



**TROPICAL
BIRDING**



**MADAGASCAR:
THE WONDERS OF THE
“8TH CONTINENT”**

A Tropical Birding Set Departure

**November 2—27, 2015
Guide: Ken Behrens**

All photos taken during this trip.

**All photos by Ken Behrens unless
noted otherwise.**

TOUR SUMMARY

Madagascar has long been a core destination for Tropical Birding, and with the recent opening of a satellite office in the country, we have further solidified our expertise in the “Eighth Continent.” This was another highly successful set-departure tour to this special island. It included both the Northwestern Endemics Pre-Trip at the start and the Helmet Vanga extension to the Masoala Peninsula at the end. Although Madagascar poses some logistical challenges, especially in the form of the national airline Air Madagascar, we had no problems on this tour, not even a single delayed flight! We stayed in the most comfortable hotels available at each stop on the itinerary, including a remarkably luxurious lodge on the remote Masoala Peninsula. Especially considering that Madagascar is one of the world’s poorest countries, the fine food and excellent lodging that you’re able to enjoy on a tour of the country are quite remarkable.

The birding was great, with 194 species recorded, including almost all of the island’s endemic birds, and every single endemic that was a viable possibility along our route. As usual,

the highlight was seeing all five of the incredible ground-rollers, from the roadrunner-like Long-tailed of the spiny forest to the wonderful rainforest-dwelling Scaly. There was a strong cast of vangas, including Helmet, Bernier's, and Sickle-billed. In fact, we saw every member of the family save the mysterious Red-tailed Newtonia which is only regularly seen in the far south. As normal, the couas were also a favorite. From the shy and beautiful Red-breasted of the eastern rainforest to the huge Giant Coua of the dry western forest, we were looking for and at couas virtually every day! The bizarre mesites form a Malagasy endemic family, and we had superb extended views of all three members of the family. The asities form yet another endemic family, and we saw all of its members including the Schlegel's Asity and the rare Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity, enjoying nesting pairs of both. The Malagasy warblers were recently found to constitute an endemic family, the Bernieridae. Most of these warblers are not colorful, but there is much to be enjoyed in their subtly different shapes and very different feeding strategies. We "swept" this family, save for the enigmatic Dusky Tetraka.



The colony of Red-tailed Tropicbirds on Nosy Ve is always a highlight.

The colony of gorgeous Red-tailed Tropicbirds on Nosy Ve was much enjoyed and photographed, as always. Madagascar Crested Ibis is one of the toughest birds on this tour, but this year we were treated to a couple of sightings in Perinet, then daily sightings, including that of a nest on the Masoala Peninsula. We had excellent perched views of Madagascar Sparrowhawk and Henst's Goshawk, plus a shockingly responsive displaying Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk, some of the island's most elusive raptors. Coastal sites held good shorebirding as normal, and we spotted both Lesser and Greater Sandpipers, Madagascar Plover, Terek Sandpiper, Crab Plover, and a surprise Little Stint. Owls and nightjars were well represented; we had daytime looks at both scops-owls, White-browed Owl, and Collared Nightjar (on a nest!). We had to work hard for Madagascar Long-eared Owl but were eventually treated to a sighting of a mostly white juvenile, a bird not depicted in any field guide!

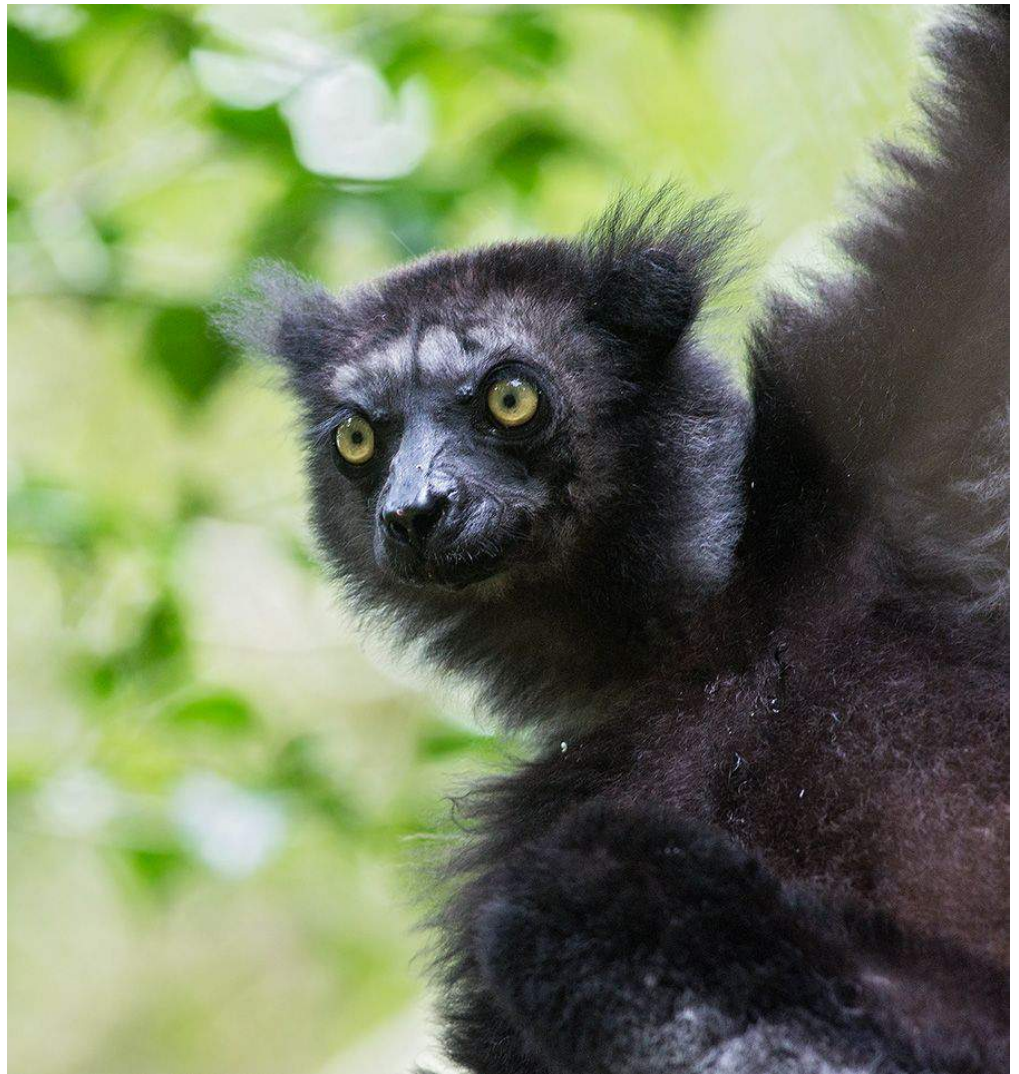


We had to work hard for Madagascar Crested Ibis, but everybody had good views in the end.

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!

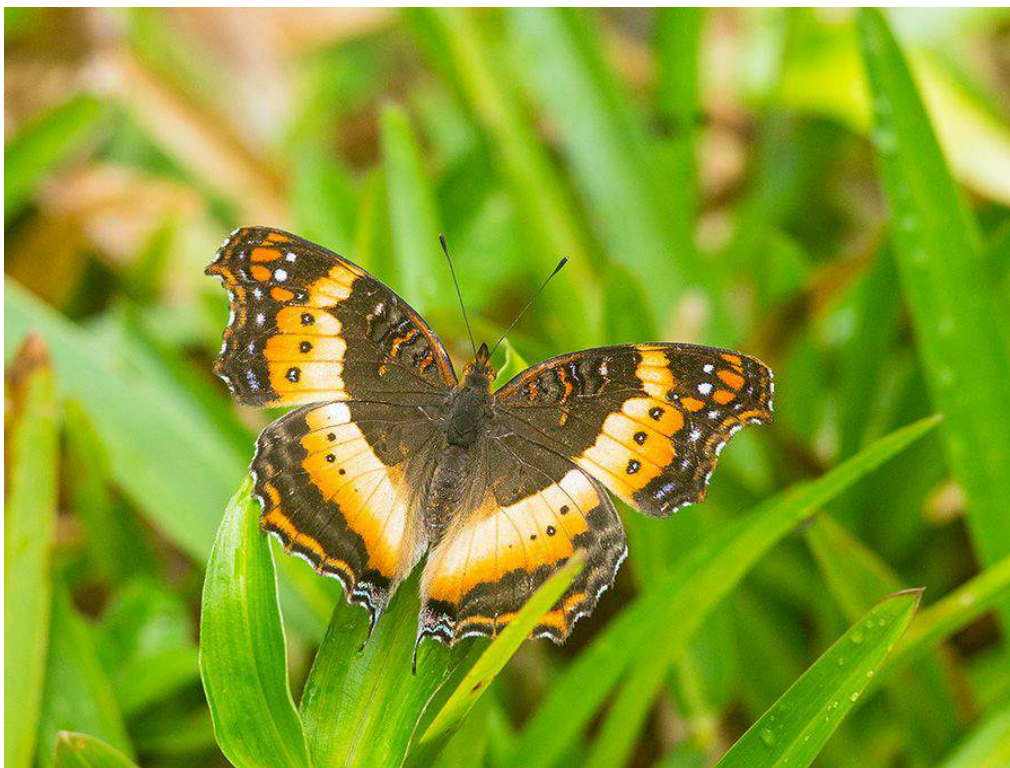
The “mammaling” on this tour was exceptional. Actually, the best sighting on our tour was a mammal, and not a bird: the bizarre and rarely seen aye-aye, which we observed at short range during an eventful night walk when we also spotted the extremely rare Sibree’s Dwarf Lemur. Overall, we recorded 48 mammals of which 34 were lemurs, from the tiny mouse-lemurs up to Indri, the largest living species. Between were a captivating range of dwarf lemurs, several



**Andasibe’s fabulous Indri is great to see, but even better to hear.
Its voice counts among the world’s great natural sounds.**

spunky sportive lemurs, a couple of tree-clinging woolly lemurs, a variety of brown lemurs, and both of the big and beautiful ruffed lemurs. There were some great non-lemur mammals too, such as the bizarre Lowland Streaked Tenrec and cute little Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec. An up-close encounter with a Commerson’s Leaf-nosed Bat, known as “8 noses” in Malagasy due to its odd multi-lobed face, was another mammal highlight, as was a sighting of a whole roost of Madagascar Flying Foxes, one of the world’s largest bats.

This was also an exceptional tour for reptiles and amphibians. We racked up 63 species of reptiles, which just breaks the tour record that we set last year. The chameleons alone showed incredible diversity; we saw 15 species, including the world's two largest chameleons, and one of its smallest. Geckos were spectacular. Best of all was the Giant Leaf-tailed Gecko, one of the most camouflaged animals on earth, but it had strong support from Pictured Big-headed Gecko, with eyes like the evil lord Sauron, and a bunch of beautiful blazing green day geckos. The presence of iguanids on Madagascar is a mysterious fact of biogeography, making us especially appreciate seeing six species of iguanas. Snakes were amazing too. In most countries, even those with high snake diversity, you can do a 3-week tour and see only one or two snakes. We notched up 10 species of snakes, seeing several individuals of many of these species. The boas are another Malagasy biogeographic mystery, and were also the serpentine highlight. We saw several gorgeous Madagascar tree boas. We identified 32 species of frogs, perhaps the highest total ever for a Madagascar birding trip. On one rainy night walk, we found several beautiful *Boophis* bright-eyed frogs in “full song” and also enjoyed an unforgettable experience with a tiny Goodman's Mouse Lemur.



Banded Commadore was just one of the 50 species of butterflies seen and identified on this tour.

Last but not least, we were in full “butterfly mode” on this trip as well. We identified 50 species of butterflies, the majority of which were endemics. Some of the highlights included the massive Madagascar Giant Swallowtail, the exquisite endemic Madagascar Diadem, a few sightings of the enigmatic Madagascar Metalmarks,

Madagascar Swordtail, and Madagascar Malachite Swallowtail, just to name a few. There was certainly never a dull moment on this tour!

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. If you want to come to Madagascar and see it all... come with Tropical Birding!



The Long-tailed Ground-Roller was seen incredibly well several times. This roadrunner-like member of the endemic ground-roller family is certainly one of Madagascar's best birds.

ITINERARY

November 2	Tana to Ankarafantsika National Park.
November 3	Ankarafantsika NP.
November 4	Ankarafantsika to Majunga.
November 5	Betsiboka Delta boat trip.
November 6	Majunga to Antananarivo.
November 7	Flight to Tulear. Drive to Ifaty.
November 8	Ifaty.
November 9	Ifaty to Tulear.
November 10	Boat trip to Nosy Ve and Anakao.
November 11	Tulear to Zombitse.
November 12	Zombitse National Park to Isalo.
November 13	Isalo to Anja Park to Ranomafana National Park.
November 14	Ranomafana National Park.
November 15	Ranomafana National Park.
November 16	Ranomafana to Antsirabe.
November 17	Antsirabe to Andasibe.
November 18	Mantadia NP.
November 19	Andasibe.
November 20	Andasibe.
November 21	Andasibe to Antananarivo.
November 22	Tana to Masoala National Park.
November 23	Masoala National Park.
November 24	Masoala National Park.
November 25	Masoala National Park.
November 26	Masoala to Maroantsetra.
November 27	Maroantsetra to Antananarivo.

NORTHWESTERN ENDEMICS PRE-TRIP

MAIN TOUR

HELMET VANGA EXTENSION



Brown Leaf Chameleon, like a tiny dinosaur! Ranomafana NP.

PHOTO GALLERY

Follows tour's chronology



Madagascar Fish Eagle (left) and Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat (right; by John Wilkinson), two highlights at Ankarafantsika NP.



Golden-brown Mouse Lemur is endemic to one protected forest: Ankarafantsika.



We had a pair of nest-building Schlegel's Asities. This is the male. Photo by John Wilkinson.



The crow-sized Sickie-billed Vanga putting its mighty bill to work.



A male Frances's Sparrowhawk (left) and a Crested Coua (right) were near the Ankarafantsika headquarters.



We spent an hour watching (and photographing) a Madagascar Hoopoe bringing food to its nest.



The Madagascar Magpie-Robin, a clear biogeographic link between Madagascar and Asia.



Male Madagascar Blue Vanga never gets old!



Bernier's Teal is one of the main reasons to make a boat trip on the Betsiboka Delta.



Tree-hugging Crowned Sifaka north of Katsepy.



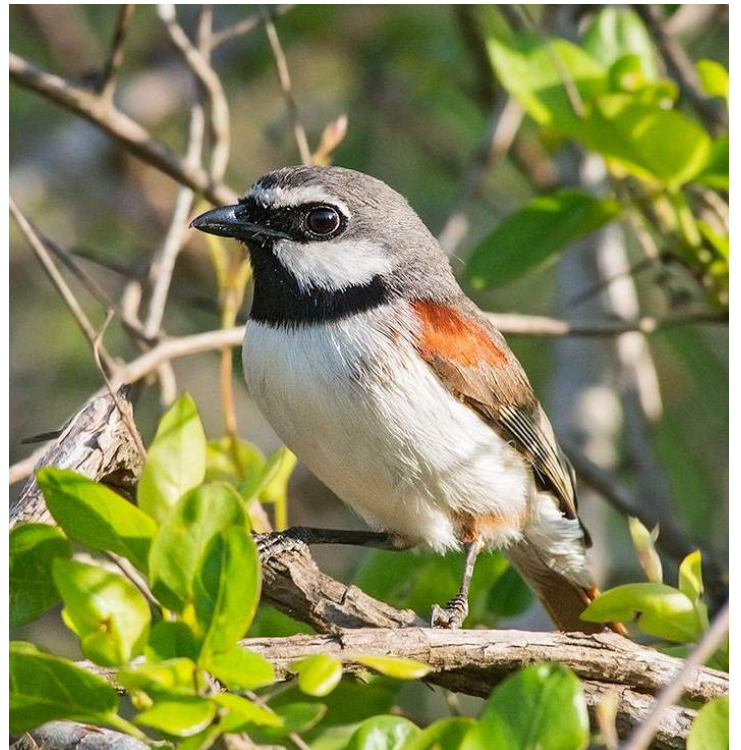
Madagascar Harrier-Hawk on our first morning in the spiny forest.



The critically endangered Spider Tortoise was a very lucky sighting near Ifaty.



Sub-desert Mesite is one of the top birds of the southwest.



One rare bird and one common: Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk (left) and Red-tailed Vanga (right).



Two more spiny forest endemics: Archbold's *Newtonia* (left) and Lafresnaye's *Vanga* (right).



We sighted the primordial-looking *Antimena* Chameleon a couple of times.



The sportive lemurs at Ifaty seem to be Petter's, though their status remains to be definitively proven.



This Running Coua showed off just a few feet in front of the group.



Male Sakalava Weaver working on its elaborate nest.



There are only about 100 pairs of Madagascar Plovers left in the world.



When seen well, the Lesser Vasa Parrot is actually quite beautiful. Check out the teal iridescence.



Highly local Red-shouldered Vanga at its stronghold on La Table, near Tulear.



**A couple of species that are common across Madagascar:
Madagascar Bee-eater (left) and Madagascar Mannikin (right).**



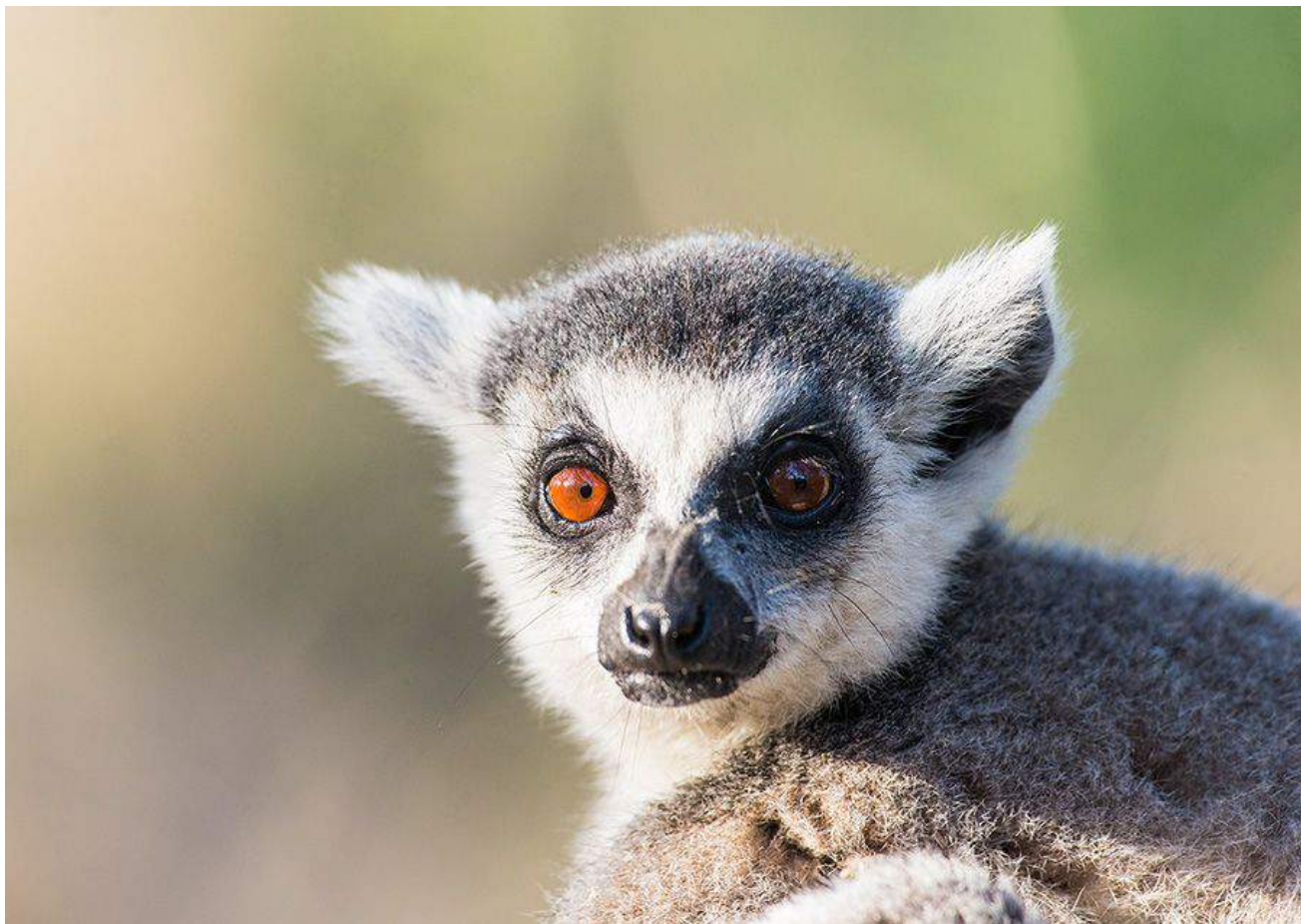
Littoral Rock-Thrush (left) on Anakao, and Standing's Day Gecko (right) from Zombitse NP.



Appert's Tetraka is only found in the Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park.



This Warty Chameleon put on a (rather slow-paced!) show for us in Parc Anja.



The famous Ring-tailed Lemur, or Maky, is the main reason to visit Parc Anja.



Collared Nightjar on a day roost in Ranomafana National Park.



Ward's Flycatcher can be hard to see in the canopy, but this one made it easy on us.



The Rose-bellied Collared Snake was one of 10 snake species on the tour.



The colors of Ranomafana: Peacock Day Gecko (left) and Common Sunbird-Asity male (right).



We had ridiculously good views of Madagascar Flufftail this year.



The mostly black Milne-Edwards' Sifaka comes as a shock after 3 species of mainly white sifakas!



Crossley's Babbler (left) on a nest. The imposing Henst's Goshawk (right).



O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon is something of a Ranomafana specialty.



Cryptic Chameleon is another of the bounty of chameleons possible on night walks.



Pitta-like Ground-Roller is the most common ground-roller, but no less good-looking.



Tschenk's Madagascar Frog sounding off at night.



The Mascarene Ridge Frog is probably Madagascar's most common frog.



Eye-to-eye view with Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur in Mantadia.



Mantadia butterflies included Madagascar Malachite Swallowtail (left) and Madagascar Brown Pansy (right)



Canopy Chameleon climbing up to its namesake canopy, near Andasibe.



Madagascar Buzzard with a snake. We didn't manage to identify the snake... too bad!



Fiery Bright-eyed Frog on a rainy night walk near Andasibe.



Male white-morph Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher.



A whole family of Madagascar Little Grebes.



Andasibe eyes: Bott's Bright-eyed Frog (left) and *Calumma gallus* (right).



The monstrous Parson's Chameleon, often called "Parson's Giant Chameleon".



The splendid Blue Coua, which even has a purple tail.



Goodman's Mouse Lemur.



Saffron Bright-eyed Frog is about as cute as a frog can be.



A couple of species that can be hard to find: Nuthatch Vanga (left) and Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher (right).



Parson's Chameleon keeping an eye on us.



Lined Leaf-tailed Gecko doing a good alien impression.



One of Masoala's marquee beasts is the Red Ruffed Lemur.



Helmet Vanga is what brought us to Masoala.



Lowland Red Forest Rat munching away on the forest floor.



An "intermediate" Little (Dimorphic) Egret.



Madagascar Reed Frog right next to our Masoala lodge.



We had incredible looks at Short-legged Ground-Roller on Masoala.



Masoala nightlife: Giant Leaf-tailed Gecko (left) and red-morph Malagasy Scops-Owl (right).



Masoala's Madagascar Magpie Robins have black bellies and tails.



Aye aye captain!



A beautiful crab (left) and Climbing Mantella (right) on Nosy Mangabe.



Boulenger's Madagascar Frog is quite handsome when you look closely.



The famous and well-named Tomato Frog.

BIRD LIST

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow *The Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World 6.9* (including updates through October, 2014).

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)			
		White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
		African Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
E	EN	Meller's Duck	<i>Anas melleri</i>
		Red-billed Duck (Teal)	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
		Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>
E	EN	Bernier's Teal	<i>Anas bernieri</i>
Numididae (Guineafowl)			
I		Helmeted Guinea fowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)			
E		Madagascar Partridge	<i>Margaroperdix madagascarensis</i>
		Harlequin Quail	<i>Coturnix delegorguei</i>
Podicipedidae (Grebes)			
		Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
E	VU	Madagascar (Little) Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelinii</i>
Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)			
NBM	NT	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopus minor</i>
Phaethontidae (Tropicbirds)			
		Red-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>
Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)			
Essp		Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus pictilis</i>
Anhingidae (Anhingas)			
Essp		African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa vulsini</i>
Scopidae (Hamerkop)			
		Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns)			
Essp		Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea firsas</i>
E	EN	Humblot's Heron	<i>Ardea humbloti</i>
Essp		Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea madagascariensis</i>
		Great (White) Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
RE		Little (Dimorphic) Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta dimorpha</i>
		Black Heron (Egret)	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
		Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
		(Common) Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
RBE	EN	Madagascar (Squacco) Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola idae</i>
Essp		Striated (Green-backed) Heron	<i>Butorides striata rutenbergi</i>
		Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)			
E	NT	Madagascan (Crested) Ibis	<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>
Essp	EN	(Malagasy) Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus bernieri</i>

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)			
E		Madagascar Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>
E		Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda madagascariensis</i>
		Reunion (Madagascar) Harrier	<i>Circus maillardi macrosceles</i>
Essp		Frances's Goshawk	<i>Accipiter f. francesii</i>
E	NT	Madagascar Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>
E	NT	Henst's Goshawk	<i>Accipiter henstii</i>
NBM		Black (Yellow-billed) Kite	<i>Milvus migrans (parasitus)</i>
E	CR	Madagascar Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>
E		Madagascar Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>
Mesitornithidae (Mesites)			
E	VU	White-breasted Mesite	<i>Mesitornis variegata</i>
E	VU	Brown Mesite	<i>Mesitornis unicolor</i>
E	VU	Subdesert Mesite	<i>Monias benschi</i>
Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)			
E		Madagascar Wood-Rail	<i>Canirallus kioloides</i>
E	VU	Madagascar Rail	<i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>
Essp		White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas c. cuvieri</i>
		Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>
		Allen's (Lesser) Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>
		Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorhoa</i>
Sarothruridae (Flufftails)			
E		Madagascar Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>
Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)			
		Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)			
NBM		Black-bellied (Grey) Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
NBM		Lesser Sandplover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
NBM		Greater Sandplover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
		Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
NBM		Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
E	VU	Madagascar Plover	<i>Charadrius thoracicus</i>
Essp		Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricoloris bifrontatus</i>
Essp		White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus tenellus</i>
Rostratulidae (Painted-Snipes)			
		Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
Jacanidae (Jacanas)			
E	NT	Madagascar Jacana	<i>Actophilornis albinucha</i>
Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)			
NBM		Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>
NBM		Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
NBM		Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
NBM		Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
NBM		Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
NBM		Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
NBM		Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>

NBM		Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
NBM		Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
E	VU	Madagascan Snipe	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>
		Turnicidae (Buttonquail)	
E		Madagascar Buttonquail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>
		Dromadidae (Crab Plover)	
NBM		Crab Plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>
		Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)	
E	VU	Madagascar Pratincole	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>
		Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)	
NBM		Saunders's Tern	<i>Sternula saundersi</i>
		Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii arideensis</i>
NBM		Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
		Great Crested (Swift) Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
NBM		Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
		Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)	
E		Madagascar Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles personatus</i>
		Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)	
I		Rock Pigeon (Dove)	<i>Columba livia</i>
Essp		Madagascar Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia p. picturata</i>
Essp		Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis aliena</i>
Essp		Madagascar Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron australis xenius/australis</i>
E		Madagascar Blue-Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>
		Cuculidae (Cuckoos)	
BE		Madagascar (Lesser) Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>
E		Giant Coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>
E		Coquerel's Coua	<i>Coua coquereli</i>
E		Red-breasted Coua	<i>Coua serriana</i>
E		Red-fronted Coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>
E		Red-capped Coua	<i>Coua r. ruficeps</i>
E		[Green-capped Coua]	<i>[Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps]</i>
E		Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>
E		Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>
E	NT	Verreaux's Coua	<i>Coua verreauxi</i>
E		Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>
Essp		Madagascar Coucal	<i>Centropus t. toulou</i>
		Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)	
		Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba affinis</i>
		Strigidae (Owls)	
E		Malagasy Scops-Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>
E		Torotoroka Scops-Owl	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>
E		Madagascar Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>
E		White-browed Owl	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>
		Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and allies)	
E		Collared Nightjar	<i>Gactornis enarratus</i>

Essp		Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus m. madagascariensis</i>
Apodidae (Swifts)			
Essp		Malagasy Spinetail (Mad.Sp-Swift)	<i>Zoonavena g. grandidieri</i>
Essp		Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba willsi</i>
Essp		Madagascar (Black) Swift	<i>Apus b. balstoni</i>
NBM		Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
Essp		African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus gracilis</i>
Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)			
Essp		Malagasy (Madagascar) Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis v. vintsioides</i>
E		Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i>
Meropidae (Bee-eaters)			
		Madagascar Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>
Coraciidae (Rollers)			
BEssp		Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus g. glaucurus</i>
Brachypteraciidae (Ground-Rollers)			
E	VU	Short-legged Ground-Roller	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>
E	VU	Scaly Ground-Roller	<i>Brachypteracias squamiger</i>
E		Pitta-like Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>
E	NT	Rufous-headed Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis crossleyi</i>
E	VU	Long-tailed Ground-Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>
Leptosomidae (Cuckoo-Roller)			
RE		(Madagascar) Cuckoo-Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>
Upupidae (Hoopoes)			
E		Madagascar Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>
Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)			
RE		Madagascar Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>
E		Banded Kestrel	<i>Falco zoniventris</i>
Essp		Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus radama</i>
NBM	NT	Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>
Psittacidae (Parrots)			
E		Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>
Essp		Greater Vasa-Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa v./drouhardi</i>
Essp		Lesser Vasa-Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra n./libs</i>
Philepittidae (Asities)			
E		Velvet Asity	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>
E	NT	Schlegel's Asity	<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>
E		Common Sunbird-Asity	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>
E	VU	Yellow-bellied (Sunbird-)Asity	<i>Neodrepanis hypoxantha</i>
Vangidae (Vangas & Helmetshrikes)			
E		Archbold's Newtonia	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>
E		Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>
E		Dark Newtonia	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>
E		Tylas Vanga	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>
E		Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>
E	VU	Red-shouldered Vanga	<i>Calicalicus rufocarpalis</i>
E		Nuthatch Vanga	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>

E		Chabert Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>
E		Crossley's Vanga (Babbler)	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>
Essp		(Madagascar) Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius m. madagascarinus</i>
E		Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>
E		Ward's Flycatcher	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>
E		Rufous Vanga	<i>Schetba rufa</i>
E	VU	Helmet Vanga	<i>Euryceros prevostii</i>
E	VU	Bernier's Vanga	<i>Oriola bernieri</i>
E		Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falculea palliata</i>
E		White-headed Vanga	<i>Artamella (Leptopterus) viridis</i>
E	NT	Pollen's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>
E		Lafresnaye's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>
E	EN	Van Dam's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>
Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)			
Essp		Ashy (Madagascar) Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina c. cinerea</i>
Dicruridae (Drongos)			
Essp		Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus f. forficatus</i>
Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)			
Essp		Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone m. mutata</i>
Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)			
		Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
Alaudidae (Larks)			
E		Madagascar Lark	<i>Mirafr hova</i>
Hirundinidae (Swallows)			
Essp		Plain (Brown-throated) Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola cowani</i>
RE		Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>
NBM		Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)			
Essp		Madagascar Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>
Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers and Allies)			
Essp		Madagascar Brush-Warbler	<i>Nesillas t. typica</i>
E		Subdesert Brush-Warbler	<i>Nesillas lantzil</i>
E		Madagascar Swamp-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>
Locustellidae (Grassbirds and Allies)			
E		Brown Emu-tail	<i>Bradypterus brunneus</i>
E		Gray Emu-tail	<i>Amphilais seebohmi</i>
Bernieridae (Malagasy Warblers)			
E		White-throated Oxylobes	<i>Oxylobes madagascariensis</i>
E		Long-billed Bernieria (Greenbul)	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>
E		Cryptic Warbler	<i>Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi</i>
E	NT	Wedge-tailed Jery	<i>Hartertula flavoviridis</i>
E		Thamnornis (Warbler)	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>
E	NT	Yellow-browed Oxylobes	<i>Crossleyia xanthophrys</i>
E		Spectacled Tetraka (Greenbul)	<i>Xanthornix zosterops</i>
E	VU	Appert's Tetraka (Greenbul)	<i>Xanthornix apperti</i>
E	NT	Grey-crowned Tetraka	<i>Xanthornix cinereiceps</i>

E		Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>
Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)			
E		Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>
E		Green Jery	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>
E		Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>
RE		Madagascar Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>
Zosteropidae (White-eyes)			
RE		Madagascar White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>
Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)			
E		Madagascar Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus albospecularis</i>
E		Forest Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola s. sharpei</i>
E		[Benson's Rock-Thrush]	<i>[Monticola sharpei bensoni]</i>
E		Littoral Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola imerina</i>
Essp		Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus sibilla</i>
Sturnidae (Starlings)			
E		Madagascar Starling	<i>Saroglossa aurata</i>
I		Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)			
Essp		Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris souimanga s./apolis</i>
Essp		Madagascar (Green) Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris n. notatus</i>
Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)			
E		Madagascar Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>
Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)			
I		House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)			
E		Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>
E		Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>
RE		Red (Madagascar) Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>
E		Forest Fody	<i>Foudia omissa</i>
Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)			
E		Madagascar Mannikin	<i>Lonchura nana</i>

E - Endemic

Essp - Endemic subspecies

BE - Breeding endemic

RE - Regional endemic

NBM - Non-breeding migrant

I – Introduced

CR - Critically endangered

EN - Endangered

VU - Vulnerable

NT - Near-threatened

[brackets] = a taxon not split in the Clements list

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		Grey-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>
E		Grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>
E		Golden-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus ravelobensis</i>
E		Brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>
E		Goodman's Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>
E		Mittermeier's Mouse-Lemur	<i>Microcebus mittermeieri</i>
E		Greater Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>
E		Sibree's Dwarf Lemur (?)	<i>Cheirogaleus sibreei</i>
E		Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus crossleyi</i>
E		Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>
E		Pale Fork-marked Lemur	<i>Phaner pallescens</i>
Lepilemuridae (Sportive Lemurs)			
E		Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>
E		Petter's Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur petteri</i>
E		Zombitse Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur hubbardorum</i>
Lemuridae (True Lemurs)			
E		Eastern Lesser (Gray) Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>
E		Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>
E		Greater Bamboo Lemur	<i>Prolemur simus</i>
E		Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>
E		Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>
E		Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufifrons</i>
E		Rufous Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufus</i>
E		White-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur albifrons</i>
E		Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>
E		Mongoose Lemur	<i>Eulemur mongoz</i>
E		Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata</i>
E		Red Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia rubra</i>
Indridae (Woolly Lemurs, Sifakas & Indri)			
E		Moore's Woolly Lemur (Avahi)	<i>Avahi mooreorum</i>
E		Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>
E		Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>
E		Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>
E		Milne-Edwards Sifaka	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>
E		Crowned Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coronatus</i>
E		Indri	<i>Indri Indri</i>
Daubentoniidae (Aye-aye)			
E		Aye aye	<i>Daubentonia madagascariensis</i>

Eupleridae (Malagasy Carnivores)			
		Ring-tailed Mongoose	<i>Galidia elegans</i>
Megachiroptera (Fruit Bats)			
E		Madagascar Straw-coloured Fruit Bat	<i>Eidolon dupreanum</i>
E		Madagascar Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>
Microchiroptera (Micro bats)			
		Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat	<i>Hipposideros commersoni</i>
		Mauritian Tomb Bat	<i>Taphozous mauritanus</i>
Tenrecidae (Tenrecs)			
E		Common Tenrec	<i>Tenrec ecaudatus</i>
E		Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>
E		Lowland Streaked Tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>
Nesomyidae (African Rodents)			
E		Western Tuft-tailed Rat	<i>Eliurus myoxinus</i>
E		Western Big-footed Mouse	<i>Macrotarsomys bastardi</i>
E		Eastern Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>
E		Lowland Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys audeberti</i>
Muridae (Old World Rats and Mice)			
I		Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>
I		Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>



One mammal highlight was what looked much like the poorly known Sibree's Dwarf Lemur, but could well be an undescribed species of dwarf lemur.

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.

Testudinidae	
Spider Tortoise	<i>Pyxis arachnoides</i>
Pelomedusidae	
Terrapin	<i>Pelusios subniger</i>
Crocodylidae	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
Chamaeleonidae	
Peyrieras's Leaf Chameleon	<i>Brookesia peyrierasi</i>
Bruno's Leaf Chameleon	<i>Brookesia bruno</i>
Brown Leaf Chameleon	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>
Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>
Band-bellied Chameleon	<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>
Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>
O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>
Cryptic Chameleon	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>
Canopy Chameleon	<i>Furcifer willsii</i>
Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>
Warty Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>
Jeweled Chameleon	<i>Furcifer lateralis</i>
Two-banded Chameleon	<i>Furcifer balteatus</i>
Antimena Chameleon	<i>Furcifer antimena</i>
Panther Chameleon	<i>Furcifer pardalis</i>
Iguanidae	
Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i>
Cuvier's Madagascar Iguana	<i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>
Merrem's Madagascar Iguana	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>
Grandidier's Madagascar Iguana	<i>Oplurus grandidieri</i>
Dumeril's Madagascar Iguanid	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>
Gekkonidae	
Big-headed Gecko	<i>Paroedura pictus</i>
Giant Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus fimbriatus</i>
Sakalava Velvet Gecko	<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>
Common Four-clawed Gecko	<i>Gehyra mutilata</i>
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
Gray's House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mercatorius</i>
Golden Fish-scale Gecko	<i>Geckolepis maculata</i>
Grandidier's Fish-scale Gecko	<i>Geckolepis typica</i>
Spiny Forest Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tuberosus</i>
Robust Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus pictus</i>
Rainforest Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus miops</i>

Dubious Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma dubia</i>
Madagascar Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis</i>
Koch's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma kochi</i>
Standing's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>
Changeable Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>
Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>
Small Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma pusilla</i>
Modest Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma modesta</i>
Peacock Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>
Gerrhosauridae	
Malagasy Keeled Plated Lizard	<i>Tracheloptychus madagascarensis</i>
Peter's Keeled Plated Lizard	<i>Tracheloptychus petersi</i>
Madagascar Plated Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>
Ornate Plated Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus ornatus</i>
Broad-tailed Plated Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>
Brygoo's Plated Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus brygooi</i>
Scincidae	
Gravenhorst's Skink	<i>Trachylepis gravenhorstii</i>
Elegant Skink	<i>Trachylepis elegans</i>
Gold-spotted Skink	<i>Trachylepis aureopunctata</i>
	<i>Amphiglossus frontoparietalis</i>
Boidae	
Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>
Colubridae	
Madagascar Cat-eyed Snake	<i>Madagascarophis colubrinus</i>
Blonde Hognose Snake	<i>Leioheterodon modestus</i>
Geay's Hognose Snake	<i>Leioheterodon geayi</i>
White-lipped Collared Snake	<i>Liophidium torquatum</i>
Rose-bellied Collared Snake	<i>Liophidium rhodogaster</i>
Madagascan Whipsnake	<i>Thamnosophis lateralis</i>
Eye-lined Water Snake	<i>Thamnosophis epistibes</i>
Bernier's Striped Snake	<i>Dromicodryas bernieri</i>
Mahafaly Sand Snake	<i>Mimophis mahfalensis</i>



Amphiglossus frontoparietalis is a shy species that we were lucky to see in Ranomafana NP.

AMPHIBIAN LIST

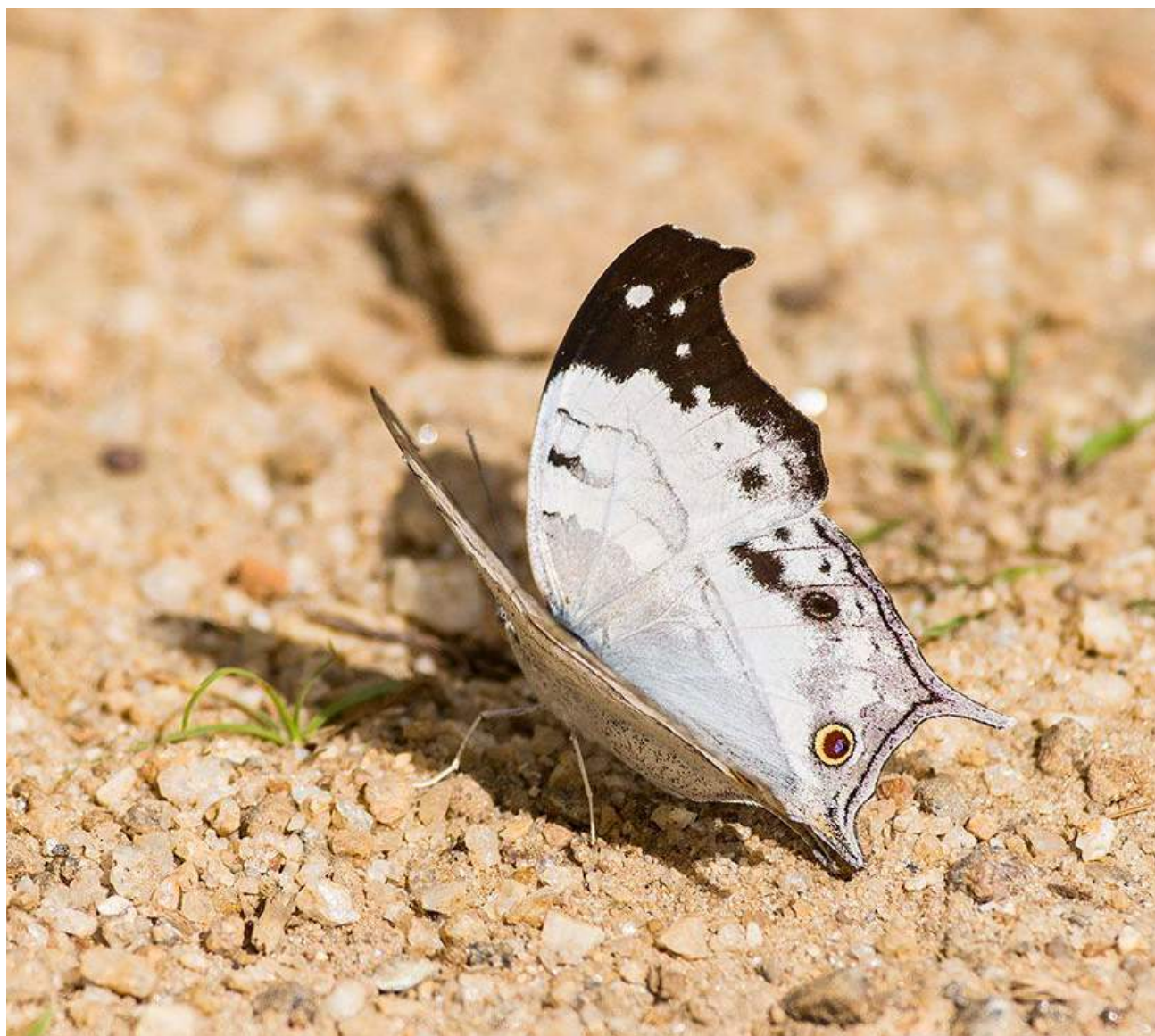
Taxonomy and nomenclature for follow *A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Madagascar: Third Edition* (2007) by Frank Glaw and Miguel Vences.

Dicroglossidae	
Mascarene Ridged Frog	<i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i>
Hyperoliidae	
Madagascar Reed Frog	<i>Heterixalus madagascariensis</i>
Microhylidae	
Tomato Frog	<i>Dyscophus antongilii</i>
Stump-toed Frog species	<i>Stumpffia</i> sp.
Mahanoro Digging Frog	<i>Plethodontohyla notosticta</i>
Boulenger's Giant Treefrog	<i>Platypelis grandis</i>
Barbour's Treefrog	<i>Platypelis barbouri</i>
Mantellidae	
Vohiparara Leaf-litter Frog	<i>Aglyptodactylus vohiparara</i>
Madagascar Jumping Frog	<i>Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis</i>
	<i>Blommersia domerguei</i>
Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>
Saffron Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis viridis</i>
Green Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis luteus</i>
Fiery Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis pyrrhus</i>
Botta's Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis bottae</i>
Dumeril's Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis tephraeomystax</i>
Western Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis doulioti</i>
Malagasy Glass Frog	<i>Guibermantis pulcher</i>
Engraved Madagascar Frog	<i>Gephyromantis sculpturatus</i>
Buff Madagascar Frog	<i>Gephyromantis webbi</i>
White's Madagascar Frog	<i>Gephyromantis luteus</i>
Boulenger's Madagascar Frog	<i>Gephyromantis boulengeri</i>
Tschenk's Madagascar Frog	<i>Gephyromantis tschenki</i>
Warty Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus ulcerosus</i>
Undescribed species	<i>Mantidactylus</i> sp. aff. <i>Ulcerosus</i> "Isalo"
Charlotte's Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus charlotteae</i>
Black-sided Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus melanopleura</i>
Betsileo Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus betsileanus</i>
Major's Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus majori</i>
Central Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus opiparis</i>
Baron's Mantella	<i>Mantella baroni</i>
Climbing Mantella	<i>Mantella laevigata</i>

BUTTERFLY LIST

Papilionidae: SWALLOWTAILS	
Mocker Swallowtail	<i>Papilio dardanus</i>
Cream-lined Swallowtail	<i>Papilio delalandei</i>
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>
Banded Blue Swallowtail	<i>Papilio oribazus</i>
Spotted Blue Swallowtail	<i>Papilio epiphorbas</i>
Madagascar Swordtail	<i>Graphium evombar</i>
Madagascar Malachite Swallowtail	<i>Graphium cyrnus</i>
Madagascar Giant Swallowtail	<i>Pharmacophagus antenor</i>
Pieridae: WHITES & YELLOWS	
Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta pulchella</i>
Malagasy Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema floricola floricola</i>
Angled Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema desjardinsii</i>
Madagascar Migrant	<i>Catopsilia thauruma</i>
Madagascar Orange Tip	<i>Colotis evanthe</i>
Madagascar Arab	<i>Colotis mananhari</i>
Madagascar Purple Tip	<i>Colotis zoe</i>
Giant Orange Tip	<i>Colotis lucasi</i>
African Wood White	<i>Leptosia alcesta sylvicola</i>
Madagascar Caper White	<i>Belenois helcida</i>
Grandidier's Caper White	<i>Belenois grandidieri</i>
Madagascar Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris phileris</i>
Albatross White	<i>Appias sabina confusa</i>
Rionidae: METALMARKS	
Madagascar Metalmark	<i>Saribia (probably perroti fiana)</i>
Lycanidae: BLUES & HAIRSTREAKS	
Blue species	<i>Euchrysops malathana</i>
Blue species	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>
Blue species	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>
Nymphalidae: BRUSHFOOTS	
African Monarch	<i>Danaus chrysippus aegyptius</i>
Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda helena</i>
Indian Ocean Satyr species	<i>Heteropsis difficilis</i>
Indian Ocean Satyr species	<i>Heteropsis turbans</i>
Indian Ocean Satyr species	<i>Heteropsis pauper</i>
Indian Ocean Satyr species	<i>Heteropsis narcissus fraterna</i>
Madagascar Satyr species	<i>Strabena sp.</i>
Banded Commodore	<i>Precis andremiaja</i>
Madagascar Brown Pansy	<i>Junonia goudotii</i>
Yellow Pansy	<i>Junonia hierta paris</i>
Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone epiclelia</i>
Eyed Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya madagascariensis</i>
Brilliant Blue	<i>Junonia rhadama</i>

Madagascar Beauty	<i>Salamis anteva</i>
Clouded Mother-of-Pearl	<i>Protogoniomorpha anacardii duprei</i>
Madagascar Diadem	<i>Hypolimnas dexithea</i>
Common Joker	<i>Byblia anvatara anvatara</i>
Tree Nymph species	<i>Eunica amazoula</i>
False Chief	<i>Pseudacraea lucretia apaturoides</i>
Madagascar Sailer	<i>Neptis kikideli</i>
Spotted Sailer	<i>Neptis saclava</i>
Madagascar Nymph	<i>Aterica rabena</i>
Acraea species	<i>Acraea turna</i>
Madagascar Leopard	<i>Phalanta madagascariensis</i>
Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha aethiopica</i>



Clouded Mother-of-pearl is a big and beautiful brushfoot butterfly.