

MADAGASCAR - 2015

28th Sept – 26th Oct 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Long-tailed Ground Roller
- Pitta-like Ground Roller
- Short-legged Ground Roller
- Scaly Ground Roller
- Common Sunbird-Asity
- Schlegel's Asity
- Souimanga Sunbird
- Red-tailed Tropicbird
- Madagascar Harrier
- Collared Nightjar
- Red-fronted Coua
- Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher
- Sickle-billed Vanga
- Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher
- Littoral Rock Thrush
- Madagascar Pratincole
- Banded Kestrel
- Crested Ibis
- Velvet Asity
- Blue Vanga
- Henst's Goshawk
- Cuckoo-Roller
- Giant Coua
- Appert's Tetraka
- Brown Mesite
- Sub-desert Mesite
- White-breasted Mesite
- Crossley's Babbler
- Cryptic Warbler
- Giant Coua
- Appert's Tetraka
- Madagascar Sandgrouse
- Humblot's Heron
- Van Dam's Vanga
- Helmet Vanga
- Bernier's Vanga
- Indri
- Fossa
- Hubbard's Sportive Lemur
- Coquerel's Sifaka
- Verreaux's Sifaka
- Ring-tailed Lemur
- Golden Bamboo Lemur
- Red-ruffed Lemur
- Milne Edward's Sifaka
- Diademed Sifaka
- Greater Dwarf Lemur
- Mongoose Lemur
- Parson's Cameleon
- Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko
- Giraffe Weevil

SUMMARY:

Madagascar is a place like no other and despite the sadness relating to the destruction of habitat and many unique species, this is a must visit destination, especially as nature tourism is one way to show that preserving what is left really matters. As ever logistics never run smoothly in Madagascar but luckily we had the very best of ground operators working for us and this meant that when the inevitable curse of cancelled flights or other transport problems occurred our team sorted it as expertly and swiftly as possible, enabling us to not miss anything. By the end of what was a truly fantastic trip, all the endemic birds species that were possible during this tour were seen and most of them really well by all the group, ... I have to make a special mention about the amazing quality and lengthy performance of Bernier's Vanga and to the fine nesting Helmet Vanga we got in the Masoala extension. Also, last BUT NOT LEAST AT ALL, besides the many fine lemurs, chameleons, and other interesting creatures we enjoyed, I have to admit that the encounter we had with a couple of Fossa was simply mesmerizing! – Diego Calderon – Tour Guide



Main Tour:

Arrive Tana - 28th Sept

Late afternoon everyone arrived, happy and with bags, in Tana (Antananarivo, old French name was Tananarive) coming in different flights from Nairobi and Mauritius. Being transferred to our Orchid Hotel the first Squacco and Black Herons were spotted in rice paddies and at the hotel restaurant veranda the first load of birds named Madagascar something (White Eye, Bulbul, Red Fody, Wagtail) were noted as the first lifers for most of the group. We had dinner and went for a badly needed rest after flying for 12, or 24! hours and before a long long drive the next day thanks to a last minute cancellation from Air Madagascar.

Tana - Ankarafantsika - 29th Sept

Before an early breakfast at our hotel in Tana, the restaurant veranda offered some more Madagascar Red Foddies, Madagascar Bulbuls and some Madagascar White Eyes. We left 6:00 am and started driving NW for the whole day. Pee and lunch stops were very productive and delivered Madagascar Bee-Eater, Namaqua Dove, Souimanga and Madagascar Green Sunbirds, Madagascar Cisticola, Squacco Heron, Yellow-billed Kites, Purple Heron, Madagascar Kestrel, and some Red-billed Teals. Special efforts we made scanning along the degraded pastures for Madagascar Harrier until Jim and Mamy spotted it at the same time; the bird was joined by another two individuals and even though distant, we had good views of this easy-to-miss endemic. Our stop at the Betsiboka River Bridge offered us a nice show of Madagascar Pratincoles and more sunbirds, plus definite views of the Madagascar Larks that had been flying in front of the car for the whole morning. A later afternoon stop near Ankarafantsika in some wetland areas gave us White-faced Whistling Duck, African Pygmy Geese and our first Madagascar Coucal. We made it to the Ampijoroa Lodge in Ankarafantsika National Park just after sunset and Torotoroka Scops Owls were calling around our bungalows. After dinner, some of us went for a night walk getting Madagascar Nightjar and plenty of Golden-brown Mouse Lemurs. We found our first chameleon of the trip also, a big Outstalet's.



Ankarafantsika - 30th Sept

A very early breakfast guaranteed us good birding here on the dry forests of this national park. We started with the much-wanted Sickle-billed Vangas joined by several Chabert's Vangas in the parking lot. We then drove less than 5 minutes to start our cocktail of good new birds including Common Jery, Madagascar Hoopoe, Madagascar Green Pigeon, Blue Vanga and loads of Long-billed Tetraka (AKA Bulbul or Berniera). White-breasted Mesite proved difficult and only some of us had a quick glimpse of a running individual crossing the trail; likewise, Coquerel's Coua responded to tape but never allowed us to see. We then continued on the trail getting into Schlegel's Asity territory and eventually secured amazing views of one insanely good looking male. Madagascar Buttonquails showed up nicely also in this area and on the return walk to the bus we made justice with the White-breasted Mesites that came amazingly close to the group and also with the Coquerel's Coua that showed up perfectly well then. Thanks to the amazing ears of our park local guide Jacky, we could enjoy another



beautiful couple of Schlegel's before leaving. We came to the lodge, and after a quick rest we were exploring one of the park trails; it was already 10:00 am and it was hot and very quiet. Anyways, some playback helped to deliver one by one our targets, namely Rufous Vanga, Red-capped and Crested Couas. Van Dam's Vanga never responded so today we left the forest without it. A nice bonus was a staked-out day-roosting Totoroka Scops Owl just before lunch. Also before lunch, Peter came to introduce chaos and delay our meals, as a troop of Coquerel's Sifaka was just hanging out in front of his bungalow. In the afternoon we went on a boat trip into the Ravelobe Lac (the "Crocodiles Lake", where these creatures are considered sacred and every year zebras are sacrificed to the crocodiles by the Sakalava people on a special traditional event) where we indeed got to see a Nile Crocodile and our main target: the mighty Madagascar Fish Eagle. A night walk near the lodge gave us again the Madagascar Nightjar and additionally Mongoose Lemur and a skinny elongated nice looking Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur.



Ankarafantsika - Mahajanga - 01st Oct

As our only missing target was the Van Dam's Vanga, early after breakfast we headed towards the same area we did yesterday in the vast trail system of the park near the lodge. Just after starting we got an early treat when after a bit of playback a Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo posed nicely for the scopes and offered great views in a couple of perches thanks to Mamy our local guide that found it very quickly. Crested and Coquerel's Couas abounded as well as Common Newtonias and Long-billed Tetrakas. We found a



female Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher building a nest and several Chabert's Vangas were also around. Mid morning we got in the distance a couple of Van Dam's Vangas calling so I played a bit and we charged towards the exact spot (thanks to the nice almost grid-like trail system), played again a bit and we had this amazing massive-billed good looking huge Van Dam's Vanga male perched just 3 meters away from our bins calling back to us for some 10 seconds. Happy but eager for more and better views, we roved other trails and found another couple that offered great views. Returning to the lodge a Frances's Sparrowhawk posed nicely in the scope for everyone as well as the most obliging Cuckoo-Roller ever, and we also got to study a Hog-nosed Snake that was warming up in the trail. We took a small trip to a close local village for Madagascar

Jacana and upon returning just before lunchtime we had Grey-headed Lovebirds all around the bungalows offering spectacular scope views. On the afternoon drive to Mahajanga (old French name Majunga) we did several stops enjoying some goodies like Kittlitz's Plover in rice paddies and Hottentot Teals in the Lac Aburumalandi. We got to our Fami-Resort Hotel in Mahajanga at the end of the afternoon and settled in for dinner and rest.



Mahajanga - 02nd Oct

After a civilized 7:30 am breakfast we drove through the busy town of Mahajanga to board our speed boat for a trip in the Betsiboka River delta... we started right away with a nice couple of Bernier's Teals and added dozens of Dimorphic Egrets as well as several Eurasian Whimbrels and Curlews. A very welcomed Madagascar Harrier-Hawk flew above the mangroves allowing for great views. One Madagascar Sacred Ibis showed very nice on a mudflat and later we added some 4 more individuals at

least. Curlew and Terek Sandpipers were all over the place, as well as a few Greater Sand Plovers. We looked everywhere but could not connect with any Crab Plovers unfortunately. Returned to land for a delicious seafood lunch at the beach and back for a short rest on our hotel. Later in the afternoon we went to see if the Airport Pond was not dry and was kind enough to entertain us with some birds around; the pond was quite wet actually, and it had birds, many!, among the crowds of people working on their plantations all around the pond. This was kind of an agricultural oasis where people that have



migrated from the central plateau highlands continue their tradition of farmers and agro and take care of their rice, onions, garlic, and some local spices planted around the lake; also some folks get to earn some fish here. We found nice and much closer African Pygmy Geese and also African Black Swifts above the waters. We were almost gone when Tom got a lonely duck hiding in the vegetation in the middle of the pond in the scope; here we all were elated with nice views of the not-so-common White-backed Duck before returning to our hotel!

Mahajanga - Tana - 03rd Oct

Having this morning to “kill some time” around Mahajanga because of our yesterday’s flight cancellation by Air Madagascar, we headed again to the Airport Pond only 20 minutes from our hotel. We had a good start with amazingly shinning Souimanga Sunbird in the soft sunrise light, then dozens of Madagascar named species, namely Bush Lark, Red Fody (no red-plumaged males yet anyways), Cisticola, and Mannikin or also known as Munia. After some birding the bushes and open areas we then got to the pond, found again the White-backed Duck, the Madagascar Jacanas and the Squaccos and Black Herons. Madagascar Bee Eaters and African Palm Swifts entertained us a lot playing in the air, and just before starting to return to hotel for late breakfast, I quickly glimpsed a male Sakalava Weaver; despite much scanning the area, we could not find it again for the group so everyone will have to wait until tomorrow for this one when we get to Berenty. In the afternoon we flew to Tana and spent the night recharging batteries resting at our Orchid Hotel conveniently located less than 5 minutes from the airport.



Tana - Berenty - 04th Oct

After a hearty early breakfast we went to the airport to catch our flight to Tolagnaro (Fort Dauphin) in the SE of the island. Once sitting in the airplane, some of us got glimpses of a couple of Madagascar



Partridges in the grass just next to the airstrip. Upon landing in Fort Dauphin we were welcomed by the excellent local guide Benoit who was going to be in charge of us for the next two days. The 4,5 hour’s drive on a quite “uneven” rode -as we sarcastically described it- didn’t produce many birds besides Hamerkop that was new for the trip and a big flock of Grey-headed Lovebirds. We also got great views of the beautiful spiny forest (= xerophytic) habitat loaded with special plants like *Pachypodium*, several

species from the family Didieraceae, *Adansonia* baobabs, etc, and stopped for our first Warty (or Spiky-backed) Chameleon. Right in the parking lot of the lodge all the group caught up with me on the Sakalava Weavers that had a big colony there; we then enjoyed lunch surrounded by Verreaux's Sifakas "walking"-jumping on the ground and Ring-tailed Lemurs coming to beg for food at the restaurant tables. We went for an afternoon walk finding a couple of our main targets in the form of a couple of Giant Couas and a roosting White-browed Owl. A nice bonus was a lovely Hook-billed Vanga that responded to tape and performed beautifully and an eye-level perched female Madagascar Sparrowhawk. White-footed Sportive Lemur and Red-fronted Brown Lemur also offered nice views, as did the tiny Reddish-grey Mouse Lemurs on our night walk.



Berenty - 05th Oct

First light today found us 10 minutes drive away from the lodge in a flat red dusty plain looking for Madagascar Sandgrouse which Vivienne found very quickly so we could enjoy great prolonged scope

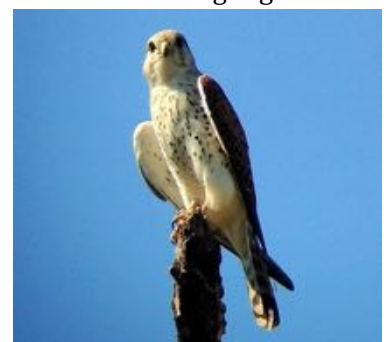


views of a couple. We came back to the lodge for breakfast and went for our second round with the Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk having yesterday made play back every 20 minutes all over the place as Berenty is probably the best place to find this secretive raptor. We instead found Sickled-billed and White-headed Vangas, loads of Madagascar Paradise Flycatchers, Giant Couas and White-browed Owls again, and even a Barn Owl. France's Sparrowhawk showed up nicely several times. Returning to the lodge having not seen the Cuckoo-Hawk, we were rewarded with a single Madagascar Flying Fox we flushed involuntary from its perch and we were all eager to see this endemic bat (the first Megachiroptera for me actually!) and later we passed by a roosting colony of these beasts before heading to the lodge for a rest and lunch in the noon heat. Mid afternoon we went on another stroll for the Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk without much luck... anyways, we enjoyed great views and photo

opportunities of Madagascar Sparrowhawk, Giant Couas, Verreaux's Sifakas, "real" not-begging Ring-tailed Lemurs in the wild far from the restaurant, and Red-fronted Brown Lemurs. A night walk produced again the White-footed Sportive Lemurs and the Reddish-grey Mouse Lemurs as well as a domestic cat that got us excited for some minutes chasing it thinking it was possibly an introduced Small Indian Civet.

Berenty - 06th Oct

We did our last early morning try for the Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk without success but got great views and photo opportunities for more Crested Couas, Yellow-billed Kites, Namaqua Dove, Madagascar Kestrel, Madagascar Turtle Dove, and Crested Drongos among many other common birds in the lodge gardens. Then we drove to Fort Dauphin where we were able to spend half an hour scanning the Indian Ocean spotting several Humpback Whales in the distance as well as some Madagascar (Cape) Gulls. We then spent our afternoon flying to Tana via Morondava (enormous Baobab trees seen from the airplane!) and got in for a well-deserved rest night at the Orchid Hotel after an arduous, but very rewarding, visit to the Berenty Reserve.



Berenty - Tulear - 07th Oct

Again, thanks to a cancellation and rescheduling by Air Madagascar we were flying to Toliara (old French name Tulear) this morning instead of yesterday afternoon making us to lose some precious



early morning birding time in La Table... anyways, after an early breakfast we went to the airport and flew to Toliara where we landed and immediately were met by our guides Moussa and his wife Belle and headed towards the spiny forest of La Table tabletop formation above the city to look for a couple of not-so-easy targets: Red-shouldered Vanga and Verreaux's Coua. It was hot and windy and eventually we got a new bird for the trip (namely Stripe-throated Jery) it looked like we were going to leave here without any of the targets in the bag. The Red-shouldered Vanga called a few times far away but we were unable to locate it. Things started to warm up -bird-wise I mean because temperature was already high enough since we got here midmorning!- when Moussa and Belle sighted a Running Coua and made it

climb higher on a bush so we could have great eye-level views. Then we heard the far distant calls again of the Vanga and charged towards the area... but no reply, only silence. When suddenly, the Vanga started to call again very close and there we were, point-blank-views of this rare and localized endemic, both male and female, really obliging! High spirits, we were leaving towards the bus when Moussa pointed at a Green-capped Coua (or also named Brown-capped... this is the subspecies *olivaceiceps* of Red-capped Coua that for some merits full species status) that we missed because I distracted the group towards a couple of superb Verreaux's Couas that were just there on our left very close and cooperating for quality views. With the two main targets for this area checked in less than a couple of hours, we gratefully left and went to check-in at our hotel and for lunch and rest; some of us loved the

swimming pool here at the Hotel Victory, and I really enjoyed seeing in detail the *Aepyornis* Elephant Bird's eggs they had in display (*like with everything else happening in islands, the extinction of these Malagasy endemic birds, along with other long-gone island giants like tortoises, lizards, and other flightless birds such as the dodo, has, in relative terms, led to a greater megafaunal downsizing (with serious implications for seed dispersal and how habitats look like today) than the extinction of even the largest gomphotheres and giant ground sloths in the Neotropics*). Mid afternoon got us again in another section of La Table spiny forest having better views of the



Subdesert Brush Warbler and then playing a bit to see our Brown (Green)-capped Coua that we finally scored. A couple of Lafresnaye's Vangas responded to my tape and after some bushwacking we were enjoying an amazing male in the scope with the warmish soft light of the sunset on it... quite a magical way to finish a great day coupled with a Sakalava Weavers nesting colony hanging from a small baobab against the sunset and locals passing by in their zebu chariots.

Tulear - Nosy Ve - Anakao - 08th Oct

It was fun to be transferred using zebu chariots from port to our speedboat to visit the island of Nosy Ve; from the boat we studied our first terns and from some common ones, Tom picked up a couple of nice Saunders'. We disembarked in this amazing crystal clear waters white sandy island where we found Red-tailed Tropicbirds galore all over the place as they have a nesting colony. Crab Plovers weren't around so after a complete walk around the island, and enjoying several other common waders like Ruddy Turnstones, we moved for lunch



to Anakao. Our main target there, the Littoral Rock Thrush, was even showing up behind the owner of the hotel while she was welcoming us and giving us some information about the place. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and went for a rest. Later in the afternoon we went for a walk finding more Littoral Rock Thrushes, Madagascar Bee-eaters, Madagascar Cisticolas, Madagascar Bush Larks, and a very entertaining covey of Buttonquails on the way back to our hotel, Safari Vezo.



Nosy Ve - Ifaty - 09th Oct

Got super early breakfast and visited Nosy Ve again to have another try for the Crab Plovers but no luck again, so we kept going to Toliara, passed by Hotel Victory to pick up our big bags and continued North



towards Ifaty. Along the way, we stopped for Madagascar Plover, and after some confusion and extra hiking for different birds tracked down by different local guides we all could enjoy great close views of this endemic. Got to our nice beach Hotel Bamboo in Ifaty outskirts, got a great lunch and went for a rest before hitting the spiny forest in the afternoon. Mid afternoon got us in baobabs paradise!; these amazing huge ancient trees were everywhere in this location we were going to bird for the afternoon and tomorrow morning. We went with Freddy and "Relax", a couple of Moussa's sons that were going to be our local guides today, also Lala, our second driver, joined us to give a hand for the ground-rollers. First target was a very nice and obliging couple of *Thamnornis* (AKA Subdesert Tetraka, or *Thamnornis* Warbler) that

responded right away to my tape; after this, our superb team of local guides + driver got a Long-tailed Ground-Roller "surrounded" and the bird came nicely just in front of the group for prolonged, point-blank, quality views... what an amazing experience!, we all thought it was going to be harder work. Delighted, we kept moving between the giant baobabs and a Lafresnaye's Vanga replied to my tape and came just above our heads so Vivienne could catch up with one of the birds she missed some days ago. "Relax" came running, not very relaxed indeed!, and said he had located a Banded Kestrel sitting on a nest, so we charged towards the area and enjoyed this superb bird for a while. Archbold's *Newtonia* showed up also beautifully, while the Subdesert Mesites were not located today. After a great day in the spiny forest, Grey Mouse Lemurs and Madagascar Nightjars entertained some of us before dinner in the hotel grounds.



Ifaty - Tulear - 10th Oct

Early morning we just got coffee and tea and went to the spiny forest again. Our local guides checked a nest of Subdesert Mesite but no birds were there so we had to find them the real way in the field. We walked around some trails while our guides constantly disappeared in the bush (loaded with *Didiera*

spiny plants!), and less than 30 minutes had passed when they shouted for us to go; we reached them, and voilà, there it was a lovely Subdesert Mesite perched on a branch posing for us as long as we wanted to enjoy scope views, have decent photos and get details on this scarce and rare species. We also connected with another Archbold's *Newtonia* that offered great photo opportunities, more Chabert's Vangas, and got another Green-capped (Brown-capped) Coua. We left the spiny forest of Ifaty very pleased and in the drive back to Toliara Mamy spotted for us our badly wanted Humblot's Heron! ☺ In the afternoon we visited more swampy areas and spiny forest South of Toliara getting us Madagascar Swamp Warbler and White-throated Rails, as well as more Verreaux's Couas.



Tulear - Zombitse - Isalo - 11th Oct

This morning we visited the Airport Pond near Toliara before leaving the city and after some waders and getting Madagascar Swamp Warbler for Bob that didn't join us yesterday we moved on. We arrived at Zombitse National Park by mid morning and went straight to the forest for our main target here:



Appert's Tetraka. Got nice mixed flocks with Blue and Rufous Vangas, Long-billed Tetraka, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, among other goodies. Cuckoo-Roller was seen singing from a nice exposed perch by some of the group and we also added a new lemur to our trip list: Hubbard's (or Zombitse) Sportive Lemur. Our local guides Randria and Mahunjo did a great job and located a couple of Appert's Tetrakas for us that we thoroughly enjoyed for several minutes while they were singing and foraging very low near the ground. Mission accomplished, we trawled around a bit playing back more Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk that was seen here a couple of days ago and finally ended up having lunch surrounded by Giant Couas begging-for-sandwich-

leftovers. We Photographed an endemic Standing's Day Gecko and then we drove through the scenic Isalo National Park; we did a short stop to enjoy the most cooperative ever bird in the form of the endemic Benson's Rock Thrush and proceeded to check in at our posh hotel Le Relais De La Reine that welcomed us with a charming Broad-billed Roller. We then went to the pond area where of course we looked for, and got, our Malagasy Pond Heron, and flushed a couple of Madagascar Partridges having only quick naked-eye glimpses. A quick night trip some of us took to try for Marsh Owl brought us back empty to the hotel.



Isalo - Ranomafana - 12th Oct

Early morning we went again grasswacking to try again for Madagascar Partridge but only Madagascar Buttonquails were flushed; returning to our hotel for breakfast the van broke so we enjoyed a little longer our nice lodge. Mamy, and Tiana in the office, really worked hard on it, and by 3:30 pm we were loading in a couple of 4x4s and a van to start our long drive NE towards Ranomafana (pretty amazing

and quick job as we were in the middle of nowhere in this vast country... one of the advantages of having a good local operator!). Fortunately today was basically a long driving day so we did not miss any birding and/or targets; in a way, we were also lucky to have the van breaking while still in our nice hotel and not on the road having to wait for hours under a mango tree. Got quite worn-out to Ranomafana just before midnight, but happy not having to miss the full day birding tomorrow in this amazing locality loaded with new birds for everyone.

Ranomafana - 13th Oct

We got to Ranomafana National Park and right away we started collecting targets with a Rand's Warbler that was singing at the top of a bare canopy branch and a Ward's Flycatcher (AKA Ward's Vanga) that showed up nicely along with Nelicourvi Weaver from the park restaurant; Blue Vangas were also posing nicely there for eye level photos. We went onto the trails and Pitta-like Ground-Rollers were actively calling and we had a couple coming to offer great views; they posed for photos for a good time, and we all got something, I especially liked Susan's shots. We then got both Spectacled and Grey-crowned Tetrakas flocking and visited a nest of Common Sunbird Asity where we only could get quick glimpses of the male. A handsome Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher couple was also nesting nearby so we got delightful views of these birds, and were enchanted by the tiny size of a Brown (Stem-tailed) Leaf Chameleon we got crossing the trail. We got to a ridge and thanks to a bit of prospective playback I was doing, a couple of White-throated Oxylabes responded and we got them showing nicely as well as a couple of Pollen's Vanga. Returning to the park headquarters for lunch we got to see the amazing Giraffe Weevil in a melastome bush crossing the river. After an hour or so of good rest, we headed to the forest again; tried more for Brown Mesite but we could not connect with this target today unfortunately. We had the most obliging Crossley's Babbler (AKA Crossley's Vanga) ever perched on an open diagonal branch singing its heart out less than two meters away from us, and enjoyed scope close views of a full male in breeding plumage of the much-wanted Velvet Asity. After a day loaded with new birds and half of our Ranomafana targets in the bag we returned to our nicely family-run Hotel Cristo for a well-earned rest.



Ranomafana - 14th Oct

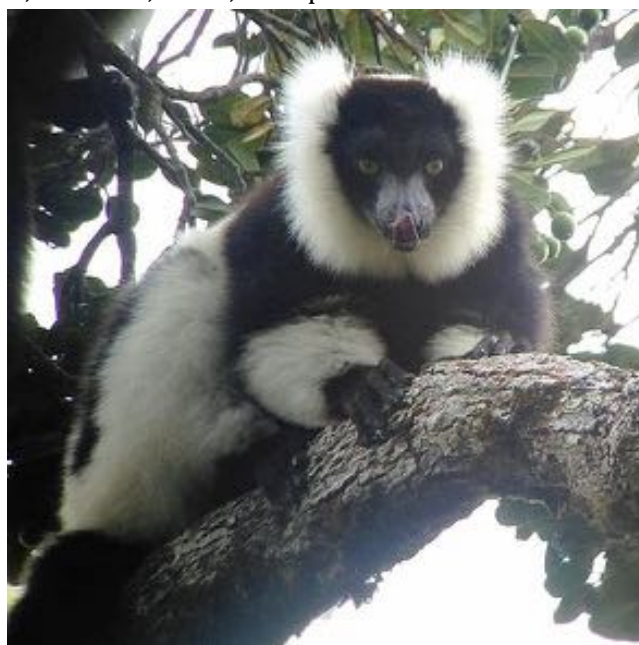
We still needed to connect with Brown Mesites and with the early-singing Rufous-headed Ground-Rollers, both badly-wanted lifers for everyone, so 4:00 am we were already having breakfast to give a good fair chance for these birds to show up. We went to a higher section of the park and started searching the trail when a couple of individuals of the rare Madagascar Yellowbrow distracted us and offered great views on the side of the trail. We kept going and a Red-fronted Coua made us add another stop and we got a rather swift one walking across the trail in front of us. We heard Brown Mesites and tried but they were quite far and even with 3 local guides bushwacking to try to push the birds towards us it was not possible to work them out. Then, a Rufous-headed Ground-Roller called and we got the group in position, played the tape, took a selfie of us, and



two birds started to respond, one on each side of the trail... after just less than a minute we were all enjoying this magnificent bird calling and bowing its head just in the open trail, amazing! We then kept going in the ridge towards a nest of the Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity that Stephan our local guide had found some days ago and indeed, after spending almost half an hour in a really uncomfortable position under the nest we got a male individual coming a couple of times and showing up nicely. This morning we also got great views of Dark Newtonias and quick views of Brown Emutail. In the afternoon we went to an open area scoring Meller's Ducks, Madagascar Flufftail and Grey Emutail, and then headed towards a rice paddy where the whole of a local community happily helped us to flush a Madagascar Snipe from their fields. We stopped for Brown Mouse Lemur en route to our hotel.

Ranomafana - 15th Oct

So today was our last chance for Brown Mesite. We drove early in the morning to the park (stopping for Red-bellied Lemurs and Madagascar Blue Pigeons spotted by Mamy on the way, and also photographing again moths in the parking lot first) and got to one of the Mesites territories, played back a bit, and less than 5 minutes had passed when Stephan shouted they had seen and were pushing the birds towards us; some suspense, some excitement, and then, voilà!, a couple of Brown Mesites were encircled by Stephan, his two sons Stephan and Christian, Mamy, one of our drivers, and our group; enjoyed this couple for some minutes, snapped some shots, and let them march free through the woods. Next, was a longish walk to an area where Henst's Goshawk had a nest and we sat down for almost one hour and nothing, so we moved a bit in the trail and heard it calling far away; we played it back and responded but never offering views unfortunately. Meanwhile, a trio of Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs offered a lovely preening show while a Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher was brooding eggs behind us. Also, we got Jim and Vivienne to catch up with Blue Couas here. We went back to hotel for lunch and had Lesser Vasa Parrots all over the place eating the Travellers Palm's fruits. Quick after lunch we drove 15 minutes to visit Stephan's family where



we had a chameleon's fest on their back garden; it was amazing seeing the huge Parson's Chameleon to hunt some grasshoppers. We then went back the higher section of the park where we found a Forest Rock Thrush nesting under a bridge and all of us enjoyed the female and the chicks on the scope, while some lucky ones even got to see the male attending the nest. Late afternoon we walked down slowly on the road enjoying the regular bulbuls, sunbirds, jerys, among many others, when a Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk flew just above our heads, perched on an eucalyptus tree top and

offered less than 3 seconds view before flying mobbed by several Chabert's Vangas and Souimanga Sunbirds... what an exciting way to end a great day!

Ranomafana - Andasibe - 16th Oct

Today we had a driving day but with a target yet to nail down before starting so we headed to the higher section of the park. We tried near the road and in an open area inside forest but no response; anyways, Cuckoo-Rollers were flying and displaying above entertaining us so John and Christine got nice shots. We decided to give it a try in the nearby forest trails and indeed after a few stops we heard back the calls of our target Cryptic Warbler from the tops of trees; we went to a better position and with a bout of playback brought the bird close to the canopy above our heads for great views by our group and another couple that was in the same area with other local guides. Target bagged, we started our long drive crossing the picturesque Central Plateau highland mustard-coloured landscape with its

rice paddies, and just before sunset got to Antsirabe where we spent the night on the Cristal Hotel; before dinnertime, John got for us in his scope the amazing Saturn with its yellow rings... a "lifer" for some.

Andasibe - Pirenet - 17th Oct

This morning some of the crew had yet another "lifer" before sunrise: Jupiter with 4 of its moons perfectly aligned, and also very close to Mars and Venus. We started driving early today and changed from our vans to 4x4s near Tana enjoying again the contrasting views of this densely urbanized city with its rice paddies all over. Before lunch we did a short stop on the Mangoro River getting Madagascar Pratincole and Chabert's Vangas. Got to our Feon'ny Ala nice lodge (the Sound of the Forest) where Stripe-throated Jery was singing non stop all over the place and also heard Madagascar Flufftail a couple of times during lunch. After lunch we went birding on the road where daylight roosting stakeouts for Rainforest Scops Owl and Madagascar Long-eared (or simply Madagascan) Owl delivered. We also visited the community-managed trail of the Andasibe local guides association and got Indri, Collared Nightjar roosting, Madagascar Wood Rails and just before sunset a Red-breasted Coua that we had to illuminate with a torch to be able to see well. We were quite tired after a long day drive, but for some of us that went out, a night walk produced Greater Dwarf Lemurs.



Pirenet - 18th Oct

We started early again today and headed towards the Mantadia National Park; Madagascar Starlings were sitting on the road and a Madagascar Rail crossed just in front of one of the cars. We got to the park and started with a female Nuthatch Vanga that was nesting and that I had found building three weeks ago with Maurice, another excellent local guide I spent three days here before the group arrived. We continued moving on the trail when Thierry one of our local guides called us and pointed us to a magnificent Short-legged Ground-Roller that was perched some 4 meters above the ground in a totally exposed branch! We enjoyed this bird for almost 10 minutes while it preened, foraged sally-gleaning insects from the surface of flat-under-canopy branches/leaves, and just



hanged out; my most wanted and indeed, my

favourite, ground-roller ☺. Then we continued, and indeed after some taping, a couple of Scaly Ground-Rollers responded in the distance; we approached the area and started to work with one bird that was around offering only walk-by or fly-by views in the undergrowth. We had to move quite a lot, following it, trying to push it a bit by our local guides Patrice, Thierry and Lala, and finally getting great views of this nice looking endemic. As if it was possible, after nailing down the 5 splendid ground-rollers endemic to this island, one of the most exciting moments of the trip was just to come: one of our local guides shouted "foooosaaaa" and we swiftly went back into the trail charging towards the area; got



there and there was a lovely Fossa (photo by Jack sayers) couple in the canopy that gave great views and even one individual came to the ground, walking vertically down a thin tree trunk, then disappearing in the undergrowth not more than 4 meters from us. What an amazing and fortunate experience to be able to see this rare endemic carnivore, the biggest in the island. A couple, Jack and Lindsay, were for more than one hour photographing the Fossas and I am very grateful for they allowed me to use one of their great shots for this trip report. We then visited the little pond in the park and got Madagascar Little Grebes, Meller's Duck and Madagascar Spinetails flying around, plus the peculiar and striking Giant Pill Millipedes. On the way back, we stopped for Madagascar Rail without much success. Went out again for a night walk, and among the nice creatures we found, a couple of species of Bright-eyed Treefrogs were a highlight:



Pirenet - 19th Oct

This morning looked quite overcast but we had some work to do in the trails of the Analamazaotra/Andasibe Special Reserve... we started early and got some Madagascar Crested Ibis not far from the parking lot; good flying views but to be honest, everyone was drooling for more; a family group of Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs was preening just while we looked for the Ibis. We continued into the forest, seeing Red-fronted Coua, and reaching a ridge where Indri was calling; while Patrice went to locate the lemurs, we got a loose flock passing by and we caught up with better views of the Nuthatch Vanga. Patrice shouted so we went and enjoyed closer views of Indri and also of a troop of Diademed Sifakas joined by at least some other 20-25 tourists. We kept going on the ridge, playing back birds we were targeting to have better views: specifically Common Sunbird Asity, Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk (just in case!), and Brown Emutail, but also Rufous-headed Ground-Roller and Dark Newtonia for some people that missed them not going to the field the day we got them in Ranomafana. We got the Dark Newtonias beautifully and some quick views of the Common Sunbird Asity and while returning to the cars to head for lunch, had scope views of a magnificent Madagascar Crested Ibis perched on the railing of a bridge! Also, got Bob to catch up with White-throated Rail. In the afternoon, we went again for Madagascar Rail that only offered quick views. As night came, returning to hotel we did some flashlight torching along the road finding us our first Avahi or Woolly Lemur, one of the Eastern variety.



Pirenet - 20th Oct

Today, we had "some time to kill" so we decided to head back to the higher ridges of Analamazaotra/Andasibe Special Reserve; we were doing a flat trail next to the Green Lake and tried a Madagascar Flufftail that was singing but no luck, so further ahead in the "leeches trail", Patrice our main local guide, asks me if we might want to try a side ridge for a place where Henst's Goshawk have nested before, and of course I said YES. We climbed up this beautiful ridge of dense mossy cloud forest and got to "the gap" where we were supposed to see the bird if it came by after playback. I tried the tape and it responded, we played with it a bit and even it perched close by we could not have views. So we started to explore the ridge finding windows to look through and after maybe one hour we had it coming again and perching on a bare branch in the canopy but only some got flying-by views



above the dense canopy. I found a better higher angle and called the bird and it came perching in this open branch for our bins, pretty amazing nice finely-barred raptor with a huge tail. As some did not see it, we went lower to try to scope what apparently looked like a nest no less than 200m in the other slope of the mountain; positioned there, called it again and it came and perched above our heads preening and giving us a show just above our heads, and eye level to the others that were on my original better spot. Meanwhile, on that better spot, a great mixed flock foraged around giving cracking views of Red-tailed, Nutach, and Blue Vangas, Common Newtonia, Nelicourvi Weavers, Long-billed Tetrakas, and the best unbeatable views of a male Common Sunbird Asity after a couple of times having only quick glimpses. Very happy, we came back to the lodge, photographing the huge Madagascar Day Gecko in the way, had lunch (with Nutach Vanga in the trees just in front) and then a strong rain came. Anyways, later afternoon, some of us went to try for Madagascar Flufftail but the rain was still strong and we had no luck; we had a bizarre Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko as reward!

Pirenet - Tana - 21st Oct

Today started very rainy, so we were decided to go to try for more views of the Rail... we got to the Vakuna Hotel and Lemur Island Park area, tried the tape in the "open window" spot and they responded further on the middle of the swamp. So again, me, the tour-leader, went heron-like wading into the swamp to place the speaker in the middle of an open gap and sat in the wet grasses to playback the rails; after some 10 minutes, I looked back seeing thumbs up and smiles from happy clients as they saw several Madagascar Rails coming into the open, calling, preening, etc... those cheerful faces, and an Indri hand-embroidered t-shirt given to me by our local guides, were the best birthday gifts! ☺ -

Greater Vasa Parrots displayed for the group also, and we got grand views of Madagascar Flufftail in the open before returning for breakfast. Along the way, some of us stopped when Common Brown Lemurs with babies were crossing the road; Crested Drongos, Madagascar Bulbuls, and Blue Couas were also around. We drove to Tana, had the BEST lunch of the trip, and went to have fun at the Alarobia Lake in the Tsarasaotra Park in the middle of the busy capital. We got loads of Red-billed Teals, Black and Squacco Herons, and Cattle Egrets that were joined by a few individuals



of the not-so-common Malagasy Pond Herons, Meller's Ducks, and Hottentot Teals, plus the eye-catching Madagascar Malachite Kingfishers. We then got to our hotel, had a last dinner with the whole group and said goodbye to the people leaving after the main trip was ended. We made the "bird of the trip" vote this night and this is highlighted at the beginning of this report above.

Masoala Extension:

Tana - Maroantsetra - 22nd Oct

VERY early Elaine, Christine, Peter, Bob, Mamy and I got to the airport and checked in. Just after boarding our small Twin Otter aircraft, we got again views of the Madagascar Partridges in the airstrip grasses and tarmac. Landed for a short stopover refuelling in Tomasina (old French name Tamatave) after one hour flying, and then did 1.5 hours more to Maroantsetra, where we were transferred to the nice Masoala Resort not far from the airport. Some of us enjoyed swimming in the sea and in the pool and in the afternoon went on a boat trip where we got some old known friends like Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher, several Herons and Egrets, loads of Eurasian Curlews and some Eurasian Whimbrels and our very first



really red plumaged Madagascar Red Fodies on this trip (not for me as I saw them a month ago while a short stopover in Mauritius where I scored my first ever Paleotropical lifebirds!).

Maroantsetra - Masoala Peninsula - 23rd Oct

On a 1,5 hours boat trip we were transferred from Maroantsetra to the Arol Lodge on the Masoala Peninsula; along the way we passed by the Nosy Mangabe Reserve/Island where huge numbers of Cattle Egrets roost along with some Dimorphic and Purple Egrets and Black Herons (This is a place where back in the 60's Aye-ayes were released as a conservation measure and apparently the best place if you want to try to see one of these rare creatures). A large group of gang-fishing Tuna got us some Common and Lesser Crested Terns frenzy catching some smaller fish, also a couple of Dolphins



(Indo-Pacific Bottlenose maybe?) jumped and swam along the boat for a short instant. We got to the Arol Lodge, our superb and simple accommodation in this paradise area of the Masoala Peninsula where the Tropical Rain Forest comes all the way down the slopes of the mountain to meet the crystal clear green Indian Ocean waters. We enjoyed swimming in the ocean, and I even ventured all the way out to a rocky outcrop where Madagascar Pratincoles were nesting. After lunch we did a bit of a trek uphill in the forest behind our lodge

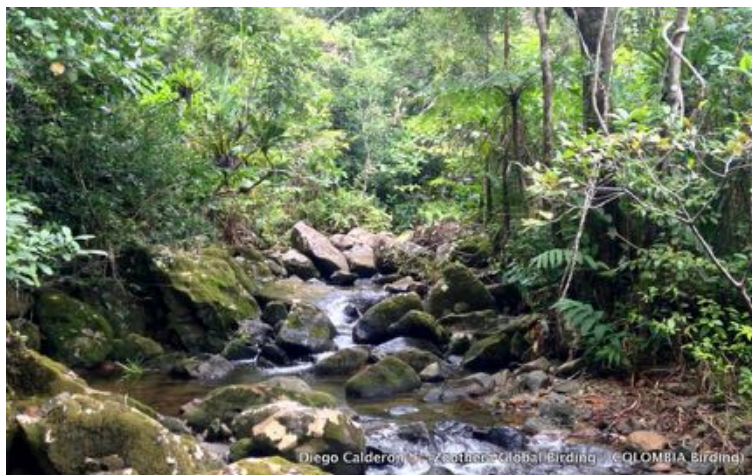
where our great local guide Joseph had found a couple of Helmet Vangas building a nest a while ago. Surely, after one hour we were all enjoying this amazing bird sitting on a nest, eye level and not far from the trail. We all had views from all possible angles, took photos and videos and left very happy having seen the main target of the extension on our first easy birding afternoon.

Masoala - 24th Oct

Today we went to an area where the enigmatic Dusky Tetraka is possible, and also to try for our very last possible vanga in the country: Bernier's (also, one of the trickiest to find and see well!). We left early and took the boat to avoid walking a couple of kilometres in the beach; Common, Greater Crested and Lesser Crested Terns were seen in rocks just outside our lodge less than 200 meters from the beach. We started to walk our trail that crossed through riparian mangrove white-sand, more stunted, and very humid, forest and stopped once in a while to playback both species to no avail. We got to a big gap, where a family was working on a rice paddy, which offered great opportunities to scan for the vangas showing up in the open but could not find any. Here, we had great views of a couple of Madagascar Starlings, Blue Vangas, Madagascar Red Fody, Madagascar Harrier-Hawk, and Nelicourvi Weavers among others. We decided to go into another trail inside forest again but besides a big flock with loads of Madagascar Bulbuls, some Long-billed Tetrakas and some other Vanga species there was none of our targets. Returning to the open gap, we had a short nap that we all did enjoy, and only some decided to go again into forest but in a different direction this time and bushwacking as there was no trail. We did reach an area with high density of *Pandanus* "palms" where



our guide Joseph had seen the Bernier's Vanga before and no more than 2 minutes in the spot he located one female foraging in these plants. We enjoyed close and personal time with a female Bernier's Vanga while it was foraging in the palm leaves chasing insects, even free diving when they tried to escape, hiding a lot, and reminding us somewhat of the Neotropical woodcreepers, and specially of Point-tailed Palmcreeper behaviour... normally people only get quick views of this species as they see it in forest edge or open gaps after playback but we did have an exceptional encounter that offered quality prolonged views. We returned triumphant to the lodge for a late lunch and some swimming in the ocean and rest. A night walk did not produce much, although an hour later I found an Eastern Avahi (Woolly Lemur) adult with a baby only ten meters away from my bungalow while everyone was already sleeping. Rainforest Scops Owls were everywhere calling all night long.



Masoala - 25th Oct

Everyone was very happy after our last Vanga species yesterday and eager for a day of rest and relax, so today only Elaine and I went for some birding; we decided to return to the same area we did yesterday to try again and focus on Dusky Tetraka. Off we went, and when in good habitat played both Dusky and Spectacled Tetrakas. Along the way, we checked another open gap area and had a male of Bernier's Vanga in full view, for some 2 minutes after it responded and came to the tape, and of course, I had left the scope in the trail so I only got crappy point & shoot snapshots. In the forest trails, we had



several encounters with tetrakas, including a big flock with several Spectacled's, a few Long-billed's, and what we think was Dusky! There's quite a lot of confusion about this enigmatic species, that for sure is often misidentified, sometimes simply strung, and for sure, it is in need of a serious ID assessment involving comparison of specimens, voice recordings, and molecular analyses. We got several Spectacled Tetraka, that indeed, in

Masoala look darker and more contrasted than the regular ones you see in Andasibe (where I got good photos), Mantadia, and Ranomafana. But we also got one bird from a couple, and another one within a huge flock of Spectacled and Long-billed, that had noticeably shorter stouter bills, smaller body/tail size, was darker in general making even more obvious the contrast between the yellow throat and the rest of the body, had a thinner eye-ring, and showed only a small yellowish patch and not a more solid loreal line connecting the eye-ring and the bill, and did not have any flashes of yellow in the flanks or the upper/under-tail coverts; additionally, these different birds normally kept foraging lower, very near or just on the ground and unfortunately, never vocalized. We had quality time (some 30+ minutes) with the big flock and were able to make comparisons between all of them almost side to side... of course I need to research more on this, and I am finishing writing this trip report in my flight back to Colombia and tomorrow I fly to Guyana to start another trip, so not much chance of getting to check

more literature and contacting experts, but having had chances to compare, quality views, and even being conservative, Elaine and I do think we might have seen the rare Dusky Tetraka in Masoala.

Masoala - 26th Oct

This morning we returned to Maroantsetra to find out that Air Madagascar did not have a flight for us; so we spent the day relaxing and catching up on the internet at the Coco Beach Lodge hoping for a flight back to Tana for the next day so we could still be on time for our international departures.

Masoala - 27th, 28th, 29th Oct

Some left on time to catch up with their international flights, but thanks to Air Madagascar some of us didn't... I even had time for a new lemur species (Hairy-eared Dwarf Lemur) one night I went to try for Aye-aye. Finally, after my crew left the island one by one, or in small groups, I was the last one to abandon the boat; faced the situation to be stranded on the island for days due to my visa restrictions as a Colombian not being able to freely fly back on a new route via UK, Europe or even some African countries. But finally here I am, finishing writing this concise trip report and a couple of hours from landing in Bogotá.



Aye-aye feeding hole

This was a fantastic trip with 190 species of birds recorded including all the endemics possible on our itinerary (only big miss was Crab Plover), 25 species of amazingly eye-catching –and cute!- lemurs, several endemic plants including the colossal baobabs, and loads of other beasts including incredible chameleons, geckos, insects, frogs, etc. What an amazing month touring Madagascar with the nicest crew of Zoothera Global Birding clients and backed-up and helped by great local operators (Mamy in the field and Tiana in the office fixing anything!) and very knowledgeable superb local guides (Jacky and Clermond in Ankarafantsika, Benoit in Berenty, Moussa and Belle in La Table and Ifaty, and Freddy, “Relax”, and “Berlín” also in Ifaty, Randria and Mahunjo in Zombitse, Stephan and his sons Stephan and Christian in Ranomafana, Patrice, his son Thierry, and Lala in Andasibe and Manatadia, Joseph in Masoala, and of course Mamy all over the place and Maurice my professor in Andasibe/Mantadia)... THANKS everyone and already looking forward to coming again!

Diego Calderon



Velvet Asity



Giraffe Weevil



Collared Nightjar

BIRDLIST FOR MADAGASCAR 2015

A = Number of species recorded on tour S = Number of days Seen H=Number of days Heard

E = Endemic es = Endemic Subspecies

A	SPECIES		SCIENTIFIC NAME	S	H
1	Madagascar Little Grebe	E	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelni</i>	1	
2	Red-tailed Tropicbird		<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	2	
3	African Darter		<i>Anhinga rufa vulsini</i>	2	
4	Little Bittern	es	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	1	
5	Black-crowned Night Heron		<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	9	
6	Squacco Heron		<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	9	
7	Madagascar Pond Heron		<i>Ardeola idea</i>	3	
8	Western Cattle Egret		<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	15	
9	Green-backed Heron		<i>Butorides striatus</i>	13	
10	Black Egret (Black Heron)		<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	10	
11	Dimorphic Egret		<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	16	
12	Great Egret		<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	12	
13	Purple Heron	es	<i>Ardea purpurea madagascariensis</i>	10	
14	Grey Heron		<i>Ardea cinerea firsas</i>	7	
15	Humblot's Heron	E	<i>Ardea humbloti</i>	1	
16	Hamerkop		<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	4	
17	Madagascar White Ibis	E	<i>Threskiornis bernieri</i>	1	
18	Glossy Ibis		<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	4	
19	Madagascar Crested Ibis		<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>	2	2
20	White-faced Whistling Duck		<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	9	
21	Comb Duck		<i>Sarkidiornis melanotus</i>	1	
22	African Pygmy Goose		<i>Nettapus auritus</i>	2	
23	Meller's Duck	E	<i>Anas melleri</i>	3	
24	Madagascar Teal (Bernier's)	E	<i>Anas bernieri</i>	1	
25	Red-billed Teal		<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	9	
26	Hottentot Teal		<i>Anas hottentota</i>	2	
27	Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk	E	<i>Aviceda madagascariensis</i>	1	1?
28	Yellow-billed Kite		<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	17	
29	Madagascar Fish Eagle	E	<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>	1	
30	Madagascar Harrier-Hawk	E	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>	4	
31	Madagascar Harrier		<i>Circus macroscelus</i>	1	
32	Henst's Goshawk	E	<i>Accipiter henstii</i>	1	2
33	Madagascar Sparrowhawk	E	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>	3	1
34	Frances's Sparrowhawk		<i>Accipiter francesii</i>	5	
35	Madagascar Buzzard	E	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>	11	2
36	Madagascar Kestrel		<i>Falco newtoni</i>	14	
37	Banded Kestrel	E	<i>Falco zoniventris</i>	1	
38	Peregrine Falcon		<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	
39	Madagascar Partridge	E	<i>Margaroperdix madagascarensis</i>	4	
40	Helmeted Guineafowl		<i>Numida meleagris</i>	2	
41	White-backed Duck		<i>Thalassornis leucnotos</i>	2	
42	White-breasted Mesite	E	<i>Mesitornis variegata</i>	1	1
43	Brown Mesite	E	<i>Mesitornis unicolor</i>	1	1
44	Subdesert Mesite	E	<i>Mesitornis benschi</i>	1	
45	Madagascar Buttonquail	E	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>	5	
46	Madagascar Flufftail	E	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>	2	6
47	Madagascar Wood Rail	E	<i>Canirallus kiolooides</i>	2	1
48	Madagascar Rail	E	<i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>	2	1
49	White-throated Rail		<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>	3	5

50	Allen's Gallinule		<i>Porphyryula alleni</i>	1	
51	Common Moorhen		<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	7	
52	Madagascar Jacana	E	<i>Actophilornis albinucha</i>	3	
53	Black-winged Stilt		<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	4	
54	Madagascar Pratincole		<i>Glareola ocularis</i>	5	
55	Ringed Plover		<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	2	
56	Kittlitz's Plover		<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	5	
57	Madagascar Plover	E	<i>Charadrius thoracicus</i>	1	
58	Three-banded Plover	es	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	3	
59	White-fronted Plover		<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>	4	
60	Greater Sand Plover		<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	4	
61	Grey Plover		<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	5	
62	Madagascar Snipe	E	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>	1	
63	Bar-tailed Godwit		<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	1	
64	Eurasian Whimbrel		<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	5	
65	Eurasian Curlew		<i>Numenius arquata</i>	5	
66	Marsh Sandpiper		<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	1	
67	Common Greenshank		<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	4	
68	Wood Sandpiper		<i>Tringa glareola</i>	1	
69	Terek Sandpiper		<i>Tringa cinereus</i>	2	
70	Common Sandpiper		<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	4	
71	Ruddy Turnstone		<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	3	
72	Sanderling		<i>Calidris alba</i>	3	
73	Curlew Sandpiper		<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	4	
74	Cape Gull		<i>Larus vetula</i>	1	
75	Greater Crested Tern		<i>Sterna bergii</i>	2	
76	Lesser Crested Tern		<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	3	
77	Roseate Tern		<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	1?	
78	Common Tern		<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	4	
79	Saunders' Tern		<i>Sterna saundersi</i>	1	
80	Madagascar Sandgrouse	E	<i>Pterocles personatus</i>	1	
81	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon		<i>Columba livia</i>	15	
82	Madagascar Turtle Dove		<i>Streptopelia picturata</i>	11	1
83	Namaqua Dove	es	<i>Oena capensis aliena</i>	14	
84	Madagascar Green Pigeon		<i>Treron australis</i>	9	1
85	Madagascar Blue Pigeon	E	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>	6	
86	Greater Vasa Parrot		<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>	3	
87	Lesser Vasa Parrot		<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>	14	2
88	Grey-headed Lovebird	E	<i>Agapornis canus</i>	7	
89	Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo		<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	2	8
90	Giant Coua	E	<i>Coua gigas</i>	3	
91	Coquerel's Coua	E	<i>Coua coquereli</i>	2	1
92	Running Coua	E	<i>Coua cursor</i>	1	2
93	Red-breasted Coua	E	<i>Coua serriana</i>	4	2
94	Red-fronted Coua	E	<i>Coua ruficeps</i>	5	2
95	Red-capped Coua	E	<i>Coua ruficeps</i>	2	
96	Brown-capped Coua	E	<i>Coua olivaceiceps</i>	2	
97	Crested Coua	E	<i>Coua cristata</i>	8	
98	Verreaux's Coua	E	<i>Coua verreauxi</i>	2	
99	Blue Coua	E	<i>Coua caerulea</i>	5	3
100	Madagascar Coucal		<i>Centropus toulou</i>	11	9
101	Barn Owl		<i>Tyto alba affinis</i>	3	
102	Rainforest Scops Owl		<i>Otus rutilus</i>	3	5
103	Torotoroka Scops Owl	E	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>	1	4

104	White-browed Owl	E	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>	3	2
105	Madagascar Long-eared Owl	E	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>	1	
106	Collared Nightjar	E	<i>Caprimulgus enarratus</i>	1	
107	Madagascar Nightjar		<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>	6	5
108	Madagascar Spinetail		<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>	4	
109	African Palm Swift	es	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	13	
110	African Black Swift	es	<i>Apus barbatus balstoni</i>	6	
111	Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher		<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>	11	
112	Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher	E	<i>Ispidina madagascariensis</i>	1	
113	Madagascar Bee-eater		<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	15	3
114	Broad-billed Roller		<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	4	1
115	Short-legged Ground-roller	E	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>	1	1
116	Scaly Ground-roller	E	<i>Brachypteracias squamigera</i>	1	
117	Pitta-like Ground-roller	E	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>	1	
118	Rufous-headed Ground-roller	E	<i>Atelornis crossleyi</i>	1	
119	Long-tailed Ground-roller	E	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>	1	
120	Cuckoo-Roller		<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>	5	4
121	Madagascar Hoopoe	E	<i>Upupa marginata</i>	9	
122	Velvet Asity	E	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>	2	
123	Schlegel's Asity	E	<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>	1	
124	Common Sunbird-Asity	E	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>	3	
125	Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity	E	<i>Neodrepanis hypoxantha</i>	1	
126	Madagascar Bush Lark	E	<i>Miraфра hova</i>	9	
127	Mascarene Martin		<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	4	
128	Brown-throated Sand Martin	es	<i>Riparia paludicola cowani</i>	13	
129	Madagascar Wagtail	E	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	13	
130	Ashy Cuckoo-shrike		<i>Coracina cinerea</i>	7	2
131	Madagascar Bulbul		<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	23	
132	Long-billed Greenbul / Tetraka	E	<i>Phyllastrephus madagascariensis</i>	12	
133	Spectacled Greenbul / Tetraka	E	<i>Phyllastrephus zosterops</i>	7	
134	Appert's Greenbul / Tetraka	E	<i>Phyllastrephus apperti</i>	1	
135	Grey-crowned Greenbul / Tetraka	E	<i>Phyllastrephus cinereiceps</i>	1	
136	Dusky Greenbul / Tetraka	E	<i>Phyllastrephus tenebrosus</i>	1	
137	Red-tailed Vanga	E	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>	9	1
138	Red-shouldered Vanga	E	<i>Calicalicus rufocarpalis</i>	1	
139	Rufous Vanga	E	<i>Schetba rufa</i>	4	2
140	Hook-billed Vanga	E	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>	4	2
141	Lafresnaye's Vanga	E	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>	2	
142	Pollen's Vanga	E	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>	1	1
143	Van Dam's Vanga	E	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>	1	
144	Sickle-billed Vanga	E	<i>Falcula palliata</i>	5	
145	White-headed Vanga	E	<i>Leptopterus viridis</i>	7	
146	Chabert's Vanga	E	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>	10	
147	Blue Vanga		<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>	9	
148	Bernier's Vanga	E	<i>Oriolia bernieri</i>	2	
149	Helmet Vanga	E	<i>Euryceros prevostii</i>	1	
150	Nuthatch Vanga	E	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>	4	
151	Tylas Vanga	E	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>	5	
152	Littoral Rock Thrush	E	<i>Pseudocossyphus imerinus</i>	1	
153	Forest Rock Thrush	E	<i>Pseudocossyphus sharpei</i>	1	1
154	Benson's Rock Thrush	E	<i>Pseudocossyphus bensoni</i>	1	
155	Madagascar Magpie-Robin	E	<i>Copsychus albospecularis</i>	16	
156	African Stonechat	es	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	7	
157	White-throated Oxylabes	E	<i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>	1	

158	Madagascar Yellowbrow	E	<i>Crossleyia xanthophrys</i>	1	
159	Crossley's Babbler	E	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>	1	
160	Brown Emutail	E	<i>Dromaeocercus brunneus</i>	1	
161	Grey Emutail	E	<i>Dromaeocercus seebohmi</i>	1	
162	Madagascar Brush Warbler		<i>Nesillas typica</i>	4	6
163	Subdesert Brush Warbler	E	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>	3	1
164	Madagascar Swamp Warbler	E	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>	5	1
165	Thamnornis Warbler	E	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>	1	1
166	Rand's Warbler	E	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>	3	1
167	Common Newtonia	E	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>	10	7
168	Dark Newtonia	E	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>	3	
169	Archbold's Newtonia	E	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>	2	
170	Madagascar Cisticola		<i>Cisticola cherina</i>	12	2
171	Common Jery	E	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>	14	1
172	Green Jery	E	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>	4	4
173	Stripe-throated Jery	E	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>	5	6
174	Cryptic Warbler	E	<i>Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi</i>	2	2
175	Wedge-tailed Jery	E	<i>Hartertula flavoviridis</i>	1	1
176	Ward's Flycatcher	E	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>	3	
177	Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher		<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>	16	
178	Souimanga Sunbird		<i>Nectarinia souimanga</i>	22	2
179	Long-billed Green Sunbird		<i>Nectarinia notata</i>	9	1
180	Madagascar White-eye		<i>Zosterops maderaspatana</i>	16	
181	Madagascar Mannikin	E	<i>Lonchura nana</i>	8	
182	Nelicourvi Weaver	E	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>	7	
183	Sakalava Weaver	E	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>	8	
184	Madagascar Red Fody	E	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	14	
185	Forest Fody	E	<i>Foudia omissa</i>	3	
186	Common Myna		<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	19	
187	Madagascar Starling	E	<i>Hartlaubius auratus</i>	4	
188	Crested Drongo		<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>	24	
189	Pied Crow		<i>Corvus albus</i>	18	

Mammals & Others

1.	Indri		<i>Indri indri</i>	2	3
2.	Grey Mouse Lemur		<i>Microcebus murinus</i>	3	
3.	Brown Mouse Lemur		<i>Microcebus fufus</i>	1	
4.	Golden-brown Mouse Lemur		<i>Microcebus ravelobensis</i>	2	
5.	Reddish-grey / Gray-brown / Rufous-gray Mouse Lemur		<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>	2	
6.	Greater Dwarf Lemur		<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>	2	
7.	Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur		<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>	1	
8.	White-footed Sportive Lemur		<i>Lepilemur leucopus</i>	3	
9.	Milne Edwards Sportive Lemur		<i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>		2
10.	Hubbard's Sportive Lemur		<i>Lepilemur hubbardi</i>	1	
11.	Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur		<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>	2	
12.	Golden Bamboo Lemur		<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>	1	
13.	Ring-tailed Lemur		<i>Lemur catta</i>	3	
14.	Common Brown Lemur		<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>	5	
15.	White-fronted Brown Lemur		<i>Eulemur albifrons</i>	1	
16.	Red-fronted Brown Lemur		<i>Eulemur fulvus rufus</i>	4	
17.	Red-bellied Lemur		<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>	2	
18.	Mongoose Lemur		<i>Eulemur mongoz</i>	1	
19.	Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur		<i>Varecia variegata</i>	3	
20.	Red Ruffed Lemur		<i>Varecia rubra</i>	1	

21.	Eastern Avahi / E Woolly Lemur	<i>Avahi laniger</i>	2	
22.	Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>	1	
23.	Milne-Edwards Sifaka	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>	1	
24.	Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>	4	
25.	Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>	2	
26.	Fossa	<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>	1	
27.	Ring-tailed Mongoose	<i>Galidia elegans</i>	3	
28.	Eastern Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>	3	
29.	Lowland Streaked Tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>	1	
30.	Madagascar Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>	1	
31.	Microchiroptera bat sp. 1 (small)		2	
32.	Microchiroptera bat sp. 2 (big)		1	
33.	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin?	cff. <i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	2	
34.	Humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	1	
35.				
36.	Oustalet's / Malagasy Giant Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	2	
37.	Warti / Spiky-backed / Spiny / Crocodile Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>	1	
38.	White-Lined / Carpet chameleon	<i>Furcifer lateralis</i>	1	
39.	Panther Chameleon	<i>Furcifer pardalis</i>	1	
40.	Two-banded / Rainforest Chameleon	<i>Furcifer balteatus</i>	1	
41.	Blue-legged / Short-horned / Elephant-eared Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>	3	
42.	Parsons Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>	2	
43.	Nose-horned / Sharp-nosed/ Bignose / Leaf-nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>	1	
44.	Brown / Stem-tailed Leaf Chameleon	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>	1	
45.				
46.	Spiny / Collared Iguanid Lizard	<i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>	1	
47.	Chalarodon Lizard	<i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i>	1	
48.	Madagascar Girdled / Madagascar Plated Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>	1	
49.	Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>	1	
50.	Standing's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>	1	
51.	Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>	3	
52.	Peacock Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>	1	
53.	Madagascar Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis</i>	1	
54.	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	1	
55.	Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Leioheterodon</i> sp.	1	
56.	Grass Snake	<i>Mimophis</i> sp.	1	
57.	Green bright-eyed Treefrog	<i>Boophis viridis</i>	2	
58.	Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>	1	
59.	Bright-eyed Treefrog sp. 1	<i>Boophis</i> sp. 1	1	
60.	Bright-eyed Treefrog sp. 2	<i>Boophis</i> sp. 2	1	
61.	Madagascan / Betsileo Reed Frog	<i>Heterixalus betsileo</i>	1	
62.	Crapaud Rouge / Madagascar Tomato Frog	<i>Dyscophus antongilii</i>	1	
63.	Madagascar Frog sp.	<i>Mantidactylus</i> sp.	1	
64.	Madagascar Giant Swallowtail		2	
65.	Tiger / African Monarch		2	
66.	Giraffe Weevil		2	
67.	Giant Pill Millipede		2	
68.	Tuna Fish		1	
69.	Flying Fish		2	
70.	Mudskipper Fish		1	

