

## ITINERARY ULTIMATE MADAGASCAR 9-30 OCTOBER 2018

Annelien and I joined a Birdquest birdwatching tour ([www.birdquest-tours.com](http://www.birdquest-tours.com)). Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world. The average age of the population is less than 25 years. Although many people are struggling for daily life by growing crops, collecting firewood and herding goats or cows, they are friendly and obesity is non-existing. A minor problem is the hygiene, and gastrointestinal problems are not uncommon. The avifauna is unique, and we saw most of the birds we hoped to see. The bird of the trip was the Helmet Vanga. Birds in general are scarce, and many species seen are vulnerable or (critically) endangered. Madagascar has a unique fauna and flora, and seeing (and hearing) lemurs is an unforgettable experience. We also saw many species of chameleons, lizards and snakes, including one visiting our toilet.

Oct 7 Evening flight with Kenya Airways KQ117 from Schiphol (Amsterdam, Netherlands) to Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (Kenya).

Oct 8 Arrived in Nairobi at 06.10, connecting flight (KQ256) to Antananarivo departure at 11.20. Breakfast and spotting birds. The arrival at Antananarivo (Tana) about 15.00 was slightly chaotic. A small arrival hall, several flights coming in, passengers trying to fill in a small and unreadable visa entry form, and a single luggage belt with bags and suitcases of unknown origin and destiny. Nevertheless, we collected our luggage and were transferred by car to the nearby Le Chat'O Park Hotel. First endemic spotted in the garden of the hotel during a first THB (Three Horse Beer): Madagascan Wagtail.



Oct 9 After a good night repacked our luggage, and spotted the first Madagascan Mannikin, Souimanga Sun bird, and Little Swift. Left at 10.15 with Jane, one of the tour members, by taxi for the zoo. Traffic in Tana is a continuous traffic jam and it took us more than one hour to arrive at the slightly run down zoo. A surprisingly large numbers of old French cars, including R4 and 2CV's still being used as taxis. Our highlight was feeding lemurs in exchange of some ariary. The zoo is located at the edge of a lake and hosts a huge breeding colony of herons and egrets. Tana is at the Central Plateau at an altitude of about 1,000 m above sea level, resulting in a pleasant temperature of about 25 °C. Overnight stay at Le Chat'O Park Hotel.



Oct 10 Other group members arrived during evening and night, breakfast at 03.30. We did not sleep too well. Suffered amongst others from restless iPhones due to discontinuous power supply. Drive of about 400 km to Ranomafana, 10-11 hours. Passed many small villages, rice paddies, churches, carts pulled by men or zebus, yellow (plastic) water containers, etc. The country is very poor and often there is no or hardly any infrastructure, including energy and/or water supply. The average age of the population is less than 25 years, and obesitas is non-existing. A stop at the Ivato swamp produced a Madagascan Snipe. A few rain showers, but not very warm. There is a surprising lack of birds while travelling, some Cattle Egrets, Madagascan Kestrel and Pied Crow. Overnight stay in Ihary Hotel, Ranomafana.



Oct 11 Breakfast at 05.30. Left at 06.00 for Ranomafana National Park (NP). Some rain showers in the morning, otherwise mud and stairs. First real (Madagascar) forest birds: Pitta-like Ground Roller and Velvety Asity. Various species of Vanga. Walked to about 12.30, lunch to 14.00. Afternoon birding along the road produced Brown, Red-collared Brown and Brown Mouse Lemur, a first (Red-fronted) Coua, and various Chameleons. Annelien suffered from cramps in the morning but she improved during the afternoon. Bit damp, but not very warm. Overnight stay in Ihary Hotel, Ranomafana.





Oct 12 Breakfast 05.30. Our room has a view over the river, where the local people wash themselves and their laundry. While driving to Vohiparara which is at a slightly higher altitude (1,200 m) than Ranomafana (1,000 m), we passed the fieldstation where Wessel has done an internship. We had close views of a Brown Mesite, and saw a female Yellow-bellied Sunbird Asity, Rand's Warbler, the first Paradise Flycatcher, Blue Coua and several species of Vangas, Grey-capped Tetraka, Yellow-browed Oxylabes, and Red-fronted Brown and Red-bellied Lemur. The local cuisine is strongly influenced by the French kitchen, having "pain au chocolat" and baguette at breakfast. Annelien picked up a few leeches yesterday and today, resulting in some nice blood stains in her trousers. Night at the Ihary Hotel, Ranomafana.



Oct 13 My breakfast at 05.30 consisted of coffee only, having developed diarrhoea last night. Fortunately, we brought lots of immodium which was used most of the tour. We spend a few hours of bird watching at Vohiparara, and then drove to Anja, where we also spend a few hours around noon. At the Anja Community Reserve, the local people organize "guided tours" to show Ring-tailed Lemur to tourists. Spectacular scenery with large eroded granite boulders very reminiscent of the Erongo Mountains in Namibia.



Great views of Ring-tailed Lemur, Grey-headed Lovebird, Madagascar Hoopoe (which looks similar to Eurasian Hoopoe but makes a sound like a purring cat), several species of Chameleon, etc. Afternoon drive with stop at Isalo for Benson's Rock Thrush. Again a beautiful scenery with spectacular rock formations and vegetation, including some weird Pachypodiums. Fine weather, overnight stay at a real lodge, Le Jardin Du Roy, Ranohira.





Oct 14 A pre-breakfast walk of two hours produced no Madagascar Partridge.



After breakfast we drove to the Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park (10.00-13.00). Great views of our first Giant Coua, Cuckoo Roller, and Verreaux's Sifaka. Dry forest and sunny weather, about 30 °C.



Afternoon drive to the coast to the coral-rag plateau of La Table. Stopped twice to search for Madagascar Sandgrouse. The first stop was unproductive. Mamy, our local tour leader, picked up a few local men, who started running around to chase the Sandgrouse. We were waiting patiently, it was rather warm, and these men were running around and yelling in the distance, apparently without much effect. Nevertheless, all of a sudden an amazing flock of about 50 Madagascar Sandgrouse flew up and was seen well flying along. Amazing. Most villages we passed lacked facilities and infrastructure, although some villages seemed to have electricity and now and then a solar panel was installed. At La Table, we met our local guides, and after some walking around in the dry spiny bushes ended up with close views of Red-shouldered Vanga, a species rediscovered in 1997. Overnight stay at Hotel Victory, Tulear, three group members not joining dinner due to gastrointestinal problems.





Oct 15 Breakfast at 05.00 was followed by a short car drive, a drive by a zebu wagon to the boat, and an about one hour boat tour to a small coral island, Nozy Ve, where we arrived at 07.00. There is a small breeding colony of Red-tailed Tropicbird on the island, and we had stunning views of Red-tailed Tropicbird and Crab Plover. Back on the mainland we had good views of Littoral Rock Thrush, followed by lunch in a beach hotel at Anakao. Returned to Tulear, and drove to the Spiny Didierea Forest at Ifaty. Apart from the striking vegetation, excellent views of Long-tailed Ground Roller and Madagascar Buttonquail. Overnight stay at Ifaty Beach Club, Tulear.



Oct 16 Early morning visit of the Spiny Didierea Forest. Left at 08.30 to drive to the Ifaty Salt Flats, where we saw Humblot's Heron. Returned to our hotel around 09.30 for a siesta. At the end of the day returned to the Spiny Didierea Forest, but we didn't add much to the list.



I did not feel too good during the day, and, after finishing a plate of pasta bolognese at diner, felt very tired. At night developed severe diarrhoea. Overnight stay at the Ifaty Beach Club, Tulear.

- Oct 17 Alarmclock set at 03.45. I was too sick to help Annelien to pack our luggage. We had breakfast at 05.00 and left 06.30 to drive to the Tulear Tablelands. Fortunately, we easily found the Crested Coua. Subsequently, we visited the Tuliar Lakes, dune lakes, with several waders and brief views of a flying Baillon's Crake.



I was warm and tired. Drive from about 10.00 to 12.30 to Tulear. I skipped lunch and slept on a stretcher in the shade next to the swimming pool. We had a late afternoon flight to Tana via Port Dauphin, and thereafter a long drive to Perinet Forest Reserve, where we arrived about 23.00. Still suffered from diarrhoea. Overnight stay at Hotel Feon'ny Ala, Perinet, where we had a little wooden house along a little stream opposite a forested hill side.

- Oct 18 Short night, alarmclock set at 04.00, from 05.30 birdwatching along the road and at Perinet Special Reserve for Red-fronted Coua, Rainforest Scops Owl, Madagascar (Long-eared) Owl, Nuthatch Vanga, and Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher. Thereafter drive to Andasibe, which is only about 7 km but over a very poor road, where we saw Scaly Ground Roller, Brown Lemur, Black-and white Ruffed Lemur, Diademed Sifaka, and Indri. Fine weather, about 30 °C, packed lunch with tasty chicken sandwich, with –unfortunately- only a short half life time. Afternoon walk at the VOI Reserve, a community park close in Andasibe, produced Madagascar Wood Rail and a nest of Madagascar Crested Ibis. The original plan was to go for Helmet Vanga today, but there were only two 4x4 available. THB tasted quite good again before and during



dinner. Massive downpour and power failure. I got some antibiotics from Guan, the Malaysian general practitioner, hoping to cure the diarrhoea. Overnight stay at Hotel Feon'ny Ala, Perinet.



Oct 19 Alarmclock at 04.00. Drive to Andasibe-Antavalobe by 4x4 from about 05.30 to 06.45. Terrible (red) mud road, huge puddles of water, and questionable bridges. Considering the road conditions, it was amazing that only one of the three cars (ours) got stuck. Walked into the forest at 07.00 and arrived at the nest of Helmet Vanga about 10.00. The walk was rather exciting, with numerous small slippery slopes and crossing of little streams by do-it-yourself bridges of Tree Ferns.



The Helmet Vanga is spectacular: massive and unique blue bill, large and very bright yellow eye, and a stylish chestnut and black plumage. Local "boy scouts" locate the nest to earn some money from tourists, clearly a "win-win" condition. Also superb views of a Short-legged Ground Roller, many millipedes and butterflies, but no mammals were seen. Road side birding near the hotel from 16.30 onwards produced Madagascan Flufftail. Overnight stay at Hotel Feon'ny Ala, Perinet.

Oct 20 Breakfast at 05.00. At 06.00 to Perinet Special Reserve untill lunch time. By far the best bird was a superb Rufous-headed Ground Roller. Also good views of Madagascan Crested Ibis and Red-breasted Coua. Close views of a Brown Lemur with juvenile, and recored (by phone) the unique and impressive sound of "singing" (territorial) Indri. After lunch a warm and sweaty uphill walk to search for Hengst's Goshawk. Characteristic dry-leaf (sclerophyll) forest with Pandana Palms. We didn't see the bird, and we ended up walking downhill in heavy rain. We saw our only Eastern Lesser (Grey )Bamboo Lemur and Collared Nightjar of the tour. From 18.30-19.30 a short "night walk" produced Furry-eared dwarf Lemur and Goodman's



Mouse Lemur, a single sleeping Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher, a pair of sleeping Spectacled Tetraka, and several Tree Frogs. Overnight stay at Hotel Feon'ny Ala, Perinet.



Oct 21 Rain last night. Slept well till 04.15. Breakfasts of omelette, baguete with firewood taste (wood is used for most if not all ovens, including those of hotel kitchens), butter, marmelade and croissants. Although the latter resemble the French original, they taste crappy. At 06.00 a drive to Mantadia. Although less than 20 km, it takes about 1.5 hours to get there in a 4x4. Found a first Meller's Duck, and had obliging views of Black-and white Ruffed Lemur and Indri. Packed lunch included a zebu sandwich, salty crackers, and, quite a surprise, coca cola and a mars. Warm and sticky. While trying to tape a Madagascar Rail, which we finally saw, a nice male Little Bittern flew along. Failed to find Madagascar Blue Pigeon at the end of the day. Overnight stay at Hotel Feon'ny Ala, Perinet.



Oct 22 Breakfast at 05.30. Some final birdwatching in Antavalobe / Perinet produced a flying Hengst's Goshawk, and later, along the road, we had good views of fruit-eating Madagascar Blue Pigeons. Saw a Parsons Chamelion near the little pond of the "Orchid garden". After an early lunch, fried noodles with porc, drive to Tana. A few Madagascan Pratincole were seen at the Mangaro River. At the end of the day we stopped in Tana at Lake Alarobia, in fact two small lakes in the extensive garden of a gouvernemental building. After passing a fence and guard, all of a sudden you are out of the crazy streetlife and traffic of Tana and enter a sort of



little paradise. Great views of White-throated Rail and, best of all, superb views of breeding plumage Malagasy Pond Heron. The latter bird is truly spectacular with fancy long egrets and a striking light-blue bill. Overnight stay at Le Chat'O Park Hotel.



Oct 23 Breakfast at 04.30 and left at 05.00 for a long (about 11 hours) drive to Ankarafantsika NP. Various road side stops produced a male and female Malagasy Harrier. Warm. Overall a mostly spectacular landscape, which reminded me here and there of "puna" in the Andes.

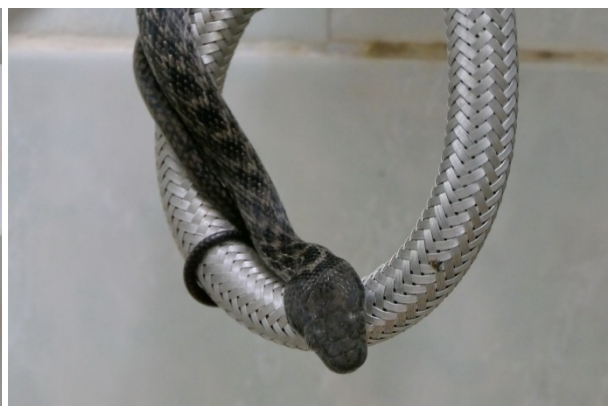


Again, hardly any birds apart from a few Pied Crows and Yellow-billed Kites. Almost immediately upon arrival great views of mock “fighting” and dancing Coquerel’s Sifaka. While waiting for dinner, we saw a Milne-Edwards’s Sportive Lemur. Overnight stay in a nice little red house close to the lake with views on a heron rookery. Overnight stay at Gite Ankarafantsika, Ankarafantsika NP.

- Oct 24 Breakfast at 04.30 followed by a three hour drive towards Mahajanga (Majunga) to visit the Betsiboka Estuary. After another hour by speedboat, we dipped on Bernier’s Teal but had good albeit distant views of Malagasy Sacred Ibis. Lots of Dimorphic Egret, which all are black here, whereas those inland are all white.



After a tedious lunch with some intermittent (and urgent) toilet visits, we returned around 15.30. At 16.30 we spend one hour or so in a small boat at Lac Ravelobe, where we had great views of a male, female and immature Madagascan Fish Eagle, and Humblot’s Heron. A night walk produced a Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur and Grey-brown (Reddish-brown) Dwarf Lemur. While writing, Annelien discovered a snake in our toilet. Fortunately, there are no poisonous snakes or animals whatsoever in Madagascar. Our snake was removed by some “local staff”. Our a Gecko at the bathroom and a cockroach at the toilet. Overnight stay at Gite Ankarafantsika, Ankarafantsika NP.



- Oct 25 After a brief sleep (22.00-03.30), breakfast at 04.30. Brief drive at 05.00 from park head quarters to walk two forest tracks (A and B) in the morning. The forest is quite dry here, at least (some) trees seem to loose their leaves, and the impression is almost an Australian eucalypt forest. Best birds in the morning was a confiding pair of Schlegel’s Asity and White-breasted Mesite. Strong wind, about 30 °C. Brief drive back to park HQ and walk uphill. Open and dry forest, with birds including several species of Coua and a brief view of a Van Dam’s



Vanga. Afternoon drive of about one hour to Anbodromamy, a nice little village in the middle of nowhere. The area is very dry and barren, but the village is situated at a nice pond, which is used for fishing and growing crops. Nevertheless, we found two Madagascar Jacana, again a bird which seems highly threatened. When we returned, there was a nice about 2 meter long Madagascar Ground Boa, which was changing skin. Overnight stay at Gite Ankarafantsika, Ankarafantsika NP.



Oct 26 Few hours of birding produced a fine female Van Dam's Vanga, which flew in a tree right above my head. Then a drive back of about 11 hours to Tana. Best bird during the day was a male Madagascar Harrier. Annelien was sick, likely car sick due to the long drive. Overnight stay at Le Chat'O Park Hotel, Tana. Pictures: *scenery* and *gold panning*.





Oct 27 Breakfast at 05.00 and to airport for the 08.00 (MD714) flight to Fort Dauphin, also known as Tolanaro. After an almost two hour flight with a relatively slow propeller plane, the minibus to transport us to the hotel was a “no show”, and we were ended up quite cozy in three small Daihatsu’s. Warm.



Arrived at the hotel about 11.00, lunch at 12.00, and a taxi at 14.00 for a small drive to a headland. Great views at the ocean, and a nice little and colourful town, sort of “Carribean atmosphere”. Best bird was Madagascar Gull, which when “split” is likely to be the rarest gull on earth (biggest flock ever encountered was 80 birds). Also saw some distant breaching Humpback Whale, including a mother with young. Nice town. Overnight stay at Hotel Le Daupin, Fort Daupin.



Oct 28 After a nice breakfast, we left at 05.00 to drive to the dreaded Red-tailed Newtonia spot. We were warned beforehand that the place may be infested with leeches and mosquitos, and that we had to cross a stream twice, meaning to strip off shoes and socks...Terrible two hour drive in 4x4, while passing many little villages and kids. In the end, the forest was as dry as possible, streams were easy to cross and leeches and mosquitos seemed non-existent.



After some walking, we saw and heard Red-tailed Newtonia, another recently rediscovered species.



Drive to Berenty via a terrible road, where we arrived around 16.00. Walking around produced Ring-tailed Lemur and Verreaux's Sifaka. Slept in a mosquito net. At night, we woke up because (likely) a group of Ring-tailed Lemur was passing by, and jumped and walked on our roof. Overnight stay at Berenty Lodge, Berenty.





Oct 29 Although Berenty is known for its riverine forest, the first impression upon arrival is “dry”. Nevertheless, we had a few hours of rain until about 10.30. Walking around produced a female Madagascar Cuckoo Hawk at nest and a male. Best afternoon bird was a male Frances’s Sparrowhawk. A night tour (18.30-19.30) in the Spiny Forest produced White-footed Sportive Lemur and a Western Avahi, also known as Lorenz Von Liburnau’s Woolly Lemur. Two new species of Lemur and a Scops Owl. Overnight stay at Berenty Lodge, Berenty.



Oct 30 Breakfast at 05.00. Walk at the Berenty Reserve till 07.30. Drive to Fort Dauphin, about 80 km over one of the national (main) roads, where we arrived about 11.30.... Revisited the spot for whale watching, 14.00 drive towards airport and 16.45 flight to Tana. Collected luggage, stayed for a few hours at the Le Chat’O Park Hotel, and 23.30 drive to airport.



Oct 31 Tana to Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (Kenya) KQ263, 02.40 departure, arrival 06.00. Flight from Nairobi to Amsterdam KQ116, 08.05 – 14.30 without any delays.



## BIRDS

### ANATIDAE

**White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* – Good numbers at Tuliari Lakes and Lake Alarobia (Tana), Oct 17 and 22, respectively.

**Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos* – Two females at Lake Alarobia, Oct 22.

**African Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus auritus* – A few distant birds at Anbodromamy, Oct 25. Two birds on Oct 26.

**Hottentot Teal** *Spatula hottentota* – At least 10 birds at Tuliari Lakes (Oct 17) and a few birds at Lake Alarobia, Oct 22.

**Meller's Duck** *Anas melleri* – A female at Andasibe-Mantadia NP, and 3 birds at Lake Alarobia, Oct 22. Endangered (CITES), population estimated between 1,300-3,300 birds.

**Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhynchos* – Common, seen on 4 days, first at Ivato swamp, Oct 10.

### NUMIDIDAE

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* – A few birds at Berenty. Introduced.

### PODICIPEDIDAE

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* – At least 10 birds at Tuliari Lakes (Oct 17).

**Madagascar Grebe** *Tachybaptus pelzelni* – Five birds at the Andasibe-Mantadia NP on Oct 18, a pair with 3 immatures, and 4 birds on Oct 20. Endangered (CITES) 1 000 – 2 500.



PHAETHONTIDAE

**Red-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon rubricauda* – About 20 birds, including one immature at nest, at Nosy Ve, Oct 15.



THRESKIORNITHIDAE

**Malagasy Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis bernieri* – At least 5 (distant) birds at the Betsiboka Estuary, Oct 24. Endangered (CITES), population estimated at 1,500 – 1,850 birds.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* – At least 10 birds at the Betsiboka Estuary, Oct 24.

**Madagascar (Madagascar Crested) Ibis** *Lophotibis cristata* – A little family group of birds at the Perinet Special Reserve on Oct 20, a single bird at Ankarafantsika NP on Oct 25. Near Threatened (CITES), population decreasing, estimated at 6,700 birds.





ARDEIDAE

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* – A nice male near Mandadia NP on Oct 21.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* – Common in the (mixed) egret breeding colonies at the Tana zoo on Oct 9 and at Lake Alarobia, Oct 22.



**Striated Heron** *Burorides striata* – Common and widely distributed. First seen at the Ivato swamp on Oct 10.

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* – As previous species, first seen at the Tana zoo on Oct 9.





**Malagasy (madagascar) Pond Heron** *Ardeola idae* – Four adult birds seen in full breeding plumage at Lake Alarobia, Oct 22. Endangered (CITES), population estimated at 1,300 – 4,000 birds.



**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* – Common throughout the tour. First seen at the Tana zoo, Oct 9.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea firsas* – A single bird at the Ivaty Salt Flats on Oct 15.

**Hublot's Heron** *Ardea hubloti* – Great views of single birds at the Ivaty Salt Flats (Oct 16) and at Lake Ravelobe (Oct 24). Endangered (CITES), population estimated at 1,000 birds and decreasing.



**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* – Seen in low numbers throughout the tour. First seen at the Ivaty Salt Flats, Oct 16.



**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca* – Seen throughout the tour, first seen at the Tana zoo, Oct 9.



**Dimorphic Egret** *Egretta dimorpha* – Common and seen throughout the tour. The white phase occurs inland, whereas the dark phase occurs strictly coastal.



SCOPIDAE

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* – A few birds while travelling, first seen on Oct 10.

PHALACROCORACIDAE

**Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant** *Microcarbo africanus* – A single bird on Oct 21

ACCIPITRIDAE

**Madagascan Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides radiatus* – First seen at Ifaty, Oct 16. Also single birds on Oct 16 and 24.

**Madagascan Cuckoo-Hawk** *Aviceda madagascariensis* – A female at nest and flying (and briefly perched) male at Berenty, Oct 29.

**Frances's Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter francesiae* – Great views of a perched male at Berenty, Oct 29.



**Madagascan Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter madagascariensis* – Male and female at Ifaty on Oct 15 and 16. Near threatened (CITES), population estimated at 3,300-6,700 birds.



**Henst's Goshawk** *Accipiter henstii* – A flying bird at Antavalobe / Perinet on Oct 22. Near threatened (CITES) 670-1,500 birds.

**Malagasy Harrier** *Circus macroscleles* – Great views of a male and female on Oct 23. A single male 136 km North of Tana, Oct 26. A rare bird, endangered (CITES), with a very small (<250 birds) and decreasing population.





**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius* – By far the most common raptor, seen throughout the tour. First seen when travelling from Tana to Ranomafana on Oct 10.

**Madagascan Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vociferoides* – Great views of a male, female and immature bird at Lac Ravelobe. Critically endangered (CITES), population estimated at 240 adult birds and decreasing.



**Madagascan Buzzard** *Buteo brachypterus* – Single or at most two birds seen on 5 days, first at Ranomafana, Oct 11.



## MESITORNITHIDAE

**White-breasted Mesite** *Mesitornis variegatus* – A little group of three birds at Ankarafantsika NP on Oct 25. Vulnerable (CITES), population estimated at 5 300 birds.



**Brown Mesite** *Mesitornis unicolor* – Great views of a very close bird at Vohiparara, Oct 12. Vulnerable (CITES), population estimated at 2 500 – 10 000 birds.



**Subdesert Mesite** *Monias benschi* – Also great views of a breeding bird at Ifaty on Oct 15. Vulnerable (CITES) and a decreasing population.

## RALLIDAE

**Madagascan Wood Rail** *Canirallus kioloides* – Heard on several days, a single bird seen at the VOI Reserve, a community park near Andasibe, on Oct 18. Great views of a group of four birds on the forest track at the Perinet Special Reserve, Oct 20.

**Madagascan Flufftail** *Sarothrura insularis* – Heard on various days. A glimpse on Oct 19 and better views of a single bird near the Perinet Special Reserve, Oct 22.



**Madagascan Rail** *Rallus madagascariensis* – A single bird in the sugercane near Mantadia, Oct 21.

**White-throated Rail** *Dryolimnas cuvieri* – Good views of a bird at Lake Alarobia, Oct 22.



**Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla* – Brief views of a single bird flying into the reeds, very small with long, dangling legs, at Tuliari Lakes, Oct 17.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* – Looks very different from “our” Common Moorhen because the undertail is buff and not white. Seen on 6 days, first birds seen at Andasibe-Mantadia NP, Oct 18.

#### TURNICIDAE

**Madagascan Buttonquail** *Turnix nigricollis* – Three birds at Ifaty, Oct 15, and great views of a single bird at a forest track at Ankarafantsika NP on Oct 25, making characteristic round sand “holes” while feeding.



## DROMADIDAE

**Crab-plover** *Cromas ardeola* – Finally! A surprisingly large wader. For me one of the best birds of the tour. Great views of about 10 birds, mostly adult and a few immature birds, at the beach of Nozy Ve, Oct 15.



## RECURVIROSTRIDAE

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* – Several birds at the Ifaty Salt Flats, Oct 15-17.

## CHARADRIIDAE

**Common-ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* – Single birds at the Ifaty Salt Flats, Oct 15 and 17.

**Madagascan Plover** *Characrius thoracicus* – Three birds at the Ifaty Salt Flats, Oct 15.

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius* – Several birds at the Ifaty Salt Flats on Oct 15 and 17.

**Three-banded (Madagascan Three-banded) Plover** *Charadrius (tricoloris) bifrontatus* – Three birds at the Ifaty Salt Flats, Oct 15.

**White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus* – Two birds at the Ifaty Salt Flats, Oct 16.

**Greater Sand plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii* – At least 50 birds at the Betsiboka Estuary, Oct 24.

## JACANIDAE

**Madagascan Jacana** *Actophilornis albinucha* – Two birds at Anbodromamy on Oct 25. Surprisingly rare. Also two distant birds on Oct 26. Near threatened (CITES), population estimated between 670 – 6,700.

## SCOLOPACIDAE

**(Eurasian) Whimbrel** *Numenius (phaeopus) phaeopus* – A single bird at the Ifaty Salt Flats, Oct 15 and 16.



**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* – Three birds at the Ifaty Salt Flats on Oct 15, a single bird on Oct 16.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* – Seen at the Ifaty Salt Flats, a single bird on Oct 15 and 10+ birds on Oct 17.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* – At least five birds at the Ifaty Salt Flats, Oct 15.

**Madagascan Snipe** *Gallinago macrodactyla* – Two birds at the small and relatively undisturbed Ivato swamp on Oct 10.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* – At least 8 birds at the Betsiboka Estuary, Oct 24.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* – A single bird on Oct 11, another single bird at the Betsiboka Estuary, Oct 24.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glereola* – A single bird at Ifaty on Oct 17.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* – Seen at the Ifaty Salt Flats on Oct 15-17.

#### GLAREOLIDAE

**Madagascan Pratincole** *Glareola ocularis* – Three birds at the Mangaro River on Oct 22, and three more birds on Oct 26. Vulnerable (CITES), population estimated between 3,300 – 6,700 birds.

#### LARIDAE

**Kelp (Madagascan) Gull** *Larus (dominicanus) melisandae* – About 5-10 birds at Fort Dauphin on Oct 27. Two more birds on Oct 30.

#### STERNIDAE

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* – A few birds at the Ifaty Salt Flats, Oct 15-16.

**Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis* – At least 10 birds together with the Crab Plover at the beach of Nozy Ve, Oct 15.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* – Brief views of a single and distant birds near Nozy Ve, Oct 15.

#### PTEROCLIDAE

**Madagascan Sandgrouse** *Pterocles personatus* – A flock of 50+ birds at La Table, Oct 14.

#### COLUMBIDAE

**Rock Dove** (introduced) *Columba livia* – Common throughout the tour, especially in the Tana area.

**Namagua Dove** *Oena capensis* – Common in the dry areas, a typical road side bird, often seen perched or flying. First seen near La Table, Oct 14.

**Madagascan Green Pigeon** *Treron australis* – A single bird on Oct 14, at least three birds at Mantadia, Oct 21. Also seen at Berenty.

**Malagasy Turtle Dove** *Nesoenas picturatus* – Seen in low numbers from Oct 14 onwards, best views at Berenty, Oct 28-30.

**Madagascan Blue Pigeon** *Alectroenas madagascariensis* – A beautiful coloured pigeon with a striking red tail, but surprisingly hard to spot in a fruiting tree. A few birds near Antavalobe / Perinet, Oct 22. Also a few birds at Berenty, Oct 28.



#### CUCULIDAE

**Malagasy Coucal** *Centropus toulou* – Seen and heard in low numbers throughout the tour, first seen at the Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park on Oct 14.

**Crested Coua** *Coua cristata* – Seen at Ankarafantsika NP. Rather common on Oct 25 and 26.

**Crested (Chestnut-vented) Coua** *Coua (cristata) pyrophyga* – Two birds at the Spiny Diديrea Forest on Oct 16. Also seen at Berenty. Below (left).



**Verreaux's Coua** *Coua verreauxi* – A single bird at La Table on Oct 17. Above (right).

**Blue Coua** *Coua caerulea* – Seen on 6 days in low numbers. First bird seen at the Tana Zoo, Oct 9.

**Red-capped Coua** *Coua (ruficeps) ruficeps* – Rather common at Ankarafantsika NP on Oct 25 and 26.

**Red-capped (Brown-capped) Coua** *Coua (ruficeps) olivaceiceps* – A single bird at the Spiny Diديrea Forest on Oct 16.



**Red-fronted Coua** *Coua reynaudii* – A single bird at Ranomofana on Oct 11. Also a single bird on Oct 17.

**Coquerel's Coua** *Coua coquereli* – In total five birds seen at Ankarafantsika NP, Oct 25 and 26.

**Running Coua** *Coua cursor* – Two birds seen at the Spiny Diiderea Forest on Oct 16.

**Giant Coua** *Coua gigas* – Two birds seen well at the Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park on Oct 14. Also seen at Berenty.



**Red-breasted Coua** *Coua serriana* – A single bird seen quite well in rather dense forest, Perinet Special Reserve, Oct 20.

**Madagascar Cuckoo** *Cuculus rochii* – Common, mostly heard throughout the tour. One bird briefly seen at Ranomofana, Oct 11.

#### STRIGIDAE

**Torotoroka Scops Owl** *Otus madagascariensis* – A single bird at the Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park on Oct 14. Also a single bird at Berenty, Oct 29.

**Rainforest Scops Owl** *Otus rutilus* – Single birds at the Perinet Special Reserve on Oct 18 and Oct 22. Likely the same bird.

**White-browed Owl** *Athene superciliaris* – A pair at the Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park on Oct 14. Also two birds at Berenty, Oct 29.

**Madagascan (Madagascan Long-eared) Owl** *Asia madagascariensis* – A single bird at the Perinet Special reserve on Oct 18, 19 and 22.

#### CAPRIMULGIDAE

**Collared Nightjar** *Gactornis enarratus* – A single perched bird seen very well at the Perinet Special Reserve, Oct 20.

**Madagascan Nightjar** *Caprimulgus madagascariensis* – Single birds seen on various days. First bird at the Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park, Oct 14.



White-browed Owl (top, *left*), Rainforest Scops Owl (top, *right*), Collared Nightjar (bottom, *left*) and Madagascan Nightjar (bottom, *right*).

#### APODIDAE

**Madagascan Spinetail** *Zoonavena grandidieri* – First seen at Ifaty, Oct 16.

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* – Seen in low numbers on several days, first seen at Ranomafana NP, Oct 12.

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymartia melba* – A few birds on Oct 21 and Oct 23.

**Malagasy Black Swift** *Apus balstoni* – Seen on 8 days throughout the tour, first bird seen at Ranomafana NP, Oct 11.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis* – Seen at Tana on Oct 9 and Oct 22.

#### CORACIIDAE

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus* – Seen at Ifaty, Ankarafantsika NP and Berenty, Oct 21-30.





## LEPTOSOMIDAE

**Cuckoo Roller** *Leptosomus discolor* – Seen and heard on various days in low numbers. Best views at Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park, Oct 14.



## BRACHYPTERACIIDAE

**Short-legged Ground Roller** *Brachypteracias leptosomus* – Stunning close views of a single bird at Andasibe-Antavalobe. Vulnerable (CITES), population decreasing, estimated 7,800 - 19,600 birds.



**Scaly Ground Roller** *Geobiastes squamiger* – Good views of a single bird at Andasib. Oct 18. Vulnerable (CITES), 1,500 - 7,000 birds.

**Pitta-like Ground Roller** *Atelornis pittoides* – For sure the most common Ground Roller. In total 3 birds seen, two birds at Ranomafana NP (Oct 11) and a single bird at Andasibe, Oct 18.

**Rufous-headed Ground Roller** *Atelornis crossleyi* – Superb views of a calling bird at Perinet Special Reserve, Oct 20. A tough bird to find. Near threatened (CITES), population unknown but decreasing.

**Long-tailed Ground Roller** *Uratelornis chimaera* – Excellent and very close views of two birds at the Spiny Forest, Ifaty. Vulnerable (CITES), population decreasing.



Scaly Ground Roller (top, *left*), Pitta-like Ground Roller (top, *right*), Long-tailed Ground Roller (bottom).

#### MEROPIDAE

**Olive (Madagascar) Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus* – Common, seen on most days during the tour in low numbers. First seen at the Anja Community Reserve, Oct 13.

#### ALCEDINIDAE

**Malagasy (Malagasy Malachite) Kingfisher** *Corythornis vintsioides* – Single birds seen throughout the tour, first seen at the Ivato Swamp, Oct 10.



**Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher** *Corythornis madagascariensis* – A few birds seen, great views at Andasibe, Oct 18.



UPUPIDAE

**Madagascan Hoopoe** *Upupa marginata* – Seen on various days, first birds at the Anja Community Reserve, Oct 13. Birds look similar to other Hoopoe species, but their call is completely different, a soft “purring”.

FALCONIDAE

**Malagasy Kestrel** *Falco newtoni* – Common, seen in low numbers throughout the tour. One of the few birds regularly seen while driving. First birds seen at Tana, Oct 9.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* – Single birds on Oct 12 and Oct 17.

PSITTACIDAE

**Greater Vasa Parrot** *Coracopsis vasa* – Seen on 6 days, first at Ifaty on Oct 15.

**Lesser Vasa Parrot** *Coracopsis nigra* – Seen on 4 days, first at Ranomafana NP, Oct 12.



**Grey-headed Lovebird** *Agapornis canus* – A little flock of 5 perched bird at the Anja Community Reserve, Oct 13. Also a few birds at Berenty.

#### EURLAMIDAE

**Velvet Asity** *Philepitta catanea* – Several males and females seen well at Ranomafana, Oct 11-13. Surprising bird, almost completely round when perched.



**Schlegel's Asity** *Philepitta schlegeli* – A male, female and immature seen well at Ankarafantsika NP, Oct 25. Found in a kind of Australian Eucalypt (dry leaf) forest, which was a surprise for me. In contrast, the Velvet Asity is much more a bird of mountain rainforest. Near threatened (CITES), population unknown.



**Common Sunbird-Asity** *Neodrepanis coruscans* – A single male at Ranomafana NP, Oct 12. Another single bird, briefly glimpsed, on oct 19.

#### VANGIDAE

**Lafresnaye's Vanga** *Xenopirostris xenopirostris* – A single male at Tuliar Tablelands, Oct 15.

**Van Dam's Vanga** *Xenopirostris damii* – A brief glimpse on Oct 25 and a single female seen well at Ankarafantsika NP. Endangered (CITES), 1,500 – 7,000 birds.

**Pollen's Vanga** *Xenopirostris pelleni* – A single bird near Ranomafana NP, Oct 11. Near threatened (CITES), population unknown.



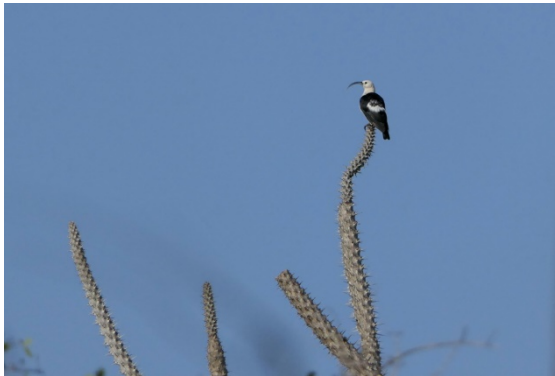
**Red-tailed Vanga** *Calicalicus madagascariensis* – Two birds at Vohiparara, Oct 12.

**Red-shouldered Vanga** *Calicalicus rufocarpalis* – Great views of a single bird at the Tuliar Tablelands on Oct 14. A species rediscovered in 1997, with a very limited distribution range. Population is vulnerable but stable (CITES), estimated between 250 – 999 birds.



**Hook-billed Vanga** *Vanga curvirostris* – Few birds heard and seen throughout the tour, but great views at Berenty, Oct 28-29.

**Sickle-billed Vanga** *Falcolea palliata* – A single bird at the Zombitse-Vohibasia NP, Oct 14. Also seen at Ifaty and Perinet.



Hook-billed Vanga (top, left), Sickle-billed Vanga (top, right), Blue Vanga (bottom, left), Rufous Vanga (bottom, right).

**White-headed Vanga** *Artamella viridis* – Low numbers on 4 days, first seen at Ranamofona NP, Oct 11.

**Chabert Vanga** *Leptophrus chabert* – One of the most common species of Vanga seen throughout the tour. Also seen first at Ranomafana NP, Oct 11.

**Blue Vanga** *Cyanolanius madagascarinus* – A stunning bird when seen well. Less common than previous species, but seen on 5 days, by far the most common and best views at Ankarafantsika NP, Oct 25.

**Rufous Vanga** *Schetba rufa* – Seen at the Zombitse-Vohibasia NP, Oct 14, and several birds at Ampijorora, Oct 25-26.

**Helmet Vanga** *Euryceros prevostii* – A truly remarkable bird. Stunning views of a breeding bird at Andasibe-Antavalobe on Oct 19. Two hours of driving and three hours of walking, single way. Endangered (CITES), population estimated at 1,500-7,000 birds.



**Tylas Vanga** *Tylas eduardi* – Seen on 5 days, first seen at Ranamofona NP, Oct 11.

**Nuthatch Vanga** *Hypositta corallirostris* – Three birds near Perinet Special Reserve, Oct 19.

**Dark Newtonia** *Newtonia amphichroa* – A single bird at Ranamofona, Oct 11. Three more on Oct 19.

**Common Newtonia** *Newtonia brunneicauda* – Seen throughout the tour in low numbers, first seen at Ranamofona, Oct 1.

**Archbold's Newtonia** *Newtonia archboldi* – Two birds seen in the Spiny Forest, Ifaty, Oct 16.

**Red-tailed Newtonia** *Newtonia fanovanae* – A single bird seen well at Andohahela, Oct 28. Vulnerable (CITES), population 2,500 – 10,000. Another bird that was rediscovered only recently.

**Crossley's Vanga** *Mystacornis crossleyi* – A single bird seen well at Ranomafana, Oct 11.



**Ward's Flycatcher** *Pseudobias wardi* – Two birds at Vohiparara, Oct 12. Seen on four days.



CAMPEPHAGIDAE

**Madagascan Cuckooshrike** *Ceblepyris cinereus* – Seen on 6 days, first at Ranamofona, Oct.

DICRURIDAE

**Crested Drongo** *Dicrurus forficatus* – Common throughout the tour. First seen at Ranamofona, Oct 11.



#### MONARCHIDAE

**Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone mutata* – Another common species, with the male having at least three strikingly different colour morphs: all white, grey and brown. First seen at Vohiparara, Oct 12.



#### CORVIDAE

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* – Common throughout the tour, associated with human settlement.



#### ALAUDIDAE

**Madagascan Lark** *Eremopterix hova* – Common in arid country, first seen at Tuliari Tablelands, Oct 14.

#### PYCNONOTIDAE

**Malagasy Bulbul** *Hypsipetes madagascariensis* – Common throughout the tour, first seen at Ranomafana, Oct 11.



#### HIRUDINIDAE

**Mascarene Martin** *Phedina borbonica* – Two birds seen at the Tana airport, Oct 17. Also seen on 2 other days.

**Brown-throated (Plain) Martin** – *Riparia paludicola* – Four birds on Oct 10.

#### ACROCEPHALIDAE

**Malagasy Brush Warbler** *Nesillas typica* – A single bird at Ranomafana, Oct 11. Two birds on Oct 18.

**Subdesert Brush Warbler** *Nesillas lantzii* – Two birds at the Zombitse-Vohibasia NP, Oct 14. Also seen at Ifaty.

**Madagascan Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus newtoni* – Seen at Tuliar Lakes, Oct 17. Also a single bird on Oct 18.

#### LOCUSTELLIDAE

**Brown Emutail** *Bradypterus brunneus* – A nanosecond glimpse of a small brown mouse-like “bird” at Vohiparara, Oct 13.

#### BERNIERIDAE

**White-throated Oxylobes** *Oxylabes madagascariensis* – Single birds seen at Ranomafana, Oct 11, and another single bird at Andasibe, Oct 18.

**Long-billed Tetraka** *Bernieria madagascariensis* – Low numbers on 5 days, first seen at Ranomafana, Oct 11. Aptly named.



**Wedge-tailed Jery** *Hartertula flavoviridis* – A single bird seen at Ranomafana, Oct 11.

**Thamnornis** *Thamnornis chloropetoides* – Single birds at the Spiny Forest, Ifaty, Oct 15-16.

**Appert's Tetraka** *Xanthomixis apperti* – Two birds at the Zombitse-Vohibasia NP, Oct 14.

**Grey-crowned Tetraka** *Xanthomixis cinereiceps* – Two birds at Vohiparara, Oct 12.

**Spectacled Tetraka** *Xanthomixis zosterops* – Great views of two sleeping birds at Perinet, Oct 20. A nest on Oct 11 and another single bird on Oct 22



**Madagascan Yellowbrow** *Crossleyia xanthophrys* – Single birds at Vohiparara, Oct 12 and 13.

**Rand's Warbler** *Randia pseudozosterops* – A single bird at Vohiparara, Oct 12. Another single bird on Oct 17.

#### CISTICOLIDAE

**Madagascan Cisticola** *Cisticola cherina* – Common and widespread.



**Common Jery** *Neomixis tenella* – Seen on several days. First seen at Vohiparara, Oct 12.

**Green Jery** *Neomixis viridis* – Seen on three days, first at Ranomafana, Oct 11.

**Stripe-throated Jery** *Neomixis striatigula* – Common, also seen first at Ranomafana, Oct 11.



#### ZOSTEROPIDAE

**Malagasy White-eye** *Zosterops madaraspatanus* – As previous species.

#### STURNIDAE

**Common Myna** (introduced) *Acridotheres tristis* – Common and widespread.

**Madagascan Starling** *Harlaubius auratus* – A single bird at Ranomafana, Oct 11. Six birds at Mantadia, Oct 21.

#### MUSCICAPIDAE

**Madagascan Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus albospectus* – Seen in low numbers throughout the tour. First seen at Ranomafana, Oct 11.



**Madagascan Stonechat** *Saxicola sibilla* – A male seen well at the garden of Le Chat'O Park Hotel, Tana, Oct 9. Also seen on various other days but rather uncommon.

#### TURDIDAE

**Litteral Rock Thrush** *Monticola imerina* – Three birds at Anakao on Oct 15.



**Forest Rock Thrush** *Monticola sharpei* – A single bird at Vohiparara, Oct 12.

**Forest (Benson's) Rock Thrush** *Monticola sharpei bensoni* – Great views of a male and female at Isalo, Oct 13.

#### NECTARINIIDA

**Souimanga Sunbird** *Cinnyris sovimanga* – Common throughout the tour. First seen at Le Chat'O Park Hotel, Tana, Oct 9.

**Malagasy Green Sunbird** *Cinnyris notatus* – Low numbers on 4 days. First seen at Ranomafana, Oct 11.

#### PASSERIDAE

**House Sparrow** (introduced) *Passer domesticus* – Introduced and surprisingly rare. A single flock of about 20 birds at Mahajanga, Oct 24.

#### PLOCEIDAE

**Nelicourvi Weaver** *Ploceus nelicourvi* – A male and female at Ranomafana, Oct 11. A single bird on Oct 20.

**Sakalava Weaver** *Ploceus sakalava* – More common and widespread as previous species. First seen at Ifaty, but also very common at Berenty.



**Red Fody** *Foudia madagascariensis* – Many heard in the Eucalypt trees lining the garden of Le Chat'O Park Hotel, Tana, Oct 9. Common at Ifaty and many other places.

**Forest Fody** *Foudia omissa* – Only seen at Andasibe-Antavalobe, 2 or 3 birds, on Oct 19.

#### ESTRILDIDAE

**Madagascan Mannikin** *Lepidopygia nana* – A single bird at the garden of at Le Chat'O Park Hotel, Tana, Oct 9. Also seen on a few other days.



## MOTACILLIDAE

**Madagascan Wagtail** *Motacilla flaviventris* – Common in low numbers throughout the tour. First seen at Le Chat'O Park Hotel, Tana, Oct 9. The very first bird Annelien and I saw (in pouring rain) when drinking a glass of beer.

## BIRDS RECORDED AT NAIROBI JOMO KENYATTA INT AIRPORT, OCT 8

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*

**Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*

**Superb Starling** *Lamprotornis superbus*

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*

**House Sparrow** (introduced) *Passer domesticus*

## MAMMALS

**Brown Lemur** *Eulemur fulvus* – Two at Tana, Oct 9, (almost) daily at Andasibe / Perinet, Oct 18-23.  
Near threatened (CITES)



**Red-bellied Lemur** *Eulemur rubiventer* – Two at Ranomafana NP, Oct 12. Vulnerable (CITES).



**Eastern Lesser (Grey) Bamboo Lemur** *Haplemur griseus* – A single sighting of two at Perinet, Oct 20.  
Vulnerable (CITES)



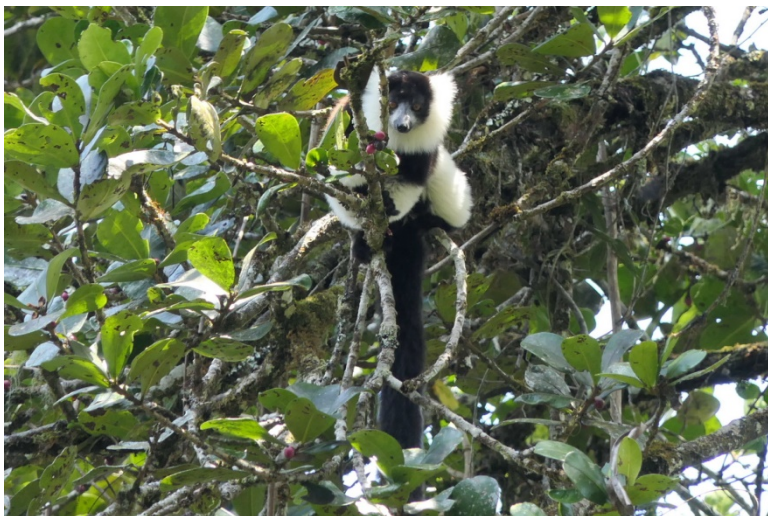


**Red-fronted Brown Lemur** *Eulemur rufifrons* – Four at Ranomafana NP on Oct 11 and 12. Common at Berenty, introduced. Near threatened (CITES)

**Ring-tailed Lemur** *Lemur catta* – Estimated 20+ at Anja, Oct 13. Common at Berenty. Endangered.



**Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur** *Varecia variegata* – Seen at Andasibe on Oct 18 and Oct 21. Critically endangered (CITES).



**Milne-Edwards's Sportive Lemur** *Lepilemur edwardsi* – A single at Ankarafantsika NP on Oct 23-25. Endangered (CITES)

**White-footed Sportive Lemur** *Lepilemur leucopus* – Two near Berenty, Oct 29. Endangered (CITES)



**Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur** *Cheirogaleus crossleyi* – A single at Perinet, Oct 21. Data deficient (CITES)

**Western Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur** *Cheirogaleus medius* – A single at Ankarafantsika NP on Oct 24. Least concern (CITES)

**Goodman's Mouse Lemur** *Microcebus lehilahytsara* – Two at Perinet, Oct 20. Vulnerable (CITES)

**Grey Mouse Lemur** *Microcebus murinus* – Three at Ankarafantsika NP on Oct 24 and a single on Oct 29. Least concern (CITES)



**Lorenz Von Liburnau's Woolly Lemur (Western Avahi)** *Avahi occidentalis* – Two at Ankarafantsika NP on Oct 25. Endangered (CITES)



**Indri** *Indri indri* – Daily seen at Andasibe / Perinet, Oct 18-22, up to five per day. Critically endangered



**Coquerel's Sifaka** *Propithecus coquereli* – Over 15 at Ankarafantsika NP on Oct 23, another six on Oct 25-26. Endangered (CITES)





**Diademed Sifaka** *Propithecus diadema* – Two at Andasibe, Oct 18. Critically endangered (CITES)



**Verreaux's Sifaka** *Propithecus verreauxi* – Seen on Oct 14, common at Berenty. Endangered (CITES).







**Eastern Red Forest Rat** *Nesomys rufus* – Singles at Ranomafana NP on Oct 11 and 12. Least concern (CITES)

**Humpback Whale** *Megaptera novaeangliae* – Estimated 10+ including mother with calf at Port Dauphin, Oct 27. Another 3+ at Port Dauphin on Oct 30. Endangered (CITES)

**Madagascan Flying Fox** *Pteropus rufus* – About eight at Bernety, Oct 29. Vulnerable (CITES)

## REPTILES & MISCELLANEOUS

Madagascar Spiny-tailed Iguana *Oplurus cuvieri*



Oustalet's Chameleon *Furcifer oustaleti*



White-lined Chameleon *Furcifer lateralis*



Parson's Chameleon *Calumma parsonii*





Chameleon *species* and other reptiles





Giraffe-necked Weevill (top left)





