

Madagascar: Birding the Eighth Continent

October 22 - November 15 2023

Northeastern Extension: *Oct 22-25*

Helmet Vanga Extension: *Nov 12-15*

Tour Leader: **Zac Babbit**

Photos and Trip Report by Zac Babbit. All photos taken on this tour.



As the fourth largest island on the planet, Madagascar is host to some of the most unique and thought provoking efforts evolution has to offer. With six completely endemic bird families to this island, Madagascar is a “must see ” destination for bird enthusiasts of all levels. However, what is equally astonishing is the sheer diversity represented by species abroad from the taxonomic tree of life. Along with birds, the island is home to more than half of the world’s chameleon species, over 250 species of endemic frogs, and several unique groups of mammals like tenrecs and euplerids. Lastly, the most famous group of endemic animals is the lemurs, which includes 107 different species.



A Common Jery perches beautifully on a bare branch

While this cast of incredible and strange animals is enough to draw any naturalist to Madagascar, the floral diversity and breathtaking landscapes are equal in marvel. With the help of our incredible local guides, this trip presented everything we could have hoped for. We witnessed over 160 species of birds, 125 of which were either endemic or endemic breeders to the island. Along with the birds we also managed to see 32 different lemur species, including some tougher

species like the **Milne-Edwards Sifaka**, **Crowned Sifaka** and **Mosala Woolly Lemur**. However the most memorable mammal encounters were the mythical **Fanaloka** and **Fosa**, two of the ten rarely seen Malagasy carnivores. Overall, it was an incredibly productive and memorable trip this year, with the group getting almost every target it tried for as well as many unexpected surprises.



Northwestern Extension

22 October- Antananarivo to Ankarafantsika

For the first day of the trip we had to spend the majority of our time in vehicles, this is because the drive from Tana to Ankarafantsika can take up to 10 hours. However, due to the unpredictability of Air Madagascar and the possibility of seeing birds along the way we opted to drive. The drive was a fantastic opener to the tour and set the tone for what life is like in Madagascar, for both local residents and the wildlife. The forest fragmentation that threatens the

biota of Madagascar was apparent as we drove past small villages and agricultural fields. Despite the degradation of habitat, this drive presented our only viewing opportunities of both **Malagasy Harrier** and **Madagascar Pratincole** on the main tour. After getting these exciting lifers along the road we spent the last few moments of sunlight bird watching at a small pond along the lake. Here we had several species of egrets and herons; including our only views of **Humblot's Heron**, a beautiful and large endemic heron. Another exciting find at this wetland as an adult **Madagascar Jacana**. After getting great views of all these birds we arrived after dark to our accommodation, **Tia Asity**.

23 October- Ankarafantsika

The group gathered early for a simple but wonderful breakfast of coffee, eggs and fruit. Today was our first full day of birding and the energy amongst the group was electric.



The female Van Dam's Vanga finally gave us good looks after a little hard work

It was clear we were all eager to see what this part of the world had to offer us. After speaking with the local guides we determined the best way to start our day was to immediately head over to a **Schlegel's Asity** nest. This small passerine is a member of one of the six endemic Malagasy bird families, Philepittidae (Asities and sunbird-asities). Upon arriving at the nest we were greeted by another group of birders, which we shared our viewing opportunities with. Viewing opportunities were tough but everyone managed a good look at both the male and female asities. While many of us could have sat at the nest all day there were more targets that needed immediate attention. We switched gears and



A Madagascar Fish-Eagle was one of the first birds we saw on the boat!

began hiking further into the dry forests of Ankarafantiska. The deceptively dense understory of this dry forest holds one of the northwest's best kept secrets, the **White-breasted Mesite**. Another representative of an endemic bird family, the mesites are a strange ground-dwelling group of birds. After locating a singing pair we stood patiently along the trail. Then suddenly there they were, two White-breasted Mesites standing right in the open.

After the incredible views we headed to the drier sections of the park where our last morning target could be found, **Van Dam's Vanga**. As we hiked the dry plateau we saw our first lemurs of the trip, **Common Brown Lemur**, **Coquerel's Sifaka** and **Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemur**. As we continued our vanga search we got great looks at many other species like **Long-billed Bernieria**, **Red-capped Coua**, **Crested Coua**, **Rufous Vanga** and the elegant **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher**. Finally, we were rewarded with an epic encounter with a female **Van Dam's Vanga**! After seeing all our targets we were happy to cool off back at the hotel and enjoy our lunch.

After a wonderful lunch and break, we headed out to Lac Ravelobe. Here we enjoyed a wonderful boat ride on the lake as we looked for lifers. The boat ride was off to a good start when we immediately got close looks at a perched **Madagascar Fish-Eagle**. As the boat ride continued we got looks at **African Openbill**, **Malagasy Pond-Heron**, **Little Bittern** and the **Madagascar Grebe**. To finish off the day we had our first night walk of the trip, which gave us lifers like the **Mongoose Lemur**, **Gray Mouse Lemur**, **Rhinoceros Chameleon**, and **Günther's Flat-tailed Gecko**.



Ankarafantsika is the most reliable place to see Coquerel's Sifaka

24 October- Ankarafantsika to Majunga

After having gotten most of our targets the previous day, we decided to revisit the **Schlegel's Asity** nest. This iconic bird would not be possible again on the tour, and some people had not gotten good looks at the male. We left even earlier this day and were the first at the nest. The silence of waiting was broken when the female **Schlegel's Asity** landed on an open perch. A beautiful bird, but only an echo of the beauty beheld by the male of this species. The excitement of seeing the female was only further ignited when suddenly, in all his evolutionary marvel, the male asity arrived. Cameras fired and binoculars went up, as one of the world's most beautiful birds sat 10 meters away. After a much more satisfying encounter we headed out to search for Coquerel's Coua. As we walked we saw **Frances's Sparrowhawk**, **Common Newtonia**, **Cuckoo-Roller**, and **Malagasy Turtle-Dove**. At last the **Coquerel's Coua** revealed itself and rewarded us with incredible looks as it came within 3 meters of us. After a successful morning we had lunch, packed up, and left for our hotel in Majunga. After a three hour drive we spent the rest of the afternoon relaxing at our accommodation, **Karibu Lodge**.

The Bernier's Teal does most of its foraging of mud flats rather than in the water!



25 October- Betsiboka

This morning we woke up early and got on our small private boat to search for the **Madagascar Sacred Ibis** and **Bernier's Teal**. After a two hour boat ride to the Betsiboka Delta we immediately saw several **Madagascar Sacred Ibis**. This exciting find was accompanied by **Terek Sandpipers**, **Common Greenshanks**, **"Dimorphic" Little Egrets**, and a few hundred **Curlew Sandpipers**. Then we spotted the distant silhouette of ducks far away on a distant shore. We dashed over on the boat and were delighted to see the endangered **Bernier's Teal**. Having gotten our major targets so quickly we changed directions and headed towards the Ketspy Lighthouse for one of the most beautiful lemurs in Madagascar. On our way to the lighthouse we stopped to see both the **Greater and Lesser Flamingos** side by side, as well as **Lesser Crested and Whiskered Terns**! Once we arrived at the lighthouse it only took us five minutes to find the stunning **Crowned Sifaka**! These lemurs were quite comfortable around people, which allowed for fantastic viewing and photography opportunities!



The Crowned Sifaka was once a widespread lemur, but sadly is now restricted to only a few fragments areas.

26 October- Majanga to Tana (Start of the Main Tour)

Today was mostly a day of travel. We took an early afternoon flight from Majanga to Antananarivo. Upon arrival in Tana we met with the last member of the tour and had lunch. To start off the tour in an easy yet exciting manner we headed over to Parc Tsarasaotra. A small birding paradise secretly hidden within the busy city. As the gates opened to the park we were greeted with a truly epic view of hundreds of waterfowl and wading birds. The binoculars stayed up as we saw **Red-billed and Knob-billed Duck, Black and Squacco Heron, White-faced Whistling Duck, Blue-billed Teal, Madagascar Hoopoe, and Striated Heron**. A few people even managed a quick glance at the shy **White-throated Rail**. However, the two main goals were the **Malagasy Pond-Heron** and the **Meller's Duck**. After a little searching we saw two Malagasy Pond-Herons perched, a much better look than our quick encounter a few days earlier. Unfortunately despite our efforts the **Meller's Duck** was never found. We returned back to **Au Bois Vert**, our hotel, for a delicious meal.



27 October- Tana to Ifaty

Before our early departure for Tulear we managed to have a great breakfast and walk around the hotel grounds for some quick birding. Some of our highlights included a **Madagascar Brush-Warbler, Red Fody, Madagascar Magpie-Robin, Malagasy Green and Souimanga Sunbirds**, and even a roosting pair of **Madagascar Nightjars**.

We then drove to the airport for a smooth flight to Tulear. Upon arriving at Tulear we headed to the hotel and checked in to avoid the intense heat of the Spiny Forest.



The Subdesert Mesite is one of the strangest birds on the island, the only place to see this bird is in Ifaty.

As the afternoon cooled off we managed to get in a few hours of birding in the iconic Spiny Forest Reserve. We were thrilled to get fantastic looks at the **Subdesert Mesite**, **“Green-capped” Coua**, **Greater Vasa Parrot**, **Sickle-billed Vanga**, and **Running Coua**. As the sun set, we spent a few hours to see what animals the night brought with it. The highlights

included the **Torotorola Scops-Owl**, **Petter's Sportive Lemur**, **Common Madagascar Cat-eyed Snake**, **Madagascar Ground Gecko** and the incredible **Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec**.

28 October- Spiny Forest Reserve

We started with an early start in the Spiny Forest Reserve today, which had many incredible animals in store for us. The walk began with distant views of the **Thamnornis**, an endemic member of the malagasy warbler family, Bernieridae. Shortly after we were honored to see the only wild tortoise of the trip, the critically endangered **Spider Tortoise**! The morning only got better as we saw **Archbold's Newtonia**, **Hook-billed Vanga**, a group of **Sakalava Weavers**, **Gray-headed Lovebird**, **Madagascar Cuckooshrike**, **Malagasy Swift** and **Stripe-throated Jery**. The highlight of the morning was the **Long-tailed Groundroller**, which was seen perched high and singing! A rare view of this gorgeous and endemic ground dweller. This incredible morning ended with great views of the **Subdesert Brush-Warbler**.



Archbold's Newtonia gave us surprisingly great looks when this individual landed right next to us!

We took a nice break in the middle of the day to avoid the heat, but headed back out in the later afternoon. This afternoon we got **Madagascar Spinetail**, **Madagascar Buttonquail**, **White-headed Vanga** and **Chabert Vanga**. However, the best find this afternoon was the range restricted **Lafresnaye's Vanga**! An additional nighwalk was made available for those interested this evening. While there were no birds on this night hike we did see fantastic animals like the **Grandidier's Ground Gecko**, **Toliara Smooth Snake**, and the **Ornamental Wandering Spider**.



The Ornamental Wandering Spider is the only member of an endemic genus!

29 October- Ifaty to Tulear

Before leaving Ifaty for Tulear we had an early start at the Salt Pans near the hotel. As we searched for the **Madagascar Plover** we saw wonderful birds like the **Common Ringed**, **Kittlitz's** and **White-fronted Plovers**, **Madagascar Lark**, **Madagascar Munia**, and **Madagascar Cisticola**. We also finally got great looks at the **White-throated Rail**, which the whole group got to enjoy for several minutes! After a few hours of effort we heard the calls of our local guide, they had found a single **Madagascar Plover**! The encounter was worth the effort

since we had great views of the plover out in the open! We then drove back to Tulear and settled in our hotel. Later that afternoon we loaded up in our bus and drove to La Table. Another patch of spiny forest that was home to two major targets, the **Red-shouldered Vanga** and **Verreaux's Coua**. After a few hours of walking we managed to get great views of both species!



Verreaux's Coua rarely perches in the open! Seeing this individual was a wonderful surprise.

30 October- Nosy Ve

Nosy Ve is a beautiful island located 3km off the coast of Anakao. This paradise is surrounded by coral reefs, making the snorkeling just as exciting as the birding! The **Red-tailed Tropicbird** breeds and nests on this island. As we walked the beaches of the island we saw several shorebirds, like **Greater Sand-Plover** and **Whimbrels**. Unfortunately there were no **Crab-Plovers** around to see, but it was an absolute thrill to see several **Red-tailed Tropicbirds**

sitting on nests! After observing these gorgeous seabirds we walked back to the boat to get our snorkel gear. Once the snorkeling was done we got on the boat and headed to Anakao for lunch. After eating we ventured to the property in the back and found another endemic, the **Littoral Rock-Thrush**.



The lighting was harsh but everyone got great looks at the Littoral Rock Thrush.

31 October- Tulcar to Isalo

Today began with an early start in order to be on time for our only chance at the **Madagascar Sandgrouse** and to get to Zombitse National Park. We drove through the dark of the morning and reached a seemingly random location on our way to Zombitse. We followed several local guides off the side of the road in search of a sandgrouse they had seen several moments earlier. Suddenly several **Madagascar Sandgrouse** flushed and disappeared over a ridge. As we were still standing there a large group of ten sandgrouse swung back around and

gave us much better looks! Overjoyed to have had a better fly over, we got back in the vehicle to stay on schedule.

Upon arriving at Zombitse we met with our local guide and hiked into the dry forest to try for several birds. Things were slow at first but the morale of the group picked up once we saw a roosting **White-browed Owl** and **Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk** in her nest! After the raptors our luck turned around, with great looks of **Appert's Tetraka**, a subtle but beautiful bird whose range is mostly restricted to Zombitse! The couas didn't disappoint either! We got great looks at **Coquerel's Coua**, and two **Giant Coua** showcased their stunning pink facial skin. After failing to find **Verreaux's Sifaka** we returned to the parking area for a picnic lunch. While we were eating our local guide came running back with a lot of excitement, she had found **Verreaux's Sifaka**! We quickly cleaned up our lunches and headed back to the forest where we were met with several sifaka including one adorable baby. These lemurs were quite the marvel to watch as they effortlessly leaped



Appert's Tetraka was tough to find, but well worth the effort! This bird is only seen in Zombitse.

from tree to tree, a behavior the baby adorably mimicked at his/her best ability. A success indeed! After a memorable encounter with the sifakas we left for our hotel near Isalo National Park.

To say the scenery around our hotel, Relias de la Reine, is beautiful would be a tragic understatement. After checking in we walked the surrounding areas for **Benson's Rock Thrush**, but unfortunately had no luck. For many of us the sharp and dramatic rock formations that decorated the land were a mesmerizing delight that helped alleviate the miss.

1 November- Isalo to Ranomafana

This morning we tried a very tricky bird, the **Madagascar Partridge**. This bird is stunning when seen well, but spends most of its time well concealed within tall grasses. Luckily we did get a look at this bird, but unfortunately it was brief as it flushed and disappeared never to be seen again. After breakfast we headed off to see one of the most memorable reserves in the country, the Anja Community Reserve, for **Ring-tailed Lemurs**.



This mother Ring-tailed Lemur had twins, an unusual occurrence since most have a single baby.

This reserve should hold as a shining example of what happens when a community comes together to preserve some natural habitat. This reserve remains the best place to see the **Ring-tailed Lemur**, which is undoubtedly the most famous animal of Madagascar. There was no trouble in finding these charismatic animals as we watched over twenty individuals drink water, care for young, rest and play. The reserve was also great for reptile and amphibian enthusiasts! In our short time at Anja we managed to see the endemic **Bruno's Leaf Chameleon** (*Brookesia brunoi*), **Striped Madagascar Garter Snake**, and **Mascarene Ridged Frog**. After an incredible experience we reboarded the bus and arrived in Ranomafana after dark.

2 November- Ranomafana

For our first full day in Ranomafana we immediately headed into Varibolo, the lower elevation forests, where we were hoping to see several high priority targets. Right in the parking lot we were treated with our first **Madagascar Starling** and **Ward's Flycatcher**, really a poorly named vanga, of the trip. Birding in the rainforest can be a challenge at times, with limited windows through the thick tangles that often conceal the most enigmatic of birds.



Madagascar Munia perched in the flowers, a subtle yet beautiful endemic.

The next bird of the morning was no exception, as a **Gray-crowned Tetraka** effortlessly moved through the vines. While no one managed an exceptional look of this bird, we moved on after everyone was satisfied. The next bird, a small group of **Red-tailed Vanga**, rewarded our previous frustrations with wonderful open perch views. Undoubtedly one of the most exciting moments of the day was seeing the final mesite in Madagascar, the **Brown Mesite**. As we continued our journey for elusive birds we were given our first looks at the critically endangered **Golden Bamboo Lemur**. After putting so much effort into seeing shy understory birds it was a wonderful change to see this beautiful lemur sit in the open as he/she ate.

While we continued to struggle for good prolonged views, the **Scaly Ground Roller** and **Pita-like Ground Roller** were still exceptional in every way. The highlight of the day was when a **Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher**, unlike the other birds of the morning, sat on an open perch for several minutes for great looks and photos. After a quick break we went back out for a night walk. Right before the sun completely set we managed to find the **Forest Rock-Thrush**, which was peacefully singing in the canopy and allowed



This Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher sat in the open for several minutes.

for wonderful views. After this fantastic encounter we continued down the road to find chameleons. We got started with great looks at the **Rufous Mouse Lemur** and were then met with a wonderful array of chameleon diversity, including **Ranomafana Nosed Chameleon**, **Cryptic Chameleon** and the **O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon**.

3 November- Ranomafana

After a successful first day in the lower elevation forests we shifted gears and went up into the higher elevation forests of Ranomafana. The morning began with a fantastic start, when we saw a **Rand's Warbler** singing near the parking lot. As we entered the forest we saw a **Wedge-tailed Tetraka** and **Spectacled Tetraka**. Shortly after seeing the tetrakas we found ourselves in an open area where we got better looks at **Rand's Warbler**, as well as our first looks at **Blue Coua**, **Pollen's Vanga**, and the **Eastern Woolly Lemur**. We continued further into the forest and higher up in elevation, where suddenly a troop of



A Blue Coua perches for a moment after causing a ruckus in the canopy.

Milne-Edwards' Sifakas came passing through. As we walked we saw the strange **Velvet Asity**, stunning **Madagascar Blue Vanga**, and sporadic **Dark Newtonia**. While we never managed to get a look at the **Brown Emutail**, we could hear it singing less than a meter from us in the thick brush. Suddenly the forest changed around us and we were surrounded by mossy vines and an open understory. Despite the more accommodating understory, the **Yellow-browed Oxylobes** still proved to be a challenge to clearly see. However after a few minutes of effort everyone was satisfied with the views they had managed of this skulking mouse-like bird.

We stopped to eat our picnic and were then informed by our local guide that a “**Rufous-headed Ground Roller** is waiting for us.” We packed up the food and were shocked to see the **Rufous-headed Ground Roller** emerge from the vines almost immediately. Certainly one of the most memorable encounters of the trip, as this bird



A Madagascar Magpie-Robin perches amongst the flowers.

proceeded to perch for photos and views. Believing the day could not get any better, we were gladly proven wrong when a **Red-fronted Coua** popped out with a chameleon in his/her mouth! With the birding for the day done we returned to the hotel for a quick break, and then returned to the lowland forest to try for one of the island's most elusive mammals.

We hiked in during sunset, and on our local guide's advice, sat in a small clearing in the dark for an hour. Then, almost like magic, the light was turned on to reveal a young **Fanaloka**. The **Fanaloka** is a small malagasy carnivore that resembles a civet, due to its nocturnal behavior and shy nature it is usually a challenge to see this animal. The encounter was brief but everyone got a good look! The night ended on another high note when we found the incredible **Satanic leaf-tailed Gecko** on the walk out.

4 November- Ranomafana

Today was all about finding the last few targets we had. Unfortunately we missed both **Henst's Goshawk** and **Crossley's Vanga**, but we would have another chance in Andasibe for both. The only target we managed to get this morning was the **Madagascar Blue Pigeon**. After a slow morning in the forest we left to bird in some wetlands owned by



Satanic Leaf-tailed Geckos are one of the most iconic reptiles in Madagascar, sadly they are threatened by the pet trade

local farmers. The wetland was being used to plant and grow rice, but despite the loss of native plants it was still quite popular amongst the local birds. Shortly after arriving we saw **Malagasy Kingfisher, Madagascar Martin, Madagascar Swamp Warbler** and **Madagascar Three-banded Plover!** We decided to enlist the help of the local kids who helped flush the **Madagascar Snipe**, which certainly made the “snipe hunt” much more entertaining!

On our way out we heard the unmistakable calls of a **Madagascar Flufftail**. Despite failing several times before, this flufftail was very responsive and walked right into the open! A rare treat when dealing with flufftails. We then returned back to our hotel for our final dinner and night at the Hotel Thermal.

5 November- Ranomafana to Antsirabe

Today was a travel day, which started with an early departure from Ranomafana and a late afternoon arrival at Antsirabe. The hotel was comfortable and provided delicious meals.



A Red-fronted Coua perches momentarily and reveals the chameleon it had caught.

6 November- Antsirabe to Andasibe

Today was another travel day, which started with an early departure from Antsirabe and a late afternoon arrival at Andasibe. On our way to Andasibe we managed to spot the first **Hammerkop** of the trip in some agricultural fields. The Manatida Lodge was perhaps the most comfortable hotel and provided the best meals on the trip. We had an early night to rest up for a busy day.

7 November- Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

We started the morning by going into Mantadia National Park. Today was the best example of quality over quantity for bird watching. We had a slow morning but managed to get fantastic looks of **White-headed Vanga** and **Crossley's Vanga**. After having missed **Crossley's Vanga** in Ranomafana, it was a relief to see this overlooked denizen of the understory sing on a low perch for several minutes. Shortly after we proceeded to undergo



The Crossley's Vanga can be very tough to see well, making this encounter especially memorable.

a bushwhack straight up a densely vegetated slope. While it was tough at first we were rewarded with incredible views of a perched **Short-legged Ground Roller**. Afterwards we went to a pond for a picnic lunch and birding, we saw both **Mascarene** and **Madagascar Martins**, **African Stonechat** and a **Madagascar Buzzard** as it was getting mobbed by several vangas. The next target was the elusive **Madagascar Rail**, which moves like a shadow in the tall grasses of the marsh. After playing some tape we were ready to give up and try a new spot, when someone suddenly noticed faint movement. Slowly the unmistakable shape of the **Madagascar Rail** emerged from the protection of the marsh, allowing us to get great views and photos. An absolutely epic way to end a fantastic afternoon.

After our dinner, we headed back out for a night walk to search for herps and mammals. We saw **Goodman's Mouse Lemur**, an adorable little primate, and several tree frog species such as **Bott's Bright-eyed Frog** and **Red-spotted Bright-eyed Frog**. One of the most exciting finds

was actually a spider! The **ogre-faced spider** (*Asianopis madagascariensis*) has the unusual tactic of weaving its web around its own front limbs and then suspending itself upside down to wait for prey. Once prey passes, it drops down and casts its web around unsuspecting prey.



A Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur plays and forages in the canopy.

8 November- Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

We returned to the lowlands forests of Mantadia to try again for lemurs, **White-throated Oxylobes** and for better views of the **Scaly Ground Roller**. Unfortunately we missed out on both birds but got to see two **Red-bellied Lemur** parents with a young baby, two **Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs** feeding and a troop of **Diademed Siaka** moving through the canopy. We left Mantadia and drove to Andasibe, where upon arrival we were told some very unexpected news!

A **Fosa**, the near mythical apex predator of Madagascar, had been resting in a tree right across the road from the parking lot.

We took out the scope but could only make out the fur from the tail. We waited and all got glances of the head and face, but decided it would be smarter to go try for some birds and then return. After an easy 30 minute walk we found a roosting **Collared Nightjar**, a cryptic bird that is so well camouflaged it could seem invisible to an untrained eye.

We then returned to the parking lot and to our joy the **Fosa** had moved into a much better place for viewing! Now everyone was capable of seeing him/her with ease. After this unexpected **Fosa** encounter we went to look for some roosting owls.

We entered into



The Rainforest subspecies of the Madagascar Scops Owl

a tall pine grove, where near the canopy was an unobstructed and perched **Madagascar Owl!** After some photos and good looks we continued to a roost our local guide had found for the **Rainforest Scops Owl**. Just as expected, the **Rainforest Scops Owl** was perched right in the open! To end the day we went to a nearby fig that was fruiting, where we saw both **Madagascar Blue** and **Madagascar Green Pigeons**. On the night hike we saw **Mossy Leaf-tailed Geckos**, **Short-horned Chameleon**, and the **Weasel Sportive Lemur**.



It is incredibly rare to see Fosa, especially in the eastern rainforests of Madagascar.

9 November- Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

The mornings in Andasibe are truly magic. As the light started to brighten up the understory, the harmonic yet chaotic calls of the Indri decorate the soundscape. As this natural soundtrack played in the background we started the morning off with a truly phenomenal find.

The rare and enigmatic **Madagascar Ibis** was foraging right in the parking lot! We then left for the trails and soon found ourselves bushwacking up the side of a steep incline. We took our time to ensure everyone was feeling comfortable and safe with the terrain. However, what was waiting at the top was one of the best finds of the entire tour, a perched and calling **Henst's Goshawk**. This endemic raptor rarely offers anything more than a quick look as it soars or the distant sound of its call. After getting some amazing looks and photos we returned to the main path and went on the search for the **Indri** that we could hear all morning.



The Henst's Goshawk rewarded us for our efforts with amazing views!

The **Indri**, one of the island's most iconic animals, are the largest lemurs alive today! Sadly, like most of the animals on Madagascar, the **Indri** are threatened by habitat destruction and poaching. After hiking around with our eyes peeled, we came across a father, a mother and baby **Indri** in the trees. These lemurs are capable of leaping up to 10 meters, which made for an impressive show as they jumped from tree to tree. However, these **Indri** were very inquisitive

and came within 8 meters at some points! After the incredible encounter with the **Indri** we refocused on the bird targets.

Along the way we saw some fantastic snakes like the **Perinet Night Snake** and **Eastern Madagascar Water Snake** as well as some butterflies like the **Madagascar Green Lady** and **Madagascar Brown Pansy**. It took a few hours, but towards the end of the afternoon we came across two **Nuthatch-Vangas** which were in a mixed flock with **Madagascar Blue Vangas** and **Tylas Vangas**! An amazing ending to a fantastic day. The night hike was also fantastic, giving us great looks at some uncommon tree frogs like the **Fiery Bright-eyed Frog** (*Boophis pyrrhus*) and the **Warty Bright-eyed Frog** (*Boophis guibei*)!



The Nuthatch-Vanga is an incredible example of parallel evolution, fulfilling the role of a nuthatch

10 November- Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

For our last full day in Andasibe-Mantadia National Park we focused on the last few bird targets we had left. After causing us a lot of trouble from our time in Ranomafana until now, the **White-throated Oxylabes** were surprisingly cooperative this morning as they perched several times for a few moments in the open. We then headed into the interior forest to search for the **Scaly Ground Roller**, a bird we had already seen but did not give us the views we had hoped for. As we were walking towards a spot for the ground roller we were spotted in our tracks when we heard the calls of the **Forest Fody**. While not particularly rare, this bird had given us an unusual amount of trouble this tour. While we were disappointed to not see the male, everyone got good looks at two females which were flitting around. We continued into the forest when suddenly a **Scaly Ground Roller**



This Scaly Ground Roller perched in the open for a few minutes.

flushed from the side of the trail. The entire group followed the direction of the flushed ground roller, we soon found ourselves at the bottom of a ravine. Our local guide informed us that we should wait here as he imitated the bird's call. After twenty minutes we had all seemed to lose hope, when suddenly some movement from the understory reinvigorated our patience. Just moments later the **Scaly Ground Roller** was perched in the open eating an insect! This encounter was much more fulfilling than the last, and everyone left with great looks and photos.

We left the park this day feeling great and decided to spend the afternoon at Park VOIMMA. Here we were hoping to see the **Lowland Streaked Tenrec**, a strange and colorful small mammal unique to the island. As we searched for the tenrec we came across the **Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko**, a large lizard with some of the most impressive camouflage in the world. We also saw the first **Madagascar Tree Boa** for the tour, a large yet docile constrictor. As we continued looking we had amazing looks at **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Spectacled Tetraka**, and **Common Brown Lemurs**. Unfortunately the search for the tenrec was cut short when some unexpected rain came in.

11 November- Andasibe-Mantadia to Tana

We left in the early hours of the morning after a fantastic final breakfast and left for Antananarivo. Today was mostly a travel day but we did manage to stop a little bit of shopping, where we visited a few stores or local crafts and souvenirs. After the shopping we headed back to Parc Tsarasaotra to try one more time for the **Meller's Duck**. Unfortunately the **Meller's Duck** seemed to be the nemesis of the trip, as we missed it once again. The birds present were similar to the first time, however we did manage to see the first **Fulvous Whistling Duck** of the tour! The last meal of the main tour was wonderful and those that were going on the Helmet Vanga extension were eager to leave early the next morning.

Helmet Vanga Extension

12 November- Tana to Masoala NP

The Masoala Peninsula may be one of the least accessible locations in Madagascar, however it is also one of the most desirable places to see. The peninsula is a pinnacle of evolutionary marvel and the sole place to see several lemurs and frogs. It is also the most reliable place to see both the **Helmet Vanga** and **Bernier's Vanga**. However, since there are no roads

leading directly to the park or our accommodation we had to use a privately chartered plane. Our small private flight was both relaxing and beautiful, offering us incredible views of Madagascar and the remaining forest. After the 2 hour flight we landed in Maroantsetra where we hopped into a 4x4 vehicle, and drove to the port. Once at the port we got onto the hotel's private boat and began a 2 hour boat ride to the hotel. As we rode in the Helodrano Antongila Bay we were surrounded by the most intact rainforest we had seen on the whole tour. Soon we arrived at our destination and were greeted with



Giant Leaf-tailed Gecko (Uroplatus fimbriatus) was one impressive herp in Masoala

simple yet very accommodating rooms. The small private houses gave us excellent views of the ocean, while the food was delicious and fresh. After our first lunch at the Masoala Forest Lodge we met our local guide and went into the forest to search for our first target, the **Red-breasted Coua**. After seeing some familiar faces, like the **Blue Coua** and **Tylas Vanga**, we heard the distinctive call of the **Red-breasted Coua**. We stood quietly on the trail and played some tape when suddenly the bird cautiously came out of the foliage and allowed some great looks. We spent the remainder of the day hiking and searching for the **Helmet and Bernier's Vangas**.

The lodge had nice private trails, so we could explore them even at night. Our first night hike offered great looks at the **Masoala Woolly Lemur**, **Masoala Sportive Lemur**, and a currently undescribed species of **Mouse Lemur**! We also saw some awesome herps like the **Masoala Bright-eyed Frog** (*Boophis masoala*), a large green tree frog unique to the peninsula, and the **Giant Leaf-tailed Gecko** (*Uroplatus fimbriatus*), one of the largest members of the endemic *Uroplatus* genus.

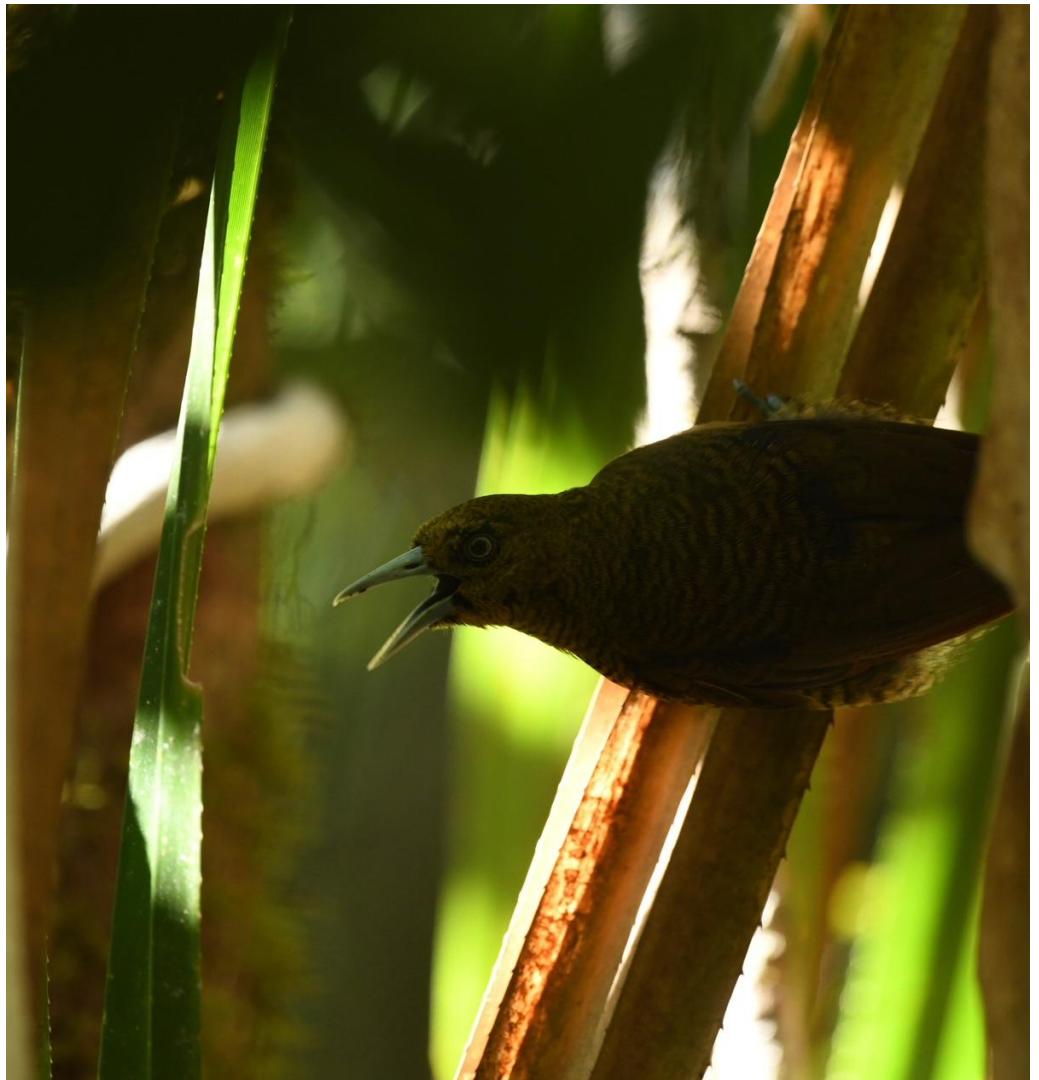


The massive Masoala Bright-eyed Frog is found only on the Masoala Peninsula

13 November- Masoala NP

After getting one of the three main bird targets the previous day, the remainder of our time in Masoala was dedicated to the two vangas, and any lemurs we hadn't seen yet. Our local guide had found a **Helmet Vanga** nest the previous week, so we set out early to get there. We had an exceptional start to the day when the lead guide found a **Lowland Streaked Tenrec** on the way to breakfast! After some breakfast we walked along the beach towards the nest. Immediately we got amazing looks at a female **Madagascar Pratincole** with two chicks! We got great looks and then continued on our way to the nest. The walk was beautiful as we weaved between the

rainforest and the beach, giving us both lush forest and dramatic coastline views. As we were walking we lucked into two Ring-tailed Vontsira! This was now the third species of euplerid, or Malagasy carnivoran, we had seen on the tour! After an hour and a half we found ourselves in the forest interior. Suddenly our local guide stopped and pointed in excitement, the **Helmet Vanga** was perched right in the open! Right as the cameras went up another bird landed 10 feet away, this one was a **female Bernier's Vanga**! It's not very often you get the two bird goals of the day within 10 seconds of each other! Luckily both stuck around for a while and we even had brief views of the **male Bernier's Vanga**.



A female's Bernier's Vanga call from a Pandanus tree.

We spent a few hours with these birds before heading back for lunch. As we were walking back a troop of **White-fronted Brown Lemurs** passed through quickly, giving us our only looks at this rare lemur. After lunch we decided to take a small boat about 15 minutes up the coast. Here our goal was to see the last major target, the critically endangered Red-Ruffed Lemur. The lemurs gave us some trouble at first but along the way we saw the **Brown Leaf Chameleon** (*Brookesia superciliaris*), and the **Masoala Giant Fire Millipede** (*Aphistogoniulus erythrocephalus*). Finally at the last minute we were able to find 2 Red Ruffed Lemurs resting! It was an absolute thrill, especially since this lemur is one of the most colorful with their gorgeous red coat. We returned back to the boat and headed back to the hotel for dinner.

After such an epic day, we decided to continue to try our luck with a night walk. We immediately saw a **Panther Chameleon**, which is arguably one of the most colorful chameleons in the world! Shortly after we saw the **Northern Bamboo Lemur** foraging high in the trees. We continued to see great animals like the **Northeastern Tree Snake**, **Blue-backed Reed Frog**, **Boettger's Clawless Gecko**, and some ever fascinating tree crabs, *Scandarma gracilipes*.



A rare Northeastern Tree Snake (Lycodryas gaimardi)



A mother Madagascar Pratincole feeds two chicks.



The Helmet Vanga after landing less than 4 meters away.

14 November- Masoala NP

After seeing all our targets on the first day and a half, we decided to try for more looks at the **Helmet Vanga**. After all, this was the **Helmet Vanga** extension! We replicated the hike from the previous day. Upon arrival at the nest we were immediately greeted by two **Helmet Vangas**! This time we got to watch some incredible behavior. We saw several food carries (including a small lizard and large beetle), a fecal sack removal, and even heard the vangas vocalize! Not to mention, we were spoiled with the amount of photogenic perches they chose to land on. After getting more photos and memories with these stunning birds we returned back to the hotel, where we spent the remainder of the day enjoying the relaxing coastline and snorkeling.

15 November- Masoala NP to Tana

Our final day was simply a day of travel. We got to take in our final views of the rainforests in Madagascar and enjoyed a calm plane ride back to Tana. Upon arrival in Tana we were transferred back to Bois Vert where we got to some easy bird photography in the garden. The **Malagasy White-eyes**, **Red Fodies** and **Souimanga Sunbirds** served as a nice finale to a memorable and exceptional tour.



The Masoala Peninsula coastline. The final day of an incredible journey.

Bird of the Trip

Bird of the Northwest Extension

Schlegel's Asity - 15 VOTES



Bird of the Main Tour

1st Place: Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher - 9 Votes



2nd Place: Rufous-headed Ground Roller - 6 Votes



Bird of the Helmet Vanga Extension

Helmet Vanga- 15 Votes



Bird List

Taxonomy follows eBird/Clements online checklist v.2023

Anatidae (Ducks & Geese)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

- Seen at Ankarafantsika & Parc de Tsarasaotra

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

- Seen at Parc de Tsarasaotra

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

- Seen at Parc de Tsarasaotra

Blue-billed Teal *Anas hottentota*

- Seen at Parc de Tsarasaotra

Red-billed Duck *Anas erythrorhyncha*

- Seen at Parc de Tsarasaotra

Bernier's Teal *Anas bernieri*

- **Endangered.** Seen at Betsiboka (NW Extension)

Endemic

Numididae (Guineafowl)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

- Seen in multiple towns and around urbanized areas.

Introduced

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse & Allies)

Madagascar Partridge *Margaroperdix madagarensis*

- Near Isalo National Park

Endemic

Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopus roseus*

- Seen at Betsiboka (NW Extension)

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*

- Seen at Betsiboka (NW Extension)

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

Madagascar Grebe *Tachybaptus pelzelinii*

- **Vulnerable.** Seen at Ankarafantsika (NW Extension)

Endemic

Columbidae (Pigeons & Doves)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*

- Seen in most urbanized areas

Introduced

Malagasy Turtle-Dove *Nesoenas picturata picturata*

- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana & Andasibe

Endemic Sub.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis aliena*

- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty & Tulear

Endemic Sub.

Madagascar Green-Pigeon *Treron australis*

- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Endemic

Madagascar Blue-Pigeon *Alectroenas madagascariensis*

- Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia

Endemic

Mesitornithidae (Mesites)

White-breasted Mesite	<i>Mesitornis variegatus</i>	Endemic
- Vulnerable. Seen at Ankarafantsika		
Brown Mesite	<i>Mesitornis unicolor</i>	Endemic
- Vulnerable. Seen at Ranomafana		
Subdesert Mesite	<i>Monias benschi</i>	Endemic
- Vulnerable. Seen at Ifaty		

Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)

Madagascar Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles personatus</i>	Endemic
- Seen on route to Zombitse		

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>	Endemic
- Vulnerable. Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty		
Verreaux's Coua	<i>Coua verreauxi</i>	Endemic
- Near Threatened. Seen near Tulear		
Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia & Masoala		
Red-capped Coua	<i>Coua ruficeps ruficeps</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ankarafantsika		
"Green-capped" Coua	<i>Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps</i>	Endemic sub.
- Seen at Ifaty		
Red-fronted Coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ranomafana		
Coquerel's Coua	<i>Coua coquereli</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ankarafantsika & Zombitse		
Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ifaty		
Giant Coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Zombitse		
Red-breasted Coua	<i>Coua serriana</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Masoala		
Malagasy Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou toulou</i>	
- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty, Zombitse, Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia		
Madagascar Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	
- Seen at Ranomafana		

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars & Allies)

Collared Nightjar	<i>Gactornis enarratus</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia & Masoala		
Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus m. madagascariensis</i>	Endemic Sub.
- Seen at Tana hotel		

Apodidae (Swifts)**Madagascar Spinetail***Zoonavena g. grandidieri***Endemic Sub.**

- Seen at Ifaty & Andasibe-Mantadia

Malagasy Swift*Apus b. balstoni***Endemic Sub.**

- Seen at Ifaty & Andasibe-Mantadia

Malagasy Palm-Swift*Cypsiurus gracilis*

- Seen at Ifaty & Andasibe-Mantadia

Sarothruridae (Flufftails)**Madagascar Forest-Rail***Mentocrex kioloides***Endemic**

- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia & Masoala

Madagascar Flufftail*Sarothrura insularis***Endemic**

- Seen at Ranomafana

Rallidae (Rails & Allies)**Madagascar Rail***Zoonavena g. grandidieri***Endemic**

- Vulnerable. Seen at Ifaty & Andasibe-Mantadia

White-throated Rail*Dryolimnas c. cuvieri***Endemic Sub.**

- Seen near Tana & Ifaty

Eurasian Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorhoa*

- Seen at Tana, Ranomaana & Andasibe-Mantadia

Recurvirostridae (Stilts)**Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

- Seen at Ifaty

Charadriidae (Plovers & Lapwings)**Black-bellied Plover***Pluvialis squatarola*

- Seen at Nosy Ve

Greater Sand-Plover*Charadrius leschenaultii*

- Seen at Nosy Ve

Kittlitz's Plover*Charadrius pecuarius*

- Seen at Ifaty

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius leschenaultii*

- Seen at Ifaty

Madagascar Plover*Charadrius thoracicus***Endemic**

- Seen at Ifaty

Three-banded Plover*Charadrius tricollaris bifrontatus***Endemic Sub.**

- Seen at Ranomafana

White-fronted Plover*Charadrius marginatus tenellus*

- Seen at Ifaty

Jacanidae (Jacanas)**Madagascar Jacana***Actophilornis albinucha***Endemic**

- Seen at Ankarafantsika

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

- Seen at Nosy Ve, Ifaty, Masoala

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

- Seen at Nosy Ve, Ifaty

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

- Seen at Nosy Ve, Ifaty, Betsiboka

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

- Seen at Nosy Ve, Betsiboka

Madagascar Snipe *Gallinago macrodactyla*

- Seen at Ranomafana

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

- Seen at Ranomafana, Ifaty

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

- Seen at Ifaty, Betsiboka

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

- Seen at Ifaty

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

- Seen at Masoala, on route to Mahajanga

Laridae (Gulls & Terns)**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

- Seen at Betsiboka

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*

- Seen at Betsiboka

Phaethontidae (Tropicbirds)**Red-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon rubricauda*

- Seen at Nosy Ve

Ciconiidae (Storks)**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus madagascariensis*

- Seen at Ankarafantsika

Scopidae (Hamerkop)**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

- Seen on route to Ranomafana

Endemic**Endemic****Endemic Sub.**

Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns)**Little Bittern***Ixobrychus minutus*

- Seen at Ankarafantsika

Gray Heron*Ardea cinerea firsas***Endemic Sub.**

- Seen at Ifaty, Ankarafantsika, Nosy Ve

Humblot's Heron*Ardea humbloti*

- **Endangered.** Seen on route to Ankarafantsika

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea madagascariensis***Endemic Sub.**

- Seen at Ankarafantsika

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

- Seen on route to Ankarafantsika, Ifaty

Little (Dimorphic) Egret*Egretta garzetta dimorpha*

- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty, near Tana

Black Heron*Egretta ardesiaca*

- Seen near Tana

Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty, Tulear

Squacco Heron*Ardeola ralloides*

- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty, near Tana

Malagasy Pond-Heron*Ardeola idae*

- **Endangered.** Seen at Ankarafantsika, near Tana

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

- Seen at Ankarafantsika, near Tana

Black-crowned Night-Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax*

- Seen near Tana

Threskiornithidae (Ibises & Spoonbills)**Madagascar Ibis***Lophotibis cristata***Endemic**

- **Near Threatened.** Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Malagasy Sacred Ibis*Threskiornis bernieri*

- **Endangered.** Seen at Betsiboka

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles & Kites)**Madagascar Harrier-Hawk***Polyboroides radiatus***Endemic**

- Seen at Ifaty, Andasibe-Mantadia

Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk*Aviceda madagascariensis***Endemic**

- Seen at Zombitse

Malagasy Harrier*Circus macroscelus*

- Seen on route to Ankarafantsika

Frances's Sparrowhawk*Accipiter f. francesiae***Endemic Sub.**

- Seen at Ankarafantsika

Henst's Goshawk*Accipiter henstii***Endemic**

- **Vulnerable.** Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Black "Yellow-billed" Kite*Milvus migrans*

- Seen at Betsiboka, Ranomafana, Ankarafantsika

Madagascar Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>	Endemic
- Critically Endangered. Seen at Ankarafantsika		
Madagascar Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ranomafana, Ankarafantsika		
<u>Strigidae (Owls)</u>		
“Rainforest” Scops-Owl	<i>Otus rutilus rutilus</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia		
“Torotoroka” Scops-Owl	<i>Otus rutilus madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ifaty		
White-browed Owl	<i>Athene supercilialis</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Zombitse		
Madagascar Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia		
<u>Leptosomidae (Cuckoo-Roller)</u>		
Cuckoo-Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor discolor</i>	Endemic Sub.
- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia		
<u>Upupidae (Hoopoes)</u>		
Madagascar Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ifaty, Andasibe-Mantadia, Ankarafantsika		
<u>Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)</u>		
Malagasy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis v. vintsioides</i>	Endemic Sub.
- Seen at Ranomafana and near Tana		
Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ranomafana, Masoala		
<u>Meropidae (Bee-Eaters)</u>		
Madagascar Bee-Eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	
- Seen at Ifaty, Ankarafantsika, Zombitse		
<u>Coraciidae (Rollers)</u>		
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus g. Glaucurus</i>	Endemic Sub.
- Seen at Ifaty, Ankarafantsika, Isalo		
<u>Brachypteraciidae (Ground Rollers)</u>		
Scaly Ground-Roller	<i>Geobiastes squamiger</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia		
Short-legged Ground-Roller	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia and Masoala		
Long-tailed Ground-Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ifaty		
Pitta-like Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia		

Rufous-headed Ground-Roller *Atelornis crossleyi***Endemic**

- Seen at Ranomafana

Falconidae (Falcons)**Malagasy Kestrel***Falco newtoni*

- Seen at Ifaty, Ankarafantsika

Psittaculidae (Old World Parrots)**Greater Vasa Parrot***Coracopsis v. vasa*

- Seen at Ifaty

Lesser Vasa Parrot*Coracopsis n. nigra*

- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty, Andasibe-Mantadia

Gray-headed Lovebird*Agapornis canus***Endemic**

- Seen at Ifaty, Zombitse

Philepittidae (Asities)**Velvet Asity***Philepitta castanea***Endemic**

- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia

Schlegel's Asity*Philepitta schlegeli***Endemic**

- Seen at Ankarafantsika

Common Sunbird-Asity*Neodrepanis coruscans***Endemic**

- Seen at Ranomafana

Campephagidae (Cuckooshrikes)**Madagascar Cuckooshrike***Coracina cinerea***Endemic**

- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia

Vangidae (Vangas & Allies)**Archbold's Newtonia***Newtonia archboldi***Endemic**

- Seen at Ifaty

Common Newtonia*Newtonia brunneicauda***Endemic**

- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia

Dark Newtonia*Newtonia amphichroa***Endemic**

- Seen at Ranomafana

Tylas Vanga*Tylas eduardi***Endemic**

- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia

Red-tailed Vanga*Calicalicus madagascariensis***Endemic**

- Seen at Ranomafana

Red-shouldered Vanga*Calicalicus rufocarpalis***Endemic**

- **Vulnerable.** Seen at La Table

Nuthatch-Vanga*Hypositta corallirostris***Endemic**

- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Chabert Vanga*Leptopterus chabert***Endemic**

- Seen at Ifaty, Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia

Crossley's Vanga*Mystacornis crossleyi***Endemic**

- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Madagascar Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia		
Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ifaty, Andasibe-Mantadia		
Ward's Vanga	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia		
Rufous Vanga	<i>Schetba rufa</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Zombitse, Ifaty		
Helmet Vanga	<i>Euryceros prevostii</i>	Endemic
- Endangered. Seen at Masoala		
Bernier's Vanga	<i>Oriolia bernieri</i>	Endemic
- Endangered. Seen at Masoala		
Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falcula palliata</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ifaty		
White-headed Vanga	<i>Artamella viridis</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ifaty, Masoala		
Pollen's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>	Endemic
- Near Threatened. Seen at Ranomafana		
Lafresnaye's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>	Endemic
- Near Threatened. Seen at Ifaty		
Van Dam's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>	Endemic
- Endangered. Seen at Ankarafantsika		

Dicruridae (Drongos)

Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>
- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia	

Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)

Malagady Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>
- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia	

Corvidae (Crows, Jays & Magpies)

Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty	

Alaudidae (Larks)

Madagascar Lark	<i>Eremopterix hova</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ifaty		

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas & Allies)

Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia		
Green Jery	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ranomafana		
Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ifaty, Ranomafana		

Madagascar Cisticola

Cisticola cherina

- Seen at Ifaty, Ranomafana

Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers)

Malagasy Brush-Warbler

Nesillas t. typica

Endemic sub.

- Seen at Ankarafantsika

Subdesert Brush-Warbler

Nesillas lantzii

Endemic

- Seen at Ifaty

Madagascar Swamp Warbler

Acrocephalus newtoni

Endemic

- Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia

Locustellidae (Grassbirds & Allies)

Brown Emutail

Bradypterus brunneus

Endemic

- Heard in Ranomafana. Not seen.

Bernieridae (Malagasy Warblers)

White-throated Oxylobes

Oxylobes madagascariensis

Endemic

- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Long-billed Bernieria

Bernieria madagascariensis

Endemic

- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ifaty, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia

Cryptic Warbler

Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi

Endemic

- Seen at Ranomafana

Wedge-tailed Jery

Hartertula flavoviridis

Endemic

- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia

Thamnornis

Thamnornis chloropetoides

Endemic

- Seen at Ifaty

Yellow-browed Oxylobes

Crossleyia xanthophrys

Endemic

- Seen at Ranomafana

Spectacled Tetraka

Xanthomixis zosterops

Endemic

- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia

Appert's Tetraka

Xanthomixis apperti

Endemic

- Seen at Zombitse

Gray-crowned Tetraka

Xanthomixis cinereiceps

Endemic

- Seen at Ranomafana

Rand's Warbler

Randia pseudozosterops

Endemic

- Seen at Ranomafana & Andasibe-Mantadia

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

Madagascar Martin

Riparia cowani

Endemic

- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Mascarene Martin

Phedina borbonica

- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)

Madagascar Bulbul

Hypsipetes m. madagascariensis

Endemic Sub.

- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia, Ankarafantsika

Zosteropidae (White-eyes & Allies)

- Malagasy White-eye** *Zosterops maderaspatanus*
- Seen at most locations

Sturnidae (Starlings)

- Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis* **Introduced**
- Seen at most locations
- Madagascar Starling** *Hartlaubius auratus* **Endemic**
- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

- Madagascar Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus albospectularis* **Endemic**
- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia, Ankarafantsika
- Littoral Rock-Thrush** *Monticola imerina* **Endemic**
- Seen at Anakoa
- Forest Rock-Thrush** *Monticola sharpei sharpei* **Endemic Sub.**
- Seen at Ranomafana
- African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus sibilla* **Endemic Sub.**
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Nectariniidae (Sunbirds)

- Souimanga Sunbird** *Cinnyris s. sovimanga* **Endemic Sub.**
- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia
- “White-bellied” Sunbird** *Cinnyris s. apolis* **Endemic Sub.**
- Seen at Ifaty
- Malagasy Sunbird** *Cinnyris n. notatus* **Endemic Sub.**
- Seen at Ifaty and Tana

Ploceidae (Weavers & Allies)

- Nelicourvi Weaver** *Ploceus nelicourvi* **Endemic**
- Seen at Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia
- Sakalava Weaver** *Ploceus sakalava* **Endemic**
- Seen at Ifaty
- Red Fody** *Foudia madagascariensis* **Endemic**
- Seen at Tana, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia
- Forest Fody** *Foudia omissa* **Endemic**
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Estrildidae (Waxbills & Allies)

- Madagascar Munia** *Lepidopygia nana* **Endemic**
- Seen at Ifaty and Tana

Motacillidae (Wagtails & Allies)

- Madagascar Wagtail** *Motacilla flaviventris* **Endemic**
- Seen at Tana, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia

MAMMAL LISTCheirogaleidae (Mouse & Dwarf Lemurs)

Gray Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ifaty		
Rufous Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ranomafana		
Golden-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus ravelobensis</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ankarafantsika		
Goodman's Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia		
Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus crossleyi</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia		
Greater Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Masoala		
Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ankarafantsika		

Lepilemuridae (Sportive Lemurs)

Weasel Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia		
Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ankarafantsika		
Masoala Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur scottorum</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Masoala		
Petter's Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur petteri</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ifaty		

Lemuridae (True Lemurs)

Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia		
"Ranomafana" Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur g. ranomafanensis</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ranomafana		
Northern Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur occidentalis</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Masoala		
Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ranomafana		
Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Anja Reserve		
Mongoose Lemur	<i>Eulemur mongoz</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ankarafantsika		
Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana, Andasibe-Mantadia		
White-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur albifrons</i>	Endemic
- Seen at Masoala		

Red-bellied Lemur *Eulemur rubriventer* **Endemic**
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur *Varecia variegata* **Endemic**
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Red Ruffed Lemur *Varecia rubra* **Endemic**
- Seen at Masoala

Indridae (Wolly Lemurs & Sifakas)

Masoala Woolly Lemur *Avahi mooreorum* **Endemic**
- Seen at Masoala

Eastern Woolly Lemur *Avahi laniger* **Endemic**
- Seen at Ranomafana

Western Woolly Lemur *Avahi occidentalis* **Endemic**
- Seen at Ankarafantsika

Verreaux's Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi* **Endemic**
- Seen at Zombitse

Coquerel's Sifaka *Propithecus coquereli* **Endemic**
- Seen at Ankarafantsika

Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus diadema* **Endemic**
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Milne-Edwards Sifaka *Propithecus edwardsi* **Endemic**
- Seen at Ranomafana

Crowned Sifaka *Propithecus coronatus* **Endemic**
- Seen at Ketspy

Indri *Indri indri* **Endemic**
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Eupleridae (Malagasy Carnivores)

Ring-tailed Vontsira *Galidia elegans* **Endemic**
- Seen at Masoala

Fanaloka *Fossa fossana* **Endemic**
- Seen at Ranomafana

Fosa *Cryptoprocta ferox* **Endemic**
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Tenrecidae (Tenrecs)

Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec *Tenrec ecaudatus* **Endemic**
- Seen at Ifaty

Lowland Streaked Tenrec *Hemicentetes semispinosus* **Endemic**
- Seen at Masoala

Nesomyidae (African Rodents)

Eastern Red Forest Rat *Nesomy rufus* **Endemic**
- Seen at Andasibe-Mantadia

Webb's Tuft-tailed Rat

- Seen at Masoala

Eliurus webbi

Endemic



The Green Bright-eyed Frog (Boophis viridis)