

Northern Madagascar

Naturetrek Tour Report

26 October - 11 November 2012



Helmet Vanga



Crowned Lemurs



View at Iharana



Scaly Ground-Roller

Report and images compiled by Andy Smith



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Day 1

Friday 26th October

We arrived at Tana airport more or less on time in the late evening. After clearing immigration and collecting our luggage we met up with our local guide Manitra and transferred to our nearby hotel for a few hours' sleep.

Day 2

Saturday 27th October

After an early breakfast we returned to the airport for our morning flight north. The aircraft made a brief stop-over at Toamasina airport en-route and we arrived at Maroansetra around 11.30 am. From here we made the short drive across town and checked into our comfortable beach-side hotel in time for lunch. We spent the afternoon at leisure. A first few bits of local wildlife included some lovely Green Day Geckos, a couple of Madagascar Malachite Kingfishers and at dusk, several Madagascar Nightjars.

Day 3

Sunday 28th October

After a leisurely breakfast which was interrupted by a local man walking past carrying a tethered Greater Hedgehog Tenrec (presumably for the pot!), we drove the short distance to Maroansetra water front and boarded a trio of speed boats for the trip across the bay to the Masoala Peninsula. The journey took a couple of hours. First we negotiated the river estuary where we noted a range of water birds including Purple Heron, Black Egret, Striated Heron, Greenshank, Whimbrel and White-fronted Plover and then we headed out across the bay itself, a fast and slightly bumpy ride relieved by sightings of Common and Greater Crested Terns.

We arrived in due course at the idyllic Tampolo Lodge with its rustic wooden chalets set along a golden sand beach backed by a small lagoon and forested hills. We settled in, enjoyed some wonderful views of Madagascar Pratincoles and a juvenile Lowland Streaked Tenrec and then, after lunch and a siesta we set off to explore the trails in the secondary forest behind the lodge.

An exciting time ensued; between us we had good views of a Madagascar Wood-Rail, a perched female Madagascar Sparrowhawk, two Blue Couas, two types of Leaf-tailed Gecko (*Uroplatus fimbriatus* and *U. lineatus*) and an impressive Forest Hermit Crab. Two brief Helmet Vangas provided a taste of things to come and concluded an enjoyable and successful afternoon.

Day 4

Monday 29th October

Up at first light and breakfasted we set off in the boats a mile or two along the beach to an accessible area of primary forest. Our chief target here was the locally endemic Red-ruffed Lemur and within just a few minutes we found a pair of these wonderful animals and enjoyed some lovely views of them as they made their way through the trees in loose company with a small group of White-fronted Brown Lemurs. Exploring further along the trails through some superb forest with huge buttress-rooted trees we also encountered an impressive range of special birds. We saw a pair of Hook-billed Vangas at their nest high in a fork of a trailside tree, had brief views of a couple of Red-breasted Couas and spent some time watching a mixed flock which included Tylas, Nuthatch and White-headed Vangas, Common Newtonia and Madagascar Cuckoo-Shrike. Overall bird highlight however came in the form of a pair of Helmet Vangas at their nest in the fork of a tree in a rugged little gully. We watched from a little distance as one bird replaced the other at the nest – lovely! What amazing looking birds!

After lunch back at the lodge and a siesta we explored another trail in the adjacent secondary forest and enjoyed good views of Blue Couas, Lesser Vasa Parrots, a Paradise flycatcher on its nest, a superb male Rufous Vanga and another huge *U. fimbriatus* Leaf-tailed Gecko. We got back to the lodge a little after dark with a thunderstorm playing on the distant hills of the mainland across the bay. It had been a rich and rewarding day.

Day 5

Tuesday 30th October

We spent another morning in the secondary forest with the aim of looking for the elusive Bernier's Vanga. We made our way to an agricultural clearing that gave us a good view of the surrounding forest and waited. A range of birds came and went, including a Greater Vasa Parrot, some Chabert's Vangas, a Rufous Vanga, a couple of Madagascar Starlings, a Madagascar Spinetail, a smart male Forest Fody and a handsome nest-building Nelicourvi Weaver. Finally, a male Bernier's Vanga made a brief appearance in the top of a distant tree. It wasn't quite the view that we had hoped for but at least we'd seen something of it and in any case what had been a satisfying enough morning was concluded in style when we stepped back into the forest and met three super little Ring-tailed Mongoose walking over a narrow log across a stream.

The afternoon was spent at leisure with people swimming, relaxing and enjoying a visit from the local women who put on a simple dance show. Another glorious sunset was again enlivened by a thunderstorm over the hills across the bay.

Day 6

Wednesday 31st October

This morning we went back to the primary forest and once again had superb views of both Red-ruffed and White-fronted Brown Lemurs along with a supporting cast of birds which included Crested Ibis, Red-breasted Coua, Short-legged and Scaly Ground-Rollers, Long-billed Greenbul and Helmet Vanga.

Towards the end of this exciting morning some of us came across a mixed flock and along with the usual Tylas and White-headed Vangas we had reasonable views of a pair of Bernier's Vangas; a satisfying supplement to yesterday's encounter.

In the afternoon, after lunch and a siesta, some of us went for a final walk in the secondary forest behind the lodge. Highlights here, to complete our time at Tampolo, included another Crested Ibis, three Spectacled Greenbuls and two very agile Eastern Lowland Forest Rats.

Day 7

Thursday 1st November

Up at first light we were soon breakfasted and boarding the boats for our crossing to Nosy Be. It was a pleasant journey enlivened by more Terns, this time including a few pale, long-tailed Roseates. We hove-to briefly by a small forested islet to see a huge colony of noisy Madagascar Flying Foxes which were just settling down to roost and then we headed on to the forested paradise island of Nosy Mangabe.

After settling in at the simple campsite we went for a walk along one of the trails through the island's dense rainforest. Fairly soon we found a small group of Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs and spent a happy half hour or so sitting back on the steeply sloping forest floor enjoying superb views of these very smart and engaging lemurs. Other notable sightings as we walked included a green and black Mantella "poison dart" Frog, a tiny Brookesia superciliatus Stump-tailed Chameleon, a sizeable Madagascar Tree Boa curled up in the sun amongst some tree roots and a male Madagascar Coucal who presented a large and appetizing cockroach to his mate.

We returned to camp for lunch and a lengthy siesta (which for many included a swim off the beautiful, sheltered, golden sand beach) and then after dark we went for a night walk with the outside hope of finding an Aye-aye. We were out of luck with what would have been the ultimate prize but did find a couple of neat little Brown Mouse Lemurs bouncing through the foliage, a large Tree Boa out a-hunting in the leaf litter, another Uroplatus fimbriatus Leaf-tailed Gecko and two Gladiator (or Net-throwing) Spiders poised ready to launch their nets – amazing!

Day 8

Friday 2nd November

After a relaxed breakfast during which we were visited by a very confiding troop of White-fronted Brown Lemurs we left Nosy Mangabe and made the short boat trip across the bay and up the river, past Maroansetra waterfront, to a landing stage close to our hotel. Birds along the river included four White-fronted Plovers, a couple of Dimorphic Egrets, a Yellow-billed Kite and a Madagascar Pond Heron, and the short walk from the landing stage to the hotel produced a female Frances's Sparrowhawk and a small flock of Chabert's Vangas.

We settled in at the hotel (familiar from our earlier visit) and after lunch and a siesta we set off on a boat trip along the river, through the marshes and out to the estuary. The excursion was full of human interest as we passed boats on the water and people going about their business on the banks and in the quiet stretches we encountered a satisfying range of birds. Among the highlights were a brief Humblot's Heron, several Striated, Black and Purple Herons, five Hottentot Teal, dozens of Whimbrel and Common Sandpipers, a couple of close Madagascar Malachite Kingfishers and a few Madagascar Cisticolas.

We arrived back at the hotel as the sunset and had another chance to see the Madagascar Nightjars out on the dunes before getting ready for dinner.

Day 9

Saturday 3rd November

A heavy and prolonged thunderstorm refreshed things overnight and we awoke to a cool, humid, overcast and showery morning. With breakfast completed we drove the short distance to Maroansetra airport and after a short delay we were airborne. The aircraft made a brief stop at Toamasina again and we finally arrived back at Tana a little after noon. We transferred to our nearby hotel, ate lunch and then drove across town to the Zoo where we spent a couple of hours viewing the extensive range of native wildlife. By arrangement we stayed until dusk and were able to see the two Aye-ayes who emerged from their bed-chambers bang on cue and made an energetic beeline for their freshly filled food bowls. They were captive certainly but they were nevertheless very engaging and interesting to watch as they made their way around their quarters and tackled various food items. From the zoo we made our way into the centre of the city and ate a pleasant supper at the atmospheric Café de Gare before returning to the hotel in good time to prepare for our early start in the morning.

Day 10

Sunday 4th November

We were back at the airport at a rather challenging 4.15 am and after a slow check-in our flight departed on time at 6am. A little over an hour later we arrived at Diego Suarez airport, met with our drivers and local guide Angeluc and began the journey up through the hills to Joffreville and the Amber Mountain National Park. By 9.30am we were walking a trail through some beautiful montane rainforest. We soon found lots of interest including a minute *Brookesia tuberculata* Stump-tailed Chameleon, a more conventionally sized Amber Mountain Chameleon (*Calumna amberiensis*), various frogs and a range of birds which included Spectacled and Long-billed Greenbuls, Madagascar Brush Warbler, White-throated Oxylobes and a couple of handsome Amber Mountain Rock Thrushes. Overall highlight for most however was a close encounter with a group of Crowned Lemurs who made their way through the understory swinging their tails and making an extraordinary range of ticking, squawking and grunting noises.

From the National Park we drove the short distance back down the road to Joffreville itself and checked into our luxurious guest house, an old French colonial mansion. We enjoyed an excellent lunch and a deserved siesta then, just as it was getting dark, with Broad-billed Rollers hawking around the tree-tops, we went for a night walk into an adjacent area of forest. This proved to be an excellent little session. In a short space of time we had good views of at least four Amber Mountain Mouse Lemurs, two Greater Dwarf Lemurs, three species of Leaf-tailed Geckos including the amazing little Spearpoint (*Uroplatus ebenau*), a Panther Chameleon (*Calumna pardalis*) and an impressive Stick Insect. Another delicious meal back at the guest house concluded a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Day 11

Monday 5th November

After an early breakfast we headed back up the hill for a long morning in Amber Mountain National Park. The weather was lovely and the forest beautiful and as we walked we saw a good range of exciting and interesting wildlife. Among the highlights were two groups of Sanford's Brown Lemurs, a confiding Ring-tailed Mongoose and a smart little Blue-nosed Chameleon.

Birds were good too and in the course of the morning we saw White-throated Rail, Madagascar Buzzard, Madagascar Cuckoo Roller, Pitta-like Ground-Roller, Dark Newtonia, Forest Fody and Amber Mountain Rock Thrush.

In the late afternoon we went back into the forest by the guest house, this time in daylight. During a pleasant stroll we flushed four Crested Ibis from a little stream bed, watched a Madagascar Buzzard being mobbed by a pair of Drongos, discovered a troop of Crowned Lemurs feeding in some distant trees and found five Mossy Leaf-tailed geckos (*Uroplatus sikorae*). As a finale, just as we arrived back at the guest house, we called in a superb little Rainforest Scops Owl which sat on a branch in front of us calling through a beak full of cicada.

Day 12

Tuesday 6th November

After an early breakfast we left Joffreville and began the journey to Ankarana. We descended out of the hills and drove through a varied agricultural landscape dotted with small villages. We passed through a couple of busy and colourful street markets and made a stop at a river bridge affording good views across a particularly attractive valley where we had had some lovely views of a pair of Madagascar Bee-eaters and some Sakalava Weavers. After a couple of hours we turned off the road onto dirt tracks leading to the village of Anjakahely. It was a rough old road but the landscape of rolling scrubby grassland was interesting and as we travelled we saw lots of Madagascar Bush Larks and Madagascar Cisticolas, a couple of Quail, a Madagascar Hoopoe, a few Namaqua Doves and a large snake that was identified as *Dromicodrius quadrilineata*.

At Anjakahely we walked into a large patch of dry forest set up as a local nature reserve to protect a small population of the localised and rare Perrier's Sifaka. It was very hot and perhaps because of this we couldn't find any Sifakas despite extensive searching. Some compensation however came in the form of a Madagascar Harrier-Hawk, several Common Jerys, a Long-billed Green Sunbird and some lovely views of a pair of Blue Vangas. We ate our picnic lunch back at the simple reserve headquarters and then retraced our route back out to the main road noting Madagascar Turtle Doves, a Madagascar Buttonquail and a lovely flock of Grey-headed Lovebirds en-route.

Towards the end of the afternoon we reached Ankarana National Park and took a short walk to the famous bat cave where we saw large numbers of Straw-coloured Fruit-bats and over 20 Madagascar Black Swifts. Other goodies here as we walked to and fro the cave in the fading light included Crowned and Sanford's Brown Lemurs, Greater and Lesser Vasa Parrots, Paradise Flycatcher and lesser Cuckoo. Back at the car park, in the gathering dark, we finished the day with an Ankarana Sportive Lemur (being sportive) and another Scops Owl before completing the journey to our accommodation at the rustic but comfortable Iharana Bush camp.

Day 13

Wednesday 7th November

At dawn we were able to appreciate our magnificent surroundings; the lodge sits right by the shore of a marsh fringed lake looking across to a majestic, wooded, tsingy-topped limestone escarpment - wonderful. Early morning birds included Purple and Striated Herons, Reed Cormorant, Allen's Gallinule, Madagascar Kestrel, Madagascar Cisticola and Madagascar Mannikin.

After breakfast we drove back to the main entrance of Ankarana National Park and spent the morning walking trails which took us through some excellent dry forest to a viewpoint over an extensive area of tsingy. We had a great morning of it with some very close Crowned Lemurs, a roosting Ankarana Sportive Lemur and sensational views of a pair of Crested Ibis, several Crested Couas (very beautiful!), a singing Hook-billed Vanga and a pair of amazing White-breasted Mesites.

We returned to Iharana for lunch and a siesta and then in the late afternoon we took a walk around the lake and up to the top of the escarpment. It was a very enjoyable walk during which we saw a Knob-billed Duck and two Madagascar Jacanas on the lake, Black Swifts over the escarpment and Cuckoo Shrikes, Blue Vangas, Grey-headed Lovebirds and a Hoopoe in the woodland. The view from the top of the escarpment was worth the climb and we returned in the gathering dark with Barn Owls hunting the slopes. Just as we got back to the lodge a powerful thunder storm started: a dramatic end to a very enjoyable day.

Day 14

Thursday 8th November

We left Iharana after breakfast and made our way on dirt tracks to the main road at Ambilobe and then drove on through the morning to Ankify, breaking the journey briefly to visit a vanilla plantation along the way. We arrived at Ankify port in the late morning, boarded two speed boats and headed out across the sea to the distant island of Nosy Be. One boat crew noted a Brown Booby en-route, the other a Lesser Frigatebird harassing Greater Crested Terns in the bay at the aptly named Helleville Harbour.

Transferring to minibuses we headed away from the harbour, through the rather nicer town and away across the island to our pleasant beachside hotel. After settling in we ate a good lunch and then enjoyed an afternoon at leisure. We met up again for dinner which was hugely enlivened by some a local musicians and a group of very agile dancing girls!

Day 15

Friday 9th November

Some early birding around the hotel produced a few Green Pigeons, a Hoopoe, a Bee-eater and several White-eyes before, with breakfast completed, we set off out to sea in two very nice speed boats with a couple of local guides. Our first stop was the small, forested and uninhabited island of Nosy Tankihely. Here we climbed to the top of the island, visited the lighthouse, saw the introduced Common Brown Lemurs and noted various other bits of local wildlife including several very elegant White-tailed Tropicbirds sailing around on the updraughts, two big Panther Chameleons, dozens of Zonosaurus Girdled Lizards and several large Terrestrial Hermit Crabs. After this some of the group went snorkelling off the beach whilst others went around the shore to see the roosting Fruit Bats.

At the end of this very satisfactory morning we got back into the boats and headed off across the bay to the island of Nosy Komba where we ate lunch in a beachside restaurant, visited some thoroughly habituated but very engaging Black Lemurs and did a little curio shopping. Finally, in the mid-afternoon, just as the wind began to pick up (as it always seems to do in the afternoon here) we returned to the boats and bounced our way back to Nosy Be and our hotel.

Day 16

Saturday 10th November

A delayed flight back to Tana meant that we had a morning at leisure at our very pleasant hotel. A local walk produced a Madagascar Pond Heron flying along the shore, a smart male Long-billed Green Sunbird in the hotel garden and on the muddy fringes of a small stream, a number of very neat little Mudskippers. After lunch we drove across the island to the airport and found that our flight was further delayed. We waited, Green Pigeons came and went from the trees across the road, a Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher flew along a drainage stream and Mascarene Martins hawked over the airfield. Finally the aeroplane arrived and a little later we were airborne and on our way.

A Madagascar Nightjar in the baggage hall at Tana airport created a diversion as we collected our bags and then we made the short transfer to our hotel where we had use of day rooms. Soon after this we were out for a last dinner together in a restaurant a little up the road and then we returned to the airport and checked in for our overnight flight back to Europe. Everything went smoothly and we arrived safely back in the UK the following afternoon.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Manitra for his help throughout, to Sean for his behind the scenes short-notice arrangements and to all the various local guides, drivers and hotel and lodge staff who all worked hard to ensure that we had a good time in Madagascar. Thanks also to all the various members of the group who helped to make this a very interesting and enjoyable trip.

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Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; h = heard only)

	Common Name	Scientific name	October/November														
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>			1			2									
2	Northern Rufous Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus tavaratra</i>									5						
3	Greater Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>									3						
4	Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>													8		
5	White-fronted Lemur	<i>Eulemur albifrons</i>			7	15		6	3								
6	Sanford's Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur sanfordi</i>										9	6				
7	Black Lemur	<i>Eulemur macaco</i>													15		
8	Crowned Lemur	<i>Eulemur coronatus</i>									3	6	4	7			
9	Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata subcincta</i>						3									
10	Red Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia rubra</i>			2	4											
11	Ankarana Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur ankaranensis</i>											1	2			
12	Eastern Ring-tailed Mongoose	<i>Galidia elegans</i>				3						1					
13	Greater Hedgehog Tenrec	<i>Setifer setosus</i>		1													
14	Lowland Streaked Tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>		1	1												
15	Lowland Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys audeberti</i>				1	2										
16	Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>								10							
17	Straw-coloured Fruit Bat	<i>Eidolon dupreanum</i>											100's				
18	Madagascar Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>						100's								100's	
19	Bottle-nosed Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>				3											

Birds

1	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>											2				
2	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>		15		6			10								
3	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>												1			
4	Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>							5								
5	White-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>														6	
6	Madagascar Ibis	<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>					4				4	4		2			
7	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1							30+					1h		

	Common Name	Scientific name	October/November														
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	2	1					10					3	2	1	
9	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	4	6					1	50+							
10	Malagasy Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola idae</i>							2	1							1
11	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	30	50	1			10	100	100's	30		50	40	100	10	30
12	Humboldt's Heron	<i>Ardea humbloti</i>							1								
13	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	1	2				1	5	1				4	2		
14	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	4	2					11	1			1	12			
15	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	3	2				2	10	5				1			1
16	Dimorphic Egret	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>		1		1		2	5	20							
17	Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>													1	3	
18	Greater/Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel/minor</i>														2	
19	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>													1		
20	Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>		1					1								
21	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>										1		1	1		
22	Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda madagascariensis</i>											1				
23	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>							2	1	2		1	3			
24	Madagascar Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>											1	1h			
25	Frances's Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>			1				1			1					
26	Madagascar Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>		1	1												
27	Madagascar Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>				1	2					2					1
28	Malagasy Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	1	2						1			1	2	5	2	5
29	White-breasted Mesite	<i>Mesitornis variegatus</i>												2			
30	Madagascar Wood Rail	<i>Canirallus kioloides</i>		2													
31	White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>	2h	1h	1				2h			2		2			
32	Allen's Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>												1	1h		
33	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>								1							
34	Madagascar Buttonquail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>											1				
35	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		1											1		
36	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>		5					4								
37	Madagascar Jacana	<i>Actophilornis albinucha</i>												2			
38	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		6	1	1	1		35								
39	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		1					3								

	Common Name	Scientific name	October/November														
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
40	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1	1	1	1		35					1	1		1
41	Madagascar Pratincole	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>		8	6	8	8		4								
42	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>		3				5							2		6
43	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>						5+									
44	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		8				5+								100's	
45	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>							3	5							
46	Malagasy Turtle Dove	<i>Nesoenas picturata</i>		1	3	2	2	3	1	4	1	4	4	8	5		3
47	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>									1		10	7	4		
48	Madagascar Green Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>			2							2	2			6	5
49	Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>											15	2			
50	Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>		2		1	1						3	1	1		
51	Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>		2	5	2	3					4	6	5	2		
52	Malagasy Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>	5	2	5	3	3	7	3	1	1	4	2	4	2	5	1
53	Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>										1	2	5			
54	Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>		2	8	3	3										
55	Red-fronted Coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>				2h											
56	Red-breasted Coua	<i>Coua serriana</i>			3		5										
57	Madagascar Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>					1h					1h	1+2h	2h		1h	1h
58	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>												2h			
59	Torotoroka Scops Owl	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>											1+1h	1h			
60	Rainforest Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>		1h	1h			1h				1+1h					
61	Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>	4						3		1h			1h			
62	Madagascar Spinetail	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>				1	2					1					
63	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	6					2	8		1	4	50+	5	10	5	10
64	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>					2										
65	Malagasy Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni</i>									2		20	20		1	5
66	Cuckoo Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>				2						1+1h					
67	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>				1	2				3	4	2	3	3		1
68	Short-legged Ground Roller	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>					3										
69	Scaly Ground Roller	<i>Geobiastes squamiger</i>			1h		2										
70	Pitta-like Ground Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>										3					
71	Malagasy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>	2			2		2	2	1			3	2	2		3

	Common Name	Scientific name	October/November														
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
72	Olive Bee-Eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>							1				5	4		1	1
73	Madagascar Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>											2	3		1	
74	Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>			1	1h	2				1h						
75	Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>			3		2					1h		1			
76	Bernier's Vanga	<i>Oriolia bernieri</i>				1	2										
77	Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falculea palliata</i>										1					
78	White-headed Vanga	<i>Artamella viridis</i>			4	2	5								1		
79	Chabert Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>		2	2	6	2		5			1	2	1	2		
80	Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>		1	1						1		2	3			
81	Rufous Vanga	<i>Schetba rufa</i>			1	1											
82	Helmet Vanga	<i>Euryceros prevostii</i>		2	5		2										
83	Tylas Vanga	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>			1		2										
84	Nuthatch Vanga	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>			2												
85	Dark Newtonia	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>										5					
86	Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>			2	4	5				1	2	2	5			
87	Madagascar Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>			2	1	1							3			
88	Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>	7	2	7	6	8	2	6		3	7	6	8	10	1	2
89	Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>			5	5	8	3	2			1	3	4		1	
90	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	25	5					25		4		5	4	1	1	10
91	Madagascar Lark	<i>Mirafr hova</i>	2										30	1			
92	Malagasy Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	8	12	20	20	20	5	5		8	20	25	20		8	15
93	Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	10	7	4	5	4	2	8	3	3	12	10	10	8	5	10
94	Malagasy Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>									2	10		3			
95	White-throated Oxylabes	<i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>									1						
96	Long-billed Greenbul	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>			2	1	2				2		5	2			
97	Spectacled Greenbul	<i>Xanthomixis zosterops</i>				1	3				4						
98	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>			1	2							7				
99	Madagascar Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>							4				25	2	5	2	1
100	Malagasy White-Eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>	2	2	2	4	2			3		5		1		7	4
101	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	40	10	2	2			50	10	5		4	6	10	15	20
102	Madagascar Starling	<i>Hartlaubius auratus</i>		1		2											
103	Madagascar Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>		1	4	5	5	1			2	2	1	2			

	Common Name	Scientific name	October/November														
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
104	Madagascar Stonechat	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>	3									1	2				
105	Amber Mountain Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola erythronotus</i>									3	4					
106	Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris sovimanga</i>		4	20	20	15	8	3		7	15	10	10	10	12	20
107	Malagasy Green Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris notatus</i>									1		1				1
108	Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>				3											
109	Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>											30	5			
110	Red Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	7	8		10			20				1	15	25	15	12
111	Forest Fody	<i>Foudia omissa</i>				1						1					
112	Madagascar Mannikin	<i>Lemuresthes nana</i>				12			5			5	3	30	5		12
113	Madagascar Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	2		2	2							1	1	1		
114	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>								2h							

Reptiles and Amphibians

We saw a diverse range of reptiles and amphibians during the tour. Not all were identified but notable sightings included: four species of Leaf-tailed Gecko (*Uroplatus fimbriatus*, *U. ebenani*, *U. lineatus* and *U. sikorae*); several species of Chameleon including Oustalet's, Blue-nosed, Panther and three different Stump-tails; various Phelsuma Green Day Geckos; a number of Zonosaurus Girdled Lizards; a few snakes including a *Dromicodrius quadrilineata* and several Madagascar Tree Boas; and a wide range of frogs.