



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Madagascar Comprehensive Private

8th - 29th October 2008



Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Cuan Rush

Tour Summary

Our adventures on the “eighth continent” began in the capital, Antananarivo, with a visit to Tsimbazaza Zoo. This offered us a taste of what was to come later on during the tour and it was here we notched-up the first of many endemics. These included good views of a Madagascar Grebe and the attractive Malagasy Turtle Dove but the Aye Aye at the nocturnal exhibit at the zoo, undoubtedly stole the show. After our eyes had adjusted to the gloom, we were treated to repeated, close-up views of the mythical

Aye-aye with its surprisingly fast, agile manoeuvres and bizarre, patchwork of body parts that don't quite fit its body!

From Tana we headed for our first encounter with the Eastern rainforests on the island. Little did we know that we would be plagued by wet conditions for much of our days spent in these splendid forests. Despite the rain we worked hard and had some great and very rewarding birding and wildlife viewing. Highlights at our first site, Anjozorobe, aside from the stunning camp, included some top endemic birds including Madagascar Partridge, Meller's Duck, Madagascar Flufftail, Madagascar Wood Rail, Madagascar Buttonquail, Madagascar Snipe, Red-fronted Coua, our first Ground Roller in the form of



Rufous-headed, Dark Newtonia and the stunning Velvet Asity! Not to be outdone, the reptiles fought back and we recorded 5 species of Chameleon, including Brookesia thieli and a single Dead-leaf Leaf-tailed Gecko. Our quest for more of the island's specials then led us to Mantadia National Park and Perinet Special Reserve. These rainforest reserves offer incredible birding and mammal viewing opportunities and as usual they did not disappoint. Mantadia was first up and here our main targets, the Ground Rollers, became an obsession: dominating our attention for 1½ days until they eventually succumbed to our persistence and we added Short-legged and Scaly to the list, not forgetting excellent views of Pitta-like! Other notable species seen were Madagascar Blue Pigeon, the beautiful Blue Coua, Rainforest Scops Owl, Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, Cryptic and Rand's Warblers, Madagascar Starling and Forest Fody. Mammalian delights included a fabulous close-range encounter with a family of Diademed Sifakas, who were unperturbed by our presence and then as the sun broke through the clouds and we exited the wet forest, a pair of Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs! Of course, a visit to the island would not be complete without a trek to find the famous "Babakoto" or Indri, largest of the lemurs. Searching the ridge-top forest at Perinet proved fruitful in this respect and we observed several of these pied, teddy-bear like creatures including a mother and baby.



The deciduous forests of Ampijoroa in the north-west beckoned us next and, with a short flight to and couple hours by road from Mahajunga, we found ourselves at Ampijoroa in Ankarafantsika National Park. Slightly off the beaten track, this reserve is not often visited by the general tourist and yet it is home to many highly sought-after avian gems. The campsite was alive with birds: flocks of Sickle-billed Vangas and Lesser Vasa Parrots called noisily above, Madagascar Hoopoe and Malagasy Turtle Dove foraged on the bare soil below, White-headed and Chabert's Vangas

flitted in the canopy, and the striking Broad-billed Roller enthralled with a riot of colour! Exploring the surrounding areas yielded Madagascar Ibis, Madagascar Harrier-Hawk, the beautiful White-breasted Mesite, Madagascar Green Pigeon, Grey-headed Lovebirds, Red-capped and Coquerel's Couas, the camouflaged Madagascar Nightjar, Schlegel's Asity and a nesting pair of Van Dam's Vanga. Boating on the ancestral Lake Ravelobe, alongside Nile Crocodiles, was also fruitful with sightings of Humblot's Heron, White-throated Rail, Madagascar Jacana and the critically endangered Madagascar Fish Eagle. Undeniably, one of the comical highlights of the trip occurred at Ampijoroa: whilst being



entertained royally by the resident Coquerel's Sifakas, one of the youngsters in the group decided to take a close inspection of us humans. It bounded and leaped from tree to tree towards us, until it virtually landed upon an unsuspecting Fonda, much to the amusement of the rest of us! Back in the coastal town of Mahajunga we ventured out into the muddy waters of the Betsiboka Delta. The mudflats and mangroves of the delta hold some of Madagascar's most endangered birds and we were fortunate to witness good numbers of the rare Bernier's Teal, perched and in flight. An immature Lesser Flamingo, several Greater Sandplovers and a score or so of Terek Sandpipers completed an eventful excursion.

The dry, hot south of Madagascar experiences little rainfall per annum, but this does not discourage fauna and flora from revelling in this harsh environment. So, we made our way to the popular destination of Berenty Private Reserve, where the striking and rather confiding Ring-tailed Lemurs and hilarious Verreaux's Sifakas abound! Our exploration of the gallery forest and small patches of spiny forest here was done in the early morning and late afternoon to try and avoid the searing temperatures. Our efforts produced more endemics, namely: the uncommon Madagascar Sparrowhawk, Madagascar Sandgrouse, strolling Giant and



beautiful Running Couas, the imposing Lafresnaye's Vanga, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher and Subdesert Brush Warbler. The nocturnal critters were also well represented with Torotoroka Scops Owl and White-browed Hawk-Owl, Grey Mouse and White-footed Sportive Lemurs, and Indian Civet featuring prominently. The large colony of Madagascar Flying Foxes was also a spectacle to behold as they whooshed to-and-fro overhead with loud wing beats and constant nattering. Following up our adventures at Berenty, we visited the unique floral kingdom of the Baobab studded Spiny Forest near Ifaty. While walking the red-sand trails of this botanical wonderland we enjoyed a suite of incredible animals and birds that survive here including Hubbard's Sportive Lemur, Banded Kestrel, the stunning Subdesert Mesite, Long-tailed Ground Roller (to complete the suite of these fabulous birds), the range-restricted Archbold's Newtonia and the odd Thamnornis.

Leaving the coral reefs and cool waters of Ifaty behind we headed for the vibrant coastal town of Tulear. A short jaunt of just 30km (approximately 1½ hours drive) became an epic journey that took more than four hours! Our toils on this sandy track were legendary, as we proceeded to get stuck in the soft substrate on numerous occasions (I lost count after we ground to a halt for the sixth time). As the throngs of locals gathered around us (they found our situation hilarious, judging by their amused faces and frantic gesticulations!!!), we had to excavate our axle and tyres, push with the help of passers-by and in some instances be towed out by other vehicles onto a firmer surface before continuing. During one of the attempts to get through a soft spot in the track, the vehicle's tyres were swallowed up by the sand, stopping the vehicle dead in its tracks. This sent the entire roof carrier (luggage and all!) flying off the roof, ending "bottoms up" on the ground and surprisingly still intact. What a sight! Slowly but surely we forged on, until eventually, physically drained and overheated, we reached our goal. Even though we had endured this unscheduled delay, our achievement was accompanied by the sweet taste of victory; equivalent to what it must feel like on completion a Camel Trophy Adventure race!

Tulear was our base for explorations of the coral rag scrub at La Tabla and our boat trip to Nosy Vé. Hot and humid, daily life here begins early in the morning, quietens down from about 10am and then



picks up again around 4pm. So we blended in with locals and a late afternoon visit to La Tabla was successful. Here we found our two target species, the stunning Red-shouldered Vanga and slightly less attractive, but no less secretive, Verreaux's Coua. A change in scenery had us cruising in the crystal-clear waters of the Mozambique Channel in search of tropical island specials on Nosy Vé. Lulled by the constant drone of the outboards, we were suddenly roused from our daydreams by shouts of "Baleine...baleine" from the skipper. Not far from the boat a Humpback Whale broke the surface and proceeded to show off with some close swim-bys and an impressive "tail-wave" – what a fabulous sight! Then, during our scouting of the island we encountered several cute White-fronted Plovers, 3 striking Crab-plover, good numbers of Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling and the nesting colony of elegant Red-tailed Tropicbirds. After notching up Littoral Rock Thrush on the nearby mainland, we braved the choppy waters back to the port. En route we added a small school of Common Dolphins who seemed to be guiding the boat home, and some distant sightings of more Humpback Whales breaching completely out of the water. Safely back on land, we retired to our lodgings to rest up before heading inland to Isalo and Ranomafana National Park.



Stealing away from Tulear in the early hours, we drove north for Zombitse Forest. It is the largest remnant of dry deciduous forest on the island and owes its protection (mainly) to the ancestral kings who are buried deep within. Here we found a pair of Madagascar Harrier-Hawk, Crested and Giant Couas, a large flock of Malagasy Black Swifts, the ill-proportioned and noisy Cuckoo Roller, and the highly-localised Appert's Tetraka and probably the largest Oustalet's Chameleon I have ever seen. Isalo's Tolkenesque landscapes greeted us next and a sense of stepping back in time overcame us. Birding the lodge and surrounds offered

us an eventful afternoon and we observed a small party of Madagascar Partridge, a Peregrine Falcon hunting a large flock of waterfowl and the songster, Benson's Rock Thrush.

It was then time for us to return north and back to the rainforest zone - to Ranomafana National Park, established in 1991 to protect the recently discovered (1986) Golden Bamboo Lemur. In stark contrast to the hot and dry south of Madagascar, cold and wet weather took over! This did not dampen our spirits and we spent the next couple of days engrossed in searching for a whole new array of specials including several interesting frog species. These included Moramora Climbing Frog, Variegated Golden Frog and Pandanus Leaf Frog, the latter living exclusively in the *Pandanus* Palms of the forest understorey! We of course also managed to find many special birds and mammals including: Greater Vasa Parrot, Forest Rock Thrush, Common and the stunning Yellow-bellied Sunbird Asities, Pitta-like Ground Roller, Spectacled and Grey-crowned Tetrakas, Velvet Asity, Brown Mouse Lemur, Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur, the rare Golden Bamboo and richly-coloured Red-bellied Lemurs. Another highlight occurred on a wet, night walk along the main road near Ranomafana NP: in just half-an-hour and only a couple hundred meters we observed 6 species of chameleon, two of which were new ticks for the tour, Cryptic and Oshaughnessy's - unbelievable! What a way to end off a great tour and it was from the majestic forests of Ranomafana that we travelled the long, windy road back to Antananarivo for departure from this incredible island!

Photo Credits (in order of appearance): Sickie-billed Vanga, A. Riley; Madagascar Partridge, Madagascar Hoopoe, Ring-tailed Lemurs and Appert's Tetraka, J. Wakelin.



Annotated Checklists of Birds, Mammals and “Herps”

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows: Gill, F. and Wright, M. (2006) the IOC List of Birds of the World Recommended English Names, Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press; Garbutt, N. (2006) *Mammals of Madagascar, A Complete Guide* and, Glaw, F. & Vences, M. (2007) *A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Madagascar*.

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

This species was encountered daily at Berenty Private Reserve.

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

Partridges, Quails & Pheasants Phasianidae

Madagascar Partridge (E)

Margaroperdix madagascarensis

Two pairs recorded at Anjozorobe north-east of Antananarivo and later 3 birds scoped at Isalo.

Ducks & Geese Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Good numbers were seen at most wetland sites with peak of 150+ at a small dam near Isalo.

Knob-billed Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

Low numbers observed during the tour at Lac Ravelobe, Ifaty & Isalo areas.

Meller's Duck (E) (En)

Anas melleri

A handful of these endangered ducks seen well in flight at a wetland near Anjozorobe.

Bernier's Teal (E) (En)

Anas bernieri

The Betsiboka Delta produced excellent sightings of at least 20 of these endangered teal.

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

Red-billed Teal (Duck)

Anas erythrorhyncha

We recorded this duck at scattered freshwater wetlands across the island.

Hottentot Teal

Anas hottentota

A wetland near Ifaty was the only site this beautiful teal was seen.



Grebes Podicipedidae**Little Grebe (Dabchick)***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

High numbers were found on the wetlands south of Ifaty.

Madagascar Grebe (E) (V)*Tachybaptus pelzelinii*

Tsimbazaza Zoo and a lake in Mantadia NP rewarded us with good views of this bird.

*NOTE: Globally threatened and declining due to habitat loss, introduction of exotic fish, and competition (and possibly hybridization) with Little Grebe.***Flamingos Phoenicopteridae****Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus roseus*

An immature bird was observed at a wetland south of Ifaty.

Lesser Flamingo*Phoenicopterus minor*

On our excursion into the Betsiboka Delta we notched up a couple immature birds.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**Glossy Ibis***Plegadis falcinellus*

This species was common at wetland sites and rice paddies in north-west Madagascar.

Madagascar (Crested) Ibis (E)*Lophotibis cristata*

This magnificent ibis was seen very well in Ankarafantsika NP.

Hérons Ardeidae**Little Bittern***Ixobrychus minutus*

At least 3 birds (couple in fantastic breeding plumage) were recorded at the wetland near Ifaty.

Black-crowned Night Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax*

Excellent views of this species had at Tsimbazaza Zoo and also seen at the mudflats near Ifaty.

Striated Heron*Butorides striatus*

Small numbers were seen at most freshwater sites throughout the tour.

*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).***Squacco Heron***Ardeola ralloides*

Peak numbers of 50+ breeding birds recorded at Tsimbazaza Zoo with further sightings in the NW.

Malagasy Pond Heron (BE) (V)*Ardeola idea*

A single non-breeding bird spotted at Lake Ravelobe.

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

Common throughout the tour and recorded on most days.

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

The SW of Madagascar produced small numbers of this common heron species.

Humblot's Heron (E) (V)*Ardea humbloti*

This endemic was sighted at Lake Ravelobe near Ampijoroa.

*NOTE: A globally threatened species, essentially restricted to Madagascar but with vagrant records elsewhere.***Purple Heron***Ardea purpurea*

Small numbers of this attractive heron were found at wetlands sites throughout the tour.

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

It was recorded throughout the tour in rice paddies and wetlands.



Black Heron*Egretta ardesiaca*

En route to Ampijoroa, near Lake Amboromalandy, in excess of 200 birds were seen.

Dimorphic Egret (NE)*Egretta [garzetta] dimorpha*

Fairly common and widespread throughout Madagascar, it was interesting to notice the dominance of the white form at inland sites and the dark form along the coast.

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.

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

These elegant birds were recorded on the island of Nosy V e.

Hamerkop Scopidae**Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

Seen in roadside rice paddies on the drives from Tana to Anjozorobe & later en route to Perinet Special Reserve.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae**Darter***Anhinga melanogaster*

This attractive aquatic species was observed at Lake Ravelobe.

Falcons Falconidae**Malagasy Kestrel (NEe)***Falco newtoni*

This species was recorded almost daily during the tour with initial sightings at our lodgings in Tana.

Banded Kestrel (E)*Falco zoniventris*

We had excellent views of this endemic at the Spiny Forest near Mangily.

Peregrine Falcon*Falco peregrinus*

Exciting encounter with an adult hunting waterfowl near Isalo and seen again en route to Ranomafana.

Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**Black Kite***Milvus migrans*

Common in the skies during travel days, with large numbers seen at Berenty.

NOTE: This species is often lumped by some authorities with Yellow-billed Kite. 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*

This critically endangered, endemic eagle was recorded during a boat cruise on of Lake Ravelobe.

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

Madagascar Harrier-Hawk (E)*Polyboroides radiatus*

Singles and a pair of this attractive raptor were observed during the tour.

Frances's Sparrowhawk (NE)*Accipiter francesii*

First seen at Anjozorobe, we later had unbelievable close-up views of a male in the dry, deciduous forests of Ankarafantsika NP.

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

A female bird of this uncommon species was recorded in gallery forest at Berenty.

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

A single bird seen in flight at Mantadia NP and later heard vocalizing in Ranomafana NP.



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

Madagascar Buzzard (E) *Buteo brachypterus*

Small numbers of this common and widespread species were seen on the tour.

Mesites Mesitornithidae

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

We had superb views of these pretty birds as they crossed the pathways of Ankarafantsika NP.

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

Unfortunately, we only heard these skulking birds at Ranomafana NP.

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

We were fortunate to locate a female bird of this elusive species in the Spiny Desert at Ifaty.

Flufftails Sarothruridae

Madagascar Flufftail *Sarothrura insularis*

After frustrating attempts at calling-in this bird, we finally managed good views of this gorgeous little bird near our lodge at Anjozorobe.

Slender-billed Flufftail *Sarothrura watersi*

Another of the extremely tricky to find endemics, we were teased by a male bird calling from dense vegetation but it did not show!

Rails & Gallinules Rallidae

Madagascar Wood Rail (E) *Canirallus kioloides*

We had views of this species at Anjozorobe and in Ranomafana NP.

Madagascar Rail (E) *Rallus madagascariensis*

Brief, but cracking views were had of this attractive endemic rallid at a wetland near Anjozorobe.

White-throated Rail (NE) *Dryolimnas cuvieri*

Another good-looking bird, it was found at Anjozorobe and Ampijoroa.

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 heard this species calling from some dense reeds near Ifaty, but were not able to tempt it out.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

We had a sighting of this bird at a wetland in the NW of Madagascar.

Buttonquails Turnicidae

Madagascar Buttonquail (E) *Turnix nigricollis*

The highlight of our sightings of this species was at Mananara Lodge, where we had 2 females out in the open for 10 minutes plus! Superb!

Crab-Plover Dromadidae

Crab-plover *Dromas ardeola*

3 of these striking shorebirds were observed on the white-sand beaches of Nosy Vé.

Avocets & Stilts Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

This species was recorded at scattered wetland sites on tour.



Plovers Charadriidae

- Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*
The SW mudflats of the island produced multiple sightings of this shorebird.
- Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*
A single bird was found in the Ifaty area.
- Madagascar Plover (E) (NT)** *Charadrius thoracicus*
This striking, localized endemic plover was observed near our hotel in Ifaty.
- Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*
First seen at Lake Amboromalandy in the NW, we later had daily views in the Ifaty area.
- Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*
1 seen at Lake Amboromalandy and another 2 along the Namorona River near Ranomafana.
- White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus*
We enjoyed sightings of this coastal species near Ifaty and again on Nosy Vé.
- Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Several birds observed on the mudflats of the Betsiboka Delta.

Jacanas Jacanidae

- Madagascar Jacana (E)** *Actophilornis albinucha*
A single bird was spotted in flight at Lake Ravelobe in the NW of the island.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

- Madagascar Snipe (E) (NT)** *Gallinago macrodactyla*
We had good flight views of a 4 birds at the Anjozorobe Marsh.
- Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*
This species was fairly common on tidal flats around Tulear, Ifaty and the Betsiboka Delta.
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
Another common wader, it was found on the Mandrare River and the mudflats in the Ifaty area.
- Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*
20+ were recorded in the Betsiboka Delta and 2 more seen on the tidal mudflats near Ifaty.
- Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*
Singles and twos were seen in freshwater, mudflats and brackish wetland habitats throughout our tour.
- Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
An attractive shorebird, it was found near Ifaty and in good numbers on Nosy Vé.
- Sanderling** *Calidris alba*
It was spotted along the coast between Tulear and Ifaty and on Nosy Vé.
- Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*
The commonest Calidrid, it was seen on the tidal flats of Betsiboka Delta, and the Ifaty and Tulear areas.

Terns Sternidae

- Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*
On our excursion to Nosy Vé we notched-up this large tern species.
- Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis*
We had good views of this bird en route to Nosy Vé.
- Swift (Greater Crested) Tern** *Sterna bergii*



Small numbers recorded en route and on Nosy Vé.

Common Tern*Sterna hirundo*

The mudflats between Tulear and Ifaty, and Nosy Vé produced sightings of this widespread species.

Whiskered Tern*Chlidonias hybridus sclateri*

A single bird was recorded at Lake Amboromalandy in the north-west.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae**Madagascar Sandgrouse (E)***Pterocles personatus*

Very good flight views of this large sandgrouse were had near Berenty Private Reserve.

Pigeons & Doves Columbidae**Rock Pigeon (I)***Columba livia*

Regularly recorded at urban sites during the tour.

Malagasy Turtle Dove (NEe)*Columba picturata*

Seen on most days of the tour in varied habitats.

Namaqua Dove*Oena capensis*

A commonly seen species in all drier areas visited on the tour.

Madagascar Green Pigeon (E)*Treron australis*

3 birds were recorded in Ankarafantsika NP.

Madagascar Blue Pigeon (E)*Alectroenas madagascariensis*

Small numbers of this beautiful bird observed near Anjozorobe, Perinet Special Reserve and Mantadia NP.

Parrots Psittacidae**Grey-headed Lovebird (E)***Agapornis canus*

This adorable lovebird was seen on a daily basis around Berenty, Ifaty and Ankarafantsika NP.

Greater Vasa Parrot (NE)*Coracopsis vasa*

Sightings of this species were had in the camp at Ampijoroa and in Ranomafana NP.

Lesser Vasa Parrot (NE)*Coracopsis nigra*

An exceptionally vocal parrot, this bird was regularly recorded with peak numbers near Mantadia NP.

Cuckoos, Couas & Coucals Cuculidae**Malagasy Coucal (NE)***Centropus toulou*

This common and widespread bird was recorded in small numbers on most days of the tour.

Crested Coua (E)*Coua cristata*

This attractive species was recorded at Ankarafantsika NP, Berenty, Ifaty and Zombitse Forest.

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

The coral rag scrub near La Tabla, produced views of this rare and localized species.

Blue Coua (E)*Coua caerulea*

We had sightings of this beautiful coua at Mantadia & Ranomafana NP's.

Red-capped Coua (E)*Coua ruficeps*

Fantastic views were had of this pretty species in the dry deciduous forest in Ankarafantsika NP.

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.

Coquerel's Coua (E)*Coua coquereli*

Surprisingly, only a single bird was recorded in Ankarafantsika NP.



Running Coua (E)*Coua cursor*

The spiny forest at Berenty and Ifaty produced sightings of this gorgeous coua.

Giant Coua (E)*Coua gigas*

This species, the largest of the couas, was easily found at Berenty Private Reserve and later two were observed at Zombitse Forest.

Madagascar Cuckoo (BE)*Cuculus rochii*

We heard this species calling at most sites, and finally had excellent views of a bird calling in the Spiny Forest near Ifaty and another in Ranomafana NP.

Barn Owls Tytonidae**Barn Owl***Tyto alba*

This widespread species was found at a day roost near Berenty.

Typical Owls Strigidae**Torotoroka Scops Owl (E)***Otus madagascariensis*

Good views of these delightful little owls were had at Ampijoroa, Berenty and Zombitse Forest.

Rainforest Scops Owl (NE)*Otus rutilus*

1 bird observed at a day roost in Perinet Special Reserve.

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

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

Berenty Private Reserve and Zombitse Forest produced amazing views of this attractive species.

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

First seen in Tana, it was later seen beautifully in Ankarafantsika NP and again in the Ifaty area.

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

Recorded flying over the forests of Perinet Special Reserve and Mantadia NP.

African Palm Swift*Cypsiurus parvus gracilis*

This elegant swift was common in suitable habitat on the island.

Alpine Swift*Tachymarptis melba*

These large swifts were recorded at Anjozorobe.

Madagascar Black Swift (NE)*Apus balstoni*

First seen near Anjozorobe, then later near Zombitse Forest we encountered a large low-flying flock at the roadside.

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

Rollers Coraciidae**Broad-billed Roller***Eurystomus glaucurus*

First seen in the Eastern Rainforests, it was then observed at close range daily in the camp at Ampijoroa.

Ground Rollers Brachypteraciidae**Short-legged Ground-Roller (E) (V)***Brachypteracias leptosomus*

After 1½ days of searching the forests of Mantadia NP, we eventually tracked down and had extended views of a pair of these ground rollers.

Scaly Ground-Roller (E) (V)*Brachypteracias squamigera*

As for the above species it took much effort to record this bird. We did however find a pair in Mantadia NP.

Pitta-like Ground-Roller (E)*Atelornis pittoides.*

Anjozorobe produced the first sighting of this bird, followed by excellent views in Mantadia NP.

Rufous-headed Ground-Roller (E) (NT)*Atelornis crossleyi*

While birding the secondary forests of Anjozorobe, we coaxed in and had good views of this bird on a trail.

Long-tailed Ground-Roller (E) (V)*Uratelornis chimaera*

Completing the clean sweep on ground rollers, we found this bird in the Spiny Desert at Ifaty.

Cuckoo-Rollers Leptosomidae**Cuckoo Roller (NE)***Leptosomus discolor*

Heard and seen throughout the tour but mostly at a distance. Finally observed a male hunting and consuming an unfortunate chameleon in Ranomafana NP.

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

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

2 of these gems recorded in Mantadia and another 1 gave us magnificent views in Ankarafantsika NP.

Malagasy Kingfisher (NE)*Alcedo vintsioides*

Recorded in low numbers at most freshwater and marine wetlands sites during the tour.

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Olive Bee-eater***Merops superciliosus*

Common and widespread in semi-open areas and recorded on most days during the tour.

Hoopoes Upupidae**Madagascar Hoopoe (E)***Upupa marginalis*

Ankarafantsika NP held good sightings of this striking endemic and also seen at Berenty, Ifaty and Isalo.

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

Asities Philepittidae**Velvet Asity (E)***Philepitta castanea*

We had stunning sightings of male birds at Anjozorobe, Mantadia and Ranomafana NP's.

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

In the deciduous forests of Ankarafantsika NP we found these gorgeous birds at a flowering tree.

Common Sunbird-Asity (E)*Neodrepanis coruscans*

A pair was seen repeated at a flowering site in Ranomafana NP.

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

After a lengthy wait (in the rain!) on the ridge-top forest at Vohiparara, we managed good views of a female and then brief but decent sighting of a displaying male!



Vangas Vangidae

- Red-tailed Vanga (E)** *Calicalicus madagascariensis*
Scattered sightings were had of this endemic with most memorable in the Spiny Forest near Mangily.
- Red-shouldered Vanga (E) (V)** *Calicalicus rufocarpalis*
A male bird was observed in the “coral rag” scrub near La Tabla.
- Hook-billed Vanga (E)** *Vanga curvirostris*
The dry habitats of Ampijoroa, Berenty and Ifaty all yielded sightings of this large vanga.
- Lafresnaye's Vanga (E)** *Xenopirostris xenopirostris*
One of the most impressive vangas, it was recorded in the spiny forest at Berenty and en route to Fort Dauphin.
- Van Dam's Vanga (E) (En)** *Xenopirostris damii*
Our guide expertly located a nest site in Ankarafantsika NP and some of the group witnessed a change-over of adult birds at the nest.
- Sickle-billed Vanga (E)** *Falculea palliata*
A large flock of approximately 20 of these fantastic birds were seen daily at Ankarafantsika NP. We later recorded this species in the Spiny Forest near Mangily.
- White-headed Vanga (E)** *Artamella viridis*
Recorded at scattered woodland sites with initial and good views in the camp at Ampijoroa.
- Chabert's Vanga (E)** *Leptopterus chabert*
This common and widespread vanga was seen at scattered sites during the tour.
- Blue Vanga (E)** *Cyanolanius madagascarensis*
This gorgeous bird was seen at Anjozorobe, Ampijoroa and Ranomafana.
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.
- Rufous Vanga (E)** *Schetba rufa*
It was observed in the forests of Ankarafantsika and Ranomafana NP's.
- Tylas Vanga (E)** *Tylas eduardi*
This species was seen in the canopy of the rainforests of Mantadia NP and Perinet Special Reserve.
NOTE: Recent DNA evidence suggests that this “vanga” is more closely related to the cuckoo-shrikes.
- Dark Newtonia (E)** *Newtonia amphichroa*
A few individuals were found in the secondary forests at Anjozorobe.
- Common Newtonia (E)** *Newtonia brunneicauda*
This species was recorded regularly in small numbers during the tour.
- Archbold's Newtonia (E)** *Newtonia archboldi*
We had this southern Madagascar special at close range in the Spiny Desert near Mangily.
- Ward's Flycatcher (E)** *Pseudobias wardi*
Mantadia NP yielded sightings of this diminutive flycatcher.
- Crossley's Babbler (E)** *Mystacornis crossleyi*
Unsatisfactory views were had at Anjozorobe, but later we observed a bird at very close range in some dense vegetation of Ranomafana NP.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagedae

- Madagascar Cuckoo-shrike (E)** *Coracina cinerea*
Recorded at the following sites during the tour: Anjozorobe, Ampijoroa and Ranomafana NP.

Drongos Dicruridae



Crested Drongo (NE) *Dicrurus forficatus*
Common and highly conspicuous, it was observed on most days of the tour.

Monarchs Monarchidae

Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher (NE) *Terpsiphone mutata*
Common & widespread in a variety of wooded/forested sites, our best sightings were in Ankarafantsika NP.

Crows & Jays Corvidae

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*
Another common and widespread species, peak numbers were seen in Berenty Private Reserve.

Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

Mascarene Martin (NE) *Phedina borbonica*
This regional breeding endemic was recorded at scattered sites during the trip.

Larks Alaudidae

Madagascar Lark (E) *Mirafra hova*
Anjozorobe produced the first record of this bird, followed by a host of numerous sightings especially in the drier grasslands of the island.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Madagascar Cisticola (NE) *Cisticola cherinus*
This diminutive bird was commonly recorded in dry, scrubby grasslands at Anjozorobe, Berenty and Ifaty areas.

Family Uncertain

Common Jery (E) *Neomixis tenella*
Small numbers were seen at various sites during the tour.

Green Jery (E) *Neomixis viridis*
A handful of these nondescript birds were found in the rainforests of Mantadia & Ranomafana NP's.

Stripe-throated Jery (E) *Neomixis striatigula*
Mantadia and Berenty yielded sightings of this widespread species.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Madagascar Bulbul (NE) *Hypsipetes madagascariensis*
We had sightings of these birds on everyday of the tour barring day 1.

Old World Warblers Sylviidae

Grey Emutail (E) *Dromaeocercus seebohmi*
A brief sighting of a bird in flight was had at the main wetland near Anjozorobe.

Brown Emutail (E) *Dromaeocercus brunneus*
This skulker was only heard at Mantadia & Ranomafana NP's.

Malagasy Brush Warbler (NE) *Nesillas typica*
Another denizen of the undergrowth, this species was recorded at various localities starting in our hotel grounds in Tana.



Subdesert Brush Warbler (E)*Nesillas lantzii*

We found several birds in the spiny forest at Berenty, Ifaty and in the coastal scrub near Anakao.

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*

The wetland at Anjozorobe, near Ifaty and the mangroves in the port of Tulear held views of this bird.

White-throated Oxylabes (E)*Oxylabes madagascariensis*

Many attempts were had at getting bins on this secretive endemic which was finally seen in Ranomafana NP.

Long-billed Bernieria (E)*Bernieria madagascariensis*

Mantadia, Ampijoroa and Zombitse Forest produced sightings of this species.

Cryptic Warbler (E)*Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi*

This recently described species was seen on exposed perch in the ridge-top forests of Mantadia and Vohiparara.

Thamnornis (E)*Thamnornis chloropetoides*

1 bird was seen briefly in the Spiny Desert near Mangily.

Spectacled Tetraka (E)*Xanthomixis zosterops*

Small family flocks were seen briefly in the rainforests of Anjozorobe & Mantadia, and later observed well in Ranomafana NP.

Appert's Tetraka (E) (V)*Xanthomixis apperti*

Zombitse Forest yielded sightings of 6 birds feeding low down in the undergrowth.

Grey-crowned Tetraka (E) (NT)*Xanthomixis cinereiceps*

The dense understorey of Vohiparara section of Ranomafana offered views of this species.

Rand's Warbler (E)*Randia pseudozosterops*

Individual birds were recorded in Mantadia NP and Perinet Special Reserve.

White-eyes Zosteropidae**Madagascar White-eye (NE)***Zosterops maderaspatana*

Common during the first half of the trip, was later sightings in Ranomafana NP.

Starlings Sturnidae**Madagascar Starling (E)***Hartlaubius aurata*

It was seen briefly at Anjozorobe and then much better near Mantadia NP.

Common Myna (I)*Acridotheres tristis tristis*

Common and widespread throughout the island with peak numbers in the urban areas.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**Madagascar Magpie-Robin (E)***Copsychus albospecularis*

Despite its regular occurrence, this delightful robin kept us entertained throughout the tour.

Eurasian Stonechat*Saxicola torquata*

This species was observed at higher elevations on tour.

Littoral Rock Thrush (E)*Pseudocossyphus imerinus*

A pair was seen at our lunch stop in Anakao: good views of the female who was sitting on the nest.

Forest Rock Thrush (E)*Pseudocossyphus sharpei*

A male bird was seen singing from his perch along the roadside in Ranomafana NP.

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

A pair was found in the grounds of our hotel near Isalo: the male gave us extended scope views!



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.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Souimanga Sunbird (NE) *Nectarinia souimanga*

It was very common and widespread throughout Madagascar.

Malagasy Green Sunbird (NE) *Nectarinia notata*

Scattered sightings were had throughout the trip, with an incredible view of a male near Ranomafana NP on our last morning.

Weavers Ploceidae

Nelicourvi Weaver (E) *Ploceus nelicourvi*

Anjozorobe and Mantadia yielded sightings of this beautiful weaver.

Sakalava Weaver (E) *Ploceus sakalava*

This dry country weaver species was recorded at Ampijoroa, near Berenty and in the Ifaty region.

Madagascar Red Fody (E) *Foudia madagascariensis*

An attractive species in full breeding plumage, it was common and recorded on most days of the tour.

Forest Fody (E) *Foudia omissa*

Much less common than the above species, 1 male bird was seen while birding in Mantadia NP.

Waxbills Estrildidae

Madagascar Mannikin (E) *Lonchura nana*

An adorable little bird, we had scattered sightings on tour, with great views in Mantadia NP.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

Madagascar Wagtail (E) *Motacilla flaviventris*

This attractive bird was common on the highlands and in particular along forested mountain streams.

MAMMALS

Old World Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Madagascar Flying Fox *Pteropus rufus*

A colony of 200+, were in attendance at their usual day roosts in gallery forest of Berenty.

Sheath-tailed Bats Emballonuridae

Mauritian Tomb Bat *Taphozous mauritanus*

These cute creatures were found in the camp at Ankarafantsika NP.

Old World Leaf-nosed Bats Hipposideridae

Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat *Hipposideros commersoni*

A large colony of several hundred, were observed in a cave at Ranomafana NP.



Old World Rats and Mice Muridae

Eastern Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus*
2 of these forest floor dwellers were recorded in Ranomafana NP.

Civets and allies Viverridae

Madagascar Striped Civet (Fanaloka) *Fossa fossana*
The viewpoint in Ranomafana NP produced views of this attractive mammal.
Indian Civet *Viverricula indica*
Introduced to Berenty, we enjoyed a sighting of this strikingly-patterned creature on a night walk here.

Mouse and Dwarf Lemurs Cheirogaleidae

Grey Mouse Lemur *Microcebus murinus*
Night walks at Ifaty produced several of these cute creatures and sightings were had at a day roost in a small patch of spiny forest.
Brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus rufus*
First seen at Anjozorobe, it was then recorded on a night walk near Perinet Special Reserve.
Golden-brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus ravelobensis*
Recently discovered in Ankarafantsika NP, we found a few of these animals on a night walk here.
Greater Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus major*
1 was seen in the secondary forest at Anjozorobe.
Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus crossleyi*
Our night walk in Mitsinjo Forest yielded 1 of these dwarf lemurs.
Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus medius*
This nocturnal species was observed in Ankarafantsika NP and near Perinet Special Reserve.

Sportive Lemurs Megaladapidae

Milne-Edwards's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur edwardsi*
2 were seen in the dry forest around Ampijoroa.
Hubbard's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur hubbardi*
This recently described species, previously assumed to be Red-tailed Sportive Lemur, was recorded at a day roost in the dry forest of Zombitse and in the spiny forest at Ifaty.
White-footed Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur leucopus*
3 were observed in the gallery forest during our stay in Berenty.

"True" Lemurs Lemuridae

Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur griseus griseus*
Great views were had in Mantadia NP and later seen the rainforests of Ranomafana NP.
Golden Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur aureus*
A pair of these endangered lemurs were spotted in the forest canopy at Ranomafana.
Ring-tailed Lemur *Lemur catta*
We enjoyed prolonged encounters with numerous groups of these comical creatures at Berenty.
Mongoose Lemur *Eulemur mongoz*
Shortly before departing Ampijoroa, we had obscured views of this lemur in the dry forest.
Red-bellied Lemur *Eulemur rubriventer*



The Vohiparara trail in Ranomafana NP yielded a sighting of a pair of these lemurs.

Common Brown Lemur*Eulemur fulvus fulvus*

Several of these creatures were seen in Mantadia and at Ampijoroa.

Red-fronted Brown Lemur*Eulemur fulvus rufus*

It was recorded daily in Berenty and in Ranomafana NP. Note that it was introduced at Berenty.

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur*Varecia variegata variegata*

Seen poorly in the canopy forest of Mantadia and then on the following day, in the same NP, we had phenomenal views of this beauty in a roadside tree.

Avahis, Sifakas and Indri Indriidae**Eastern Avahi (Woolly Lemur)***Avahi laniger*

1 of these Eastern rainforest lemurs was seen in Mantadia NP.

Western Avahi (Woolly Lemur)*Avahi occidentalis*

2 were recorded during a night walk in Ankarafantsika NP.

Diademed Sifaka*Propithecus diadema diadema*

We had an outstanding encounter with a family group of these beautiful sifakas at Mantadia NP.

Verreaux's Sifaka*Propithecus verreaux verreauxi*

Berenty Private Reserve and Zombitse Forest were the two sites where we recorded these creatures.

Coquerel's Sifaka*Propithecus verreauxi coquereli*

We had numerous sightings of these beautiful animals in the camp at Ampijoroa, including a memorable sighting when a youngster nearly pounced on Fonda!

Indri*Indri indri*

First heard at Anjozorobe and Mantadia, they were seen very well in Perinet Special Reserve.

Whales and Dolphins Delphinidae**Humpback Whale***Megaptera novaeangliae*

We had exceptionally good views, which included tail-waving and breaching, of this amazing creature en route to Nosy Vé.

Common Dolphin*Delphinus capensis*

We enjoyed a sighting of a these mammals on our bumpy boat ride back to Tulear from Nosy Vé.

Amphibians

Microhylidae**(Boulenger's) Giant Tree Frog***Platylepis grandis*

It was observed in a hole in a tree within Mantadia NP. This species is the largest strictly arboreal microhylid.

Moramora Climbing Frog*Anodonthyla moramora*

This is the smallest of the *Anodonthyla* genus and we found it at Vohiparara, a site to where it is confined.

Mantellidae**Malagasy Golden Frog***Mantella madagascariensis*

1 of these truly colourful frogs was seen in the forests of Mantadia NP.

Variiegated Golden Frog*Mantella baroni*

A couple of these beautiful frogs were expertly found under a mossy patch in Ranomafana NP.

Madagascar Tree Frog *Boophis madagascariensis*

We recorded this species near the Namarona Waterfall close to Ranomafana NP.

Anamalozoatra Madagascar Frog *Spinomantis aglavei*

Another pretty frog, it was recorded on a night walk in Mitsinjo Forest near Andasibe.

Pandanus Leaf Frog *Mantidactylas liber*

We found this species in Ranomafana NP. It is restricted to living in *Pandanus* palms in rainforest.

Betsileo Leaf Frog *Mantidactylas betsileanus*

This species was discovered in the leaf-litter in the Vohiparara section of Ranomafana NP.

Mantidactylus melanopleura

During the wet conditions in Ranomafana NP, we found this frog.

Reptiles

Crocodiles Crocodylidae

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*

Lake Ravelobe produced several sightings of this prehistoric creature.

Chameleons Chamaeleonidae

Greater Stump-tailed (Horned Leaf) Chameleon *Brookesia superciliaris*

This impressive looking *Brookesia* was observed during a night walk in Mitsinjo Forest.

Domergue's Leaf Chameleon *Brookesia thieli*

On a night walk near Mananara Lodge our guides spotted this incredible creature.

Short-horned Chameleon *Calumma brevicorne*

Found at Anjozorobe and Perinet Special Reserve.

Cryptic Chameleon *Calumma crypticum*

During a short, but sensational night walk along the road to Ranomafana NP, we observed this species.

Flat-headed (-casqued) Chameleon *Calumma globifer*

A couple males were seen near Mananara Lodge.

O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon *Calumma o'shaughnessyi*

Another of the species recorded during the excellent night walk along the road near Ranomafana NP.

Parson's Chameleon *Calumma parsonii*

This is one of the largest chameleons in Madagascar. We found a decent-sized specimen in Mantadia.

Nose-horned Chameleon *Calumma nasutum*

It was found near Mananara Lodge and in the rainforests of Ranomafana NP.

Band-bellied Chameleon *Calumma gastrotaenia*

This small chameleon was recorded at Anjozorobe, Mitsinjo Forest and Ranomafana NP.

Side-striped (Jewel) Chameleon *Furcifer lateralis*

This pretty chameleon was seen in the grounds of Mananara Lodge near Anjozorobe.

Oustalet's Chameleon *Furcifer oustaleti*

Seen daily in the dry forests of Ankarafantsika NP, we later found a massive specimen at Zombitse Forest. This species is the second contender for largest chameleon in Madagascar.

Warty Chameleon *Furcifer verrucosus*

The small patch of spiny forest at Berenty yielded a sighting of this reptilian.

Canopy Chameleon *Furcifer wilsii*

Our first chameleon for the tour, it was spotted crossing the main road en route to Anjozorobe.



Iguanas Iguanidae**Three-eyed Lizard***Chalarodon madagascariensis*

This attractive reptile was seen in Berenty and the spiny forest at Ifaty.

Cuvier's Iguanid*Oplurus cuvieri*

We observed many of these iguanids in Ankarafantsika NP, most notably scurrying around the camp.

Geckos Gekkonidae**Mossy (Sikora) Leaf-tailed Gecko***Uroplatus sikorae*

This fantastically camouflaged creature was found at the forest edge in Perinet Special Reserve.

Dead-leaf Leaf-tailed Gecko*Uroplatus ebenauui*

1 was expertly spotted by our guides on a night walk at Anjozorobe.

Mercator Tropical House Gecko*Hemidactylus mercatorius*

This widespread species was recorded at scattered sites during the tour.

Lineated Day Gecko*Phelsuma lineata*

Many of these beautiful day geckos were found at most sites during the tour.

Dubious Day Gecko*Phelsuma dubia*

We observed this plain-looking gecko at our lodgings in Mahajunga.

Standing's Day Gecko*Phelsuma standingi*

This is one of the largest day geckos on Madagascar, which we found in the spiny forest near Mangily and the deciduous forest of Zombitse. They are closely associated with Baobab trees.

Plated Lizards Gerrhosauridae**Ornate Plated (Ornate Girdled) Lizard***Zonosaurus ornatus*

Good numbers of these large lizards were observed in Ankarafantsika NP.

Broad-tailed Plated (Western Girdled) Lizard*Zonosaurus laticaudatus*

Good numbers of these large lizards were observed in Ankarafantsika NP.

Gravenhorst's Skink*Trachylephis gravenhorstii*

Several of these reptilians were seen in the gallery forest of Berenty Private Reserve.

Elegant Skink*Trachylephis elegans*

A very pretty skink, it was recorded in the dry, deciduous forests of Ankarafantsika NP.

Boas Boidae**Madagascar Ground Boa***Acrantophis madagascarensis*

1 was seen near our accommodation at Ranomafana NP.

Typical Snakes Colubridae**Madagascar Spotted Snake***Madagascarophis colubrinus*

1 was found on a night walk in Ankarafantsika NP.

Golden (Malagasy Blonde) Hog-nosed Snake*Leioheterodon modestus*

At least 3 of these snakes were observed in the deciduous forests near Ampijoroa.

Black-browed Snake*Liophidium torquatum*

The dry deciduous forests of Ankarafantsika NP produced a sighting of this attractive snake.

Mahafaly Sand Snake*Mimophis mahfalensis*

1 was seen in Ankarafantsika NP's dry forests.



List of Notable Insects and other Invertebrates

Giraffe-necked Weevil
Flatid Leaf Bug
Golden Orb-web Spiders

Trachelophorus giraffa
Phromnia rosea
Nephila madagascariensis

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