



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Madagascar *Comprehensive II*

27th October – 17th November 2007



Ring-tailed Lemur and Red-capped Coua by James Wakelin

Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Erik Forsyth

Tour Summary

As most of the group had arrived with a spare day in hand we decided to visit a site for the scarce Madagascar Harrier not reliably found at any sites on our comprehensive tours. We drove out of a bustling Antananarivo, or Tana as we know it and headed through farming country. A few stops along the way gave us excellent views of Madagascar Buzzard, Madagascar Kestrel and Madagascar Cisticola. Arriving at a known site for the harrier we piled out of the bus and scanned the valley in front of us. Within ten minutes a shout from Cuan had us all frantically scanning a high slope. Distant but clear views were had of a male patrolling the hillside. A drive to a nearby valley gave us even better, close looks. In the afternoon we returned to Tana and visited Lac Alarobia - a remarkable wetland site within the city. Huge numbers of duck, herons and egrets live and breed on the small lake. The star bird of this show is undoubtedly the Madagascar Pond Heron, which was viewed in its spectacular breeding plumage. Other notable records include African Openbill – a rare bird in Madagascar and a handful of Fulvous Whistling Duck, a trip exclusive.

We then headed off to the rainforests of Perinet and Mantadia, home to four of Madagascar's endemic ground rollers as well as many other special birds and mammals. Here we birded very hard in rain and mud and sustained many leech bites. These were long, physical days with steep trails and very

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early starts but the rewards were well worth it with crippling looks at Short-legged, Pitt-like and Scaly Ground Rollers, a stunning trio and equally beautifully marked, Madagascar Rail, Madagascar Flufftail walking past our feet, Madagascar Wood Rail, Madagascar Cuckoo Hawk, the bizarre Madagascar Cuckoo-Roller, Blue and Red-fronted Coua and Hook-billed and Blue Vanga as well as the amazingly vocal Indri, a giant of forest lemurs with a call not to be forgotten.!

After some rewarding birding in the Perinet/Mantadia area we drove to Anjozorobe, a seldom-visited forest site some three hours from Tana. Madagascar Partridge was seen in the campsite while a visit to the marsh, produced a desired Madagascar Snipe. The uncommon and declining Meller's Duck was scoped at a nearby pristine wetland and the remarkable Crossley's Babbler and a male Velvet Asity were just rewards for our long hikes in the forest. Hearing a distant Rufous-headed Ground Roller we were soon following the call down a muddy slope and getting trapped in dense tangles. After a long wait we were eventually rewarded with good looks at Rufous-headed Ground Roller calling from a low fallen tree-trunk, our fourth species in this family! Night walks were particularly productive, Goodman's Lemur and tiny, stump-tailed chameleons, *Brookesia thieli* were expertly found by Julien and we were amazed by a bizarre two Leaf-tailed Gecko.



Madagascar Partridge & Red-shouldered Vanga by James Wakelin

After a short flight we arrived at Fort Dauphine, a large fishing harbor with bustling street markets. From here we transferred to a bus and drove for three hours on a best forgettable road to Berenty. Namaqua Doves, Sakalava Weavers and our first views of the bizarre *Didiera* trees enlivened the route. Arriving at the famous Berenty Wildlife Refuge an area protecting threatened gallery forest along the Mandrare River we were immediately greeted by several Ring-tailed Lemurs. Our three days here were much enjoyed. Walking the trails we found the large and approachable Giant Coua, several approachable day roosting White-browed Owls, Madagascar Green Pigeon and close flybys of the scarce Madagascar Sandgrouse. We had several enjoyable encounters with the comical Verreaux's Sifaka's and our night walks produced Mouse and Sportive Lemurs. We then moved on to the Spiny Forest at Ifaty, an area harboring many range restricted species. The coastal wetlands south of Ifaty gave us Baillon's Crake, Little Bittern, Red-knobbed Coot and Hottentot Teal- all scarce birds on our route. We entered the Spiny Forest pre-dawn and the shapes of towering *Didieria*, Boabab and Euphorbia plants surrounded us in the morning light. As the sun was rising a crescendo of bird calls animated from this "forest". With the help of Musa and his family we were soon watching the strange Sub-desert Mesite perched motionless on a bush allowing scope views, a pair of Archibold's *Newtonia*, *Thamnornis* Warbler, Lafresnay's Vanga on a nest and the cryptically colored Long-tailed Ground Roller. We headed out of the Spiny Forest by 9:00am with all our targets seen. Scanning the nearby saltwork fields we found our last target for the morning, the endemic Madagascar Plover.

Our day visit to the small island of Nosy Ve was noted for it's excellent snorkeling and allowed excellent photo opportunities of Red-tailed Tropicbird. Lesser Crested and the small Saunder's Tern were scoped on a nearby sandbar. A coffee stop at the nearby Anakou gave us the Littoral Rock

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Thrush. Our late afternoon visit to the coral rag scrub at La Table is always a tough affair with high temperatures and scratchy vegetation to deal with. This area holds two range restricted and scarce species, Verreaux's Coua and Red-shouldered Vanga. The rewards were well worth it and we had good looks at Running Coua and excellent scope looks at Verreaux's Coua. We had not located the other special, the recently described Red-shouldered Vanga and so would have to try in the morning. A dawn start had us bashing our way through the coral scrub and it wasn't long before we had heard a bird calling and located our target- the Red-shouldered Vanga. Excellent close looks were enjoyed of a pair. We then departed for Isalo National Park and area of stunning rocky formations and Palm Savanah. En route to Isalo we stopped for a mid-morning walk in the dry forest of Zombitse. This was most rewarding with confiding looks at the rare Appert's (Greenbul) Tetraka (restricted to two forest patches in this area), Coquerel's Coua and close looks at one of Madagascar's most wanted and attractive birds, the Madagascar Ibis sitting on a nest less than thirty metres away.

Arriving at Isalo in the afternoon we had time to relax at the pool and to walk along the scenic trails. Benson's Rock Thrush was easily found around the chalets and that evening we were captivated by a variety of interesting bugs attracted to the hotel lights.

Our next destination was a stay at the huge Ranomafana National Park, an area of montane forest harboring many scarce and endangered birds and mammals. We worked hard as the trails were often steep and muddy and the density of birds very low. Persistence over three days gave us excellent looks at such gems as Brown Mesite seen crossing the trail twice, confiding looks at Pollen's Vanga after a frustrating episode where branches stopped us seeing the bird the day before, the stunningly beautiful Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity seen at three meters and the large and powerful looking Henst's Goshawk. A visit to the old feeding station at Bellevue was a highlight seeing Malagasy Striped Civet, Brown Mouse Lemur and Rainforest Scops Owl.

Our final destination, Ampijoroa Forest station in the north-west, an area protecting dry deciduous forest was a real treat. International funding and regular tourism has helped create a well managed reserve and has increased employment for the local community. Although repressively hot the birding was excellent in this area. First we birded Lake Aboromalandy finding the attractive African Pygmy Goose, Madagascar Jacana and several Purple Heron. Early starts in the forest were required to avoid the heat of the day and after several hard walks we had found most of our target birds. Red-capped Coua and the amazing White-breasted Mesite were watched on the forest floor. After the call was heard we quickly located the rare Schlegel's Asity, an absolute strikingly colored bird seen in the early morning sun. A quick dash up a hill and down the other side produced excellent scope views of the scarce Banded Kestrel. On Lac Ravelobe itself the boat trip produced good looks at the rare Madagascar Fish Eagle, Humblot's Heron and the shy Allen's Gallinule. Midday breaks around are camp were very birdy and confiding looks were had of the bizarre Sickle-billed Vanga, Madagascar Harrier Hawk, comparisons between Greater and Lesser Vasa parrots and the smart and cuddly Coquerel's Sifaka.

Our last adventure was a motorized boat tour up the Betsiboka Delta to look for two scarce species only reliably recorded at this site. Scanning amongst Mangrove trees a pair of Bernier's Teal were spotted high up on an overhanging branch by Gerry much to everyone's relief. After a short while they took off and good flight views were had. As the tide receded we found at least five Madagascar Ibis, a few Terek Sandpipers and 20+ of the much sought after Crab Plover, a fitting end to a successful tour.

Annotated Checklists of Birds, Mammals and "Herps"

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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 with recent changes as adopted by Mittermeier et al (2006) Lemurs 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

Guineafowl *Numididae*

Helmeted Guineafowl (I)

Numida meleagris

We encountered several flocks at Berenty and some birds in grassland at Isalo NP.

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

Partridges, Quails & Pheasants *Phasianidae*

Madagascar Partridge (E)

Margaroperdix madagascarensis

A male was seen running along the road at Anjozorobe.

Ducks & Geese *Anatidae*

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

We were fortunate to find four individuals of this uncommon species in Madagascar while birding Lake Alarobia in Tana.

White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Large numbers were recorded at Lac Alarobia further records from Ampijoroa in the west.

Knob-billed Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotus

Thirty+ at Lake Alarobia and further sightings at Ampijoroa.

Meller's Duck (E) (En)

Anas melleri

We were very lucky to find up to six birds at Anjozorobe. This species numbers seem to continue to decline.

African Pygmy Goose

Nettapus auritus

We were lucky to find five of these beauties on wetlands close to Ampijoroa.

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

Anas bernieri

The greatest prize of our adventurous trip into the Betsiboka Delta, a pair were high in a mangrove found by Gerry.

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.

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Red-billed Teal (Duck)

Anas erythrorhyncha

Probably the commonest duck and widespread in freshwater wetlands across the island. Peak numbers were of 500 at Lac Alarobia.

Hottentot Teal

Anas hottentotta

Six birds were seen in the wetlands between Ifaty and Tulear.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe (Dabchick)

Tachybaptus ruficollis

High numbers were found on the wetlands south of Ifaty.

Madagascar Little Grebe (E) (V)

Tachybaptus pelzelinii

Five birds daily at Lac Alarobia was a good count with further sightings at Mantadia and Anjozorobe. Rarely at Lac Alarobia in previous years and hopefully will colonise. See notes below.

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

Storks Ciconiidae

African Openbill

Anastomus lamelligerus

We were fortunate to find one at Lac Alarobia, a rare species in Madagascar.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

Bernier's (Madagascar White) Ibis (NE)

Threskiornis [aethiopicus] bernieri

One of the prizes of our speedboat adventure up the Betsiboka Delta, we rewarded with fine views of up to five birds.

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

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

We found several at Lac Ravelobe in Ampijoroa.

Madagascar Crested Ibis (E)(NT)

Lophotibis cristata

We enjoyed magnificent views of a single individual on the nest at Ampijoroa.

Hérons Ardeidae

Little Bittern

Ixobrychus minutus

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

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

Highest numbers were recorded from Lac Alarobia.

(Common) Squacco Heron

Ardeola ralloides

Widespread and common in a variety of wetland habitats across the island, from rice paddies to tidal mudflats.

Madagascar Pond-Heron (BE)(V)

Ardeola idea

A very smart bird indeed. Best views were of full breeding plumaged individuals at Lac Alarobia.

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.

Green-backed (Striated) Heron

Butorides striatus

Small numbers at most freshwater and marine wetlands..

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).

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Black Egret (Heron)

Egretta ardesiaca

First seen at Lake Alarobia where we found good numbers on the island, but most appreciated in the wetlands around Lac Ravelobe and Amboromalandy near Ampijoroa, many engaged in their “umbrella” feeding technique.

Dimorphic (Mascarene Reef) Egret (NE)

Egretta [garzetta] dimorpha

Widespread and common throughout Madagascar. The white morph was recorded at most inland wetland sites, the dark morph being most common in coastal areas.

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

Common in suitable wetland habitat across the island, peak numbers of ten recorded at Lac Ravelobe, Ampijoroa.

Gray Heron

Ardea cinerea

Mainly in western wetlands, seen nesting on cliffs near the Onilahy River mouth on our way to Nosy Ve.

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

Ardea humbloti

First sighted at breeding cliffs at Tulear where we observed several individuals. Two daily at Lac Ravelobe in Ampijoroa.

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

Tropicbirds *Phaethontidae*

Red-tailed Tropicbird

Phaethon rubricauda

We enjoyed intimate encounters with these most elegant birds, including sightings of at least fifty birds on the island of Nosy Ve.

Frigatebirds *Fregatidae*

Great Frigatebird

Fregata minor

Two birds were seen above Tulear.

Hamerkop *Scopidae*

Hamerkop

Scopus umbretta

Small numbers in roadside rice paddies on drives from Fort Dauphin to Berenty and Ranomafana to Tana. Their enormous nest structure was seen on several occasions.

Cormorants *Phalacrocoracidae*

Reed Cormorant

Phalacrocorax africanus

A single bird was seen at Lac Alarobia. A scarce resident mainly confined to the north-east.

Darters *Anhingidae*

African Darter

Anhinga rufa

Uncommon in Madagascar, with a handful of sightings on Lake Ravelobe, Ampijoroa.

Falcons *Falconidae*

Malagasy Kestrel (NEe)

Falco newtoni

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

Banded Kestrel *Falco zoniventris*

We had excellent scope looks at a bird at Ampijoroa.

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*

We had excellent views of four birds hunting over at Ampijoroa. Most of the population of this species migrates to winter on the islands of Madagascar.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus radama*

A single bird was observed at Ampijoroa.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda madagascariensis*

Elaine found a bird at Perinet and we had a further sighting at Berenty. A good find for this scarce species.

Black Kite *Milvus [migrans] parasitus*

Common and conspicuous in open habitats, particularly in the west. Small numbers at the roadside on most road journeys, very common on the drive from Isalo NP to Ranomafana.

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 a pair of this critically endangered, endemic eagle at the edge of Lake Ravelobe, Ampijoroa.

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

Malagasy Marsh Harrier *Circus maillardi*

A stunning male bird was seen on the Tana/Mahjunga road on a pre-tour trip.

Madagascar Harrier-Hawk (E) *Polyboroides radiatus*

First recorded at Berenty where observed a single bird in flight. A pair were seen daily at Ampijoroa.

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

We had crippling views of an adult at the nest site at Ranomafana NP.

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

Madagascar Sparrowhawk (E)(NT) *Accipiter madagascariensis*

We had excellent flight views of this rare species Ranomafana.

Frances' Sparrowhawk (NE) *Accipiter francesii*

Fairly common, we had good looks at both males and females at wooded sites throughout..

Madagascar Buzzard (E) *Buteo brachypterus*

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

Mesites Mesitornithidae

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

A single bird was seen at Ampijoroa.

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

We all had very close encounters with a pair of these skulking birds at Ranomafana 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 scope views of one.

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Flufftails *Sarothruridae*

Madagascar Flufftail (E)

Sarothrura insularis

A commonly heard species in the east, we were treated to good views at Mantadia and Anjozorobe.

Rails & Crakes & Coots *Rallidae*

Madagascar Wood Rail (E)

Canirallus kiolooides

We had great views of a pair at Perinet. This can be a devilishly hard bird to see!

Madagascar Rail (E)

Rallus madagascariensis

We were treated to mind-boggling views of this fine endemic at a wetland near Mantadia.

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

Dryolimnas cuvieri

We were treated to superb views of a pair at a stream in Perinet. This species was also heard calling on several occasions during the trip.

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 at a wetland near Ifaty.

African Swamphen

Porphyrio porphyrio

This species was seen well at the wetlands between Tulear and Ifaty.

Allen's Gallinule

Porphyrio alleni

We were very fortunate to find four at Lac Ravelobe. This is a rare and seldom seen species in Madagascar.

Common Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Small numbers were encountered at several sites including Lake Alarobia and in the lake in front of our hotel at Analamazaotra.

Buttonquails *Turnicidae*

Madagascar Buttonquail (E)

Turnix nigricollis

Two birds were seen at Anjozorobe.

Crab Plover *Dromadidae*

Crab Plover

Dromas ardeola

We enjoyed good numbers of this charismatic species. First seen at a lagoon near Ifaty (six birds) with further sighting of twenty-four on our trip up the Betsiboka Delta.

Avocets & Stilts *Recurvirostridae*

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Recorded at several sites, wetlands near Ifaty and in the northwest.

Plovers *Charadriidae*

Common Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

We found good numbers of this species on mudflats throughout the Ifaty and Tulear area.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

Largest numbers recorded at brackish lakes near Ifaty.

Madagascar Plover (E)(NT)

Charadrius thoracicus

Nine of these scarce, localized endemic was observed at close quarters in Ifaty.

Three-banded Plover

Charadrius tricollaris

Recorded at a roadside wetland near Ifaty.

White-fronted Plover

Charadrius marginatus

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We enjoyed sightings of this coastal species throughout the area of Tulear / Ifaty and again on the island of Nosy Ve.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Recorded on the beach at Ifaty and on mud flats in the Betsiboka Delta.

Gray (Black-bellied) Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

This species was very common on tidal flats between Tulear and our hotel in Ifaty.

Jacanas Jacanidae

Madagascar Jacana (E) *Actophilornis albinucha*

Only in wetlands of the northwest, recorded at Lac Aboromalandy and Lac Ravelobe

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

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

We had superb views of two birds at Anjozorobe Marsh.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

This species was fairly common on tidal flats around Tulear and Ifaty where we saw up to a hundred birds.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Another common wader, commonly recorded in suitable wetland habitat in the west and south.

Terek Sandpiper *Tringa cinerea*

We had great views of an estimated ten birds in the Betsiboka Delta.

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*

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

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Fairly common on tidal flats around Tulear and Ifaty.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Several of these cosmopolitan birds were seen on tidal flats around Ifaty.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

A single bird was found at a brackish lake between Tulear and Ifaty.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

The commonest Calidrid, with up to a hundred seen on the tidal flats in the Ifaty and Tulear areas.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

Recorded from the beach at Fort Dauphin.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

Three birds recorded on the coast north of Tulear and a single at a tern roost on Nosy Ve.

Swift Tern *Sterna bergii*

Several seen during our boat trip to Nosy Ve and also recorded at the Betsiboka Delta.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

We had scope views of fifteen birds at a lagoon near Ifaty.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

The most numerous tern in the roost on Nosy Ve.

Saunders's Tern *Sterna saundersi*

A single bird was seen at a tern roost at Nosy Ve.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Twelve birds were recorded at Lac Abaromalandy.

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Sandgrouse *Pteroclididae*

Madagascar Sandgrouse (E) *Pterocles personatus*
Excellent close looks were had of fifteen birds were seen daily on the Mandrare River.

Pigeons & Doves *Columbidae*

Common Pigeon (I) *Columba livia*

Widespread in urban areas.

Malagasy Turtle Dove (NEe) *Columba picturata*

Common and widespread, seen at almost all sites.

Namaqua (Long-tailed) Dove *Oena capensis*

Widespread and common in drier areas.

Madagascar Green Pigeon (NE) *Treron australis*

First seen at Berenty and later recorded from Ampijoroa.

Madagascar Blue Pigeon (E) *Alectroenas madagascariensis*

This beautiful bird is fairly common in eastern rainforest, we had superb views at Perinet/Mantadia and Ranomafana NP.

Cockatoos & Parrots *Psittacidae*

Greater Vasa Parrot (NE) *Coracopsis vasa*

This is the less common of the two Vasa Parrots in Madagascar, first recorded from Perinet/Mantadia Forests.

Lesser Vasa Parrot (NE) *Coracopsis nigra*

A widespread and fairly 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 especially memorable views coming from drinking birds at the Mandrare River.

Cuckoos, Couas & Coucals *Cuculidae*

Madagascar Cuckoo (BE) *Cuculus rochii*

Very common and one of the dominant sounds in wooded and semi-wooded habitats throughout. We had great views at several sites.

Giant Coua (E) *Coua gigas*

Common at Berenty where we watched many 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 seen in Zombitse NP.

Running Coua (E) *Coua cursor*

More often heard than seen. Two birds were seen briefly at the spiny forests Ifaty and we had another sighting at La Table.

Red-breasted Coua (E) *Coua serriana*

We had brief views of a bird at Mantadia and another was heard at Perinet.

Red-fronted Coua (E) *Coua reynaudii*

We had good views at Mantadia with other birds heard at Anjozorobe.

Red-capped Coua (E) *Coua ruficeps*

We enjoyed great views of many birds at Ampijoroa.

NOTE: See notation under Green-capped Coua

Green-capped Coua (E) *Coua [ruficeps] olivaceiceps*

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A single bird was seen very well at Berenty with other sightings at Ifaty and La Table.

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 views of at least three of these rare and localized birds in coral rag scrub at La Table. The most localized member of this endemic sub-family.

Blue Coua (E) *Coua caerulea*

Fairly common in the eastern forests. Strangely turaco-like and one of the world's great "Blue Birds"!

Malagasy Coucal (NEe) *Centropus toulou*

Common, widespread and recorded in small numbers virtually daily during our tour.

Owls Strigidae

Rainforest Scops Owl (NE) *Otus rutilus*

This recently split form of the Madagascar Scops Owl was heard at Perinet/Mantadia. We later had good looks at Ranomafana.

Torotoroka Scops Owl (E) *Otus madagascariensis*

This new species of Scops Owl (pronounced "Toorootoorook", an onomatopoeic name) was seen at Berenty at it's day roost.

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

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

Our fantastic sightings of these spectacular owls came from Berenty. These obliging birds allowed for fantastic photo opportunities.

Madagascar Owl (E) *Asio madagascariensis*

Heard only at Perinet.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Collared Nightjar (E) *Caprimulgus enarratus*

We had fantastic views of a bird roosting during the day as well as a bird in flight at Perinet. A rare endemic restricted to the eastern forests. Definitely one of the real beauties of the tour.

Madagascar Nightjar (NE) *Caprimulgus madagascariensis*

The common nightjar on Madagascar. Regularly recorded throughout the tour.

Swifts Apodidae

Madagascar Spinetail (NE) *Zoonavena grandidieri*

We finally encountered this species flying over the forest at Mantadia NP and in gallery forest at Berenty.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus gracilis*

Common in suitable palm habitat.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

Recorded while driving to Anjozorobe.

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

Seen in modest numbers at various sites.

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NOTE: These Malagasy birds are usually considered a species distinct from the African Black Swift (*A. barbatus*), however no dedicated research has been done.

Rollers Coraciidae

Broad-billed Roller

Eurystomus glaucurus

Widespread and common breeding migrant from the African mainland. First recorded at Perinet with most memorable views coming from Ampijoroa.

Ground-Rollers Brachypteraciidae

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

Brachypteracias leptosomus

Wow, sensational viewing after expertly found by Patrice at Mantadia.

Scaly Ground-Roller (E)(V)

Brachypteracias squamigera

Another elusive and retiring species. We had outstanding views of a pair near the nest sight. A scarce and secretive bird, formerly considered to be restricted to the forests of the Masoala peninsula.

Pitta-like Ground-Roller (E)

Atelornis pittoides

Our first sighting was excellent scope looks at Mantadia with a further excellent sighting of a pair scolding a Ring-tailed Mongoose at Ranomafana.

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

Atelornis crossleyi

Frustratingly close on several occasions at Mantadia. After some searching we were rewarded with good views at Anjozorobe with others heard at Ranomafana.

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

Uratelornis chimaera

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 Perinet.

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.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Malagasy 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

Two birds were seen at Mantadia. This scarce species was seen exceptionally well on the night roost in Ampijoroa.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Madagascar (Olive) Bee-eater

Merops superciliosus

Common, widespread in semi-open areas and recorded from almost all sites.

Hoopoes Upupidae

Madagascar Hoopoe (E)

Upupa marginalis

Commonly recorded at all western sites, including daily sightings at the Spiny Desert, at Ifaty, Berenty and Ampijoroa. Our first sighting was of a bird en route from Tana to Perinet.

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

Asities Philepittidae

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Velvet Asity (E)

Philepitta castanea

We enjoyed superb views of males and females, a female was seen at Perinet followed by a male at Anjozorobe and a further sighting of a female at Ranomafana.

Schlegel's Asity (E) (NT)

Philepitta schlegeli

A stunning pair was seen exceptionally well in the deciduous forest of Ampijoroa.

Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity (E)(En)

Neodrepanis hypoxanthus

Mind-bending views of a male at eye level at Vohiparara. A tour highlight for many. An extremely difficult bird to locate due to its rarity, small size, fast flight and insignificant call.

Vangas Vangidae

Red-tailed Vanga (E)

Calicalicus madagascariensis

A fairly common and regularly encountered denizen of wooded and semi-wooded habitats, particularly once its “wolf-whistle” call is recognized.

Red-shouldered Vanga (E)(V)

Calicalicus rufocarpalis

We enjoyed superb close studies of a male and female of this recently described and highly localized 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 of a pair around the nest.

Rufous Vanga (E)

Schetba rufa

This handsome bird was recorded at the Spiny Desert, Ifaty and Ranomafana.

Hook-billed Vanga (E)

Vanga curvirostris

First seen en route to Mantadia, later heard or seen at several other sites.

Lafresnaye's Vanga (E)

Xenopirostris xenopirostris

This species was seen very well in the Spiny Desert at Ifaty where we a female on a nest with another sighting at La Table.

Pollen's Vanga (E) (NT)

Xenopirostris polleni

A scarce and local denizen of eastern forests, after some significant searching we had great views of two separate birds at Vohiparara, Ranomafana NP.

Van Dam's Vanga (E) (En)

Xenopirostris damii

After a hot walk we were rewarded with superb views of a female bird on the nest at Ampijoroa. The following day we found a male incubating. The most localized 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.

White-headed Vanga (E)

Artamella viridis

Seen very well daily in small numbers at Perinet, Mantadia, the Spiny Desert at Ifaty, Berenty and again at Ampijoroa.

Chabert's Vanga (E)

Leptopterus chabert

The commonest vanga, occurring in habitats ranging from pristine rainforest to degraded scrub. First seen at Perinet.

(Madagascar) Blue Vanga ([N]E)

Cyanolanius madagascarensis

Our first encounter with this species was at Perinet/Mantadia where we were dazzled by 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.

Nuthatch Vanga (E)

Hypositta corallirostris

Seen well at Perinet. A peculiar and localized eastern rainforest endemic.

Tylas (Vanga) (E)

Tylas eduardi

Recorded at Mantadia and at Ranomafana.

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

Dark Newtonia (E)

Newtonia amphichroa

Seen well at Mantadia, Anjozorobe and Ranomafana where the bird was also regularly heard calling.

Common Newtonia (E)

Newtonia brunneicauda

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

Archbold's Newtonia (E)

Newtonia archboldi

A pair were seen at close quarters in the Spiny Desert near Ifaty.

Ward's Flycatcher (E)

Pseudobias wardi

First recorded at Mantadia with a further pair seen briefly mobbing a Henst's Goshawk at Ranomafana.

Crossley's Babbler (E)

Mystacornis crossleyi

Briefly seen at Mantadia. We enjoyed close views of a single bird on two days at Anjozorobe.

Cuckooshrikes *Campephagedae*

Madagascar Cuckoo-shrike (NE)

Coracina cinerea

The only cuckoo-shrike of the island of Madagascar, we first recorded this species in the forests of Perinet/Mantadia and Anjozorobe. Further sightings at Ranomafana and Ampijoroa.

Drongos *Dicruridae*

Crested Drongo (NE)

Dicrurus forficatus

Common and highly conspicuous in a variety of wooded habitats throughout.

Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*

Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher (NE)

Terpsiphone mutata

Common and widespread in a variety of wooded and semi-wooded habitats.

Crows & Jays *Corvidae*

Pied Crow

Corvus albus

Common and widespread in open habitats.

Swallows & Martins *Hirundinidae*

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

A single of this scarce summer visitor was spotted by Rachel at Ifaty.

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 from Tana.

Brown-throated (Plain) Martin

Riparia paludicola

This high plateau wetland hirundine was observed at a small wetland en route from Anjozorobe to Tana.

Larks *Alaudidae*

Madagascar (Hova) Lark (E)

Mirafra hova

Recorded in large numbers in the Tular / Ifaty regions and in the grasslands of Isalo NP.

Cisticolas & Allies *Cisticolidae*

Madagascar Cisticola

Cisticola cherena

A common warbler of grasslands seen throughout the tour. First recorded en route to Perinet.

Family Uncertain *Incertae Sedis*

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Common Jery (E) *Neomixis tenella*
Common and ubiquitous. First seen at Anjozorobe and recorded almost daily throughout the trip.

Green Jery (E) *Neomixis viridis*
First encountered in Anjozorobe. Good views were had at Analamazaotra.

Stripe-throated Jery (E) *Neomixis striatigula*
This specie's scratchy call is a common background noise in the rain forests. First seen at Anjozorobe with good views again at Mantadia.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Madagascar Bulbul (NE) *Hypsipetes madagascariensis*
Common and ubiquitous, with daily sightings in a variety of wooded and semi-wooded habitats.

Old World Warblers Sylviidae

Brown Emutail (E) *Dromaeocercus brunneus*
A mega skulker. After hearing a bird at close range in Anjozorobe we were finally rewarded with brief views on Vohiparara Ridge, Ranomafana.

Gray Emutail (E) *Dromaeocercus seebohmi*
A single bird was seen creeping through thick reeds and then in flight at Anjozorobe.

Malagasy Brush Warbler (NE) *Nesillas typical*
Common in dense cover of any kind in the east, where several recorded. First seen at Lac Alarobia.

Subdesert Brush Warbler (E) *Nesillas lantzii*
Replaces Madagascar Brush Warbler in the southwest. Good views south of Tulear.
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 at Lac Alarobia.

White-throated Oxylabes (E) *Oxylabes madagascariensis*
A secretive endemic of the understorey of eastern rainforest and difficult to see. We had excellent close looks at four birds at Mantadia.

Thamnornis (Warbler)(E) *Thamnornis chloropetoides*
Three seen exceptionally well in the Spiny Desert near Ifaty.

Rand's Warbler (E) *Randia pseudozosterops*
First seen vocalizing from a typical perch in forest at Perinet with further sightings at Mantadia and Anjozorobe.

Cryptic Warbler (E) *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi*
This recently described species was seen singing from its treetop perch in the ridge-top forest at Vohiparara.

Wedge-tailed Jery (E)(NT) *Hartertula flavoviridis*
An uncommon and elusive endemic of eastern forests. After a long search we finally enjoyed good views of this species at Mantadia NP.

Long-billed Berniera (E) *Phyllastrephus madagascariensis*
Widespread in Madagascar, we first encountered this species in good numbers at Perinet/Mantadia and heard and saw regularly it in forest sites thereafter.

Spectacled Tetraka (E) *Phyllastrephus zosterops*
Restricted to eastern forests, where it is the commonest of the "small greenbuls".

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Appert's Tetraka (E)(V)

Phyllastrephus apperti

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

Gray-crowned Tetraka (E)(NT)

Phyllastrephus cinereiceps

Uncommon in eastern rainforest, mainly at altitudes above the range of Spectacled Greenbul. Seen exceptionally well in the mid-story at Mantadia and at Vohiparara, Ranomafana NP.

Madagascar Yellowbrow (E)(NT)

Crossleyi xanthophrys

A single of these often elusive birds was seen briefly at Anjozorobe.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Madagascar White-eye (NE)

Zosterops maderaspatana

Common and widespread, though scarce in the southwest.

Starlings Sturnidae

Common Myna (I)

Acridotheres tristis tristis

Common in open habitats throughout the island.

Madagascar Starling (E)

Hartlaubius aurata

A pair were seen at Perinet with a further sighting at Anjozorobe.

Wattled Starling

Creatophora cinerea

A single bird was recorded at Berenty. A rare bird on Madagascar known from a few other records from Tulear.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Littoral Rock Thrush (E)

Pseudocossyphus imerinus

A single bird was recorded in coastal Acacia woodland at Anakou, near Tulear.

Forest Rock Thrush (E)

Pseudocossyphus sharpie

A frustrating difficult species to observe. Recorded at Anjozorobe and Ranomafana.

Benson's Rock Thrush (E)(NT)

Pseudocossyphus bensoni

We had superb views of a pair 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.

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.

Eurasian Stonechat

Saxicola torquatus

Common in open habitats of the eastern highlands, where several seen daily. This species was particularly common at Anjozorobe.

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.

Malagasy Green Sunbird (NE)

Nectarinia notata

A very handsome and widespread but uncommon species. This species was seen in small numbers than the previous species.

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Weavers *Ploceidae*

- Nelicourvi Weaver (E)** *Ploceus nelicourvi*
This attractive species was recorded only in eastern rainforest areas at Perinet and Mantadia.
- Sakalava Weaver (E)** *Ploceus sakalava*
This species was common in the drier regions of Madagascar. First recorded at Berenty.
- sRed Fody (E)** *Foudia madagascariensis*
Common, ubiquitous and good numbers recorded almost daily.
- Forest Fody (E)** *Foudia omissa*
Brief looks at a single bird at Mantadia and heard at Ranomafana.

Waxbills *Estrildidae*

- Madagascar Mannikin (Munia) (E)** *Lonchura nana*
First recorded at Anjozorobe and seen in small numbers throughout the tour thereafter.

Wagtails & Pipits *Motacillidae*

- Madagascar Wagtail (E)** *Motacilla flaviventris*
Common in the east and highland plateau, where seen regularly in small numbers.

MAMMALS

ORDER: Chiroptera

Family Pteropodidae (Old World Fruit Bats)

Madagascar Flying Fox *Pteropus rufus*

We enjoyed long scope studies 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*

Some of us were able to see a single individual of this species near our campsite at Ampijoroa on the day roost.

ORDER: Insectivora

Family Tenrecidae (Tenrecs and Otter Shrews)

Common Tenrec *Tenrec ecaudatus*

Those at the front of the line were very lucky to see this delightful creature dashing across the trail.

ORDER: Rodentia

Family Muridae (Old World Rats and Mice)

Eastern Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus*

Three were seen at Ranomafana NP's.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*

Recorded near Tulear.

ORDER: Carnivora

Family Viverridae (Civets and allies)

Fanaloka (Madagascar Striped Civet) *Fossa fossana*

A single of these very attractive and obliging animals were seen at very close quarters at Belle Vue in Ranomafana NP.

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Family Herpestidae (Mongooses)

Ring-tailed Mongoose

Galidia elegans

Surely one of the world's most attractive mongooses. A single of these animals were seen at very close quarters at the researchers station in Ranomafana.

ORDER: Primates

Family Cheirogaleidae (Mouse and Dwarf Lemurs)

Goodman's Mouse Lemur

Microcebus lehilahytsara

A single of these tiny delightful lemurs were seen on our night-walk at Anjozorobe.

Golden-brown Mouse Lemur

Microcebus ravelobensis

One of these extremely localized lemurs was found on a night walk at Ampijoroa.

Brown Mouse Lemur

Microcebus rufus

A most memorable experience was watching this cute creature, so close that you could almost touch it at Belle Vue, Ranomafana NP.

Grey-Brown Mouse Lemur

Microcebus griseorufus

This newly described species was found in the spiny desert patches at Berenty.

Greater Dwarf Lemur

Cheirogaleus major

Good looks at Ampijoroa.

Family Megaladapidae (Sportive Lemurs)

Milne-Edwards's Sportive Lemur

Lepilemur edwardsi

Seen well at Ampijoroa where this species is common.

White-footed Sportive Lemur

Lepilemur leucopus

Individuals were seen on night walks and at their day roosts at Berenty.

Small-toothed Sportive Lemur

Lepilemur microdon

Two recorded from Ranomafana NP.

Hubbard's Sportive Lemur

Lepilemur hubbardi

First encountered at day roosts in the spiny forest at Ifaty and again at Zombitse Forest.

Family Lemuridae ("True" Lemurs)

Eastern Gray Bamboo Lemur

Haplemur griseus griseus

Small groups were observed at Perinet and Mantadia.

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.

Red-bellied Lemur

Eulemur rubriventer

A superb experience at Ranomafana where we found four animals.

Common Brown Lemur

Eulemur fulvus

These lemurs were seen at Perrinet/Mantadia, Anjozorobe and Ampijoroa.

Red-fronted Brown Lemur

Eulemur rufus

Observed at Berenty in good numbers.

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur

Varecia variegata variegata

This, the most vocal of all lemurs, was heard bark-roaring at Mantadia NP and then had excellent close looks as they fed.

Family Indriidae (Avahis, Sifakas and Indri)

Western Avahi (Woolly Lemur)

Avahi occidentalis

This species was seen well at Ampijoroa.

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Eastern Avahi (Wooly Lemur)

Avahi occidentalis

Two were seen at a day roost at Mantadia.

Diademed Sifaka

Propithecus diadema

We had outstanding encounters with this magnificent creature in Mantadia NP and Anjozorobe. Widely considered to be Madagascar's most beautiful primate, this is also the largest of the lemurs, with a number of specimens heavier than the largest Indri on record (Mittermeier et al 1994).

Verreaux's Sifaka

Propithecus verreaux

This magnificent primate, with its soulful expressions and comical, bipedal locomotion, is undoubtedly one of the mammalian highlights of Madagascar. Common in Berenty, where intimate encounters were had daily.

Coquerel's Sifaka

Propithecus coquereli

Common at Ampijoroa, these incredibly colored primates were seen in the camp and on walks.

Indri

Indri indri

We had fantastic experiences with this incredible lemur at Perinet Special Reserve where four were seen. The territorial calls of this lemur, often considered the largest extant species (but see Diademed Sifaka, above), is one of the world's great wildlife sounds.

Listing of amphibians and reptiles seen

Amphibians

Family; *Ranidae* (True Frogs)

Noisy (Barking) Tree Frog

Boophis rappoides

Reptiles

Family; *Testudinidae* (Land Tortoises)

Radiated Tortoise

Geochelone radiata

Family; *Crocodylidae* (Crocodiles)

Nile Crocodile

Crocodylus niloticus

Family; *Chamaeleonidae* (Chameleons)

Short-horned Chameleon

Calumma brevicornis

Nose-horned Chameleon

Calumma nasuta

Band-bellied Chameleon

Calumma gastrotaenia

Parson's Chameleon

Calumma parsonii

Rhinoceros Chameleon

Calumma rhinoceratus

Oustalet's Chameleon

Furcifer oustaleti

Stump-tailed Chameleon

Brookesia thieli

Family; *Iguanidae* (Iguanas)

Three-eyed Lizard

Chalarodon madagascariensis

Cuvier's Iguanid

Oplurus cuvieri

Double-banded Iguanid

Oplurus quadrimaculatus

Family; *Gekkonidae* (Geckos)

Plain Big-headed Gecko

Paroedura bastardi

Sikora Leaf-tailed Gecko

Uroplatus sikorae

Moreau's Tropical House Gecko

Hemidactylus mercatorius

Lineated Day Gecko

Phelsuma lineata

Family; *Gerrhosauridae* (Plated Lizards)

Four-lined Plated Lizard

Zonosaurus quadrilineatus

Zonosaurus ornata

Zonosaurus laticaudatus

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Family; *Scincidae* (Skinks)

Elegant Skink

Mabuya elegans

Family; *Boidae* (Boas)

Madagascar Ground Boa

Acrantophis madagascariensis

Family; *Colubridae* (Typical Snakes)

Madagascar Spotted Snake

Madagascarophis colubrinus

Giant Hog-nosed snake

Leioheterodon madagascariensis

Leioheterodon modestus

Black-and-white Striped Snake

Liopholidophis lateralis

Liopholidophis thieli

Dromicodryas bernieri

Other Life Forms

Whilst exploring Madagascar we were constantly treated to shows of colorful, beautiful and sometimes bizarre life forms. Some highlights included;

Fantastic reef fish diversity and color whilst snorkeling off Nosy Ve.

Giraffe-necked Weevil *Trachelophorus giraffa* must be one of the planets most bizarre insects.

Delicate congregations of “Waxtail” nymphs of the Flatid Leaf Bug *Phromnia rosea*.

Madagascar’s gigantic Orb Web Spider *Nephila madagascariensis* .

Madagascar’s largest butterfly, *Atrophaneura antenor*, the beautiful *Precis rhadama* and *Graphium cynurius* and numerous unidentified but impressive moths.

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