

Northern Madagascar

Naturetrek Tour Report

24 October - 14 November 2016



Aye-aye was taken at Palmarium by Elaine Foster



Vonstira Mena by Elaine Foster



Northern Sportive Lemur by Elaine Foster



Panther Chameleon by Pamela Jackson

Report compiled by Nick Acheson
Images courtesy of Elaine Foster & Pamela Jackson



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With nine Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Monday 24th October

Today most of us made our way to Charles de Gaulle for an overnight stay ahead of our long flight to Madagascar the following day.

Day 2

Tuesday 25th October

One of the reasons that Madagascar's wildlife is so extraordinary is that the island on which it has evolved is remote. Being remote, it takes a while to get there. Today's journey (for most of us) began this morning in Paris and ended at 2am the following morning at the lovely Relais des Plateaux in Antananarivo. We owe a big thank you to Desi who came to the airport to meet us.

Day 3

Wednesday 26th October

All too early this morning we returned to the airport, to check us in for our flight to Antsiranana, otherwise known as Diego Suarez, in the far northern tip of the island. Here we were met by our fantastic leader Charles and our local guides. As soon as we'd checked in to the Grand Hotel we set out for the beautiful Three Bays, outside the city. One of our first stops was to see the locally endemic Suarez Baobabs. There were plenty of birds to see here too, including Madagascar Bushlark, Crested Drongo and Madagascar Hoopoe. After a very good lunch, in the company of some pet Crowned Lemurs, we went into the military protected area to visit a large colony of White-tailed Tropicbirds which included a few exquisite golden morphs. At one beautiful white sand beach some opted to swim while others went into the hot bush in search of Sakalava Weavers, Namaqua Doves and Madagascar Paradise Flycatchers. At our last stop we admired fabulous *Phelsuma madagascariensis grandis* day geckos, a colony of Sakalava Weavers and another tame Crowned Lemur. We spent the night at the Grand Hotel in Antsiranana.

Day 4

Thursday 27th October

This morning the adventure really began. After breakfast we set out on the 90 minute journey to Montagne d'Ambre, where check-in at Nature Lodge was interrupted by a Panther Chameleon strolling across the car park. From here we went straight to Montagne d'Ambre National Park. No sooner had we reached the car park than we were leaping from our vehicles at the sight of a Vontsira Mena (formerly known as Ring-tailed Mongoose). This one gave most people the slip but, given how absurdly well we would see the species later, it was no matter. As we set off into the park, local spotter Luc dived into the undergrowth and almost immediately found two minuscule Stump-tailed Chameleons of the species *Brookesia tuberculata*. Nearby, on the trunk of a hedge by the ranger station, he found us our first *Uroplatus* leaf-tailed gecko. There was considerable earnest discussion between the assembled connoisseurs over the identification of this gecko and harmonious species identification was not reached. Luckily later we would see many more, which were readily identifiable to species. In the same clearing a Vontsira Mena was very obliging, but still not as fearlessly tame as the animals around our picnic would be later.

From here we took a short walk to a small waterfall. Our way was punctuated by several fine chameleons — Short-horned (also known as the Elephant Chameleon), Blue-nosed and the Montagne d'Ambre form of the deliciously named O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon — and an encounter with a female Frances' Sparrowhawk. At the falls there were Mascarene Martins. Over lunch (a really excellent picnic), there were Lesser Vasa Parrots in the trees and Vontsira Mena jumping on the tables to pinch our food! Not what you would expect from an endemic Malagasy carnivore. These lovely animals were quite possibly outranked in our affections by a little black dog who hung around wagging her tail in the desperate hope of some scraps.

Nearby a freshly-moulted Madagascar Ground Boa was emerging from its burrow and most of us managed to see a Montagne d'Ambre Rock Thrush (counted as a form of Forest Rock Thrush by some authorities).

We took a night walk from the Nature Lodge this evening and saw plenty of superb chameleons including Oustalet's, Panther and (Petter's) White-lipped.

Day 5

Friday 28th October

Today we took a long walk through Montagne d'Ambre to its famous crater lake. There were plenty of birds to be seen, including innumerable Madagascar Bulbuls and Madagascar White-eyes, a Montagne d'Ambre Rock Thrush (which took a lot of craning for everyone to see it), a Dark Newtonia, Madagascar Brush Warblers and a splendid pair of Madagascar Cuckooshrikes. The real highlights were the mammals, however. A pair of Vontsira Mena slipped through the branches of a tree, looking much wilder than the ones on our picnic table the day before. A little further, at the start of the descent to the crater, we saw a family of Sanford's Brown Lemurs, the males peering at us with their wonderfully whiskery cheeks. The lemurs began barking in alarm and just a few of us had the privilege of seeing a Fosa bolt across the track and away into the understorey of the forest.

Down by the crater we met a delightful cock Madagascar Stonechat and a Madagascar Kingfisher and as we walked back to the vehicles we stopped to rest under a sapling in which a dazzling Short-horned Chameleon was glowing.

In the evening we took a superb night walk in the buffer zone. A Greater Dwarf Lemur, though quite far into the forest, sat very still and allowed excellent views. In a patch of flowering bushes we then saw both a Tuft-tailed Rat (of undetermined species) and a hyperactive Montagne d'Ambre (Arnhold's) Mouse Lemur. There were also plenty of Oustalet's and Panther Chameleons and Leaf-tailed Geckos of the species *Uroplatus fimbriatus*. The reptile highlight however was a Stump-tailed Chameleon of the species *Brookesia antakarana*.

Day 6

Saturday 29th October

We left this morning for Andrafiarana, excited at the thought of seeing the highly endangered Perrier's Sifaka. There was plenty to see here, including holes in tree bark gnawed by Aye-Ayes, but our scouts were unable to find either of the habituated families of these lovely animals. Most of us still hadn't recovered from international flights and there was a lot of dozing in the group as we waited, in the punishing heat of midday.

We made it to Ankarana Lodge in the afternoon and took a night walk in the buffer zone of Ankarana National Park. There was plenty to see here, including a Small Indian Civet in the road ahead of us and a Northern

(Ankarana) Sportive Lemur. We also heard a Tavaratra (Northern Brown) Mouse Lemur but it was deep in dense scrub and was not to be seen.

Holding up the side for the reptiles this evening were Oustalet's, Panther and White-lipped Chameleons. For the birds, a Madagascar (Torotoroka) Scops Owl put in an appearance.

Day 7

Sunday 30th October

Ankarana is a hot sort of place so this morning we left for the forest as soon as the park was open. We walked a long circuit around the park today, visiting its fascinating limestone tsingy and the Perte des Rivières where three rivers (when flowing) disappear into an extraordinary square hole and their water is lost until it reaches the coast many miles away. The dry forest of Ankarana was quiet at times but each time we hit a flock of birds we were surrounded by fascinating species including Common Newtonia, Long-billed Tetraka, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher and Blue Vanga. Here we also saw our first exquisite Crested Couas and Red-shouldered Vangas and, in a valley full of baobabs, we witnessed the harrowing spectacle of a pair of Hook-billed Vangas subduing an Oustalet's Chameleon fully as large as they were. Mammals held their own, with the appearance of our first wild Crowned Lemurs and a dozing group of Sanford's Brown Lemurs.

We had lunch at a forest rest area next to which a Northern Sportive Lemur dozed in a tree hole (most of the time more out of its hole than in it). Nearby were more Crowned Lemurs and, as we were leaving, a Vontsira Mena (the official picnic spot mammal of northern Madagascar) came for the scraps under our table.

In the afternoon many of us went crawling through spectacular caves in search of bats. Here we saw many hundreds of Madagascar Rousettes and Madagascar Straw-coloured Fruit bats. As we drove out of the park some of us saw a Crested Ibis fly from a puddle at the edge of the track ahead of us.

We spent the rest of the afternoon driving to our next lodge. Iharana Bush Camp is remote but it is beautifully designed and sits magnificently by a lake and a massif. What's more a Panther Chameleon slept in a palm right beside our dinner table in the open plan dining room.

Before dinner, however, there was time to see some birds around the lake. Allen's Gallinules and Madagascar Jacanas poked around in floating mats of water hyacinth, while Purple and Striated Herons fished along the shore. Much harder to see were the little Common Sandpipers and Three-banded Plovers on the mud at the lake's edge. At dusk Black-crowned Night-Herons flew from their roost in the forest at the base of the massif and Madagascar Nightjars began to sing. We sipped our drinks and felt jolly lucky to be in such a beautiful place.

Day 8

Monday 31st October

Early this morning we went for a beautiful walk around the edge of the lake at Iharana. Our efforts were rewarded by the many birds that we saw. Greater Painted Snipe, Common Sandpiper, Allen's Gallinule and Madagascar Jacana were all feeding at the lake's edge, as was a Madagascar Kingfisher. Overhead there were Yellow-billed Kites, Madagascar Black Swifts and Mascarene Martins, while in the trees and palms there were plenty of Crested Drongos and Madagascar Fodies.

During the day we returned to the beautiful hot, dry forests of Ankarana and had many more encounters with its charismatic wildlife. Highlight of the day was the Crested Ibis we all saw. Yesterday only half of the group had briefly seen one. First today two were found feeding deep in the forest. Everyone peered and bobbed to get at the right angle but very few felt satisfied they had really seen the bird. Later, however, one appeared on the path in front of us and we rotated the group until everyone had had a good look at this most striking bird.

A close second was no doubt our point blank encounter with a Madagascar Button Quail, digging its characteristic circles in the dust at the side of the track. Also today we saw more Madagascar Paradise Flycatchers and Blue Couas and a resplendent pair of Madagascar Cuckoo Rollers. There was plenty of action from Crowned Lemurs too.

In the dusk we set out for a night walk around the lake at Iharana. Madagascar Nightjars were singing, their songs almost deafening as they bounced off the face of the massif, and we soon had extraordinary views of a perched Madagascar (Toro-toro) Scops Owl. Most exciting, however, were the reptiles here, including a magnificent Madagascar Ground Boa, two semi-aquatic *Madagascarophis colubrinus* snakes, and a juvenile *Paroedura picta* Big-headed Gecko. Also fun, if slightly scary for those of us in open-toed sandals, were a number of small scorpions.

To get home, rather excitingly, we had to be rescued in a canoe by our heroic lodge guide. If only that had been the worst of our transport problems!

Day 9

Tuesday 1st November

Charles and I were very disappointed that you had missed Perrier's Sifaka on your first visit to Andrafiarana; so we arranged a second visit in the relative cool of this morning. Exactly in the spot where we had waited 90 minutes in the crushing heat a couple of days earlier we came across a family of these exquisite black lemurs and were treated to extremely good views, especially when they crossed the track over our heads. We also saw a mother Northern Sportive Lemur with a tiny infant and the bloom of a *Vanilla madagascariensis* orchid.

We spent the rest of the day getting back to Antsiranana and taking a break there and we stayed the night in the Grand Hotel.

Day 10

Wednesday 2nd November

This morning was around the time when our creativity, positivity and esprit de corps were forced into play. We took an early flight to Antananarivo but on arrival found that only one bag had arrived. What's more the flight arrived very late so, instead of making our scheduled birding trip to Tsarasoatra, we went shopping at a local mall for essential toiletries and items of clothing which had gone missing with our luggage. We spent the night at the Relais des Plateaux in Tana.

Day 11

Thursday 3rd November

This morning was around the time when our creativity, positivity and esprit de corps had to go into overdrive. We checked in to our flight to Maroansetra (en route to Masoala) with no problems, only to find out later that

the flight had been first postponed and then cancelled. We then spent two and a half hours (with all of you waiting very patiently) trying to get our bags back, accommodation arranged for you in Tana for the night, and some idea of when the next flight might be.

Eventually it transpired that there would be no flight today and we secured places at a hotel nearby. Here there were Madagascar Fodies and *Phelsuma lineata* day geckos in the garden and Madagascar Hoopoes nesting next door. By way of consolation for the lost flight, our bags arrived in the afternoon, to everyone's immense relief.

During the day it became apparent that there would be no flight to Masroanetra for the next few days. So Charles and I scratched our heads and came up with a plan to take you elsewhere on the island, while still trying to show you much of the wildlife you might have seen in the northeast. Several phone calls to Shaun, our excellent ground agent in Madagascar, set the wheels of our plan in motion. Just as I was breaking the news to you, over dinner, that we would never make Masoala or our site for Aye-Aye but that we had a Plan B in mind, Charles' phone rang. It was Shaun, confirming that, against all of the odds, everything Charles and I had asked for was possible. So — in no small part thanks to your tremendous good humour and support in the face of adversity — we would be visiting Andasibe and the Palmarium instead of heading to the northeast.

Day 12

Friday 4th November

One of the key elements of our plan for the second half of your holiday was that it would not involve Air Madagascar. We would be travelling by bus. As we waited for our bus this morning we admired a superb *Nephila* spider on her web in the garden and a Madagascar Stonechat feeding from the top of the hotel wall. We immediately liked our new driver Roger when he arrived and were quickly bound for Moramanga where we had lunch and from there to Andasibe and the lovely Eulophiella Lodge.

In the night we visited the Voimana community reserve with local guide Étienne and it was a jolly good job that we did. As soon as dusk fell a Madagascar Long-eared Owl flew over us calling. We also saw two Crossley's Dwarf Lemurs along the road, and two Eastern Woolly Lemurs in a tree together. Roosting animals we saw here included a Spectacled Tetraka right at the edge of the path and both Short-horned and Nose-Horned Chameleons. A splendid start to our unforeseen adventure in the east of Madagascar.

Day 13

Saturday 5th November

Today was one of the best days I have ever led on a tour, anywhere. Even now, I'm stirred just thinking about how nervous I was all day, how calm and competent Charles was at all time, how extremely supportive of us you all were, and how many jigsaw pieces came together. As a result we saw impossibly wonderful wildlife, much of which we had never dreamed we could see on this tour.

Today began with heavy rain and, with so much riding on the day's success (not least my sanity by this point), I felt downcast. However the rain soon dwindled and, though damp, our morning in Analamazaotra (the protected area generally, though incorrectly, known as Andasibe or Périnet) was very pleasant. To say the wildlife was very pleasant would be a grotesque understatement. The wildlife was superb! Under Étienne's excellent guidance we first made our way to the Indri family known as group 1. They unfortunately were unimpressed by the rain and stayed high in the trees asleep.

Soon though we moved to a family of Diademed Sifakas, one of the most exquisitely marked of all Madagascar's primates. These were much more mobile and delighted us with their play in the trees above. Next up was a less obliging pair of Red-bellied Lemurs, which most people managed to see as they moved through very dense vegetation. To our surprise they were joined by a Common Brown Lemur, which again most of you managed to see. Feeling we hadn't had the best of the Indris (little did we know how we would see them at the Palmarium) we set off for group 2. The path to them was quite steep and, unlike group 1 earlier in the morning, the Indris were very active. Nonetheless most of us had extraordinary views of these magnificent animals before they bounded off into the forest. What a morning of lemurs!

it was not just lemurs we saw, however. Étienne took us to see a roosting Collared Nightjar which, after a great deal of coaxing, everyone managed to discern from the near-identical leaf-litter. We also saw Madagascar (Rainforest) Scops Owl and, at extreme distance, a singing Rand's Warbler, among many birds we had seen previously elsewhere.

By 11 o'clock I was getting tetchy because I knew we still had a great deal of ground to cover if our plans were to come together today. So I bullied you all onto the 4x4 vehicles which would take us to the coast, flung packed lunches at you and insisted we leave straight away. We made one stop on the way down to the coast, at Brickaville. Ostensibly we were refuelling here, and using the fuel station's loos. However I couldn't help noticing that the roofs of the town were covered in Madagascar Pratincoles. Someone else found a Forest Fody in the hedge behind the fuel station, so it proved to be an ornithologically fruitful stop. Once we made it to the coast we had an agonising wait for the boat from the Palmarium to arrive, with nothing but a distant flock of White-faced Whistling-Ducks and Charles' quiet confidence to reassure my mounting nerves.

The boat arrived, we checked in to the lovely Palmarium (where we were greeted by their strange horde of introduced lemurs and their hybrids), and soon we were off on the make-or-break adventure on which our whole plan depended. In addition to its beautiful grounds and the forest surrounding them, also known as Akanin'ny Nofy, the Palmarium owns an area of coastal forest nearby (accessible only by boat) where six wild Aye-Ayes live, two of which have been born here since the Palmarium's Aye-Aye programme began. Over time the Aye-Ayes have been habituated. They come in, every evening without fail, to eat coconuts. Or so I had been told. I wasn't about to believe it until you had seen the Aye-Ayes, so important an animal on your holiday and one which had been cruelly denied to you by the ineptitude of Air Madagascar.

What happened this evening was quite simply one of the most remarkable experiences I've ever had in almost twenty years of leading tours. As we reached the first coconut feeding station an Aye-Aye was noisily chewing through the wooden husk of the nut. She allowed us to approach to within a couple of metres, continuing chewing without concern. We were rapt, spellbound, as this almost mythical animal broke into the cavity of the coconut and began to pick out the flesh, at amazing speed, with its long crooked finger. The first animal we saw was a female. After, in awe, we had watched her feed, a second animal — a larger male — appeared from the forest. She slipped away to avoid conflict but the male stayed. Two Aye-Ayes at point blank range! From here we moved to a second feeding station where a young Aye-Aye, less used to the cameras, was feeding. It wasn't keen to be watched and photographed, so we quickly left it in peace and moved to a third feeding station where another adult was picking flesh from a coconut, perhaps even closer to us than the first two.

Throughout the whole experience we kept complete silence. This continued throughout the boat journey back to the Palmarium. Watching these fabled and extraordinary animals at such close range for so long was among the closest things to a spiritual experience I have ever witnessed on a tour. At dinner our excitement burst out. All talk was of Aye-Ayes. Was it possible that two days ago we had been stuck in Tana, our trip to the northeast abandoned, wondering how the tour could possibly continue, and yet, after a morning with Indris, this evening we had met the Aye-Aye — everyone's dream animal — so extraordinarily well?

Day 14

Sunday 6th November

This morning we were guided around the Palmarium by resident guide Bruno. We visited the gardens first where numerous species, including commercial (Latin American) vanilla and a locally endemic palm are cultivated. The gardens are also inhabited by the a horde of tame lemurs from other parts of the island, plus their offspring, several of which are hybrids. We met Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs, Black Lemurs, a Common Brown Lemur, Crowned Lemurs, a Coquerel's Sifaka, Radiated Tortoises and a pair of Red-bellied Lemurs (plus Crowned x Black Lemur hybrids and Crowned x Common Brown Lemur hybrids). Genuinely wild lemurs were represented by a dozing family of Eastern Woollies in the forest and two families of embarrassingly tame Indris. Extraordinary. The walk also took us to a low nutrient swamp on coastal white sand where two species of *Nepenthes* pitcher plant were grown.

We rested through the middle of the day and in the evening — well — it would have been rude not to go and see the utterly astonishing Aye-Ayes again.

Day 15

Monday 7th November

Today was taken up with the journey up from the coast, back to Andasibe. Once we checked into our new lodge we rested for a while, photographed Madagascar Stonechats and Wagtails in the garden, and turned an impossibly distant speck into a Madagascar Blue Pigeon. In the evening we made our way to the wonderful community reserve known as Mitsinjo. Here we met Parson's and Short-nosed Chameleons and Broad-browed Stump-tailed Chameleon for the first time and saw our first roosting Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher. We also had a great view of a Crossley's Dwarf Lemur. Some were lucky to catch a glimpse of a Lowland Streaked Tenrec as it powered away through the undergrowth and some had a superb look at a Hairy-eared Dwarf Lemur. All in all a very fine night walk.

Day 16

Tuesday 8th November

It is fair to say that ours had been an exceptional exploration of Madagascar's wildlife: exceptional in the problems we had overcome, but also exceptional in the wildlife we had encountered. Charles and I wanted your tour to end on an equally exceptional note so, although time was tight, we took you to Mantadia this morning.

Mantadia is a gorgeous patch of rainforest and we were richly rewarded by its wildlife. Driving in we saw a family of Diademed Sifakas along the entrance road. Our chief target here was Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur. These were duly found, after considerable searching. Though they stayed high in the trees, and a certain amount of neck-craning was required, eventually we saw these exquisite animals well. After yesterday's effort to see a very, very distant Madagascar Blue Pigeon, today we saw one right above us. We also saw Blue Coua, White-headed

Vanga, Red-tailed Vanga and a fabulous Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher. Leaving the park we saw the second of two pairs of wonderful Red-bellied Lemurs.

But all too soon it was time to begin the long journey back to Antananarivo where we ate together for the last time. Some went to bed only to get up horribly early for the journey on to Kirindy. Most of us moved to the airport for the long wait for Air France's flight back to Paris and on to our homes.

Thanks

Charles and I cannot thank you enough for having been the cheerful, positive, enthusiastic and supportive group that you were. You made a success of a thoroughly difficult turn of events and we were extremely happy that you saw the wildlife you deserved to see. Huge thanks are owed to Shaun, our Madagascar ground agent, who put things in place at very short notice for us to visit Andasibe-Mantadia and the Palmarium. Of course thanks are also due to the lodges, local guides and drivers who helped us out at the last minute. The same is true for the first half of the tour, while things were going according to plan: many drivers, lodge staff, local naturalists and others were helpful and friendly and made sure we saw the best of their beautiful country. We are grateful to them all.

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White-tailed Tropicbird by Pamela Jackson

Species Lists

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

	Common Names	Scientific name	October/November													
			26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Family Cheirogaleidae															
1	Tavaratra (Northern Brown) Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus tavaratra</i>				h										
2	Montagne d'Ambre (Arnhold's) Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus arnholdi</i>			✓											
3	Hairy-eared Dwarf Lemur	<i>Allocebus trichotis</i>													✓	
4	Greater Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>			✓											
5	Crossley's Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus crossleyi</i>										✓			✓	
	Family Lemuridae															
1	Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>											✓		✓	
2	Sanford's Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur sanfordi</i>		✓	✓		✓									
3	Crowned Lemur	<i>Eulemur coronatus</i>					✓	✓								
4	Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>											✓			✓
5	Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>												✓		
6	Southern Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata editorum</i>														✓
	Family Lepilemuridae															
1	Northern (Ankarana) Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur ankaranensis</i>				✓	✓		✓							
	Family Indriidae															
1	Perrier's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus perrieri</i>							✓							
2	Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>											✓			✓
3	Eastern Woolly Lemur	<i>Avahi laniger</i>										✓		✓		
4	Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>											✓	✓	h	h
	Family Daubentoniidae															
1	Aye-aye	<i>Daubentonia madagascariensis</i>											✓	✓		

Other Mammals

1	Fosa	<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>			✓											
2	Small Indian Civet	<i>Viverricula indica</i>				✓										
3	Vontsira Mena (Ring-tailed Mongoose)	<i>Galidia elegans</i>		✓	✓		✓									
4	Lowland Streaked Tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>													✓	

	Common Names	Scientific name	October/November													
			26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5	Tuft-tailed Rat sp.	<i>Eliurus</i> sp.		✓	✓	✓					✓					
6	Madagascar Straw-coloured Fruit Bat	<i>Eidolon dupreanum</i>					✓									
7	Madagascar Rousette	<i>Rousettus madagascariensis</i>					✓									
8	Miniopterus bat sp.	<i>Miniopterus</i> sp.					✓									
9	House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>							✓							
10	Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>								✓	✓					

Birds

1	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>											✓			
2	Madagascan Partridge	<i>Margaroperdix madagarensis</i>													✓	
3	White-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	✓													
4	Madagascar Crested Ibis	<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>					✓	✓								
5	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓	✓								
6	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>					✓	✓								
7	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>								✓						✓
8	Malagasy Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola idae</i>												✓		
9	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
10	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					✓	✓				✓	✓			
11	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓
12	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>										✓				✓
13	Dimorphic Egret	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>								✓		✓				
14	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>										✓				✓
15	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>					✓									
16	Madagascan Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>				✓	✓									
17	Frances's Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>		✓		✓										
18	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>				✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	
19	Madagascan Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
20	Madagascan Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>													h	h
21	White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>		✓									✓			
22	Allen's Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>					✓	✓								
23	Madagascan Buttonquail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>				✓		✓	✓							
24	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>				✓	✓									

	Common Names	Scientific name	October/November													
			26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25	Greater Painted-Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>						✓								
26	Madagascan Jacana	<i>Actophilornis albinucha</i>					✓	✓								
27	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					✓	✓								
28	Madagascan Pratincole	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>											✓			
29	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>						✓								
30	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>													✓	
31	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>											✓		✓	
32	Saunders's Tern	<i>Sternula saundersi</i>														
33	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>													✓	
34	Malagasy Turtle Dove	<i>Nesoenas picturatus</i>		h		✓		✓	✓					✓		
35	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
36	Madagascan Green Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>				✓	✓		✓							
37	Madagascan Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>													✓	✓
38	Malagasy Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>	✓	h	h	h	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	
39	Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>					✓	✓								
40	Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>											✓			✓
41	Madagascar (Lesser) Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>					h	h							h	h
42	Madagascar Scops Owl	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>		h	h	✓	h	✓					✓			
43	Madagascar Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>										✓	✓			
44	Collared Nightjar	<i>Gactornis enarratus</i>											✓			
45	Madagascan Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>	✓		h	✓	h	✓		h	h	✓	h	✓	h	h
46	Madagascan Spinetail	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>		✓												
47	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
48	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>										✓				
49	Malagasy Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni</i>			✓		✓	✓								
50	Cuckoo Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>		h			✓	✓								
51	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>		✓	✓		✓		h			✓				
52	Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i>													✓	✓
53	Malagasy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>			✓			✓				✓				
54	Olive Bee-Eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Madagascan Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>	✓						✓		✓	✓	✓			
56	Malagasy Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

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			26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
57	Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>						✓					✓			
58	Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	h							✓	✓
59	Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>					✓									
60	Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>					✓									✓
61	Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>					✓									
62	Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falcula palliata</i>	✓			✓	✓									
63	White-headed Vanga	<i>Artamella viridis</i>							h							✓
64	Chabert Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>	✓			✓	✓					✓	✓			
65	Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>					✓	✓								
66	Dark Newtonia	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>			✓											
67	Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓								h
68	Ward's Vanga	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>														✓
69	Madagascan Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>			✓		✓									✓
70	Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
71	Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
72	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓			
73	Madagascan Lark	<i>Eremopterix hova</i>	✓			✓										
74	Malagasy Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
76	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>										✓				
77	Malagasy Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>			✓		✓								h	
78	Long-billed Bernieria	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>					✓	✓								
79	Spectacled Tetraka	<i>Xanthomixis zosterops</i>										✓				
80	Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>											h			h
81	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>					✓	✓								
82	Madagascan Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>				✓	✓		✓						✓	
83	Malagasy White-Eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>			✓			✓				✓	✓			✓
84	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
85	Madagascan Starling	<i>Hartlaubius auratus</i>						✓								
86	Madagascan Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus albospecularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
87	Amber Mountain Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei erythronotus</i>		✓	✓											
88	Madagascan Stonechat	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>			✓		✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

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89	Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris sovimanga</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Malagasy Green Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris notatus</i>					✓					✓	✓			
91	Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>		✓	✓											
92	Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓							
93	Red Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
94	Forest Fody	<i>Foudia omissa</i>											✓			
95	Madagascan Mannikin	<i>Lepidopygia nana</i>			✓		✓	✓			✓		✓			
96	Madagascan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
97	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>											✓		✓	

Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Treefrog sp.	<i>Boophis tephraeomystax</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓							
2	Stump-tailed Chameleon sp.	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>													✓	
3	Stump-tailed Chameleon sp.	<i>Brookesia tuberculata</i>		✓												
4	Stump-tailed Chameleon sp.	<i>Brookesia antakarana</i>		✓												
5	O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi ambreense</i>		✓												
6	Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>		✓	✓							✓				
7	Short-nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>													✓	
8	Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>													✓	
9	Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>										✓				
10	Blue-nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma boettgeri</i>		✓	✓											
11	White-lipped Chameleon	<i>Furcifer petteri</i>		✓		✓										
12	Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>		✓	✓	✓										
13	Panther Chameleon	<i>Furcifer pardalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
14	Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>												✓	✓	
15	Painted Big-headed Gecko	<i>Paroedura picta</i>						✓								
16	Dwarf Gecko sp.	<i>Lygodactylus heterurus</i>		✓												
17	Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>					✓									
18	Leaf-tailed Gecko sp.	<i>Uroplatus fimbriatus</i>		✓	✓											
19	Bark Gecko	<i>Blaesodactylus homopholis</i>	✓				✓									
20	Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata lineata</i>									✓	✓	✓			
21	Giant Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis grandis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									

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22	Day Gecko sp.	<i>Phelsuma modesta subsp.</i>	✓													
23	Madagascar Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>														✓
24	Lizard sp.	<i>Trachylepis madagascariensis</i>											✓			
25	Fandrefiala	<i>Ithyphus miniatus</i>					✓									
26	Snake sp.	<i>Dromicodryas quadrilineatus</i>					✓									
27	Snake sp.	<i>Madagascarophis colubrinus</i>						✓							✓	
28	Madagascar Ground Boa	<i>Acrantophis madagascariensis</i>		✓				✓								
29	Dumeril's Ground Boa	<i>Acrantophis dumerili</i>													✓	



Crowned Lemur by Pamela Jackson



Aye-aye by Pamela Jackson



Indri by Elaine Foster