Birds tour.

Day 6

Thursday 13th October

Ranomafana, Enja and Isalo

Well this was quite a day...! For most, the day started with an unscheduled alarm call at 6.15am. We were due to eat breakfast at 6.30 but, with Tovo walking into a sliding glass door beforehand, our plans changed. Tovo was rushed to hospital while we continued with breakfast and waited for news. Desi, a Naturetrek guide from previous trips (and leading the bird tour) explained that the ground agent would be sending another guide from Ranomafana to take over. We met Theo about half an hour later. A veteran of many tours and also the local guide for David Attenborough when he was making his Madagascar series, Theo said he could be with us for the day if needed. Around 8am, Tovo returned and was deemed fit enough to continue after being stitched up! We thanked Theo and got on our way at 8.30. Although we were behind schedule, we worked out a plan for the day allowing us to catch up and not miss any wildlife stops.

After a stop in a supermarket in Fianarantsoa, we continued on to our scheduled sandwich stop at the Aux Bougainvillies. Normally, the tour would spend some at the adjacent paper-making factory, but we needed to save some time and pushed on through to Anja reserve, arriving at lunchtime where we took shelter from the heat under a picnic shelter. Most struggled with the enormous sub sandwich, but one or two managed with ease... A Peregrine circled overhead.

Our guide then introduced himself to us and we took the short tour into the reserve, starting with Oustalet's Chameleons. Just before we entered the woodland, a small group of Grey-headed Lovebirds were seen. In the trees were a large group of Ring-tailed Lemurs. We enjoyed watching them feeding busily. There were several babies in the group who were excellent value and very, very cute!

There was still some distance to cover so off again at 2.30, through Ihosy where we stopped for cool ice cream and drinks. Climbing onto the plateau and across the grasslands, we entered a very different landscape of sandstone outcrops as the sun went down. We arrived at the very grand Jardin du Roy at 7pm and checked in to the calls of Madagascan Nightjars.

Day 7

Friday 14th October

Isalo NP

After an early breakfast, we drove the short distance to the park entrance and met our guide Roxy. The first part of the walk led us into the canyon with scattered bushes but became shadier. The picnic area came complete with a large number of Ring-tailed Lemurs providing a fabulous display. Lily spotted a strange bird which we were pleased to see was a White-throated Rail which crept down the stream. Next was a family of Madagascan Buttonquails: first a female with chicks and then a male searching for food in the leaf litter – to clear the leaves, it turned around on the spot. With it were our first Malagasy Turtle Doves. A very close Benson's Rock Thrush was motionless on a branch. It wasn't just birds and lemurs of course. A stunning Orange Clearwing Butterfly posed for photos. Dave spent much of his time stalking and photographing butterflies, although not all were

obliging. We opted to walk up the steps to the natural pool which looked inviting in the heat, but we declined. On the way back, we saw the stick-like Lantern Bug, Thorn Bug and a fabulous Praying Mantis.

We returned to the hotel for lunch and a breather. In the late afternoon, we walked to the nearby lake which was all but birdless. Another Clearwing butterfly, a Greater Vasa Parrot and a few Mannikins were all we could muster. A short drive up the road to watch the sunset was perhaps a nice idea if it had been a good one. The other people there may have enjoyed it, but we agreed the highlight for us were the roadside Helmeted Guineafowl. We had a few logistics to take care of tonight. As we wanted to get on the road before 5am tomorrow, the hotel would provide us an early breakfast tonight since no one would be up. The easiest way to deal with this was for the breakfasts to be delivered to my room. Rather than the hoped-for individual packed breakfasts, it was two heavy trays of thermos flasks, plates, bread, jam and cakes.

Day 8

Saturday 15th October

Zombitse National Park and Antsokay Arboretum of Toliara

Up at 3am, I carried the trays to the reception area so we were all set as the group arrived, and we made our jam rolls by torchlight on the steps to the hotel. A choice of warm tea, strong coffee or fruit juice was served! But the whole point of this was to get on the road early and arrive at the Zombitse reserve at dawn. This spectacular dry forest is best early in the day and after driving through the bizarre sapphire town of Ilakaka and the adjacent ghost sapphire town, we were doing well. We entered the forest itself at 6.10am, just as we hit a wall of mist. But five minutes later, we'd stopped by the entrance and met our guide and the mist had cleared. Well what a start! A Cuckoo Roller overhead displaying, a Giant Coua on the path in front of us, then a Crested Coua was perching in a tree and appearing to have a snooze. But this was just on the way to a roosting White-browed Hawk-Owl whose large dark eyes watched us from above. Not a bad few minutes... Back over the road we were led around the trail, seeing two Hubbard's Sportive Lemurs peering out from their holes. Just adorable! We saw Rufous Vanga, Hook-billed Vanga and the recently discovered Appert's Tetraka. We saw another Hubbard's Sportive Lemur and then a group of stunning Verreaux's Sifakas: great views although rather disconcertingly, they were right overhead. Our previous guide in Ranomafana has described any accidents from above as 'benediction!' We'd timed our walk to end in time for a Madagascar Ground Boa to appear out of its hole, which was usually at about 9am. In the end, this amazing animal was early and appeared at 8.45. Huge!

It was a great and productive stop, worth our efforts to get on the road early. But we needed to move onward to our lunchtime stop, which was at Antsokay arboretum, set up in 1980. The increasingly harsh conditions and the seemingly harder life for the locals here was marked, compared to the first few days. It was therefore quite a contrast to have lunch in a cool restaurant. After a welcome rest and food, our guide took us around the arboretum trail. Here we saw among others Grey-brown Mouse Lemur, Spiny-tailed Iguanid and a roosting Madagascan Nightjar with a chick. Just over an hour later, we'd made it through the vibrant city of Toliara with hundreds of colourful cycle rickshaws (and then back again to find the right road!), we arrived at the coastal road (newly improved), and at the hotel just after 4pm. We checked in to our rooms overlooking the sea for a breather before dinner.

Day 9

Sunday 16th October

Reniala Private Reserve (Spiny Forest)

Today we were visiting the famous spiny forest at Raniaia. After an early warm drink in the hotel, we were at the entrance by 5.15am to meet our guide Taba. Once we'd made it along the sandy approach track, adding our first Sakalava Weavers to our trip list, we then saw Subdesert Brush Warbler and Running Coua. The latter was an appropriate species since the pace was rather brisk. It became clear we were in danger of missing one of the most bizarre and special spiny forest inhabitants - the Subdesert Mesite. However, we got to the right bush in time to see at least five of these strange birds, lined up on a branch. Then we could admire the scenery. Such amazing trees including many baobabs creating a unique vista in the dawn light - I'm sure we've all got the same photographs but we couldn't help it!

Taking a more sedate approach, we saw other specialities such as Archbold's *Newtonia*, *Thamnornis* and then a very obliging Long-tailed Ground Roller. We then found equally obliging and spectacular Sickie-billed Vangas. Returning to the hotel for breakfast overlooking the sea, most decided to check out the nearby pools and salt pans for waders. Among the more familiar Curlew Sandpipers, Turnstones, Greenshank and Little Stint, we saw Kittlitz's and White-fronted Plover. Searching the other side of the hotel, we found a productive area of mangrove and mud flat with a Striated Heron eating crabs, White-headed Ducks on the mud flats themselves, and a very showy Malagasy Kingfisher. But it was now very hot and time to return for a rest before lunch, and indeed for the afternoon, before we met again for an evening spiny forest walk. Taba again gave us a great tour with Standing's Day Gecko, Madagascan Buttonquail, Long-nosed Chameleon, Scorpion, Grey-brown Mouse Lemur and then a duo of Hissing Cockroach and Common Tenrec! Just brilliant.

Day 10

Monday 17th October

Reniala Private Reserve and Toliara.

With such great visits to the spiny forest, we opted to take the opportunity of a later flight to Tana and visit again. One of the first birds was a Green-capped Coua which the group ushered me forward to see as I'd missed one the day before! Crested Coua and White-headed Vanga showed well, but pride of place this morning went to the two Madagascan Harrier-Hawks perched on the top of *Alluaudia* sp. As we left, Taba showed us a stunning Madagascan Nightjar roosting. Back at the hotel, we went straight in to breakfast. During breakfast we saw a real rarity – a bird over the sea! The sea had been devoid of anything so far, but here was a Caspian Tern flying slowly south.

We left for Toliara (Tulear) at 10am, the new road meaning we were early in the city. After a quick check at the Air Madagascar offices (flight times are often fluid...), we had an even quicker look at the coast near the port but decided we'd like to go to the Hotel Victory (our lunch stop) early and relax. Many of us opted for pizza here which was probably the first time on a menu for us on this trip but they were very filling. At Toliara airport, we said goodbye and thanks to our driver Olivier who drew the short straw and was driving back to Tana, while we flew. Our flight was pretty good, although longer than we'd hoped as it went via Fort Dauphin. But at 6.25, we landed and drove to the Hotel Combava for the night. Although largely a transit day, we did see a wonderful Owl Moth in the hotel restaurant – never off duty!

Day 11

Tuesday 18th October

Andasibe NP

With a slightly more leisurely start (for a Naturetrek group), we had breakfast at 7.30am and were on the road at 8.15. The Southern African Trade Conference being held in Tana meant that the roads were lined with soldiers and there were armoured cars at road junctions. Occasional convoys of shiny cars would pass with lights and sirens: an exciting start to the day. Our aim was to get to a restaurant near to Andasibe National Park for lunch. We did have a comfort/butterfly stop en route where we enjoyed the juxtaposition of beautiful butterflies coming to drink while lorry drivers refilled their radiators with water from the stream. We arrived on schedule at 12.15 and sat at our table overlooking a stream. While waiting for our lunch, Madagascar Blue Pigeons fed just above head height. We had really great views although, as I found out, standing underneath isn't a great idea. We met Maurice here who guided us for the afternoon into the nearby Andasibe National Park. We saw our first Giraffe-necked Weevils since the beginning of our holiday, Madagascar Wood Rail, and a real treat was to follow. It's always a good idea to ask guides whether they know of any roosting owls. Sure enough, Maurice guided us two at a time, under a branch to see a pair of Madagascar Scops Owls. A few minutes later, one of his spotters ushered us into another trackside bush (we did a lot of this on this trip...), to see two beautiful Grey Bamboo Lemurs. Finally, on the way out, a bonus was the hard-to-see (and quite ugly) Crested Ibis.

Day 12

Wednesday 19th October

Mantadia NP

Today we had a full day in Mantadia National Park. The road to this piece of primary forest is not what you'd call good. We hired 4x4s and met our drivers and guides at 6.30am. The drive in, with the odd stop for a roadside Velvety Asity, took nearly two hours. From the small car park, we took a walk through the tall trees. Indri could be heard singing on occasion which is a truly evocative sound. It was an amazing place to walk; some of the paths were steeper than others, but we felt a little hard done by as can happen in the rain forest: if you don't bump into the mixed species flock, you can struggle. We did see Madagascar Starling and Nelicourvi Weaver in the car park but it was some time before we saw any lemurs. Eventually we saw Common Brown and Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs and, just before lunch, the main target, the stunning Diademed Sifaka. The Scaly Ground Roller we saw on the same walk was a reminder of our first visit to a Madagascar rainforest, the week before.

We took our picnic to the edge of a small lake – actually artificial and made for the nearby graphite mine. But here were all three of the target birds – confiding Madagascar Swamp Warblers, Madagascar Grebes and Meller's Duck. In the early afternoon we agreed to head back but via another forest walk. Dave and Veronica chose to walk the road in search of butterflies. The rest repeated the first part of the trail we'd taken this morning. Again, it was quite quiet but finally, a flock – the bird several of us wanted to see - Nuthatch Vanga was creeping nuthatch-like up a tree – amazing! With it, in the next couple of minutes were Red-tailed, Tyler's and Ward's Vangas. We regrouped near the 4x4s (Dave estimated around ten butterfly species added in their walk!), and drove back arriving at 3.15pm.

Our evening meal dealt with, we enjoyed the spectacular Morgan's Sphinx Moth outside – think of the average UK hawk-moth size, then double it!

Day 13

Thursday 20th October

Andasibe NP

The next day started with an equally impressive moth on the same bush outside reception – a Madagascar Bullseye moth (also known as the Suraka Silkmoth). We went back down the road for our last look before our journey home. It was a misty start and hard to see too far – Ward's Vanga and Lesser Vasa Parrots aside. Although we only had a short time, the experience was rather special – David Attenborough's Madagascar series featured an Indri called "David" being hand fed by a park guide. Sir David experienced the same thing. Although we didn't know it, we were taken to the same animal who leapt towards us and watched us from a few feet away. Lesley and Veronica were ushered forward with a bunch of leaves. David gently took the leaves, picked those he liked and dropped the rest. He did this twice. Indri are impossible to keep in captivity due in part to their particular preference for certain leaves – or maybe they are just fussy... This special experience will certainly stay with us all and was a great end to our wildlife experience. Back to the hotel, we settled up and packed ready for a prompt lunch and our drive back towards Tana. The journey passed without incident and we had a quick stop for souvenirs en route to the hotel.

We had plenty of time before we had to get to the airport, and enjoyed our last meal together before the journey home.

Day 14

Friday 21st October

Our night time flight to Paris arrived just after midday where the group took different flights home.

What a trip! We agreed the wildlife was spectacular – but you had to work at it with some considerable distances between sites. Thanks to Tovo for keeping an eye on the logistics, our drivers for their patience and, of course, to the local guides for showing off so much of their wonderful wildlife. Thanks from me to the group for their good humour and great company for the last two weeks. A special thanks to Dave for his efforts to find and then identify so many butterflies.

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Species Lists

Lemurs (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only; * = Captivity/semi-wild; H = Heard)

	Common name	Scientific name	October											
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Grey-brown (Reddish-Grey) Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>								1	3			
2	Rufous Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>			4	3								
3	Goodman's Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>											2	
4	Crossley's (Furry-eared) Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus crossleyi</i>											2	
5	Zombitse Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur hubbardorum</i>								3				
6	Grey Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus griseus</i>	1*		1								2	
7	Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>			4									
8	Greater Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur simus</i>			1									
9	Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>	8*				30	25						
10	Mongoose Lemur	<i>Eulemur mongoz</i>	1*											
11	Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>	3*			3								5
12	Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufifrons</i>	1*		4									
13	Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>		4		4								
14	Variiegated Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>	8*			3								2
15	Eastern Woolly Lemur (Avahi)	<i>Avahi laniger</i>											4	
16	Crowned Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coronatus</i>	1*											
17	Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>	8*											
18	Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>			1					9				
19	Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>												4
20	Milne-Edwards' Sifaka	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>			1	3								
21	Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>											3	H 1

Other Mammals

1	Fossa	<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>			1									
2	Common or Tail-less Tenrec	<i>Tenrec ecaudatus</i>							1					
3	Lowland Streaked Tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>			1									
4	Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>							1					
5	Eastern Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>			3		1							

	Common name	Scientific name	October											
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Birds

1	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>								1	45				
2	Meller's Duck	<i>Anas melleri</i>												2	
3	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>								3					
4	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>						6							
5	Madagascan Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelinii</i>												2	
6	Madagascan Ibis	<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>											1		
7	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1	✓											
8	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>									1				1
9	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	15												
10	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓					20	3					✓
11	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			1										1
12	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	50	✓							30	15	✓		20
13	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	30												
14	Dimorphic Egret	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	20	40							4		✓		
15	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	1	2			1						1		1
16	Madagascan Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>			1							2			
17	Madagascan Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda madagascariensis</i>			1	1									
18	Madagascan Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>											H		
19	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	4	10			10	20	15	2	4	2			1
20	Madagascan Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>			1	2		3						2	
21	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					1								
22	Brown Mesite	<i>Mesitornis unicolor</i>			H										
23	Subdesert Mesite	<i>Monias benschi</i>								6					
24	Madagascan Wood Rail	<i>Canirallus kiolooides</i>			3								1		1
25	Madagascan Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>				1								H	H
26	White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>						1							
27	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>												1	
28	Madagascan Buttonquail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>						5				1			
29	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>							6	10	1	1			
30	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>									5	2			

	Common name	Scientific name	October												
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
31	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>								1	6				
32	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>									1				
33	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>									2	1			
34	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>									H				
35	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								H	3				
36	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1							1	1				
37	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>									25				
38	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>									5				
39	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>									1				
40	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								4	30				
41	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>										1			
42	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Malagasy Turtle Dove	<i>Nesoenas picturatus</i>							2	2	5	1	1		
44	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>							1	3	8	2			
45	Madagascan Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>			5	2							10		
46	Malagasy Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>				1	1	5			H		1		
47	Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>								1	8	2			
48	Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>				3	1							2	1
49	Green-capped Coua	<i>Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps</i>									1	2			
50	Red-fronted Coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>			2										
51	Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>									2	1			
52	Giant Coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>								3					
53	Madagascan Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	H	H	H	1	H				1	1	H	H	
54	Madagascan Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>					1						H		
55	Rainforest Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>											2		
56	White-browed Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox supercilii</i>								1					
57	Collared Nightjar	<i>Gactornis enarratus</i>			1										
58	Madagascan Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>						1	2	1	1				
59	Madagascan Spinetail	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>			2									5	
60	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>			30	✓	✓	10	5						
61	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>			2		1								
62	Malagasy Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni</i>	3		10						4	5			

	Common name	Scientific name	October												
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
63	Cuckoo Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>			1	H			3				H		
64	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>						2							
65	Scaly Ground Roller	<i>Geobiastes squamiger</i>			1								1		
66	Pitta-like Ground Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>			2										
67	Long-tailed Ground Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>								2	1				
68	Malagasy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>	3	1				2		1		2	2		
69	Olive Bee-Eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	4	3	20	6	10	8	5	4	8				
70	Madagascan Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>	1					2	2	H	1	1			
71	Malagasy Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	2	5		2	5	4	2	2	2			2	
72	Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>						2		2	2	2			
73	Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>			3	3	2						4	6	
74	Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>					6	2							
75	Velvet Asity	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>			2								1		
76	Common Sunbird-Asity	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>				3									
77	Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>				2			2	1			1		
78	Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>							2						
79	Lafresnaye's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>								1	H				
80	Pollen's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>			H	H									
81	Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falculea palliata</i>								4					
82	White-headed Vanga	<i>Artamella viridis</i>			1						4				
83	Chabert Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>				2				1	2				
84	Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>			1								2		
85	Rufous Vanga	<i>Schetba rufa</i>							2						
86	Tylas Vanga	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>			1	1							2		
87	Nuthatch Vanga	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>											2		
88	Dark Newtonia	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>				2									
89	Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>			2	1			4	3	4				
90	Archbold's Newtonia	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>								2					
91	Ward's Flycatcher	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>			H	4							1	3	
92	Crossley's Vanga	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>			1										
93	Madagascan Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>		1						1	2		3		
94	Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>			2	2		3	10	12	5	3	5		

	Common name	Scientific name	October											
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
95	Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>			6	8		6	3	2	1	1	5	1
96	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	1	30			✓	✓	✓	✓	10	✓		
97	Madagascan Lark	<i>Eremopterix hova</i>						1		2	1			
98	Malagasy Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	10	4	✓	15	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20	
99	Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	8		50	✓		1				30	30	
100	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	6	✓										
101	Madagascan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	5	10	10	✓	2	1				2	4	5
102	Malagasy Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>		1	H	H		1						4
103	Subdesert Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>								5				
104	Madagascan Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>											4	
105	Brown Emutail	<i>Bradypterus brunneus</i>				H								
106	White-throated Oxylobes	<i>Oxylobes madagascariensis</i>			1									
107	Long-billed Bernieria	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>							1					
108	Thamnornis	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>								3	5			
109	Appert's Tetraka	<i>Xanthomixis apperti</i>							3					
110	Grey-crowned Tetraka	<i>Xanthomixis cinereiceps</i>			3									
111	Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>			H	H								
112	Green Jery	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>			1									
113	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>	6	6	H			5						
114	Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>		1			1			5	5	2	5	
115	Madagascan Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>	1					3						
116	Malagasy White-Eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>	15	15	2	10	1					5	10	3
117	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	25		10
118	Madagascan Starling	<i>Hartlaubius auratus</i>				6							4	
119	Madagascan Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus albospecularis</i>	4	4	5		2	1	2	5	4			
120	Forest Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>		1				1						
121	Madagascan Stonechat	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>	1	5			2	3					3	2
122	Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris sovimanga</i>	18	2	2	4		1	5	6	8	4	5	
123	Malagasy Green Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris notatus</i>		1		2		1						
124	Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>			2								1	1
125	Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>								25	35			
126	Red Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	20	20				4		4	1	2	1	10

	Common name	Scientific name	October											
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
127	Forest Fody	<i>Foudia omissa</i>				1					1			
128	Madagascan Mannikin	<i>Lepidopygia nana</i>					2	50		20	1		3	

Frogs

1	Tree frog	<i>Boophis schuboeae</i>				1								
2	Sculpted Madagascar Frog	<i>Gephyromantis sculpturatus</i>				1								
3	Malagasy Glass Frog	<i>Mantidactylus (Guibemantis) pulcher</i>				1								

Chameleons

1	Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>											1	
2	Blue-legged Chameleon	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>		2	3								1	
3	Short-nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>			2									
4	Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>			1	3								
5	Long-nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma gallus</i>								1				
6	Rhinoceros Chameleon	<i>Furcifer rhinocerotus</i>								1				
7	Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	4		1		2	1						
8	Spiny-backed Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>			1				4	2				
9	Stripe sided chameleon				2									

Lizards, Geckos & Skinks

1	Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Oplurus (Chalerodon) madagascariensis</i>								4	2			
2	Collared Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cuveri</i>	2					1						
3	Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>							1	1				
4	Four-lined Iguanid	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>					2							
5	Marked Madagascar Swift	<i>Oplurus saxicola</i>								1				
6	Peacock Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>		1	6	3								
7	Standing's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>								2				
8	Gray's Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mercatorius</i>				1								
9	Elegant Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis (Mabuya) elegans</i>				1								

	Common name	Scientific name	October											
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Snakes

1	Big-eyed Snake	<i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>									1	1		
2	Madagascar Ground Boa	<i>Acrantophis madagascariensis</i>								1				

Butterflies

Madagascar Giant Swallowtail, <i>Pharmacophagus antenor</i>	Kite Swallowtail, <i>Graphium policeses</i>	Citrus Swallowtail, <i>Papilio demodocus</i>
Green Lady, <i>Graphium cyrnus</i>	Cream-lined Swallowtail, <i>Papilio delalandei</i>	Banded Blue, <i>Papilio oribazus</i>
<i>Fulda coroller</i>	<i>Fulda australis</i> (poss)	
<i>Borbo gemella</i> (poss)	<i>Coeliades ramantek</i>	<i>Pelopidas mathias</i> (poss)
African Monarch, <i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Common Joker, <i>Byblia anvata</i>	Red Clearwing, <i>Acraea lia</i>
<i>Acraea calida</i>	<i>Acraea ranavalona</i>	<i>Acraea turna</i>
Dusky-veined Acraea, <i>Acraea damni</i>	Painted Lady, <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Brilliant Blue, <i>Junonia rhadama</i>
Madagascan Brown Pansy, <i>Junonia goudotii</i>	Blue Pansy, <i>Junonia oenone</i>	Madagascar Commodore, <i>Precis andremiaja</i>
Clouded Mother-of-Pearl, <i>Protogoniomorpha anacardii</i>	Madagascan Forest Nymph, <i>Aterica rabena</i>	Spotted Sailor, <i>Neptis saclava</i>
<i>Strabena ibitina</i>	<i>Heteropsis antsianakana</i>	<i>Heteropsis difficilis</i>
<i>Heteropsis turbans</i>	African Vagrant, <i>Catopsilia florella</i>	African Caper White, <i>Belenois creona</i>
<i>Belenois grandidieri</i>	Madagascan Orange Tip, <i>Colotis evanthe</i>	<i>Colotis zoe</i>
<i>Colotis</i> sp. (Poss, <i>danae</i>)	Small Grass Yellow, <i>Eurema brigitta</i>	Tiny Grass Blue, <i>Zizula hylax</i>
White-tipped Blue (poss), <i>Eicochrysops hippocrates</i>	<i>Cacyreus darius</i>	Common Zebra Blue, <i>Leptotes pirithous</i>
<i>Hemiolaus ceres</i>	<i>Saribia tepali</i>	<i>Saribia perroti</i> (poss.)

Moths

Harlequin Hawk-moth, <i>Batocnema africana</i>	Emperor Moth, Suraka Silkmoth, <i>Antherina suraka</i>	Sunset Moth, <i>Urania ripheus</i>
Morgan's Sphinx Moth,	or Madagasgar Bullseye Moth,	Madagascan Owl Moth,

Odonata

<i>Palpopleura lucia</i>	<i>Anax tumorifer</i>	<i>Acisoma</i> sp. poss. <i>attenboroughi</i>
Slender Scarlet Darter, <i>Crocothemis divisa</i>	Violet Dropwing, <i>Trithemis annulata</i>	Dropwing, <i>Trithemis selika</i>

Kirby's Dropwing, *Trithemis kirbyi*
 Scarlet Darter, *Crocothemis erythraea*
 Damsel, *Azuragrion kauderni*

Orthetrum abbotti malgassicum
Palpopleura vestita
Nesolestes ranavalona

Azure Skimmer, *Orthetrum azureum*
 Phantom Flutterer, *Rhyothemis semihyalina*

Other Invertebrates

Praying Mantis, *Empusa* sp
 Stick Insect,
 Firefly, *Lampyridae* sp.
 Large Black Millipede,
 Giant "whirlygigs",

Hissing Cockroach, *Gromphadorhina portentosa*
 Flatid Leaf-bug, *Phromnia rosea*
 Rhinoceros Beetle, *Oryctes* sp.
 Madagascar Fire Millipede, *Aphistogoniulus* sp.
 Large cricket sp,

Cicada, *Tibicinidae* sp.
 Plataspid Shield Bugs, *Libyaspis coccinelloides*
 Giraffe-necked Weevil, *Trachelophorus giraffa*
 Leaf hopper,
 Slant-faced Grasshopper sp, *Gomphocerinae*

Spiders & allies

Scorpion, *Opisthacanthus madagascariensis*
 Madagascar Golden Orb-web Spider, *Nephila madagascariensis*

Thorn Spider (Orange), *Gasteracanthinae* sp

Thorn Spider (Brown), *Gasteracanthinae* sp

Other Taxa

Crayfish,



Byblia anvatara (Common Joker) - Dave McGeever



Blue-legged Chameleon Ialatsara - Pete Ward



Scaly Ground Roller Ranomafana - Pete Ward