

## Madagascar

The Eighth Continent

30<sup>th</sup> October – 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2011

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Report & photos by Charley Hesse.



During this set departure tour we visited a wide variety of habitats, including the bizarre spiny forests of the south west where we saw the amazing Long-tailed Ground-Roller and Subdesert Mesite, wetlands for endangered waterbirds like Madagascar Pond-Heron and humid forests of the eastern highlands for 4 more species of ground rollers, asities, Brown Mesite and an array of endemic vangas and Malagasy warblers. The 2 extensions took us to the dry deciduous forests of the north west where we saw the critically endangered Madagascar Fish Eagle, White-breasted Mesite and the incredible Schlegel's Asity; and the north east for the legendary Helmet Vanga. We saw all but one of the available endemics, only missing the Yellow-bellied Sunbird Asity which was seen by the other Tropical Birding tour group. Not only did we see the vast majority of avian endemics but we saw them well and the many keen photographers on the tour enjoyed great photo opportunities of most of them. However, Madagascar is more than just birds. Even the most hardcore birders couldn't help but become enchanted by the lemurs, tenrecs, chameleons, leaf-tailed geckos and even insects. Madagascar is so mind-boggling different from anywhere else on the planet, we were left shaking our heads and saying, "Unbelievable!" on a daily basis. This island of such unique natural wonder is in severe danger. Everywhere we went, we saw the forests burning to produce charcoal and to clear the land for zebu cattle to feed the rapidly growing population. We all felt very privileged to witness these natural wonders that may soon be gone forever.

## **WESTERN ENDEMIC EXTENSION**

### **30<sup>th</sup> October – Tana to Ampijoroa**

Everybody joining the Western Endemics extension arrived the previous day and had already seen 1 or 2 endemics such as **Madagascar Wagtail** and **Red Fody** in the garden of our comfortable hotel. Air Madagascar seem to enjoy changing flight times on a regular basis and for some reason known only to themselves, they decided that the morning flight to Mahajanga leave at 5am. The clients took the early morning departure with good grace and bravely looked on the bright side of having extra birding time. It was just getting light as we walked across the tarmac to the plane and we added **Madagascar Kestrel** and many **Little Swifts**. Leaving Mahajanga, we drove towards Ampijoroa through anthropogenic grasslands dotted with palms where we saw many **African Palm-Swifts** zipping backwards and forwards in this rather depressing habitat that used to be native forest. At a small pond on the way we stopped to find our first **Malagasy Kingfisher** and in the first major town we found some **Madagascar Bee-eaters** flying over head and a **Sakalava Weaver** colony which our local guide told us that local people believed to be a lucky sign.

Our first programmed birding stop though was Lake Amboromalandy which we reached after a couple of hours and as soon as we stepped out of the vehicle, we kicked off our reptile list with a **Collared Iguanid** and **Oustalet's Chameleon**. Walking down to the lake through open habitat we saw both **Madagascar Lark** and **Cisticola**. At the lake itself we started ticking off the numerous water birds, like **Whiskered Tern**, **Black Herons** making an umbrella with their wings, **Striated Heron**, **White-faced Whistling-Duck**, **Red-billed & Hottentot Teals**. Also, we finally saw a female **African Pygmy-goose** mixed in with some **Eurasian Moorhens**. We continued scanning with our scopes and found 2 of our main targets: A distant **Madagascar Jacana** and pair of **Madagascar Grebes**. Having found most of the water birds that we needed, we started walking back from the lake and on the way had good views of **Madagascar Coucal** after I flushed them up.



The endangered endemic Hublot's Heron next to White-faced Whistling-Duck & Black Heron (Charley Hesse)

We arrived at Ampijoroa and as soon as we got out of the vehicle we were surrounded by a plethora of new and exciting species. We had **Madagascar Turtle-Dove**, **Madagascar Green-Pigeon**, **Madagascar Hoopoe**, **Madagascar Magpie-Robin** and **Madagascar Bulbul** as well as many **Broad-billed Rollers** flying above the trees looking rather falcon-esque and giving their strange, croaking vocalisations. We quickly found all of Madagascar's parrots, namely **Grey-headed Lovebird**, **Greater & Lesser Vasa Parrots**, and made a start on the endemic vanga family with **Sickle-billed**, **White-headed** and even **Chabert's Vanga** on a nest. We walked to a viewpoint over the lake where our main target was the **Madagascar Fish-Eagle**, a critically endangered endemic and one of the rarest raptors in the world. Our local guide was clearly excited when he spotted one on the ground by the edge of the lake. We got it in the scope just as another fish-eagle flew in and landed next to it. What luck! Nearby we also found **Comb Duck**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Dimorphic Egret**, **Squacco & Purple Herons** as well as **Humblot's Heron** and **Madagascar Pond-Heron** (2 endangered endemics right next to each other).

We met for an afternoon walk and straight away saw a group of adorable **Coquerel's Sifakas** and soon after had great scope views of a **Banded Kestrel**. We went to the upper trail system where we saw a rather hyperactive **Red-capped Coua** running backwards and forwards along the trail. Our guide heard a **Frances's Sparrowhawk** and we followed the call to find a beautiful adult male in clear view. Some LBJs we saw were interesting having recently changed their taxonomic positions: **Common Newtonia** has been moved to the vanga family, **Common Jery** to the cisticolas and **Long-billed Bernieria** from a greenbul to the newly formed and endemic Malagasy Warbler family, Bernieridae. Slightly more attractive endemics included **Rufous Vanga** on a nest, a beautiful male **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher** and **Ashy Cuckoo-shrike**. It was not all birds though. We added **Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur** which sat very quietly in the entrance hole of its roosting tree, and also the **Giant Hog-nosed Snake**, a large black and yellow snake that slithered by. The knowledge that there are no dangerous, venomous snakes on Madagascar certainly gives one courage to get close for a photo.

We had great views of a pair of **Madagascar Buttonquails** cut short by the arrival of a pair of **Van Dam's Vangas**, one of our main targets here. This is an endangered species with a very restricted range and we had good but brief views of a pair before they took off over the forest. Our guide took us to the territory of the **White-breasted Mesite** and we heard them calling. After some effort we saw them crossing the trail but there were hopefully better views to come. We started heading back down the hill and on the way saw a **Coquerel's Coua** lurking inside the dark forest undergrowth. We then had what was probably the highlight of the day. We saw a **Hook-billed Vanga** seemingly hunting something in the canopy. We watched for a while to see an **Oustalet's Chameleon** fighting for its life. It put up a great fight of biting and hissing but finally succumbed to the vanga's ferocity and was carried off to be feasted upon. We could barely watch the harrowing episode and some of us instead took the opportunity to see our first **Crested Coua** nearby. In the evening, we met for dinner which our guide interrupted when he found us **Mongoose & Common Brown Lemurs** in the trees just next to the restaurant. It had been a truly remarkable day.



**Schlegel's Asity** was voted bird of the trip. Not difficult to see why. (Charley Hesse)

### 31<sup>st</sup> October – Ampijoroa

After an cup of coffee, we had planned an early morning walk on the lower trails. We drove to the start of the trails and on the way stopped to look at an **African Darter** with its wings outstretched. We walked by the edge of the lake and pulled out a skulking **Madagascar Brush-Warbler** before entering the forest where our main target was **Schlegel's Asity**. We saw many **Cuckoo-Rollers** in flight and also got great perched views of males and females. We also got a pair of **Blue Vangas** and good views of **Madagascar Green Sunbird**. On one asity territory, we got views of a female but the guide finally found us a pair that had just started nest building. We had gripping, eye-level views and the male's green and blue carruncles were bizarre beyond belief. After leaving the

forest, we picked up **Madagascar White-eye** and then walked along the edge of the lake to see **Glossy Ibis**, **Madagascar Buzzard** and **Allen's Gallinule**.

During breakfast we saw a female **White-headed Vanga** on a nest and had scope views of a **Grey-headed Lovebird**. Afterwards we started walking to the upper trail system again and on the way we saw several birds soaring way up in the sky and were surprised to see a handful of **Yellow-billed Storks**, quite rare in Madagascar. We also picked up **Madagascar Green-Pigeon**, **Lesser Vasa Parrot** and a beautiful **Mahafaly Sand Snake**. **Madagascar Cuckoo** led us a merry dance but finally showed, we had better views of **Van Dam's Vanga** and great photo opportunities of **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher**. By late morning it was very hot and we decided to retire to the rooms only to have the guide come back 5 minutes later to tell us he had found a **Madagascar Ground Boa**, a huge, beautifully patterned snake. During lunch we noticed **Coquerel's Sifakas** close to the ground on the other side of the road and we dropped our food to cross over and get amazing views, face to face. Next we were taken to see **Western Avahi**, also known as wooly-lemur, which were absolutely adorable animals. Luckily some more luxurious accommodation had become available so we went back to get our things and some of us had an amazing eye-level view of **Crested Coua** on the way.



**Crested Coua is an entirely arboreal species unlike its congeners here. (Charley Hesse)**

In the afternoon we drove to Lake Ambondromamy where we walked around looking for **Harlequin Quail**. We flushed them a few times and had to make do with flight views. I thought I had one on the ground but it turned out to be a large **Brown Rat** which we added to the mammal list. Local kids had gathered round us, very curious to see what we were up to. At a marshy area we saw a pair of **Madagascar Coucals** and tried to call out a **White-throated Rail**. Several people saw one hop up briefly before disappearing into the reeds, not to re-emerge. Next we scanned the lake from the road and had scope views of a very distant pair of **African Pygmy-Geese** and a much closer **Humblot's Heron**. We went back to the park and had dinner followed by a night walk on which we found a group of **Common Brown Lemurs** feasting on some large fruit and also pairs of sleeping **Common Jerys** and **Madagascar Magpie-Robins**. We found lots of **Oustalet's** and an uncommon **Rhinosaurus Chameleon** and finally our first of several **Golden-brown Mouse Lemurs**, discovered as recently as 1997. We had very fleeting views of **Grey Mouse Lemur** along the road before we called it a day and headed to bed.

## 1<sup>st</sup> November – Ampijoroa

It was our last morning's birding here and again we took an early morning walk. One of our main targets was **White-breasted Mesite** which we soon found and had incredible views of by the side of the trail. We went back up to the upper trails and we were led by a **Red-capped Coua** all the way up. Our guide tried very hard to find us a roosting **Torotoroka Scops-Owl**, his perseverance finally paying off as he led us into the thick, tangly forest and pointed out the small figure of an owl hiding inside a tree stump. Other good birds during the morning were **Madagascar Buttonquail**, **Blue & Rufous Vangas** and **Madagascar Coucal** which was carrying nesting material. We also did well for lemurs, picking up **Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur**, **Coquerel's Sifaka**, **Common Brown & Mongoose Lemurs** before heading to the restaurant for breakfast.



**White-breasted Mesite was our first member of this totally unique, endemic family (Charley Hesse)**

Afterwards we walked along the edge of the lake finally finding **Little Bittern** for Bill and also getting **Humblot's, Madagascar Pond- & Black Herons** all right next to each other. We also saw **Madagascar Swamp-Warbler** in the reeds and had great views of **Malagasy Kingfisher** fishing from a low stump in the water. We packed up and gathered for one last delicious lunch at the restaurant before starting our drive back to Mahajanga. We hadn't got far before a large raptor flew over the car and we all jumped out to see our first **Madagascar Harrier-Hawk**, looking almost identical to its African counterpart. In Mahajanga we stayed at a hotel with beautiful sea views and a large pool where we enjoyed the comforts of civilisation.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Katsepy & Betsiboka Delta

Today we were taking a boat trip on the Betsiboka Delta but first we had a very special trip planned to Katsepy, the area around a lighthouse on the other side of the bay from Mahajanga. After some initial confusion about where and how to get on the boat, we were chugging our way across the water. On the other side, our guide found us a truck that would take us up to the lighthouse about 10km away. We all climbed in the back for the bumpy ride and it was certainly a relief to get out at the other end. We had fly-overs of **Madagascar Harrier-Hawk** and **Broad-billed Roller** plus several common birds but it was a mammal we had come to see. The **Crowned Sifaka**, a very rare and range-restricted lemur, this being the most accessible site for it. As we searched the trees nearby, we actually came across a group of **Mongoose Lemurs** and had our best views yet. Soon after, we tracked down a sifaka. There were 2 groups in the area but most of the members of 1 group had been shot by some soldiers recently for meat, leaving this lone individual. Needless to say we were all horrified to hear this story. We had great views of this confiding individual before walking up to the lighthouse. We were just about to leave when we spotted the other group in trees by the side of the road. Our guide told us he thought they would cross, so we go in position and waited. One by one, 4 adults bounced, skipped and long-jumped across, one even with a baby on its back. It was fantastic to see this amazing behaviour.

We drove to the boat and got back on to start our trip of the delta. We had timed the tides just right and the mud around the base of the mangroves was just starting to reveal itself. In the distance we saw a few white dots and as we got closer we saw they were in fact a group **Madagascar Sacred Ibises**. We had great views of this endangered endemic which differs from its African counterpart in its blue eyes and all white wings. Also here we saw some **Whimbrels** and a **Common Sandpiper**. As we continued our boat ride, the odd **Lesser Crested Tern** flew by and we saw a few dark morph **Dimorphic Egrets**. I was starting to get a bit worried about seeing our main target, **Bernier's Teal** (another endangered endemic). The water level was dropping quickly now and we started seeing **Curlew Sandpipers** feeding along the edge. Then somebody shouted that they had seen a duck and we stopped the boat to check it out. Our initial views were poor but after a while the distant pair of ducks moved closer and closer until we had respectable views and some photo opportunities. It had been a productive morning and we headed back for a late lunch and some well deserved rest in the afternoon.



The endangered endemic Madagascar Sacred Ibis at the Betsiboka Delta (Charley Hesse)

## **MAIN TOUR**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> November – Lake Alarobia**

The ever-changing Air Madagascar schedules meant that we had to leave Mahajanga earlier than planned, but the flip side of this was that we had more time birding in Tana. After we arrived, we went by the hotel to drop our bags off and pick up Tony, our new tour member. Then it was on to Lake Alarobia, a great site for water birds in Tana. Another Tropical Birding group were already there and they got us on the uncommon **Reunion Harrier** which we had good scope views of on the other side of the lake. We then scanned through the hundreds of waterbirds to find **White-faced Whistling- & Comb Ducks, Red-billed & Hottentot Teals, Dimorphic Egret, Black Heron** and **Black-crowned Night-Heron**. The main prize though was the endangered **Madagascar Pond-Heron** which Mark found scanning through countless **Squacco Herons**.

We took a walk around the lake finding lots of birds beginning with Madagascar, including: the **Madagascar Kestrel, Madagascar White-eye, Madagascar Coucal, Madagascar (Malagasy) Kingfisher, Madagascar Brush-Warbler** and **Madagascar Swamp-Warbler**. The latter 2 looked very similar but sounded very different. Whilst trying for **White-throated Rail**, we spotted 2 grey-coloured **Asian Musk Rats** moving around in the base of some bamboo nearby. A lucky find, even if they are not native. We went for lunch at the Waterfront mall located next to another large lake full of water birds. As soon as we arrived we saw some **Madagascar & Little Swifts** and **Mascarene Martins** flying overhead as well as many **Red Fodies** hopping around in the trees nearby. The lake held many of the same water bird species as Alarobia but we had much closer views of the **Black Heron's** fascinating fishing technique where they throw their wings out in front of them as a shade to see into the water better.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> November – Tulear to Ifaty

The flight to Tulear, the largest town in the south west, left at the surprisingly reasonable hour of 11:35am. Descending to our destination we saw many areas of dry forest on fire and previously cleared areas laying bare and useless, a sad reality in Madagascar. We were picked up at the Tulear airport by 4-wheel drives which would take us along the sandy road north to the small beach town of Ifaty. On the drive we saw some **Madagascar Bee-eaters** and **Sakalava Weavers** before arriving at the first of the Belalanda lakes. We scanned with our scopes to find **Red-billed & Hottentot Teals**, **Little Grebe** along with many waders including **Lesser Sandplover**, **Common Ringed Plover**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Common Greenshank**, **Whimbrel** and **Curlew Sandpiper**. We moved on to another lake filled with reeds. Many **Mascarene Martins** and the odd **Barn Swallow** flew over the reeds while **Madagascar Coucal** and **Madagascar Swamp-Warbler** called and occasionally hopped out. One participant jumped for joy when he saw a **Little Bittern** he had previously missed flying over. The main target here though was the small **Baillon's Crake**. After finding a good spot we managed to coax one out only to find a couple of tiny chicks in tow. **White-throated Rail** also called but was not seen. We got back in the vehicles and continued on, only stopping when a pair of **Chabert's Vangas** flew across the road. Here we also saw a specialty of the area, the **Subdesert Brush-Warbler**.

We reached an area of mangroves and scanned for waders, finding the hoped for **Terek Sandpiper** and several **Ruddy Turnstones**. Several other shorebirds were also seen including **Sanderling**, **Black-bellied**, **Greater Sand-** and **White-fronted Plovers**. We also saw a beautiful male **Red Fody** coming down to drink from the river and a **Malagasy Kingfisher** fishing. We realised that it was getting late and we still had a major target. On the way we saw some smart-looking **Namaqua Doves** perched on top of octopus trees, but we didn't even slow down. We reached a very flat, open area where we started looking for our target, the **Madagascar Plover**. After a few false alarms of **Kittlitz's Plovers** we found a **Madagascar Plover** in the distance, then a closer one with an adorable little chick and a bonus **Madagascar Lark** before heading to our hotel in Ifaty. Several people heard a **Madagascar Nightjar** when they were in the shower and rushed out to find it in the treetops. We enjoyed a fine buffet in the evening.



The unique Long-tailed Ground-Roller, a denizen of the spiny forest. (Charley Hesse)

#### 5<sup>th</sup> November – Ifaty Spiny Forest

After an early breakfast we took a morning walk in a private reserve nearby. Straight away we added **Stripe-throated Jery** singing from the top of an Octopus Tree, typical of the area. The local guides first took us to a spot where there was a **Long-tailed Ground-Roller** waiting for us which posed beautifully for photos. After this, we picked up new birds at a steady rate, including **Madagascar Kestrel**, **Madagascar Swift**, **Grey-headed Lovebird**, **Madagascar Hoopoe**, more **Chabert's Vangas** and a female **Ashy Cuckoo-shrike**. The guides then showed us a pair of **Madagascar Nightjars** beautifully camouflaged against the leaf litter but our views were cut

short with another guide shouting that he had **Subdesert Mesite**. This was one of the major targets of this part of the trip and we got to the spot to find a female, perched up in a tree, completely still, a predator-evasion technique. Next we found **Thamnornis**, a member of the new Malagasy warbler family. It used its long bill to probe into crevices and epiphytic vegetation. We had scope views of a **Green-capped Coua** perched up in a tree before it flapped off and further on we found a delightful **Three-eyed Lizard** in the middle of the trail.

We finished in the reserve, started walking along road and saw a **Madagascar Harrier-Hawk** perched up in a distant tree. **Madagascar Green-Pigeon** fed on a fruit laden tree, **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher** flitted about in the understory and some **Common Newtonia** juveniles caused some momentary confusion over their identification. We also saw **Crested Coua** and **White-headed Vanga** before we headed back to the hotel to escape the heat and have some down time in the middle of the day, during which we took naps and dips in the sea. In the afternoon, we drove to an area adjacent to the reserve to look at a **Banded Kestrel** nest. On the way we saw **Greater Vasa Parrot**, **Madagascar Cuckoo**, **Madagascar Bee-eater** and **Sickle-billed Vanga**. We did see a bird in the nest but our views consisted of some tail feathers sticking out and an eye glinting through a gap in the nesting material. We were then taken to the roosting cavity of a sportive-lemur and spent the rest of the afternoon tracking down **Running Coua**, which finally gave some sort of view. We got back to the car park at dusk and waited for dark, and then went looking for **Torotoroka Scops-Owl**. They gave us the run around, but those that persisted were rewarded with views. Last, we went to see a tiny **Grey-brown Mouse Lemur** before heading back for dinner and bed.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> November – Ifaty to Tulear

It was our final morning here and we concentrated on species we still needed to get. Our first addition was **Archbold's Newtonia** which we had singing, followed by better views of **Chabert's Vanga**, **Thamnornis** and **Running Coua**. We found a **Common Newtonia** on a nest and one more view of the amazing **Long-tailed Ground-Roller**, but the main avian target of the morning was **Lafresnaye's Vanga** which we chased backwards and forwards across a clearing for some time, until we had all seen it well. We had more great views of the sportive-lemur and the local guide found us a very cute **Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec**. We went back to try for **Banded Kestrel** and got better views of another bird off the nest. We also had **White-headed Vanga** and a **Barn Swallow**, a surprisingly rare bird in Madagascar. We had cleaned up in the Spiny Forest and after packing up at the hotel we started driving back towards Tulear.



Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec (Charley Hesse)

Madagascar Plover was nowhere to be seen but we did find several **Madagascar Larks** and **Kittlitz's Plover**. At the Belalanda ponds we saw **Whimbrel**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Curlew** & **Common Sandpipers** and across the river a group of **White-faced Whistling-Ducks**. We had great views of **White-throated Rail** in a gap through the reeds along the road, then we walked along the edge of some reed beds leading to a very productive small lake where we saw **Red-billed & Hottentot Teals**, **Little Grebe**, **Little Bittern**, **Squacco Heron**, **Eurasian Moorhen**

and **Red-knobbed Coot**, the latter new for the trip. **Madagascar Swamp-Warblers** were singing in the reeds while many **Mascarene Martins** flew over head and **Malagasy Kingfisher** glinted like a jewel. We stopped again at a wader spot for a short ID workshop spotting **Common Ringed & Black-bellied Plovers**, **Black-winged Stilt** and **Common Greenshank** among others. We got back to Tulear early and had some time off to relax in the afternoon after many early starts.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> November – Tulear area

We started the day at a reasonable hour, looking for **Madagascar Sandgrouse**. On some open ground with several drinking pools just outside Tulear, many birds come in daily to drink. We killed time until they arrived by checking out some of the reed filled pools. On one, we had nice views of a **Malagasy Kingfisher** and as we approached another we flushed up a pair of **Greater Painted-snipes**. An especially important bird for one member of the group as he aimed to see all the bird families of the world and he still needed that one. We walked around it and flushed them up again, getting decent flight views. At 7 o'clock on the dot, we heard the tell-tale call of the **Madagascar Sandgrouse** and had a nice flyby. They circled round and came down a short distance away, and we edged closer to get great scope views. We notice some locals were walking by them very close so we did likewise and got some nice photos.



**Red-shouldered Vanga was the last species to be seen by the legendary Phoebe Snetzinger. (Charley Hesse)**

Next stop was La Table, the name of a plateau near Tulear covered in a very unique habitat called Coral Ragg Scrub. It looked very dry and inhospitable and a rather unlikely place for a vanga. In fact one of Madagascar's most recently described species, the **Red-shouldered Vanga**. As we walked in along a dry track, we saw several **Madagascar Larks**, **Namaqua Dove** and heard many **Subdesert Brush-Warblers**. We followed our local guide as he whistled the vanga call, but the first target we found was the rare **Verreaux's Coua**. We had several views of them but they would always move before we had a chance to photograph them. Walking on we picked up several more common birds like **Madagascar Cuckoo** and **Souimanga Sunbird** but still no **Red-shouldered Vanga**. Our guide told us to wait on the trail and he disappeared into the inhospitable scrub. About 10 minutes later we heard some urgent-sounding shouts which could only mean that he had found the birds. We followed his voice along several side trails, having to turn back a few times when they came to an end. We finally got close to him, played the call and a pair of vangas flew right in. As he continued to imitate the birds, they worked in a circle around us, never stopping in the open for very long. Then the male landed on an open branch visible by all and stayed put for a few seconds, long enough for anybody with a camera to get a great shot. Then they moved off and we were left triumphant and exhausted. We worked our way to the bus and back towards town, stopping briefly near the airport to look for **Madagascar Mannikin**. First we had great views of a pair of **Madagascar Swamp-Warblers** nest-building, then we found a nice flock of the mannikins in the grass. One of many birds in the field guide indicated as common that really aren't at all. In the afternoon, we visited the wonderful Arboretum where we had a nice guided tour of the local plants. The botanical guide was actually very obliging about out

strange birders behaviour, and even herded some **Madagascar Buttonquail** backwards and forwards across the trail so we could get photos. We also had saw several **Mascarene Martins**, nice photo opportunities of **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher** and learnt a little about the local plant life.

### 8<sup>th</sup> November – Nosy Ve & Anakao

Today we were taking a boat trip to the island of Nosy Ve, south of Tulear and several kilometers off the coast. The other group had been the day before and missed **Crab Plover** which had been flushed before they got there by the numerous tourist boats. We decided to leave earlier than planned so that we got there first. It took about an hour by high speed boat and it was quite an invigorating ride. On the way in, we saw a large flock of **Great Crested Terns** on the beach. The driver landed the boat at the right end of the island and we walked slowly up over a small dune to see a number large white birds stood on the sand. We lifted our bins and inhaled sharply when we realised we were looking at 2 dozen **Crab Plovers**, a major target for several people on the tour. Bill was especially happy and did a little dance for us. They stuck around for a few minutes but even though we were quite a distance from them and partially hidden by the dune they spooked and flew off. Very shy birds indeed. Arriving early really had been a good call. We noticed that right at the tip of the sand spit, 1 juvenile remained and a few of us sneaked up on it for photos. This individual was a lot steadier and we got some nice shots.



A juvenile Crab Plover, the sole members of their family. (Charley Hesse)

Next we walked along the edge of the island scoping **Dimorphic Egret**, **Black-bellied Plover**, **Greater Sandplover**, **Whimbrel** and **Ruddy Turnstone**. The group that visited yesterday had got lucky and found a pair of **Marsh Owls**. We searched through the middle of the island, spotting several **Subdesert Brush-Warblers**, **Madagascar Cisticolas** and a **Three-eyed Lizard**. A **Kelp Gull** (uncommon in the region) flew across in the distance. After a while, a pair of **Marsh Owls** flew up from the ground and circled us. One then came down into a tree and allowed us to get very close for photos. Finally we went to look at the nesting **Red-tailed Tropicbirds**. There seemed to be fewer than last year and no chicks calling. There was evidence of burning on the island and our guide told us that several months ago, local people set fires to stop tourists coming here and breaking their cultural taboos. It seemed that tropicbird nests had been a target and now the birds were re-nesting. This was a very upsetting story and shows how far conservation still has to in Madagascar. We all felt that it would be better to inform tourists of taboos rather than destroying their own natural heritage. We walked back to the boat spotting a **White-fronted Plover** on the way. Just before getting back on the boat, we scoped some terns on a nearby sandbank to find a flock of **Lesser Crested** and a single **Common Tern**.

The captain took us across to the mainland and the habitat of the localised endemic **Littoral Rock-Thrush**. We went for a drink in a nice beach resort where I knew them to frequent. After a nice cool drink one of the employees located a pair and we spent some time photographing them and also several other species like **Madagascar Kestrel**, **Madagascar Bee-eater** and our best views yet of **Subdesert Brush-Warbler**. It was very

hot by now and we went back for another cold drink. Some people decided to take a swim, but soon afterwards, the wind picked up and our boat's captain insisted that we leave before the sea got too rough. Safely back on dry land an hour later in Tulear, it was low tide and we spent some time scanning the mud flats for shorebirds. We saw **Black-bellied Plover**, **Greater Sandplover**, **Common Greenshank**, many **Whimbrels** and finally our hoped for **Saunders' Tern**. After a late lunch, we drove back to our hotel and took it easy for the rest of the afternoon.

### 9<sup>th</sup> November – Zombitse & Isalo

We left Tulear very early to reach Zombitse National Park at a reasonable birding hour. We arrived and met our local guide who endeared himself to us straight away by showing us a spectacular day-roosting **White-browed Owl**. We then set off on a trail to search for the small handful of target species that we had. We soon heard a **Coquerel's Coua** and the guide circled round to walk it across the trail for us. We saw a **Long-billed Bernieria** and listened out for its rare cousin, **Appert's Tetraka**, but nothing. We then saw a **Rufous Vanga** which we got decent views of before it flew a short distance. We followed the movement and got our bins on it again, but instead saw a female **Frances's Sparrowhawk**. Further on, the guide found us a family of **Verreaux's Sifakas** which we watched for some time. A brief view of **Blue Vanga** was nice but almost 2 hours had passed and we still hadn't had either of our main targets: **Appert's Tetraka** and **Giant Coua**. We passed the other group coming the other way and they had just seen both. After a short while, I finally heard the tetraka and it flew right into the tape and just sat there in good light. Another perfect photographic subject.



We were lucky our local guide had a White-browed Owl day roost staked out (Charley Hesse)

We further added to our lemur list with **Hubbard's Sportive Lemur**, looking very similar the other species we had previously seen. Just before reaching the end of the loop, the guide heard the **Giant Coua** and crawled off into the forest to bring it back for us. He again walked it across the trail giving us great views. The only problem for me was that it was too close to take a picture. Just 2m from my foot. The only other targets for us were **Malagasy Spinetail** and **Cuckoo Roller**, so back at the car park we climbed a hill and scanned above the canopy. The spinetail soon showed itself, but the cuckoo-roller took a while. We could hear them, but they were calling on the other side of a ridge from us. We hurried down a path towards the main road from where we had great views of a male doing its bizarre flight display. On the way back to the bus we saw several **Madagascar Hoopoes** and another **Giant Coua**, before we said goodbye to our local guide and set off for our next site.

We arrived at our luxurious lodge in Isalo National Park where we had a delicious lunch and had plenty of time to relax before heading out in the afternoon. **Madagascar Kestrel** and **Madagascar Swift** were common here and

the setting was just stunning. We drove out to the grounds of another lodge where the other Tropical Birding group were watching a stunning **Benson's Rock-Thrush** perched just outside their rooms. The bird couldn't have been more cooperative and was perched out in the open in perfect light. We had a short photographic workshop trying all different settings to get the best results. People commented that they couldn't believe how many great photo opportunities of the target birds they were getting on this trip. We also saw a nice pair of **Broad-billed Rollers** perched on a rock before we set off looking for **Madagascar Partridge** in the grasslands around a nearby lake. We combined the 2 groups and strung out in a long line to start tramping through the long grass. We saw many **African Palm-Swifts**, **Madagascar Cisticolas**, **Madagascar Bee-eaters** and also a few **Mascarene Martins** flying over the lake before we finally flushed up a male partridge. It landed a short distance away and some of us circled round to flush it back to the group. Everyone had decent flight views including 1 lucky lady who it almost flew into. It was just getting dark on our way back to the rooms and I heard the distinctive screech of a **Barn Owl**. We played the call and it circled around giving nice views.



**Benson's Rock-Thrush is now considered a full species (Charley Hesse)**

### **10<sup>th</sup> November – Anja to Ranomafana**

We had a long drive today to reach Ranomafana National Park, one of the top eastern rainforest birding sites. We broke up the trip with a short visit to Anja. A small community reserve where **Ring-tailed Lemurs** can be seen. On the way in, the guide showed us yet another **Oustalet's Chameleon** before reaching a group of **Ring-tailed Lemurs**. We watched the group for a while and most of the adults were resting in the heat of the day but the youngsters preferred to play. With the huge conservation problems that Madagascar has, this could be one possible solution, communities protecting habitat and making money out of conservation. Next we had some time at a lake next to the forest and straight away found a **Humblot's Heron**, a new species for one member of our group. Also there were numerous **Red-billed Ducks**, a **Dimorphic Egret**, several **Madagascar Wagtails** and even a **Hamerkop** flying over head. Before we left the reserve we saw some **Alpine Swifts** mixed with **Madagascar Swifts** flying across the huge rock faces above. We had lunch in a restaurant nearby before continuing on to Ranomafana.

As we drove east, the sky began to fill with clouds. We moved up from open grassland to hilly areas with a mixture of rice fields and eucalyptus covered hillsides and then to native forest. Here we got out and took a walk. Almost immediately Mark spotted a **Blue Coua** up on the hillside and they flew much closer for better views. Here we also had our first **Forest Fody**, **Green Jery** which flew right in to the tape and **Madagascar Brush-Warbler** which we only heard calling by the side of the road. We also had brief views of **Madagascar White-eye** and

**Madagascar Green Sunbird.** Further on we met up with the other group and they showed us a **Forest Rock-Thrush** nest they had been looking at and we waited around for the adults to come by. When we arrived at our hotel we saw a **Madagascar Mannikin** sitting on a palm frond in the garden. We had a long day driving but were excited to get stuck into birding tomorrow.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> November – Vohiparara Trail, Ranomafana NP

We left the hotel after breakfast and started driving up to the higher area of the park, known as Vohiparara. On the way we had the comical sight of a group of **Red-fronted Brown Lemurs** crossing the road, one with 2 babies clutching to its back. When we heard the song of **Rand's Warbler**, we stopped to put it in the scope and we also had **Madagascar Brush-Warbler** calling next to the road. We started the Vohiparara Trail, walking through lush, montane rainforest. We had good views of a male **Madagascar Green Sunbird** and got very excited to see a vanga perched up on top of a tree in the distance but scoped it to find it was only a **White-headed Vanga**. We continued birding this lower area adding **Tylas Vanga** on a nest and **Red-tailed Vanga** before hearing the distinctive call of **Pollen's Vanga**, our main target here. We followed the call and had brief views before it flew off. We went in pursuit, trying the tape and listening all the while. Again we heard it and managed more brief views. The birds had us going backwards and forwards a few times before everyone had seen them well.

Next we started walking up steps to the higher ridge area. We stopped at a dense area of bamboo where we heard **Madagascar Wood-Rail**. We called them in again and got them to cross the trail but unfortunately not everyone got views. We also had a **Crossley's Babbler** wander across the trail very briefly. Higher up we called in a skulking **Red-fronted Coua** and a **Common Sunbird-Asity** flitted about in the top branches of a tree. They were constantly on the move and quite difficult to get in one's binoculars. The local guide claimed a **Yellow-bellied Sunbird Asity** as well but we didn't see it well enough to count. We also saw **Ashy Cuckoo-shrike** and a nice group of **Red-bellied Lemurs**. A major target was still the **Brown Emu-tail**, a skulking brown warbler with a long tail that is devilishly difficult to see. At least it was responsive and came right in to the tape. Unfortunately the vegetation was so thick that all we could see was leaves moving. I continued going backwards and forwards along the trail to try and get the bird to cross a gap and people saw what almost looked like a little mouse running on the ground. One or 2 people finally got the bird singing but just then the local guide's phone went off and it disappeared. The bird moved away and we had to make do with less than ideal views.



A rare photo opportunity of the skulking Grey Emutail (Charley Hesse)

In the afternoon we drove to the start of the Ankaka trail, a formerly famous spot for Meller's Duck. We scanned the bend in the river where they used to be seen but could only find **Red-billed Teal**. We had a good chance later in the trip at Mantadia so all was not lost. We followed the path down to a marshy area where **Grey Emutail** can be found. Many **Mascarene Martins** and the odd **Plain Martin** flew by along with a stately **Purple Heron**. We tried the emutail call and waited for a response. We scanned the far edge of the marsh finding **Forest Fody**, **Blue**

**Coua** and **Stonechat** but when the emutail finally appeared it was right in front of us. It hopped up briefly on a nearby bush, then flew back into the low reeds. Their flight was direct but laboured and they looked like they could barely make it. We saw several more birds along the edge and finally had a cooperative bird that stayed up long enough to photograph. We didn't managed to find the Madagascar Snipe despite our efforts. We got back in time for a night walk. **Brown Mouse Lemur** comes in every night to feed on bananas rubbed on branches and there was a whole crowd gathered to watch. Afterwards we started checking the sides of the road for chameleons. We saw 5 species including **O'Shaughnessy's & Glaw's Chameleons**. It had been another long but very productive day.

### 12<sup>th</sup> November – Ranomafana NP

This morning we concentrated on the lower trails as there were several species that were only found here. We set off down the trail from the park entrance towards a bridge over the river. Along this trail we bumped into the other Tropical Birding group and heard the **White-throated Oxylobes** together in the dense vegetation upslope. We worked on the bird for quite a while and those that persevered were rewarded with views of this difficult bird and **Grey-crowned Greenbul** which was also present. We continued along the trail getting good views of **Pitta-like Ground-Roller** and several flocking species like **Blue Vanga** and **Spectacled Tetraka**. One of the main targets for the morning was **Brown Mesite** and we heard some calling near the trail. The local guide and I plunged into the thick vegetation and tried to head them off but they were long gone. In the meanwhile, one of the clients had spotted 2 **Madagascar Blue Pigeons** that looked like they might be nest-building. We had come up quite far when the guide received a call from his 'animal spotter' telling him that she'd located a group of the endangered **Golden Bamboo Lemur**. He said that it wasn't that far down, which unfortunately was a bit of a white lie. Once we had found the lemurs though, all was forgiven and we delighted in observing these rare and beautiful creatures.



After an arduous hike to its nest, the Henst's Goshawk was voted as the most rewarding trip bird (Charley Hesse)

We continued on up to a ridge where we bumped into the other group again. They kindly got us on our first **Dark Newtonia** and a short distance from this we had had killer views of a family of **Red-fronted Brown Lemurs**. The reason for this long, arduous hike was to reach the nest of **Henst's Goshawk**. An impressively powerful raptor which can even take lemurs. We waited by the nest site for a while and then heard the characteristic vocalization of one of the adults. One came in briefly to the nest which we had a scope set on and we got views before it took off again in flight. It seemed that the nest was still under preparation. The adult flew to a high perch where

someone spotted it and we all got a window for much better views. It changed perch a few times and we all took it in turns at the best spots to take photos through the canopy. Another great sense of achievement to have come so far and found our bird.

On the way back down we found a mother and juvenile **Velvet Asity** but unfortunately the male was not around. It was possibly off fetching food. Next came a real piece of luck. We heard the **Brown Mesite** again and this time close. The trail lead in their direction and we proceeded quickly and quietly. They called again, this time very close and just down slope. The local guide, his spotter and our non-birding guide were all roped in and circled around the birds and walked them very calmly upslope and across the trail right in front of us. It was a real highlight and a relief to finally have these tough birds under our belt. To see them so close was a bonus. We headed back down towards the entrance finding a nice **Red-fronted Coua** and better views of **White-throated Oxylobes** on the way.



The difficult **Brown Mesite** was missed by some other birding groups (Charley Hesse)

In the afternoon we went back to the Vohiparara area to try and pick up some of the difficult birds there. We walked up to the Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity spot and waited at the flowers for an hour. We had great views of a young male **Common Sunbird-Asity** and photos too, but it's rarer cousin, the yellow-bellied, still eluded us. We passed down a steep trail and heard **Rufous-headed Ground-Roller** in the same place as yesterday but this time it kept calling. We crept closer and I spotted it standing on a log in the shadows. The first few people in the line saw it before it hopped off into the darkness. We walked on a bit and tried the call, and sure enough it hopped in and everyone got on it. It had been a dramatic, nail-biting few minutes but it was a relief to finally have found another key bird. We walked up over the top and on the way back down tried again for **Brown Emu-tail**, **Yellow-browed Oxylobes** and **Madagascar Flufftail** all of which we heard infuriatingly close but couldn't bring in. Oh well, we would have to try again tomorrow.

We left the trails with enough daylight left to try for 1 more target species, **Madagascan Snipe**. We got in the bus and drove a short distance to some paddy fields by the forest edge. While we started walking around the edge of the flooded paddies, our guide went to secure the services of some local kids who would help us in our search. We saw a **Stonechat** by the edge of the paddies, heard **White-throated Rail** in the forest nearby and walking through a more natural swampy area, we flushed up a **Baillon's Crake**. The guide arrived with 4 young boys who started walking through the recently flooded paddies and before long a snipe flushed up and flew a short distance to another field. We moved closer and got the boys to wait until we were close enough to get good looks when it flew again. Then they ran in and up it flew giving decent views. It was almost dark and we thanked the local family who seemed very amused by our strange behaviour. Another very productive day.

### 13<sup>th</sup> November – Vohiparara Trail, Ranomafana NP to Antsirabe

It was our last morning's birding at Ranomafana and we had just a few species still to pick up. One member of our group particularly wanted to climb up yesterday's steep trail and try for Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity so we sent him up with our local guide's animal spotter. The rest of us concentrated on the lower slopes for things we were still missing. The first on the list was **Cryptic Warbler** which we found singing away in a tree along the road. This well-named bird looks like some of the other small warblers but sounds very different. Amazingly it escaped detection until just 1995. Next we needed the **Yellow-browed Oxylabes** which we had calling yesterday but it didn't show. We went back to the same spot and after some time we got it calling again and this time it revealed itself to the lucky few in the group before burying itself in the dense undergrowth. We tried again for **Brown Emutail** and **Madagascar Wood-Rail** with no luck but we did get brief views of **Pitta-like Ground-Roller**.

We had a **Red-fronted Coua** calling next to the trail which came in nicely and also a mixed flock including **Grey-crowned Greenbul**. We came across some **Red-bellied Lemurs** but the major find of the morning was a group of **Milne-Edwards Sifakas** back down at the bottom. They were right above the trail and we were able to observe them for some time before they moved off. Just at the entrance to the trail we finally saw our first, long overdue, **Nelicourvi Weaver** and back at the car park a gorgeous **Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher**. Tony hadn't found the sunbird-asity but had some nice photos of **Madagascar Buzzard** and others. We said goodbye to our local guide and his animal spotter who had both done a wonderful job. My stomach had started to feel a little odd during the morning and I was now feeling quite out of sorts but luckily we had a nice long drive that I could relax. We spent the night in the town of Antsirabe, half way between Ranomafana and our next destination.



The delightful Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher (Charley Hesse)

### 14<sup>th</sup> November – Antsirabe to Perinet

We left the town of Antsirabe after breakfast at a reasonable hour. We scanned the open countryside and found the usual selection of common birds with a few more slightly interesting ones such as **Hamerkop**, **Madagascar Buzzard**, **Madagascar Kestrel**, **Common Sandpiper** and **Madagascar Wagtail**. At Perinet we met our guide for the next few days and I handed him a very important piece of paper, our target bird list. He scanned it thoughtfully making comments like, "No problem" or "A little bit difficult, but we can try...". We walked to our bungalows listening for the first time to the call of the **Indri** coming from the forest opposite. It has to be heard to be believed and sounds more like a whale than anything else. It is one of the most beautiful and iconic sounds of Madagascar and sadly one that is heard in many fewer forests than in the past. The **Indri** is an endangered species with a very fragmented population.

We re-emerged in the mid-afternoon to kick start our birding but some people had already seen **Ward's Flycatcher**, a small black and white bird that was recently found to be a vanga. Other birds seen in the grounds

included **Purple Heron**, **Madagascar Coucal** and **Nelicourvi Weaver**. Our guide took us to the edge of some dense forest where he told us to form a line and sit down. A space had been cleared in the dense undergrowth and it seemed that he was going to show us something. He turned on his tape and a few minutes later a tiny **Madagascar Flufftail** popped into view. Our guide clearly intended to show us he meant business. Next we drove to a pine plantation. We got out of the bus and he told us to wait while he disappeared off into the trees, reappearing a few minutes later asking us to follow him. He pointed way up in the top of the trees to a big white ball of cotton wool which we were informed was a **Madagascar Long-eared Owl** chick. He then took us further into the forest where he showed us an adult, which we had a short photographic workshop on. It had been a nice taster for what was to come here and we were excited to continue tomorrow. After dinner we heard a **Rainforest Scops-Owl** in the gardens and managed to get nice views of it. Two owl days are always nice.



**Madagascar Long-eared Owl (Charley Hesse)**

### **15<sup>th</sup> November – Mantadia National Park**

Although only 23km away, the road to Mantadia was very bumpy and took almost an hour and an half. We parked the bus and followed a trail into the forest. Our goal today were the ground-rollers and very soon we were all looking at both **Pitta-like & Scaly Ground-Rollers**. Photography was challenging in the understory with so many braches and so little light. The **Scaly Ground-Rollers** circled us making their way back to their nest and after a few nice photos, we left them in peace. On the way back along the trail we came across a flock with several vanga species including **Tylas** and the unique **Nuthatch Vanga** along with several understory species like **Grey-crowned Greenbul**. We went back along the road and had nice scope views of **Madagascar Starling** on the ground and **Madagascar Blue-Pigeon** up in a large tree. We also had a beautiful **Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher**. Our guide disappeared into the forest as he was prone to doing and we were left waiting on the road in a wonderfully birdie spot. We had a constant stream of birds from **Blue Coua**, **Ashy Cuckoo-shrike** and **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher** to a variety of vanga species like **Blue & Red-tailed** plus **Ward's Flycatcher** (which is of course now considered a vanga). Some invasive Lantana bushes brought in **Madagascar White-eye** and **Souimanga Sunbird** very close and a pair of **Nelicourvi Weavers** hung around near their nest.

Our guide would occasionally appear from the bushes, cross the road and disappear off again. This went on for quite some time until he reappeared saying he had located **Short-legged Ground-Roller**. We followed him up a steep trail then down another, up another, bush-whacking and creeping through the dense vegetation. It wasn't

easy but everyone knuckled down and finally made it to the spot where we had a view of the ground-roller waiting in the scope. Everyone had a brief view before the pair of birds flew off a short distance upslope. Most of us followed for more extended views and great photo opportunities. Unsurprisingly, this adventure led to some labelling this bird as the most rewarding of the trip. We made it back to the road and walked along for lunch at the bus spotting a group of **Diademed Sifakas** on the way. After lunch we drove down to a small lake where we added the endangered endemic **Meller's Duck** and **Madagascar Grebe**. The ducks had their heads tucked away but the grebes were swimming all over the place with their very cute stripy chicks. We also saw **Malagasy Kingfisher**, **Madagascar Swamp-Warbler**, **Madagascar Mannakin**, many **Mascarene Martins** and **Malagasy Spinetails**, the latter with a very distinctive shape and flight. We started our drive back to Perinet, trying several different spots for the difficult **Madagascar Rail**. We finally got good views when 2 birds hopped up on top of some fallen reeds. After another long day, we put off our night walk until tomorrow.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> November – Mantadia National Park

We left even earlier today for Mantadia and stopped at one of the first trails at a high point in the road. When we got out, we were lucky to get **Cryptic & Rand's Warblers** calling in the same scope view. We walked up a rather steep trail passing under a **Madagascar Blue-Pigeon** on the way. Once at the top we started bush-whacking down a very steep face. Luckily there was plenty to hold on to and we found ourselves at the bottom of a lush valley where we tried for **Rufous-headed Ground-Roller**. It responded but further away, so we moved closer. This time we had better luck and it came right in and perched in the open briefly for photos. We climbed back up to the trail triumphantly and started walking back to the road, stopping to look at a pair of **Dark Newtonias** which some had missed previously. We drove to the parking area and started the main trails. As soon as we entered the forest we flushed a **Eastern Red Forest Rat** on the forest floor and all had good views of its head poking out of a hole. We first tried for **Pitta-like Ground-Roller** again, which our guide found very quickly and we tried and get photos. Our guide walked off the trail and started poking around in a wet area. He pounced on something and came back to the trail looking smug. He placed his hands on the ground, then opened them to reveal a very colourful **Madagascan Mantella** or Painted Frog as it is alternatively known. We tried for a long time to see the **Red-breasted Coua** which we had calling nearby but the best we could do was a lurking shadow. We did see a very cooperative **Crossley's Babbler** which walked within just a few feet from us and a nice rufous male **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher** with a white tail. Our first of this interesting colour phase.



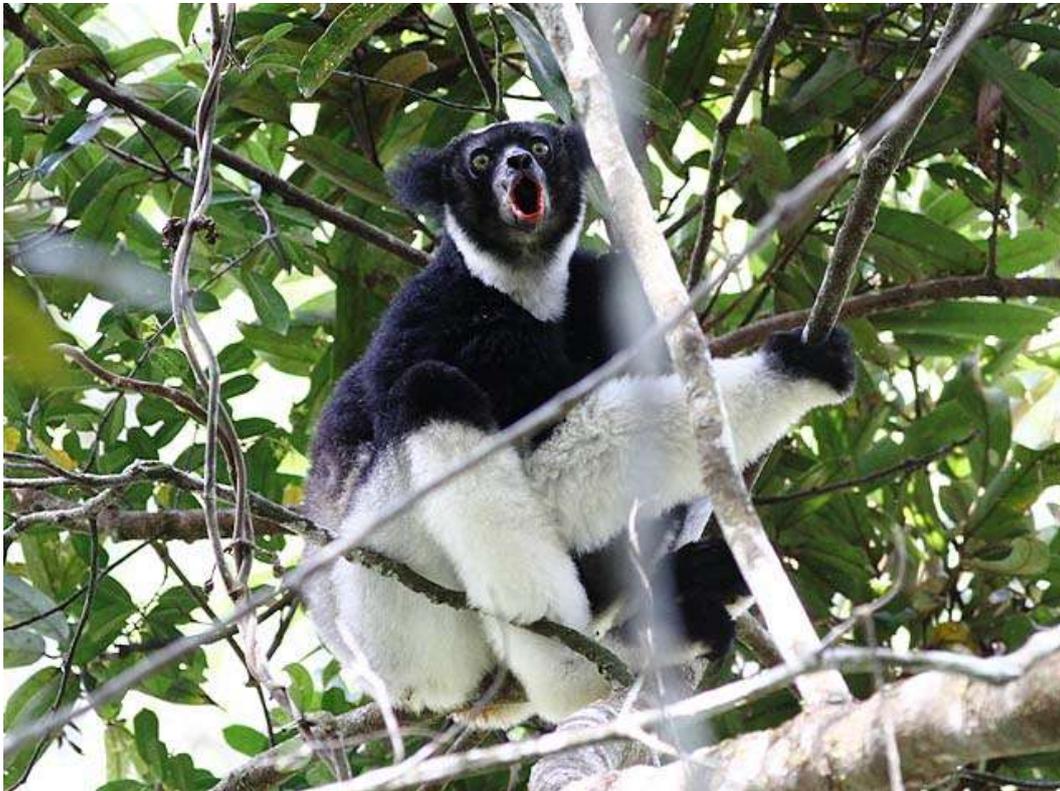
We worked hard to get photos of Rufous-headed Ground-Roller (Charley Hesse)

We had lunch after a tiring morning in the forest but had to rush back in when our guide shouted “**Crested Ibis!**”. Most of us had views of a bird flying up from the forest floor into a tree and from there up a slope. We ran after it but it was gone, leaving us with the wonderful consolation of a very confiding group of **Diademed Sifakas** with an adorable baby. Again we heard the terrifying calls of the **Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur** but

unfortunately they were far and we had to give up on seeing them. We had many mixed flocks during the morning including **Spectacled & Grey-crowned Tetrakas** and **Nuthatch Vanga**, but **Wedge-tailed Jery** eluded us until just before we left when we heard the distinctive vocalization and found one mixed in with some tetrakas. After another long drive back we had some time to freshen up before taking a night walk. We saw several sleeping birds including **Crested Drongo**, **Madagascar Brush-Warbler** and **Madagascar Magpie-Robin** but our main quarry were reptiles and mammals. We added **Parson's Giant Chameleon** (one of the world's largest) as well as **Sikora Leaf-tailed Gecko** way up in a tree. One or 2 people saw the eye shine of **Goodman's Mouse-Lemur** but we all got great views of **Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur** before we called it a day and went back for dinner.

### 17<sup>th</sup> November – Perinet Special Reserve

We were going to take a walk in the Perinet Special Reserve this morning and it started off well, with our best views of **Blue Coua** in the car park. Along the trail we saw a nice pair of **Chabert's Vanga** followed by a **Striated Heron** on the small lake. We passed the old fish farm where we saw a pair of **Stonechats** and then a **Madagascar Turtle-Dove** on the trail. Our guide impressed us by identifying distant birds like **Madagascar Green Sunbird** on the tops of distant trees without binoculars. Our major target was still **Red-breasted Coua** and we stopped in our tracks when we heard one of its gruff calls emanating from inside the forest. I recorded the vocalization and played it back and soon our guide spotted it across the small valley. It moved closer and closer and we had great views of it moving through the forest and even crossing the trail several times. It was a frustrating bird to photograph and it didn't give too many second chances.



Watching Indris vocalize is an unforgettable experience (Charley Hesse)

As we climbed a hill, we spotted a pair of **Madagascar Wood-Rails** on the trail although some at the back missed them. We tried to call them back but they were long gone. During the morning, we had several flocks with birds like **Red-tailed & Nuthatch Vangas** and **Ashy Cuckoo-shrike** as well as a nice male **Frances's Sparrowhawk** and **White-throated Rail**. Our major target now though was **Madagascar Sparrowhawk** and we managed fleeting views of a bird being mobbed by a **Crested Drongo**. We also had a good morning for lemurs, seeing **Eastern Gray Bamboo Lemur**, **Common Brown Lemur** and our first **Eastern Avahis**, huddled up in a big ball in the canopy. The highlight of the morning if not the trip though was watching a family of **Indris** at close range for over an hour. Leaving the reserve we had a Madagascar Wagtail on a wire in the car park before walking the road and coming across the other Tropical Birding tour group who showed us a **Madagascar Green-Pigeon** on a nest through their scope.

After lunch we re-entered the reserve, passing through the old fish farm again where the guide showed us a **Madagascar Tree Boa**. It was a large, beautifully patterned individual which patiently allowed us to take some pictures of it. The trail was quiet, but just then we heard the familiar call of **Madagascar Sparrowhawk** which we

had been listening for all day. Once spotted, we all had great views and photo opportunities. We walked by a small river in our continued search for Madagascar Crested Ibis but only managed to flush up some **Red-billed Teal**. After some impressive bridge building, we managed to cross to the other side and back out to the road. We took a short night walk along the road before dinner looking for Goodman's Mouse Lemur but only managed to find a small **Nose-horned Chameleon** and a rather interesting-looking spider.

### 18<sup>th</sup> November – Perinet to Tana

Today was the last morning's birding of the set departure and the last scheduled birding of the trip for some participants. As a group, we had seen all the birds that we had planned to but some people were missing one or 2 things from their own lists. We also wanted to try to find a male Velvet Asity as we had only seen the female. We started our walk along the now very familiar trail at Perinet with some old favourites, like **Madagascar Blue Pigeon**, **Blue Coua** and a pair **Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfishers**. We also had very close views of a group of **Eastern Gray Bamboo Lemurs** which posed nicely for photos instead of kangarooing off through the trees as they had on previous occasions. We continued our walk on this especially hot and dry day, at the end of a bad dry season. Not great conditions for mixed flocks which we were particularly looking for. We said goodbye to one trip participant who had an early flight and one or 2 others retired early to save themselves for the extension, but they picked up **Spectacled Tetraka** and **Pitta-like Ground-Roller** on the way out. The rest of us persevered and eventually found small flocks containing **Blue, Red-tailed & White-headed Vangas** but unfortunately no **Velvet Asity**. We would have to make do with the female and juvenile we saw in Ranomafana. One final reward was another group of **Indris** which we surprised and they gave us a nice rendition of their alarm call before settling down to chew on some nice fresh leaves.



**Madagascar Pratincole is a breeding endemic to Madagascar (Charley Hesse)**

We drove back to the hotel and said a sad farewell to our amazing guide who had gone well beyond the call of duty on several occasions to find us the birds we needed. After some time to pack and freshen up, we enjoyed our last tasty meal at the hotel, where we watched a **Nelicourvi Weaver** going in and out of its nest. We then followed the other Tropical Birding group in a search for **Madagascar Pratincole**. We had already searched unsuccessfully for this species but had just received a tip off from one of our guides about another place we might try. We travelled in convoy and stopped at the fabled spot, not holding our breath, but when we saw the excitement of the people scanning the river ahead of us, it was clear they had found them. What an unexpected bonus! We had great views of this difficult species and we crept closer for some nice photos. It was clear that we would not disturb them as a woman had been washing her clothes right there. Triumphant, we returned to Antananarivo for the end of the main tour.

## **HELMET VANGA EXTENSION**

### **19<sup>th</sup> November –Tana to Maroansetra**

Today was mainly a travel day. Our trip itinerary was at the mercy of Air Madagascar flights, and today's flight to Maroansetra was in the afternoon. In addition it was late, but finally we found ourselves coming down with a bump in this tropical outpost of the north east. After one of the most chaotic baggage claims we had ever seen, we were met and taken to the luxurious Relais de Masoala. It was situated on a picturesque canal with **White-throated Rail** calls emanating from the reeds. Across a small footbridge and just a few minute's walk was a beach. The atmosphere of this place was very different from anywhere we had been. Distinctly tropical and very laid back. On arrival we were offered a coconut with a straw and a beautiful red flower sticking out of it. After resting in our plush rooms and enjoying a delicious meal, we certainly felt like we could get used to this. Tomorrow we would cross the bay to the Masoala Peninsular, Madagascar's largest remaining forest wilderness.

### **20<sup>th</sup> November – Maroansetra to Masoala Peninsular**

Our boat for the Masoala Peninsular only left at 9am, so we took an early morning walk along the beach to the estuary area. Several species that are very common in Southern Africa seem rather rare or restricted in Madagascar. One such example is **Long-tailed Cormorant** which we saw for the first time at the estuary. There was a good selection of waterbirds like **Purple & Squacco Herons** and several waders such as **Ruddy Turnstone, Common Sandpiper, Greater Sandplover** and **Marsh Sandpiper**, the latter a new bird for the trip. **Roseate Terns** were common flying along the beach on the way back and during breakfast we had great views of **White-throated Rail** which was running along the edge of the canal in full view. We were taken to the harbour and from there boarded our boat to Masoala. It passed along the river which had large numbers of waders along its flooded banks. We saw **Common Greenshank**, many **Whimbrel, Black-bellied & Common Ringed Plovers, Curlew** and **Terek Sandpipers** and **Black Heron**.



After struggling so much with Red-breasted Couas, it was nice to get an easy one (Charley Hesse)

It was a 2-hour ride to the peninsular on the other side of the bay. Primary forest stretches from the coast up into the mountain tops but burning at the edge of the park bodes badly. Madagascar's largest remaining forest is under threat. At the other side, we were shown to our bungalows and then had lunch. In the afternoon we were taken by our guide for a walk into the forest. It was a lot hotter than the forest sites we had visited in the mountains. We first walked along the beach before cutting up a trail into the primary forest. Almost immediately the guide spotted a **Red Ruffed Lemur**, a spectacular rufous-brown animal. They were very active and making athletic jumps between trees. Next we found both **Spectacled Tetraka** and **Red-breasted Coua** on nests. A little further, 2 **Madagascar Wood-Rails** ran along the trail. I tried to bring them back with the tape, but instead, a **Ring-tailed Mongoose** came in close. It paused and walked behind a rock. We waited and it came out to give another good view before moving further back. This was a huge piece of luck.

The target of this afternoon though was to visit a **Helmet Vanga** nest. Once we got to the area, the guide let us walk ahead and let us try (unsuccessfully) to find it ourselves before pointing to a very obvious nest in the fork of a tree with a large black and chestnut bird with a ridiculously big, blue bill. **The Helmet Vanga**. It looked at us, pretty unconcerned just making occasional adjustments. The guide thought it had chicks so after taking some nice photos we left the bird in peace but spotted another down the trail for more great views. What a truly incredible bird! If what we had seen wasn't enough we had amazingly close views of **Short-legged Ground-Roller** above the trail, a lot easier than the first time we had seen it. The light was starting to fade so we started back. On the way, we saw our first **White-fronted Brown Lemurs** although a better view was certainly desired. A dark phase **Dimorphic Egret** flew by as we got back to the beach to enjoy the nice sunset. Before dinner we took a walk in some forest just near the lodge where we heard many **Rainforest Scops-Owls** and saw an **Eastern Avahi**, although we were tipped off that this may have been split as **Masoala Avahi**.



The incredible Helmet Vanga on a nest (Charley Hesse)

### 21<sup>st</sup> November – Masoala Peninsular

We took a morning walk in secondary forest in search of Bernier's Vanga. The forest was hot, dry and relatively lifeless. It was drier than usual for this time of year and the forest was in real need of rain. Bernier's Vanga is often found in flocks, but the few birds we did find were on their own. **Blue, Red-tailed, Nuthatch, Hook-billed & Rufous Vangas** along with **Common Newtonia** were all possible flocking companions but the Bernier's was not to be found. We did luck up upon a mother and baby **Masoala Avahi** just a few metres away at eye level. Only seen by our guide like that 3 times in the 7 years he had worked here. The forest was quiet but we did have **Malagasy Spinetails** and **Broad-billed Roller** zipping backwards and forwards over the canopy and finally we were rewarded with the distant voice of **Bernier's Vanga** but it was way in the distance and stopped before we could get any closer. Our search would have to continue later.

In the afternoon, we chose to explore the primary forest behind the lodge. We followed the trail, zig-zagging up a lush, forested valley. We had **Madagascar Coucal** and **Red-breasted Coua** disappearing quickly into the forest, **Blue Couas** bouncing from branch to branch and several **Greater Vasa Parrots** flying over noisily. We came upon a family of **Red Ruffed Lemurs** lazing in the branches of a huge tree and we climbed higher up the trail to get better looks and photos of them. On top of the ridge, we flushed a **Madagascan Crested Ibis** but after a brief flight view it was gone. We kept trying the call of **Bernier's Vanga** and finally heard it on a distant hill side. It came no closer and we had to give up on it again. We started to make our way back down and just before dark, found a group of **White-fronted Brown Lemurs** which eyed us suspiciously before leaping off in a panic. The call of **Rainforest Scops-Owl** brought another day in Masoala to a close.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Masoala Peninsular

We took a morning walk after breakfast to the secondary forest the other side of the village. Before leaving the lodge, Joseph showed us a large **Panther Chameleon** in a tree by the bungalows and we spotted a **Madagascar Kestrel** perched high up in a dead tree. As we entered the forest, we heard the raucous calls of **Blue Coua** and saw them hopping from tree to tree looking remarkably like African turacos. It was a little cloudy and a lot cooler than yesterday and it showed in the increased bird activity. We had our best views so far of a pair of **Tylas Vangas** before finding a nice flock with **Long-billed Bernieria**, **Spectacled Tetraka**, **Rufous Vanga**, **Ashy Cuckoo-shrike** and **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher**. We were hoping for Bernier's Vanga and kept trying the call but with no luck. After that our eagle-eyed guide spotted a **Madagascar Sparrowhawk** perched in a distant tree and we had scope views of this tricky species.

As we walked along we saw **Greater & Lesser Vasa Parrots**, **Broad-billed Roller** and even a **Madagascar Pratincole** flying over the forest, but all the time we were listening and playing for **Bernier's Vanga**. We heard them, and after 2 days of intensive searching, finally got brief views of a male and female. We followed them into a boggy area with *Pandanus* palms. The going was tough but we caught up with them for much better views including scope views of a singing male at the top of a tree. We watched at least 2 pairs of these elusive birds flying backwards and forwards in this rather unique-looking habitat before they moved on. On the way back to the lodge, we had a **Nelicourvi Weaver** family, **Red-tailed Vanga**, **Madagascar Mannikin** and some **Malagasy Spinetails** flying over head. We stopped at the houses of some locals where we bought some vanilla and cloves as souvenirs. After we got back and had already retired to our bungalows to freshen up, I heard some excited shouting and I jumped quickly out of the shower to see what the commotion was about. I overheard the word "tenrec" and walked up the trail to see the guide looking at his baseball cap on the ground with a broad grin on his face. When we were all gathered, he lifted it to show us the most amazing creature, a young **Lowland Streaked Tenrec**. It did a little defensive display of head-butting with its prickly crown before the guide took it back to where he had found it.



A Red-ruffed Lemur lazing on a branch (Charley Hesse)

In the afternoon we took a walk in the forest behind the lodge looking for **Dusky Greenbul** and again before we left, we saw something interesting: A Madagascar Green-Pigeon at the top of a tree which we looked at in the scope. The forest was quiet, but before long we heard a similar high-pitched call to the one I was playing. We peered into the dark forest undergrowth to spot a green bird hopping around. I got my bins on it to see the distinctive olive chest of the **Dusky Greenbul**. We had found our final target bird of the trip and what a moment it was. Bill informed us that it was 43 out of the 44 possible members of Madagascar's endemic or near endemic families and species number 196 for the trip. Far more than anyone had imagined. Janet requested better views of **Red Ruffed Lemur** so we continued up the trail through the beautiful primary forest and we felt privileged to be

in such a place. On the way back down we found a group and more great views of **White-fronted Brown Lemurs** before taking a walk along the beach at sunset. The roosting terns on rocks in the distance were a bit too far to identify but we did see a **Malagasy Kingfisher** and it was still a very scenic walk. Before dinner we took our last night walk and saw another **Masoala Avahi** but failed to add any more nocturnal lemurs. That would have to wait until tomorrow night when we would go in search of the Aye-Aye on Nosy Mangabe.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> November – Masoala Peninsular to Nosy Mangabe**

After our momentous clean up on birds yesterday, we felt we deserved a rest and had a late breakfast before packing our things and saying goodbye to the Masoala Peninsular. We were heading to the island of Nosy Mangabe, just 7km from Maroansetra where we would spend the night camping. The sea was a little choppy and at least one side of the boat caught quite a bit of spray. The camping was a good deal more luxurious than we expected. Our beds were made inside the tents which were pitched on a deck with a roof. The cook from Masoala had come with us and was going to cater for us during our time on the island. After organising ourselves, we went out for a short walk with our local guide around the island. Our main target was the **Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur** which we had heard earlier in the trip but failed to find. The best trail for them was the one that went steeply up the centre of the island and we started to climb up while a pair of **Madagascar Coucals** seem to follow us up the trail. One of our number had a bad stomach so had to turn back but the rest of us were rewarded with some very special things.

Nosy Mangabe, as well as its more famous lemur inhabitants is a great place to see several interesting reptiles. One of which is a tiny ground chameleon in the genus *Brookesia*. Our guide went off the trail looking for one while I did the same and found a new species of *Mantidactylus* frog for our trip list. Our guide in the meantime came back with 2 things that trumped that. A beautifully patterned frog called **Mahanoro Digging Frog** and the **Peyrieras' Pygmy Chameleon**. The chameleon looked just like a small dead leaf and even acted like one. We took several photos using my little fingernail for scale before our guide urged us to follow him. He had found a group of **Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs** ahead and we got in position to get good looks of a small group including a baby up in the canopy. Next, our guide told us there was a frog in a hole in the tree next to us. He carefully put his finger in front of the hole and removed it very quickly as a huge frog jumped out and snapped at it. This was **Boulenger's Giant Treefrog**, or 'Angry Frog' as I named it. We climbed back down to the camp site after a successful walk and had a nice lunch followed by a well deserved nap outside our tents.



**The beautiful Climbing Mantella (Charley Hesse)**

In the afternoon we took a short walk along a much flatter trail in search of Madagascar's best camouflaged inhabitant. Before that though, he started looking for **Climbing Mantella**. A beautiful black and green frog which we took some photos of. Then on to search for our main quarry, the **Giant Leaf-tailed Gecko**. After a short

distance, our guide came to a stop, clapped his hands and gave a big smile, clearly pleased with himself. He had found one but rather than showing us straight away, he let us search the nearby trunks. He was clearly enjoying himself as we struggled to find it, and in the end he pointed it out on a thin trunk, just off the ground. All you could see was a slight bulge in the trunk until further examination showed 2 big eyes and the faint outline of 4 feet and a strangely-shaped tail. We were flabbergasted that such a thing could exist. We went on, repeating the guide's little game, finding more leaf-tailed geckos and we were equally awed by all the different colours and patterns. Leaf-tailed geckos are abundant here and more easily seen than elsewhere probably due to the lack of avian predators. We had a little more time off before dinner and then on to one of the most important parts of our stay on the island, the search for the rare and elusive Aye-Aye. We had been told we had about a 20% chance of finding it, so we weren't going to be too disappointed if we didn't. During the night walk we found several **Brown Mouse Lemurs** and even more **Hova Mole Tenrecs**. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> tenrec species for the tour! The guide was very surprised that we saw so many. We gave it a concerted effort but the odds were against us and we had to call it a day. On the way back, an encounter with a beautiful **Madagascar Tree Boa** on the beach was some consolation.



**Albino Hova Mole Tenrec (Charley Hesse)**

#### **24<sup>th</sup> November – Nosy Mangabe to Tana**

We were sad to leave such a special place as Nosy Mangabe and as we gathered on the beach to wait for our boat back, an albino **Hova Mole Tenrec** came out in full view to say goodbye. The sea was much calmer than yesterday and we avoided the prospect of sitting in a plane with wet clothes. We had a couple of **Roseate Terns** in the river mouth and a nice variety of waterbirds going up the river to the dock, including **Gray, Purple, Black, Squacco & Striated Herons**, many **Long-tailed Cormorants**, a decent array of waders (although nothing new) and even a **Madagascar Pratincole** flapped lazily by. We had given ourselves extra time and now had some to kill. Some of us took a walk along the river taking a look at how some of the local people were living. We looked at houses, small shops and even a small boat yard where a large wooden boat was under construction. It was a nice little time killer before taking a short taxi ride to the airport. Chaotic check-ins and delays completely unphased us now that we were all veteran travellers in this country. We killed some more time sitting in the café sipping cold drinks and watching the amusing scene of a Malagasy pop-star arriving in Maroansetra for a concert. Once he had left, things called down and we were able to get on the plane back to Tana. Our daily **Madagascar Kestrel** sat on top of a radio tower to see us off.

It was a relief to get to our hotel in Tana and finally wind down from our epic journey. Almost 4 weeks from start to finish and for one gentleman a lot longer, having tagged on a South Africa tour beforehand. At our final dinner, we toasted the end of a tremendously successful tour, with 196 species of birds of which a hundred were full Madagascar endemics and many more regional or breeding endemics; 35 species of mammals including 28 species of lemurs, 41 species of reptiles and 14 frogs. Also, everybody felt privileged to visit such unique, wild places that may not be around for too much longer.

## BIRD LIST

Avian taxonomy follows Clements Checklist 6.6 updated August 2011.

### Anatidae (Ducks and Waterfowl)

1	White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	Seen in Tana, at Lakes Amboromalandy, Ravelobe, Ambondromamy, Alarobia & Belalanda.
2	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa & Lake Alarobia.
3	African Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>	Seen at Lake Amboromalandy & Ambondromamy.
4	<b>Meller's Duck</b>	<b><i>Anas melleri</i></b>	<b>Seen at Mantadia.</b>
5	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Seen near Ranomafana.
6	Red-billed Duck	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	Seen at Tana, Lakes Amboromalandy & Alarobia, Belalanda, Anja, Ranomafana & Perinet.
7	Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>	Seen at Lake Amboromalandy, Lake Alarobia, Belalanda.
8	<b>Bernier's Teal</b>	<b><i>Anas bernieri</i></b>	<b>Seen at the Betsiboka Delta.</b>

### Phasianidae (Pheasants and Allies)

9	<b>Madagascar Partridge</b>	<b><i>Margaroperdix madagascarensis</i></b>	<b>Seen at Isalo.</b>
10	Harlequin Quail	<i>Coturnix delegorguei</i>	Seen at Lake Ambondromamy.

### Podicipedidae (Grebes)

11	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Seen at Belalanda & Isalo.
12	Madagascar Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelni</i>	Seen at Lake Amboromalandy & Mantadia.

### Phaethontidae (Tropicbirds)

13	Red-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	Seen on Nosy Ve.
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### Ciconiidae (Storks)

14	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
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### Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)

15	Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>	Seen at Maroanetra.
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### Anhingidae (Anhingas)

16	African Darter	<i>Anhinga (melanogaster) rufa</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
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### Scopidae (Hamerkop)

17	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	Seen at Anja, Ranomafana, between Ranomafana & Perinet.
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### Ardeidae (Herons and Egrets)

18	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa & Belalanda.
19	Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Seen at many fresh water sites.
20	<b>Humblot's Heron</b>	<b><i>Ardea humbloti</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ampijoroa, Lake Ambondromamy, Anja.</b>
21	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Ranomafana, Perinet & Maroanetra.
22	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Seen near water throughout.
23	Dimorphic Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta (dimorpha)</i>	Seen near water throughout.
24	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	Seen near water throughout.
25	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Seen at almost all sites.
26	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Seen at many fresh water sites.
27	Madagascar Pond-Heron (b)	<i>Ardeola idae</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa & Lake Alarobia.
28	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	Seen near water throughout.
29	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Seen at Tana, Lake Alarobia & Belalanda.

### Threskiornithidae (Ibises)

30	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
31	<b>Madagascar Crested Ibis</b>	<b><i>Lophotibis cristata</i></b>	<b>Seen at Mantadia &amp; Masoala.</b>
32	<b>(Madagascar) Sacred Ibis</b>	<b><i>Threskiornis a. bernieri</i></b>	<b>Seen at the Betsiboka Delta.</b>

### Accipitridae (Hawks and allies)

33	Black (Yellow-billed) Kite	<i>Milvus migrans (aegyptius)</i>	Seen at most sites.
34	<b>Madagascar Fish-Eagle</b>	<b><i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ampijoroa.</b>
35	Reunion Harrier	<i>Circus macrosceles</i>	Seen at Lake Alarobia.
36	<b>Madagascar Harrier-Hawk</b>	<b><i>Polyboroides radiatus</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ampijoroa, Katsepy &amp; Ifaty.</b>

37	<i>Frances's Sparrowhawk</i>	<i>Accipiter francesii (francesiae)</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Zombitse & Perinet.
38	<b>Madagascar Sparrowhawk</b>	<b><i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i></b>	Seen at Perinet & Masoala.
39	<b>Henst's Goshawk</b>	<b><i>Accipiter henstii</i></b>	Seen at Ranomafana.
40	<b>Madagascar Buzzard</b>	<b><i>Buteo brachypterus</i></b>	Seen at most sites.

Falconidae (Falcons)

41	<i>Madagascar Kestrel</i>	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	Commonly seen at almost all sites.
42	<b>Banded Kestrel</b>	<b><i>Falco zoniventris</i></b>	Seen at Ampijoroa & Ifaty.

Mesitornithidae (Mesites)

Endemic family to Madagascar

43	<b>White-breasted Mesite</b>	<b><i>Mesitornis variegata</i></b>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
44	<b>Brown Mesite</b>	<b><i>Mesitornis unicolor</i></b>	Seen at Ranomafana.
45	<b>Subdesert Mesite</b>	<b><i>Monias benschi</i></b>	Seen at Ifaty.

Rallidae (Rails and allies)

46	<b>Madagascar Flufftail</b>	<b><i>Sarothrura insularis</i></b>	Seen at Perinet & near Mantadia. Heard at Ranomafana.
47	<b>Madagascar Wood-Rail</b>	<b><i>Canirallus kioloides</i></b>	Seen at Ranomafana, Perinet & Masoala.
48	<b>Madagascar Rail</b>	<b><i>Rallus madagascariensis</i></b>	Seen on the way back from Mantadia.
49	<i>White-throated Rail</i>	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>	Commonly seen or heard in fresh water environments.
50	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Seen at Belalanda & Ranomafana.
51	Allen's Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
52	Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Seen at Tana, Amboromalandy, Ampijoroa, Alarobia & Belalanda.
53	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	Seen at Belalanda.

Charadriidae (Plovers)

54	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Seen at Belalanda, Nosy Ve & Maroansetra.
55	Lesser Sandplover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Seen at Belalanda.
56	Greater Sandplover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Seen at Belalanda, Tulear, Nosy Ve & Maroansetra.
57	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	Seen at Lake Amboromalandy, Ampijoroa, Belalanda & Tulear.
58	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Seen at Belalanda & Maroansetra.
59	<b>Madagascar Plover</b>	<b><i>Charadrius thoracicus</i></b>	Seen at Belalanda.
60	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa,
61	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>	Seen at Belalanda & Nosy Ve.

Dromadidae (Crab Plover)

62	Crab Plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>	Seen at Nosy Ve.
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Recurvirostridae (Stilts)

63	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Seen at Lake Amboromalandy & Belalanda.
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Jacaniidae (Jacanas)

64	<b>Madagascar Jacana</b>	<b><i>Actophilornis albinucha</i></b>	Seen at Lake Amboromalandy & Ampijoroa.
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Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)

65	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Seen at Belalanda & Maroansetra.
66	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Seen near water throughout.
67	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Seen at Belalanda & Maroansetra.
68	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Seen at Maroansetra.
69	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Seen at Betsiboka, Belalanda, Tulear, Nosy Ve & Maroansetra.
70	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Seen at Belalanda, Nosy Ve & Maroansetra.
71	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Seen at Belalanda & Nosy Ve.
72	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Seen at Betsiboka Delta, Belalanda & Maroansetra.
73	<b>Madagascan Snipe</b>	<b><i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i></b>	Seen at Ranomafana.

Turnicidae (Buttonquail)

74	<b>Madagascar Buttonquail</b>	<b><i>Turnix nigricollis</i></b>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Zombitse & Tulear.
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Glareolidae (Pratincoles)

75	Madagascar Pratincole (b)	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>	Seen at Mangoro, Maroansetra & Masoala.
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Rostratulidae (Painted-Snipes)

76	Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	Seen near Tulear.
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Laridae (Gulls & Terns)

77	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Seen on Nosy Ve.
78	Saunders' Tern	<i>Sternula (Sterna) saundersi</i>	Seen at Tulear harbour.
79	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida (hybridus)</i>	Seen at Lake Amboromalandy.
80	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Seen at Maroansetra & Masoala.
81	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Seen on Nosy Ve.
82	Great Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus (Sterna) bergii</i>	Seen on Nosy Ve & Masoala.
83	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus (Sterna) bengalensis</i>	Seen at Betsiboka Delta & Nosy Ve.

Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)

84	<b>Madagascar Sandgrouse</b>	<b><i>Pterocles personatus</i></b>	<b>Seen near Tulear.</b>
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Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

85	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Commonly seen throughout.
86	Madagascar Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia picturata</i>	Seen at most forest sites.
87	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	Seen at most sites in the west.
88	Madagascar Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Ifaty, Perinet & Masoala.
89	<b>Madagascar Blue-Pigeon</b>	<b><i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ranomafana, Perinet &amp; Mantadia.</b>

Psittacidae (Parrots)

90	<b>Grey-headed Lovebird</b>	<b><i>Agapornis canus</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ampijoroa, Belalanda, Ifaty &amp; Tulear.</b>
91	(Greater) Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>	Seen or heard at most forest sites.
92	Black (Lesser Vasa) Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>	Seen at most forest sites.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

93	Madagascar Cuckoo (b)	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	Commonly seen or heard throughout.
94	<b>Giant Coua</b>	<b><i>Coua gigas</i></b>	<b>Seen at Zombitse.</b>
95	<b>Coquerel's Coua</b>	<b><i>Coua coquereli</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ampijoroa &amp; Zombitse.</b>
96	<b>Red-breasted Coua</b>	<b><i>Coua serriana</i></b>	<b>Seen at Perinet, Mantadia &amp; Masoala.</b>
97	<b>Red-fronted Coua</b>	<b><i>Coua reynaudii</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ranomafana, Perinet &amp; Mantadia.</b>
98	<b>Red-capped Coua</b>	<b><i>Coua ruficeps</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ampijoroa.</b>
99	<b>[Green-capped Coua]</b>	<b><i>[Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps]</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ifaty.</b>
100	<b>Running Coua</b>	<b><i>Coua cursor</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ifaty.</b>
101	<b>Crested Coua</b>	<b><i>Coua cristata</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ampijoroa, Ifaty &amp; Tulear.</b>
102	<b>Verreaux's Coua</b>	<b><i>Coua verreauxi</i></b>	<b>Seen at La Table near Tulear.</b>
103	<b>Blue Coua</b>	<b><i>Coua caerulea</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ranomafana, Perinet, Mantadia &amp; Masoala.</b>
104	<i>Madagascar Coucal</i>	<i>Centropus toulou</i>	Seen at most sites.

Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)

105	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Seen at Isalo.
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Strigidae (Owls)

106	<b>Malagasy (Rainforest) Scops-Owl</b>	<b><i>Otus rutilus</i></b>	<b>Seen at Perinet &amp; heard at Masoala.</b>
107	<b>Torotoroka Scops-Owl</b>	<b><i>Otus madagascariensis</i></b>	<b>Seen at Ampijoroa &amp; Ifaty.</b>
108	<b>White-browed Owl</b>	<b><i>Ninox supercilialis</i></b>	<b>Seen at Zombitse.</b>
109	<b>Madagascar Long-eared Owl</b>	<b><i>Asio madagascariensis</i></b>	<b>Seen at Perinet.</b>
110	Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>	Seen on Nosy Ve.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars)

111	<i>Madagascar Nightjar</i>	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Ifaty & Zombitse. Heard at Isalo, Perinet & Maroansetra.
112	<b>Collared Nightjar</b>	<b><i>Caprimulgus enarratus</i></b>	<b>Seen at Perinet.</b>

Apodidae (Swifts)

113	<i>Malagasy Spinetail</i>	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>	Seen at Zombitse, Mantadia & Masoala.
114	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Seen at Anja.
115	<i>Madagascar Swift</i>	<i>Apus balstoni</i>	Seen at Tana, Ifaty, Isalo, Anja & Ranomafana.
116	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Seen at Tana.
117	African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	Seen at most sites.

## Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

118	Malagasy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>	Seen at most sites with water.
119	<b>Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher</b>	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Ranomafana, Perinet & Mantadia.

## Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

120	Madagascar Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	Seen at most sites.
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## Coraciidae (Rollers)

121	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	Seen at most forest sites.
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## Brachypteraciidae (Ground-Rollers)

## Endemic family to Madagascar

122	Short-legged Ground-Roller	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>	Seen at Mantadia & Masoala.
123	Scaly Ground-Roller	<i>Brachypteracias squamiger</i>	Seen at Mantadia.
124	Pitta-like Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>	Seen at Ranomafana, Perinet & Mantadia.
125	Rufous-headed Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis crossleyi</i>	Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia.
126	Long-tailed Ground-Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>	Seen at Ifaty.

## Leptosomidae (Cuckoo-Roller)

## Near endemic family to Madagascar

127	Cuckoo-Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>	Seen or heard at most forest sites.
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## Upupidae (Hoopoes)

128	<b>Madagascar Hoopoe</b>	<i>Upupa marginata</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Ifaty, Zombitse & Anja.
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## Philepittidae (Asities)

## Endemic family to Madagascar

129	Velvet Asity	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
130	Schlegel's Asity	<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
131	<b>(Common) Sunbird-Asity</b>	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.

## Vangidae (Vangas)

## Near endemic family to Madagascar

132	<b>Tylas Vanga</b>	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>	Seen at Ranomafana, Mantadia & Masoala.
133	<b>Dark Newtonia</b>	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>	Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia.
134	<b>Common Newtonia</b>	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>	Seen at most forest sites.
135	<b>Archbold's Newtonia</b>	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>	Seen at Ifaty.
136	<b>Chabert's Vanga</b>	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Ifaty, Perinet & Masoala.
137	<i>Blue Vanga</i>	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>	Seen at most forest sites.
138	<b>Red-tailed Vanga</b>	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>	Seen at most forest sites.
139	<b>Red-shouldered Vanga</b>	<i>Calicalicus rufocarpalis</i>	Seen at Tulear.
140	<b>Nuthatch Vanga</b>	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>	Seen at Perinet, Mantadia & Masoala.
141	<b>Hook-billed Vanga</b>	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa & Masoala. Heard at Ranomafana & Perinet.
142	<b>Helmet Vanga</b>	<i>Euryceros prevostii</i>	Seen at Masoala.
143	<b>Rufous Vanga</b>	<i>Schetba rufa</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Zombitse & Masoala. Heard at Ranomafana.
144	<b>Sickle-billed Vanga</b>	<i>Falcula palliata</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa & Ifaty.
145	<b>Bernier's Vanga</b>	<i>Oriola bernieri</i>	Seen at Masoala.
146	<b>White-headed Vanga</b>	<i>Artamella (Leptopterus) viridis</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Ifaty, Ranomafana & Perinet.
147	<b>Lafresnaye's Vanga</b>	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>	Seen at Ifaty.
148	<b>Van Dam's Vanga</b>	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
149	<b>Pollen's Vanga</b>	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
150	<b>Ward's Flycatcher</b>	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>	Seen at Perinet & Mantadia.
151	<b>Crossley's Babbler</b>	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>	Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia.

## Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)

152	<b>Ashy (Madagascar) Cuckoo-shrike</b>	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>	Seen at all forest sites.
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## Dicruridae (Drongos)

153	<b>Crested Drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>	Seen at most sites.
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Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)

154	Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>	Seen at all forest sites.
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Corvidae (Crows)

155	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	Seen at most sites.
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Alaudidae (Larks)

156	Madagascar Lark	<i>Mirafra hova</i>	Seen at Lake Amboromalandy, Belalanda, Tulear, Zombitse, Anja & Ranomafana.
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Hirundinidae (Swallows)

157	Plain (Brown-throated) Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
158	Mascarene Martin (b)	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	Commonly seen at most sites.
159	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen at Belalanda & Ifaty.

Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)

160	Madagascar Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	Commonly seen throughout.
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Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers)

161	Madagascar Brush-Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Alarobia, Ranomafana, Perinet & Mantadia.
162	Subdesert Brush-Warbler	<i>Nesillas lantzi</i>	Seen at Belalanda, Ifaty, Tulear, Nosy Ve & Anakao.
163	Madagascar Swamp-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Lake Alarobia, Belalanda, Tulear & Mantadia.

Locustellidae (Grassbirds)

164	Brown Emu-tail	<i>Dromaeocercus brunneus</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
165	Gray Emu-tail	<i>Dromaeocercus seebohmi</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.

Bernieridae (Malagasy Warblers)

Endemic family to Madagascar

166	White-throated Oxylabes	<i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
167	Long-billed Bernieria (Greenbul)	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Zombitse, Ranomafana, Perinet, Mantadia & Masoala.
168	Cryptic Warbler	<i>Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi</i>	Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia.
169	Wedge-tailed Jery	<i>Hartertula flavoviridis</i>	Seen at Mantadia.
170	Thamnornis (Warbler)	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>	Seen at Ifaty.
171	Yellow-browed Oxylabes	<i>Crossleyia xanthophrys</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
172	Spectacled Tetraka (Greenbul)	<i>Xanthornix zosterops</i>	Seen at Ranomafana, Perinet, Mantadia & Masoala.
173	Appert's Tetraka (Greenbul)	<i>Xanthornix apperti</i>	Seen at Zombitse,
174	Dusky Greenbul	<i>Xanthornix tenebrosa</i>	Seen at Masoala.
175	Grey-crowned Greenbul	<i>Xanthornix cinereiceps</i>	Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia.
176	Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>	Seen at Ranomafana, Perinet & Mantadia.

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)

177	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Ifaty, Tulear, Zombitse, Ranomafana & Masoala. Heard at Katsepy.
178	Green Jery	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>	Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia. Heard at Perinet.
179	Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>	Seen at Ifaty, Tulear, Ranomafana, Perinet & Mantadia.
180	Madagascar Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>	Seen at most sites in the west.

Zosteropidae (White-eyes)

181	Madagascar White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Lake Alarobia, Ranomafana, Perinet, Mantadia & Masoala.
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Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

182	Madagascar Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>	Seen at most sites.
183	Forest Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
184	Benson's Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola bensoni</i>	Seen at Isalo.
185	Littoral Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola imerina</i>	Seen at Anakao.
186	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Seen at Ranomafana, Perinet & Mantadia.

Sturnidae (Starlings)

187	Madagascar Starling	<i>Saroglossa aurata</i>	Seen at Mantadia.
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188	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Seen at most sites.
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Nectariniidae (Sunbirds)

189	<i>Souimanga</i> Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris (Nectarinia) souimanga</i>	Seen at most sites.
190	Madagascar (Green) Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris (Nectarinia) notatus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Ranomafana & Perinet.

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

191	Madagascar Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	Seen at most sites.
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Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)

192	Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>	Seen at Ranomafana, Perinet, Mantadia & Masoala.
193	Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>	Seen at Lake Amboromalandy, Ampijoroa, Ifaty & Tulear.
194	Red Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	Seen at most sites.
195	Forest Fody	<i>Foudia omissa</i>	Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia.

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)

196	Madagascar Mannikin	<i>Lonchura nana</i>	Seen in Tulear, at Ranomafana, between Ranomafana & Perinet, Mantadia & Masoala.
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## MAMMAL LIST

Mammal Taxonomy follows Mammals of Madagascar by Nick Garbutt, 2007 (With the exception of Masoala Avahi which has been subsequently split.

Tenrecidae (Tenrecs)

1	Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>	Seen at Ifaty.
2	Lowland Streaked Tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>	Seen at Masoala.
3	Hova Mole Tenrec	<i>Oryzorictes hova</i>	Seen at Nosy Mangabe.

Soricidae (Shrews)

4	Asian Musk Shrew	<i>Suncus murinus</i>	Seen at Lake Alarobia.
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Cheirogaleidae (Mouse & Dwarf Lemurs)

5	Grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
6	Brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>	Seen at Ranomafana & Nosy Mangabe.
7	Golden-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus ravelobensis</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
8	Grey-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>	Seen at Ifaty.
9	Goodman's Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>	Just the eye shine seen by some at Perinet.
10	Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus crossleyi</i>	Seen at Perinet.

Lepilemuridae (Sportive Lemurs)

11	Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
12	Hubbard's Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur hubbardi</i>	Seen at Zombitse.
13	Petter's Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur petteri</i>	Seen at Ifaty. There seems to be some confusion over the ID of these sportive lemurs but they are most likely to be Petter's

Lemuridae (True Lemurs)

14	Eastern Gray Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>	Seen at Perinet & Mantadia.
15	Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
16	Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>	Seen at Anja.
17	Mongoose Lemur	<i>Eulemur mongoz</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa & Katsepy.
18	Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
19	Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Ranomafana & Perinet.
20	White-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur albifrons</i>	Seen at Masoala.
21	Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufus</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
22	Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata</i>	Seen at Nosy Mangabe & heard at Mantadia.
23	Red Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia rubra</i>	Seen at Masoala.

Indridae (Avahis, Sifakas & Indri)

24	Masoala (Moore's) Avahi	<i>Avahi mooreorum</i>	Seen at Masoala.
25	Eastern Avahi	<i>Avahi laniger</i>	Seen at Perinet.
26	Western Avahi	<i>Avahi occidentalis</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.

27	Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>	Seen at Zombitse.
28	Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
29	Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>	Seen at Mantadia.
30	Milne-Edwards Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
31	Crowned Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coronatus</i>	Seen at Katsepy.
32	Indri	<i>Indri Indri</i>	Seen at Perinet & heard at Mantadia.

#### Eupleridae (Malagasy Carnivores)

33	Ring-tailed Mongoose	<i>Galidia elegans</i>	Seen at Masoala.
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#### Muridae (Old World Rats & Mice)

34	Eastern Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>	Seen at Mantadia.
35	Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Lake Ambondromamy & Ranomafana.

## REPTILE LIST

Reptile & Amphibian taxonomy mainly follows 'A Fieldguide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Madagascar' by Glaw & Vences, 1994. English names were taken from internet sources.

#### Crocodylidae

1	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
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#### Chamaeleonidae

2	Peyrieras' Pygmy Chameleon	<i>Brookesia peyrierasi</i>	Seen on Nosy Mangabe.
3	Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>	Seen at Perinet.
4	Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>	Seen at Ranomafana & Perinet.
5	Band-bellied Chameleon	<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
6	Parson's Giant Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>	Seen at Perinet.
7	O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
8	Glaw's Chameleon	<i>Calumma glawi</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
9	Blue-legged Chameleon	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
10	Rhinosaurus Chameleon	<i>Furcifer rhinocerotus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
11	Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	Seen at Lake Amboromalandy, Ampijoroa, Zombitse & Anja.
12	Warty Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>	Seen at Tulear arboretum.
13	Panther Chameleon	<i>Furcifer pardalis</i>	Seen at Masoala.

#### Iguanidae

14	Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Ifaty & Nosy Ve.
15	Collared Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>	Seen at Lake Amboromalandy & Ampijoroa.
16	Dumeril's Madagascar Swift	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>	Seen at Zombitse & Anja.
17	Grandidier's Madagascar Swift.	<i>Oplurus grandidieri</i>	Seen at Anja.

#### Gekkonidae

18	Giant Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus fimbriatus</i>	Seen on Nosy Mangabe.
19	Sikora (Mossy) Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>	Seen at Perinet.
20	Sakalava's Velvet Gecko	<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>	Seen at Ifaty & Zombitse.
21	Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa, Ifaty & Tulear.
22	Gray's Leaf-toed Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mercatorius</i>	Seen at Tana & Perinet.
23	Grandidier's Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tolampyae</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa & Zombitse.
24	Madagascar Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Lake Amboromalandy & Ampijoroa.
25	Standing's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>	Seen at Zombitse.
26	Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>	Seen at Ranomafana, Perinet, Mantadia & Maroansetra.
27	Peacock Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
28	Leiogaster's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma leiogaster</i>	Seen at Ifaty.

#### Gerrhosauridae

29	Malagasy Keeled Plated Lizard	<i>Tracheloptychus madagascariensis</i>	Seen at La Table, near Tulear.
30	Madagascar Zonosaur	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Perinet, Mantadia, Masoala & Nosy Mangabe.
31	Broad-tailed Girdled-Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
32	Brygoo's Girdled-Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus brygooi</i>	Seen at Masoala & Nosy Mangabe.

#### Scincidae

33	Gravenhorst's Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis gravenhorstii</i>	Seen at Mantadia.
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34	Malagasy Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Ranomafana & Perinet.
Boidae			
35	Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Perinet and on Nosy Mangabe.
36	Madagascar Ground Boa	<i>Acrantophis madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
Colubridae			
37	Madagascar Giant Hognose Snake	<i>Leioheterodon madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
38	Blonde Hognose Snake	<i>Leioheterodon modestus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
39	Madagascan Litter Snake	<i>Liophidium torquatus</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa.
40	Six-lined Water Snake	<i>Liophilodophis sexlineatus</i>	Seen at Mantadia.
41	Mahafaly Sand Snake	<i>Mimophis mahfalensis</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa & Ifaty.

## AMPHIBIAN LIST

### Ranidae

1	Madagascar Jumping Frog	<i>Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Perinet.
2	Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
3	Dumeril's Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis tephraeomystax</i>	Seen at Ampijoroa & Masoala.
4	Betsileo Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus betsileanus</i>	Seen at Masoala.
5	Malagasy Glass Frog	<i>Mantidactylus pulcher</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
6	Ivohimanita Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus majori</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.
7	Forest Tree Frog	<i>Mantidactylus luteus</i>	Seen at Perinet.
8		<i>Mantidactylus biporus</i>	Seen on Nosy Mangabe.
9	Eastern Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus albofrenatus</i>	Seen on Nosy Mangabe.
10	Climbing Mantella	<i>Mantella laevigata</i>	Seen on Nosy Mangabe.
11	Malagasy Painted Mantella	<i>Mantella madagascariensis</i>	Seen at Mantadia.
12	Mascarene Grass Frog	<i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i>	Seen at Ranomafana.

### Microhylidae

13	Mahanoro Digging Frog	<i>Plethodontohyla notosticta</i>	Seen on Nosy Mangabe.
14	Boulenger's Giant Treefrog	<i>Platypelis grandis</i>	Seen on Nosy Mangabe.

### Key

- Bold** - Madagascar geo-political endemic species
- Italics* - Near or regional endemics
- (b) - Breeding endemics