



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Madagascar

Highlights I

15th to 29th July 2018 (15 days)

Trip Reports



Ring-tailed Lemur worshipping the sun by Greg de Klerk

Trip Report compiled by tour leader: Greg de Klerk

Tour Summary

The Island country of Madagascar, surrounded by the warm and vibrantly coloured Indian Ocean, provides the intrepid explorer with the opportunity to connect with a vast array of endemic and highly specialised species, which have evolved because of the isolation of the island from mainland Africa. From the magnificent rainforest on the East Coast to the spiny forest dotted with great Baobab trees, this Highlights tour allowed us the leisure to explore each unique habitat and its wonderful fauna over a 15-day trip.

The tour began with a birding session in the gardens of our well-appointed guest house in the sprawling capital of Madagascar, Antananarivo (Tana). Although the pickings were relatively slim due to the nature of the city, we still managed to add a few common species to our lists, including Rock Dove, Olive Bee-eater, Malagasy Kestrel, Mascarene Martin, Common Myna, Madagascar Stonechat, Red Fody and Madagascar Wagtail, before settling for a good welcome dinner, where we had the opportunity to meet and greet our fellow participants before retiring for the night.

An early departure from Tana the following morning saw us make slow progress on the road out of the capital. Swathes of rice paddies played host to a few wetland species, including Striated, Black and Squacco Herons, Western Cattle, Dimorphic and Great Egrets, and Hamerkop. A long drive followed as we navigated the winding national road linking the capital to the nearest seaport, making headway on our journey to Andasibe. We finally arrived in sunny and warm conditions a short while after lunch.



Olive Bee-eater by Greg de Klerk



Madagascar Wagtail by Rainer Summers

Having sated our appetites, we decided to head out for a spot of birding. As we were preparing to depart to the camp, we counted a small feeding flock that included such spectacular species as Malagasy Coucal, Red-tailed and Blue Vangas, Common Newtonia, Madagascar Cuckooshrike, Crested Drongo, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Malagasy Bulbul and Green Jery. A short while later we were at Analamazaotra, our destination to bird the afternoon. We started with Madagascar Blue Pigeon before continuing into mid-altitude rainforest, where we were rewarded with

Wagtail and Rainforest Scops Owl. We returned to our lodge in the late afternoon to embark on a night walk, which produced Goodman's Mouse Lemur, Nose-horned Chameleon and Parson's Chameleon. Shortly afterwards, we enjoyed dinner and settled for a relaxing night's rest.

An early start to the next morning saw us heading into Mantadia National Park in search of the elusive ground rollers. The weather, however, had different ideas, as the rain had set in overnight and continued throughout the day. This made conditions within the rainforest exceptionally challenging; both birding and walking were affected, leaving us frustrated by a lack of activity while getting soaking wet. Yet, to our credit, we marched on and managed to locate Meller's Duck, Madagascar Buzzard, Madagascar Grebe, Common Moorhen, Madagascar Blue Pigeon, Malagasy Coucal,



Collared Nightjar by Rainer Summers

Red-fronted Coua, Olive Bee-eater, Common Sunbird-Asity, Red-tailed, Chabert and Tylas Vangas, Common Newtonia, Crested Drongo, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Malagasy Bulbul, Malagasy Brush Warbler, White-throated Oxylabes, Long-billed Bernieria, Spectacled Tetraka, Green Jery, Malagasy White-eye, Madagascar Magpie-Robin, Madagascar Stonechat, Souimanga Sunbird, Red Fody and Madagascar Wagtail. We also gained good views of Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur, Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur and many glimpses of other less obliging species before we finally returned to camp and the warmth of our accommodations.



Ward's Flycatcher by Rainer Summers

Our second full day in Perinet started with fantastic sunny conditions as we departed camp to visit Analamazaotra. We began exploring various trails of this fantastic reserve, with its scattered *Pandanous* species and deeply vegetated canopy, managing to add Velvet Asity, Collared Nightjar, Blue Coua, Olive Bee-eater, Malagasy Kestrel, Chabert Vanga, Spectacled Tetraka, Madagascar Magpie-Robin, Souimanga Sunbird and Madagascar Wagtail. We also managed magnificent views of Brown Lemur, Eastern Woolly Lemur and the beautiful Diademed Sifaka, and the largest

lemur species in Madagascar, Indri, was seen bounding through the trees. Of course, no day in Madagascar would be complete without a reptile or three: a Short-horned Chameleon and a Parson's Chameleon got the ball rolling while the king of camouflage, a Southern Flat-tail Gecko, provided excellent views once everyone figured out where and what it looked like. Happy with a successful

morning, we returned to camp where a bird party interrupted lunch. Blue Vanga, Common Newtonia, Ward's Flycatcher, Madagascar Cuckooshrike, Crested Drongo, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher and Malagasy Bulbul showed nicely, along with the other common species, before we enjoyed a brief siesta.

We returned to Analamazaotra later in the afternoon, just as conditions were cooling down, and began searching for a few of the more elusive species. We were rewarded with excellent views of White-throated Rail, Common Sunbird-Asity, White-throated Oxylabes, Malagasy White-eye and Malagasy Green Sunbird; while also managing a glimpse of Crossley's Vanga and Madagascar Ibis in the undergrowth before ending off the evening with canopy views of Madagascar Owl. We returned to camp for dinner and a fantastic evening of rest.



Crested Coua by Greg de Klerk

We returned to Mantadia for a final visit on the third day of our tour, and once again began our birding in torrential rain showers. Due to the wet conditions, we decided that we would stay on the road to look for the desired species. As conditions improved, we managed to find Frances's and Madagascar Sparrowhawks, Madagascar Blue Pigeon, Blue Coua, a Cuckoo Roller in flight, scope views of a Lesser Vasa Parrot, Common Newtonia, Ward's Flycatcher, Madagascar Cuckooshrike, Crested Drongo, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Malagasy Bulbul, Malagasy White-eye, Green Jery, Madagascar Stonechat, Souimanga Sunbird, Nelicourvi Weaver, Madagascar Wagtail, and Red-tailed, Blue, Tylas and Nuthatch Vangas. We also had fantastic views of Madagascar Harrier-Hawk and Madagascar Flufftail while Luc pulled a Lowland Streaked Tenrec out of the woodwork for our viewing pleasure.



Long-tailed Ground Roller by Greg de Klerk

After a long hike we departed the park, stopping for lunch at a nearby camp.

After lunch came an exciting visit to Lemur Island, where everyone enjoyed close interactions with Madagascar Swamp Warbler before we returned to camp in the late afternoon and enjoyed a much-needed rest, followed by another good meal.

We began our final day in Perinet by visiting a local wetland, with another bout of heavy rainfall following us around, resulting in a flooded swamp. Despite this, we still

managed to locate Purple Heron, Frances's Sparrowhawk, Yellow-billed Kite, distant flight views of Madagascar Snipe, Malagasy Coucal, African Palm Swift, Malagasy Kingfisher, Malagasy Kestrel, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Mascarene Martin, Malagasy White-eye, Madagascar Wagtail, large flocks of Red

Fody and a small flock of Madagascan Mannikin. The drive back to camp provided us with good views of some less colourful species, including Madagascan Buzzard, Madagascan Cisticola, Madagascan Stonechat, a rather more colourful Madagascan Harrier-Hawk and an awesome view of Hook-billed Vanga, before we stopped for lunch.

Later that evening, we visited a community park. Following the trails, we managed to locate Blue Coua, Red-tailed, Chabert, Blue and Nuthatch Vangas, Common Newtonia, Ward's Flycatcher, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Crested Drongo, Madagascan Cuckooshrike, Malagasy Bulbul, Souimanga Sunbird, Madagascan Magpie-Robin and Nelicourvi Weaver moving through the dense forest canopy. Madagascan Wood and White-throated Rails were located scrambling across the forest floor. As night fell, we set out to search the environment with our flashlights, but with cooler conditions we were unable to locate any further interesting species before returning to camp for dinner and a good rest.



Madagascan Plover by Greg de Klerk

A late start was in order, as we departed our camp in Perinet and returned to Antananarivo. As before, the road was busy and we made slow progress on our return trip, yet we still managed to see Purple and Black Herons, Great and Dimorphic Egrets, Hamerkop, Malagasy Kingfisher, Olive Bee-eater, Malagasy Kestrel, Crested Drongo, Mascarene and Brown-throated Martins and Madagascan Stonechat in the rice paddies. As we arrived in the capital, the traffic volumes swelled and we were unable to make good time to our hotel. As a result, we arrived in the mid-afternoon, locating Madagascan Wagtail in the hotel grounds on arrival, and enjoyed an enforced break which allowed us to prepare for our second half of the tour.

The following morning we departed our guest house in Antananarivo, where Squacco Heron, Great and Dimorphic Egrets, Red Fody, Madagascan Wagtail and Madagascan Stonechat were seen, to connect with our flight to Tulear and our base in Ifaty, where we would spend the next two days. On arrival in Tulear, we were transferred by road to our wonderful lodge, collecting Black-winged Stilt as we drove, set in an idyllic tropical paradise on the shores of the Indian Ocean.



Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec by Greg de Klerk

After a delicious lunch we made our way to the local spiny forest, which was

characterised by large Red-skinned Baobabs and the strange Octopus plants of the family *Didiereaceae*. We began our search for a few of the arid specialities, and with the help of a local guide managed to locate the first member of the endemic mesite family, Subdesert Mesite; while also managing to add Crested Coua, Greater Vasa Parrot, Archbold's Newtonia, Common Jery, Olive Bee-eater, Malagasy Kestrel, Malagasy Bulbul, Mascarene Martin, Barn Swallow and Souimanga Sunbird before the last rays of sunlight dipped below the horizon. We were not done yet, as a nearby Madagascan Nightjar was calling incessantly, and so the hunt began. The result was a fantastic flyover by a magnificent individual before we settled for dinner and another fantastic night's rest.



Red-shouldered Vanga by Greg de Klerk

Our second morning in Ifaty saw us return to the strange spiny forest habitat, where we once again began our search for another set of target species. It was not long before our pace increased, with the nearby call of a Long-tailed Ground Roller catching our attention. We set off in hot pursuit and were rewarded with fantastic close-range views of this magnificent species. The morning also provided many other wonderful species, including Running Coua, Greater Vasa Parrot, Lafresnaye's Vanga, Thamnornis, Sakalava Weaver, Common Jery, Madagascan Magpie-Robin, Souimanga Sunbird, Chabert Vanga, Common Newtonia, Crested Drongo, Malagasy Coucal and Malagasy Kestrel. A visit to the nearby Saltpans allowed us to get excellent views of Humblot's Heron, Madagascan, White-fronted and Lesser Sand Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Greenshank, Yellow-billed Kite and Great Egret before we returned to camp for lunch and a short siesta.



Red-capped Coua by Greg de Klerk

Refreshed and raring to go, we made our way to the local wetland where we had chances to connect with Kittlitz's, Three-banded and Greater Sand Plovers, White-faced Whistling Duck, Hottentot Teal, Red-billed Teal, Madagascan Swamp Warbler, Western Cattle Egret and Black-winged Stilt. We managed wonderful scope views of these species while being surprised to find a Nile Crocodile in the reeds too. Some individuals were also lucky to obtain glimpses of a Baillon's Crake moving through the reeds but, sadly, we were not able to locate a Greater Painted-snipe. Having exhausted all

options at the wetland, we returned to the spiny forest to search for a few of the less frequently encountered reptiles and mammals, which included Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec, and Zanzibar Day,

Standing's Day, Madagascar Velvet and Ocelot Geckos, before we returned to camp for another fantastic meal and a good night's rest.

The following morning, we departed the magnificent lodge in Ifaty and returned to Tulear, collecting Grey Heron, Great Egret, Black-winged Stilt, Kittlitz's Plover and the dark form of Dimorphic Egret along the way. During our trip, we stopped at the geological feature locally known as La Tabla, where we began our search for a few more species. Verreaux's Coua and Red-shouldered Vanga showed wonderfully. and we also had spectacular views of Subdesert Brush Warbler, Namaqua Dove and Madagascar Lark a short while later. We also managed



Red-tailed Tropicbird by Greg de Klerk

refresher views of a few species seen earlier in the trip, including Madagascar Buzzard, Malagasy Coucal, Malagasy Kestrel, Olive Bee-eater, Crested Drongo, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Pied Crow, Malagasy Bulbul, Common Jery, Madagascar Magpie-Robin, Souimanga Sunbird, Sakalava Weaver, Red Fody and Chabert Vanga. Satisfied with our success, we made our way to a nearby Arboretum, where we enjoyed a guided walk which produced Red-capped Coua (of the *olivaceiceps* ssp. known locally as Green-capped Coua), Malagasy Turtle Dove and Alpine Swift. We also managed to add Warty Chameleon and Madagascar



Littoral Rock Thrush by Greg de Klerk

Iguana to our reptile lists before making our way to our hotel and settling for lunch. With the success of the morning our luck had to run aground, and we found ourselves taking an enforced break as the intended afternoon session of birding was scuppered by the incoming tide, meaning we enjoyed a leisurely lunch and a good dinner before drifting off to sleep once again at the end of another great day.

We departed our hotel early the next morning to be transferred into waiting Zebu carts, which then hauled us across the muddy tidal flats into the knee-deep water before we completed the novel experience by jumping aboard a motorboat which would take us to Nosy Ve. With little activity on the water, we stopped along the rocky coastline at a set of very steep cliffs, where we had fantastic views of Grey and Humblot's Herons in a breeding colony, breaking the monotony of the boat trip. A short while later, we rounded the coast and got our first views of the small island we would be exploring. After a short stop to pick up some snorkelling equipment, we headed across the water to the small island of Nosy Ve, where we immediately connected with Red-tailed Tropicbirds in flight and a couple of common species –

Dimorphic Egret, Malagasy Coucal and White-fronted Plover included. We then made our way back to the mainland, where we enjoyed a wonderful fresh fish meal while also getting good sightings of Crested Drongo, Pied Crow, Subdesert Brush Warbler, Red Fody and our other target, the Littoral Rock Thrush, sitting on top of a roof.

With the wind increasing and our hunger sated, we departed Anakao and returned to Tulear, where the waiting Zebu carts returned us to the shore before we made our way back to our hotel for our last night in Tulear.

An early morning breakfast was followed by a flight back to Antananarivo and an onward flight to Fort Dauphin. The road (or nonexistence of one) to Berenty Lodge resembled the craterous surface of the moon, and meant that we made very slow progress to the camp. We managed to see some common species, including Western Cattle,



Verreaux's Sifaka by Greg de Klerk

Great and Dimorphic Egrets, Grey Heron, Yellow-billed Kite, Namaqua Dove, Olive Bee-eater, Crested Drongo, Pied Crow and Malagasy Bulbul, before we arrived at camp a short while after sunset. A delicious dinner lifted the spirits of all before a much-needed sleep ahead of an action-packed day.

Our first morning in Berenty started with a short drive into an area of fallow fields, where we began our search for a few new birds and managed to connect with Madagascan Sandgrouse, Madagascan Buttonquail and Helmeted Guineafowl. A short while later, we were surrounded by a troop of Ring-tailed Lemur before returning to camp, where we watched Verreaux's Sifaka dancing across the parking area. The second part of the morning was dedicated to the exploration of the local gallery forest. As we moved through this fantastic habitat, we were able to enjoy awesome views of Grey-headed Lovebird, Giant Coua, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Malagasy Coucal, Yellow-billed Kite, Malagasy Turtle Dove, Malagasy Bulbul, Olive Bee-eater, Malagasy White-eye, Madagascan Magpie-Robin, Souimanga Sunbird,



Giant Coua by Greg de Klerk

Sakalava Weaver, Red Fody and Malagasy Kestrel. A large colony of Madagascan Flying Fox and a resting White-footed Sportive Lemur provided added distractions before returning to camp for lunch in the company of the comical Ring-tailed Lemurs, followed by a short siesta.

We then decided we would visit the local spiny forest in the mid-afternoon, which turned up some fantastic species including Totoroka Scops Owl, Madagascan Cuckoo-Hawk, Banded Kestrel and Stripe-

throated Jery. We also managed to connect with more common species we had seen earlier in the tour, including Common Jery, and Running and Crested Couas. A Southern Spider Tortoise was found before we returned to camp in preparation for a night walk. The successful night walk produced White-browed Hawk-Owl while also allowing us to view Grey-brown Mouse Lemur and Oustalet's Chameleon.

The next morning, we were awake very early to enjoy breakfast before returning to Fort Dauphin along the infamous moon road. We connected with Namaqua Dove, Crested Drongo, Pied Crow, Hamerkop, and Western Cattle and Great Egrets as we progressed. The journey was much quicker this time, as traffic was clear and the roads were drier, meaning we arrived for our flight with time to spare. On arrival in the capital we returned to our guest house, where we enjoyed lunch before heading out for a final effort to connect with some new species at Lake Alarobia, a RAMSAR site. Here, we had magnificent views of White-faced Whistling Duck, Knob-billed Duck, Hottentot Teal, Meller's Duck, Red-billed Teal, Black-crowned Night, Squacco, Humblot's and Black Herons, Dimorphic Egret, White-throated Rail, Common Moorhen, Madagascan Blue Pigeon, Malagasy Kingfisher, Common Jery, Red Fody, Madagascan Wagtail and Malagasy Black Swift flying over the capital before returning to camp for our farewell dinner and a good rest.



Banded Kestrel by Greg de Klerk

Our final morning together in Madagascar was enjoyable, as we visited a local craft market. We were able to test our bargaining skills and enjoy the local cultures before returning to camp for all transfers to the airport and our final goodbyes. This fun, testing and rewarding tour produced 125 birds, 15 mammals and 15 reptiles over 15 days.

Annotated List of species recorded

Note: Number in brackets () indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.

List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

Birds (125 in total: 121 seen, 4 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v 8.1).

Status codes: **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced

IUCN codes: **CR** = Critically endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **EW** = Extinct in the Wild, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

(2) 9 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7 and Abundant Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Knob-billed Duck*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

(1) 1 Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Hottentot Teal*Spatula hottentota*

(2) 5 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7 and 2 Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Meller's Duck (EN)*Anas melleri*

(2) 3 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7 and 2 Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Red-billed Teal*Anas erythrorhyncha*

(2) 2 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7 and Abundant Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Guineafowl Numididae**Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

(1) 8 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Grebes Podicipedidae**Madagascan Grebe (VU)***Tachybaptus pelzelinii*

(1) 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7.

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

(1) 20 Nosy Ve Is. 25.7.

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**Madagascan Ibis (NT)***Lophotibis cristata*

(1) 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns Ardeidae**Black-crowned Night Heron***Nycticorax nycticorax*

(1) Abundant Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

(2) 1 en route 16.7 and 1 en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7.

Squacco Heron*Ardeola ralloides*

(4) 1 en route 16.7, 5 Antananarivo 21.7, 5 Antananarivo 22.7 and 2 Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Western Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

(5) 2 en route 16.7, 3 en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7, 5 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7, 2 Toliara (Tulear) 26.7 and Abundant Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

(3) 2 Ifaty 24.7, 4 Nosy Ve Is. 25.7 and 1 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 26.7.

Humblot's Heron (EN)*Ardea humbloti*

(3) 1 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7, 4 Anakao 25.7 and 1 Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

(1) 1 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7.

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

(7) 2 Antananarivo 16.7, 3 en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7, 1 Antananarivo 22.7, 1 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7, 1 Ifaty 24.7, 1 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 26.7 and 2 Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Black Heron*Egretta ardesiaca*

(3) 1 Antananarivo 16.7, 3 en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7 and Abundant Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Dimorphic Egret*Egretta dimorpha*

(7) 8 Antananarivo 16.7, Abundant en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7, 1 Antananarivo 22.7, 8 Ifaty 24.7, 7 Nosy Ve Is. 25.7, 1 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 26.7 and Abundant Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Hamerkop Scopidae**Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

(3) 1 en route 16.7, 1 en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7 and 2 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 28.7.

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

(2) 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7 and 1 Andasibe 20.7.

Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk*Aviceda madagascariensis*

(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Frances's Sparrowhawk*Accipiter francesiae*

(2) 1 ♀ Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7 and 1 ♀ Totoro Fotsy marsh 20.7.

Madagascar Sparrowhawk (NT)*Accipiter madagascariensis*

(1) 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7.

Henst's Goshawk (NT)*Accipiter henstii*

(1) 1 heard Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Yellow-billed Kite*Milvus aegyptius*

(4) 1 Totoro Fotsy marsh 20.7, 1 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7, 2 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 26.7 and 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Madagascar Buzzard*Buteo brachypterus*

(3) 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 1 Totoro Fotsy marsh 20.7 and 1 Toliara--La Table 24.7.

Mesites Mesitornithidae**Subdesert Mesite (VU)***Monias benschi*

(1) 1 Ifaty 22.7.

Flufftails Sarothruridae**Madagascar Wood Rail***Canirallus kioloides*

(2) 2 Analamazaotra SR 18.7 and 1 Andasibe 20.7.

Madagascar Flufftail*Sarothrura insularis*

(1) 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**White-throated Rail***Dryolimnas cuvieri*

(3) 2 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 1 Andasibe 20.7 and 1 Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

(1) 1 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

(2) 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7 and 3 Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

(1) 1 heard Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7.

Buttonquails *Turnicidae*

Madagascan Buttonquail *Turnix nigricollis*

(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Stilts and Avocets *Recurvirostridae*

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

(3) 2 Ifaty 22.7, Abundant Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7 and 1 Ifaty 24.7.

Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*

Madagascan Plover (VU) *Charadrius thoracicus*

(1) 4 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*

(2) Abundant Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7 and 4 Ifaty 24.7.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*

(1) 2 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7.

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*

(2) 2 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7 and 1 Nosy Ve Is. 25.7.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

(1) 1 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

(1) 2 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7.

Sandpipers and Allies *Scolopacidae*

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

(1) 3 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7.

Madagascan Snipe (VU) *Gallinago macrodactyla*

(1) 2 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

(1) 1 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7.

Sandgrouse *Pteroclididae*

Madagascan Sandgrouse *Pterocles personatus*

(1) 5 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae*

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

(12) 5 Antananarivo 15.7, 6 Antananarivo 16.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7, 3 Andasibe 20.7, 6 en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7, 4 Toliara (Tulear) 22.7, 5 Ifaty 23.7, 3 Ifaty 24.7, 8 Toliara (Tulear) 25.7, 5 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 26.7 and 2 Antananarivo 28.7.

Malagasy Turtle Dove*Nesoenas picturatus*

(3) 1 Antananarivo 16.7, 2 Toliara--La Table 24.7 and 2 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Namaqua Dove*Oena capensis*

(3) 5 Toliara--La Table 24.7, 2 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 26.7 and 4 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 28.7.

Madagascan Blue Pigeon*Alectroenas madagascariensis*

(4) 6 Analamazaotra SR 16.7, 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7 and 1 Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Cuckoos Cuculidae**Malagasy Coucal***Centropus toulou*

(7) 1 Andasibe 16.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 1 Andasibe 20.7, 1 Ifaty 23.7, 1 Ifaty 24.7, 1 Nosy Ve Is. 25.7 and 2 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Crested Coua*Coua cristata*

(2) 1 Ifaty 22.7 and 3 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Verreaux's Coua (NT)*Coua verreauxi*

(1) 1 Toliara--La Table 24.7.

Blue Coua*Coua caerulea*

(4) 1 heard Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 2 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7 and 1 Andasibe 20.7.

Red-capped Coua*Coua ruficeps*

(1) 1 ♂ Toliara--La Table 24.7.

Red-fronted Coua*Coua reynaudii*

(1) 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7.

Running Coua*Coua cursor*

(2) 1 Ifaty 23.7 and 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Giant Coua*Coua gigas*

(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Barn-Owls Tytonidae**Western Barn Owl***Tyto alba*

(1) 1 heard Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Owls Strigidae**Torotoroka Scops Owl***Otus madagascariensis*

(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Rainforest Scops Owl*Otus rutilus*

(1) 1 Andasibe 16.7.

White-browed Hawk-Owl*Ninox superciliaris*

(1) 2 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Madagascan Owl*Asio madagascariensis*

(1) 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Nightjars and Allies *Caprimulgidae*

Collared Nightjar

Gactornis enarratus

(1) 2 Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Madagascan Nightjar

Caprimulgus madagascariensis

(5) Up to 1 Ifaty 22-24.7, 1 heard Berenty Reserve 26.7 and 1 heard Antananarivo 28.7.

Swifts *Apodidae*

Madagascan Spinetail

Zoonavena grandidieri

(1) 5 Analamazaotra SR 16.7.

African Palm Swift

Cypsiurus parvus

(1) 2 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7.

Alpine Swift

Tachymarptis melba

(1) 2 Toliara--La Table 24.7.

Malagasy Black Swift

Apus balstoni

(1) 15 Antananarivo 28.7.

Cuckoo-Roller *Leptosomidae*

Cuckoo Roller

Leptosomus discolor

(2) 1 heard Analamazaotra SR 18.7 and 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7.

Ground-Rollers *Brachypteraciidae*

Long-tailed Ground Roller (VU)

Uratelornis chimaera

(1) 1 Ifaty 23.7.

Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

Malagasy Kingfisher

Corythornis vintsioides

(4) 1 Analamazaotra SR 16.7, 2 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7, 4 en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7 and 2 Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Bee-eaters *Meropidae*

Olive Bee-eater

Merops superciliosus

(8) 2 Antananarivo 15.7, 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 3 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 5 en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7, 1 Toliara (Tulear) 22.7, 3 Toliara--La Table 24.7, 3 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 26.7 and 5 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae*

Malagasy Kestrel

Falco newtoni

(8) 1 Antananarivo 15.7, 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 1 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7, 1 en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7, 1 Ifaty 22.7, 1 Ifaty 23.7, 1 Toliara--La Table 24.7 and 4 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Banded Kestrel

Falco zoniventris

(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Old World Parrots *Psittaculidae***Greater Vasa Parrot***Coracopsis vasa*

(2) 2 Ifaty 22.7 and 7 Ifaty 23.7.

Lesser Vasa Parrot*Coracopsis nigra*

(3) 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7, 1 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7 and 9 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Grey-headed Lovebird*Agapornis canus*

(1) 12 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Broadbills *Eurylaimidae***Velvet Asity***Philepitta castanea*

(1) 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Common Sunbird-Asity*Neodrepanis coruscans*

(2) 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Vangas *Vangidae***Red-tailed Vanga***Calicalicus madagascariensis*

(4) 1 ♂ Andasibe 16.7, 3 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7 and 2 Andasibe 20.7.

Red-shouldered Vanga (VU)*Calicalicus rufocarpalis*

(1) 1 ♂ Toliara--La Table 24.7.

Hook-billed Vanga*Vanga curvirostris*

(1) 1 Andasibe 20.7.

Lafresnaye's Vanga*Xenopirostris xenopirostris*

(1) 2 Ifaty 23.7.

Chabert Vanga*Leptopterus chabert*

(5) 4 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 1 Andasibe 20.7, 4 Ifaty 23.7 and 1 ♂ Toliara--La Table 24.7.

Blue Vanga*Cyanolanius madagascarinus*

(4) 1 ♂ Andasibe 16.7, 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7 and 1 Andasibe 20.7.

Tylas Vanga*Tylas eduardi*

(2) 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7 and 5 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7.

Nuthatch Vanga*Hypositta corallirostris*

(2) 1 ♂ Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7 and 1 Andasibe 20.7.

Common Newtonia*Newtonia brunneicauda*

(7) 1 Andasibe 16.7, 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 4 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 6 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7, 2 Andasibe 20.7, 4 Ifaty 23.7 and 5 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Archbold's Newtonia*Newtonia archboldi*

(1) 1 ♂ Ifaty 22.7.

Ward's Flycatcher*Pseudobias wardi*

(3) 2 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7 and 2 Andasibe 20.7.

Crossley's Vanga*Mystacornis crossleyi*

(2) 1 heard Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae***Madagascan Cuckooshrike***Coracina cinerea*

(5) 2 Andasibe 16.7, 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7, 1 Andasibe 20.7 and 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Drongos *Dicruridae***Crested Drongo***Dicrurus forficatus*

(12) 1 Andasibe 16.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 3 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7, 4 Andasibe 20.7, 1 Andasibe 21.7, 2 Ifaty 23.7, 2 Toliara--La Table 24.7, 1 Anakao 25.7, 5 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 26.7, 4 Berenty Reserve 27.7 and 2 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 28.7.

Monarchs *Monarchidae***Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher***Terpsiphone mutata*

(7) 4 Andasibe 16.7, 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 3 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7, 1 ♂ Andasibe 20.7, 1 ♂ Toliara--La Table 24.7 and 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae***Pied Crow***Corvus albus*

(7) Up to 7 Ifaty 22-24.7, 2 Toliara (Tulear) 25.7, 7 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 26.7, 6 Berenty Reserve 27.7 and Common Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 28.7.

Larks *Alaudidae***Madagascan Lark***Eremopterix hova*

(2) 6 Toliara--La Table 24.7 and 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae***Malagasy Bulbul***Hypsipetes madagascariensis*

(9) 6 Andasibe 16.7, 5 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, Abundant Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 3 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7, 5 Andasibe 20.7, 1 Ifaty 22.7, 3 Toliara--La Table 24.7, 3 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 26.7 and 6 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Swallows *Hirundinidae***Mascarene Martin***Phedina borbonica*

(4) 3 Antananarivo 15.7, 2 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7, 2 en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7 and 2 Antananarivo 22.7.

Brown-throated Martin*Riparia paludicola*

(2) 1 Analamazaotra SR 16.7 and 5 Antananarivo 21.7.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

(1) 4 Antananarivo 22.7.

Reed warblers and allies *Acrocephalidae***Malagasy Brush Warbler***Nesillas typica*

(1) 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7.

Subdesert Brush Warbler *Nesillas lantzii*

(2) 2 Toliara--La Table 24.7 and 1 Anakao 25.7.

Madagascar Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus newtoni*

(2) 1 ♂ Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7 and 3 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7.

Grassbirds and allies *Locustellidae*

Grey Emutail *Amphilais seebohmi*

(1) 1 heard Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7.

Madagascar Warblers *Bernieridae*

White-throated Oxylabes *Oxylabes madagascariensis*

(2) 3 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Long-billed Bernieria *Bernieria madagascariensis*

(1) 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7.

Thamnornis *Thamnornis chloropetoides*

(1) 1 Ifaty 23.7.

Spectacled Tetraka *Xanthomixis zosterops*

(2) 5 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Cisticolas and allies *Cisticolidae*

Common Jery *Neomixis tenella*

(5) 1 Ifaty 22.7, 2 Ifaty 23.7, 1 Toliara--La Table 24.7, 5 Berenty Reserve 27.7 and 3 Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Green Jery *Neomixis viridis*

(3) 1 Andasibe 16.7, 3 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7 and 4 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7.

Stripe-throated Jery *Neomixis striatigula*

(2) 1 heard Ifaty 23.7 and 1 ♂ Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Madagascar Cisticola *Cisticola cherina*

(1) 1 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7.

White-eyes *Zosteropidae*

Malagasy White-eye *Zosterops maderaspatanus*

(5) 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 8 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 5 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7, 3 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7 and 2 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Starlings *Sturnidae*

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

(11) 2 Antananarivo 15.7, 4 Antananarivo 16.7, 2 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7, Abundant en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7, 4 Toliara (Tulear) 22.7, 4 Ifaty 23.7, 6 Toliara (Tulear) 24.7, 3 Anakao 25.7, 4 Taolagnaro--Fort Dauphin 26.7, 6 Berenty Reserve 27.7 and Abundant Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

Madagascar Magpie-Robin *Copsychus albospecularis*

(7) 3 Analamazaotra SR 16.7, 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 5 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 1 Andasibe 20.7, 2 Ifaty 23.7, 2 Toliara--La Table 24.7 and 2 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Littoral Rock Thrush*Monticola imerina*

(1) 1 Anakao 25.7.

Madagascan Stonechat*Saxicola sibilla*

(6) 2 Antananarivo 15.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7, 5 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7, 6 en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7 and 1 Antananarivo 22.7.

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters Nectariniidae**Souimanga Sunbird***Cinnyris sovimanga*

(9) 1 Antananarivo 15.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 2 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7, 2 Andasibe 20.7, 1 Ifaty 22.7, 1 Ifaty 23.7, 1 Toliara--La Table 24.7 and 3 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Malagasy Green Sunbird*Cinnyris notatus*

(2) 1 ♀ Analamazaotra SR 16.7 and 1 ♂ Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae**Nelicourvi Weaver***Ploceus nelicourvi*

(3) 1 ♀ Analamazaotra SR 16.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7 and 1 Andasibe 20.7.

Sakalava Weaver*Ploceus sakalava*

(3) 6 Ifaty 23.7, 6 Toliara--La Table 24.7 and 9 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Red Fody*Foudia madagascariensis*

(9) 1 Antananarivo 15.7, 3 Analamazaotra SR 16.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 2 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7, 5 Antananarivo 22.7, 2 Toliara--La Table 24.7, 1 Anakao 25.7, 5 Berenty Reserve 27.7 and Abundant Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Waxbills, Munias and allies Estrildidae**Madagascan Mannikin***Lepidopygia nana*

(1) 4 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7.

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae**Madagascan Wagtail***Motacilla flaviventris*

(9) 1 ♂ Antananarivo 15.7, 1 ♂ Analamazaotra SR 16.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7, 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7, 2 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 20.7, 2 en route--Andasibe to Antananarivo 21.7, 1 Antananarivo 22.7 and 2 Antananarivo 28.7.

Mammals (15 in total: 15 seen)

Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Tenrecs Tenrecidae**Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec***Echinops telfairi*

(1) 1 Ifaty 23.7.

Lowland Streaked Tenrec

Hemicentetes semispinosus

(1) 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7.

Lemurs Lemuridae

Brown Lemur

Eulemur fulvus

(4) Up to 5 Analamazaotra SR 16-18.7 and 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7.

Red Brown Lemur

Eulemur rufus

(1) 6 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur

Haplemur griseus

(1) 2 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7.

Ring-tailed Lemur

Lemur catta

(1) 40 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur

Varecia variegata

(1) 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7.

Sportive Lemurs Lepilemuridae

White-footed Sportive Lemur

Lepilemur leucopus

(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Dwarf and Mouse Lemurs Cheirogaleidae

Grey-brown Mouse Lemur

Microcebus griseorufus

(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Goodman's Mouse Lemur

Microcebus lehilahytsara

(1) 1 Andasibe 16.7.

Indrid Lemurs, Sifakas Indriidae

Eastern Woolly Lemur

Avahi laniger

(2) 1 Andasibe 16.7 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Indri

Indri indri

(3) 1 heard Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 17.7, 8 Analamazaotra SR 18.7 and 1 Andasibe 19.7.

Diademed Sifaka

Propithecus diadema

(2) 8 Analamazaotra SR 18.7 and 3 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7.

Verreaux's Sifaka

Propithecus verreauxi

(1) 15 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Old World Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Madagascan Flying Fox

Pteropus rufus

(2) 60 Berenty Reserve 27.7 and 1 Berenty Reserve 28.7.

Reptiles (15 in total: 15 seen)

Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Tortoises *Testudinidae*

Radiated Tortoise

Astrochelys radiata

(1) 2 Toliara--La Table 24.7.

Southern Spider Tortoise

Pyxis arachnoides

(2) 2 Toliara--La Table 24.7 and 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Chameleons *Chamaeleonidae*

Short-horned Chameleon

Calumma brevicorne

(1) 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Nose-horned Chameleon

Calumma nasutum

(2) 2 Andasibe 16.7 and 1 Andasibe NP--Mantadia NP 19.7.

Parson's Chameleon

Calumma parsonii

(2) 1 ♂ Andasibe 16.7 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Oustalet's Chameleon

Furcifer oustaleti

(2) 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7 and 2 Antananarivo--Alarobia Lake 28.7.

Warty Chameleon

Furcifer verrucosus

(2) 1 Toliara--La Table 24.7 and 1 Berenty Reserve 27.7.

Iguanas *Iguanidae*

Madagascar Iguana

Chalarodon madagascariensis

(1) 1 Toliara--La Table 24.7.

Geckos *Gekkonidae*

Madagascar Velvet Gecko

Blaesodactylus sakalava

(1) 1 Ifaty 23.7.

Ocelot Gecko

Paroedura picta

(1) 1 Ifaty 23.7.

Zanzibar Day Gecko

Phelsuma dubia

(1) 1 Ifaty 23.7.

Striped Day Gecko

Phelsuma lineata

(1) 1 Andasibe 20.7.

Standing's Day Gecko

Phelsuma standingi

(1) 1 Ifaty 23.7.

Southern Flat-tail Gecko

Uroplatus sikorae

(1) 1 Analamazaotra SR 18.7.

Crocodiles and relatives *Crocodylidae*

Nile Crocodile

Crocodylus niloticus

(1) 1 Ifaty--Salt pans 23.7.

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