

TROPICAL BIRDING

Madagascar: The Eighth Continent

7-23 November, 2016

Western endemics extension

3-7 November

Helmet Vanga extension

23-28 November

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The incredible Helmet Vanga

Madagascar is a destination like no other. It has an 'other-worldly' feel to it and is filled with groups of animals and plants found nowhere else on earth. It holds several totally unique, endemic bird families, namely the mesites, cuckoo-roller, ground-rollers, asities and Malagasy warblers plus the distinctive groups of couas & vangas. Not only did we see these families well, we actually saw all the available species. By using the very best local guides, we pretty much cleaned up on the rest of Madagascar's endemic birds available on this tried and tested itinerary. Madagascar is much more than just a bird tour though, and we also found an impressive 28 species of lemurs, Ring-tailed Mongoose, 3 species of tenrec, almost 50 species of reptiles (including 3 species of leaf-tailed geckos), 12 species of frogs and countless beautiful butterflies and marine fish. With spectacular landscapes and varied habitats, from the spiny forests of the southwest to the towering rainforest of the northeast, plus fascinating local culture, friendly local people, high quality food and lodging throughout, it was an amazing trip.

WESTERN ENDEMIC EXTENSION**3 November – Tana to Ankarafantsika**

Today was mainly a travel day. In order to hit a couple of birding spots on the way, and avoid potential delays with Air Madagascar, we were driving to Ankarafantsika National Park in the northwest of Madagascar. After a leisurely breakfast, we met our driver and set off. It was an uneventful drive in the morning. I spotted a **Madagascar Partridge** flying across the road at one point, then we stopped in search of the rare endemic race of **Reunion Harrier** a couple of hours north of Tana. We missed it there but did see our first **Madagascar Kestrel** and **Madagascar Larks**. Other birds along the way included **African Stonechat**, **Madagascar Bee-eater** and **Mascarene Martin**. A while later, one of the clients spotted our target **Reunion Harrier**. We had traffic behind us and by the time we were able to stop and turn around, the bird was long gone. We stopped for lunch in the town of Maevatanana after which we stopped at the bridge over the Betsiboka River. We saw some distant **Madagascar Praticoles** flying over the river but it was BVD (better view desired) but a little while later we had another few birds closer.



Sakalava Weavers nest in colonies, often close to human habitation.

In the afternoon, we experienced delays when a truck crossing a single-lane bridge had its axel snap in 2 and traffic going both ways was completely blocked. Local initiative and ingenuity kept the delay to an hour and a half. While we waited, we saw our first **Sakalava Weaver** and **Crested Drongo** and also snacked on a few local mangos. On the rest of the drive we picked up our first **Gray-headed Lovebirds** and **Madagascar Turtle-Dove** in flight before we arrived at our rustic lodge for dinner. The clouds had been gathering towards the end of the day and the heavens opened to unleash a downpour just as we arrived.

4 November – Ankarafantsika NP

We had a number of tricky targets to find today and we got started by looking for the endemic **Schlegel's Asity**. The best site for this is on the network of lower trails where there are several territories of this species. We drove to the trailhead and entered the dry forest. After the first good rains of the season last night, the forest was vibrant with bird song. We saw many common forest birds quickly, including **Madagascar Bulbul**, **Long-billed Bernieria**, **Common Jery**, **Crested Drongo**, **Madagascar Magpie-Robin** and **Souimanga Sunbird**. One of the less common species we found was the **Blue Vanga** which we located by its call. In the top of a tall, leafless tree, we also had scope views of our first **Madagascar Green-Pigeon** which isn't always easy. We heard the distinctive call of the **Schlegel's Asity** high up in a tree and had soon located it for scope views. We found other pairs afterwards and had much lower and closer views including some display behaviour. It was a fantastic start to the birding here. On the way out we added a few more endemics with a **Madagascar Hoopoe** raising its crest, the subdued **Common Newtonia** and multiple male **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatchers** of varying colours. One of the highlights though was a very close encounter with a **Coquerel's Coua**. It had been calling from within the forest the whole time, but just at the end, one came out and walked to within just a few feet of us. On the way out of the forest we had **Lesser Vasa-Parrot** and a **Gray-headed Lovebird** in flight before driving to the park headquarters.



Schlegel's Asity is one of the coolest members of this endemic family.

Around the main camp, we saw **Madagascar Turtle-Dove**, **Broad-billed Roller** and the endemic **Sickle-billed Vanga** nest building. Vangas have a fascinating array of bill shapes and true to its name, the Sickle-billed Vanga sports a long, curved bill which they use to forage in crevices. Next, we set off for the upper trails, where we were looking for the most endangered member of the vanga family, the **Van Dam's Vanga**. It was a bit of a climb but on the way up we had a soaring **Madagascar Buzzard** which gave us an excuse for a breather.

Van Dam's Vanga can be a pain to find, but it was pretty much the first bird we heard up there. That was as far as our luck went and after just one client got on the bird, it took off and didn't stop. We would have to look for another one. We had good luck with some other targets, and had good views of **Madagascar Sparrowhawk**, **Banded Kestrel** and **Rufous Vanga**. Our guide even found us a **Torotoroka Scops-Owl** in a hole in a dead tree. We continued our search and had a couple of false alarms with our first **White-headed Vanga** and **Ashy Cuckooshrike**. The heat went up and bird activity down, and we were forced to retreat for lunch. We had a nice consolation in the form of **White-breasted Mesite** on the way down, which preformed well.



The taxonomic position of the mesites is somewhat of a mystery.

After lunch and a rest back at the lodge we went back up to top trails in the afternoon. We added **Red-capped Coua** which did its jerky little frog march along the trail and **Crested Coua** which couldn't decide if it wanted to show off its cool facial skin and mohican or not. In the end it did. We persevered in our search of **Van Dam's Vanga** and in the end our efforts were rewarded with a great view of a male. What a bird! We walked back down at sunset and had an early dinner before setting off on a night walk. Around the camp itself we located a **Fat-tailed Dwarf-Lemur** which quickly disappeared and a **Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemur** which just sat there. Our guide also found us a nice **Cat-eyed Snake**. We walked along a trail back towards our lodge but it was curiously quiet, but we finally had a **Golden-brown Mouse-Lemur** and also a couple of **Oustalet's chameleons**.

5 November – Ankarafantsika NP to Mahajanga

It was our last morning at Ankarafantsika, and even though we had cleaned up on the forest birds, we still had some birds to find around the lake. From the park HQ, we walked down to the water and scanned with the scope to find **White-faced Whistling-Duck**, **Striated Heron**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Three-banded Plover** plus the endemic **Humblot's Heron** and **Madagascar Jacana**. Unfortunately our main target, the **Madagascar Fish-Eagle**, wasn't there so we drove to the end of the lake to search for it. As we walked around the lake, we saw **Purple Heron** plus several **Lesser Vasa-Parrots** and a **Cuckoo-Roller** in flight. We had walked some way, scanning tall trees for the eagle without success. All of a sudden, our guide told us to stop and pointed to a tall tree just along the trail. It was the **Madagascar Fish-Eagle** and it stayed put long enough for everyone to get great views, before it flew across the lake where it landed and we got it in the scope. It was a relief to have seen our last main target here.



Hook-billed Vanga uses its hook to hunt for its favourite prey, chameleons.

Our last birding stop was all the way on the other end of the lake where we went in search of Greater Painted-Snipe. Just by the vehicle we saw several **Sakalava Weavers**, and then spotted a distant **Hook-billed Vanga** which flew right across to where we were and posed beautifully in the tree next to us. We first checked out a couple of spectacular specimens of baobabs and had a short walk along a forest trail where we saw **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Greater Vasa-Parrot** and great scope views of the gorgeous **Malagasy Kingfisher** on a small forest stream. We walked out onto the dried flood plain and saw **Black & Squacco Herons** and **Madagascar Bee-eater** perched on a soccer post. Despite the guides wading through the muddy swamp in search of painted-snipes, there seemed to be none around, probably due to the unusually low water levels. We went back to our lodge for lunch before checking out and driving 2 hours to Mahajanga.

6 November – Betsiboka Delta

This morning we were taking a boat ride into the Betsiboka Delta in search of a couple of endangered endemic birds: **Bernier's Teal** and the **Madagascar Sacred Ibis**. Due to the tides, we started later than usual. The sea was a bit choppy and it was a bumpy ride as we crossed the bay to the mangrove-fringed channels upstream. Our first birds were several **Dimorphic Egrets**, **Whimbrel** and a **Madagascar Harrier-Hawk** flying over the river. The boatman had timed it just right and a short time later we had found our first pair of **Bernier's Teal** as the mud slowly became exposed. We moved to another spot where we found at least 15 of these endangered ducks. There were numerous shorebirds, including **Greater Sand-Plover**, **Common Ringed Plover** and **Curlew Sandpiper**, plus a tiny **Saunders's Tern** and huge **Caspian Tern** also sat on the mud. We were still missing the **Madagascar Sacred Ibis** and it took a while before we located 3 of this endangered taxon. Our last new bird was **Terek Sandpiper** before we started the bumpy crossing back to Mahajanga.



The endangered endemic Bernier's Teal in flight at the Betsiboka Delta.

One of the most interesting birding sites in the Mahajanga area is a small lake near the airport. After winding through some back roads and negotiating with a security guard we made our way to the lake. Some years at the end of the dry season the pond dries out completely, but luckily there was some water left and hundreds of water birds to prove it. As we approached we spotted an **African Openbill** soaring overhead. This is a common bird in Africa but for some reason they are incredibly rare here. From a distance we could see a throng of **Great** and white phase **Dimorphic Egrets**. Scanning carefully through these we saw dozens of **Black Herons**, plus several **Squacco**, **Striated**, **Gray**, **Purple & Humblot's Herons**. Another surprise was the number of **Yellow-billed Storks** (17 counted); another extremely rare resident bird. On a small creek nearby our viewpoint, we had a nice **Malagasy Kingfisher**, our first **Madagascar Cisticola** and several **Madagascar Munias** coming to drink. We continued scanning the pond, and in amongst the larger birds, we picked out a **Madagascar Jacana**, **White-throated Rail** and a nice colourful female **Greater Painted-Snipe** with 2 dowdy males. After careful examination we found a non-breeding plumaged **Madagascar Pond-Heron**. It had been a very worthwhile diversion.

MAIN TOUR**7 November – Mahajanga to Tana**

With our birding here done, and an evening flight back to Tana, we were left with a bit of spare time to explore the local handicraft market. With a bit of skilful bargaining from yours truly, we were able to obtain some good prices for some of the wonderful fabrics and other souvenirs. We had plenty of time to pack and have a leisurely lunch and relax in the sea breeze of the restaurant before heading off to the airport. Luckily our flight left on time and we were soon on our way back to Tana to meet the rest of the group joining the main tour.



The beautiful Red Fody is a common bird throughout Madagascar.

8 November – Tana to Ifaty

Our flight to the Tulear was leaving after midday so we had time for a civilized breakfast. Our flight went via Fort Daufin in the south so took a little extra time, but we soon found ourselves in the busy coastal town of Tulear. We made our way north along a new road towards Ifaty. We had a few birding stops along the way, the first of which was a roadside pond which had a good selection of shorebirds, including **Common Greenshank, Marsh & Curlew Sandpipers, Kittlitz's, Common Ringed & Three-banded Plovers**. Next we stopped at a viewpoint over the mangroves, where we saw **Striated Heron, Whimbrel**, and behind us in the dry scrub, **Crested Drongo, Subdesert Brush-Warbler, Madagascar Cisticola** and **Red Fody**. One final stop at the mudflats added **Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover, Greater Sand-Plover** and **Ruddy Turnstone**. In Ifaty we stopped to meet our local guides for the next few days and confirm our early start time tomorrow, before driving on to our comfortable lodge just outside of town.

9 November – Ifaty Spiny Forest

Today was our earliest start of the trip. We wanted to be at the spiny forest at day break so we left before dawn and even caught **Madagascar Nightjar** flying around the parking lot. At the reserve, we walked along the trail through the spiny forest and started picking up many common birds, with **Common & Stripe-throated Jeries**, **Red Fody**, **Common Newtonia**, **Crested Drongo**, **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher** and **Red-tailed Vanga**. We made a bee-line for a **Thamnornis** which was calling away from the top of an Octopus tree. After this we were taken to the nests of **Sickle-billed & Lafresnaye's Vangas**, **Madagascar Harrier-Hawk & Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk**. We had been hearing **Madagascar Coucal** and **Madagascar Cuckoo** all morning and finally had scope views of both. We had brief flight views of **Madagascar Kestrel** and **Greater Vasa-Parrot** plus a pair of **Madagascar Buttonquails** scurrying across the trail. We saw **Chabert Vangas** with their bright blue eye-rings, **Crested Coua** and **Archbold's Newtonia**. The 2 main targets of the morning though were **Long-tailed Ground-Roller** and **Subdesert Mesite**. We saw the ground-roller first and it lived up to expectations. It is a totally unique bird in every way and a sight to behold. I had warned the group that it might be a bit of a race when the mesite was located and so it came to pass. The local guides had flushed one and it was doing its freezing behaviour in an octopus tree. We got there in time and had great views and photos of a stunning male.



This Madagascar Harrier-Hawk nest was one of several nests staked out.



Long-tailed Ground-Roller (above) & male Subdesert Mesite (below).

It was getting hot and we were done in the forest for the morning. But we had one last spot of birding a few minutes away. We went in search of the rare **Madagascar Plover** on the south side of town. There is a pair resident there but they roam around a bit. We walked around looking for them, finding **Madagascar Bee-eater & White-fronted Plovers** in the process. We had all but given up on the **Madagascar Plovers** and even got back on the bus, but our local guide finally located them, giving us a bit of extra time off in the afternoon. It had been an extremely productive morning and we now had several hours off until the late afternoon when it had cooled off enough to resume our birding. There wasn't too much to look for but we did succeed in finding our target **Green-capped & Running Couas**. We also had a few other treats in the shape of a **Petter's Sportive Lemur**, a different-looking 'mystery' sportive-lemur with a baby, the small **Spider Tortoise**, a '**Kung Fu**' Cricket and a **Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec**. We killed a bit of time before sunset when we went to a cavity in a tree that contained the cutest group of **Gray-brown Mouse-Lemurs**. What a day it had been!



Petter's Sportive-Lemur (above) & Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec (below).

10 November – Ifaty Spiny Forest to Tulear

As we had pretty much cleaned up yesterday, some of the group chose to rest this morning. The rest of us started a little later. At the entrance to the spiny forest reserve, we spent a while watching the **Sakalava Weaver** nesting colony with several males displaying and a single **Madagascar Munia** nearby. We set off down the trail and straight away we had good views of **Madagascar Turtle-Dove** walking down the path and a **Namaqua Dove** perched on top of an Octopus tree. We had additional views of **Crested & Running Couas**, **Madagascar Cuckoo**, **Common Jery** and **Long-tailed Ground-Roller**. Also our first proper views of **Madagascar Kestrel**, **Archbold's Newtonia** and **Madagascar Bulbul**. We saw our first **Madagascar Swifts** of the trip flying overhead, and also had good photo opportunities of **Souimanga Sunbird**, **Red Fody**, **Greater Vasa-Parrot** and **Madagascar Bee-eater**. We also added our first **Sakalava Madagascar Velvet Gecko & Madagascar Ground Gecko**. It was nice to have one last walk in this very species forest.



Madagascar Ground Gecko is also known as Big-headed Gecko.

After lunch we started our drive back to Tulear. On the way back, we scanned the mangroves to find a flock of **White-faced Whistling-Ducks**, plus **Whimbrel**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Common Greenshank** and some distant **Lesser Crested Terns**. With the completion of the new road, it meant we had to walk a bit to access our usual birding sites. We set off on a walk at the Belalanda wetlands, and at the lake we saw **Eurasian Moorhen**, several **Hottentot Teal**, **Little Grebe** and **Squacco Heron**. We also finally managed to locate and get brief views of our target **Baillon's Crake**. On further ponds we saw **Black-winged Stilt**, **Kittlitz's & Common Ringed Plovers** plus several **Curlew Sandpipers**. In the reedbeds we had **Madagascar Swamp-Warbler**, **Madagascar Cisticola**, **Madagascar Munia** and nearby a **Madagascar Coucal**. It was a slightly longer walk than we were led to believe by our local guides, but we finally made it back to the bus and continued on to our comfortable hotel in Tana where we enjoyed the comforts of AC for the rest of the afternoon.

11 November - Tulear & La Table

Today we had a full day to explore several birding sites around Tulear. We started at a previous location for the endemic Madagascar Sandgrouse. The number of birds has declined at this location year by year, and finally the inevitable has happened; the birds are no more. While we waited in vain for them to show, we saw several other species, including **Kittlitz's Plover**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Namaqua Dove**, **Gray-headed Lovebird**, **Madagascar Lark**, **Mascarene Martin** and **Madagascar Cisticola**. After this we drove to a place called La Table, which is a plateau covered in dry, spiny scrub. This seemingly inhospitable environment held quite a few birds, with **Madagascar Bee-eater**, **Madagascar Kestrel**, **Lafresnaye's Vanga**, **Subdesert Brush-Warbler**, **Stripe-throated Jery** and **Souimanga Sunbird**. Our 2 targets though, were **Verreaux's Coua** and **Red-shouldered Vanga**. We had brief views of the coua as it flew across the trail and our excellent local guides did a great job in locating the vanga; famous as the last lifer of the infamous lister, Phoebe Snetzinger. In the afternoon we visited Arboretum D'Antsokay where we had an informative tour introducing the interesting local plantlife, and we also had great views of **Madagascar Buttonquail**, a day-roosting **Madagascar Nightjar** and **Green-capped Coua**. After this we went back up to La Table and managed much better views of **Verreaux's Coua**.



Red-shouldered Vanga was only described as recently as 1997.

12 November – Nosy Ve & Anakao

Today was our day trip to the island of Nosy Ve. Despite my explanation about the method of boarding, the wooden zebu cart rides across the mudflats to the speedboat were unlike anything any of the clients had experienced before. We set off and our boatman took us first to some cliffs on the way to look for the endangered Humblot's Heron. There were no Humblot's, but we did see a **Gray Heron** on the nest, plus **Dimorphic Egrets** flying by, many **Madagascar Swifts** and **Mascarene Martins** overhead, **Madagascar Kestrels** mobbing a **Pied Crow**, and finally the endemic subspecies of **Peregrine Falcon**. We continued on to Nosy Ve and on the way saw our first **Great Crested Tern**. We arrived at the northern tip of the island and scanned the adjacent sandbars for our target **Crab Plover**. We saw a distant flock and the boatman took us closer. We got off and I started to put the birds in the scope but they took off. Luckily they settled on another small sandy island not too far away and we all had good scope views. On the same islet, we saw **Whimbrel**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Sanderling** and **Lesser Crested Tern**. As it was low tide, we had to walk the length of the island and on the way saw **White-fronted Plover** and **Madagascar Cisticola**. By the time we reached the only shade on the island we were pretty hot. We explored the nearby bushes and found a couple of **Red-tailed Tropicbird** nests and even had some birds flying around above our heads. We had to wait a while in the shade before the water was high enough for the boat to come and pick us up. We were on our way across to the adjacent resort of Anakao. On the way we saw our final **Red-tailed Tropicbird** on the water which posed nicely for photos. We had a nice lunch at Anakao, after which we found the endemic **Littoral Rock-Thrush** sitting on the antenna above the lodge. The ride back was hot and we had a bit of spray. It had been a great morning and we had some well-deserved rest in the afternoon.



Red-tailed Tropicbirds are seen at close range on our day trip to Nosy Ve.

13 November – Zombitse & Isalo

It was a 3 hour drive to Zombitse National Park and we had to leave in the dark in order to get there at a reasonable time to bird. We made it to the park and saw our first few birds while we were waiting for the tickets. The local guide showed some us a **Crested Coua** nest and we had our first **Cuckoo-Roller** and **Malagasy Spinetails** flying over. As we set off along the loop trail, we saw a **Broad-billed Roller** and 2 **Madagascar Turtle-Doves** in a tree. We were shown the boggle-eyed **Zombitse Sportive-Lemur** glaring at us intensely from the hole in a tree. We also added to our mammal list with our first **Common Brown Lemur**. We had a couple of mixed flocks, with **Common Newtonia**, **Long-billed Bernieria** and finally our target **Appert's Tetraka**; an extremely restricted endemic. We had a lucky **Frances's Goshawk**, which flew in and perched nearby. We also saw both **Coquerel's & Giant Couas** with their very striking bright blue and purple facial skin. The highlight of the morning though was the **Verreaux's Sifakas** which charmed us with their curious faces and wowed us with their athletic jumps between trees. It was time to leave, so we thanked our local guides and drove on to Isalo National Park.

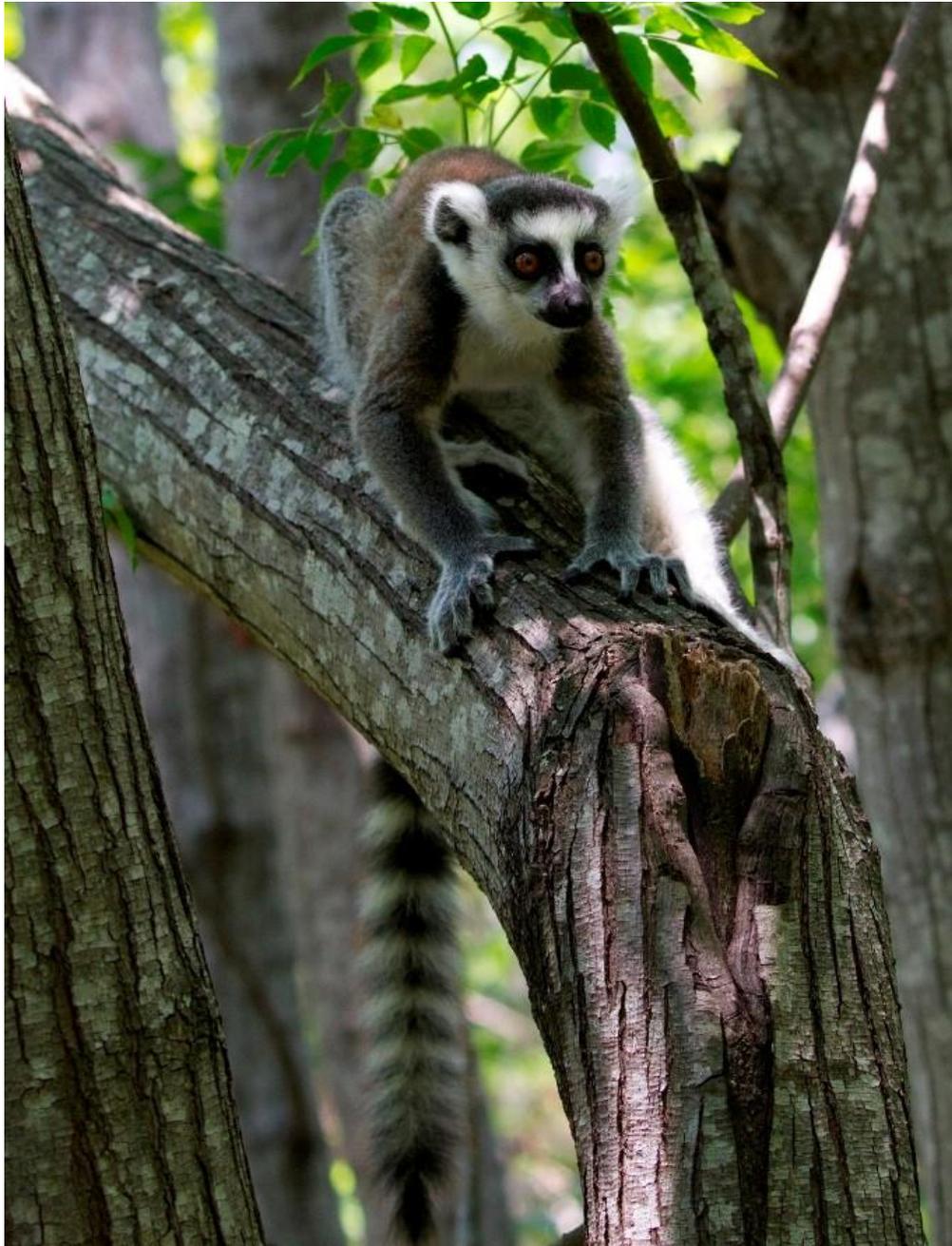


Verreaux's Sifaka's, famous for skipping along the ground on documentaries, actually prefer to stay up in the trees.

After lunch and a rest, we took a late afternoon walk on the grounds of the hotel. We had good views of some common birds such as **Madagascar Hoopoe** and **Broad-billed Roller**. We walked out onto an open grassland and saw **African Palm-Swift**, **Madagascar Bee-eater**, **Madagascar Kestrel** and **Madagascar Cisticola**. Our main target here was the difficult **Madagascar Partridge**. We tramped through some long grass to see if we could flush one out. We got to a fire break and spotted a nice male which showed well for a few seconds but unfortunately a couple of people were lagging behind. We walked back along the fire break and flushed another partridge before we finally had a small group of them in the middle of the trail. We tried again for the local form of Forest Rock-Thrush, but it was nowhere to be seen. On the walk back through the garden, what looked like a **Cattle Egret** flew by but on closer inspection we found it to be a breeding-plumaged **Madagascar Pond-Heron**. At the end of the walk we also found a tiny **Madagascar Munia** perched on the beautiful *Bougainvillea*. After dinner, we did some owling and had good views of both **Torotoroka Scops- & White-browed Owl**.

14 November – Anja to Ranamafana

We started the day with a short pre-breakfast walk on the hotel grounds. We looked for the ‘Benson’s’ Rock-Thrush again without success. We saw many of the same birds as yesterday but had a better perched view of the endangered breeding endemic **Madagascar Pond-Heron**. After breakfast, we checked out and started our long driving day. Just before lunch, we stopped at the community reserve of Anja where we had a short visit to see the famous **Ring-tailed Lemurs**. They didn’t disappoint, and we had an enjoyable half hour watching their antics, especially the young ones as they practice jumping around in the trees. The local guides also showed us a tiny **Brookesia** and large **Oustalet’s Chameleon**. We thanked our guides and continued on to the town of Ambalavao where we had lunch and visited a handmade paper workshop. We carried on with a brief stop in the city of Fianarantsoa before finally arriving at Ranamafana in the evening.



Ring-tailed Lemurs are one of the most iconic inhabitants of Madagascar.

15 November – Ranomafana NP

Today was our first full day exploring the Ranomafana National Park and we would be birding the lower section that required a fairly strenuous hike down and up a steep valley. As well as several target birds, we were also hoping for some of the rare lemurs present here. We got off to a good start in the parking lot with **Rand's Warbler** and **Stripe-throated Jery** singing their similar songs next to each other in the same tree. This has got to be one of the strangest bird associations in Madagascar. We also had a stunning male **Forest Fody** which posed beautifully for photos. Along the trail down to a bridge, we had our first **Madagascar White-eyes** and a pair of **Madagascar Wagtails** next to the river. We also saw our first **Green Jery** in the scope. One of the most spectacular endemics is the **Pitta-like Ground-Roller** and we had our first one hopping along the trail in full view.



Two cool reptiles with cool names: Peacock Day Gecko (left) & Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko (right).

One of our main target lemurs was the **Golden Bamboo Lemur** and we found a family group although it took a strenuous climb up a steep trail to get there. We also found the critically endangered **Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur** which was having a rest with all four legs draped over a branch. We found a mixed flock which held **Common Newtonia**, **Red-tailed**, **Blue & Pollen's Vangas** although the latter we only heard. We spent quite a bit of time looking for **Brown Mesite** and had them calling close at one point, but despite our local guide's efforts, we didn't get a view. As we waited for them we noticed a **Spectacled Tetraka** nest. Afterwards, we saw **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Madagascar Brush-Warbler** and **Tylas Vanga**. After a packed lunch at a rather scenic viewpoint where we saw the beautiful **Peacock Day Gecko**, we started back down. On the way our guides found us one of the best camouflaged animals in the world; the **Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko**, which hung upside down and looked just like a dead leaf. Our last new bird was the spectacular **Velvet Asity** and we had amazing scope views of a male's carruncles.

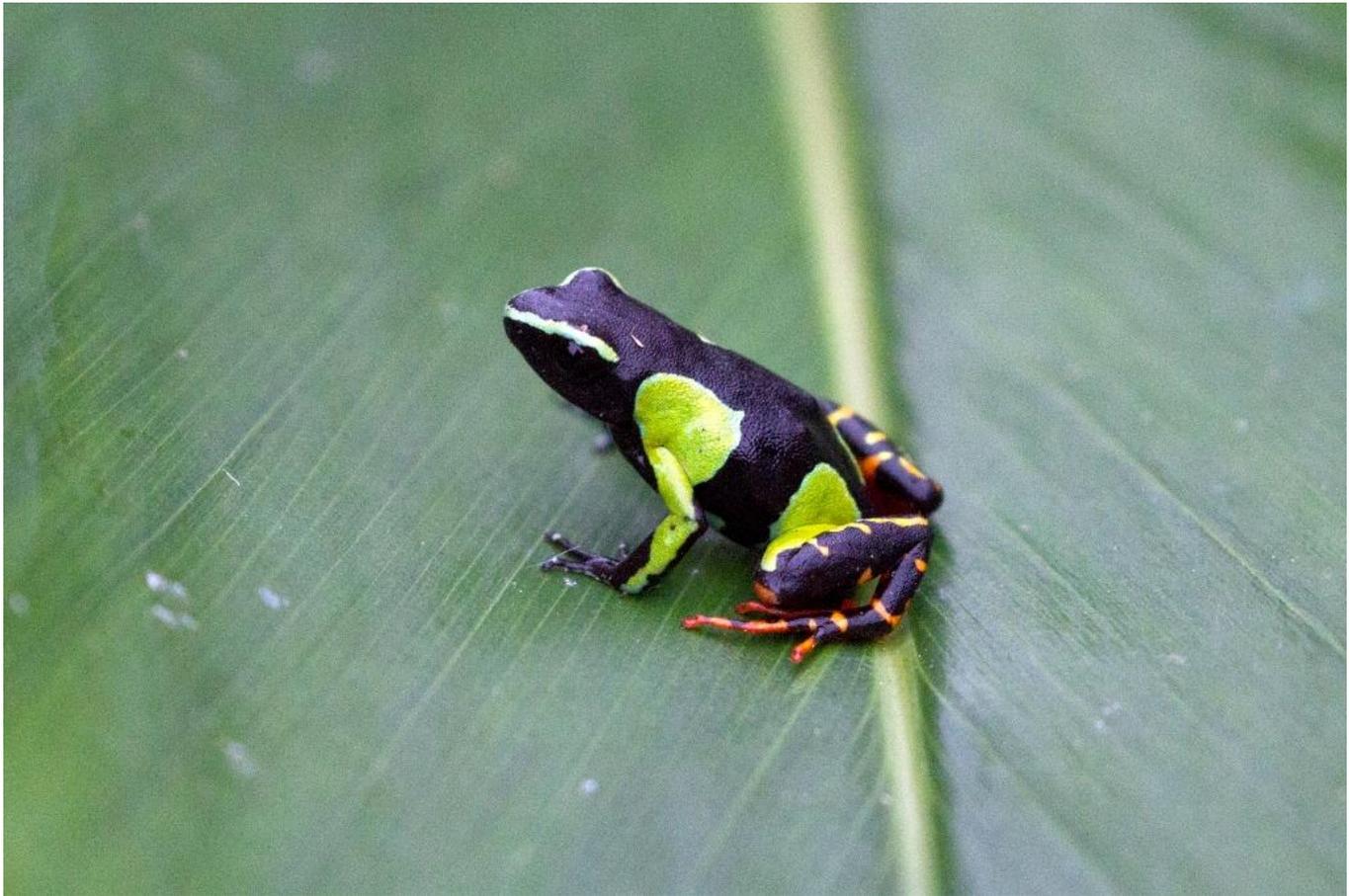
We all finally made it back to the bus, but it had been the most tiring hike of the tour. We had a relatively easy afternoon, visiting a marsh for 2 further endemics. After a short rest at the hotel we drove back up the road and had a **Madagascar Buzzard** soaring above the forest and also a **Purple Heron** in a rice field. The road to the marsh crossed a bridge but unfortunately people had stolen the metal support structure, which meant that it was unsafe to cross in a vehicle, so we had to walk there. We reached the spot for the endemic **Gray Emu-tail**, and as we waited, we heard our first **Madagascar Flufftail**, and saw **African Stonechat**, **Madagascar Coucal** and **Mascarene Martins**. The emutail finally showed up and we had good views of this tricky skulker. Next we walked to some ricefields, where the local people flush the endemic **Madagascar Snipe** for us. Walking back along the road we saw a **Broad-billed Roller** and many **Chabert Vangas** that seemed to be coming in to roost. We postponed our plans for a night walk until tomorrow after a tiring but productive day.



Endemics in flight: Madagascar Buzzard (above) & Madagascar Coucal (below).

16 November – Ranomafana NP

Having birded the lower trails at Ranomafana yesterday, today we were heading to the upper section known as Vohiparara. This higher elevation forest holds several species not found lower down. We were lucky and had some **Madagascar Starlings** on the way up which flew up off the side of the road and we relocated in a tree. We also saw a pair of **Madagascar Mannikins**. We started along the trail at Vohiparara, and as we climbed up along the ridge, we saw our first **Madagascar Blue Pigeon** in a tree. Higher up still, most people had a good view of a **Red-fronted Coua** which crossed the trail, and also got **Forest Rock-Thrush** in the scope. It was quite a tiring walk up, but we took it slowly and we finally made it to the top. Our target here was the **Yellow-bellied Asity** which is only found in these ridge-top forests. It is often quite a tricky species to find, but luckily our local guide knew where one was building a nest. We had great views of the female that diligently shuttled backwards and forwards with nesting material. We commented that the male might give her a hand, but he was conspicuous in his absence.



Our local guide knew just where to find us the Baron's Mantella.

Some of the group started heading back down, but those of us that still had some energy left, took another loop that produced one of the main targets here, the beautiful but secretive **Rufous-headed Ground Roller** as well a **Sunbird Asity**. We stopped to eat our packed lunches at the camp site before continuing down. On the way, we picked up another tough endemic, the **Wedge-tailed Jery**. It had been a slow morning's birding but we had picked up some big targets, and after driving back to the hotel, we had a well-deserved rest. In the late afternoon, we drove back up to Vohiparara. On the way we stopped to find **Forest Rock-Thrush** for those who had missed it earlier. We birded a little along the road but it was pretty quiet. The local guy did show us a **Baron's Mantella** which is surely one of the world's most beautiful frogs, and also the unique **Giraffe-necked Weevil**. After killing sufficient time, we started a night walk on which we saw Rufous Mouse Lemur, 6 species of chameleon (tiny to large) and a beautiful snake.

17 November – Ranamafana NP to Antsirabe

On our last morning of birding at Ranomafana, some of us birded the Vohiparara trail again to try and pick up some of the targets we were still missing. It was cool and overcast and there was a lot more activity than yesterday. We got off to a good start with views of **Long-billed Bernieria** and a **Gray-crowned Tetraka** nest right next to the trail. We were called back along the trail where the guide's assistant had found us our missing Lemur, the **Milne-Edward's Sifaka**. We set off but were called back yet again when we heard a **Pollen's Vanga** calling. It was a bit of a rush to get there but some people saw it before it flew off. Other flock members were more cooperative and we had good views of **Ashy Cuckooshrike**, **Tylas & Blue Vangas** and also a **Blue Coua** flew by. We continued our birding walk and had brief views of **Crossley's Vanga** which was calling and a nest building pair of **Velvet Asities**. We heard a tried for **Madagascar Flufftail** and tried unsuccessfully to call it in. Several birding groups had failed to see the **Madagascar Yellowbrow** but our efforts finally paid off and got great views of one of Madagascar's toughest endemics. We were happy with that as our final bird, things were starting to fall into place and next we finally found a vocalizing **Brown Emutail** and all had views. Our time was almost up, but we also managed to find the endemic **Cryptic Warbler** by the skin of our teeth, and it turned out to be an incredibly successful morning. We thanked our incredible local guides and drove to Antsirabe where we spent the night.



Tylas Vanga enjoying a tasty treat.

18 November – Antsirabe to Andasibe

Today was mainly a travel day, so we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast before driving to the town of Ambositra for lunch. This town is famous for handicrafts, especially inlaid wooden boxes. After a nice bit of retail therapy, we continued our drive, stopping at some rice fields to see **Hamerkop**. Close to Andasibe, we stopped at bridge where we scanned and found a pair of the breeding endemic **Madagascar Pratincole**. After another long driving day, we arrived at Andasibe for dinner and prepared ourselves for the next 3 full days of birding this amazing area.

19 November – Mantadia National Park

Today we had a day trip to Mantadia National Park. It wasn't so far but owing to the poor state of the road, it took an hour and a half to get there. We had a birding stop on the way to try for **Madagascar Rail**. The local guides knew just where to look for it and we managed to call it out across a clearing in a reed bed. Everybody had good views and we also saw a **Madagascar Coucal** in a tree above. Once the road entered the forest at Mantadia, we started walking slowly along it. The first bird we had was our first **Madagascar Sunbird**. The biggest targets of the day were the ground-rollers. These are normally very tricky birds to see, but the guides excelled in finding them and we were soon looking at a pair of **Scaly Ground-Rollers** at close quarters. The **Short-legged Ground-Roller** proved a little more difficult but the guides finally found a calling bird and lead us bush-whacking to great views of a single bird with what looked like a small *Brookesia* chameleon in its bill.



Two of Madagascar's top birds in one morning: Scaly Ground-Roller (left) & Short-legged Ground-Rollers (right).

As we explored the forest we picked up other targets, including **Nelicourvi Weaver**, **Malagasy Kingfisher**, **Sunbird Asity** and a rather shy pair of **Dark Newtonias**. Before lunch we walked up to the lake, where we saw our target **Meller's Duck** and **Madagascar Grebe** sat on a nest. We also had some **Malagasy Spinetails** flying around, **Madagascar Swamp-Warbler** by the edge of the lake, and **Ward's Flycatcher**, **Madagascar Starling** and **Broad-billed Roller** perched up in the trees. After a nice picnic lunch in the shade, we started the drive back, during which we had our first good views of **Blue Coua**. Before going back to the hotel, we had one more treat in store, a day roost of **Madagascar Long-eared Owl**. We rested back at the hotel for the rest of the afternoon before taking a night walk along the road, on which we had good views of **Eastern Woolly-Lemur**, and brief views of **Goodman's Mouse Lemur** and **Crossley's Dwarf-Lemur**. We also had interesting species of chameleon, frog, snakes. We tried for **Malagasy Scops-Owl** but they wouldn't come in. Hopefully we would find them of a day roost tomorrow.

20 November – Analamazaotra Special Reserve

Despite our great day at Mantadia yesterday, we still had a long list of targets to look for. Today we were visiting the Analamazaotra Special Reserve, just 5 minutes from the hotel and not the long bumpy ride we had yesterday. We got off to a great start when our guide spotted a family of **Eastern Bamboo Lemurs** on the way to the reserve. After buying our tickets, we set off on the trails. The guides had a stake out for the normally tricky **Madagascar Flufftail**. Some people had missed it yesterday, but we all had great views of a male today, and as soon as we had seen it, we were taken to a day roost of a **Malagasy Scops-Owl** nearby. We carried on, and when we stopped to try and call out a bird, one of the participants, Keelin, spotted a **Madagascar Ibis** stood in the middle of the trail. It stayed for a few seconds, just long enough for everybody to get a good look. We came to a clearing by an old fish farm, where we scanned with the scope to find a **Madagascar Cuckoo**, **Crested Drongo**, plus **Rand's Warbler** and **Stripe-throated Jery** doing their weird interspecies duetting. As we carried on, we added some male **Red Fodies**, lit up like Christmas lights, plus **Madagascar Cisticola**, **African Stonechat** and **Madagascar Coucal**.



Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher is a gem of Madagascar's rainforests.

Another one of our biggest targets was the **Red-breasted Coua**, which is probably the toughest member of this group to see. It was calling nearby but deep in the forest up the slope. One of our guides went in to look for it and soon gave a signal that he had found it. After a bit of pre-requisite bush-whacking, we got to the spot and spent a while trying to find windows through thick forest to scope the well-buried bird. We all had a look but they were tough views. The guides went around behind the bird and in true Malagasy fashion, encouraged it to walk our way. These views were exceptional. We continued to the upper section where we were shown **Indri** and **Diademed Sifaka**, the main mammal targets of the reserve. We also tracked down the unique **Nuthatch-Vanga**, several groups of **Madagascar Wood-Rails** and a **Cuckoo-Roller**. The cavalcade of great birds continued we a staked-out **Collared Nightjar** and a fantastic, close up **Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher**. On the way out we saw **Ashy Cuckooshrike**, **Nelicourvi Weaver**, **Spectacled Tetraka** and **White-throated Oxylabes**. It had been a truly incredible morning's birding.

On the drive back for lunch, our eagle-eyed guide impressed us further by spotting a **Madagascar Green-Pigeon** buried in the canopy of a low fruiting tree. We stopped and had rare, eye-level views of what is a tricky species locally. Heading back out in the afternoon we spotted a **Striated Heron** and **Malagasy Kingfisher** in a flooded rice field on the way back to the reserve. The afternoon birding was shorter and less productive although we had even better views of **Red-breasted Coua**, **White-throated Oxylabes** and even had a **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher** on a nest. As the park closed early, we rewarded ourselves with a bit of time off in the afternoon.



Red-breasted Coua enjoying a juicy frog.

21 November – VOIMMA Community Reserve

This morning we were exploring the Community reserve that is adjacent to the special reserve. On the way we stopped at a bridge where we had great views of **White-throated Rail**, while up in the trees we saw **Chabert Vanga**, had our best views of **Rand's Warbler** and flyovers of **Lesser Vasa-Parrot**. High up in a dead tree we had a **Madagascar Blue-Pigeon** in better light but unfortunately it flew off before we could get it in the scope. Unlike the last couple of days, it was blue skies which meant it heated up quickly and bird activity was a bit low. As we walked around the loop trail, we picked up **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Spectacled Tetraka**, and a nest-building **Nelicourvi Weaver**. Next, the guide discovered an active **Madagascar Ibis** nest. We had already had brief views of this enigmatic species, but now we were treated to close-up views of an adult on the nest. Straight after this we had a great mixed flock with **Crested Drongo**, **Red-tailed**, **Nuthatch**, **Blue & White-headed Vangas**. The latter new for many people in the group. Later we had another mixed flock including **Ashy Cuckooshrike** and **Tylas Vanga**. On the way out, we were shown a very cute, fluffy **Madagascar Long-eared Owl** and then the amazingly camouflaged **Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko**. After a long walk, we made it to the end of the loop and after one final bird, a soaring **Madagascar Buzzard**, we made it back to the parking lot and went back for lunch. Having cleaned up on targets so quickly, the group chose to relax in the afternoon. Some chose to head back to the community reserve for a night walk, which turned out to be very productive, especially for mammals. We had our best views of **Eastern Wooley Lemur**, **Goodman's Mouse Lemur** and **Crossley's Dwarf Lemur** plus our first **Common Tenrec**.

22 November – Andasibe to Tana

Having cleaned up on birds here, we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast before checking out and starting the drive back to Tana. We had one last activity planned on the main tour and that was a trip to a wonderful reptile park. Although the animals were captive, it gave us an opportunity to see some amazing reptiles and amphibians from all over Madagascar and we had some wonderful photo opportunities.



Panther Chameleon, Tomato Frog, Eastern Tree Boa (juvenile), Madagascar Big-eyed Gecko & Lined Leaf-tailed Gecko.

HELMET VANGA EXTENSION**23 November – Tana to Maroatsetra (but not quite)**

Today was the start of our Helmet Vanga Extension. After several changes in flight time, we finally managed to check in and board our small plane. We assumed that we were on our way, but due to a technical issue, the flight was eventually cancelled. Better safe than sorry. There were no more flights today, so the airline put us up in a local hotel where we relaxed for the day. Better luck tomorrow.



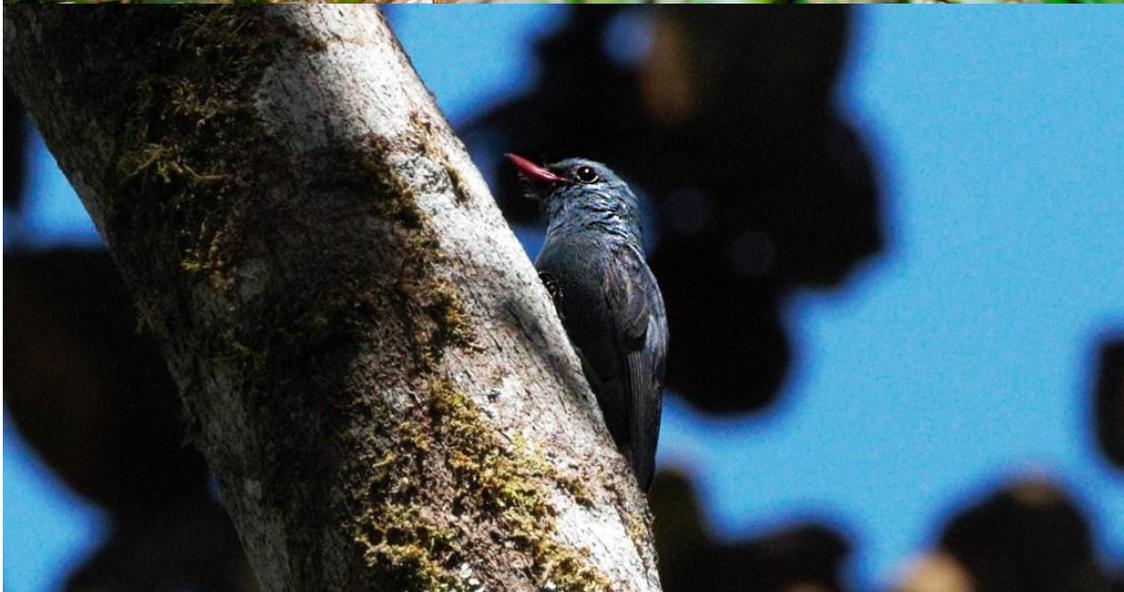
Madagascar Pratincoles breed on small rocky islets off the coast.

24 November – Tana to Masoala

Talk about De ja vue. It all looked very familiar. Again we checked in and boarded the plane. The technical problems seemed to have been sorted out and we had a scenic and safe journey to Maroansetra via the coastal town of Tamatave. After finally being reunited with our bags we were taken to the harbour where we boarded a boat for our 1 hour crossing to our idyllic lodge. After a quick orientation from the lodge managers we had a delicious lunch and some time for a welcome nap after our last 2 early starts. After some afternoon tea, we took a walk along one of the lodge's trails. It was warm and humid but we did see a few forest birds, including the **Long-billed Bernieria**, **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher** and the local dark form of **Spectacled Tetraka** which looked quite different from individuals further south, but we couldn't turn into a Dusky Tetraka. We had a new plated lizard and pandanus frog for the trip and walking back we also had a great view of a family of **Madagascar Pratincoles** plus **Lesser Crested & Roseate Terns** perched on rocks. On a night walk we were shown some **Panther Chameleons** and eyeshine in the top of the trees was probably **Masoala Woolly Lemur**. After our long trip and trouble getting here we were very happy to have arrived at this amazing location.

25 November – Masoala Peninsular

Today we started our search for the main target of our extension, the Helmet Vanga. Our local guide had located a nest yesterday so our chances were good. We had to take a boat to the start of the trail and on the way saw the same **Rock Pratincoles**, plus a big rock with **Lesser Crested, Greater Crested & Roseate Terns** roosting on it. After a wet landing we set off along the trail which was steep at first but then levelled out. In the forest, in the forest we had an understory flock with **Spectacled Tetraka & Long-billed Bernierias**, plus some other common birds like **Madagascar Bulbul** and **Madagascar Magpie Robin**. We climbed higher, then found 2 young **Brown Mesites** which walked within a few feet of us. We also had the prickly little **Lowland Streaked Tenrec** which scurried across the forest floor. A little further on we got to the **Helmet Vanga** nest. The bird didn't disappoint and we had great views of one of the most comical birds in the world. More difficult would be our other target, **Bernier's Vanga**. It often joined mixed species flocks with other vangas, so we continued walking the trails in search of these. We found a couple of flocks, including **Nuthatch & White-headed Vangas** and **Ashy Cuckooshrike** but no sign of **Bernier's**. We did add one of our main mammal targets of the extension, the **Red-ruffed Lemur**.



Lowland Streaked Tenrec (above) & Nuthatch Vanga (below)

26 November – Masoala Peninsular

Today were after our last major target of the tour, Bernier's Vanga. Our local guide knew a spot for it which involved a canoe ride up river and a bit of a hike. We set off from the lodge walking until we reached a river, outh which formed the boundary with the national park. Here a boatman from the lodge was waiting with a study fibreglass *pirogue*. It was a wonderfully relaxing trip up the calm small river lined with primary forest. On the way we had **Madagascar Pratincole** and **Madagascar Green Pigeon** flying overhead and a **Rufous Vanga** perched calmly next to the water. We hoped we might see our target from the boat but this was not to be. We climbed up a bank and were lead along an old trail, past a **Crested Drongo** nest to an open area that had been cleared for cattle. Another birding group arrived at the same time and almost immediately we spotted a female **Bernier's Vanga**. It stayed long enough for us to get good views but despite our efforts we were unable to relocate any more. In the clearing we also saw **Madagascar Starling**, **Madagascar Buzzard**, **Madagascar Blue Pigeon**, **Malagasy Kingfisher**, **Chabert Vanga** and **Lesser Vasa Parrot**. We finally had to give up on finding a Bernier's Vanga but we had been happy with our views of the female and she is the coolest looking anyway. We were happy to get back to the lodge for lunch and spent a relaxing afternoon before heading out on out last night walk. We had better luck tonight and saw **Greater Dwarf Lemur**, a probably undescribed species of mouse lemur, a **Lowland Streaked Tenrec** and sleeping **Broad-billed Roller** and **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher**.



Chabert Vanga (above) & Malagasy Kingfisher (below)

27 November – Nosy Mangabe to Maroantsetra

Having found our targets on the Masoala Peninsular, we were heading back to Maroantsetra today. We had the opportunity to visit the interesting island of Nosy Mangabe on the way back. Although there were no real bird targets here, there were some cool reptiles and amphibians most easily found here. After our last idyllic breakfast on the sea deck, we bid farewell to our gracious hosts and crossed the bay. Before Nosy Mangabe, on one of the smaller islands, we were shown a large roost of **Madagascar Flying Foxes** where hundreds of these huge bats were hanging from the trees. We also saw a **Madagascar Buzzard** flying around hopefully. After landing on Nosy Mangabe, we walked on the flatter of the 2 trails and were shown the beautiful **Climbing Mantella** and our 3rd species of **Uroplatus**, the **Common Leaf-tailed Gecko**, which in the absence of many of its regular predators reaches high densities here. We saw a few common birds, like **Madagascar Bulbul**, **Souimanga Sunbird**, **Madagascar Coucal** and **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher** but only heard the **Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs** which we had seen earlier in the trip. After a nice picnic lunch we finished the last crossing to the pier where we were transferred to our hotel for the night.



Another amazing frog, the Climbing Mantella.

28-29 November – Maroantsetra to Tana

Some extra birding around Maroantsetra was cancelled as the forest we were to visit burnt down a few days prior. A sober reminder about the plight of Madagascar's wildlife. The ever-changing schedules of Air Madagascar complicated our departures a little, but we all finally made it back to Tana after an unforgettable trip.

BIRD LIST

Taxonomy follows eBird/Clements online checklist v2016.

Anatidae (Ducks & Geese)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Seen at Ankarafantsika, Belalanda & Masoala.

Meller's Duck *Anas melleri* **Endemic**

Endangered. A pair seen at Mantadia.

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*

Seen at Belalanda.

Bernier's Teal *Anas bernieri* **Endemic**

Endangered. Seen at Betsiboka.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse & Allies)

Madagascar Partridge *Magaroperdix madagascariensis* **Endemic**

Near-threatened. Seen at Isalo.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Seen at Belalanda.

Madagascar Grebe *Tachybaptus pelzelni* **Endemic**

Vulnerable Seen at Mantadia.

Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*

Near-threatened. Seen at Belalanda.

Phaethontidae (Tropicbirds)

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda*

Seen at Nosy Ve.

Ciconiidae (Storks)

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus madagascariensis* **Endemic subspecies**

Seen at Majunga.

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

Seventeen birds seen at Majunga.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)

Long-tailed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus*

Seen at Maroantsetra

Scopidae (Hamerkop)

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

Seen en route Ranomafana & Andasibe.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea firsas* **Endemic subspecies**

Seen at Betsiboka Delta, Majunga and on the way to Nosy Ve.

Humblot's Heron *Ardea humbloti* **Endemic**

Endangered. Seen at Ankarafantsika & Majunga.

Purple Heron Seen at Ankarafantsika & Majunga.	<i>Ardea purpurea madagascariensis</i>	Endemic subspecies
Great Egret Seen in numerous rice paddies throughout our tour.	<i>Ardea alba</i>	
Little (Dimorphic) Egret Commonly seen near water.	<i>Egretta garzetta dimorpha</i>	Regional endemic
Black Heron Seen at Ankarafantsika & Majunga.	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	
Cattle Egret Commonly seen in open areas.	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	
Squacco Heron Seen at Ankarafantsika, Majunga & Belalanda.	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	
Madagascar Pond Heron Seen at Majunga & Isalo.	<i>Ardeola idea</i>	Regional breeding endemic
Striated Heron Seen at Ankarafantsika, Majunga, Belalanda, Andasibe & Masoala.	<i>Butorides striata rutenbergi</i>	Endemic subspecies
Black-crowned Night-Heron Seen en route to Antsirabe,	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	
<u>Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)</u>		
Glossy Ibis Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	
Madagascan Ibis Near-threatened. Seen at Andasibe & by the guide at Masoala.	<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>	Endemic
(Malagasy) Sacred Ibis Endangered. Seen at Betsiboka.	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus bernieri</i>	Endemic subspecies
<u>Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)</u>		
Madagascar Harrier-Hawk Seen at Betsiboka & Ifaty.	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Aviceda madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Reunion (Malagasy) Harrier Vulnerable. Seen on the drive from Tana to Ankarafantsika.	<i>Circus maillardi macroceles</i>	Regional endemic
Frances's Goshawk Seen at Zombitse & by the guide at Masoala.	<i>Accipiter f. francesii</i>	Endemic subspecies
Madagascar Sparrowhawk Near-threatened. Seen at Ankarafantsika & Ifaty.	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Black (Yellow-billed) Kite Commonly seen throughout.	<i>Milvus migrans parasitus</i>	
Madagascar Fish-Eagle Critically endangered. Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Buzzard Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana, Andasibe & Masoala.	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>	Endemic
<u>Mesitornithidae (Mesites) - endemic family</u>		
White-breasted Mesite Vulnerable Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Mesitornis variegata</i>	Endemic

Brown Mesite Vulnerable Seen at Masoala & heard at Ranomafana.	<i>Mesitornis unicolor</i>	Endemic
Subdesert Mesite Vulnerable Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Monias benschi</i>	Endemic
<u>Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)</u>		
Madagascar Rail Seen on the way to Mantadia.	<i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
White-throated Rail Seen at Majunga & Andasibe. Heard at Isalo.	<i>Dryolimnas c. cuvieri</i>	Endemic subspecies
Baillon's Crake Seen at Belalanda.	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	
Eurasian Moorhen Seen at Belalanda & Mantadia.	<i>Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorhoa</i>	
<u>Sarothruridae (Flufftails)</u>		
Madagascar Wood-Rail Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Canirallus kioloides</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Flufftail Seen at Mantadia, Andasibe & heard at Ranomafana.	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>	Endemic
<u>Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)</u>		
Black-winged Stilt Seen at Belalanda.	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	
<u>Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)</u>		
Black-bellied Plover Seen at Belalanda.	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
Greater Sandplover Seen at Betsiboka & Belalanda.	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	
Kittlitz's Plover Seen at Belalanda, Ifaty & Tulear.	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	
Common Ringed Plover Seen at Betsiboka & Ifaty.	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	
Madagascar Plover Vulnerable. Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Charadrius thoracicus</i>	Endemic
Three-banded Plover Seen at Ankarafantsika & Belalanda.	<i>Charadrius tricollaris bifrontatus</i>	Endemic subspecies
White-fronted Plover Seen at Ifaty & Nosy Ve.	<i>Charadrius marginatus tenellus</i>	Endemic subspecies
<u>Rostratulidae (Sandpipers and Allies)</u>		
Greater Painted-Snipe Seen at Majunga.	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	
<u>Jacanidae (Jacanas)</u>		
Madagascar Jacana Seen at Ankarafantsika & Majunga.	<i>Actophilornis albinucha</i>	Endemic

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Seen at Betsiboka, Belanda & Nosy Ve.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Seen at Belanda & Nosy Ve.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Seen at Betsiboka, Belanda & Tulear.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Seen at Belanda & Nosy Ve.

Madagascar Snipe *Gallinago macrodactyla*

Vulnerable. Seen at Ranomafana.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Seen at Betsiboka.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen at Ankarafantsika, Betsiboka, Belanda & Masoala.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Seen at Betsiboka, Belanda & Tulear.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Seen at Betsiboka, Belanda & Tulear.

Endemic**Turnicidae (Buttonquail)****Madagascar Buttonquail** *Turnix nigricollis*

Seen at Ifaty, Tulear & Isalo.

Endemic**Dromadidae (Crab Plover)****Crab Plover** *Dromas ardeola*

Thirty birds seen in Nosy Ve.

Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)**Madagascar Pratincole** *Glareola ocularis*

Vulnerable. Seen crossing the Betsiboka river on the way to Ankarafantsika, at Mangoro & Masoala.

Endemic**Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)****Saunders's Tern** *Sternula saundersi*

Seen at Betsiboka on the way to Masoala.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Seen at Betsiboka.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii arideensis*

Seen at Masoala.

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

Seen at Nosy Ve & Masoala.

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*

Seen at Belanda, Nosy Ve & Masoala.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Introduced. Commonly seen in towns.

Madagascar Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia p. picturata*

Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty, Zombitse & Masoala.

Endemic subspecies

Namaqua Dove Seen at Ankarafantsika, Majunga, Belalanda, Ifaty & Isalo.	<i>Oena capensis aliena</i>	Endemic subspecies
Madagascar Green-Pigeon Seen at Ankarafantsika, Andasibe & Masoala.	<i>Treron australis xenius/australis</i>	Endemic subspecies
Madagascar Blue-Pigeon Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe & Masoala.	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>	Endemic

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

Crested Coua Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty & Zombitse	<i>Coua cristata</i>	Endemic
Verreaux's Coua Near-threatened. Seen at La Table.	<i>Coua verreauxi</i>	Endemic
Blue Coua Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe & Mantadia.	<i>Coua caerulea</i>	Endemic
Red-capped Coua Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Coua r. ruficeps</i>	Endemic
Green-capped Coua Seen at Ifaty & Tulear.	<i>Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps</i>	Endemic
Red-fronted Coua Seen at Ranomafana & heard at Andasibe.	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>	Endemic
Coquerel's Coua Seen at Ankarafantsika & Zombitse.	<i>Coua coquereli</i>	Endemic
Running Coua Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Coua cursor</i>	Endemic
Giant Coua Seen at Zombitse.	<i>Coua gigas</i>	Endemic
Red-breasted Coua Seen at Andasibe & heard at Masoala.	<i>Coua serriana</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Coucal Seen or heard at most sites.	<i>Centropus t. toulou</i>	Endemic subspecies
Madagascar Cuckoo Seen or heard at most sites	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	Breeding endemic

Strigidae (Owls)

Malagasy Scops-Owl Seen at Andasibe. Heard at Ranomafana & Masoala.	<i>Otus rutilus</i>	Endemic
Torotoroka Scops-Owl Seen at Ankarafantsika & Isalo.	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Long-eared Owl Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
White-browed Owl Seen at Isalo.	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>	Endemic

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and allies)

Collared Nightjar Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Gactornis enarratus</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Nightjar Seen at Ifaty, Tulear & Isalo. Heard at Tana, Ankarafantsika & Andasibe.	<i>Caprimulgus m. madagascariensis</i>	Endemic subspecies

Apodidae (Swifts)

Malagasy Spinetail *Zoonavena g. grandidieri* **Endemic subspecies**
 Seen at Ifaty, Zombitse, Mantadia & Masoala.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba willsi* **Endemic subspecies**
 Seen by one client at Ranomafana.

Madagascar Swift *Apus b. balstoni* **Endemic subspecies**
 Seen at Isalo, on the way to Nosy Ve & Ranomafana.

African Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus parvus gracilis* **Endemic subspecies**
 Seen at Ankarafantsika, Majunga, Isalo, Ranomafana & Masoala.

Leptosomidae (Cuckoo-Roller)

Cuckoo-Roller *Leptosomus discolor* **Regional endemic**
 Seen at Ankarafantsika, Zombitse, Mantadia & Andasibe. Heard at Ranomafana & Masoala.

Upupidae (Hoopoes)

Madagascar Hoopoe *Upupa marginata* **Endemic**
 Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty & Isalo.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

Malagasy Kingfisher *Corythornis v. vintsioides* **Endemic subspecies**
 Seen at Ankarafantsika, Mantadia, Andasibe & Masoala.

Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher *Corythornis madagascariensis* **Endemic**
 Seen at Andasibe.

Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

Madagascar Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus*
 Seen Ankarafantsika, Ifaty, Tulear & Isalo.

Coraciidae (Rollers)

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus g. glaucurus* **Breeding end. subspecies**
 Seen at Ankarafantsika, Zombitse, Isalo, Mantadia & Masoala.

Brachypteraciidae (Ground-Rollers) – endemic family

Short-legged Ground-Roller *Brachypteracias leptosomus* **Endemic**
 Vulnerable Seen at Mantadia.

Scaly Ground-Roller *Brachypteracias squamiger* **Endemic**
 Vulnerable. Seen at Mantadia.

Pitta-like Ground-Roller *Atelornis pittoides* **Endemic**
 Seen at Ranomafana.

Rufous-headed Ground-Roller *Atelornis crossleyi* **Endemic**
 Near-threatened..Seen at Ranomafana.

Long-tailed Ground-Roller *Uratelornis chimaera* **Endemic**
 Vulnerable. Seen at Ifaty.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

Madagascar Kestrel *Falco newtoni* **Regional endemic**
 Seen at many sites.

Banded Kestrel *Falco zoniventris* **Endemic**
 Seen at Ankarafantsika.

Peregrine Falcon Seen on the way to Nosy Ve.	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Endemic subspecies
<u>Psittacidae (Parrots)</u>		
Greater Vasa-Parrot Seen at Ankarafantsika & Ifaty. Heard at Mantadia.	<i>Coracopsis vasa v./drouhardi</i>	Endemic subspecies
Lesser Vasa-Parrot Seen at many sites.	<i>Coracopsis nigra n./libs</i>	Endemic subspecies
Grey-headed Lovebird Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty, Tulear & Zombitse.	<i>Agapornis canus</i>	Endemic
<u>Philepittidae (Asities) – endemic family</u>		
Velvet Asity Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>	Endemic
Schlegel's Asity Near-threatened. Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>	Endemic
Common Sunbird-Asity Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>	Endemic
Yellow-bellied Asity Vulnerable. Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Neodrepanis hypoxantha</i>	Endemic
<u>Vangidae (Vangas)</u>		
Archbold's Newtonia Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>	Endemic
Common Newtonia Seen or heard at all forest sites.	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>	Endemic
Dark Newtonia Seen at Mantadia. Heard at Ranomafana & Andasibe.	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>	Endemic
Tylas Vanga Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe.	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>	Endemic
Red-tailed Vanga Seen at Ifaty, Ranomafana & Andasibe. Heard at Zombitse, Mantadia & Masoala.	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Red-shouldered Vanga Vulnerable. Seen at La Table.	<i>Calicalicus rufocarpalis</i>	Endemic
Nuthatch Vanga Seen at Andasibe & Masoala.	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>	Endemic
Chabert Vanga Seen at Ifaty, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia & Masoala.	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>	Endemic
Crossley's Vanga Seen briefly at Ranomafana & heard at Masoala.	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>	Endemic
Blue Vanga Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana & Andasibe.	<i>Cyanolanius m. madagascarinus</i>	Endemic subspecies
Hook-billed Vanga Seen at Ankarafantsika. Heard at Ifaty, Mantadia & Andasibe.	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>	Endemic
Ward's Flycatcher Seen at Andasibe & Mantadia.	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>	Endemic
Rufous Vanga Seen at Ankarafantsika & Masoala. Heard at Zombitse & Ranomafana.	<i>Schetba rufa</i>	Endemic
Helmet Vanga Seen at Masoala.	<i>Euryceros prevostii</i>	Endemic

Bernier's Vanga Seen at Masoala.	<i>Oriolia bernieri</i>	Endemic
Sickle-billed Vanga Seen at Ankarafantsika & Ifaty.	<i>Falcolea palliata</i>	Endemic
White-headed Vanga Seen at Ankarafantsika, Andasibe & Masoala. Heard at Ranomafana.	<i>Artamella viridis</i>	Endemic
Pollen's Vanga Near-threatened Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>	Endemic
Lafresnaye's Vanga Seen at Ifaty & La Table.	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>	Endemic
Van Dam's Vanga Endangered. Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>	Endemic
<u>Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)</u>		
Ashy Cuckoo-shrike Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana, Andasibe & Masoala.	<i>Coracina c. cinerea</i>	Endemic subspecies
<u>Dicruridae (Drongos)</u>		
Crested Drongo Seen at almost all sites.	<i>Dicrurus f. forficatus</i>	Endemic subspecies
<u>Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)</u>		
Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher Seen at all forest sites.	<i>Terpsiphone m. mutata</i>	Endemic subspecies
<u>Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)</u>		
Pied Crow Widely seen in the dry west.	<i>Corvus albus</i>	
<u>Alaudidae (Larks)</u>		
Madagascar Lark Widely seen in the dry west.	<i>Miraфра hova</i>	Endemic
<u>Hirundinidae (Swallows)</u>		
Plain (Brown-throated) Martin Seen at Belalanda.	<i>Phedina palidicola cowani</i>	Regional endemic
Mascarene Martin Seen at many sites.	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	Regional endemic
<u>Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)</u>		
Madagascar Bulbul Seen at most sites.	<i>Hypsipetes m. madagascariensis</i>	Endemic subspecies
<u>Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers and Allies)</u>		
Madagascar Brush-Warbler Seen at Tana, Ranomafana, Andasibe & Mantadia.	<i>Nesillas t. typica</i>	Endemic subspecies
Subdesert Brush-Warbler Seen at Belalanda, Ifaty, La Table & Anakao.	<i>Nesillas lantzi</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Swamp-Warbler Seen at Belalanda & Mantadia. Heard at Ranomafana.	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>	Endemic

Locustellidae (Grassbirds and Allies)

Brown Emu-tail *Bradypterus brunneus* **Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana.

Gray Emu-tail *Amphilais seebohmi* **Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana.

Bernieridae (Malagasy Warblers) – endemic family

White-throated Oxylabes *Oxylabes madagascariensis* **Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe.

Long-billed Bernieria *Bernieria madagascariensis* **Endemic**

Seen at Ankarafantsika, Zombitse, Ranomafana. Andasibe-Mantadia & Masoala.

Cryptic Warbler *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi* **Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana.

Wedge-tailed Jery *Hartertula flavoviridis* **Endemic**

Near-threatened. Seen at Ranomafana

Thamnornis *Thamnornis chloropetoides* **Endemic**

Seen at Ifaty.

Yellow-browed Oxylabes *Crossleyia xanthophrys* **Endemic**

Near-threatened. Seen at Ranomafana.

Spectacled Tetraka *Xanthornix zosterops* **Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe & Masoala.

Appert's Tetraka *Xanthornix apperti* **Endemic**

Vulnerable. Seen at Zombitse.

Grey-crowned Tetraka *Xanthornix cinereiceps* **Endemic**

Near-threatened. Seen at Ranomafana.

Rand's Warbler *Randia pseudozosterops* **Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe.

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)

Common Jery *Neomixis tenella* **Endemic**

Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty & Zombitse. Heard at Ranomafana.

Green Jery *Neomixis viridis* **Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana & heard at Andasibe-Mantadia.

Stripe-throated Jery *Neomixis striatigula* **Endemic**

Seen at Ifaty, Zombitse, Ranomafana & Andasibe.

Madagascar Cisticola *Cisticola cherina* **Regional endemic**

Seen at Majunga, Belalanda, Nosy Ve, Isalo & Andasibe.

Zosteropidae (White-eyes)

Madagascar White-eye *Zosterops maderaspatanus* **Regional endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia & Masoala.

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

Madagascar Magpie-Robin *Copsychus albospecularis* **Endemic**

Seen at all forest sites.

Forest Rock-Thrush *Monticola s. sharpei* **Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana.

Littoral Rock-Thrush *Monticola imerina* **Endemic**

Seen at Anakao.

African Stonechat*Saxicola torquatus sibilla***Endemic subspecies.**

Seen on the drive between Tana & Ankarafantsika, Isalo, Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia.

Sturnidae (Starlings)**Common Myna***Acridotheres tristis*

Introduced. Commonly seen throughout.

Madagascar Starling*Saroglossa aurata***Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana, Mantadia & Masoala.

Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)**Souimanga Sunbird***Cinnyris souimanga s./apolis***Endemic subspecies**

Seen at most sites.

Madagascar Sunbird*Cinnyris n. notatus***Endemic subspecies**

Seen at Mantadia.

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)**Madagascar Wagtail***Motacilla flaviventris***Endemic**

Seen at Tana, Isalo, Anja, Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia.

Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)**Nelicourvi Weaver***Ploceus nelicourvi***Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia & Masoala.

Sakalava Weaver*Ploceus sakalava***Endemic**

Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty & Tulear.

Red Fody*Foudia madagascariensis***Regional endemic**

Seen at many sites

Forest Fody*Foudia omissa***Endemic**

Seen at Ranomafana.

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)**Madagascar Mannikin***Lonchura nana***Endemic**

Seen at Majunga, Ifaty, Isalo, Ranomafana & Andasibe.

MAMMAL LIST

Mammal Taxonomy follows Mammals of Madagascar (2007) by Nick Garbutt.

Cheirogaleidae (Mouse & Dwarf Lemurs)

Grey-brown Mouse Lemur Seen at Ifaty & Tulear.	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>	Endemic
Rufous Mouse Lemur Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>	Endemic
Golden-brown Mouse Lemur Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Microcebus</i>	Endemic
Goodman's Mouse Lemur Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>	Endemic
Mouse lemur sp The mouse lemur seen at Masoala was previously considered to be <i>M. rufus</i> but is now thought to be an undescribed species.	<i>Microcebus sp</i>	Endemic
Crossley's Dwarf Lemur Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Cheirogaleus crossleyi</i>	Endemic
Greater Dwarf Lemur Seen at Masoala.	<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>	Endemic
Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>	Endemic

Lepilemuridae (Sportive Lemurs)

Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemur Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>	Endemic
Zombitse Sportive Lemur Seen at Zombitse.	<i>Lepilemur hubbardi</i>	Endemic
Petter's Sportive Lemur The species seen at Ifaty is probably.	<i>Lepilemur petteri</i>	Endemic

Lemuridae (True Lemurs)

Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur Vulnerable. Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>	Endemic
Golden Bamboo Lemur Critically endangered. Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>	Endemic
Ring-tailed Lemur Near-threatened Seen at Anja.	<i>Lemur catta</i>	Endemic
Common Brown Lemur Near-threatened Seen at Ankarafantsika, Zombitse & Andasibe.	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>	Endemic
Red-fronted Brown Lemur Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Eulemur rufus</i>	Endemic
Red-bellied Lemur Vulnerable Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>	Endemic
Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur Critically endangered. Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia. Heard on Nosy Mangabe.	<i>Varecia variegata</i>	Endemic
Red Ruffed Lemur Critically endangered. Seen at Masoala.	<i>Varecia rubra</i>	Endemic

Indridae (Woolly Lemurs, Sifakas & Indri)

Masoala Woolly Lemur Seen distantly at Masoala.	<i>Avahi mooreorum</i>	Endemic
Eastern Woolly Lemur Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Avahi laniger</i>	Endemic
Western Woolly Lemur Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Avahi occidentalis</i>	Endemic
Peyrieras' woolly lemur Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Avahi peyrierasi</i>	Endemic
Verreaux's Sifaka Vulnerable. Seen at Zombitse.	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>	Endemic
Coquerel's Sifaka Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>	Endemic
Diademed Sifaka Endangered. Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>	Endemic
Milne-Edwards Sifaka Endangered. Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>	Endemic
Indri Endangered. Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia.	<i>Indri Indri</i>	Endemic

Eupleridae (Malagasy Carnivores)

Ring-tailed Mongoose Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Galidia elegans</i>	Endemic
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Pteropodidae (Fruit Bats)

Madagascar Flying Fox Seen near Nosy Ve.	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>	Endemic
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Hipposideridae (Old World Leaf-nosed Bats)

Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat Seen at Isalo.	<i>Hipposideros commersoni</i>	Endemic
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Tenrecidae (Tenrecs)

Common Tenrec Seen at Andasibe	<i>Tenrec ecaudatus</i>	Endemic
Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>	Endemic
Lowland Streaked Tenrec Seen at Masoala.	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>	Endemic

Nesomyidae (African Rodents)

Eastern Red Forest Rat Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe.	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>	Endemic
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REPTILE LIST

Taxonomy follows A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Madagascar: 3rd Edition (2007) by F. Glaw and M. Vences.

Testudinidae**Spider Tortoise**

Endemic. Seen at Ifaty.

Pyxis arachnoides

Endemic

Yellow-bellied Mud-Turtle

Seen at Ankarafantsika.

Pelusios castanoides

Chamaeleonidae**Elongate Ancient Leaf Chameleon**

Vulnerable Seen at Ranomafana.

Palleon nasus

Endemic

Leaf Chameleon

Seen at Anja.

Brookesia brygooi

Endemic

Domergue's leaf Chameleon

Seen at Ranomafana.

Brookesia thieli

Endemic

Short-horned Chameleon

Seen at Andasibe.

Calumma brevicornis

Endemic

Big Nose Chameleon

Seen at Ranomafana.

Calumma nasuta

Endemic

Band-bellied Chameleon

Seen at Ranomafana.

Calumma gastrotaenia

Endemic

Parson's Giant Chameleon

Seen at Andasibe.

Calumma parsoni

Endemic

O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon

Vulnerable Seen at Ranomafana.

Calumma oshaughnessyi

Endemic

Cryptic Chameleon

Seen at Ranomafana.

Calumma crypticum

Endemic

White-lined Chameleon

Seen at Ifaty & Tulear.

Furcifer antimena

Endemic

Oustalet's Chameleon

Seen at Ankarafantsika & Anja.

Furcifer oustaleti

Endemic

Warty Chameleon

Seen at Tulear.

Furcifer verrucosus

Endemic

Panther Chameleon

Seen at Masoala.

Furcifer pardalis

Endemic

Opluridae**Three-eyed Lizard**

Seen at Ifaty, Nosy Ve & Zombitse.

Chalarodon madagascariensis

Endemic

Cuvier's Madagascar Swift

Seen at Ankarafantsika.

Oplurus cuvieri

Regional endemic

Merrem's Madagascar Swift

Seen at Ifaty.

Oplurus cyclurus

Endemic

Dumeril's Madagascar Swift

Seen at Isalo.

Oplurus quadrimaculatus

Endemic

Gekkonidae**Madagascar Ground Gecko**

Seen at Ifaty.

Paroedura pictus

Endemic

Common Leaf-tailed Gecko Seen on Nosy Mangabe.	<i>Uroplatus fimbriatus</i>	Endemic
Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>	Endemic
Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>	Endemic
Sakalava's Madagascar Velvet Gecko Seen at Ifaty.	<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>	Endemic
Common House Gecko Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty & Tulear.	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	
Fish Scale Gecko Seen at Masoala.	<i>Geckolepis maculata</i>	Endemic
Koch's Day Gecko Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Phelsuma kochi</i>	Endemic
Standing's Day Gecko Vulnerable. Seen at Ifaty & Zombitse.	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>	Endemic
Thicktail Day Gecko Seen at Ifaty & Tulear.	<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>	Endemic
Lined Day Gecko Seen at Mantadia, Andasibe & Masoala.	<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>	Endemic
Peacock Day Gecko Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>	Endemic
Speckled Day Gecko Seen at Nosy Mangabe.	<i>Phelsuma guttata</i>	Endemic
<u>Gerrhosauridae</u>		
Malagasy Keeled Plated Lizard Seen at Ifaty & Zombitse.	<i>Trachelyptichus madagascarensis</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Plated Lizard Seen at Mantadia, Andasibe & Masoala.	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Plated Lizard sp. Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>	Endemic
Plated Lizard sp. Seen at Masoala.	<i>Zonosaurus brygooi</i>	Endemic
<u>Scincidae</u>		
Elegant Skink Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Trachylepis elegans</i>	Endemic
Skink sp. Seen briefly crossing a trail at Ranomafana.	<i>Amphiglossus sp.</i>	
<u>Boidae</u>		
Eastern Madagascar Tree Boa Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Ground Boa Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Acrantophis madagascariensis</i>	
<u>Colubridae</u>		
Madagascar Cat-eyed Snake Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Madagascarophis colubrinus</i>	Endemic

Giant Hognose Snake Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Leioheterodon madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Blonde Hognose Snake Seen at Ankarafantsika.	<i>Leioheterodon modestus</i>	Endemic
Gold-collared Snake Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Liophidium rhodogaster</i>	Endemic
Striped Madagascar Garter Snake Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Thamnophis lateralis</i>	Endemic
Trail Madagascar Garter Snake Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Thamnophis epistebes</i>	Endemic
Forest Madagascar Garter Snake Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Thamnophis infrasignatus</i>	Endemic
Bernier's Striped Snake Seen at	<i>Dromicodryas bernieri</i>	Endemic
Mahafaly Sand Snake Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty.	<i>Mimophis mahfalensis</i>	Endemic
Snake sp. Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Compsophis infralineatus</i>	Endemic

AMPHIBIAN LIST

Taxonomy follows A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Madagascar: 3rd Edition (2007) by F. Glaw and M. Vences.

Mantellidae

Madagascar Jumping Frog Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
Green Bright-eyed Frog Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Boophis viridis</i>	Endemic
Red-eyed Bright-eyed Frog Heard at Andasibe.	<i>Boophis luteus</i>	Endemic
White-lipped Bright-eyed Frog Seen at Masoala.	<i>Boophis albilabris</i>	Endemic
Tsarafidy Pandanus Frog Seen at Ranomafana.	<i>Guibermantis pulcher</i>	Endemic
Variable Pandanus Frog Seen at Andasibe.	<i>Guibermantis variabilis</i>	Endemic
Free Pandanus Frog Seen at Masoala.	<i>Guibermantis liber</i>	Endemic
Ivohimanita Madagascar Frog Seen at Mantadia.	<i>Mantidactylus majori</i>	Endemic
Madagascar Frog sp Seen at Nosy Mangabe.	<i>Mantidactylus biporus</i>	Endemic
Baron's Mantella Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia.	<i>Mantella baroni</i>	Endemic
Climbing Mantella Seen at Nosy Mangabe.	<i>Mantella laevigata</i>	Endemic
Baron's betsileanus Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia.	<i>Mantella betsileanus</i>	Endemic

BUTTERFLY LIST**Papilionidae****Mocker Swallowtail**

Seen at Mantadia.

*Papilio dardanus***Endemic subspecies****Cream-lined Swallowtail**

Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia.

*Papilio delalandei***Endemic****Citrus Swallowtail**

Seen at Ankarafantsika, Tulear & Ranomafana.

*Papilio demodocus***Banded Blue Swallowtail**

Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia.

*Papilio oribazus***Endemic****Spotted Blue Swallowtail**

Seen at Zombitse.

*Papilio epiphorbas***Regional endemic****Madagascar Swordtail**

Seen at Ankarafantsika

*Graphium evombar***Regional endemic****Madagascar Malachite Swallowtail** *Graphium cymus*

Seen at Masoala.

Endemic**Madagascar Giant Swallowtail**

Seen at Ifaty, Tulear & Zombitse.

*Pharmacophagus antenor***Endemic****Pieridae****Madagascar Migrant**

Seen at Ankarafantsika.

*Catopsilia thauruma***Endemic****Madagascar Orange Tip**

Seen at Ankarafantsika & Ifaty.

*Colotis evanthe***Regional endemic****Madagascar Purple Tip**

Seen at Ifaty & Tulear.

*Colotis zoe***Endemic****Madagascar Caper White**

Seen at Ifaty.

*Belenois helcida***Endemic****Madagascar Dotted Border**

Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe.

*Mylothris phileris***Endemic****Rionidae****Madagascar Metalmark**

Seen at Ranomafana.

*Saribia sp.***Endemic****Lycaenidae****[Lycaenid butterfly sp.]**

Seen at Ifaty.

*Hemiolaus cobaltina***Endemic****Nymphalidae****African Monarch**

Commonly seen throughout.

*Danaus chryssipus aegyptius***Indian Ocean Satyr**

Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe.

*Heteropsis sp.***Madagascar Commodore**

Seen at Andasibe.

*Junonia andrejama***Endemic****Blue Pansy**

Seen at Masoala.

*Junonia oenone epicielia***Endemic subspecies****Brilliant Blue**

Seen at Ifaty.

*Junonia rhadama***Regional endemic**

Clouded Mother-of-Pearl

Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia.

*Protogoniomorpha anacardii duprei***Common Joker**

Seen at Ankarafantsika.

*Byblia anvatarana***Madagascar Tree Nymph**

Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana & Masoala.

*Eunica madagascariensis***Endemic****[Acraea sp.]**

Seen at Ifaty & Tulear.

*Acraea ranavalona***Endemic****[Acraea sp.]**

Seen at Ifaty & Tulear.

*Acraea turna***Endemic**