

## Madagascar

Custom nature & photography tour

1<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2012

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Report & photos by Charley Hesse.



**Our group at La Table near Tulear having just seen the rare Red-shouldered Vanga**

This aim of this custom tour was not to try and find every endemic bird species, but to see many different groups of animals and plants, maximize our photographic opportunities, and enjoy the Madagascar experience. Despite this we still recorded 170 species of birds including members of all the regional endemic bird families; namely the mesites, ground-roller, asities, cuckoo-roller, vangas and Malagasy warblers. Of course the lemurs were an important part of this tour and by including 2 new sites on the itinerary, we managed to see an astounding 34 species, most of which were photographed! We also did well on other mammal groups, seeing 2 species of tenrecs, 4 endemic rodents (including the amazing Giant jumping Rat), and 4 Malagasy carnivores (including Madagascar's biggest, the Fosa – twice!). We experienced the vastly different climates and habitats and saw first-hand their rapid destruction. We also witnessed the way of life of the Malagasy people who share this island with such amazing wildlife.

### 1<sup>st</sup> October – Tana & Lake Alarobia

Some people had arrived yesterday afternoon, others late in the evening and the final participants would arrive late this afternoon. Our luxurious hotel was next to the Waterfront mall located next to a large lake full of water birds. These were mainly **Red-billed Teal** and **Great Egrets** but several other species too. Some people were up early in the morning and out photographing birds on the lake. We found a beautiful **Madagascar Kingfisher** which posed nicely for photos. There were also many non-breeding plumaged **Red Fodies** hopping around in the trees nearby. After a leisurely morning, we had a nice lunch at the hotel and got to know each other. After lunch it was on to Lake Alarobia, a great site to become familiar with some of Madagascar's common bird species. We scanned through the hundreds of water birds to find **White-faced & 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 we found scanning through countless **Squacco Herons**. We took a walk around the lake, finding lots of birds, including: **Madagascar White-eye**, **Madagascar Coucal** and **Madagascar Kingfisher**. It was a small park but a nice place to start the tour and spend a couple of hours. When we got back to the hotel, we met up with Os & Gail, the last people to arrive



Madagascar Kingfishers are a common sight on freshwater ponds.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Tana to Antsirabe

We were beginning the tour by visiting the fascinating sites of Kirindy and Tsingy de Bermeraha National Park in the west of the country. Due to some misinformation from the airline, we didn't make the flight and plan B became driving there instead. Our first night was spent in the interesting town of Antsirabe and some people were taken on a short cultural tour of the town to see some old hot baths and other sites of interest in the town centre. We ate in a fine restaurant in the evening and had an early night as we had another long drive the following day.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Antsirabe to Kirindy

We left well before dawn and drove swiftly along a good road heading west. The scenery was interesting and the hours passed quickly. We were soon at our rendezvous point where we changed to three 4 wheel-drive cars for the final section of bumpy road north. After a quick pack lunch, we arrived at 'Allee des Baobab', a famous landscape spot where the dirt road was lined



with huge baobabs of the species ***Adansonia grandidieri***. We were keen to get to Kirindy so had few stops on the way, and we made it in time to do an afternoon walk. We checked in to our surprisingly rustic quarters (you certainly don't come to Kirindy for fancy accommodation) and met our local guide, Christian. We spotted a family of **Verreaux's Sifakas** in the tree next to the restaurant and a couple of **Narrow-striped Mongooses** under one of the rooms. Some people enjoyed a cool drink and saw a **Gray Mouse Lemur** poking its head out of a hole in the wall of the restaurant.



The Giant Jumping rat has a very limited distribution and Kirindy is the best place to see it.

After it had cooled a little, we set out for our walk. We could tell the guide was keen as he started showing things to people before everybody had even arrived. First of all he showed us a **Torotoroka Scops-Owl** roosting under the roof of one of the buildings. It was clear that many animals had become habituated to the presence of people and we saw a very confiding group of **Red-fronted Brown Lemurs**. We also saw several interesting reptile species including **Warty Chameleon** and **Mahafaly Sand-Snake**. Birding was good too and on the trails we had **Madagascar Sparrowhawk**, **Madagascar Buzzard** and the fabulous **White-breasted Mesite** which we got nice photos of. We came back and had an early dinner before our night walk. Just before we left, a few people got a brief view of a **Fosa** patrolling the camp and the rest of us hoped to catch up with Madagascar's largest carnivore later on. Kirindy is the premier night watching site in Madagascar. There was a long list of nocturnal lemurs and our local guide knew just where to find all of them. We had a tiny **Madame Berthe's Mouse Lemur** in the top of a tree and brief views of the oxymoronic **Coquerel's Giant Dwarf Lemur**, but repeated and close views of both **Pale Fork-marked Lemur** and **Red-tailed Sportive Lemur**. We told our guide we were interested in seeing frogs too and he took us to a small pond where we found 4 interesting species including the attractive **Brown Mantella**. Unlike the other groups doing night walks, we took a long walk back along the sandy entrance road in search of the spectacular **Big-headed Gecko** which we found. We were all pretty tired by now and some people went off to bed while others stayed up to look at the **Giant Jumping Rat**; a totally bizarre animal that came in nightly to eat some rice that had been put out for it. After that Christian spotted a **Fosa** and some of us followed him to get views of its rear end. It had been a very long and tiring day but we had seen some quite amazing things

#### 4<sup>th</sup> October – Kirindy to Tsingy de Bemeraha NP

We had a long drive today to Tsingy so we only had time for a short walk in the morning. Again we saw **Red-fronted Brown Lemur** and **Verreaux's Sifakas** near the camp and on the trails we saw more great birds including **Madagascar Hoopoe**, another day-roosting **Torotoroka Scops-Owl**, **Hook-billed & Rufous Vangas**, **Ashy Cuckoo-Shrike** and **White-breasted Mesite** again. The guide took us to a water pool where many birds came to drink. When we arrived we flushed a small flock of **Madagascar Lovebirds** from the ground and 2 pairs of pretty **Madagascar Buttonquails** scuttled off up the hill. Buttonquails are interesting in that the females are more colourful than the males. We waited a bit longer and after a while a pair of **Giant Couas** passed nearby and seemed not to notice us. Back at the camp we chatted to Michael who had stayed behind and seen a **Fosa** again, even getting a photo.



Mesites are a totally unique family to Madagascar. They take a bit of coaxing to get views like this.

We packed up the vehicles and were on our way by mid morning. After a few hours we arrived at a large river that we had to cross with a ferry. This was a complex and fascinating affair with ramps, ropes and floating rafts powered by small boats. It was certainly nothing that would be allowed by Health and Safety officers in a developed country. We spotted a few birds on the ferry ride, such as **Common Greenshank**, **Black-winged Stilt** and the breeding endemic **Madagascar Pratincole**, before arriving in a small town for a nice lunch of locally caught crawfish. The final part of the road was in terrible shape but the drivers and their trusty 4WDs made light work of it. It was interesting to see how the people were living in this very remote place. We had a few rest stops along the way and also stopped for a large **Madagascar Harrier-Hawk** which offered fine scope views. It was dark by the time we got to the last short ferry crossing, a slightly more professional-looking one. We got to our comfortable hotel (which was a big step up from Kirindy) in time for dinner and a cold beer after another long day.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> October – Tsingy de Bemeraha NP

This morning we went down to the park entrance to buy our entry tickets and hire local guides. They seemed like nice guys and spoke decent English. The plan was to take a boat ride to explore some caves and tombs along the river, and in the afternoon visit Little Tsingy; some fascinating



rock formations nearby. The guides took us down to the river and we got on 2 boats, each made of 2 hollowed out canoes held together with planks of wood and pushed by young guys with long poles, gondola-style. It was a very peaceful trip but a little hot until they took us into the shade of the steep-sided gorge. We saw some typical river birds such as **Striated Heron**, **Madagascar Kingfisher** and many **Madagascar Pratincoles** which seemed to have come here in large numbers to breed in the crevices in the gorge walls. The guides proudly showed us some old tombs in the rock faces belonging to the Vazimba people. They said it was OK to take pictures but warned us not to point at them as this was *Fady*, or taboo. *Fady* is an important part of Malagasy culture. Next we visited some caves with fascinating stalactites. We also saw bats, moths and an interesting cave-dwelling gecko. **Mascarene Martins** resting on the rocks outside the cave posed nicely for photographs and **Madagascar Kestrel** perched up on the cliffs. On the way back there was a sand bank where there were **Black-winged Stilts** and several other shore birds and we also saw **Madagascar Green Pigeon** and **Madagascar Starling** in distant trees. Back at the river bank we thanked our boat man and went back for lunch at the hotel.



**Madagascar Pratincoles are a Madagascar breeding endemic spending the winter in East Africa**

In the afternoon we explored Little Tsingy; some beautiful rock formations near the park offices. Here we saw some more **Red-fronted Brown Lemurs**, interesting reptiles like **Jeweled Chameleon** and **Collared Iguanid** and some common forest birds like **Madagascar Bulbul** and **Souimanga Sunbird**. We also had a beautiful blue **Madagascar Kingfisher** perched over a small pool between the rocks. The rock formations were razor sharp and we climbed between them very carefully. In one shady spot we found a beautiful **Forest Rock-Thrush** of an uncertain taxonomic status. Some people have suggested that it forms a new subspecies or even species. Finally our guides took us round the back of Little Tsingy to a small lake where they showed us a **Madagascar Fish-Eagle** nest. This is one of the rarest raptors in the world and we felt quite privileged to observe a chick on the nest through the scope. The parents didn't show up but we had great views of a large chick which we shared with a local family stood nearby. Walking back along the edge of the forest we saw a distant flock of **Sickle-billed Vangas** and close views of a **Broad-billed Roller**. We also had brief views of a **White-throated Rail** in the marsh. There has

been a brand new species discovered in the forests here and we were lucky to hear the **Tsingy Wood-Rail**. Tomorrow we would try to locate this exciting species.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> October – Tsingy de Bemeraha NP**

This morning we were visiting 'Big Tsingy'. It was supposed to be a very strenuous hike, but we were told that we didn't have to hike the whole course and could just visit the forest parts. It wasn't that far away but the bumpy ride took almost an hour. We were the first to arrive and we were greeted by a **Madagascar Coucal** in a tree in the car park. Once we were all ready for our hike, we set off and almost immediately came across a pair of **Madagascar Partridges**. These attractive endemics prefer dry grassland and we followed them, getting some good photos as they moved between patches of grass. We moved into the first patch of forest and soon came across a group of **Decken's Sifakas**. We got a few photos of these before they jumped off through the trees. Next we had good views of **Madagascar Green-Pigeon** feeding above our heads in a fruit tree. We entered another open area where we had spectacular views over Big Tsingy whose formations were much more extensive and impressive than those of Little Tsingy. Some endemic **Malagasy Spinetails** flew over head as we got some nice shots of scenery and some of the locally endemic plants. Back in the forest, we continued searching for the newly described wood-rails without success. We did however have great views of **Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher** and other forest birds such as **Hook-billed Vanga** and **Long-billed Bernieria**. We also lucked upon the rare **Schlegel's Asity**, the male of which has bizarre luminous green and blue caruncles on its face. The guides showed us a **Radrianasolo's Sportive Lemur** poking its head out of a tree cavity and we also found the rarely seen **Western Red Forest Rat** which we located right next to the trail from the loud scraping sound it was making in gnawing at a large seed. One of the most surprising things we saw in the morning was actually a reptile. We had stopped to take a break and the guide sat down on a rock and noticed a small snake. He called us over to see one of the most amazing reptiles I have ever seen, the **Leaf-nosed Snake**, *Langaha madagascariensis*. It was pencil thin, totally still and perfectly camouflaged in the low bush. Several clients that had bought macro lenses just for this tour were starting to feel glad they did. It had been a very productive morning but was now very hot so we headed back to the hotel for a dip in the pool before lunch.



The female Leaf-nosed Snake lacks the pointed nose of the male.





The Tsingy Wood-Rail is Madagascar's newest bird species, being described in 2011.

In the afternoon we went one more time round the back of Little Tsingy to try and find the Tsingy Wood-Rail and the adult **Madagascar Fish Eagle**. We went straight back to the nest and lo and behold, a beautiful adult was perched next to it. After some pictures we walked back along the wetland, finding some really rare water birds such as **Humblot's Heron** and **Madagascar Pond-Heron**; both endangered species. We also saw many other waterbirds like **Glossy Ibis**, **Madagascar Jacana** and **Purple, Squacco & Striated Herons**. A hawk flew by, and from the barred tail and flight pattern, I recognised it as a **Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk**, a rarely seen endemic raptor. It perched briefly, then disappeared from view. It reappeared and perched in the open long enough for everybody to get scope views. I aimed to be in the same spot at the same time I heard the **Tsingy Wood-Rail** yesterday. My plan worked and towards the end of the trail we heard the call again. We rushed back along and found a small group of the birds next to the trail. They were very responsive and came right up to us although they hopped in and out of view and the light was a challenge. After some time, all the photographers amongst us had some shots of this brand new species and the local guides were impressed at how we had located them. It was nice to see the enthusiasm of the guides and one of the clients kindly offered to post their bird book to them after they had got home. To finish the day, we took a night walk. We were dropped at another park office where we were shown a **Grey Mouse Lemur**, and from there we took a short cut back to the hotel finding several **Oustalet's** and **Jeweled Chameleons**.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> October – Tsingy de Bemeraha NP to Morondava

Today was pretty much a travel day and we certainly had a long way to go. Several vehicles were ahead of us to board the small ferry so we took our final looks at **Madagascar Pratincole** while we waited. The ride out along the bumpy road went a lot quicker than on the way and before we knew it we were having lunch at the town by the second ferry. We were lucky with timing and we didn't have to wait long. On the boat ride we saw many of the same waterbirds including a flock of **White-faced Ducks** and a lone **Black-crowned Night-Heron** perched by the water's edge. The final stretch of road was better and out of the window we saw **Malagasy Spinetail**, **Madagascar Bee-eater** and many **Madagascar Larks**. We found ourselves at 'Allees des Baobabs' in the warm afternoon light and took the opportunity to take a walk and some photos of the famous scene. We arrived in the coastal town of Morondava in time to enjoy our comfortable accommodation with a wonderfully refreshing sea breeze.

## 8<sup>th</sup> October – Morondava to Ifaty

Our flight to Tulear left Morondava at a reasonable hour and as we approached our destination we saw many areas of forest on fire; a sad reality in Madagascar. We were picked up at the Tulear airport by three 4-wheel drives which would take us along the sandy road north to the small beach town of Ifaty. We picked up some sandwiches which we ate on the way. As we approached the first of the Belalanda lakes we saw many **Greater Flamingos** which we looked at through the scope. We also found **Red-billed & Hottentot Teals** and **Little Grebe** along with several shorebirds such as **Black-winged Stilt**, **Common Ringed Plover**, **Common Greenshank**, and **Curlew Sandpiper**. We moved on to another lake where we walked along the reeds and called out **Madagascar Swamp-Warbler** which hopped out cooperatively. We tried for Baillon's Crake but the swamp was so dry, the habitat wasn't right for them anymore. Three of the flamingos had taken off and did a big circle around the lake and passed close to us offering nice shots in flight. Walking back to the car we went through some spiny brush where we saw some of the fascinating plants native to the area. One of them was called the **Octopus Tree** which with its long set of arms looked very much like an octopus. Here we also saw a specialty of the area, the **Subdesert Brush-Warbler** which gave its distinctive ticking calls. We got back in the vehicles and further on reached an area of mangroves where we scanned for waders. We found several **Ruddy Turnstones**, **Sanderling**, **Black-bellied**, **Greater Sand-** and **White-fronted Plovers** but were also surrounded by very insistent local kids all wanting 'un cadeaux' so we retreated to the vehicles. Further on we reached a very flat, open area where we started looking for our target, the Madagascar Plover without success. We would have another chance to see this on our way back to Tulear. We checked in to our recently refurbished beach-side resort and had some time to relax before dinner.



**Long-tailed Ground-Roller. Arguably the best bird in the south west.**

## 9<sup>th</sup> October – Ifaty Spiny forest

After an early breakfast we took a morning walk in a reserve nearby called Parc Mosa. It was set up almost 30 years ago by local entrepreneur who decided to conserve the 50 hectares of his family land as the native spiny forest to show to tourists. Now Mosa and his sons make a good business out of it, and are expert in finding the very special birds present there. Mosa and his son Freddy lead us into the reserve along a nice network of tracks. The spiny forest is totally unique and is made up of huge baobabs, octopus trees and lots of other thick-trunked trees and spiny vegetation; two different approaches that plants have come up with to survive in this dry environment. They took us to a spot for the main target in the spiny forest; the **Long-tailed**



**Ground-Roller.** The 2 guides told us where to stand and disappeared into the bushes and a few minutes later we saw a long-tailed bird pop into view right in front of us. This totally unique and beautiful bird posed wonderfully for photos and then ran off to spend the rest of the day in peace. Next the guides found us both **Green-capped** and **Running Couas** sunning themselves in the top of small trees and then another major target of this part of the trip, the **Subdesert Mesite**. We got to see a male, perched up in a tree, completely still (a predator-evasion technique). Next we found the **Thamnornis**, a member of the new Malagasy warbler family. It used its long bill to probe into crevices and epiphytic vegetation. It wasn't all birds though. We photographed the interesting **Three-eyed Lizard** in the middle of the trail. We headed back to the hotel to escape the heat and have some down time in the middle of the day, to rest or take dips in the sea. In the afternoon we were back at the reserve looking for a variety of species we still needed. We were taken to the roosting site of a **Petter's Sportive-Lemur**, a nocturnal lemur which was resting in a dense tangle at the top of a tree. We were shown a **Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec** which another local man had found for us. We also got to see a pair of **Madagascar Nightjars** beautifully camouflaged against the leaf litter. We waited for dark, and then went looking for **Grey-brown Mouse Lemur**. People were tired but before we had the chance to give up, we spotted some eye-shine in the top of a tree. Mouse Lemurs are all fairly similar in appearance, just differing slightly in the colour of their fur. A pair posed nicely for photos and then we headed back for dinner and bed.



Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec is a rarely seen nocturnal mammal.

### 10<sup>th</sup> October – Ifaty to Tulear

Several people decided to take a boat ride out onto the sea in one of the local 'pirogues' (sailing boats) while others took their last walk in the spiny forest. It was a rather quiet morning in which we took a long walk in search of our remaining targets of Banded Kestrel and Lafresnaye's Vanga. Despite searching far and wide, we were unable to locate either of these although we would have further chances of the kestrel at another site later in the tour. We did have some good photo opportunities, including a very responsive **Red-tailed Vanga**. It had heated up quickly so we retired to our hotel for last chance of swims in the pool or the sea. After lunch we pack up the vehicles and after a momentary lapse, we were all on our way back to Tulear. Our local guides were accompanying us as they were going to help us locate some difficult birds in the Tulear area. First of all we stopped to look at the rare endemic **Madagascar Plover** which we had missed on the way to Ifaty. Our guides knew where they were nesting and despite staying a respectful distance, one bird got closer and closer to us and allowed good photos. We were soon back in Tulear and checked in to our comfortable downtown hotel, well-located for shopping and close to a number of good restaurants.

## 11<sup>th</sup> October – Tulear area

After another early breakfast we headed south of town on the St Augustine road to an open area where we waited patiently for the endemic **Madagascar Sandgrouse**. The Malagasy name for these is *Hachakachat*, for the sound they make. We listened for the call and finally heard one. We scanned the sky and saw a single bird flying passed us. It seemed to want to come down at one of the water ponds but there were a number of people washing clothes already so it continued to circle. When it finally came down, we moved towards it and got it in the scope long enough for a few people to get a view before it took off and flew right by us. It wasn't the ideal view but it was starting to get warm now and we needed to head to a plateau nearby call 'La Table' to search for the restricted range endemic **Red-shouldered Vanga** which was described as recently as 1997 and the last lifer to be seen by the legendary birder Phoebe Snetsinger before her untimely death.



Red-shouldered Vanga was the last lifer to be seen by the legendary birder Phoebe Snetsinger.

We got out of our bus and followed our local guides along a path through the unique habitat known as Coral Rag Scrub made up of low bushes and prickly Euphorbias. One guide went off in search of the birds and kept in contact with the other by means of loud shouts. After a short time, it appeared that he had found the birds and we moved quickly towards him. Once we located them, they were surprisingly confiding and we got good photos of the male which was responding aggressively to the supposed intruder (which was actually just our guide whistling). Another target in the bag we now just had to find **Verreaux's Coua**, a crested cuckoo-like bird with a bright blue patch on its face. Again, one guide disappeared and a while later we followed his voice though the maze of spiny vegetation until we reached him victoriously pointing to the top of a nearby bush. We had brief views before it took off followed by us in hot pursuit. We relocated the bird for more views before we called it a morning and headed back to our air-conditioned hotel. After lunch we headed to the Arboretum where we had a fascinating tour of the gardens and learnt a lot about the local plants and culture. We also saw a few nice birds such as **Green-capped Coua**, **Madagascar Bee-eater**, **Sakalava Weaver** and **Madagascar Magpie Robin**. We headed back town to relax before another tasty dinner in a local restaurant.



## 12<sup>th</sup> October – Nosy Ve

Today we were taking a boat trip to the island of Nosy Ve, south of Tulear and several kilometres off the coast. It took about an hour by high speed boat and it was quite an invigorating ride. The driver landed the boat at the end of the island and we made a plan to be picked up later. There were no Crab Plovers at the end of the island where we had seen them on a previous trip. Last year we found a pair of Marsh Owls on the island but we searched through the middle of the island to no avail. Next we walked along the edge of the island scoping **Dimorphic Egret** and **Ruddy Turnstone**, before I spotted a single **Crab Plover** some distance away. We all had good scope views and then we tried to sneak closer for photos. Even though we were quite a distance from them it spooked and flew off; a very shy bird indeed. Finally we went to look at the nesting **Red-tailed Tropicbirds** on the southern end of the island. We spent some time photographing adult birds coming in to land as well as some adults and juveniles on nests under bushes. We got back on the boat, and went to check out a flock of **Lesser Crested** and **Common Terns** on a nearby sandbank. 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 Freddy located a male nearby which posed for photos. It was very hot by now and we went back inside for another cold drink and some lunch. The wind had picked up but our boat's captain expertly handled the big swell to get us back to the port in Tulear safely. We had some well deserved rest followed by a tasty dinner at a restaurant in town owned by a rather entertaining Italian man. Tonight was our last night in our comfortable rooms in Tulear.



Nosy Ve holds the only nesting colony of Red-tailed Tropicbirds in Madagascar.

## 13<sup>th</sup> October –Tulear to Zombitse & Isalo NPs

We left Tulear especially early to reach Zombitse National Park before it got too hot. We arrived and met our local guide, Remila, who lead us along our first trail. After a short while he took us down a narrow side trail and showed us a wonderful day-roosting **White-browed Owl**. He said we were lucky as a birding group had been through a few days before and they had missed it. We carried on in search of several target species. We soon heard a **Coquerel's Coua** and the guide circled round to walk it across the trail for us. This took a few attempts but finally we all had some view of this bird. We further added to our lemur list with **Hubbard's Sportive Lemur**, looking very

similar the other species we had previously seen. We saw several interesting reptile species, including the nocturnal **Grandidier's Dwarf Gecko**, a **Striped Brook Snake** buried under the sand, a huge **Oustalet's Chameleon** and the beautifully patterned **Standing's Day Gecko**. Our guide gave us an interesting tour including information on the medicinal uses of some of the plants. We crossed to the other side of the highway onto another trail where he found a large and rather confiding **Giant Coua** which he walked across the trail giving us great views. We also got some nice shots of the **Cuckoo Roller's** bizarre flight display. Carrying on along the forest trail, I heard the rare **Appert's Tetraka** which the guide, using some rather novel techniques, got within a few feet of us for photos. Further on the guide found us a family of **Verreaux's Sifakas** including a mother with a baby which we watched for a short while before we headed back to the entrance. We said goodbye to our guide and set off for our next site.



**Verreaux's Sifakas are mainly arboreal, rarely descending to the ground.**

We arrived at our luxurious lodge in Isalo National Park where we had lunch and then some time to relax before heading out in the afternoon. The setting was stunning and those that chose to join our afternoon walk saw several **Madagascar Kestrels** flying across the cliff faces and a **Benson's Rock-Thrush** perched on top of a big rock. We enjoyed photographing some interesting native plants and an extremely well-camouflaged grasshopper and praying mantis. Clouds had been building in the afternoon and just as we got back, drops of rain started to fall on the dry earth. As we took shelter in our rooms, thunder started to rumble and lightening flashed in the distance. By dinner time, it was a downpour and we enjoyed the light show.

#### **14<sup>th</sup> October – Isalo National Park**

After a leisurely breakfast at a surprising reasonable hour, our driver took us to the park entrance where we procured our local guide. With the heavy rainfall the night before, there was some concern over the state of the road so we hired a couple of local vehicles rather than risking getting the bus stuck. It was indeed a bad road but fairly short and we were soon walking up a valley into the Namaza section of the park. As we walked we enjoyed the dry mountainous landscape with a green valley bottom with long grass and tall endemic *Pandanus* trees. The valley walls became steeper as we pressed on and before long we were at a camp site where people were drying out their tents from the night before. Here there was a family of habituated **Ring-tailed Lemurs** which



posed for photographs and eyed us curiously wondering if we were a good source of food or not. We continued on and climbed up past a family of unusually cooperative **Madagascar Brush-Warblers** to a rather splendid waterfall called the 'Waterfall of the Frogs'. On the way back down we took a breather at the campsite and spotted an interesting **snake** which crossed the ground in front of us. It had been a pleasant morning's outing with just a couple of minor stumbles along the way. We were surprised to see a couple of similar buses to ours had made it to the car park as we grudgingly crammed ourselves back in the cars for the short ride back to the entrance. Back at the lodge we enjoyed another delicious lunch and had hopes of an afternoon walk which were soon dashed with the onset of another spectacular storm. This time with large hail stones!



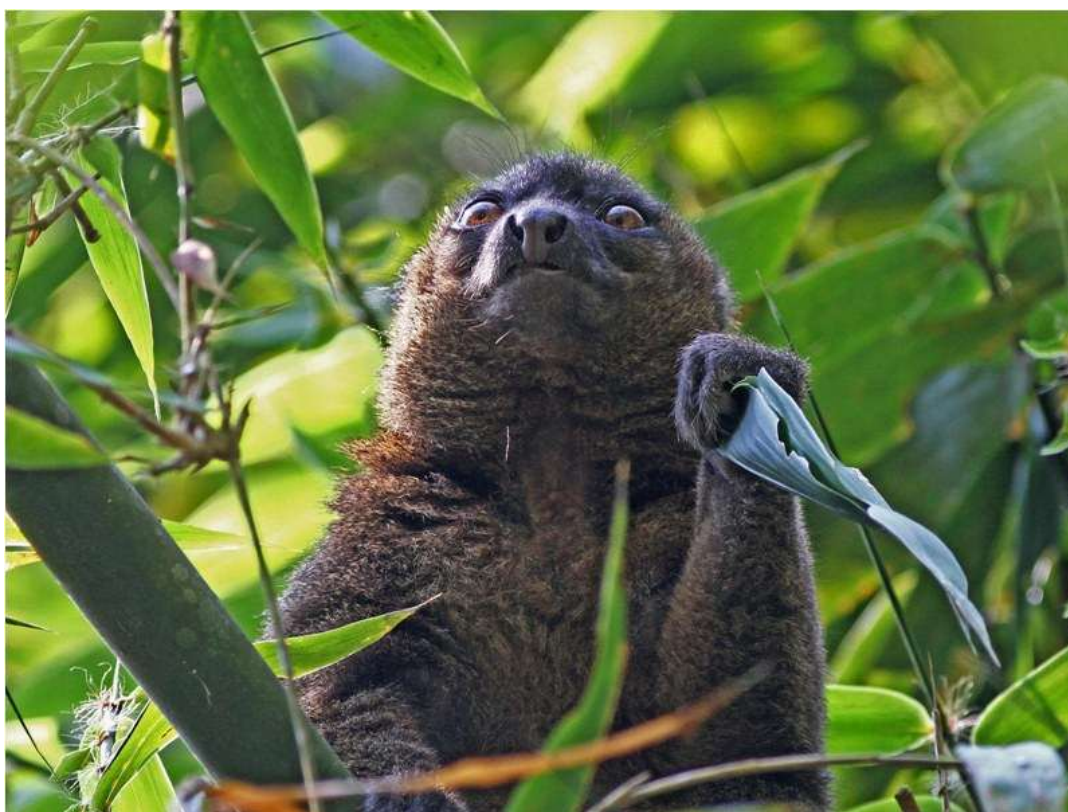
Possibly Madagascar's most famous inhabitant; the Ring-tailed Lemur.

### 15<sup>th</sup> October – 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. It was an interesting drive there and we enjoyed watching how people were living along the way. Just before we got to the reserve we saw some **Alpine Swifts** flying over the road and as we approached, 2 large rock faces with some forest between them appeared on our right. We met our guide called Victor and his assistant and they lead us through the village answering several of our cultural questions. Different to many reserves we visit on this trip, Anja was set up by the community and all money raised by our entrance fees went directly back to the community. Many people here were employed as guides or in tourist related jobs. With the huge conservation problems that Madagascar has, this could be a partial solution: Communities protecting habitat and making money out of conservation. There were many tourists visiting, but Victor led us up into the forest to a more secluded spot where we enjoyed a more intimate experience with a habituated group of lemurs. We watched and photographed a whole array of behaviours and were really won over by these wonderfully gentle creatures. He also pointed out some fascinating leaf bugs which we took many photos of. On the way out we

scanned a small lake where there was a single **Red-billed Duck**, a pair of **Madagascar Wagtails** but none of the interesting waterbirds that I had seen the year before. We did have a nice view of an **Oustalet's Chameleon** which Victor found a grasshopper to feed to. We watched it stalk the prey dangled in front of it, and its long tongue shoot out to claim its prize.

We had lunch in a restaurant nearby before continuing on to Ranomafana. As we drove east, we moved up from open grassland to hilly areas with a mixture of rice fields, *Eucalyptus* covered hillsides and then to native forest. We got out by a waterfall and gorge for photos. It was also a good spot for frogs and orchids on the damp canyon wall. We took a short walk and heard a **Madagascar Brush-Warbler** calling by the side of the road. We also had brief views of **Madagascar White-eye**. We arrived at our hotel and I met up with our guide to make arrangements for the next day. Our hotel was located next to a river in the small town and kids were busy making rafts of old banana tree stems, floating downstream and having all sorts of other kinds of fun. We were eager to start exploring our first eastern rainforest of the trip tomorrow.



Greater Bamboo is down to just a few individuals at Ranomafana

### 16<sup>th</sup> October – Ranomafana NP

Today was our first full day inside the national park. We started at the park entrance and after buying our tickets, we walked the steep but well made trail down to the river where we crossed a bridge. **Mascarene Martins** flew back and forth and a few settled on some large rocks by the edge of the water. We climbed up the trail on the other side and entered the dark forest. It was the driest I had seen it and our guide told us that it hadn't rained for a month. The air was normally filled with the calls of frogs but was now still and quiet. I spotted some movement by the side of the trail and stopped the group to try and look at a pair of **Crossley's Babblers** walking on the ground away from us. These birds have been found not to be babblers but actually vangas. Our animal spotter, William, had called to say he had located the rare **Golden Bamboo Lemur** which the national park was set up in 1991 to protect. After a bit of a steep climb we reached a spot in the forest with many tourists. We all competed for the best spots while trying to maintain our footing on the slope. The **Golden Bamboo Lemurs** moved around a bit and we finally got decent views. Next we heard that the spotter had found an even rarer lemur, the **Greater Bamboo Lemur**. We moved along another trail, going up and down. I spotted a plump bird sitting near the trail and we all got on the female **Velvet Asity**. Hopefully the spectacular male was to follow. The crowds had followed us to the **Greater Bamboo Lemur** spot and despite the circus, which the lemurs seemed



oblivious to, we got great views of these rare animals. Again our sharp animal spotter William had contacted our guide and told him he had located yet another lemur, **Milne-Edward's Sifaka**. Again it was a bit of a trek which was broken up when our eagle-eyed guide spotted something very special; a **Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko**. He didn't show it to us straight away, but instead indicated the area it was in and let us search for it. He finally showed it to us and I wouldn't believe it was a gecko until it moved. It was amazingly well camouflaged and looked just like a leaf. The **Milne-Edward's Sifaka's** were another highlight and we watched a group of 4 at close range, playing, grooming and finally jumping off through the trees. On the way back we found an interesting snake which we handled without fear of it being venomous (there are no dangerously venomous snakes in Madagascar).



Our perseverance paid off with fine views of this Pitta-like Ground-Roller

After lunch a few members of the group decided to rest out the afternoon while the hardcore trekked back into the forest to search for some remaining target birds. One special bird was the **Pitta-like Ground-Roller**, which we tried for in several spots before our trusty spotter came up trumps again. We crept off the trail and followed the pitta-like calls down a small creek and had our first views of this spectacular bird. We followed it down a steep slope and ended up at the main trail where we had it perched on an open branch for 5 minutes while we took who-knows-how-many photos. We had more nice views of **Nelicourvi Weaver**, **Grey-crowned Tetraka** and also an active nest of **Crossley's Babbler** which we observed at a respectful distance. As we left the nest I saw a mammal by the side of the trail. It was medium-sized with dark stripes down it. It could only have been a **Fanaloka**, a member of the Malagasy carnivore family. I played the call of a wood-rail and sure enough the animal reappeared to look for the potential quarry. It realised it had been fooled and was away before most of us had more than a glimpse. The light was beginning to dim and we went back down to the bridge and up to the car park where we met the others who were joining us for a night walk. Many other tourists had shown up to look at the **Brown Mouse Lemur** that comes out every night. After this we were lead down the road and show a fine selection of chameleons along with the odd frog and snake. What a day it had been.

## 17<sup>th</sup> October – Ranomafana NP

Today we planned to spend the whole day in the upper sector of Ranomafana called Vohiparara. We arrived nice and early and had the forest to ourselves. The specialties up here are mainly birds which don't attract such hordes of tourists like lower down. We walked the lower sections first and I was shocked at how dry the forest was. Epiphytic ferns hung dry and dead from the trees and the usual chorus of frogs was absent. We did find some nice frogs in the large **Pandanus** plants and in a stream including the attractive **Malagasy glass frog**. We tried for our target **Rufous-headed Ground-Roller** in several spots and got close to one but couldn't coax it in. Target vangas and mesites were nowhere to be heard. We began a long steady climb up to the higher elevations with plenty of breaks along the way. Here we looked for the endemic **Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity** which we heard but it refused to come in. It was a slow morning with the only redeeming feature being an occasional creepy crawlly to take pictures of.



The Vohiparara Trail is one of the best places to see the endemic Pollen's Vanga

We stopped for a break and had an early picnic lunch which we had brought with us. Our guide found us another **Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko** (which was literally *Uroplatus phantasticus*), followed by a fine specimen of **O'Shaunessy's Chameleon**. We also had views of the skulking endemic **Yellow-browed Oxylabes**. It was a hot day and most of the group were ready to head back to the bus. The keener birders carried on the search for the ground-roller and other targets. We did a good deal of bush-whacking on steep slopes to no avail. We had one close but it was unresponsive, then went quiet. We finally had a bit of luck in stumbling upon a pair of **Pollen's Vangas** which we chased backwards and forwards, taking photos until it was time to head back to the bus. The rest of the group were taken care of by the assistant guide and shown a variety of interesting things such as **Giraffe-necked Weevil**, flowering orchids and a **Platypelis** frog in a small tree hole where it seemed to live out its days. We were reunited back at the bus, and after a rest, our guide dragged us back into the forest to show us the recently split **Ranomafana Bamboo Lemur**. We also lucked upon a **Ring-tailed Mongoose** which the most 'fleet-footed' of us got views of. It had been a good, if not tiring day and we retired to our hotel for some well-deserved rest before dinner.

## 18<sup>th</sup> October – Ranomafana NP to Antsirabe

Today we were leaving on our long drive north but first had a couple of quick last stops with our guides. The first of these was along the road by some steep rock faces where we searched for the



tricky **Forest Rock-Thrush**. We followed our guide along the road trying the calls but after a while we heard the assistant shouting back from where we had come so we rushed back along to see a beautiful orange and grey-coloured male up in the trees. It took a while to get everybody on the bird as it had a habit of changing perch every few seconds, but after a short while we had all seen it. It was a lot mistier than it had been for the past 2 mornings and we tried squinting through the mist at the shape of a **Madagascar Blue Pigeon**. It flew off before we had seen it well so we hoped to see this one again. We got back in the bus and passed higher and higher, out of the forest and past the town of Vohiparara and to the final sector of the park that we would visit. Here the guide took us down into a marshy area where the assistant had spotted yet another endemic species, the **Grey Emutail**. It was very responsive if a little skulking but we finally all had good views as it hopped in and out of some nearby bushes. The guides asked us to wait as they went in search of a Madagascar Snipe nearby. They came back empty-handed saying that they had flushed it but it was now gone and wouldn't be back for a week.



The brightly-colored Baron's Mantella is a gem of the eastern rainforests.

Our final quarry of the morning was a very special frog. We were taken to a small stream next to the road where the guides (and also driver) entered the forest and came back out a short while later triumphantly carrying something in their hands. They put them down on a large leaf that we had prepared and when they took their hands away we saw the most brightly colored-frog we had seen so far: **Baron's Mantella**. They were stunningly beautiful and it was a nice way to end our time in Ranomafana. We said goodbye to our guides and dropped them off where they could take public transport back to their homes and we set off on a long drive to our next location. Perinet was too far to reach in a day, so we stayed overnight at a very comfortable hotel in Antsirabe.

### 19<sup>th</sup> October – Antsirabe to Andasibe

Today was just a travel day so we were able to sleep in a bit longer than usual. The beautiful gardens were a delight to walk around and it was such a tranquil environment. We had a leisurely breakfast and packed up the bus on our long drive to Perinet. We passed Tana and found a nice restaurant for lunch before continuing our drive. In contrast to the dry parched earth we had seen further south, we passed through heavy rain close to Perinet which at least we hoped might mean the forest wouldn't be as dry and lifeless as in Ranomafana. We checked in to our hotel located just 5 minutes from the park entrance and after dinner had an early night, ready for tomorrow.

## 20<sup>th</sup> October – Anamalazaotra Special Reserve

After all the rain yesterday, we were hoping for blue skies but woke to find it overcast and drizzling. After an early breakfast we drove the short distance to the park entrance where we met our local guide, Florent, who began by showing us a **Short-horned chameleon** & several **Guibermantis** frogs inside a large **Pandanus** plant. We did some birding along the road and found the bright yellow **Nelicourvi Weaver** straight away. We also saw **Madagascar Manakin**, **Rand's Warbler** and **Ward's Flycatcher** a little further along, but the highlight was the local guide's friend putting him on to a **Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko**. The camouflage was so good, you almost couldn't make it out against the trunk on the Eucalyptus tree. The rain eased off a bit as we walked back to the park entrance and went along the trail which passed by an old fish farm. Here we heard a **Madagascar Flufftail** calling in some dense grass next to one of the old concrete pools. We positioned ourselves to look along the path and I put my ipod on the other side of the trail. Sure enough the bird shot across the trail to the forest on the other side in search of the intruder. Of course it was too fast for anybody to get a photo of it. Next we were shown a beautiful **Madagascar Tree Boa** which had come out of its hole and was sunning itself. We walked along a flat trail and then down into some forest where we saw a small crowd of tourists so we knew there must be something of interest there. Soon we saw what they were looking at; a group of **Indris**; the largest extant species of lemur. We watched the group for some time, moving with them and jockeying for the best spots for photos. It was fascinating to watch them and when they did an especially big jump between trees, everyone went, "Ooh!"



The incredible Indri is Perinet's most famous resident



Next we started the climb up to a plateau area. Florent told us to wait and he disappeared for a few minutes, then reappeared and said, "Follow me". He led us down another slope and pointed at a big dead epiphytic fern. After a few moments of scanning we saw part of a wing emerging from the shadows, then the rest of the bird with its head tucked away. It was a **Rainforest Scops-Owl** on its day roost. It was a beautiful, dark chocolate brown and we tried to get a few photos. Walking back up the trail, he next showed us a **Spectacled Tetraka** nest just a meter off the ground. There were several other groups with their guides, all of whom seemed to be communicating with each other and exchanging information about their finds. On a tip off, we were taken a little further along the trail where some other people were looking at a **Parson's Chameleon**; the largest chameleon species on Madagascar. This was a rather small specimen and it was a rather unnatural shade of turquoise, which didn't do much in the way of camouflaging it. Next we saw a **Broad-billed Roller** perched on top of a tree, followed by a mixed flock with **Blue Vanga** and **Ashy Cuckooshrike**. We started our decent seeing our first **Tylas Vanga** on the way. At the bottom, we passed by a lake with a **Striated Heron** on it and went over stream where we saw a colourful **Madagascar Kingfisher**. Our last sighting of the morning was a group of **Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs** which captivated us for some time. They would climb cautiously to the ground where there pulled apart bamboo shoots, then hopped higher up in the trees to chew them. It had been a long but very productive morning.



The Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko takes camouflage to another level

After lunch, we were back at the park entrance where our guide quickly found us a family group of **Common Brown Lemurs**; a new species for the trip. After that we walked along the road and he showed us a couple of very cute and fluffy **Madagascar Long-eared Owl** chicks. We assumed the parents would be nearby but we scanned the trees to no avail. Further on we saw a 'rhapsody in blue': **Blue Vanga**, **Blue Coua** and **Madagascar Blue Pigeon**. Unfortunately we failed to lure out a calling **Red-breasted Coua** along a trail in the forest but we did see another fantastic **Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko** which we spent some time photographing. Its camouflage verged on invisibility. The drizzle turned to rain and we called it a day.



## 21<sup>st</sup> October – Mantadia National Park

We had an extra early breakfast this morning. Although only 23km away, the road to Mantadia was very bumpy and took over an hour and an half. Once we had reached one of the first areas of forest, our guide walked along the road ahead of the bus, imitating and listening of the call of the Short-legged Ground-Roller. He finally heard one and asked us to wait. He reappeared after a while and said he had located it as well as a family of **Diademed Sifakas**. We followed him up a steep trail using the thin trunks of trees for support. We soon came across the sifakas which were white with orange limbs and a grey back and crown. They were one of the most attractive lemur species that we had seen and we watched their antics for a while. They gave the most unlikely vocalizations including a sneeze-like alarm call and another call that sounded like a cow mooing. We continued along the trail until the guide asked us to wait and he went down a steep slope looking for the Short-legged Ground-Roller. He reappeared and asked us to follow him but after a while it seemed that the bird had left so we had to admit defeat. Back at the bus, we continued to the car park and entered a thankfully flat area of trails. Florent told me that a guide friend of his had seen Fosa yesterday, and sure enough a little further along, the group in front of us had found a pair high up in a tree. **Fosa** is Madagascar's largest carnivore and you need to be very lucky to see them. A pair were lazing on the branches and after a few initial photos, our guide came to take us to see another brightly-coloured **Baron's Mantella** frog, then a **Red-bellied Lemur**. We went back to check on the **Fosas** to find that they had changed position in the tree. We got better photos and watched them as they moved again. This time the male approached the female and they began to mate. This went on for quite some time, with the female showing aggression at times, and we all felt privileged to witness such a spectacle. We finally dragged ourselves away as we still had many other targets to look for here.

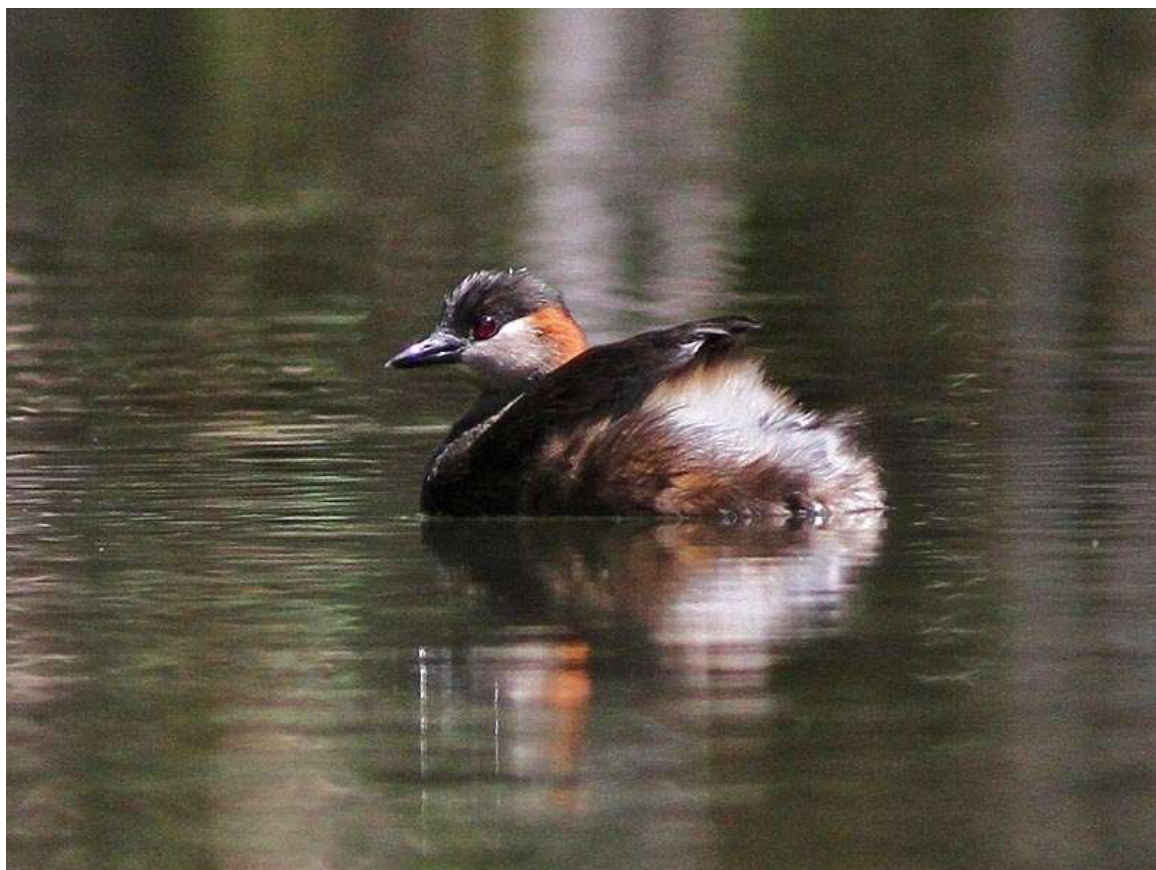


We were incredibly lucky to see Fosas mating in a tree

Next our guide took us up to a tree hole where there was supposed to be a **Weasel Sportive-Lemur**. We all gathered in front of the hole and when one of the guides scraped gently on the trunk, a head popped out. After photos of our 5<sup>th</sup> species of sportive lemur for the trip, we started down the slope only to run into another family of **Diademed Sifakas** and we watched a young one practicing jumping from a nearby branch on his mum's back. Our guide left us on the main trail and went off to look for Scaly Ground-Roller nearby, and after a while we had a group of spectacular **Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs** passing in the trees overhead. They had striking black and white coats and looked somewhat like Giant Pandas with long tails. We were fairly



racking up the mammals and we even saw another group of **Indris** before climbing up another slope to see a **Collared Nightjar** nest on top of a fern. The bird's camouflage was excellent and it looked just like a pile of dead leaves. We got back to the bus for our lunch and a rest after which we walked up the hill a short distance to a small lake to look for the endemic **Madagascar Little Grebe**. We saw a juvenile straight away and after a while, an attractive adult pair. We also saw the endangered endemic **Meller's Duck** along with some colourful **Broad-billed Rollers** and **Madagascar Bee-eaters**. Most people were now finished but Ian particularly wanted to see a Scaly Ground-Roller and this was his last chance. We left the others to rest in the bus and entered the forest once more. We walked around areas the guide had seen them before, listening and scanning but there was no sign. After an hour's fruitless search, we went back to the bus and thanked the others for their patience before starting our long bumpy ride back to Andasibe. It had been a long day in which we had seen some pretty amazing things, but we were all tired so we decided to put off our night walk until the following day.



Mantadia is the best place to see the rare endemic Madagascar Little Grebe

## 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Analamazaotra Special Reserve

Today we had a full day in the nearby reserve. We set off a little later than usual as it was very close to our hotel. We started with another walk along the road. We checked the **Madagascar Long-eared Owl** chicks again and Pierre found us an adult which we spent some time photographing. We saw the **Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko** again in the same place and then a **Short-horned Chameleon** looking just like a dead fern. The camouflage on some of the creatures in Madagascar is truly amazing. We walked along the trail into the park and after a short distance saw another huge **Parson's Giant Chameleon**. After that, somebody at the front of the group spotted a male **Velvet Asity** and as one lady moved into position to see the bird, she slipped and fell onto the stone trail. She had fallen badly onto her hip and to cut a long story short, she had to be stretchered off and taken to hospital. It was a traumatic experience for everyone, but we all helped to try and keep her comfortable and the local people helped us carry her to the ambulance. Her husband and sister in law accompanied her back to Tana to get the best medical attention possible. The rest of us were left to try and enjoy our remaining time at the park.

In the afternoon we met again for another walk. We went into the forest to look for 2 tricky endemics: **Red-breasted Coua** and **Madagascar Crested Ibis**. We heard the coua but it was far away. We did come across a pair of **Madagascar Wood-Rails** which we got to cross the trail, but they were too fast to get a decent photo. Back along the road we saw **Madagascar Starling** perched in a distant tree, then a nice flock of birds including **Ward's Flycatcher** and **Blue Vanga** which posed for photos. We had a fly-over of 2 **Madagascar Blue Pigeons** and had our last looks at the **Madagascar Long-eared Owls** before we started walking back along to the start point of the night walk. On the way we had nice views of **Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur**, **Common Brown Lemur** and heard many **Indris** calling nearby. Listening to these unique sounds in this beautiful setting was a truly unforgettable experience. We walked all the way along to a hotel where we met Linda & Pierre to start our night walk. As soon as it was dark, our guide spotted a **Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur** running along an overhead electricity wire. Other tourists followed us and the delightful little creature posed nicely for photos. We continued on our walk and a short distance further on, we walked up to another group who had found a tiny **Goodman's Mouse Lemur**; our 5<sup>th</sup> mouse lemur species of the trip. Again we saw some of the same chameleons and also a beautiful new tree frog species. All that remained now was the **Eastern Avahi** (or wooly lemur). We got to the pick-up point but another group said they had seen one along the road. Sure enough, 5 minutes further on another group was shining a spotlight up a tree. We got good views and some photos before heading back to the lodge for dinner.



Blue Coua is a predator of leaf-tailed geckos

### 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Andasibe to Tana

We were keen to get back to go and see our injured friend, so we skipped a morning walk and set off back to Tana, stopping briefly at a reptile park where we had the opportunity to get good photos of many of the reptile species we had seen on the tour, plus a few that we hadn't. We started off in a large greenhouse full of ornamental plants and about 50 chameleons of different species. We saw a huge specimen of **Parson's Giant Chameleon** and some very colourful male **Panther Chameleons**. In other enclosures we were shown 4 very different and spectacular leaf-tailed Geckos, various other lizards, a beautiful Tree Boa and my personal favourite, the Tomato Frog. Although not the same as seeing them in the wild, the keen photographers in the group enjoyed the opportunity of getting lots of great photos. After a short stop in the souvenir store, we were back in the bus and on our way back to Tana. We met the other 2 members of the group at the hotel and had lunch together to catch up on the news. Afterwards we went to the hospital where our friend was being cared for and we learned that she would soon be repatriated. Thank goodness they got insurance that covered this eventuality.



## 24<sup>th</sup> October – Tana to Ampijoroa

The flight to Majunga left at 1:30 in the afternoon, so we were able to have a leisurely breakfast and pack. Our injured friend and her husband had been evacuated early in the morning and the sister who had been working tirelessly to get them off, rejoined our group for our final stage of the journey to the north west. We arrived with plenty of time at the airport to make sure there were no problems or changes with our flight and after checking in we had a leisurely lunch in the restaurant upstairs. We left on time but the air-conditioning was somewhat inadequate which left us sweltering inside. It was a relief to get off at the other end, where although very hot, at least there was a nice breeze. We were met by our guide for the next 4 days. Leaving Mahajanga, we drove towards Ampijoroa through anthropogenic grasslands dotted with palms where we saw some **African Palm-Swifts** zipping backwards and forwards in this rather depressing habitat that used to be native forest. We drove past the main entrance to the park to the local village just 5 minutes away and down a sandy track to a brand new but rustic lodge on the edge of the forest. After we had all settled in, we headed out to a local restaurant where a power cut meant we had a nice candle lit dinner.



The male Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher comes in 3 colour morphs.

## 25<sup>th</sup> October – Ampijoroa

After breakfast, we drove into the park and bought our tickets. While we did this, some of the clients took the opportunity to photograph a nearby **Madagascar Hoopoe** on the ground. We drove to the start of the lower section of trails to look for **Schlegel's Asity**; a major target in the park. Our local guide told us about various, medicinal plants, breeding strategies of moths and many other titbits of information. We saw several common bird species, such as **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher** and **Long-billed Bernieria** but only heard the **White-breasted Mesite**. We had already seen this species well in Kirindy, at the beginning of the tour. We finally heard the call of **Schlegel's Asity** and had one fly in although not everybody got on it. We tried again, and the rest saw it but better views were certainly desired. We went to a different territories and saw a female very well and more glimpses of the beautiful male. They seemed to be nest building nearby but we saw no more activity so we came out of the forest and drove to the national park office. We walked down a trail towards the lake and saw an **African Darter**, **Madagascar Pond Heron** and **Glossy Ibis** but no hoped for **Madagascar Fish-Eagle**, but we did see some locals fishing as a team for crawfish. We walked back to the camp site which had lots of great photo opportunities of birds, including: **Broad-billed Roller**, **Sickle-billed** and **White-headed Vangas**.

We had a rather nice lunch in the park restaurant with some mercifully very cold drinks and watched several colourful day geckos running across the walls. Before heading back for lunch we had a quick look at the Chelonian (tortoise & turtle) captive breeding programme. It was still baking hot at 3pm as we set off for the park, but we walked slowly along the trail to the upper section keeping under the canopy. The forest was very quiet, but we saw one or 2 nice things and had great photo opportunities of a **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher**. Once at the top we walked around checking cavities for sportive lemurs to no avail. We did get great views of a **Torotoroka Scops-Owl** though. We heard some sifaka calls and we started to walk towards them when we heard the unmistakeable call of a nearby **Van Dam's Vanga**. One flew in close and we had brief but good views of a male before it was gone again. A little further on, we finally tracked down a small group of **Coquerel's Sifaka** and watched and photographed them at leisure in the warm afternoon light. Before heading back down, we got great views of both **Red-capped & Coquerel's Coua** which entertained us with their antics of guiding us along the trail and skipping up in the air for bugs.



**Torotoroka Scops-Owls are perfectly camouflaged against the dry trunks where they roost during the day**

We went back down to the camp ground and had dinner. The manageress excitedly told us that we might have our pictures taken for some promotional material. We smiled and pulled in as our stomachs as the photographer moved around the restaurant, but then we heard the unearthly screeching of 2 **Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemurs** in the trees just outside. We didn't get good looks at them on the first attempt, but after another course, we tried again to see one hugging the trunk of a tree. We left the camp and headed to a secret location for a night walk. Straight away, we found our first of several **Golden-brown Mouse Lemurs**, discovered as recently as 1997. We followed this with a **Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur** that looked like it had just come out of hibernation. **Western Tuft-tailed Rat, Greater Hedgehog Tenrec** (which involved the local guide doing a soccer goalie's dive into a spiny bush) and finally a beautiful male **Mongoose Lemur** on its way to raid a mango tree. Before calling it a night we found several of the uncommon **Rhinosaurus Chameleon** (our 14<sup>th</sup> chameleon species of the trip) and took some nice photos.



## 26<sup>th</sup> October – Ampijoroa

It was our last morning here and again we took an early morning walk. Before entering the network of trails we visited the supposed tallest baobab tree in the world. This species is called ***Adansonia Madagascariensis*** and there are only about 10 of these trees left in the park. It was rather impressive and we took some photos with people in them to get a sense of scale. We explored a small bit of forest nearby and lucked upon a pair of **Schlegel's Asities** and had better views than yesterday. The male was a sub-adult and his luminous green and blue facial carruncles were small and he still had the stripy belly of the juvenile plumage. We went back to the bus and drove along to the main area of the park where we walked to the viewpoint over the lake again picking up **Humblot's & Black Herons** along with **Glossy Ibis, Comb & White-faced Ducks** and various other water birds. A couple of rather tame **Coquerel's Sifakas** were sat nearby watching us and we had the chance to take some photos before they decided to jump off through the forest, carefully avoiding the spiny trunks of the Crocodile Tree.



The unique Cuckoo-Roller is more often seen in flight than perched

We went back up to the upper trails where one of our main targets was the Western Avahi or Woolly Lemur. Our guide tried very hard to find them and looked at all the likely sleeping spots he knew of, but we seemed to be out of luck. One of the highlights of the morning was watching a pair of **Red-capped Couas** carrying nesting material up to a tree and dropping it in. Other good birds during the morning were **Blue Vangas** and more beautiful male **Madagascar Paradise-Flycatchers**. It was getting increasingly hot so we started heading to the restaurant for lunch. We sat in the wonderfully situated restaurant for cold drinks and our last delicious lunch. Afterwards we took some pictures of a pair of **Cuckoo Rollers** perched surprisingly low down in a tree. We started our drive back to Mahajanga watching the culturally interesting scenes unfold out of the window, and snacking on some locally produced cashew nuts which we bought at one of the metal bridges we crossed. In Mahajanga we stayed at a hotel with beautiful sea views, a large pool and we enjoyed the comforts of civilisation.

## 27<sup>th</sup> October – Katsepy & Betsiboka Delta

Today we were taking a boat trip on the Betsiboka Delta and then to the area around a lighthouse near Katsepy on the other side of the bay from Mahajanga. The boat we had used in previous years had been finally laid to rest so we would use a small boat which would allow us much closer views of our target birds. It was low tide and as we speeded our way upstream into the delta we could see the mud around the base of the mangroves was exposed. We had a nice flyover of a

Lesser Flamingo and then began to see one or two white dots in the distance. As we got closer we saw they were **Madagascar Sacred Ibises**; an endangered endemic which differs from its African counterpart in its blue eyes and all white flight feathers. Here, we also saw several shorebird species, such as **Greater Sand-Plover**, **Whimbrels**, **Common Sandpiper** and **Curlew Sandpipers** feeding along the edge. As we continued our boat ride further upstream, we saw a mud bank with many birds. As we got closer we saw the larger birds were **Bernier's Teal**; an endangered endemic species. Again we got very close and had some great photo opportunities. Nearby were several **Dimorphic Egrets** of both light and dark morphs in full breeding plumage. The light was fantastic on them and we snapped away as they danced and chased each other. It was almost low tide and the boat's captain was concerned we might get stuck, so we started making our way back down stream slowly. We passed by more mud banks and saw a lot of birds including **Terek Sandpiper** and **Saunders's Tern**, both new for the trip.



**These prancing Dimorphic Egrets were a highlight even though they weren't our main target**

We were now on our way to a lighthouse near Katsepy, the most accessible site for a rare and range-restricted lemur called Crowned Sifaka. We made our way across the river mouth and as the tide was on its way in it was a bit choppy. Last year we had hired a truck to take us there from the small port, but with a smaller boat, our guide assured us we could get all the way to the lighthouse. It was an exhilarating wet landing, but we all made it off safely and walked up the beach to a trail up the hill to the lighthouse. It was a little steep but we took it slowly, and in the heat of the mid-morning we had all worked up quite a sweat by the time we reached the top. It appeared that they were restoring the metal lighthouse on the inside (with hammers it seemed) and were making a terrible racket. As we searched the trees nearby we came across a group of **Mongoose Lemurs** and had great views of them staring down at us. Our guide continued searching for the sifakas but couldn't find them, and he thought that maybe they had been scared off by all the noise. I decided to pay the guys to take a break to see if they would return, to feast on the mango laden-trees but this was not to be. We walked back to the boat and had another exciting time boarding. It had been a tiring morning and we headed back for a late lunch and some well deserved rest in the afternoon. Some people decided to check out the local markets which was really fascinating.

## **28<sup>th</sup> October – Mahajanga to Tana**

The next day we flew from Mahajanga back to Tana. It was a relief to get to our hotel and finally wind down from our epic journey; 4 weeks from start to finish. It had been a truly unforgettable trip and we had seen some amazing things.



## BIRD LIST

Taxonomy follows *Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World 6.7* (updated October, 2012).

### Anatidae (Ducks and Waterfowl)

|   |                            |                               |  |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | White-faced Whistling-Duck | <i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>    | Seen in Tana, at Lake Alarobia, Tsingy, Belalanda & Ampijoroa. |
| 2 | Comb Duck                  | <i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i> | Seen at Lake Alarobia & Ampijoroa.                             |
| 3 | <b>Meller's Duck</b>       | <b><i>Anas melleri</i></b>    | <b>Seen at Lake Alarobia &amp; Mantadia.</b>                   |
| 4 | Mallard                    | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>     | Seen at Anja.  |
| 5 | Red-billed Duck            | <i>Anas erythrorhynchos</i>   | Seen at Tana, Lakes Alarobia, Belalanda, Anja                  |
| 6 | Hottentot Teal             | <i>Anas hottentota</i>        | Seen at Lake Alarobia, Belalanda.                              |
| 7 | <b>Bernier's Teal</b>      | <b><i>Anas bernieri</i></b>   | <b>Seen at Betsiboka.</b>                                      |

### Phasianidae (Pheasants and Allies)

|   |                             |   |                                    |
|---|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 8 | <b>Madagascar Partridge</b> | <b><i>Margaroperdix madagascarensis</i></b> | <b>Seen at Tsingy &amp; Isalo.</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|

### Podicipedidae (Grebes)

|    |                         |                                    |                          |
|----|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 9  | Little Grebe            | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>      | Seen at Belalanda        |
| 10 | <b>Madagascar Grebe</b> | <b><i>Tachybaptus pelzelni</i></b> | <b>Seen at Mantadia.</b> |

### Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)

|    |                  |                           |                    |
|----|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 11 | Greater Flamingo | <i>Phoenicopus roseus</i> | Seen at Belalanda. |
| 12 | Lesser Flamingo  | <i>Phoenicopus minor</i>  | Seen at Betsiboka. |

### Phaethontidae (Tropicbirds)

|    |                       |                            |                  |
|----|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 13 | Red-tailed Tropicbird | <i>Phaethon rubricauda</i> | Seen on Nosy Ve. |
|----|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|

### Anhingidae (Anhingas)

|    |                |                                    |                    |
|----|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 14 | African Darter | <i>Anhinga (melanogaster) rufa</i> | Seen at Ampijoroa. |
|----|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|

### Scopidae (Hamerkop)

|    |          |                        |   |
|----|----------|------------------------|---|
| 15 | Hamerkop | <i>Scopus umbretta</i> | Seen on the way to Perinet & Ampijoroa. |
|----|----------|------------------------|---|

### Ardeidae (Hérons and Egrets)

|    |                           |                                    |  |
|----|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 16 | Little Bittern            | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>          | Heard at Tsingy                                    |
| 17 | Gray Heron                | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>               | Seen at Tsingy & Betsiboka..                       |
| 18 | <b>Humblot's Heron</b>    | <b><i>Ardea humbloti</i></b>       | <b>Seen at Tsingy, Ampijoroa &amp; Betsiboka..</b> |
| 19 | Purple Heron              | <i>Ardea purpurea</i>              | Seen at Tsingy & Ampijoroa.                        |
| 20 | Great Egret               | <i>Ardea alba</i>                  | Seen near water throughout.                        |
| 21 | Dimorphic Egret           | <i>Egretta garzetta (dimorpha)</i> | Seen near water throughout.                        |
| 22 | Black Heron               | <i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>           | Seen in Tana, at Lake Alarobia & Ampijoroa.        |
| 23 | Cattle Egret              | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>               | Seen at almost all sites.                          |
| 24 | Squacco Heron             | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>           | Seen at many fresh water sites.                    |
| 25 | Madagascar Pond-Heron     | <i>Ardeola idae</i>                | Seen at Lake Alarobia, Tsingy & Ampijoroa.         |
| 26 | Striated Heron            | <i>Butorides striata</i>           | Seen in Tana, Tsingy & Ampijoroa.                  |
| 27 | Black-crowned Night-Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>       | Seen at Tana, on the way to Tsingy & at Tulear.    |

### Threskiornithidae (Ibises)

|    |                                 |  |                             |
|----|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 28 | Glossy Ibis                     | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>            | Seen at Tsingy & Ampijoroa. |
| 29 | <b>(Madagascar) Sacred Ibis</b> | <b><i>Threskiornis a. bernieri</i></b> | <b>Seen at Betsiboka.</b>   |

### Accipitridae (Hawks and allies)

|    |                                |  |   |
|----|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 30 | <b>Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk</b>  | <b><i>Aviceda madagascariensis</i></b>   | <b>Seen at Tsingy.</b>  |
| 31 | Black (Yellow-billed) Kite     | <i>Milvus migrans (aegyptius)</i>        | Seen at most sites.   |
| 32 | <b>Madagascar Fish-Eagle</b>   | <b><i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i></b>    | <b>Seen at Tsingy &amp; Ampijoroa.</b>                          |
| 33 | <b>Madagascar Harrier-Hawk</b> | <b><i>Polyboroides radiatus</i></b>      | <b>Seen at Tsingy &amp; Ampijoroa.</b>                          |
| 34 | Frances's Sparrowhawk          | <i>Accipiter francesii (francesiae)</i>  | Seen at Zombitse & Ampijoroa.                                   |
| 35 | <b>Madagascar Sparrowhawk</b>  | <b><i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i></b> | <b>Seen at Kirindy.</b>   |
| 36 | <b>Henst's Goshawk</b>         | <b><i>Accipiter henstii</i></b>          | <b>Heard at Ranomafana.</b>                                     |
| 37 | <b>Madagascar Buzzard</b>      | <b><i>Buteo brachypterus</i></b>         | <b>Seen at Kirindy, Tsingy, Ifaty, Ampijoroa &amp; Katsepy.</b> |

## Falconidae (Falcons)

|    |                       |                                 |  |
|----|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 38 | Madagascar Kestrel    | <i>Falco newtoni</i>            | Seen at Kirindy, Tsingy, Zombitse, Isalo & Anja. |
| 39 | <b>Banded Kestrel</b> | <b><i>Falco zoniventris</i></b> | <b>Seen at Kirindy.</b>                          |

## Mesitornithidae (Mesites)

|    |                              |                                    |  |
|----|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 40 | <b>White-breasted Mesite</b> | <b><i>Mesitornis variegata</i></b> | <b>Seen at Kirindy and heard at Ampijoroa.</b> |
| 41 | <b>Subdesert Mesite</b>      | <b><i>Monias benschi</i></b>       | <b>Seen at Ifaty.</b>                          |

## Rallidae (Rails and allies)

|    |                             |                                      |  |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 42 | <b>Madagascar Flufftail</b> | <b><i>Sarothrura insularis</i></b>   | <b>Seen at Perinet &amp; near Mantadia. Heard at Ranomafana.</b> |
| 43 | <b>Madagascar Wood-Rail</b> | <b><i>Canirallus kiolooides</i></b>  | <b>Seen at Ranomafana &amp; Perinet.</b>                         |
| 44 | <b>Tsingy Wood-Rail</b>     | <b><i>Canirallus beankaensis</i></b> | <b>Seen at Tsingy.</b>   |
| 45 | White-throated Rail         | <i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>            | Seen at Tsingy. Heard at Ranomafana & Perinet.                   |
| 46 | Eurasian Moorhen            | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>           | Seen at Tana & Tsingy.   |

## Charadriidae (Plovers)

|    |                          |                                     |   |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 47 | Black-bellied Plover     | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>         | Seen at Belalanda & Nosy Ve.            |
| 48 | Greater Sandplover       | <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>     | Seen at Belalanda, Nosy Ve & Betsiboka. |
| 49 | Kittlitz's Plover        | <i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>         | Seen at Belalanda & Tulear.             |
| 50 | Common Ringed Plover     | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>         | Seen at Belalanda & Betsiboka.          |
| 51 | <b>Madagascar Plover</b> | <b><i>Charadrius thoracicus</i></b> | <b>Seen at Belalanda.</b>               |
| 52 | Three-banded Plover      | <i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>       | Seen at Ampijoroa.                      |
| 53 | White-fronted Plover     | <i>Charadrius marginatus</i>        | Seen at Tsingy, Belalanda & Nosy Ve.    |

## Dromadidae (Crab Plover)

|    |             |                       |                  |
|----|-------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 54 | Crab Plover | <i>Dromas ardeola</i> | Seen at Nosy Ve. |
|----|-------------|-----------------------|------------------|

## Recurvirostridae (Stilts)

|    |                    |                              |                             |
|----|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 55 | Black-winged Stilt | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | Seen at Tsingy & Belalanda. |
|----|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

## Jacanidae (Jacanas)

|    |                          |                                       |                        |
|----|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 56 | <b>Madagascar Jacana</b> | <b><i>Actophilornis albinucha</i></b> | <b>Seen at Tsingy.</b> |
|----|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|

## Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)

|    |                   |                            |   |
|----|-------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 57 | Terek Sandpiper   | <i>Xenus cinereus</i>      | Seen at Betsiboka.                                    |
| 58 | Common Sandpiper  | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>  | Seen at Lake Alarobia, Tsingy, Belalanda & Betsiboka. |
| 59 | Common Greenshank | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>  | Seen at Tsingy, Belalanda, Nosy Ve & Betsiboka..      |
| 60 | Whimbrel          | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>   | Seen at Belalanda, Tulear, Nosy Ve & Betsiboka..      |
| 61 | Ruddy Turnstone   | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>  | Seen at Belalanda & Nosy Ve.                          |
| 62 | Sanderling        | <i>Calidris alba</i>       | Seen at Belalanda & Nosy Ve.                          |
| 63 | Curlew Sandpiper  | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | Seen at Belalanda & Betsiboka.                        |

## Turnicidae (Buttonquail)

|    |                               |                                  |  |
|----|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 64 | <b>Madagascar Buttonquail</b> | <b><i>Turnix nigricollis</i></b> | <b>Seen at Kirindy, Tulear &amp; Zombitse.</b> |
|----|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|

## Glareolidae (Pratincoles)

|    |                       |                          |                 |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 65 | Madagascar Pratincole | <i>Glareola ocularis</i> | Seen at Tsingy. |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|

## Laridae (Gulls &amp; Terns)

|    |                     |  |                            |
|----|---------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 66 | Saunders' Tern      | <i>Sternula (Sterna) saundersi</i>     | Seen at Betsiboka.         |
| 67 | Whiskered Tern      | <i>Chlidonias hybrida (hybridus)</i>   | Seen on the way to Tsingy. |
| 68 | Common Tern         | <i>Sterna hirundo</i>                  | Seen on Nosy Ve.           |
| 69 | Lesser Crested Tern | <i>Thalasseus (Sterna) bengalensis</i> | Seen on Nosy Ve.           |

## Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)

|    |                              |                                    |                        |
|----|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 70 | <b>Madagascar Sandgrouse</b> | <b><i>Pterocles personatus</i></b> | <b>Seen at Tulear.</b> |
|----|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|

## Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

|    |                         |                               |                                 |
|----|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 71 | Rock Pigeon             | <i>Columba livia</i>          | Commonly seen throughout.       |
| 72 | Madagascar Turtle-Dove  | <i>Streptopelia picturata</i> | Seen at most forest sites.      |
| 73 | Namaqua Dove            | <i>Oena capensis</i>          | Seen at most sites in the west. |
| 74 | Madagascar Green-Pigeon | <i>Treron australis</i>       | Seen at Tsingy.                 |



|    |                        |                                      |                               |
|----|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 75 | Madagascar Blue-Pigeon | <i>Allectroenas madagascariensis</i> | Seen at Ranamafana & Perinet. |
|----|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|

Psittacidae (Parrots)

|    |                            |                         |  |
|----|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 76 | Grey-headed Lovebird       | <i>Agapornis canus</i>  | Seen at Kirindy, Tsingy, Belalanda, Ifaty, Tulear & Isalo. |
| 77 | (Greater) Vasa Parrot      | <i>Coracopsis vasa</i>  | Seen at Tsingy & Ampijoroa.                                |
| 78 | Black (Lesser Vasa) Parrot | <i>Coracopsis nigra</i> | Seen at most forest sites.                                 |

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

|    |                     |                                     |   |
|----|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 79 | Madagascar Cuckoo   | <i>Cuculus rochii</i>               | Commonly heard throughout. Seen at Ifaty & Ampijoroa. |
| 80 | Giant Coua          | <i>Coua gigas</i>                   | Seen at Kirindy & Zombitse.                           |
| 81 | Coquerel's Coua     | <i>Coua coquereli</i>               | Seen at Zombitse & Ampijoroa.                         |
| 82 | Red-breasted Coua   | <i>Coua serriana</i>                | Heard at Perinet.                                     |
| 83 | Red-fronted Coua    | <i>Coua reynaudii</i>               | Seen at Ranomafana.                                   |
| 84 | Red-capped Coua     | <i>Coua ruficeps</i>                | Seen at Ampijoroa.                                    |
| 85 | [Green-capped Coua] | <i>[Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps]</i> | Seen at Ifaty & Tulear.                               |
| 86 | Running Coua        | <i>Coua cursor</i>                  | Seen at Ifaty.  |
| 87 | Crested Coua        | <i>Coua cristata</i>                | Seen at Kirindy, Tsingy, Ifaty, Zombitse & Ampijoroa. |
| 88 | Verreaux's Coua     | <i>Coua verreauxi</i>               | Seen at La Table near Tulear.                         |
| 89 | Blue Coua           | <i>Coua caerulea</i>                | Heard at Ranomafana. Seen at Perinet & Mantadia.      |
| 90 | Madagascar Coucal   | <i>Centropus toulou</i>             | Seen at most sites.                                   |

Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)

|    |          |                  |                 |
|----|----------|------------------|-----------------|
| 91 | Barn Owl | <i>Tyto alba</i> | Heard at Isalo. |
|----|----------|------------------|-----------------|

Strigidae (Owls)

|    |                                 |                              |  |
|----|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 92 | Malagasy (Rainforest) Scops-Owl | <i>Otus rutilus</i>          | Seen at Perinet.                             |
| 93 | Torotoroka Scops-Owl            | <i>Otus madagascariensis</i> | Seen at Kirindy & Ampijoroa.                 |
| 94 | White-browed Owl                | <i>Ninox supercilialis</i>   | Seen at Zombitse. Heard at Kirindy & Tsingy. |
| 95 | Madagascar Long-eared Owl       | <i>Asio madagascariensis</i> | Seen at Perinet                              |

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars)

|    |                     |                                     |                   |
|----|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 96 | Madagascar Nightjar | <i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i> | Seen at Ifaty.    |
| 97 | Collared Nightjar   | <i>Caprimulgus enarratus</i>        | Seen at Mantadia. |

Apodidae (Swifts)

|     |                    |                              |  |
|-----|--------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 98  | Malagasy Spinetail | <i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i> | Seen on the way to Kirindy, at Tsingy, Perinet & Mantadia. |
| 99  | Alpine Swift       | <i>Apus melba</i>            | Seen at Anja.  |
| 100 | Madagascar Swift   | <i>Apus balstoni</i>         | Seen at Tana & Ranomafana.                                 |
| 101 | African Palm-Swift | <i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>      | Seen at Kirindy, Tsingy, Perinet, Ampijoroa & Katsepy.     |

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

|     |                             |                                     |   |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 102 | Malagasy Kingfisher         | <i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>      | Seen in Tana, at Tsingy, Ranomafana & Mantadia. |
| 103 | Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher | <i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i> | Seen at Tsingy & Mantadia.                      |

Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

|     |                      |                             |                     |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 104 | Madagascar Bee-eater | <i>Merops superciliosus</i> | Seen at many sites. |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|

Coraciidae (Rollers)

|     |                     |                             |   |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 105 | Broad-billed Roller | <i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i> | Seen at Tsingy, Perinet, Ampijoroa & Katsepy. |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|

Brachypteraciidae (Ground-Rollers)

|     |                             |                             |                      |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 106 | Pitta-like Ground-Roller    | <i>Atelornis pittoides</i>  | Seen at Ranomafana.  |
| 107 | Rufous-headed Ground-Roller | <i>Atelornis crossleyi</i>  | Heard at Ranomafana. |
| 108 | Long-tailed Ground-Roller   | <i>Uratelornis chimaera</i> | Seen at Ifaty.       |

Leptosomidae (Cuckoo-Roller)

|     |               |                            |                                     |
|-----|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 109 | Cuckoo-Roller | <i>Leptosomus discolor</i> | Seen or heard at most forest sites. |
|-----|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Upupidae (Hoopoes)

|     |                   |                        |                                      |
|-----|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 110 | Madagascar Hoopoe | <i>Upupa marginata</i> | Seen at Ampijoroa, Ifaty & Zombitse. |
|-----|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|

**Philepittidae (Asities)**

|     |                              |                               |                               |
|-----|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 111 | Velvet Asity                 | <i>Philepitta castanea</i>    | Seen at Ranomafana & Perinet. |
| 112 | Schlegel's Asity             | <i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>   | Seen at Ampijoroa.            |
| 113 | (Common) Sunbird-Asity       | <i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>  | Seen at Ranomafana.           |
| 114 | Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity | <i>Neodrepanis hypoxantha</i> | Heard at Ranomafana.          |

**Vangidae (Vangas)**

|     |                      |  |                                       |
|-----|----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 115 | Tylas Vanga          | <i>Tylas eduardi</i>                   | Seen at Perinet.                      |
| 116 | Common Newtonia      | <i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>           | Seen at most forest sites.            |
| 117 | Archbold's Newtonia  | <i>Newtonia archboldi</i>              | Seen at Ifaty.                        |
| 118 | Chabert's Vanga      | <i>Leptopterus chabert</i>             | Seen at Tsingy, Ifaty & Tulear.       |
| 119 | Blue Vanga           | <i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>      | Seen at Kirindy, Tsingy & Ampijoroa.  |
| 120 | Red-tailed Vanga     | <i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>    | Seen at Ifaty. Heard at Ranomafana.   |
| 121 | Red-shouldered Vanga | <i>Calicalicus rufocarpalis</i>        | Seen at La Table near Tulear.         |
| 122 | Nuthatch Vanga       | <i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>        | Heard at Mantadia.                    |
| 123 | Rufous Vanga         | <i>Schetba rufa</i>                    | Seen at Kirindy. Heard at Ranomafana. |
| 124 | Sickle-billed Vanga  | <i>Falcula palliata</i>                | Seen at Tsingy & Ampijoroa.           |
| 125 | White-headed Vanga   | <i>Artamella (Leptopterus) viridis</i> | Seen at Ampijoroa. Heard at Kirindy.  |
| 126 | Van Dam's Vanga      | <i>Xenopirostris damii</i>             | Seen at Ampijoroa.                    |
| 127 | Pollen's Vanga       | <i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>           | Seen at Ranomafana.                   |
| 128 | Ward's Flycatcher    | <i>Pseudobias wardi</i>                | Seen at Perinet.                      |
| 129 | Crossley's Babbler   | <i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>           | Seen at Ranomafana.                   |

**Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)**

|     |                                 |                         |                               |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 130 | Ashy (Madagascar) Cuckoo-shrike | <i>Coracina cinerea</i> | Seen at Kirindy & Ranomafana. |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|

**Dicruridae (Drongos)**

|     |                |                            |                     |
|-----|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 131 | Crested Drongo | <i>Dicrurus forficatus</i> | Seen at most sites. |
|-----|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|

**Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)**

|     |                                |                           |                           |
|-----|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 132 | Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher | <i>Terpsiphone mutata</i> | Seen at all forest sites. |
|-----|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|

**Corvidae (Crows)**

|     |           |                     |                     |
|-----|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 133 | Pied Crow | <i>Corvus albus</i> | Seen at most sites. |
|-----|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|

**Alaudidae (Larks)**

|     |                 |                       |  |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| 134 | Madagascar Lark | <i>Mirafraga hova</i> | Seen at Tsingy, Belalanda, Tulear & Isalo. |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------------|--|

**Hirundinidae (Swallows)**

|     |                  |                          |                              |
|-----|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 135 | Mascarene Martin | <i>Phedina borbonica</i> | Commonly seen at most sites. |
|-----|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|

**Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)**

|     |                   |                                    |                           |
|-----|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 136 | Madagascar Bulbul | <i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i> | Commonly seen throughout. |
|-----|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|

**Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers)**

|     |                          |                             |   |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 137 | Madagascar Brush-Warbler | <i>Nesillas typica</i>      | Seen at Tsingy, Isalo & Ranomafana. Heard at Lake Alarobia. |
| 138 | Subdesert Brush-Warbler  | <i>Nesillas lantzi</i>      | Seen at Belalanda, Ifaty, Tulear & Zombitse.                |
| 139 | Madagascar Swamp-Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i> | Seen at Lake Alarobia & Belalanda.                          |

**Locustellidae (Grassbirds)**

|     |               |                               |                     |
|-----|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 140 | Gray Emu-tail | <i>Dromaeocercus seebohmi</i> | Seen at Ranomafana. |
|-----|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|

**Bernieridae (Malagasy Warblers)**

|     |                         |                                       |                               |
|-----|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 141 | White-throated Oxylabes | <i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>      | Heard at Ranomafana.          |
| 142 | Long-billed Bernieria   | <i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>     | Seen at most forest sites.    |
| 143 | Cryptic Warbler         | <i>Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi</i> | Seen at Ranomafana            |
| 144 | Wedge-tailed Jery       | <i>Hartertula flavoviridis</i>        | Seen at Ranomafana.           |
| 145 | Thamnornis              | <i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>      | Seen at Ifaty.                |
| 146 | Yellow-browed Oxylabes  | <i>Crossleya xanthophrys</i>          | Seen at Ranomafana.           |
| 147 | Spectacled Tetraka      | <i>Xanthornix zosterops</i>           | Seen at Ranomafana & Perinet. |
| 148 | Appert's Tetraka        | <i>Xanthornix apperti</i>             | Seen at Zombitse,             |
| 149 | Grey-crowned Tetraka    | <i>Xanthornix cinereiceps</i>         | Seen at Ranomafana            |



|                                      |                                |  |   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 150                                  | <b>Rand's Warbler</b>          | <i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>          | Seen at Ranomafana                          |
| Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies) |                                |  |   |
| 151                                  | <b>Common Jery</b>             | <i>Neomixis tenella</i>                | Seen at most sites.                         |
| 152                                  | <b>Green Jery</b>              | <i>Neomixis viridis</i>                | Heard at Ranomafana. Seen at Perinet.       |
| 153                                  | <b>Stripe-throated Jery</b>    | <i>Neomixis striatigula</i>            | Seen at Ifaty.                              |
| 154                                  | Madagascar Cisticola           | <i>Cisticola cherina</i>               | Seen at most sites in the west.             |
| Zosteropidae (White-eyes)            |                                |  |   |
| 155                                  | Madagascar White-eye           | <i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>        | Seen at lake Alarobia, Ranomafana           |
| Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers) |                                |  |   |
| 156                                  | <b>Madagascar Magpie-Robin</b> | <i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>       | Seen at most sites.                         |
| 157                                  | <b>Forest Rock-Thrush</b>      | <i>Monticola sharpei</i>               | Seen at Ranomafana.                         |
| 158                                  | <b>Benson's Rock-Thrush</b>    | <i>Monticola bensoni</i>               | Seen at Tsingy & Isalo.                     |
| 159                                  | <b>Littoral Rock-Thrush</b>    | <i>Monticola imerina</i>               | Seen at Anakao.                             |
| 160                                  | Stonechat                      | <i>Saxicola torquatus</i>              | Seen at Isalo                               |
| Sturnidae (Starlings)                |                                |  |   |
| 161                                  | <b>Madagascar Starling</b>     | <i>Saroglossa aurata</i>               | Seen at Tsingy & Perinet.                   |
| 162                                  | Common Myna                    | <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>            | Seen at most sites.                         |
| Nectariniidae (Sunbirds)             |                                |  |   |
| 163                                  | Souimanga Sunbird              | <i>Cinnyris (Nectarinia) souimanga</i> | Seen at most sites.                         |
| 164                                  | Madagascar (Green) Sunbird     | <i>Cinnyris (Nectarinia) notatus</i>   | Seen at Ranomafana & Perinet.               |
| Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)   |                                |  |   |
| 165                                  | <b>Madagascar Wagtail</b>      | <i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>          | Seen at most sites.                         |
| Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)       |                                |  |   |
| 166                                  | <b>Nelicourvi Weaver</b>       | <i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>              | Seen at Ranomafana, Perinet & Mantadia.     |
| 167                                  | <b>Sakalava Weaver</b>         | <i>Ploceus sakalava</i>                | Seen at Kirindy, Ifaty & Tulear.            |
| 168                                  | Red Fody                       | <i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>         | Seen at most sites.                         |
| 169                                  | <b>Forest Fody</b>             | <i>Foudia omissa</i>                   | Seen at Ranomafana.                         |
| Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)    |                                |  |   |
| 170                                  | <b>Madagascar Mannikin</b>     | <i>Lonchura nana</i>                   | Seen at Tsingy, Ifaty, Perinet & Ampijoroa. |

**Bold** = Madagascar endemic species or family.

## MAMMAL LIST

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

|                                       |                                     |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tenrecidae (Tenrecs)                  |                                     |                                 |                           |
| 1                                     | <b>Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec</b>       | <i>Echinops telfairi</i>        | Seen at Ifaty.            |
| 2                                     | <b>Greater Hedgehog Tenrec</b>      | <i>Setifer setosus</i>          | Seen at Ampijoroa.        |
| Cheirogaleidae (Mouse & Dwarf Lemurs) |                                     |                                 |                           |
| 3                                     | <b>Grey Mouse Lemur</b>             | <i>Microcebus murinus</i>       | Seen at Kirindy & Tsingy. |
| 4                                     | <b>Brown Mouse Lemur</b>            | <i>Microcebus rufus</i>         | Seen at Ranomafana.       |
| 5                                     | <b>Golden-brown Mouse Lemur</b>     | <i>Microcebus ravelobensis</i>  | Seen at Ampijoroa.        |
| 6                                     | <b>Grey-brown Mouse Lemur</b>       | <i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>   | Seen at Ifaty.            |
| 7                                     | <b>Goodman's Mouse Lemur</b>        | <i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i> | Seen at Perinet.          |
| 8                                     | <b>Madam Berthe's Mouse Lemur</b>   | <i>Microcebus berthae</i>       | Seen at Kirindy.          |
| 9                                     | <b>Coquerel's Giant Dwarf Lemur</b> | <i>Mirza coquereli</i>          | Seen at Kirindy.          |
| 10                                    | <b>Pale Fork-marked Lemur</b>       | <i>Phaner pallescens</i>        | Seen at Kirindy.          |
| 11                                    | <b>Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur</b>       | <i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>      | Seen at Amijoroa.         |
| 12                                    | <b>Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur</b>      | <i>Cheirogaleus crossleyi</i>   | Seen at Perinet.          |

### Lepilemuridae (Sportive Lemurs)

|    |                               |                               |   |
|----|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 13 | Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur | <i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>     | Seen at Amijoroa.   |
| 14 | Weasel Sportive Lemur         | <i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>   | Seen at Mantadia.   |
| 15 | Hubbard's Sportive Lemur      | <i>Lepilemur hubbardi</i>     | Seen at Zombitse.   |
| 16 | Red-tailed Sportive Lemur     | <i>Lepilemur ruficaudatus</i> | Seen at Kirindy.  |
| 17 | Radrianasolo's Sportive Lemur | <i>Lepilemur radrianasoli</i> | Seen at Tsingy.   |
| 18 | Petter's Sportive Lemur       | <i>Lepilemur petteri</i>      | The sportive lemur seen at Ifaty was probably this species. |

### Lemuridae (True Lemurs)

|    |                              |                                    |   |
|----|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 19 | Eastern Gray Bamboo Lemur    | <i>Hapalemur griseus</i>           | Seen at Perinet.                            |
| 20 | Ranomafana Bamboo Lemur      | <i>Hapalemur g. ranomafanensis</i> | This possible split was seen at Ranomafana. |
| 21 | Golden Bamboo Lemur          | <i>Hapalemur aureus</i>            | Seen at Ranomafana.                         |
| 22 | Greater Bamboo Lemur         | <i>Prolemur simus</i>              | Seen at Ranomafana.                         |
| 23 | Ring-tailed Lemur            | <i>Lemur catta</i>                 | Seen at Isalo & Anja.                       |
| 24 | Mongoose Lemur               | <i>Eulemur mongoz</i>              | Seen at Ampijoroa & Katsepy.                |
| 25 | Red-bellied Lemur            | <i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>         | Seen at Mantadia.                           |
| 26 | Common Brown Lemur           | <i>Eulemur fulvus</i>              | Seen at Perinet.                            |
| 27 | Red-fronted Brown Lemur      | <i>Eulemur rufus</i>               | Seen at Kirindy, Tsingy & Ranomafana.       |
| 28 | Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur | <i>Varecia variegata</i>           | Seen at Mantadia.                           |

### Indridae (Woolly Lemurs, Sifakas & Indri)

|    |                      |                              |                             |
|----|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 29 | Eastern Avahi        | <i>Avahi laniger</i>         | Seen at Perinet.            |
| 30 | Verreaux's Sifaka    | <i>Propithecus verreauxi</i> | Seen at Kirindy & Zombitse. |
| 31 | Decken's Sifaka      | <i>Propithecus deckenii</i>  | Seen at Tsingy.             |
| 32 | Coquerel's Sifaka    | <i>Propithecus coquereli</i> | Seen at Ampijoroa.          |
| 33 | Diademmed Sifaka     | <i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>  | Seen at Perinet & Man       |
| 34 | Milne-Edwards Sifaka | <i>Propithecus diadema</i>   | Seen at Ranomafana.         |
| 35 | Indri                | <i>Indri Indri</i>           | Seen at Perinet & Mantadia. |

### Eupleridae (Malagasy Carnivores)

|    |                         |                                 |                             |
|----|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 36 | Fanaloka                | <i>Fossa fossana</i>            | Seen at Ranomafana.         |
| 37 | Ring-tailed Mongoose    | <i>Galidia elegans</i>          | Seen at Ranomafana.         |
| 38 | Narrow-striped Mongoose | <i>Mungotictis decemlineata</i> | Seen at Kirindy.            |
| 39 | Fossa                   | <i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>       | Seen at Kirindy & Mantadia. |

### Nesomyidae (African rodents)

|    |                         |                                 |                     |
|----|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 41 | Giant Jumping Rat       | <i>Mungotictis decemlineata</i> | Seen at Kirindy.    |
| 42 | Eastern Red Forest Rat  | <i>Nesomys rufus</i>            | Seen at Ranomafana. |
| 43 | Western Red Forest Rat  | <i>Nesomys lambertoni</i>       | Seen at Tsingy.     |
| 44 | Western Tuft-tailed Rat | <i>Eliurus myoxinus</i>         | Seen at Ampijoroa.  |

## REPTILE LIST

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

### Crocodylidae

|   |                |                             |                    |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Nile Crocodile | <i>Crocodylus niloticus</i> | Seen at Ampijoroa. |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|

### Chamaeleonidae

|    |                           |                              |  |
|----|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 2  | Eiongate Leaf Chameleon   | <i>Brookesia nasus</i>       | Seen at Ranomafana.                          |
| 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  | Blue-legged Chameleon     | <i>Calumma crypticum</i>     | Seen at Ranomafana.                          |
| 9  |                           | <i>Calumma fallax</i>        | Seen at Ranomafana.                          |
| 10 | Rhinoceros Chameleon      | <i>Furcifer rhinoceros</i>   | Seen at Ampijoroa.                           |
| 11 | Oustalet's Chameleon      | <i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>    | Seen at Tsingy, Zombitse, Isalo & Ampijoroa. |



|    |                      |                            |                     |
|----|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 12 | Warty Chameleon      | <i>Furcifer verrucosus</i> | Seen at Kirindy.    |
| 13 | Jeweled Chameleon    | <i>Furcifer lateralis</i>  | Seen at Tsingy.     |
| 14 |                      | <i>Furcifer nicosiai</i>   | Seen at Kirindy.    |
| 15 | Rainforest Chameleon | <i>Furcifer balteatus</i>  | Seen at Ranomafana. |

#### Iguanidae

|    |                            |                                    |                                      |
|----|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 16 | Three-eyed Lizard          | <i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i> | Seen at Ifaty, Tulear & Zombitse.    |
| 17 | Collared Iguanid           | <i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>             | Seen at Kirindy, Tsingy & Ampijoroa. |
| 18 | Dumeril's Madagascar Swift | <i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>     | Seen at Isalo                        |

#### Gekkonidae

|    |                                  |                                  |   |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 19 | Big-headed Gecko                 | <i>Paroedura pictus</i>          | Seen at Kirindy.                              |
| 20 | Northern Madagascar Ground Gecko | <i>Paroedura hamalorhina</i>     | Seen at Tsingy.                               |
| 21 | Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko        | <i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>    | Seen at Ranomafana.                           |
| 22 | Sikora (Mossy) Leaf-tailed Gecko | <i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>         | Seen at Perinet.                              |
| 23 | Sakalava's Velvet Gecko          | <i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>   | Seen at Ifaty, Zombitse & Ampijoroa.          |
| 24 | Common House Gecko               | <i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>     | Seen at Kirindy, Ifaty, Zombitse & Mahajanga. |
| 25 | Grandidier's Gecko               | <i>Geckolepis typica</i>         | Seen at Ampijoroa.                            |
| 26 | Grandidier's Dwarf Gecko         | <i>Lygodactylus tolampyae</i>    | Seen at Tsingy, Zombitse & Ampijoroa.         |
| 27 | Madagascar Day Gecko             | <i>Phelsuma madagascariensis</i> | Seen at Tulear, Ampijoroa & Mahajanga.        |
| 28 | Thicktail Day Gecko              | <i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>        | Seen at Kirindy.                              |
| 29 | Standing's Day Gecko             | <i>Phelsuma standing</i>         | Seen at Zombitse.                             |
| 30 | Lined Day Gecko                  | <i>Phelsuma lineate</i>          | Seen at Ranomafana.                           |
| 31 | Abbott's Day Gecko               | <i>Phelsuma abbotti</i>          | Seen at Tsingy.                               |

#### Gerrhosauridae

|    |                               |   |                                |
|----|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 32 | Malagasy Keeled Plated Lizard | <i>Tracheloptychus madagascariensis</i> | Seen at La Table, near Tulear. |
| 33 | Madagascar Girdled Lizard     | <i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>      | Seen at Ranomafana.            |
| 34 | Broad-tailed Girdled-Lizard   | <i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>          | Seen at Ampijoroa.             |

#### Scincidae

|    |                     |                                     |                             |
|----|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 35 | Gravenhorst's Skink | <i>Trachylepis gravenhorstii</i>    | Seen at Anja.               |
| 36 | Elegant Skink       | <i>Trachylepis elegans</i>          | Seen at Kirindy & Katsepy.. |
| 37 |                     | <i>Trachylepis volamenaloha</i>     | Seen at Tsingy.             |
| 38 | Malagasy Skink      | <i>Trachylepis madagascariensis</i> | Seen at Mantadia.           |

#### Boidae

|    |                     |                                  |                 |
|----|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 39 | Madagascar Tree Boa | <i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i> | Seen at Perinet |
|----|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|

#### Colubridae

|    |                             |                                       |                               |
|----|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 40 | Madagascar Leaf-nosed Snake | <i>Langaha madagascariensis</i>       | Seen at Tsingy.               |
| 41 | Striped Brook Snake         | <i>Pseudoxyrhopus quinquelineatus</i> | Seen at Zombitse              |
| 42 |                             | <i>Compsophis laphystius</i>          | Seen at Ranomafana.           |
| 43 | Madagascan Litter Snake     | <i>Liophidium torquatus</i>           | Seen at Ranomafana.           |
| 44 |                             | <i>Liophidium sp</i>                  | Seen at Ampijoroa.            |
| 45 | Six-lined Water Snake       | <i>Liopholidophis sexlineatus</i>     | Seen at Ranomafana.           |
| 46 | Madagascan Whipsnake        | <i>Biblava lateralis</i>              | Seen in Tana.                 |
| 47 | Bernier's Striped Snake     | <i>Dromicodryas bernieri</i>          | Seen at Isalo.                |
| 48 | Mahafaly Sand Snake         | <i>Mimophis mahfalensis</i>           | Seen at Kirindy & Ampijoroa.. |

## AMPHIBIAN LIST

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

#### Mantellidae

|   |                             |                                   |                     |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 |                             | <i>Laliostoma labrosum</i>        | Seen at Kirindy     |
| 2 |                             | <i>Aglyptodactylus securifer</i>  | Seen at Kirindy.    |
| 3 | Vohiparara Leaf-litter Frog | <i>Aglyptodactylus vohiparara</i> | Seen at Ranomafana  |
| 4 | Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog | <i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>   | Seen at Ranomafana. |
| 5 | Green Tree Frog             | <i>Boophis viridis</i>            | Seen at Perinet.    |
| 6 | Malagasy Glass Frog         | <i>Guibermantis pulcher</i>       | Seen at Ranomafana. |

|    |                             |                                  |                                |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 7  |                             | <i>Guibermantis liber</i>        | Seen at Ranomafana & Perinet.  |
| 8  | Betsileo Madagascar Frog    | <i>Mantidactylus betsileanus</i> | Seen at Ranomafana.            |
| 9  | Ivohimanita Madagascar Frog | <i>Mantidactylus majori</i>      | Seen at Ranomafana             |
| 10 |                             | <i>Mantidactylus opiparis</i>    | Seen at Ranomafana.            |
| 11 | Brown Mantella              | <i>Mantella betsileo</i>         | Seen at Kirindy.               |
| 12 | Baron's Mantella            | <i>Mantella baroni</i>           | Seen at Ranomafana & Mantadia. |
| 13 | Mascarene Grass Frog        | <i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i> | Seen at Kirindy & Ranomafana.  |

Microhylidae

|    |                            |                              |                     |
|----|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 14 |                            | <i>Platypelis pollicaris</i> | Seen at Ranomafana. |
| 15 | Boulenger's Giant Treefrog | <i>Platypelis grandis</i>    | Heard at Perinet.   |