TROPICAL BIRDING

MADAGASCAR:

THE WONDERS OF THE "8TH CONTINENT"

A Tropical Birding Custom Trip

October 15-31, 2019
Guide: Ken Behrens

All photos taken during this trip by Ken Behrens

TOUR SUMMARY

Madagascar has long been a core destination for Tropical Birding, and with the opening of a satellite office in the country several years ago, we further solidified our expertise in the "Eighth Continent." This custom trip followed an itinerary identical to that of our main set-departure tour, an itinerary that we have honed over the year to deliver both the maximum bird endemics and the most diverse overall experience, in just over two weeks. Although we made an effort to see as many endemic birds and other animals as possible, we took quite a bit of time off, had one or two relaxed days, and did some shopping. The limited number of targets in Madagascar means that with good planning, it is possible to assemble a great list without exhausting yourself, especially on a custom tour for a group of people with shared goals.

Although this trip had a definite bird bias, it was also a general natural history tour. We took our time in observing and photographing whatever we could find, from lemurs to chameleons to bizarre invertebrates. Madagascar is rich in wonderful birds, and we enjoyed these to the fullest. But its mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects are just as wondrous and accessible, and a trip that ignored them would be sorely missing out. We also took time to enjoy the cultural riches of Madagascar: the small villages full of shyly waving children, the zebu carts which seem straight

out of the Middle Ages, and the ingeniously engineered rice paddies. If you want to come to Madagascar and see it all… come with Tropical Birding!

The birding was great; we recorded 166 species, including virtually all of the endemics and other specialties possible on our route. As usual, the highlight was seeing four of the incredible ground-rollers, from the roadrunner-like Long-tailed of the spiny forest to the wonderful rainforest-dwelling Scaly. Another of the trip highlights was seeing a big and beautiful Helmet Vanga sitting on a nest, at point-blank range. There was a strong supporting cast of other vangas, including the range-restricted Red-shouldered, anpitta-like Crossley's, huge Sickle-billed, and two of the scarce *Xenopirostris* vangas: Pollen's and Lafresnaye's. As normal, the couas were also favorites. From the shy and beautiful Red-breasted of the eastern rainforest to the huge Giant Coua of the dry western forest, to the elusive Verreaux's Coua of the southwest, we were looking for and at couas virtually every day. The bizarre mesites form a Malagasy endemic family, and we had superb views of two of the three members of the family: Brown and Subdesert. Our views of Brown Mesite, at no farther than one meter away, were particularly memorable.

The highly localized Red-shouldered Vanga was only discovered in the 1990s!

The asities form yet another endemic family, and we saw half of its members: Velvet Asity and Common Sunbird-Asity. Unfortunately, Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asities seem to be getting rarer in recent years, and are disappearing from their normal haunts, so we missed this enigmatic species. The Malagasy "warblers" or "greenbuls" were recently found to constitute an endemic family, the Bernieridae. Most of these birds are not colorful, but there is

much to be enjoyed in their subtly different shapes and patterns and drastically different feeding strategies. In Zombitse we saw the highly localized and rare Appert's Tetraka, at Ranomafana the incredibly elusive Madagascar Yellowbrow, and at Andasibe, sightings of Cryptic Warbler at arm's length were thoroughly appreciated.

The colony of gorgeous Red-tailed Tropicbirds on Nosy Ve was much enjoyed and photographed as always, and a vagrant Sooty Gull was a surprising bonus. Madagascar Crested Ibis is one of the toughest birds on this tour, but this year we were treated to not one but two excellent sightings of pairs walking along the forest floor.

Superb views of a female Madagascar Flufftail were a rare treat. On the previous day, we had already enjoyed the more colorful and more frequently sighted male.

We had excellent views of Henst's Goshawk, Madagascar Sparrowhawk, and Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk, three of the island's most elusive raptors. Coastal sites held good shorebirding as normal, and we spotted Madagascar Plover, the endemic subspecies of Three-banded Plover, the scarce Lesser Sandplover, and the much-wanted Crab Plover, which makes up its own family. In the eastern rainforest, we enjoyed astoundingly good views of three tough rails: Madagascar Flufftail, Madagascar Rail, and Madagascar Wood-Rail. Owls and nightjars were well represented; we had great looks at Madagascar and Torotoroko Scops-Owls, White-browed Owl, Madagascar Long-eared Owl, and Collared Nightjar. Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfishers that

shot into view and perched in the open on several occasions were real crowd pleasers. The bright orange coloration of this tiny forest-dwelling kingfisher almost seems to glow in the dark forest interior.

Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher is a forest-dwelling, frog-eating gem of a 'fisher.

OK, the birding was great. But in Madagascar the birding is only part of the story. Of course, we run birding tours, and the birds have priority in some sense. However, one of the amazing things about tours to this island is that you can also see an astounding array of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, and other wildlife, without sacrificing a single bird. Sometimes birding tours see more mammals than do devoted "mammaling" tours!

Among an astounding array of bizarre and cool Malagasy creatures, the Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko still stands out. Check out that camouflage!

The "mammaling" on this tour was excellent. Overall, we recorded 23 mammals, most of which were lemurs, from the tiny mouse-lemurs up to Indri and Diademed Sifaka, the largest living species. Between were a captivating range of dwarf lemurs, spunky sportive lemurs, a variety of smaller "true lemurs", and the big and beautiful Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs. There were some great non-lemur mammals too, such as the cute little Lesser Hedgehog and Lowland Streaked Tenrecs and a Ring-tailed Vontsira (formerly known as "mongoose").

Despite very dry conditions, which are generally bad for herps, we recorded 29 species of reptiles. The chameleons alone showed great diversity; we saw 9 species, including the world's two largest chameleons. Geckos were appreciated as always, and perhaps best of all were the Sameiti and Mossy Leaf-tailed Geckos, some of the best-camouflaged animals on earth. The presence of iguanids or "swifts" on Madagascar is a

mysterious fact of biogeography, making us especially appreciate seeing a couple species of swifts (the lizards, not the birds!). The boas are another Malagasy biogeographic mystery, and seeing one was a serpentine highlight; we saw Eastern Madagascar Tree Boa, a gentle snake that always looks like it's smiling – as likely a snake as any to win the heart of a ophidiophobe! Another reptile highlight was seeing the rare and beautiful *Liopholidophis grandidieri*, and taking some of the first-ever photos of this beast in the wild. Madagascar is normally amphibian paradise, but the dry conditions this year were anathema to frogs, and the forests were unusually quiet. Nonetheless, we still recorded 12 species of frogs.

We were once again in full "butterfly mode" on this trip as well. We identified 44 species of butterflies, the majority of which were endemics. Some of the highlights included the massive Madagascar Giant Swallowtail, many sightings of the enigmatic Madagascar Metalmarks, the uncommon Merina Diadem, and Madagascar Malachite Swallowtail, just to name a few. Other prized invertebrate sightings included the famous Giraffe-necked Weevil.

Collared Nightjars occasionally roost side-by-side like this, making it look like they're attached at the hip! This "dinosaur nightjar" whose voice is still unknown is one of Madagascar's oddest birds.

TOP 5 TOUR SIGHTINGS AND EXPERIENCES

As voted by all the tour participants and Ken

1) **Helmet Vanga – 15 VOTES.** We were lucky with this bird, as local guides had recently discovered a nest in the remote Iaroka Forest. A rough drive and a long, though mostly flat, walk brought us face-to-face with this incredible vanga. Until a few years ago, seeing this bird required an expensive and time-consuming trip to the northeast of Madagascar. So being able to see it so well was a major bonus on our itinerary!

2) **Spiny Forest – 6 VOTES.** Of all of Madagascar's natural environments, this one is the strangest and most distinctive. It's very much like the set of some science fiction movie set on a bizarre alien planet. This landscape dominated by Baobabs, Octopus Trees, Euphorbias, Balsa, Moringa, Pachypodium, and Commiphora, is like nothing else on Earth. See the cover photo for a look at the spiny forest at sunset.

Madagascar Rail – 6 VOTES. This elusive bird is a beauty when seen well, but the reason why this came out as one of the highlights was the experience of seeing it. It started with a long walk through the countryside, offering an intimate look into the lives of people in remote villages. Once we arrived at the marsh, it took a major herding effort from a whole team of local people, who were spontaneously recruited, to coax the rail into view. After our initial views, and the restoration of peace to the marsh, the rail walked back into view on its own accord, allowing even better views!

3) **Nuthatch Vanga – 5 VOTES.** This is always a tough bird, so as a guide, I was delighted with the news that a nest had been discovered in the VOI community forest at Andasibe. We spent 10 minutes watching a male bird incubating the eggs, then saw the female creep up the tree and replace him. None of the frantic direction-giving and laser-pointing that usually accompanies getting a group onto this beautiful and distinctive little vanga!

4) **Tetrakas – 4 VOTES.** Although these birds aren't colorful, they are fascinatingly different in their shapes, sizes, and feeding strategies. And they're distinctively Malagasy in that they make up a genetically distinctive endemic family. Rand's and Cryptic Warblers are normally birds of the canopy, so seeing them at eye-level was a rare treat. And the scarce and elusive Gray-crowned Tetraka showed very well, with a whole flock of these pretty birds buzzing around us for a few minutes.

5) **Henst's Goshawk – 3 VOTES.** An epic bout of bush-whacking down a steep slope gave us wonderful views of a huge female. Photo to the right.

Rufous-headed Ground-Roller – 3 VOTES. After spending a full day in the forest and not even hearing this bird, it came as a delight and a relief to soak in excellent views late one afternoon in Ranomafana National Park. A great bird; one of the best 5 ground-rollers.

Pitta-like Ground-Roller – 3 VOTES. This is the most easily seen of the four rainforest ground-rollers, but that does nothing to take away from its beauty. What a bird; one of the best 5 ground-rollers!

Scaly Ground-Roller – 3 VOTES. This is generally a tricky bird, except when a nest is staked out. We had no such luck this year, and reports from other groups, who had missed this species, suggested that we were in for a tough time. Though it required an improvised stream crossing on an erstwhile "bridge" of fallen logs, and some nervous moments of tiptoeing into the forest, we came out with smiles on our faces after extended views of a Scaly. Perhaps the best Malagasy bird; definitely one of the best 5 ground-rollers!

Brown Mesite – 3 VOTES. Seeing this shy and scarce bird at just over arm's length in Ranomafana was a treat! Photo to the right.

ITINERARY

October 15	Arrival in Antananarivo.
October 16	Flight from Tana to Tulear. Drive to Ifaty.
October 17	Ifaty.
October 18	Ifaty to Tulear.
October 19	Boat trip to Nosy Ve and Anakao.
October 20	Tulear to Zombitse NP to Isalo.
October 21	Isalo to Ranomafana National Park.
October 22-24	Ranomafana National Park.
October 25	Ranomafana to Antsirabe.
October 26	Antsirabe to Andasibe.
October 27	Analamazoatra NP.
October 28	Mantadia NP.
October 29	Iaroka Community Forest.
October 30	Andasibe to Tana
October 31	Departure from Tana.

Seeing this immature Ward's Vanga at eye level was a rare treat; this is normally a species of the canopy.

PHOTO GALLERY

Follows tour's chronology

Handsome denizens of the spiny forest: White-headed Vanga (left) and Madagascar Sparrowhawk (right).

The sky over the spiny forest was patrolled by Madagascar Harrier-Hawks.

Thamnornis is the only Tetraka in the Spiny Forest. And it has the cache possessed by all single-name birds!

Verreaux's Coua showed exceptionally well on this trip.

A typical scene in the southwest, where oxcarts are still the main form of transportation.

The "Green-capped" Red-capped Coua. Perhaps better called "Brown-capped Coua".

Crab Plover on Nosy Ve. This cool shorebird with a nigh-heron-like bill makes up its own family.

A Warty Chameleon at Parc Anja in south-central Madagascar.

Seeing not one but TWO Ring-tailed Lemur mothers with twins was a rare treat.

Madagascar has loads of endemic bird subspecies, such as that of African Palm-Swift.

The discovery of Golden Bamboo Lemur inspired the creation of Ranomafana National Park.

Gray-crowned Tetraka (left) and Madagascar Blue Vanga female (right).

Green Jery is an inconspicuous though very common rainforest endemic.

In Ranomafana, we saw an undescribed species of dwarf-lemur, from the Crossley's complex.

White-throated Rail, a beautiful and fairly extroverted rail.

**We saw exceptionally large numbers of Madagascar Starlings on this tour.
It's sometimes hard to find just one, but not this year!**

Madagascar Cuckoo-Shrike, a common rainforest flock member.

Forest Rock-Thrush is usually in trees, but showed its rocky roots by perching on a concrete road barrier!

Young male Nuthatch Vanga (left) and Red-capped Coua (right).

We had great views of two "warblers" which are actually tetrakas: Cryptic Warbler (left) and Rand's Warbler (right).

In October, nearly all of the Madagascar Spinetails are in heavy molt.

This Madagascar Buzzard perched nicely at Mantadia National Park.

Madagascar (Green) Sunbird female (left) and Squacco Heron (right).

BIRD LIST

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow *The Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World v2019* (including updates through August 2019).

		Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)		
		White-faced Whistling-Duck	*Dendrocygna viduata*	
		Comb (Knob-billed) Duck	*Sarkidiornis melanotos*	
E	EN	**Meller's Duck**	***Anas melleri***	
		Red-billed Duck (Teal)	*Anas erythrorhyncha*	
		Hottentot Teal	*Anas hottentota*	
		Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)		
E		**Madagascar Partridge**	***Margaroperdix madagascarensis***	
		Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)		
NBM	NT	Lesser Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus minor*	
		Podicipedidae (Grebes)		
E	VU	**Madagascar (Little) Grebe**	***Tachybaptus pelzelnii***	
		Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)		
I		Rock Pigeon (Dove)	*Columba livia*	
RE / Essp		Madagascar Turtle-Dove	*Streptopelia p. picturata*	
Essp		Namaqua Dove	*Oena capensis aliena*	
E		Madagascar Green-Pigeon	*Treron australis*	
E		**Madagascar Blue-Pigeon**	***Alectroenas madagascariensis***	
		Mesitornithidae (Mesites)		
E	VU	**Brown Mesite**	***Mesitornis unicolor***	
E	VU	**Subdesert Mesite**	***Monias benschi***	
		Pteroclidae (Sandgrouse)		
E		**Madagascar Sandgrouse**	***Pterocles personatus***	
		Cuculidae (Cuckoos)		
E		**Crested Coua**	***Coua cristata***	
E	NT	**Verreaux's Coua**	***Coua verreauxi***	
E		**Blue Coua**	***Coua caerulea***	
E		**"Green-capped" Red-capped Coua**	***Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps***	
E		**Red-fronted Coua**	***Coua reynaudii***	
E		**Coquerel's Coua**	***Coua coquereli***	
E		**Running Coua**	***Coua cursor***	
E		**Giant Coua**	***Coua gigas***	
E		**Red-breasted Coua**	***Coua serriana***	
RE / Essp		Madagascar Coucal	*Centropus t. toulou*	
BE		**Madagascar (Lesser) Cuckoo**	***Cuculus rochii***	
		Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and allies)		
E		**Collared Nightjar**	***Gactornis enarratus***	
RE / Essp		Madagascar Nightjar	*Caprimulgus m. madagascariensis*	

		Apodidae (Swifts)		
RE / Essp		Malagasy Spinetail (Mad.Sp-Swift)	*Zoonavena g. grandidieri*	
Essp		Alpine Swift	*Apus melba willsi*	
RE / Essp		Madagascar (Black) Swift	*Apus b. balstoni*	
Essp		African Palm-Swift	*Cypsiurus parvus gracilis*	
		Sarothruridae (Flufftails)		
E		**Madagascar Wood-Rail**	***Canirallus kioloides***	
E		**Madagascar Flufftail**	***Sarothrura insularis***	
		Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)		
E	VU	**Madagascar Rail**	***Rallus madagascariensis***	
RE / Essp		White-throated Rail	*Dryolimnas c. cuvieri*	
		Eurasian Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorrhoa*	
		Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)		
		Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*	
		Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)		
NBM		Black-bellied (Grey) Plover	*Pluvialis squatarola*	
NBM		Lesser Sandplover	*Charadrius mongolus*	
NBM		Greater Sandplover	*Charadrius leschenaultii*	
		Kittlitz's Plover	*Charadrius pecuarius*	
NBM		Common Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*	
E	VU	**Madagascar Plover**	***Charadrius thoracicus***	
Essp		(Madagascar) Three-banded Plover	*Charadrius tricollaris bifrontatus*	
Essp		White-fronted Plover	*Charadrius marginatus tenellus*	
		Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)		
NBM		Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	
NBM		Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	
		Marsh Sandpiper	*Tringa stagnatilis*	
NBM		Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*	
NBM		Bar-tailed Godwit	*Limosa lapponica*	
NBM		Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*	
NBM		Curlew Sandpiper	*Calidris ferruginea*	
NBM		Sanderling	*Calidris alba*	
E	VU	**Madagascan Snipe**	***Gallinago macrodactyla***	
		Turnicidae (Buttonquail)		
E		**Madagascar Buttonquail**	***Turnix nigricollis***	
		Dromadidae (Crab Plover)		
NBM		Crab Plover	*Dromas ardeola*	
		Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)		
BE	VU	**Madagascar Pratincole**	***Glareola ocularis***	
		Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)		
		Sooty Gull	*Ichthyaetus hemprichii*	
		Great Crested (Swift) Tern	*Thalasseus bergii*	
NBM		Lesser Crested Tern	*Thalasseus bengalensis*	
		Phaethontidae (Tropicbirds)		
		Red-tailed Tropicbird	*Phaethon rubricauda*	

		Scopidae (Hamerkop)		
		Hamerkop	*Scopus umbretta*	
		Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)		
Essp		Gray Heron	*Ardea cinerea firasa*	
Essp		Purple Heron	*Ardea purpurea madagascariensis*	
		Great (White) Egret	*Ardea alba*	
REssp		Little (Dimorphic) Egret	*Egretta garzetta dimorpha*	
		Black Heron (Egret)	*Egretta ardesiaca*	
		Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	
		(Common) Squacco Heron	*Ardeola ralloides*	
BE	EN	Madagascar (Squacco) Pond-Heron	*Ardeola idae*	
Essp		Striated (Green-backed) Heron	*Butorides striata rutenbergi*	
		Black-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	
		Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)		
E	NT	**Madagascar (Crested) Ibis**	***Lophotibis cristata***	
		Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)		
E		**Madagascar Harrier-Hawk**	***Polyboroides radiatus***	
E		**Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk**	***Aviceda madagascariensis***	
RE / Essp		Frances's Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter f. francesiae*	
E	NT	**Madagascar Sparrowhawk**	***Accipiter madagascariensis***	
E	NT	**Henst's Goshawk**	***Accipiter henstii***	
NBM		Black (Yellow-billed) Kite	*Milvus migrans (parasitus)*	
E		**Madagascar Buzzard**	***Buteo brachypterus***	
		Strigidae (Owls)		
E		**Malagasy Scops-Owl**	***Otus rutilus***	
E		**Torotoroka Scops-Owl**	***Otus madagascariensis***	
E		**White-browed Owl**	***Ninox superciliaris***	
E		**Madagascar (Long-eared) Owl**	***Asio madagascariensis***	
		Leptosomidae (Cuckoo-Roller)		
RE		(Madagascar) Cuckoo-Roller	*Leptosomus discolor*	
		Upupidae (Hoopoes)		
E		**Madagascar Hoopoe**	***Upupa marginata***	
		Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)		
RE / Essp		Malagasy (Madagascar) Kingfisher	*Corythornis v. vintsioides*	
E		**Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher**	***Corythornis madagascariensis***	
		Meropidae (Bee-eaters)		
		Madagascar Bee-eater	*Merops superciliosus*	
		Coraciidae (Rollers)		
BEssp		Broad-billed Roller	*Eurystomus g. glaucurus*	
		Brachypteraciidae (Ground-Rollers)		
E	VU	**Short-legged Ground-Roller**	***Brachypteracias leptosomus***	H
E	VU	**Scaly Ground-Roller**	***Brachypteracias squamiger***	
E		**Pitta-like Ground-Roller**	***Atelornis pittoides***	
E	NT	**Rufous-headed Ground-Roller**	***Atelornis crossleyi***	
E	VU	**Long-tailed Ground-Roller**	***Uratelornis chimaera***	

		Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)		
RE		Madagascar Kestrel	*Falco newtoni*	
Essp		Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus radama*	
		Psittaculidae (Old World Parrots)		
RE / Essps		Greater Vasa-Parrot	*Coracopsis vasa v./drouhardi*	
RE / Essps		Lesser Vasa-Parrot	*Coracopsis nigra n./libs*	
E		**Grey-headed Lovebird**	***Agapornis canus***	
		Philepittidae (Asities)		
E		**Velvet Asity**	***Philepitta castanea***	
E		**Common Sunbird-Asity**	***Neodrepanis coruscans***	
		Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)		
E		**Madagascar Cuckooshrike**	***Coracina cinerea***	
		Vangidae (Vangas & Helmetshrikes)		
E		**Archbold's Newtonia**	***Newtonia archboldi***	
E		**Common Newtonia**	***Newtonia brunneicauda***	
E		**Dark Newtonia**	***Newtonia amphichroa***	
E		**Tylas Vanga**	***Tylas eduardi***	
E		**Red-tailed Vanga**	***Calicalicus madagascariensis***	
E	VU	**Red-shouldered Vanga**	***Calicalicus rufocarpalis***	
E		**Nuthatch-Vanga**	***Hypositta corallirostris***	
E		**Chabert Vanga**	***Leptopterus chabert***	
E		**Crossley's Vanga (Babbler)**	***Mystacornis crossleyi***	
RE / Essp		(Madagascar) Blue Vanga	*Cyanolanius m. madagascarinus*	
E		**Hook-billed Vanga**	***Vanga curvirostris***	
E		**Ward's Flycatcher (Vanga)**	***Pseudobias wardi***	
E		**Rufous Vanga**	***Schetba rufa***	
E	VU	**Helmet Vanga**	***Euryceros prevostii***	
E		**Sickle-billed Vanga**	***Falculea palliata***	
E		**White-headed Vanga**	***Artamella (Leptopterus) viridis***	
E	NT	**Pollen's Vanga**	***Xenopirostris polleni***	
E		**Lafresnaye's Vanga**	***Xenopirostris xenopirostris***	
		Dicruridae (Drongos)		
RE / Essp		Crested Drongo	*Dicrurus f. forficatus*	
		Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)		
RE / Essps		Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher	*Terpsiphone m. mutata*	
		Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)		
		Pied Crow	*Corvus albus*	
		Alaudidae (Larks)		
E		**Madagascar Lark**	***Mirafra hova***	
		Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)		
E		**Common Jery**	***Neomixis tenella***	
E		**Green Jery**	***Neomixis viridis***	
E		**Stripe-throated Jery**	***Neomixis striatigula***	
E		**"Subdesert" Stripe-throated Jery**	***Neomixis striatigula pallidior***	
RE		Madagascar Cisticola	*Cisticola cherina*	

		Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers and Allies)		
RE / Essps		Madagascar Brush-Warbler	*Nesillas t. typica*	
E		**Subdesert Brush-Warbler**	***Nesillas lantzi***	
E		**Madagascar Swamp-Warbler**	***Acrocephalus newtoni***	
		Locustellidae (Grassbirds and Allies)		
E		**Brown Emu-tail**	***Bradypterus brunneus***	
E		**Gray Emu-tail**	***Amphilais seebohmi***	
		Bernieridae (Malagasy Warblers)		
E		**White-throated Oxylabes**	***Oxylabes madagascariensis***	
E		**Long-billed Bernieria (Greenbul)**	***Bernieria madagascariensis***	
E		**Cryptic Warbler**	***Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi***	
E	NT	**Wedge-tailed Jery**	***Hartertula flavoviridis***	
E		**Thamnornis (Warbler)**	***Thamnornis chloropetoides***	
E	NT	**Yellow-browed Oxylabes**	***Crossleyia xanthophrys***	
E		**Spectacled Tetraka (Greenbul)**	***Xanthornixis zosterops***	
E	VU	**Appert's Tetraka (Greenbul)**	***Xanthornixis apperti***	
E	NT	**Grey-crowned Tetraka**	***Xanthornixis cinereiceps***	
E		**Rand's Warbler**	***Randia pseudozosterops***	
		Hirundinidae (Swallows)		
Essp		Plain (Brown-throated) Martin	*Riparia paludicola cowani*	
RE		Mascarene Martin	*Phedina borbonica*	
		Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)		
RE / Essp		Madagascar Bulbul	*Hypsipetes m. madagascariensis*	
		Zosteropidae (White-eyes)		
RE / Essp		Madagascar White-eye	*Zosterops maderaspatanus*	
		Sturnidae (Starlings)		
I		Common Myna	*Acridotheres tristis*	
E		**Madagascar Starling**	***Saroglossa aurata***	
		Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)		
E		**Madagascar Magpie-Robin**	***Copsychus albospecularis***	
E		**Forest Rock-Thrush**	***Monticola s. sharpei***	
E		**"Benson's" Forest Rock-Thrush**	***Monticola sharpei bensoni***	
E		**Littoral Rock-Thrush**	***Monticola imerina***	
Essps		African Stonechat	*Saxicola torquatus sibilla*	
		Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)		
RE / Essps		Souimanga Sunbird	*Cinnyris souimanga s./apolis*	
RE / Essp		Madagascar (Green) Sunbird	*Cinnyris n. notatus*	
		Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)		
E		**Nelicourvi Weaver**	***Ploceus nelicourvi***	
E		**Sakalava Weaver**	***Ploceus sakalava***	
RE		Red (Magagascar) Fody	*Foudia madagascariensis*	
E		**Forest Fody**	***Foudia omissa***	
		Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)		
E		**Madagascar Munia (Mannikin)**	***Lonchura nana***	

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

Key

E - Endemic
Essp - One endemic subspecies
Essps - Multiple Endemic subspecies
BE - Breeding endemic
BEssp - Breeding endemic subspecies
RE - Regional endemic
REssp - Regional endemic subspecies
NBM - Non-breeding migrant
I - Introduced

CR - Critically endangered
EN - Endangered
VU - Vulnerable
NT - Near-threatened

The remote Iaorka Forest, where we had incredible views of Helmet Vanga.

MAMMAL LIST

Taxonomy and nomenclature for lemurs follow Conservation International's *Lemurs of Madagascar* (2010) by Russell Mittermeier et al. For other mammals, taxonomy and nomenclature follow *Mammals of Madagascar* (2007) by Nick Garbutt.

	Cheirogaleidae (Mouse & Dwarf Lemurs)		
E	**Gray-brown Mouse Lemur**	***Microcebus griseorufus***	
E	**Rufous Mouse Lemur**	***Microcebus rufus***	
E	**Goodman's Mouse Lemur**	***Microcebus lehilahytsara***	
E	**Crossley's Dwarf Lemur**	***Cheirogaleus crossleyi***	
E	**Dwarf Lemur sp. (undescribed)**	***Cheirogaleus* sp.**	
	Lepilemuridae (Sportive Lemurs)		
E	**Zombitse Sportive Lemur**	***Lepilemur hubbardi***	
E	**Petter's Sportive Lemur**	***Lepilemur petteri***	
	Lemuridae (True Lemurs)		
E	**Eastern Lesser (Gray) Bamboo Lemur**	***Hapalemur griseus***	
E	**Golden Bamboo Lemur**	***Hapalemur aureus***	
E	**Ring-tailed Lemur**	***Lemur catta***	
E	**Common Brown Lemur**	***Eulemur fulvus***	H
E	**Red-fronted Brown Lemur**	***Eulemur rufus***	
E	**Red-bellied Lemur**	***Eulemur rubriventer***	
E	**Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur**	***Varecia variegata***	
	Indridae (Woolly Lemurs, Sifakas & Indri)		
E	**Verreaux's Sifaka**	***Propithecus verreauxi***	
E	**Diademed Sifaka**	***Propithecus edwardsi***	
E	**Milne-Edwards Sifaka**	***Propithecus diadema***	
E	**Indri**	***Indri Indri***	
	Eupleridae (Malagasy Carnivores)		
E	**Ring-tailed Vontsira (Mongoose)**	***Galidia elegans***	
	Tenrecidae (Tenrecs)		
E	**Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec**	***Echinops telfairi***	
E	**Lowland Streaked Tenrec**	***Hemicentetes semispinosus***	
	Nesomyidae (African Rodents)		
E	**Eastern Red Forest Rat**	***Nesomys rufus***	
	Muridae (Old World Rats & Mice)		
I	Black Rat	*Rattus rattus*	

E - Endemic
I - Introduced
H - Heard-only

REPTILE LIST

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow *A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Madagascar: Third Edition* (2007) by Frank Glaw and Miguel Vences, with some updates based on subsequent scientific papers.

		Chamaeleonidae	
E		**Brown Leaf Chameleon**	***Brookesia superciliaris***
E		**Short-horned Chameleon**	***Calumma brevicorne***
E		**Big Nose Chameleon**	***Calumma nasutum***
E		**Perinet (Band-bellied) Chameleon**	***Calumma gastrotaenia***
E		**Parson's (Giant) Chameleon**	***Calumma parsonii***
E		**O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon**	***Calumma oshaughnessyi***
E		**Cryptic (Blue-legged) Chameleon**	***Calumma crypticum***
E		**Oustalet's Chameleon**	***Furcifer oustaleti***
E		**Warty Chameleon**	***Furcifer verrucosus***
		Opluridae	
E		**Three-eyed Lizard**	***Chalarodon madagascariensis***
E		**Dumeril's Madagascar Swift**	***Oplurus quadrimaculatus***
		Gekkonidae	
E		**Sameiti Leaf-tailed Gecko**	***Uroplatus sameiti***
E		**Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko**	***Uroplatus sikorae***
E		**Sakalava Madagascar Velvet Gecko**	***Blaesodactylus sakalava***
		Common House Gecko	*Hemidactylus frenatus*
		Gray's Leaf-toed Gecko	*Hemidactylus mercatorius*
E	V	**Standing's Day Gecko**	***Phelsuma standingi***
E		**Thicktail Day Gecko**	***Phelsuma mutabilis***
E		**Lined Day Gecko**	***Phelsuma lineata***
E		**Peacock Day Gecko**	***Phelsuma quadriocellata***
		Gerrhosauridae	
E		**Malagasy Keeled Plated Lizard**	***Tracheloptychus madagascarensis***
RE		Madagascar Plated Lizard	*Zonosaurus madagascariensis*
		Scincidae	
E		**Gravenhorst's Skink**	***Trachylepis gravenhorstii***
E		**Elegant Skink**	***Trachylepis elegans***
E		**Amphiglossus Skink species**	***Amphiglossus sp.***
		Boidae	
E		**Eastern Madagascar Tree Boa**	***Sanzinia madagascariensis***
		Colubridae	
E		**Trail Madagascar Garter Snake**	***Thamnosophis epistibes***
E		**Bernier's Striped Snake**	***Dromicodryas bernieri***
E			***Liopholidophis grandidieri***

E - Endemic V - Vulnerable

AMPHIBIAN LIST

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow *A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Madagascar: Third Edition* (2007) by Frank Glaw and Miguel Vences, with some updates based on subsequent scientific papers.

	Hyperoliidae		
E	**Betsileo Reed Frog**	***Heterixalus betsileo***	
	Microhylidae		
E	**Stump-toed Frog**	***Stumpffia sp.***	H
	Mantellidae		
E	**Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog**	***Boophis madagascariensis***	
E	**Red-eyed Bright-eyed Frog**	***Boophis luteus***	H
E	**Green Bright-eyed Frog**	***Boophis viridis***	
E	**Tsarafidy Pandanus Frog**	***Guibermantis pulcher***	
E	**Rough Bridge Frog**	***Gephyromantis asper***	H
E	**Engraved Bridge Frog**	***Gephyromantis sculpturatus***	
E	**Enk's Bridge Frog**	***Gephyromantis enki***	H
E	**Tschenk's Bridge Frog**	***Gephyromantis tschenki***	H
E	**White-whiskered Madagascar Frog**	***Mantidactylus melanopleura***	
E	**Ivohimanita Madagascar Frog**	***Mantidactylus majori***	

E - Endemic
H - Heard-only

BUTTERFLY & MOTH LIST

	Papilionidae	
Essp	Mocker Swallowtail	*Papilio dardanus*
E	**Cream-lined Swallowtail**	***Papilio delalandei***
	Citrus Swallowtail	*Papilio demodocus*
E	**Banded Blue Swallowtail**	***Papilio oribazus***
RE	Spotted Blue Swallowtail	*Papilio epiphorbas*
E	**Madagascar Malachite Swallowtail**	***Graphium cyrnus***
E	**Madagascar Lady**	***Graphium endochus***
E	**Madagascar Giant Swallowtail**	***Pharmacophagus antenor***
	Pieridae	
	Grass Yellow sp.	*Eurema* sp.
RE	Madagascar Orange Tip	*Colotis evanthe*
E	**Madagascar Purple Tip**	***Colotis zoe***
E	**Giant Orange Tip**	***Colotis lucasi***
Essp	African Wood White	*Leptosia alcesta sylvicola*
E	**Madagascar Caper White**	***Belenois helcida***

E	**Grandidier's Caper White**	***Belenois grandidieri***
	Brown-veined White	*Belenois aurota aurota*
E	**Madagascar Dotted Border**	***Mylothris phileris***
Essp	Zebra White	*Pinacopteryx eriphia mabillei*
	Rionidae	
E	**Madagascar Metalmark**	***Saribia sp.***
	Lycanidae	
	Dark Grass Blue	*Zizeeria knysna*
	Hairstreak sp.	*Hemiolaus* sp.
	Nymphalidae	
	African Monarch	*Danaus chrysippus aegyptius*
E	**Rakoto Madagascar Satyr**	***Strabena rakoto***
E		***Strabena daphne***
E	**Vinson's Madagascar Satyr**	***Strabena vinsoni***
E	**Ankaratra Indian Ocean Satyr**	***Heteropsis ankaratra***
E	**Andasibe Indian Ocean Satyr**	***Heteropsis andasibe***
E	**Banded Commodore**	***Precis andremiaja***
E	**Gold-striped Commodore**	***Precis eurodoce***
RE	Madagascar Brown Pansy	*Junonia goudotii*
	Blue Pansy	*Junonia oenone epiclelia*
	Painted Lady	*Vanessa cardui*
	Clouded Mother-of-Pearl	*Protogoniomorpha anacardii duprei*
E	**Madagascar Diadem**	***Hypolimnas dexithea***
	Common Diadem	*Hypolimnas misippus*
Essp	African Map Butterfly	*Cyrestis camillus elegans*
E	**Merina Diadem**	***Pseudacraea imerina***
E	**Kikideli Sailer**	***Neptis kikideli***
	Spotted Sailer	*Neptis saclava*
E	**Madagascar Forest Glade Nymph**	***Aterica rabena***
E	**Ranavalona Acraea**	***Acraea ranavalona***
	Small Orange Acraea	***Acraea eponina***
E	**Masamba Acraea**	***Acraea masamba***
	Phalanta phalantha aethiopica	Common Leopard

E - Endemic
RE - Regional Endemic
Essp - Endemic subspecies

OTHER INVERTEBRATE LIST

	Golden Orb-web Spider	*Nephila sp.*
E	**Net-throwing Spider**	***Deinopis madagascariensis***
E	**Giraffe-necked Weevil**	***Trachelophorus giraffa***
E	**Scorpion**	***Opisthacanthus sp.***
E	**Madagascar Hissing Cochroach**	***Gromphadorhina portentosa***