



# Madagascar

*4<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007*



## **Trip Report compiled by tour leader Keith Valentine**

This comprehensive Madagascar tour including the Masoala Peninsula was a truly fantastic experience, being both highly enjoyable and extremely successful, as we managed to locate an incredible 129 endemic and near-endemic bird species to the island, as well as an amazing 29 delightful species of Lemur! Highlights included all five Ground-Rollers, all four Asities, all three Mesites, all Couas, fourteen species of Vanga including the superb Helmet Vanga and to top the entire experience off outstanding views the mythical Madagascar Serpent Eagle. What an extraordinary country indeed!



## **Tour Summary**

Our tour began with a short excursion to Lac Alarobia in the capital, Antananarivo, where we had good views of some of the more widespread species in Madagascar including Comb and Fulvous Whistling Duck, Madagascar Little Grebe, Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher and Madagascar Pond-Heron in full breeding plumage.

The eastern rainforest sites of Analamazaotra and Mantadia were thoroughly enjoyable and, during our explorations here we managed to locate all our desired targets. Star birds for these forests were Madagascar Crested Ibis, Madagascar Flufftail, Madagascar Wood and White-throated Rail, Madagascar Blue Pigeon, Blue Coua, Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo, Rainforest Scops Owl, the rare Collared Nightjar, the stunning Scaly, Pitta-like and Short-legged Ground-Roller, Madagascar Cuckoo Roller, Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, Velvet and Common Sunbird-Asity, Red-tailed, Hook-billed, White-headed, Blue and Nuthatch Vangas, Ward's Flycatcher, Crossley's Babbler, Gray Emutail, Madagascar Swamp Warbler, White-throated Oxylabes, Cryptic Warbler, Gray-crowned Greenbul, Rand's Warbler, Madagascar Starling and Nelicourvi Weaver. The rainforest habitat also provided us with a new suit of lemurs and included exceptional views of Indri, the newly described Goodman's Mouse Lemur, Eastern Gray Bamboo Lemur, brilliant Diademmed Sifaka, Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur and Common Brown Lemur.

The pristine highlands and marshes of the Anjozorobe area produced a lovely array of specials with the marshes taking the prize for the best specials as we located Madagascar Rail, Madagascar Snipe, Madagascar Swamp Warbler and the very rare Meller's Duck. The various forest trails gave us Red-fronted Coua, Dark Newtonia, Common Sunbird-Asity, stunning views of the rare Madagascar Yellowbrow, Rufous-headed Ground-Roller and Forest Rock Thrush while we enjoyed Madagascar Partridge and Banded Kestrel at the camp.

We then visited our first dry habitat where we spent some time in beautiful gallery and spiny forest at the famous Berenty Lemur Reserve. Good birds included Madagascar Sandgrouse, France's Sparrowhawk, Madagascar Green Pigeon, Gray-headed Lovebird, White-browed and Totoroka Scops Owl and Giant, Green-capped and Running Couas, Madagascar Hoopoe and Subdesert Brush Warbler. The drive between Berenty and Tolagnaro produced an excellent Lafresnaye's Vanga. The unique habitat here also produced no less than five new species of lemur that included Ring-tailed, Red-fronted Brown, Gray-brown Mouse, White-footed Sportive and Verreaux's Sifaka.

Our time spent in the unique spiny habitats around Ifaty and Tulear gave us some fantastic sightings that included the amazing Long-tailed Ground-Roller, Subdesert Mesite, Thamnornis Warbler, Greater Vasa Parrot, Madagascar Plover, Sickle-billed and Chabert's Vanga and Archbold's Newtonia. In marshy areas we found Little Bittern, Madagascar Buttonquail and Baillon's Crake while the mudflats produced Saunder's Tern, Crab and Lesser Sand Plover. A boat trip to the island of Nosy Ve to visit the breeding Red-tailed Tropicbirds was a certain highlight while we also found a vagrant Sooty Gull and added the localized Littoral Rock-Thrush at a

site en route. A visit to the nearby coral rag scrub produced the desired result when we located the highly localized Red-shouldered Vanga and Verreaux's Coua.

We then made our way back towards the rainforests of the east stopping en route at two important sites. Firstly, at Zombitse Forest we found the desired Appert's Greenbul, Madagascar Crested Ibis and Coquerel's Coua while at the scenically splendid Isalo National Park we came up trumps with Benson's Rock-Thrush.

The rainforests of Ranomafana National Park were brilliant and we enjoyed a bounty of sightings of a number of very special birds and lemurs. The forest trails and surrounds yielded most of our remaining targets and we enjoyed Brown Mesite, Madagascar Pratincole, Wedge-tailed Jery, Yellow-bellied Sunbird Asity and Pollen's and Tylas Vanga. The lemurs here were also outstanding and excellent views were obtained of Brown Mouse Lemur, Small-toothed Sportive Lemur, Golden and Greater Bamboo Lemur, Red-fronted Brown Lemur and Milne Edward's Sifaka while we also enjoyed Lowland Streaked Tenrec, Eastern Red Forest Rat and Fanaloka.

We then boarded yet another flight, this time to the north west of the island for a two-night stay at Ampijoroa. The dry deciduous forest in this area was teeming with birds and within camp we enjoyed the likes of Sickle-billed, Hook-billed and White-headed Vanga, Madagascar Hoopoe, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Madagascar Turtle Dove, Madagascar Green Pigeon, the delicate Gray-headed Lovebird and Malagasy Green Sunbird. Walking the forest trails, east and west of the forest station, produced all the desired targets with crippling views of all the highly localized endemics such as the superb Schlegel's Asity, White-breasted Mesite, Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk, Madagascar Harrier-Hawk, Red-capped Coua, Torotoroka Scops Owl, Rufous and the highly range restricted Van Dam's Vanga. At Lac Ravelobe we enjoyed awesome views of Madagascar Fish Eagle, Humblot's Heron, Allen's Gallinule and Madagascar Jacana while a short excursion to Lac Amboromalandy gave us African Pygmy-Goose. The lemurs in this dry, deciduous forest are incredible and we had good luck on both night and day walks. Excellent views were obtained of Golden-brown and Gray Mouse Lemur, Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur, Milne Edward's Sportive Lemur, Mongoose Lemur, Common Brown Lemur, Western Avahi and Coquerel's Sifaka. From the town of Mahajunga we boarded a boat for a trip up the Betsiboka Delta, where we eventually located the endangered Bernier's Teal, Madagascar Sacred Ibis, African Spoonbill and a host of waders including the distinctive Terek Sandpiper and Crab Plover.

Our day outing north-west of Tana to search for the increasingly scarce Madagascar Harrier was a huge success as a scintillating male was found cruising over some grassland habitat before we returned to Tana for an excursion to the Tsimbazaza Zoo where we spent some time with the rare Aye-aye.

The fabulous Masoala Peninsula was superb and produced numerous highlights including a number of Madagascar's most localized species that we encountered earlier on the trip. The undoubted highlight for the region is the remarkable Helmet Vanga and we were fortunate to have unbeatable views of this species on every day spent in these lowland forests.

The Masoala is a region that is renowned for a number of mega special birds that are known from the area however very few people are fortunate to ever secure a view of any of them. We enjoyed some amazing luck when we located a stunning pair of Madagascar Serpent Eagle, which we watched for almost an hour, an incredible sighting indeed! Other highlights included Red-breasted Coua and Forest Fody. The lemurs and other wildlife in the area were also fantastic and we were enthralled with Red-Ruffed Lemur, Seal's Sportive Lemur, Greater Dwarf Lemur, White-fronted Brown Lemur, Lowland Streaked Tenrec and Lowland Red Forest Rat.



## Annotated Checklists of Birds, Mammals and “Herps”

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Morris, P. & Hawkins, F. (1998) *A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Madagascar*, with the notable exception of a few of the recent taxonomic changes; Garbutt, N. (1999) *Mammals of Madagascar*, and Glaw, F. & Vences, M. (1994) *A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Madagascar*. Insect names were derived from various sources.

## BIRDS

### Key to abbreviations:

**E**: an endemic species

**NE**: a near-endemic species (i.e. occurring in the Malagasy region only)

**BE**: a breeding endemic species

**I**: an introduced species

**e**: an endemic subspecies

**ne**: a near-endemic subspecies

**be**: a breeding endemic subspecies

### CONSERVATION STATUS

**C**: critical **En**: endangered **V**: vulnerable **NT**: near-threatened

(190 Species)

### Grebes Podicipedidae

#### Little Grebe (Dabchick)

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

High numbers were seen at the shallow, brackish roadside lake between Tulear and Ifaty with an estimated twenty individuals observed.

**Madagascar Little Grebe (E) (V)**

*Tachybaptus pelzelni*

Birds were noted at Lac Alarobia in Tana and on a small pan in the Anjozorobe area.

NOTE: Globally threatened and declining due to habitat loss, introduction of exotic fish, and competition (and possibly hybridisation) with Little Grebe.

**Tropicbirds *Phaethontidae***

**Red-tailed Tropicbird**

*Phaethon rubricauda*

We enjoyed intimate encounters with these most elegant birds, including sightings of at least twenty birds, some adults with young fledglings and many sub-adults, on the island of Nosy Ve.

**Darters *Anhingidae***

**African Darter**

*Anhinga rufa*

Uncommon in Madagascar, with five birds seen on Lac Ravelobe, Ampijoroa.

**Hérons *Ardeidae***

**Little Bittern**

*Ixobrychus minutus*

Uncommon in Madagascar, four birds were seen at wetlands near Ifaty.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**

*Nycticorax nycticorax*

Large numbers recorded during the first afternoon visit to Lac Alarobia, seen in smaller numbers throughout the tour thereafter.

**(Common) Squacco Heron**

*Ardeola ralloides*

Widespread at Lac Alarobia in Tana and Lac Ravelobe, Ampijoroa.

**Madagascar Pond-Heron (BE) (V)**

*Ardeola idae*

Four birds were found at Lac Alarobia in full breeding plumage. A species whose numbers are definitely and worryingly showing a sharp decrease.

NOTE: A regional endemic breeder that is considered vulnerable and declining due to competition with Common Squacco Heron.

**Cattle Egret**

*Bubulcus ibis*

Common throughout and recorded daily in open and semi-open habitats. Large numbers roosting at Berenty and at Lac Alarobia.

**Green-backed (Striated) Heron**

*Butorides striatus*

Small numbers at most freshwater and marine wetlands, including the wetlands near Ampijoroa, brackish marshes between Tulear and Ifaty, the tidal mudflats in Tulear Harbour.

NOTE: Represented in Madagascar by the race *B. s. rutenbergi*, which tends to be darker than its African counterpart, with a reddish neck reminiscent of the American *B. s. virens* (Green Heron).

**Black Egret (Heron)**

*Egretta ardesiaca*

First seen at Lac Alarobia, where we found good numbers on the island, also well seen at the wetlands around Lakes Ravelobe and Amboromalandy near Ampijoroa.

**Dimorphic (Mascarene Reef) Egret (NE)**

*Egretta [garzetta] dimorpha*

Widespread and common throughout Madagascar. First seen at Lake Alarobia in white morphs, with dark morph birds being found at the Betsiboka Delta, Masoala and Tulear. Birds seen inland were predominantly of the white morph and about 80% of coastal birds were dark morph.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped by authorities as a distinct subspecies of the widespread Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*. Clements treats it as a subspecies of Little Egret.

**Great (White) Egret**

*Ardea alba*

Small numbers at wetlands throughout.

**Purple Heron**

*Ardea purpurea*

This species was found once at Analamazaotra S.R and again at Lac Ravelobe.

**Gray Heron**

*Ardea cinerea*

Seen at western wetlands in small numbers.

**Humblot's (Madagascar) Heron (E) (V)**

*Ardea humbloti*

We were very fortunate in obtaining superb sightings of this sometimes difficult species. First sighted at their

breeding area on the cliffs towards Anakao we also later saw them at Lac Ravelobe, Ampijoroa with a further sighting at the Betsiboka Delta.

NOTE: A globally threatened species, essentially restricted to Madagascar but with vagrant records elsewhere.

### **Hamerkop Scopidae**

#### **Hamerkop**

*Scopus umbretta*

This species was sighted between Tana and Perinet.

### **Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**

#### **Bernier's (Madagascar White) Ibis (NE)**

*Threskiornis [aethiopicus] bernieri*

One of the prizes of our speedboat adventure up the Betsiboka Delta, a total of five individuals were found.

NOTE: A globally threatened species restricted to largely inaccessible wetlands in western Madagascar and Aldabra Island.

#### **Glossy Ibis**

*Plegadis falcinellus*

We found good numbers at Lac Ravelobe in Ampijoroa and at other wetlands between Mahajanga and Ampijoroa.

#### **Madagascar Crested (White-winged) Ibis (E) (NT)**

*Lophotibis cristata*

We enjoyed fantastic views of birds at Mantadia NP, Zombitse NP and on the Masoala Peninsula.

#### **African Spoonbill**

*Platalea alba*

This rare species for the island was observed on the Betsiboka Delta where three birds were seen.

### **Ducks & Geese Anatidae**

#### **White-faced Whistling Duck**

*Dendrocygna viduata*

Large numbers were recorded at freshwater wetlands around Tana, one hundred estimated at Lac Alarobia, and in the west, at wetlands around Ampijoroa, Isalo and Ifaty.

#### **Fulvous Whistling Duck**

*Dendrocygna bicolor*

Our only sighting was of two birds at Lac Alarobia on our first day in Tana.

#### **Comb (Knob-billed) Duck**

*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Twenty-five at Lac Alarobia and further sightings at Lac Ravelobe.

#### **African Pygmy Goose**

*Nettapus auritus*

A single bird was encountered at Lac Amboromalandy in the north west of the country.

#### **Meller's Duck (E) (En)**

*Anas melleri*

We were very lucky to find this species swimming about on a pan at Anjozorobe. This species' numbers seem to continue declining.

#### **Madagascar (Bernier's) Teal (E) (En)**

*Anas bernieri*

We were eventually rather lucky to find two birds on our adventurous trip into the Betsiboka Delta. It seems as though the majority of birds had begun to breed and were not present on their usual mudflat haunt.

NOTE: This globally threatened endemic, currently known only from a few inaccessible sites on the west coast of Madagascar, has rarely been recorded until its discovery at this site by Rockjumper Birding Tours in 1999. "Only significant recent counts are 60 on Masama Lake in 1970 and 61 on Bemamba Lake in 1973" Volume 1; HBW.

#### **Red-billed Teal (Duck)**

*Anas erythrorhyncha*

One of the most common ducks and widespread in freshwater wetlands across the island. **Hottentot Teal**

*Anas hottentota*

Good numbers were seen in the wetlands between Ifaty and Tulear and at Lac Amboromalandy.

### **Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**

#### **Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk (E)**

*Aviceda madagascariensis*

We enjoyed some good views of a pair at Ankarafantsika NP; the birds flew about above our heads while on our boat cruise on Lac Ravelobe.

#### **Yellow-billed Kite**

*Milvus [migrans] parasitus*

Common and conspicuous in open habitats, particularly in the west. Small numbers at the roadside on most road journeys.

## *RBT Madagascar Trip Report 2007*

NOTE: Although considered a separate species from Black Kite by some authorities, in the south of Madagascar at Berenty it is possible to witness both Yellow-billed and Black Kites interbreeding, hence one of the reasons for confusion in taxonomy.

**Madagascar Fish-Eagle (E) (C)** *Haliaeetus vociferoides*

Fine studies of two of these critically endangered, endemic eagles at the edge of Lac Ravelobe, Ampijoroa.

NOTE: This is one of the world's rarest raptors, with a total global population of no more than 60 pairs.

**Madagascar Serpent Eagle (E) (C)** *Eutriorchis astur*

This was surely one of the best birds on the trip. A pair of these almost mythical birds watched for almost an hour in the pristine lowland rainforests on the Masoala Peninsula.

**Madagascar Harrier (E)** *Circus maillardi*

What an exquisite species. A single male was first brilliantly spotted and then allowed for good views as it cruised above its declining grassland habitat to the north of Tana.

**Madagascar Harrier-Hawk (E)** *Polyboroides radiatus*

Singles were sighted at Ampijoroa and in a plantation to the north of Tana.

**Henst's Goshawk (E) (NT)** *Accipiter henstii*

A single bird was sighted performing its display flight high above forest in Mantadia NP.

NOTE: A scarce endemic that occurs at low densities; usually detected by its far-carrying and distinctive calls.

**Frances' Sparrowhawk (NE)** *Accipiter francesii*

Our first sightings were at Berenty and we had several sightings thereafter, including nice looks at Zombitse NP, Ampijoroa and the Masoala.

**Madagascar Buzzard (E)** *Buteo brachypterus*

Common and widespread, with small numbers recorded from almost all wooded sites. First seen at Andasibe.

### Falcons *Falconidae*

**Madagascar (Newton's) Kestrel (NEe)** *Falco newtoni*

Very common in open and semi-open habitats throughout. Recorded almost daily, regularly at the roadside and at most birding sites.

**Banded Kestrel (E)** *Falco zoniventris*

This scarce species was very well seen perched atop an alien Pine tree outside our lodge at Anjozorobe.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

Two birds were sighted in flight above the deciduous forests at Ankarafantsika N.P.

### Partridges, Quails & Pheasants *Phasianidae*

**Madagascar Partridge (E)** *Margaroperdix madagascarensis*

We had great sightings near the camp in Anjozorobe.

### Guineafowl *Numididae*

**Helmeted Guineafowl (I)** *Numida meleagris*

We encountered flocks at Berenty.

NOTE: This African species was probably introduced to Madagascar by early colonists.

### Mesites *Mesitornithidae*

**White-breasted Mesite (E) (V)** *Mesitornis variegata*

This highly prized species was well seen in Ankarafantsika NP on at least three occasions.

**Brown Mesite (E) (V)** *Mesitornis unicolor*

We had very close encounters with one of these usually skulking birds at Ranamofana NP.

**Subdesert Mesite (E) (V)** *Monias benschi*

An early morning start enabled us to locate this elusive species in the Spiny Desert at Ifaty. We all enjoyed exceptional views of one female.

## **Buttonquails *Turnicidae***

### **Madagascar Buttonquail (E)**

*Turnix nigricollis*

While walking through scrub habitat near Ifaty we enjoyed an amazing sighting of a single male at very close range for an extended length of time.

## **Rails & Gallinules *Rallidae***

### **Madagascar Flufftail (E)**

*Sarothrura insularis*

A species which can often prove particularly elusive, however, we were treated to simply awesome views of a male at Analamazaotra S.R. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip.

### **Madagascar Wood Rail (E)**

*Canirallus kioloides*

While in Mantadia NP we bumped into a pair of birds with a chick which allowed for some decent views of this tricky species. This can be a devilishly-hard bird to see!

### **Madagascar Rail (E)**

*Rallus madagascariensis*

We enjoyed good views of this skulker at Anjozorobe.

### **White-throated (Cuvier's) Rail (NE)**

*Dryolimnas cuvieri*

We were treated to superb views at Analamazaotra S.R.

NOTE: Some authorities consider the nominate Madagascar race of this bird as distinctive from the near-flightless Aldabra Island race, making this another endemic rallid to Madagascar.

### **Baillon's Crake**

*Porzana pusilla*

We were very fortunate to have cracking views of a single bird at a wetland near Ifaty.

### **Allen's Gallinule**

*Porphyrio alleni*

Two birds were sighted at Lac Ravelobe, a rather uncommon and localized species in Madagascar.

### **Common Moorhen**

*Gallinula chloropus*

Small numbers were encountered at several sites, including Lac Alarobia and Lac Ravelobe.

## **Jacanas *Jacanidae***

### **Madagascar Jacana (E)**

*Actophilornis albinucha*

Only in wetlands of the northwest, where a single was seen at Lac Ravelobe and two at Lac Amboromalandy.

## **Crab Plover *Dromadidae***

### **Crab Plover**

*Dromas ardeola*

This unique wader was initially sighted on a sand bar between Ifaty and Tulear when three birds were found, we then had a further eleven birds on a sand bar in the Betsiboka Delta.

## **Avocets & Stilts *Recurvirostridae***

### **Black-winged Stilt**

*Himantopus himantopus*

Recorded at several sites, both coastal and inland.

## **Plovers *Charadriidae***

### **Kittlitz's Plover**

*Charadrius pecuarius*

Largest numbers recorded at brackish lakes near Ifaty.

### **Madagascar Plover (E) (NT)**

*Charadrius thoracicus*

A pair of these scarce, localised endemics were observed at close quarters at a small salt pan in Ifaty.

### **Common Ringed Plover**

*Charadrius hiaticula*

Birds were seen on the coast at Ifaty and Tulear.

### **Three-banded Plover**

*Charadrius tricollaris*

A single bird was found at Ifaty.

### **White-fronted Plover**

*Charadrius marginatus*

We enjoyed sightings of this coastal species throughout the area of Tulear and on the Betsiboka Delta.

### **Lesser Sand Plover**

*Charadrius mongolus*

A single bird was picked up in amongst the large numbers of Greater Sand Plover. The bird was seen at very close range.

**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Large numbers were found at the Tulear mudflats and again at the Betsiboka Delta.

**Gray (Black-bellied) Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

This species was fairly common on tidal flats around Tulear and Ifaty.

### **Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae**

**Madagascar Snipe (E) (NT)** *Gallinago macrodactyla*

We had superb views of several birds at Anjozorobe Marsh and a single at the Vohiparara Marsh, Ranomafana NP.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

At least five birds were seen on the tidal mudflats at Tulear.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

This species was common on tidal flats around Tulear, Ifaty and Betsiboka Delta.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Another common wader, our first sighting was from Berenty. This species was regularly seen in the wetlands in the Tulear and Ifaty area.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Tringa cinerea*

We had views of several in the Betsiboka Delta.

**Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*

Small numbers in freshwater and brackish wetland habitats throughout our tour.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Seen at mudflats near Ifaty and Tulear.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

The commonest Calidrid, with a few seen on the tidal flats in the Ifaty and Tulear areas with further sightings on the Betsiboka Delta.

### **Couriers & Pratincoles Glareolidae**

**Madagascar Pratincole (BE)** *Glareola ocularis*

We enjoyed brilliant views of one bird at Ranomafana NP.

### **Gulls & Terns Sternidae**

**Sooty Gull** *Larus hemprichii*

A vagrant to Madagascar. A single bird was found mixed in a tern roost on the island of Nosy Ve.

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*

Two birds were found at a wetland between Ifaty and Tulear.

**Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis*

Large numbers were encountered at Nosy Ve, Betsiboka Delta and the Masoala.

**Swift Tern** *Sterna bergii*

Small numbers were sighted around Nosy Ve and the Masoala.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougalli*

A single bird was found in a tern roost at the Masoala.

**Saunders's Tern** *Sterna saundersi*

We found three feeding birds while scanning the mudflats around Tulear.

**Sooty Tern** *Sterna fuscata*

Two birds were found in the Bay of Antongil, Masoala on our boat trip between the lodge and Maroanetra.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chilidonias hybridus*

Two birds were found at Lac Amboromalandy in the north west of the country with our first sighting coming from Ifaty.

## Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

### **Madagascar Sandgrouse (E)**

*Pterocles personatus*

Fantastic views were had of around fifteen birds in total at Berenty. Excellent views were had of a single bird that landed on the deck at close quarters allowed for extensive views.

## Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

### **Rock Dove (I)**

*Columba livia*

Widespread in urban areas.

### **Madagascar Turtle Dove (NEe)**

*Columba picturata*

First seen at Analamazaotra S.R, with numerous subsequent sightings at almost all sites. Particularly tame and conspicuous at Berenty and Ampijoroa.

### **Namaqua (Long-tailed) Dove**

*Oena capensis*

Widespread and common in drier areas.

### **Madagascar Green Pigeon (NE)**

*Treron australis*

Our first sighting was a distant bird at Berenty with subsequent close sightings at Ampijoroa.

### **Madagascar Blue Pigeon (E)**

*Alectroenas madagascariensis*

This beautiful bird is fairly common in eastern rainforest, we had superb views of several at Analamazaotra Special Reserve and Anjozorobe.

## Parrots Psittacidae

### **(Greater) Vasa Parrot (NE)**

*Coracopsis vasa*

This is by far the less common of the two Vasa Parrots in Madagascar, and we had good views of a single bird in the spiny forest at Ifaty.

### **Black (Lesser Vasa) Parrot (NE)**

*Coracopsis nigra*

A widespread and common bird and exceedingly vocal, this bird was regularly recorded in good numbers throughout our trip.

### **Gray-headed Lovebird (E)**

*Agapornis canus*

This small parrot was first found at Berenty with good numbers also seen at the inland pans south of Ifaty.

## Cuckoos, Couas & Coucals Cuculidae

### **Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo (BE)**

*Cuculus rochii*

Very common and one of the dominant sounds in wooded and semi-wooded habitats throughout.

### **Giant Coua (E)**

*Coua gigas*

Common at Berenty, where we watched up to a dozen individuals feeding, calling and strolling about at close quarters.

### **Coquerel's Coua (E)**

*Coua coquereli*

Commonly heard at Ampijoroa, and several individuals seen well. Also heard and well seen in Zombitse NP.

### **Running Coua (E)**

*Coua cursor*

Seen first at Berenty with further close views near Ifaty and La Tabla.

### **Red-breasted Coua (E)**

*Coua serriana*

This species was brilliantly seen in the forests of the Masoala where five odd birds were encountered at close range. This species is confined to lowland forest.

### **Red-fronted Coua (E)**

*Coua reynaudii*

We had brilliant views of one bird in the forests of Anjozorobe. This species was initially located by its vocalizations.

### **Red-capped Coua (E)**

*Coua ruficeps*

We enjoyed great views of birds in the trails at Ampijoroa.

NOTE: See notation under Green-capped Coua

### **Green-capped Coua (E)**

*Coua [ruficeps] olivaceiceps*

A single bird was seen very well at Berenty.

NOTE: This southern, khaki-capped form of Red-capped Coua is considered to be a full species in Sinclair I. and Langrande O. *Birds of the Indian Ocean Islands* however many other authorities consider this form to be a subspecies of Red-capped Coua.

**Crested Coua (E)** *Coua cristata*

This species was first recorded at Berenty. We continued to enjoy views throughout the drier regions of the country.

**Verreaux's Coua (E) (NT)** *Coua verreauxi*

We enjoyed superb views of this rare and localised species in coral rag scrub on La Table. The most localised member of this endemic sub-family.

**Blue Coua (E)** *Coua caerulea*

Fairly common in the eastern forests. Our first sightings were in Perinet and Mantadia, with one at Ranomafana NP and many on the Masoala Peninsula. Strangely turaco-like and one of the world's great "Blue Birds"!

**Madagascar Coucal (NEe)** *Centropus toulou*

Common, widespread and recorded in small numbers virtually daily during our tour. The first sighting was superb views of one at Ampijoroa, with regular sightings thereafter from deciduous forest, reedbeds, secondary growth, primary rainforest, spiny desert and all habitats in between.

### Typical Owls *Strigidae*

**Madagascar (Rainforest) Scops Owl (NE)** *Otus rutilus*

This recently split form of the Madagascar Scops Owl was found on a day roost at Analamazaotra S.R

**Torotoroka Scops Owl (E)** *Otus madagascariensis*

This new species of Scops Owl (pronounced "Toorootoorook", an onomatopoeic name) was seen very well at Berenty and Ankarafantsika NP

NOTE: These Scops Owls have recently been split, based on morphological and vocal differences and habitat preferences.

**White-browed (Madagascar Hawk) Owl (E)** *Ninox superciliaris*

At least five of these superb owls were located in gallery forest along the Mandrare River in Berenty NP and in Zombitse NP.

**Madagascar Long-eared Owl (E)** *Asio madagascariensis*

After a lot of effort and patience we still never managed to get a view and only heard the bird at close range.

### Nightjars *Caprimulgidae*

**Collared Nightjar (E)** *Caprimulgus enarratus*

We had fantastic views of a single bird roosting during the day in Analamazaotra Special Reserve and another bird at Ranomafana NP. A rare endemic restricted to the eastern forests.

**Madagascar Nightjar (NE)** *Caprimulgus madagascariensis*

The common nightjar on Madagascar and seen at many widespread localities.

### Swifts *Apodidae*

**Madagascar Spinetail (NE)** *Zoonavena grandidieri*

Birds were sighted in Mantadia NP and at Masoala NP.

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*

Common in suitable palm habitat throughout.

**Madagascar (Black) Swift (NE)** *Apus balstoni*

Birds were found at the cliffs near Anakao and Isalo.

NOTE: These Malagasy birds are usually considered a species distinct from the African Black Swift (*A. barbatus*), however no dedicated research has been done. There seems to be two distinct sizes of all black swifts in Madagascar, and these may represent two or more species.

### Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

**Madagascar Malachite (Diademed) Kingfisher (NE)** *Alcedo vintsioides*

Fairly common at freshwater and marine wetlands throughout. This attractive endemic was first recorded at Lac Alarobia. We later enjoyed further sightings of small numbers at roadside rice paddies and all wetland sites.

**Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher (E)** *Ispidina madagascariensis*

This scarce species was seen exceptionally well at Ankarafantsika NP and Mantadia NP where we had our initial sighting.

### **Bee-eaters *Meropidae***

#### **Madagascar (Olive) Bee-eater**

*Merops superciliosus*

Common, widespread in semi-open areas and recorded from almost all sites. First seen at Analamazaotra S.R, with highest totals coming from the area of Tulear.

### **Rollers *Coraciidae***

#### **Broad-billed Roller**

*Eurystomus glaucurus*

Widespread and common breeding migrant from the African mainland. First recorded this species in small numbers at Mantadia NP.

### **Ground-Rollers *Brachypteraciidae***

#### **Short-legged Ground-Roller (E) (V)**

*Brachypteracias leptosomus*

The most difficult of the Ground-Rollers to find, on our first morning in Mantadia NP we obtained exceptional views of this species.

#### **Scaly Ground-Roller (E) (V)**

*Brachypteracias squamigera*

Another elusive and retiring species. We had outstanding views of a single bird in Mantadia NP and then later another stunning single in the forests of the Masoala peninsula.

#### **Pitta-like Ground-Roller (E)**

*Atelornis pittoides*

Our first sighting was from the trails in Mantadia. A total of five were seen and others heard during the trip. We were fortunate to get great views on several occasions including Ranomafana NP and Anjozorobe. Despite being the most common of the ground-rollers, this magnificent creature is justifiably one of the most sought-after birds on Madagascar.

#### **Rufous-headed Ground-Roller (E) (NT)**

*Atelornis crossleyi*

This species always requires a fair bit of effort and patience and ours was rewarded with a superb sighting of a single calling bird at close range in the Anjozorobe area.

#### **Long-tailed Ground-Roller (E) (V)**

*Uratelornis chimaera*

This species is by far the most localized of the Ground-Rollers. We enjoyed superb views of one cooperative individual in the Spiny Desert at Ifaty.

### **Cuckoo-Rollers *Leptosomidae***

#### **Madagascar Cuckoo-Roller (E)**

*Leptosomus discolor*

This spectacular endemic was seen at all forest sites, the first being seen at Mantadia. Other sightings were had at Analamazaotra S.R, Ankarafantsika NP, Zombitse NP and Ranomafana NP.

NOTE: some authorities such as Sinclair I. and Langrande O., consider the Comores form of this bird to be a separate species from that occurring in Madagascar.

### **Hoopoes *Upupidae***

#### **Madagascar Hoopoe (E)**

*Upupa marginalis*

Commonly recorded at all western sites, including daily sightings at Ampijoroa, the Spiny Desert at Ifaty and Berenty.

NOTE: This form is usually considered distinct from the African Hoopoe, based on vocal and morphological differences.

### **Asities *Philepittidae***

#### **Velvet Asity (E)**

*Philepitta castanea*

We enjoyed superb views of this electric species in Analamazaotra S.R when a male was sighted in full breeding plumage while a little later a female also seen.

**Schlegel's Asity (E) (NT)**

*Philepitta schlegeli*

This jewel was sighted at Ampijoroa where we had cracking views of a single male who was initially located when calling.

**Common Sunbird Asity (E)**

*Neodrepanis coruscans*

We had outstanding views of a male in full breeding plumage in Analamazaotra S.R.

**Yellow-bellied (Small-billed) Sunbird-Asity (E) (En)** *Neodrepanis hypoxanthus*

We had amazing views of a single knockout male on the Vohiparara ridge in Ranomafana NP at point blank range. An extremely difficult bird to locate due to its rarity, small size, fast flight and insignificant call.

**Larks *Alaudidae***

**Madagascar (Hova) Lark (E)**

*Mirafra hova*

Good numbers were located in the Ifaty area and around Lac Amboromalandy. Our first sighting was a single bird at Anjozorobe.

**Swallows & Martins *Hirundinidae***

**Mascarene Martin (NE)**

*Phedina borbonica*

Madagascar's commonest hirundine and a regional breeding endemic. Recorded at almost all sites, on most days, with our first record being en route to Perinet from Tana.

**Brown-throated (Plain Sand) Martin**

*Riparia paludicola*

This species was sighted in the Mantadia area over an open area at sunset.

**Wagtails & Pipits *Motacillidae***

**Madagascar Wagtail (E)**

*Motacilla flaviventris*

Common in the east and highland plateau, where seen regularly in small numbers.

**Cuckooshrikes *Campephagedae***

**Ashy (Madagascar) Cuckoo-shrike (NE)**

*Coracina cinerea*

The only cuckoo-shrike of the island of Madagascar, we first recorded this species in the forests of Mantadia NP associating with a mixed flock. Observed again at Ampijoroa and Masoala NP.

**Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae***

**Madagascar Bulbul (NE)**

*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*

Common and ubiquitous, with daily sightings in a variety of wooded and semi-wooded habitats. First seen at Analamazaotra S.R.

**Vangas *Vangidae***

**Red-tailed Vanga (E)**

*Calicalicus madagascariensis*

We heard this species "wolf-whistle" call on a number of occasions. This species was well seen in the Mantadia area and again at Masoala NP.

**Red-shouldered Vanga (E) (V)**

*Calicalicus rufocarpalis*

We enjoyed superb close studies of a male and female of this recently described and highly localised endemic, in "coral rag" scrub on La Table. This species can be particularly hard to find and we were very fortunate to get such good views.

**Rufous Vanga (E)**

*Schetba rufa*

We enjoyed very good views of this species in the dry forests of Ampijoroa and in moister forest in Masoala NP.

**Hook-billed Vanga (E)**

*Vanga curvirostris*

This often heard and infrequently observed species was seen at Ampijoroa, Masoala NP, Mantadia NP and Ifaty.

**Lafresnaye's Vanga (E)**

*Xenopirostris xenopirostris*

A single female bird was sighted in excellent spiny forest habitat outside Berenty.

**Pollen's Vanga (E) (NT)**

*Xenopirostris polleni*

A scarce and local denizen of eastern forests, we found a single juvenile on the Vohiparara ridge.

**Van Dam's Vanga (E) (En)**

*Xenopirostris damii*

We enjoyed superb views of two birds who were nesting at Ampijoroa. The most localised of the vangas, after the recently discovered Red-shouldered.

**Sickle-billed Vanga (E)**

*Falcula palliata*

One of Madagascar's great birds and wonderfully common in the dry west. Particularly common and conspicuous at Ampijoroa however first sighted in the spiny forest at Ifaty.

**White-headed Vanga (E)**

*Artamella viridis*

Seen very well daily in small numbers at Ampijoroa, often in the campsite, with further sightings at Masoala and Mantadia NP's.

**Chabert's Vanga (E)**

*Leptopterus chabert*

The commonest vanga, occurring in habitats ranging from pristine rainforest to degraded scrub. First seen near Ifaty with further views at Ampijoroa and Masoala NP.

**(Madagascar) Blue Vanga ([N]E)**

*Cyanolanius madagascarensis*

Our first encounter with this species was at Analamazaotra S.R. Several others were heard and seen at Anjozorobe and Masoala NP. Another one of the world's great "Blue Birds"!

NOTE: Sinclair I. and Langrande O., consider the Comoros race of this species to be distinct, resulting in the Madagascar Blue Vanga being another Madagascar endemic. This stance is not widely accepted.

**Helmet Vanga (E)**

*Euryceros prevostii*

Undoubtedly one of Madagascar's and the world's most sought after species. The luxurious forests of Masoala NP produced this species on every day for three consecutive days providing awesome views.

**Nuthatch Vanga (Coral-billed) (E)**

*Hypositta corallirostris*

A pair was seen very well at Mantadia NP. A peculiar and localised eastern rainforest endemic.

**Tylas (Vanga) (E)**

*Tylas eduardi*

This species was easily found at Vohiparara and Ranomafana NP.

NOTE: Recent DNA evidence suggests that this "vanga" is more closely related to the cuckoo-shrikes.

**Dark Newtonia (E)**

*Newtonia amphichroa*

This species was well seen at Anjozorobe after it was initially located calling.

**Common Newtonia (E)**

*Newtonia brunneicauda*

Common and widespread in wooded and semi-wooded habitat throughout our tour.

**Archbold's Newtonia (E)**

*Newtonia archboldi*

One was seen at close quarters in the Spiny Desert near Ifaty.

**Ward's Flycatcher (E)**

*Pseudobias wardi*

Fairly common in the Perinet/Mantadia area, where five birds were found in total.

**Crossley's Babbler (E)**

*Mystacornis crossleyi*

We enjoyed great views of a male at Analamazaotra S.R, including what can only be described as awesome, minimum-focus views of a singing male of this strikingly beautiful endemic.

**Thrushes Turdidae**

**Madagascar Magpie-Robin (E)**

*Copsychus albospecularis*

This species was seen throughout the tour, almost daily, and is a rather bold and confiding species. Both white-bellied and dark-bellied races were noted during the course of the tour.

**African Stonechat**

*Saxicola axillaries*

Common in open habitats of the eastern highlands, where several were seen daily.

**Littoral Rock Thrush (E)**

*Pseudocossyphus imerinus*

Three birds were found in dune scrub behind Anakao; a most peculiar habitat for a Rock Thrush.

**Forest Rock Thrush (E)**

*Pseudocossyphus sharpei*

A stunning male was seen in ridge top forest at Anjozorobe.

**Benson's Rock Thrush (E) (NT)**

*Pseudocossyphus bensoni*

We had superb views of a single bird in Isalo NP.

NOTE: A recent paper dealing with the systematics of the Madagascar rock thrushes suggested that Benson's Rock Thrush is merely a race of Forest Rock Thrush, based on DNA studies of specimens taken at the eastern and western limits of the species' range. However, these conclusions have recently been disputed, since no specimens of Benson's Rock Thrush were ever tested! (Dowsett and Dowsett-Lemaire *pers. comm.*) Furthermore, the two species are morphologically and, especially, vocally quite distinct.

## **Old World Warblers *Sylviidae***

### **Brown Emu-tail (E)**

*Dromaeocercus brunneus*

This species was only heard calling in ridge top forest at Anjozorobe.

### **Gray Emutail (E)**

*Dromaeocercus seebohmi*

A single bird was seen well in the wetlands of Ampatsimpotsy near Analamazaotra S.R.

### **Madagascar Brush Warbler (NE)**

*Nesillas typica*

Very common in dense cover of any kind in the east, where several recorded daily. First seen at Lac Alarobia, where we had superb views of two birds.

### **Subdesert Brush Warbler (E)**

*Nesillas lantzii*

Replaces Madagascar Brush Warbler in the south west and was located in the spiny forest around Ifaty, Anakao and Berenty.

NOTE: Formerly considered conspecific with Madagascar Brush Warbler but vocally distinct and sympatric with that species near Fort Dauphin.

### **Madagascar Swamp Warbler (E)**

*Acrocephalus newtoni*

Fairly common in wetland habitat throughout, ranging from highland marshes in the east to mangroves in the west. First seen in the wetlands at Ampatsimpotsy near Analamazaotra S.R and again at Anjozorobe.

### **White-throated Oxylabes (E)**

*Oxylabes madagascariensis*

A secretive endemic of the understorey of eastern rainforest and often difficult to see. We had fair views at Mantadia and good looks Ranomafana NP.

### **Long-billed Greenbul (E)**

*Phyllastrephus madagascariensis*

Widespread in Madagascar, we first encountered this species in good numbers at Mantadia and heard and saw it regularly in forest sites thereafter.

### **Cryptic Warbler (E)**

*Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi*

This recently described species was seen singing from its treetop perch in the ridge-top forest at Mantadia NP.

### **Wedge-tailed Jery (E)**

*Hartertula flavoviridis*

Single birds were sighted on two occasions in mixed greenbul flocks in Ranomafana NP.

### **Thamnornis (Warbler) (E)**

*Thamnornis chloropetoides*

At least three were seen at exceptionally close distance in the Spiny Forest near Ifaty. All birds were calling atop *Didierea* trees.

### **Spectacled Greenbul (E)**

*Xanthomixis zosterops*

Restricted to eastern forests, where it is the commonest of the "small greenbuls". Sightings were had in Mantadia NP, Ranomafana NP and Masoala NP.

### **Appert's Greenbul (E) (V)**

*Xanthomixis apperti*

We enjoyed superb encounters with four individuals of this attractive and confiding species in Zombitse NP. A globally threatened bird that is restricted to just two forests in southwest Madagascar.

### **Dusky Greenbul (E) (En)**

*Xanthomixis tenebrosa*

A species about which very little is known. A small greenbul flock was encountered in Masoala NP where this species was potentially observed. Photos were taken of a bird that may be this species. The results of the photo are pending.

### **Gray-crowned Greenbul (E) (NT)**

*Xanthomixis cinereiceps*

Uncommon in eastern rainforest, mainly at altitudes above the range of Spectacled Greenbul. Seen exceptionally well in the mid-storey at Vohiparara, after our first sightings at Mantadia NP.

### **Madagascar Yellow-brow (E) (NT)**

*Crossleyia xanthophrys*

A scarce and localised rainforest endemic with a pair of birds brilliantly seen in dense thicket at Anjozorobe.

### **Rand's Warbler (E)**

*Randia pseudozosterops*

Fairly common denizen of eastern rainforest, with small numbers seen and heard daily in the Perinet area.

NOTE: Apart from its ground-loving habits, this species has little in common with the White-throated Oxylabes and is better retained in its own genus, with its own English name.

### **Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**

#### **Madagascar Cisticola (NE)**

*Cisticola cherinus*

Common in open habitats throughout, including rice paddies and the man-altered plateau grasslands.

### **Family Uncertain *Incertae sedis***

#### **Common Jery (E)**

*Neomixis tenella*

Common and ubiquitous. First seen at Mantadia NP.

#### **Green Jery (E)**

*Neomixis viridis*

First encountered en route to Perinet and subsequently heard at all rainforest sites daily.

#### **Stripe-throated Jery (E)**

*Neomixis striatigula*

This species scratchy call is a common background noise in the rain forests. It was seen in Perinet and Ifaty.

### **Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae***

#### **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher (NE)**

*Terpsiphone mutata*

Common and widespread in a variety of wooded and semi-wooded habitats. First recorded at Mantadia NP, with subsequent sightings almost daily of both rufous and white phases.

### **Sunbirds *Nectariniidae***

#### **Souimanga Sunbird (NE)**

*Nectarinia souimanga*

By far the more common of Madagascar's sunbird species, occurring in a variety of wooded and semi-wooded habitats.

#### **Long-billed Green (Madagascar) Sunbird (NE)**

*Nectarinia notata*

A very handsome and widespread but uncommon species. This species was seen in small numbers at Ampijoroa, Analamazaotra S.R and Ranomafana NP.

### **White-eyes *Zosteropidae***

#### **Madagascar White-eye (NE)**

*Zosterops maderaspatana*

Common and widespread, though scarce in the southwest. First sightings at Mantadia.

### **Waxbills *Estrildidae***

#### **Madagascar Mannikin (*Munia*) (E)**

*Lonchura nana*

This normally common species was encountered only once in the gardens at Zaha Motel, Mahajanga in the north west of the country.

### **Weavers *Ploceidae***

#### **Nelicourvi Weaver (E)**

*Ploceus nelicourvi*

Regular only in eastern rainforest areas, where small numbers were seen in Mantadia NP, Masoala NP, Ranomafana NP.

#### **Sakalava Weaver (E)**

*Ploceus sakalava*

This species was common in the drier regions of Madagascar and first sighted near Berenty.

#### **Madagascar Red Fody (E)**

*Foudia madagascariensis*

Common, ubiquitous and good numbers recorded almost daily.

#### **Forest Fody (E)**

*Foudia omissa*

This species is under threat from forest fragmentation and hybridisation with Madagascar Red Fody. Our only sighting was a single bird in Masoala NP.

### **Starlings *Sturnidae***

**Common Myna (I)**

*Acridotheres tristis tristis*

Common in open habitats throughout the island.

**Madagascar Starling (E)**

*Hartlaubius aurata*

Our first sighting of the trip was one bird at Analamazaotra S.R with a further view at Anjozorobe.

**Drongos Dicruridae**

**Crested Drongo (NE)**

*Dicrurus forficatus*

Common and highly conspicuous in a variety of wooded habitats throughout. First seen at Mantadia NP, and almost daily in small numbers thereafter.

**Crows & Jays Corvidae**

**Pied Crow**

*Corvus albus*

Common and widespread in open habitats.

## MAMMALS

ORDER: Chiroptera

*Family Pteropodidae (Old World Fruit Bats)*

**Madagascar Flying Fox**

*Pteropus rufus*

We enjoyed close studies of approximately one hundred of these handsome, but noisy, animals at their day roost in the gallery woodland at Berenty.

*Family Molossidae (Free-tailed Bats)*

**Mauritian Tomb Bat**

*Tophozus mauritianus*

We found two individuals of this species near our campsite at Ampijoroa on a day roost.

ORDER: Insectivora

*Family Tenrecidae (Tenrecs and Otter Shrews)*

**Common Tenrec**

*Tenrec ecaudatus*

Brilliant views of one during a morning walk through deciduous forest in Ankarafantsika NP.

**Greater Hedgehog Tenrec**

*Setifer setosus*

A single was briefly seen in Ankarafantsika NP.

**Lowland Streaked Tenrec**

*Hemicentetes semispinosus*

We had many good views in Ranomafana NP and Masoala NP.

ORDER: Rodentia

*Family Muridae (Old World Rats and Mice)*

**Eastern Red Forest Rat**

*Nesomys rufus*

This species was sighted in the eastern rainforest site of Ranomafana NP.

**Lowland Red Forest Rat**

*Nesomys audeberti*

We found one feeding in the undergrowth in Masoala NP.

*Family Viverridae (Civets and allies)*

**Fanaloka (Madagascar Striped Civet)**

*Fossa fossana*

We had brilliant views of one at Belle Vue, Ranomafana NP.

*Family Herpestidae (Mongooses)*

**Ring-tailed Mongoose**

*Galidia elegans*

We found two this rather shy species at Ranomafana NP.

ORDER: Primates

*Family Cheirogaleidae (Mouse and Dwarf Lemurs)*

**Gray Mouse Lemur**

*Microcebus murinus*

We enjoyed some good views of two of these delicate lemurs on a night walk in Ampijoroa.

**Gray-brown Mouse Lemur**

*Microcebus griseorufus*

Several of these tiny lemurs were seen on our night walk at Berenty.

**Brown Mouse Lemur**

*Microcebus rufus*

Three of these delightful lemurs were sighted at Belle Vue, Ranomafana NP. This species allowed for extensive study as it was seen from only a few metres away.

**Golden-brown Mouse Lemur**

*Microcebus ravelobensis*

This recently described species was brilliantly seen on one of our night walks at Ampijoroa.

**Goodman's Mouse Lemur**

*Microcebus Ichilahytsara*

This species was only described in 2005 and we were very fortunate to obtain some amazing views of one while on a night walk in Analamazaotra S.R.

**Greater Dwarf Lemur**

*Cheirogaleus major*

While on a night walk in Masoala NP we located one of these gorgeous animals.

**Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur**

*Cheirogaleus medius*

We enjoyed fantastic views of this delightful creature on one of our night excursions at Ampijoroa.

**Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur**

*Cheirogaleus crossleyi*

Excellent close up views were had at Feon 'ny ala, Analamazaotra S.R of three lemurs that visited the Travellers Palms outside the restaurant every night. These lemurs have only recently been recognised as this species.

*Family Megaladapidae (Sportive Lemurs)*

**Small-toothed Sportive Lemur**

*Lepilemur microdonta*

We found this rather uncommon species at a known day hole in Ranomafana NP.

**Milne-Edwards's Sportive Lemur**

*Lepilemur edwardsi*

Several individuals were seen, some on our night excursions and others at their day roosts at Ampijoroa.

**White-footed Sportive Lemur**

*Lepilemur leucopus*

Seven individuals were sighted at Berenty.

**Seal's Sportive Lemur**

*Lepilemur seali*

We were very fortunate to encounter a mother with a youngster while on a night excursion in Masoala NP.

**Hubbard's Sportive Lemur**

*Lepilemur mustelinus*

We found one at a known day hole in Zombitse NP.

*Family Lemuridae ("True" Lemurs)*

**Eastern Gray Bamboo Lemur**

*Hapalemur griseus griseus*

Three individuals seen in Mantadia NP.

**Golden Bamboo Lemur**

*Hapalemur aureus*

We were particularly fortunate to find two of these rare prosimians in tall stands of Bamboo in Ranomafana. This species, although quite large, was only discovered in 1987.

**Greater Bamboo Lemur**

*Hapalemur simus*

We enjoyed excellent views of this scarce species in Ranomafana NP.

**Ring-tailed Lemur**

*Lemur catta*

The quintessential Malagasy mammal. We enjoyed prolonged encounters with numerous groups of these delightful animals, the most terrestrial of the lemurs, at Berenty.

**Mongoose Lemur**

*Eulemur mongoz*

We were very fortunate to have amazing views of one of these animals at Ampijoroa, one of the most difficult lemurs to find in Madagascar.

**Common Brown Lemur**

*Eulemur fulvus fulvus*

These playful lemurs were first seen at Mantadia NP. Small numbers were also seen in Analamazaotra Special Reserve.

**Red-fronted Brown Lemur**

*Eulemur fulvus rufus*

A very common and conspicuous lemur at Berenty (where introduced), and over thirty were seen daily, we also found groups in Ranomafana NP.

**White-fronted Brown Lemur**

*Eulemur albifrons*

We found two of them in forest on the Masoala peninsula.

**Red Ruffed Lemur**

*Varecia rubra*

What a stunning lemur! We enjoyed brilliant encounters with a family group, listening to them call and watching them from very close range in the Masoala NP, where this species is endemic.

*Family Indriidae (Avahis, Sifakas and Indri)*

**Eastern Avahi (Woolly Lemur)**

*Avahi laniger*

We were extremely fortunate to find a mother and youngster in Anjozorobe during the day.

**Western Avahi (Woolly Lemur)**

*Avahi occidentalis*

This species was easily encountered at Ampijoroa during our night walk.

**Diademed Sifaka**

*Propithecus diadema*

This gorgeous species was first sighted at Mantadia NP and then again at Analamazaotra S.R.

**Milne-Edwards's Sifaka**

*Propithecus diadema edwardsi*

We were extremely fortunate to find one animal in Ranomafana NP.

**Verreaux's Sifaka**

*Propithecus verreaux verreauxi*

This magnificent primate, with its soulful expressions and comical, bipedal locomotion, is undoubtedly one of the mammalian highlights of Madagascar. Common in Berenty, where up to twenty-five were seen daily.

**Coquerel's Sifaka**

*Propithecus verreauxi coquereli*

Common at Ampijoroa, where up to a dozen were recorded daily, even within the confines of the camp.

**Indri**

*Indri indri*

We found three animals that were seen at extraordinary close range in Analamazaotra S.R. We were also extremely lucky to view them while giving their territorial howling. The territorial calls of this lemur, often considered the largest extant species, is one of the world's great wildlife sounds.

## Amphibians and Reptiles

**Madagascar Leaf-litter Frog**

**Tawny Tree Frog**

*Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis*

*Boophis luteus*

*Mantidactylus sp.*

*Anodonthyla moramora*

*Zaphiramantis sp*

**Tomato Frog**

*Dyscophus antongili*

**Nile Crocodile**

*Crocodylus niloticus*

**Short-horned Chameleon**

*Calumma brevicornis*

**Nose-horned Chameleon**

*Calumma nasuta*

**Band-bellied Chameleon**

*Calumma gastrotaenia*

*Calumma glowi*

*Calumma O'Shaughnessy*

**Oustalet's Chameleon**

*Furcifer oustaleti*

**Warty Chameleon**

*Furcifer verrucosus*

**Side-striped Chameleon**

*Furcifer lateralis*

**Panther Chameleon**

*Furcifer pardalis*

**Three-eyed Lizard**

*Chalarodon madagascariensis*

**Cuvier's Iguanid**

*Oplurus cuvieri*

**Sakalava Gecko**

*Homopholis sakalava*

**Mercator Tropical House Gecko**

*Hemidactylus mercatorius*

*Lygodactylus talampyae*

*RBT Madagascar Trip Report 2007*

<b>Brown Day Gecko</b>	<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>
<b>Lineated Day Gecko</b>	<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>
	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>
<b>Madagascar Plated Lizard</b>	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>
<b>Elegant Skink</b>	<i>Mabuya elegans</i>
<b>Madagascar Tree Boa</b>	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>
<b>Madagascar Ground Boa</b>	<i>Acrantophis madagascariensis</i>
<b>Giant Hog-nosed Snake</b>	<i>Leioheterodon madagascariensis</i>
<b>Black-and-White Striped Snake</b>	<i>Liopholidophis lateralis</i>
<b>Mahafaly Sand Snake</b>	<i>Mimophis mahfalensis</i>
	<i>Ithycipus minuatus</i>
	<i>Dromicodrius quadrilineatus</i>

**Giraffe-necked Weevil**  
**Pill Millipede**  
**Flatid Leaf Bug**

**Photographs: Helmet Vanga, Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, Lowland Streaked Tenrec & Red-tailed Tropicbird by Keith Valentine**

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