

MADAGASCAR - 2012

29th Sept – 23rd Oct 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

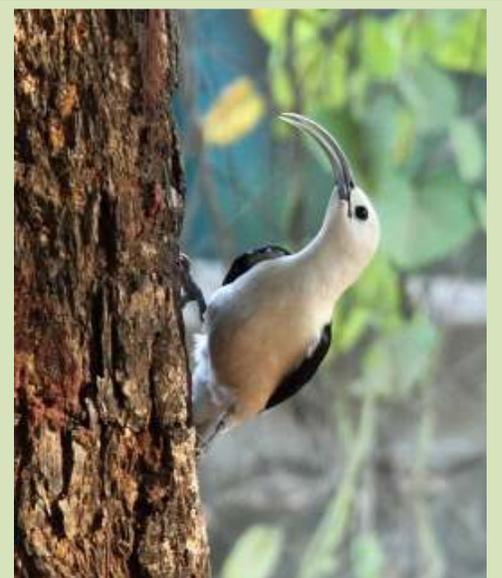
Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Sickle-billed Vanga
- Coquerel's Coua
- Humblots Heron
- Madagascar Fish Eagle
- Slender-billed Flufftail
- Madagascar Rail
- Van Dams Vanga
- White-breasted Mesite
- Banded Kestrel
- Schlegel's Asity
- Madagascar Plover
- Collared Nightjar
- Nuthatch Vanga
- Madagascar Serpent Eagle
- Pollen's Vanga
- Madagascar Yellowbrow
- Indri
- Leaf-tailed Gecko
- Totoroka Scops-Owl
- Madagascar Sandgrouse
- Red-shouldered Vanga
- Madagascar Flufftail
- Subdesert Mesite
- Green-capped Coua
- Rainforest Scops-Owl
- Brown Mesite
- Crossley's Babbler
- Crab Plover
- Bernier's Teal
- Helmet Vanga
- Scaly Ground Roller
- Bernier's Vanga
- Red-breasted Coua
- Scott's Sportive Lemur
- Red-ruffed Lemur
- Lowland Streaked Tenrec
- Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher
- Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk
- Long-tailed Ground-Roller
- Verreaux's Coua
- Appert's Tetraka
- Short-legged Ground Roller
- Red-tailed Tropicbird
- Madagascar Long-eared Owl
- Rufous-headed Ground Roller
- Madagascar Crested Ibis
- Verreaux's Coua
- Pitta-like Ground Roller
- Hubbard's Sportive Lemur
- Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur
- Diademed Sifaka
- Grey-brown Mouse Lemur
- Verreaux's Sifaka
- Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec

Leaders: Steve Bird, Gina Nichol and Tiana

SUMMARY:

This was a fabulous trip to Madagascar where we saw just about everything that was possible on our comprehensive itinerary. Excellent views were had of most of the species we found and 96% of the birds and mammals seen were seen by everyone in the group, which shows our commitment to trying to get everyone to see everything and not just a few persons so as we can put it on our list. Highlights were numerous and the harder to get species eventually fell to us. All the Vangas, all the Couas, and all the Ground-Rollers, performed remarkably well, with particular note being made to the Scaly Ground-Roller that fed around our feet for about 40 minutes, Pitta-like, Long-tailed, Short-legged and Rufous-headed Ground-Rollers displaying or giving exceptional views. Red-shouldered Vanga at point blank range, Van Dams, Pollens, Nuthatch, Lafresnaye's and the amazing Sickle-billed Vanga all seen well, while Masoala produced the superb Helmet Vanga and rare Bernier's Vanga. A Collared Nightjar was seen camouflaged in the leaf litter, owls on day roosts, the memories just go on. To top it off we saw 26 species of Lemur, 2 Tenrecs, Leaf-tailed Gecko, Tomato Frog and more! Our ground arrangements were second to none resulting in a perfectly floorless itinerary.



The strange looking Sickle-billed Vanga was one of the many Madagascar endemics we saw throughout our tour and part of the complete set of Vangas that all showed well

MAIN TOUR

29th Sept 2012

With everyone in and settled at our hotel in (Antananarivo), Tana for short, we relaxed and watched from the Veranda across towards some rice paddies. A few commoner species were noted such as **Black Heron**, white morph **Dimorphic Egret**, and **Mascarene Martin**. After lunch we went for a short walk across the road to another set of rice fields. **Souimanga Sunbird** showed well feeding on some flowers, **Madagascar Stonechats** sat around and plenty of **Madagascar Red Fodies** were seen. Several **Madagascar White-Eyes** gave reasonable views, and a **Madagascar Wagtail** posed on a dead tree. Overlooking some of the wet fields we saw more **Black Herons**, **Squacco Heron** and **Great Egret**, while nearby on some sticks was a vigilant **Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher**. Moving on a little we came across some nice views of **Madagascar Munias**, **Madagascar Bulbul**, the first of several **Madagascar Cisticolas** and we watched a **Madagascar Swamp Warbler** working along the edge of some reeds where it showed well. **Brown-throated Sand Martins** were flying low over the fields and then we found a male **Greater Painted Snipe** feeding in one of the rice paddies. While watching this a **Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo** started calling but we could not locate it even though we did get close. Finally as we made our way back to the hotel a **Madagascar Kestrel** was watched sat on a dead tree. A pre dusk vigil from the veranda saw **Madagascar Black Swift** and a **Peregrine Falcon**.

30th Sept 2012

We left Tana early this morning and flew up to Majunga (Mahajanga) town on the upper west coast of Madagascar. Met by our bus we then made our way to the coast to take our boat trip up the Betsiboka River estuary and soon found that the full moon had caused an extremely low tide. Our capable boatmen navigated us out to a larger fishing boat ready to take us up the river. **African Palm Swifts** were flying off the sea in the bright morning light and soon we were cruising across the caramel coloured water made brown by erosion inland. After 40 minutes or so, the boat slowed down so we could scan the expanse of mudflats for birds. A **Purple Heron** flew by and there were **White-faced Whistling Ducks**, **Glossy Ibis**, many dark phase **Dimorphic Egrets**, **Terek Sandpipers**, **Greater Sand Plover**, and then one of our targets of the morning the endemic **Madagascar White Ibis**. We continued on and to our relief we found at least 3 pairs of the endemic and rare **Bernier's Teals** feeding in the mudflats where we eventually got fairly good views of this target bird as we drifted slowly down the channel. There were also a few **White-fronted Plovers**, **Whimbrel**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, and a distant **Madagascar Buzzard**. With success under our belts we returned to shore and enjoyed a fish lunch overlooking the beach. Afterwards we loaded the bus and departed for Ampijoroa. On the drive there were several **Pied Crows** and a few **Yellow-billed Kites** but little else. We stopped by a big reservoir near some agricultural fields where large numbers of **Black Herons** were feeding and flying around with **Glossy Ibis**. On the water of the lake were several very distant



Our first walk from our city hotel found us a bunch of good birds including close views of Madagascar Munias.



Our comfortable boat took us in search of two Madagascar rarities on the Betsiboka River



Bernier's Teal in flight



We found six rare and endangered Bernier's Teal on the Betsiboka river. If the tides are not right this can be a hard endemic to find

ducks mostly **Red-billed Teal** from what we could see. Continuing on we arrived at Ankarafantsika Reserve and entered the National Park and our home for the next two nights. Immediately from the car park we found our first **Coquerel's Sifaka** in a low tree and to our delight this beautiful creature posed for photos and was our first lemur in Madagascar. In a nearby tree, there was both male and female of the bizarre looking **Cuckoo-Roller** and some very nice looking and extraordinary **Sickle-billed Vangas**. We settled into our rooms and were right back out to explore the deciduous forests of the reserve. Our walk along a trail was slightly delayed by a number of good birds around the Park entrance including **White-headed Vanga**, **Greater Vasa Parrot**, **Grey-headed Lovebirds** and a fly over **Yellow-billed Stork**. We walked toward the trail and stopped to see a **Banded Kestrel** that posed shortly and then flew off. There were lots of **Crested Drongos** around as well as **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher**, more **Sickle-billed Vangas**, and a few **Madagascar Turtle Doves**. We continued into the forest and before long got our first good views of **Crested Coua**. Just beyond that a nice male **Madagascar Magpie Robin** was singing and a **Chabert's Vanga** posted up high on a dead tree looking fine in the afternoon sun. Further on we found **Long-billed Bernieria** and a lovely pair of **Blue Vangas**, **Common Newtonia**, and a **Common Jery**. Next up, we scanned the forest floor for the sometimes difficult **Red-capped Coua**. A bird moved furtively on the forest floor but eventually crossed the open path where we had fairly good views of it. Beyond that, we could hear **Van Dam's Vanga** calling but could not locate it. Walking back at dusk, we heard a **Madagascar Nightjar** calling and after watching two birds flying around one flew over our heads and perched on a nearby branch for all to see.

1st Oct 2012

This morning we gathered just after dawn for an early pre-breakfast walk in the dry deciduous forests of Ankarafantsika Reserve. It was another stunning, cloudless day and from the car park, two **Madagascar Hoopoes** were spotted in a tree and then flew down on the ground giving good views, and also uttering their strange purring call. We boarded the bus and drove a short distance past the lake to another trail which produced a pair of **Cuckoo Rollers** almost immediately. The bonus here was another **Banded Kestrel** that flew in and seemed to be interacting with the **Cuckoo Rollers** chasing them from perch to perch and all of this happened at quite close range. Further on we heard a pair of **White-breasted Mesites** calling and soon they were in our sights crossing the path in front of us. Mark spotted two **Madagascar Harrier Hawks** and as we looked at those, a **Schlegel's Asity** appeared in the mid-canopy where it showed well. Two more **Schlegel's** appeared in the area and offered great views and photo opportunities. A pair of nearby **Common Jeries** could not compete with the Asities which were spotted again a little further down the path. Continuing on, there was a very large fruiting tree that played host to several **Madagascar Bulbuls** as well as at least two **Madagascar Green Pigeons**. A **Hook-billed Vanga** was calling and showed like a white beacon as it perched in the morning sun on top of a large



The very attractive Coquerel's Sifaka including this one with a baby was our first of 26 Lemur species of the trip



This Chabert's Vanga posed very nicely for us in the evening sunlight



A very good sighting was this superb Banded Kestrel a species that is often missed

tree. After we had our fill of it, we continued along the path where two more White-breasted Mesites began calling, flipping leaves and coming closer and closer to us allowing nothing less than crippling views! Working our way back we picked up several **Long-billed Bernieria** and a few more **Madagascar Paradise Flycatchers** including several white morph birds. Around the next corner we had unbelievably close views of a very confiding **Coquerel's Coua**. **Souimanga Sunbirds** were in attendance as we exited the trail and a **Namaqua Dove** was seen. A **Madagascar Buzzard** was seen circling above as we made our way to the coach and back for breakfast. After breakfast, we gathered for our next excursion which started off with a couple of **Lesser Vasa Parrots** eating flowers in a tree above our heads. We moved toward the sandy trail and picked up **White-headed Vanga** and a family group of four **Common Brown Lemurs** huddled together on a tree branch. Another **Coquerel's Coua** caught our attention as did a **Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemur** that was sticking its head out a hole of a dead tree. **Crested Couas** were up next as we continued along the trail. Sharp-eyed Gina picked up a pair of **Madagascar Buttonquail** on the forest floor just off the trail and we had great views as they rotated in circles flipping up the leaf litter as they foraged. Further on, another Buttonquail was spotted and offered photo opportunities that some could not resist. The trade-off was that they missed a **Frances's Sparrowhawk** that was spotted off the trail ahead and by the time they reached it, the bird was gone. Further on, Steve found a **Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher** perching on an open branch in the understory. The bird sat quietly for ages while we watched it from several angles. In fact, as we departed the bird was still sat on the branch unfazed by our extended visit. Heading back to the lodge, we had an **Ashy Cuckoo-Shrike** in with a small flock that included **Common Newtonia**, **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher** and others. A few **Madagascar Turtle Doves** were seen and then around the next corner we had great views of a close **Rufous Vanga** and then two more **Coquerel's Coua** entertained us at close range as they paraded around the leaf litter, one occasionally carrying nesting material. Next up, a pair of **Blue Vangas** showed nicely above the trail. We made our way back to the restaurant and enjoyed a drink while surveying the surrounding habitat. Mark spotted and was soon showing everyone there a **Madagascar Coucal** perched down the hill. After lunch, we took a long walk to a trail behind the lake. As we crossed the boardwalk out to the trail, we had a tree full of **Grey-headed Lovebirds** accompanied by good numbers of **Sakalava Weavers** in the trees at the edge of the forest. Most of the weavers were dull but there was one or two showing bright yellow with a black head. We walked over a suspension bridge into the forest and made our way along the sandy track overlooking the lake. Broken views of the shoreline, allowed us to see several **Purple Herons**, **Black Herons**, **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, **Squacco Herons**, **White-faced Whistling Ducks**, **Striated Herons**, **Common Sandpiper** and many **Glossy Ibis**. We scanned the area and Derek came up with a nice breeding plumage **Madagascar Pond Heron**, while nearby there was **Madagascar Jacana**, **Three-banded Plover**, and a lone **Kittlitz's Plover**. We continued on to another spot overlooking the lake where we heard



A very nice pair of Blue Vangas were a delight to see and came in for close looks at us!



This critically endangered Madagascar Fish Eagle posed perfectly on this dead tree. One of the world's rarest raptors its population is estimated at just 240 mature individuals



It took a bit of work but our last speciality of the Ankarafantsika Reserve was the rare Van Dams Vanga which gave super views in the end

the distant call of a **Madagascar Fish Eagle**. We scanned the trees in the forest but were not able to find the bird. As frustration set in we then heard another bird calling from the forest on our side of the lake and we repositioned ourselves to try and locate it. As we rounded the beach back toward the trail, there the bird was, sat perched on an open tree where we all enjoyed fabulous views of this highly endangered bird lit up beautifully by the afternoon sun. As the sun set, we made our way back along the trail and over the suspension bridge to the boardwalk. A **Madagascar Nightjar** flew over the field as dusk fell and we walked back to our lodge. Some people spotlighted a **Grey Mouse Lemur** along the way. While we waited for dinner, one of the local guides called us out to see a **White-browed Owl** perched in a tree above the car park, and during dinner we were distracted by another **Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemur** and then later on some of the group got to see a couple of **Western Avahis** near their cabins.

2nd Oct 2012

This morning we did another pre-breakfast early walk in Ankarafantsika Reserve. Our focus was to be our last target bird that we had not yet seen and the most difficult of all – **Van Dam's Vanga**. We gathered in the car park where **Sickle-billed, White-headed, and Chabert's Vanga**, and **Madagascar Bee-eaters** were seen in the trees above. Then we set off up the sandy trail into the forest and found two handsome **Madagascar Hoopoes** showing well in a dead tree. A pair of **White-breasted Mesites** were spotted on the track ahead and there were several **Madagascar Turtle Doves** around. A pair of **Madagascar Buttonquails** showed very well just off the trail and we watched them perform their spinning manoeuvres in the leaf litter. Continuing on we made our way to an area that was a known territory for **Van Dam's Vanga** and listened quietly while two **Ashy Cuckoo-Shrikes** foraged in the trees right above our heads. We could hear a **Van Dam's Vanga** calling in the far distance but it was too far away to see. It wasn't long though before one of the birds flew into a very close tree and sat preening while we admired it at close range. Excellent! Thrilled with our views we turned back down the trail noting a **Crested Coua** sunning itself on a tree just above the track. Further on a **Red-capped Coua** was spotted wandering very close to the track allowing fantastic views. Since we had achieved our target so quickly, that gave us time to head to the lake and try to find the endemic **Humblots Heron** again. To our delight, one was seen walking in the shallows on our side of the lake and we enjoyed prolonged scope views of the bird eating a large fish. In addition, we saw several **Madagascar Coucals**, two **Little Bitterns**, a **Madagascar Fish Eagle** in a distant tree, and an **African Darter**. We left the National Park after breakfast and set off on the long drive back to Tana. A couple of stops at wetlands along the way yielded another **Humblots Heron**, **African Pygmy Goose** and at least three **White-winged Terns**. Another stop at the Betsiboka River bridge had us surveying the huge area of rocky river boulders to find at least six **Madagascar Pratincoles** including a pair mating. A **Madagascar Wagtail** got little notice as we crossed the enormous



This Milne Edwards Sportive Lemur showed well before disappearing back into its hole



Several very confiding Madagascar Buttonquails gave good views in the forest leaf litter



A stop on the Betsiboka river produced 6 Madagascar Pratincoles



A pair of strange looking Giraffe Weevils were caught mating

steel bridge and scanned the rocks for the pratincoles. We continued on for hours seeing several **Madagascar Bush Larks** and **Madagascar Stonechats** along the way. Later in the afternoon, our journey was interrupted by an outburst by Derek, “Harrier!” as he pointed toward a **Madagascar Harrier** flying by on our right. We stopped quickly and jumped out of the bus to follow the bird as it disappeared over a ridge not to be seen again. We then continued on to Tana arriving in the evening in time for dinner and the checklist.

3rd Oct 2012

We departed very early this morning to Anjozorobe and the Mananara Reserve. As soon as we arrived, we could hear a **Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo** calling from high in a pine tree eventually David pinpointed it near a tangle of pine cones. A red **Madagascar Red Fody** was also seen in the tree and was noted as the first red one we had seen. We then walked to an area overlooking a marsh and immediately heard a **Madagascar Flufftail** calling from under some bushes at the edge of the marsh. Quickly in position we crouched down to look under a bush and all enjoyed superb views of this cracking bird! Nearby a **Grey Emutail** was flitting around and there were **Brown-throated Sand Martins** flying around. Several **Madagascar Stonechats** sang from the bush tops and performed flight displays above the marsh. A **Madagascar Swamp Warbler** also sang and perched up on the reeds offering good views. With the easy Flufftail under our belts, we walked into the marsh to try and catch a glimpse of the very difficult and elusive **Slender-billed Flufftail** our target bird of the day. Barefoot and knee deep in water, we plodded through the marsh to an area of tall reeds and positioned ourselves to view an open area where we hoped the bird would show. The Flufftail called from nearby, then approached and all at once crossed the opening offering very brief views for just a few of us. Much more confiding was a **Madagascar Rail** that crossed the open spot twice a little more slowly allowing pretty good views. We spent a good amount of time hoping the Slender-billed would show again but no luck. The loud haunting calls of **Indri** came from the surrounding forest as we trudged back through the swamp to dry ground. Back at the bank, a pair of **Giraffe Weevils** (Madagascar endemic) were found mating on a leaf but not getting any privacy as cameras clicked away. We walked back up to the lodge for a very welcome cup of coffee and relaxed on the lovely veranda overlooking the forest. Derek spotted a distant raptor in his scope, Steve got a quick look and although distant all of the features pointed to **Madagascar Serpent Eagle** a very rarely seen species that does occur in the area. Two **Cuckoo Rollers** displayed in flight several times over the ridge line and there was a **Henst’s Goshawk** calling from the forest. After a brief rest, we walked down toward the forest trails finding a large green Chameleon near one of the cabins by the trail. We made our way into the forest which was very quiet except for an agitated **Madagascar Brush Warbler** which sounded like a speeding typewriter, and a confiding **Hook-billed Vanga**. On the way back up to the lodge we tried for **Red-fronted Coua** and Christian and Derek saw a coua moving along the slope



Apart from this obliging Hook-billed Vanga the forest was rather quiet



There were plenty of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs to be seen



A small flock of Madagascar Sandgrouse gave superb flight views



Great views of the famous Ring-tailed Lemurs of Berenty

below us but the bird quickly vanished. An extensive search turned up empty and we continued up to the lodge for a delicious lunch. A distant perched **Blue Pigeon** was too far away to get any features leaving us wanting better views. After lunch, we drove to a different area and walked to a small pond at the bottom of a hill. Along the way we had good views of a **Madagascar Bush Lark** and more **Madagascar Red Fodies**. The pond was quiet except for a couple of **Madagascar Snipe** that flew off in front of us. We returned to Tana for the night after a long day.

3rd - 5th Oct 2012

A flight delay had us arriving in Fort Dauphin in the late afternoon and then a drive to Berenty Lodge in time for dinner. The next morning we were up and out early to bird the area around the lodge. As the sun rose, we gathered in the car park noting several **Red-fronted Brown Lemurs** feeding in the trees above our rooms. It was lovely and cool at this early hour and promised to be another sparkling clear day. We drove a short distance and surveyed a sisal field that held several **Helmeted Guineafowl**. Walking on, we searched the open areas of the fields and found a small group of **Madagascar Turtle Doves** and a few **Madagascar Bush Larks**. Shortly after, we spotted a **Madagascar Sandgrouse** moving through the vegetation and with patience we watched a pair cross in the open not far away. They moved away from us and then five birds took flight and were joined by a sixth as they circled over us allowing wonderful close flight views. A few noisy **Madagascar Cisticolas** flew in and perched up on the close sisal and a **Madagascar Coucal** worked the far edge of the field, while a pair of **Grey-headed Lovebirds** flew in to the top of a large tree across the field. We walked back toward the lodge and found a troupe of **Ring-tailed Lemurs** in a tree close to the track sunning and preening each other. There were several babies in tow and we watched their antics until eventually a few came down to the ground and ran up the track. Further on, we found our first **Verreaux's Sifakas** with young, they were feeding in the trees and later we watched them dancing across the track in front of us much to our delight. Further on in the gallery forest a **White-footed Sportive Lemur** sat perched quietly in a tree just above eye level and soon became the subject of a photo session. A group of **Red-fronted Brown Lemurs** foraging in the leaf litter crossed the track between us, and offered great views. We continued along the track and as our local guide checked an owl roost spot, Gina saw a **Giant Coua** crossing the track ahead of us. The bird moved slowly on the ground, picking up bits from the leaf litter and was seemingly unfazed by its audience. It seemed that the bird was collecting nesting material and its unconcerned reaction was the same for all of the other **Giant Couas** seen during the rest of the morning. Small numbers of **Crested Couas** were seen during the morning in the trees above the track. At one point, our guide checked another spot and indeed found a roosting **Torotoroka Scops Owl** sitting at eye level in a dark tangle just 4ft away. This very confiding bird was well watched and photographed. Next up was a nest of a **Madagascar Spinetail** that was tucked under the floor of a water pump in the forest. Both **Madagascar Hoopoe** and **Madagascar**



Several **White-footed Sportive Lemurs** gave wonderful photo opportunities and always looked surprised and cute. Although this individual looked as though it was too fat and jammed into its hole!



Giant Couas were actually easy to see and confiding in Berenty with good views of many during our stay



Quite often a difficult one to find we had good views of a pair of **Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawks** displaying over the Berenty Reserve

Paradise Flycatcher were seen during our walk as the heat was building up. We returned to the car park and checked the **Sakalava Weaver** colony in the overhead trees, and saw that some of the birds were quite bright yellow on the head and it was our best views yet of this species. After breakfast, we walked into the Berenty Reserve. A pair of **Lesser Vasa Parrots** was spotted feeding in a very large Banyan tree, and there were more **Crested Couas** flying around and a **Giant Coua** on the ground. As we arrived at the **Malagasy Fruit Bat** colony, a **Madagascar Kestrel** was seen in the blue sky above chasing a **Yellow-billed Kite**. More excitement occurred when Derek spotted a pair of **Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawks** performing a flight display and allowing fairly good views. Next up was a pair of mating **Madagascar Kestrels** in a tree above the track, and a small, busy flock that included **Common Jeries** and **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher** among others. We stopped to check a tree where a **Frances's Sparrowhawk** had been seen earlier in the week but it was not there. As we continued up the trail, Steve spotted a female **Frances's Sparrowhawk** flying into the tree behind us and we hurried back to catch a glimpse of it perched. It flew back over us on the trail and disappeared into the forest but its presence added confidence to the idea that the bird might be nesting in the big tree. Further on a pair of **Yellow-billed Kites** were seen copulating on a dead tree. On the way back there were more **Sifakas** in the trailside trees. A roosting **Barn Owl** in the blackness of a large tangled tree was a challenge to get on but all succeeded in the end. We then continued back to the lodge for a lovely lunch and siesta until later in the afternoon. Later in the day we visited the local museum, the Arembelo Museum de l'Androy which had historical displays about the local area and people. A Green Chameleon in a bush just outside the door was well photographed as it disappeared and reappeared among the leaves. From here, we went for a walk in the spiny forest nearby led by our local guide who told us about the unique plants and animals of this amazing habitat. A **Three-eyed Lizard** greeted us at the trail entrance and there were several **White-footed Sportive Lemurs** posing on the trees. Bird life was quiet but we did have an **Madagascar Hoopoe**, **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher**, **Lesser Vasa Parrot**, **Madagascar Magpie-Robin**, and some **Common Jeries**. Several groups of **Flatid Leaf Bugs** were inspected to see their unique body structure. The guide took us off the trail to see a **Madagascar Nightjar** that was sat camouflaged on its nest with a small chick sheltering behind it. There was only one chick slightly visible and the guide told us that he knew there were two. We went back to the lodge for an hour or so before going back to the Spiny Forest for a night walk. The highlight was several **Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs** seen at fairly close range as they moved through the lower bushes. One in particular was very confiding and sat feeding and entertaining us for several minutes. A **White-browed Owl** flew in briefly and then disappeared into the darkness. A **Spiny Chameleon** was also seen just off the trail, and as we returned it was a glorious, star-filled night ending a very exciting nocturnal visit to the forest.



This female Frances's Sparrowhawk perched very briefly and then flew off! We saw plenty more during the tour



In the Spiny forest of Berenty we got great views of this Madagascar Nightjar sat with a chick



The critically endangered Red-shouldered Vanga gave stunning close views in the dry thorn scrub near Tulear. Only discovered in 1997 the habitat for this species is being destroyed at an alarming rate

6th Oct 2012

The next morning we departed early for Fort Dauphin and our flight back to Tana. The scenery was spectacular as we travelled and one stop yielded a pair of **Lafresnaye's Vangas**. We arrived at the airport around mid-morning to find that our flight was delayed until early afternoon, something that is quite regular in Madagascar. Later on we arrived in Tana and settled into our city hotel for the night.

7th Oct 2012

We departed Tana early this morning for our flight to Tulear. Fortune was with us and there were no delays and we arrived just after 7.00am. We dropped our bags at the hotel and drove straight out to an area of very dry, dense thorn scrub to look for the highly restricted endemic **Red-shouldered Vanga**, a species only discovered in 1997 and critically endangered due to habitat destruction. We walked slowly amongst this very dry habitat and found it extremely quiet for birds except for the usual **Sunbirds**, **Drongos** and a few **Common Jeries**. We then heard the distant call of our target bird and moving quickly to the area we were soon face to face with a handsome male **Red-shouldered Vanga**. The bird was singing from the tops of the bushes allowing prolonged eye-level views of this difficult bird, nearby some of us saw a female that came in briefly. It was a great victory for us to find this species and see it so well. We returned to the hotel during the heat of the day and then later in the afternoon went to a dried up lake with a large expanse of mud and a small stream running through it. A scan of the area turned up our first of many **Kittlitz's Plovers** and we searched through them to try and find the endemic **Madagascar Plover**. A distant bird in the heat haze looked good so we moved closer to try and get a definitive view. A big flock of **Kittlitz's Plovers** flew in and some landed close to us so we checked them and found at least one **Madagascar Plover** that showed its black breast band perfectly. The **Kittlitz's Plovers** close by provided a great comparative view. We then moved on to another area near La Tabla and walked a track into the dry thorn scrub. Here we found **Subdesert Brush Warbler** and with patience and persistence we eventually spotted a **Verreaux's Coua** perched on top of a bush and showing fairly well through the scopes. A flock of **Grey-headed Lovebirds** flew in nearby and on the way back we noted an active colony of **Sakalava Weavers** in a Baobab Tree with the sunset over La Tabla in the background.

8th Oct 2012

This morning after breakfast we went down to the coast to catch our speedboat out to the uninhabited islet of Nosy Ve. The first part of the adventure involved a ride on a Zebu cart from the pier out to the waiting boat. The cows pulled us through the water delivering us dry and safe to the boat. Then we cruised across the bay toward the sandy island. It was another sparkling clear day and the water was a gorgeous tropical blue. Some flying fish were seen jumping out of the water and as we slowed down just off the island shore, we spotted some **Red-tailed Tropicbirds** flying over and a



This Madagascar Plover was one of a nesting pair found at Ifaty



Our Zebu rides out to our waiting boat was a unique experience



Simply superb views of Red-tailed Tropicbirds in the air and on their nests with chicks



Great comparisons of both dark and light phase Dimorphic Egrets

Crab Plover on the beach. The boatman manoeuvred us so disembark onto the sandy beach and we set up our scopes to look at the birds along the shore. Shorebirds included **Ruddy Turnstones**, **Sanderling**, **White-fronted Plover**, **Whimbrel**, **Pacific Golden Plovers** and a few **Grey Plovers**. A flock of terns flew in and landed on an offshore sandbar and offered winter plumage **Roseate Terns**, **Common Tern**, **Lesser** and **Greater Crested Terns**. We then walked to the interior of the island where there was a rookery of **Dimorphic Egrets** with a few **Grey Herons** mixed in. At the far end of the island was a **Red-tailed Tropicbird** nesting colony. Checking under the bushes, we found birds of all ages and got amazing close views of this elegant bird from fluffy chicks to full adults with their bright red bills and tails. Looking over the open water, we also spotted a **White-tailed Tropicbird**. The sea had kicked up a bit with the wind and our short ride on to Anakao village was exciting and wet. Again the boatman drove as close to shore as possible and we landed near the village and our lovely beachside accommodation for the night. The attraction here was **Littoral Rock Thrush** which appeared near some of the cabins and perched on top of bushes behind the hotel for us. The evening brought local music entertainment and a look for **Grey Mouse Lemurs** in the trees around the bungalows.

9th Oct 2012

We were up early this morning for breakfast and our return boat trip to Tulear. At breakfast the **Littoral Rock Thrushes** provided excellent views and soon we were boarding the speedboat to take us back. The sea was relatively calm making for a nice cruise across the bay where the Zebu carts were waiting to shuttle us to shore. Three 4x4s were then waiting to take us to Ifaty for the rest of the day. A stop at some freshwater ponds yielded eight or so **Greater Flamingos**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Common Greenshank**, **Great Egret**, and good numbers of **Red-billed Teal**. We walked to get a better view of a flock of **Little Grebes** at the far end of the pond and slowly inspected them one by one until we came up with what appeared to be at least one, possibly two **Madagascar Little Grebe** in the flock. Owing to the very poor markings on these two birds we came to the conclusion that they were probably hybrids. A lone **Hottentot Teal** flew out of the reeds over to another pond and we noted several **Curlew Sandpipers** around. A **Ruff** was seen briefly and there were **Ringed Plover**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, **Madagascar Cisticola**, **Madagascar Manakins** and a few **Madagascar Bee-eaters** around. On the other pond, we found up to six **Little Stints** and then we continued on the sandy tract toward Ifaty. We turned off the track toward our hotel and stopped to check an open area for plovers and could only find a few **Kittlitz's**. In the afternoon, we made our way to the Spiny Forest in Ifaty, a dry, scrubby landscape with huge bloated Boabab trees surrounded by thorny scrub and Spiny Euphorbias. Not far along the trail we found our first specialty here, an **Archbold's Newtonia** which showed very well in the afternoon light next to the trail. **Common Jeries** were also seen as was a **Madagascar Magpie Robin** and several **Souimanga Sunbirds** but other than that the afternoon heat was inhibiting bird activity. We hung



This Littoral Rock Thrush could easily be seen around our idyllic beach side accommodation



This was the unique Spiny Forest at Ifaty where we searched for several very special birds



Our first Archbold's Newtonia showed well, and seemed to be the subject of a ringing programme



What a fantastic bird, this Long-tailed Ground-Roller gave superb views. Later we had a pair giving the most elaborate and fascinating display

around a large Baobab for a while the local guides checked some known areas for our target specialties. A **Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo** called from the distance and was seen along with **Chabert's Vanga**. A call from across the forest had us moving quickly toward our local guides who had located a **Long-tailed Ground Roller**. The bird shot along the ground through the thick undergrowth but eventually stopped and allowed superb prolonged views at fairly close range. We were very pleased with this find and afterwards made our way back out of the forest as the sun began to set. A perched **Madagascar Buzzard** was quite vocal as it flew off into the forest. We made our way back to our seaside accommodation and its welcome sea breeze and enjoyed a nice dinner with our feet in the sand. There were several **Madagascar Nightjars** around including one that flew through the restaurant and over our table. During the meal a Boa peaked down from the roof of the restaurant but retreated swiftly when the other patrons crowded over to see it.

10th Oct 2012

This morning we got up early to be in the Spiny Forest at dawn. Over a quick coffee we once again had the **Madagascar Nightjars** flying around the swimming pool and then we were off in search of more specialties of the area. The sun was rising as we arrived and began our trek along the sandy trails. A **Madagascar Green Pigeon** was seen on a nest close to the trail and a little further on a **Thamnornis Warbler** came close to the trail so that we all got super close views. One of the local guides came by with a **Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec** that he had found earlier and we were delighted to be able to see this elusive animal. There were several **Chabert's Vangas** and a couple of **White-headed Vangas** that came into the nearby tree tops offering good views, especially nice as we hadn't seen these species for a few days. A loud call nearby alerted us to a pair of **Green-capped Couas** perched in a tree about 15 feet up. We approached and were able to get fairly good views of the birds before they flew off. Another distant shout had us crossing the forest to where our local guides had found a female **Subdesert Mesite**. When we arrived, the bird was perched about 10 feet up a tree in its characteristic head down, tail up position and perfectly still allowing extended views from close range. What a morning it was turning out to be! Next up was a **Red-tailed Vanga** calling and showing close to the trail. Further on, our local guide alerted us to a **Running Coua** nearby and the bird approached us to within 8 feet and then sat with its wings drooped sunning itself in an open patch of ground. Amazing! As we headed out of the forest a pair of **Greater Vasa Parrots** flew over and a **Madagascar Black Swift** or two were seen flying over in the other direction. The final show of the morning was a fabulous pair of **Long-tailed Ground Rollers** displaying for us. We watched these remarkable birds as they threw back their heads and called and then jumped up on to low branches and fanned their wings and tails. It was a truly magical exhibition that we felt very lucky to be able to witness. We had found all of our targets in the Spiny Forest and had incredible views of them all. What a morning! On our way back to the lodge, we made a quick stop for



This **Thamnornis Warbler** showed well but looked nothing like the illustrations



What a cutie, this **Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec** delighted us all



Some good views were had of a pair of **Green-capped Couas**, a recent split from **Red-capped Coua**. Note the cap is actually 'Olive-brown'



What a bird! This female **Subdesert Mesite** sat motionless for us to enjoy the most perfect of views sat in a tree about 10ft up.

a nesting pair of **Madagascar Plovers** in the open fields near where we had checked yesterday. This time we had nice, close views of the birds, much better than a few days ago. Back to the lodge for breakfast, we relaxed overlooking the sea and later after lunch made our way back to Tulear for the night.

11th Oct 2012

Today we left Tulear early and drove to the very dry and hot Zombitse Forest arriving by 8 AM. As our guide checked us in, we checked the trees around the car park and found **Madagascar White-Eye** and **Common Jery**. The local guides joined us as we set off to bird the trails in the dry forest. Two **Greater Vasa Parrots** flew over just before we entered the forest and a **Madagascar Hoopoe** perched up nicely. The guide then took us off the trail to see a roosting **White-browed Owl**, while nearby a colourful, well marked green gecko on a dead tree caught our attention. Another small track led to a **Hubbard's Sportive Lemur** sat outside its hole on a tree about 15 feet off the ground. All the while, **Coquerel's Couas** were calling from the forest, but generally it was very quiet. We decided to cross over the road to another area. Our first stop was for a **Torotoroka Scops Owl** on its day roost. We were starting to get nervous about finding our target in this forest, the rare and restricted **Appert's Tetraka**. Only found in the Zombitse Forest this terrestrial species was only discovered in 1972. There were no birds calling and nothing was responding to tape but our local guides had a plan. They went off the trail to an area and soon called us in to see not one but two birds moving furtively on the forest floor. We got our first partially obscured views but after a while the birds came closer and closer eventually showing right at our feet and even allowed some close photos! After enjoying our views we set off back to the bus picking up **Blue Vanga** along the way. We continued our journey to Isalo through expansive open flat land to an amazing landscape of grassy plains bordered by eroded limestone hills. The countryside was spectacular and reminiscent of the American west. After checking into our hotel, we went out to the isolated limestone Isalo Massif to look for a few specialties. We walked across the grassy plains in the hopes of finding **Madagascar Partridge**. Several **Madagascar Buttonquails** flew up from the grasses and a **Marsh Owl** showed well but no Partridge. We continued around to a hotel built among the rocks and there we found two **Benson's Rock Thrushes** perched on a ledge above the car park. We enjoyed prolonged and eventually very close views of these birds before taking a walk around the grounds. Down beside a forest we saw a couple of **Broad-billed Rollers**, and failed to tempt a noisy **White-throated Rail** out from the deep cover. Finally Gina found a **Stripe-throated Jery**, which gave great views in a small tree.

12th Oct 2012

This morning before breakfast we combed the grasslands of Isalo National Park once again for Madagascar Partridge. Searching the expanses of grass was like looking for a needle in a haystack but the surrounding scenery and cool morning air made it a pleasant



This Hubbard's Sportive Lemur was a good sport and showed well



It took some work before we got superb close views of two rare Appert's Tetrakas. This pair eventually came to within just a few feet of us



With a little bit of patience this Benson's Rock Thrush came in close and posed for super views

task. We trudged through endless grasses to no avail but then Steve heard a partridge calling in the distance. We moved closer and then as we were contemplating how to proceed, a single **Madagascar Partridge** flew up from the grass nearby and then dropped back down quickly. A further search came up empty but in the meantime some of us found a small pond that held a nice breeding plumage **Madagascar Pond Heron**. There were several **Madagascar Coucals** as well as **Cisticolas**, **Bush-Larks**, and **Buttonquail** around and a nice posing **Madagascar Kestrel**. A couple of us also found a freshly killed and eaten **Marsh Owl**. After breakfast we embarked on the long drive to Ranomafana. We entered the National Park and stopped at a bridge to walk a section of the road. A glowing red fody perched on a tree top caught our attention as did several others over the course of the afternoon and when we finally got decent views we ticked our first pure **Forest Fody**, although several others seemed to be hybrids. We birded along the road and found **Long-billed Bernieria**, **Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher**, **Madagascar Wagtail**, and **Chabert's Vanga**. A couple of **Madagascar Blue Pigeons** flew over just before we reached an area where a **Madagascar Flufftail** was calling. The Flufftail eventually showed and then we continued on finding a very handsome and showy **Blue Coua** in the trees just up the hillside. We checked an area for **Forest Rock Thrush** and eventually a nice male came out and perched on a tree above the road offering great views. Further on we made a diversion up an old disused road that produced **Madagascar Starling** and very nice views of **Pollen's Vanga**, accompanied by a **Tylas Vanga** and nearby **White-headed Vanga**. Continuing on to our hotel for the night we arrived just before the power in the whole village went out and put us in the dark.

13th Oct 2012

Our early breakfast on the veranda was delightful with our first cooked eggs of the trip! There were several moths that had come in overnight and we inspected several and photographed a few. Then we were off to Ranomafana National Park for the day. As we got off the bus in the car park, our local guide immediately pointed out a **Rand's Warbler** perched high in a distant tree. It was a bit far away (or was it very small?), but over the next two days we had plenty of great views of several closer singing birds. A couple of **Blue Pigeons** flew over as we headed into the forest, and continuing our walk we made our way along the winding trails and eventually came to a hillside where a **Red-fronted Coua** was spotted walking close to the path. The bird came toward us and then jumped up into a tree and ascended into the canopy all within feet of us! Next up was a **White-throated Oxlables** that worked the forest floor and eventually gave good views very close to the trail. Further along we had nice views of **Ashy Cuckoo-Shrike** and **Long-billed Bernieria**. We continued our walk up along the edge of a deep ravine where a **Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher** was spotted perched on a branch, while several **Madagascar Paradise Flycatchers** flew around and a **Dark Newtonia** played hard to get. We hoped to



It took a while before this Forest Rock Thrush put in an appearance



Sometimes hard to get this Pollen's Vanga gave stunning views at Ranomafana



Yet another star bird we enjoyed close views of this Pitta-like Ground-Roller displaying and calling. It was the second of the 5 species that we saw well and a welcome sighting by all

catch a glimpse of the **Henst's Goshawk** that was calling nearby and while we were waiting for our chance, a **Ward's Flycatcher** kept us entertained. It became clear that the Goshawk was not going to cooperate so we moved to another area where a **Pitta-like Ground-Roller** was calling. As we arrived, the bird perched up on a dead stump for several minutes calling and then jumped down and ran along the forest floor and across the main track. We moved up to the track and the bird came around and perched on a branch right in front of us calling and displaying all the while. Simply spectacular! After this show, we continued on a side trail down to a valley where four **Milne-Edwards Sifakas** were resting in some trees. After enjoying the views of these beautiful creatures we made our way up the hillside and back on to the main track. A little further on, a **Frances's Sparrowhawk** flew in and perched just ahead of us above the trail allowing great but brief views. We then worked our way back toward the entrance and, as we crossed a small stream, David spotted a **Red-bellied Lemur** in a tree. The Lemur saw us and then climbed down the tree and moved toward us. It stopped in the stream and drank and then crossed over to another tree on the other side. Then the local guides took us down another track to see a couple of **Greater Bamboo Lemurs**, a species thought to be extinct at one time but rediscovered in Ranomafana in 1972. These Lemurs were feeding in the bamboo canopy and we enjoyed being able to see these rare animals in their native habitat. Next up was an amazing looking **Leaf-tailed Gecko** that got a lot of attention and was well photographed. Another trail brought us to one of our main target birds a **Brown Mesite**. The bird stood frozen for several minutes while we watched it at close range. Amazing! We then made our way out of the forest to the car park where a flowering tree held lots of **Souimanga Sunbirds** and our first **Common Sunbird Asity**. After lunch we walked down to a roadside café for a coffee and there we had some amazing moths including a **Madagascar Comet**, one of the largest and best moths you could ever see. In a distant tree there was a **Green Jery** which was scoped as well as a **Madagascar Starling** and some more **Madagascar Blue Pigeons**. We moved to another area for the afternoon near the bridge where we had stopped yesterday. There were **Mascarene Martins** around and a **Forest Fody** glowing brightly in a tree. We walked a "flat" trail which produced **Ashy Cuckoo-Shrike**, **Blue Vanga**, **Blue Coua**, **Nelicourvi Weaver**, and more **Common Sunbird Asities**. From a small bridge over a wetland area, we heard **White-throated Rail** calling in the distance. Not far up the trail we caught up with the bird which showed well running back and forth on the opposite bank. On the way back some people saw a female **Velvet Asity** which sat out for a few seconds and then disappeared. We worked our way back to the road and headed back to our hotel for the night. Tonight the power was on and we enjoyed a delicious meal.

14th Oct 2012

This morning we enjoyed another fried egg breakfast while marveling at two huge **Comet Moths** that had come into the hotel lights overnight. Then we spent our second full day at



We were all fascinated by this superb Red-bellied Lemur that came down to drink from the stream beside us



Another tricky endemic this lone Brown Mesite was watched well at close range. Thanks go to our local guides who worked hard to find this bird for us



There were some pretty spectacular moths around our breakfast table, but none more so than this huge Madagascar Comet

Ranomafana National Park, starting at the area we had birded yesterday afternoon. As we gathered in the car park, our guide heard the call of a **Cryptic Warbler** so we walked up the road and found the bird on a distant tree. The bus came up with our scopes and we trained them on the bird while some of us tried to catch up with a **Spectacled Tetraka** proving very elusive in the roadside bushes. On the way back toward the trail, we had a fabulous **Rand's Warbler** singing in a nearby tree with a **Green Jery** on the same branch. Scope views in the morning sun helped us appreciate these species before we continued into the forest. We walked for a while until we heard a **Rufous-headed Ground-Roller** calling. This bird gave us the run around for sure as we ambled up and down a hillside trying to catch a glimpse of it as it moved in the thick forest undergrowth. Eventually everyone got some sort of views of the bird before we continued along the trail. Next up was a **Crossley's Babbler** that was calling close to the trail and offering nice views. Our local guide then motioned wildly for us to come quickly to see two **Milne-Edwards Sifakas** moving through the tree branches. It was fantastic seeing their acrobatics as they jumped from tree to tree with ease. As Sifakas do, they stopped to look at us from time to time and then continued swinging on through the forest. Moving on we ascended a steep narrow trail to an area that had flowers favoured by the very difficult **Yellow-bellied Sunbird Asity**. Here we sat for a while hoping a bird would come in for a visit. Frustratingly it called but was only seen well and briefly by Christian and our local guide. A nearby dead tree had very interesting holes made by an **Aye-Aye** and it was a thrill to know these mysterious, highly nocturnal and rarely seen animals had to be around. The Asity never reappeared so we moved to another area with similar flowers. On the way up, a **Dark Newtonia** once again did its best to elude us. We stopped in an area for the Asity and could hear something that sounded like the bird but the light conditions and tall trees did not allow views. We then came out of the trail for lunch and headed toward a café just outside the National Park entrance. A quick stop had us rescue a large chameleon from certain death on the road. Our local guide identified it as *Calluma oshaughnessyi*. The café served a very strange version of "hamburger" but the chips and diversion from the usual French roll were somewhat appreciated! Back into the forest in the afternoon, we chased around a **Madagascar Wood Rail** which circled us but never showed. When it got dark, we visited an area to try and see some Lemurs coming in to bananas put on some roadside trees. It didn't take long for several charming little **Brown Mouse Lemurs** to appear not two meters away from us. After enjoying these little cuties, we walked the road and found a few more species of chameleon and a **Greater Dwarf Lemur** in the trees. Back to the hotel, we enjoyed a Madagascar chicken and chips dinner and reviewed our sightings for the day.

15th Oct 2012

This morning we were in the forest early to make the most of our last few hours at Ranomafana. The regular chorus of **Rand's Warbler**, **Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo**, **Madagascar Coucal**, **Crested Drongo** and **Cuckoo-Roller** provided background music



At last stunning views of a Rufous-headed Ground-Roller. Lots of groups missed this species this year! But not us



A small group of Milne Edwards Sifakas entertained us in the forest at Ranomafana



An evening search for the tiny Brown Mouse Lemur provided superb close views as several came to feed on Bananas smeared onto a tree

as we made our way along the trails in search of some difficult targets. There were Newtonias and Fodies around and **Nelicourvi Weavers** and the always striking **Blue Coua** was seen. It was hard going as we tried for **Brown Emutail** which we could hear but not get close to. A **Madagascar Wood Rail** made a quick appearance found by Tracy and our guide, but then remained elusive for the rest of us while a **Madagascar Flufftail** just happened to wander past. Back up to the Asity hillside, Christian spotted a **Velvet Asity** feeding on berries but it got away before most could see it. Some of us continued on up to the stake out in hopes of seeing the **Yellow-bellied Sunbird Asity** while a few stayed back in the hope that the **Velvet Asity** would reappear and were eventually rewarded with nice views of a non-breeding male. The Sunbird Asity never showed but **Blue Vangas** and **Cuckoo-Rollers** were around and a **Rufous-headed Ground-Roller** showed very well and close for all to enjoy as we walked back. A few people then got on to a **Brown Emutail** that was skulking next to the trail and then it was time to leave Ranomafana. By late morning we set off for the long drive to Antsirable, here we stopped for the night en-route to Perinet.

16th Oct 2012

This morning we continued our journey to Perinet. A stop on the bridge over the River Mangoro yielded four **Madagascar Pratincoles** that seemed to be displaying to one another on a rock in the middle of the river. We arrived at Perinet in the late morning and enjoyed a drink at the lodge while overlooking the river which offered a nice **Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher** and a flyover **Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk**. **Indris** were calling from across the river and soon we were out birding the Antisabe-Mantadia National Park with our local guide Patrice. Two **Rainforest Scops Owls** perched under a bromeliad were a welcome sight as a new species for us, while nearby the haunting calls of the **Indri** provided some of the background sound as we searched the trails of the reserve for some of our targets. Sharp-eyed Steve managed to spot a **Collared Nightjar** from the trail and we all marveled at how well camouflaged the bird was amongst the leaf litter on the forest floor. Next up was a **Red-fronted Coua** that moved out of view quickly. We then embarked on a hike up a steep hill where Patrice showed us three **Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs** bouncing along the trees beside the river. Nearby we watched a family group of four **Indri**. The **Indri** were feeding and moving among the tree branches above and these incredible animals gave us a fantastic show. Three **Eastern Avahis (Woolly Lemurs)** were bundled together and looking at us from a small tree top. We then crossed a bridge over a river where a couple of **White-throated Rails** were seen with one swimming across the open water. As we came out of the forest, a **Common Brown Lemur** was seen at very close range near the reserve headquarters. Next we moved out of the park at the 4pm closing time and walked along a road which offered a great **Nuthatch Vanga** and a superb family of **Madagascar Long-eared Owls** which included two white fluffy chicks. We capped off the day with **Wards Flycatcher** and **Long-billed Bernieria**



The superb Indri was not only fabulous to look at but also provided us with lasting memories of its incredibly loud and evocative call



What camouflage! This Collared Nightjar was a top bird for all of us. (photo by Christian Melgar)



One of the Madagascar Long-eared Owl chicks that stood out like a light bulb high up in a tree at Perinet. Another chick and the adult were perched nearby

and some people had enough energy to do a short night walk before dinner where they saw **Goodman's Mouse Lemur**, and several Chameleons.

17th Oct 2012

Today was to be the last day of the main tour, so we planned to make the most of it. After breakfast we travelled to Mantadia Reserve. Some fly by **Red-billed Teals** caught our attention just before we made our first stop in the forest to try and find the elusive **Short-legged Ground Roller**. Once again **Indri** and **Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo** made for back ground noise but the Ground Roller remained silent. A **Frances's Sparrowhawk** came in and made a quick appearance and then vanished in the dense forest. **Greater Vasa Parrots** flew over but other than that this area was very quiet so we moved back to the road. A male **Velvet Asity** was seen as were **Green Jery** and the distant call of a **Madagascar Turtle Dove** had our hearts pumping as it sounded like a Ground Roller. A couple of **Madagascar Starlings** were seen and fresh **Fosa** scat was found on the track. We diverted onto a smaller side trail which led over a river to a spot where a rufous phase **Rainforest Scops Owl** was roosting. We then continued along a stream as Patrice tracked down a nice looking **Short-legged Ground-Roller** perched on an open branch about 20 feet up. We enjoyed excellent views before it flew across the stream and disappeared. Back out on the main track we watched **Madagascar Spinetails**, **Madagascar Bee-eaters** and several **Mascarene Martins** flying around. A short drive to another area had us walking up a small hill towards a forest pond. Along the way a pair of **Madagascar Pygmy Kingfishers** were seen hanging around an area as if perhaps tending a nest. Arriving at the small pond we immediately found three **Madagascar Little Grebes**. There were also a few **Broad-billed Rollers** around and more **Madagascar Bee-eaters** tending to nest holes on an exposed bank. Another forest trail offered up **Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher** and **Spectacled Tetraka**. We spent a lot of time listening in the forest and some people eventually got onto a fast moving **Madagascar Crested Ibis** that walked up a bank and promptly vanishing completely. Patrice was on the hunt for **Scaly Ground Roller** and after a while located one but as we positioned ourselves to see it, another group of birders approached quickly crashing through the forest and across a stream to where we were stood quietly. The subsequent noise and confusion and chasing of the bird allowed only flight views and we decided not to pressure the bird any further and left this chaotic scene with unsatisfying views. The actions of the other guides and their groups was worrying and highlighted the pressure that certain birds here were under. Anyone going to this area in the future and reading this needs to show respect and consideration for other persons or groups already working on seeing a bird. A little fieldcraft and patience, and some cooperation between local guides on this matter, will make for a whole better scene. It was a classic case of the negative impact that birdwatchers can have on a bird, and the need to deliver by local guides at all costs, and selfish birders, and we did not want any part of it. We walked back up the road to our



This Short-legged Ground-Roller took a bit of finding but eventually rewarded us with fabulous views. This can be one of the hard birds to find so we were delighted everyone saw it



Madagascar Pygmy Kingfishers were seen on numerous occasions and were always a delight to see and photograph



We watched a group of four Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs at Perinet. This species is not always that easy to find and often missed by visitors

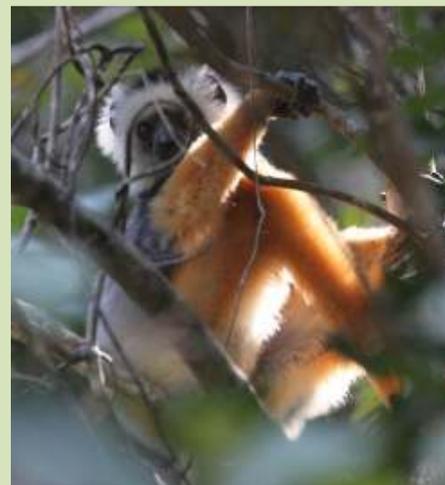
lunch spot and then walked into the forest to see a group of **Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs** high in a tree. A pair of **Red-bellied Lemurs** also showed well and we were pleased to see the facial markings of the male that we had not seen previously. We then drove up the road stopping for a gorgeous pair of **Diademed Sifakas** that were back lit by the sun as they sat in the trees just inside the forest edge. The rest of the afternoon was spent combing the trails for our last few birds. In the late afternoon, we returned to Tana where we saw the conclusion of the main section of our tour. For those that were continuing on to the Masoala Peninsula a new adventure was just about to begin.

18th Oct 2012

This morning after breakfast we said our goodbyes to Mark, Martin and Nick and went to the airport for our flight to Maroantsetra, a town on the northeast coast of Madagascar. A very pleasant change from the devastation and burnt hillsides of central Madagascar the area almost felt Caribbean. We soon checked into our beachfront resort and spent a relaxing afternoon checking out the golden sands and its spectacular ocean views. Later in the afternoon, we were offered a tour of the town which was once the capital of Madagascar. A stop in one area of town saw us witnessing the craft of raffia basket making. Another stop at the old port allowed us a demonstration of sugarcane pressing for rum production, and we also go to see the towns biggest export of Cloves. Just before dinner at our resort, and we were the only people staying there, we were called to see a bright red **Tomato Frog**.

19th Oct 2012

After a fine breakfast this morning, we checked out of our lovely resort and made our way to the port in town to board our two speed boats and travel across the bay to the remote Masoala peninsula. The trip was very calm to begin with and en-route we had several **Dimorphic Egrets** and **Purple Herons** as well as a few **Long-tailed Cormorants**. The seas kicked up a bit making for an exciting voyage and after a wet landing on the beach, we walked up to our ecolodge and settled into our cabins for the next three nights. We were feeling the humidity and it was one of the few days that we had seen any clouds at all. A walk into the forest got us our first **Red-clawed Crabs** which seemed to be everywhere on the wet forest floor but none cooperated for picture taking. A **Red-breasted Coua** put in an appearance as it crossed the track in front of us and then circled back around and offered good views. This was the last of the Coua species to see on our list. We then found a couple of Tetrakas feeding at mid canopy one of which was quite dark looking. On close inspection, it was soon determined that one of the birds was a **Spectacled Tetraka** but the other was darker with a bright yellow throat which stood out against a dark upper breast and flanks which were also streaked. It seemed like we had found the very rarely seen **Dusky Tetraka**. A little further on in the forest while looking for **Helmet Vanga** we presume the same bird came down low and was photographed by Christian. The photo confirmed what we had



A couple of very smart looking Diademed Sifakas posed for us along the roadside at Perinet



We started our extension in a lovely coastal hotel where we were shown this fabulous Tomato Frog



When we first saw this Tetraka we were sure it was the rare Dusky Tetraka but a look at the photo and finding out that the illustration in the Ian Sinclair book is wrong, drew us to the conclusion that this was the often mistaken dark form of Spectacled Tetraka

seen but further investigation and the birds long tail points towards our bird being a northern dark form of **Spectacled Tetraka**. It seems there are no confirmed records of **Dusky Tetraka** from Masoala and many people use the illustration in Ian Sinclair's book "Birds of the Indian Ocean Islands" as their guide which is completely wrong and illustrates perfectly the **Spectacled Tetraka** as described above. Have a look at Christians picture on the right and if you've ticked this as the rare **Dusky Tetraka**, I would suggest your about to lose a species! Back to our main target species this afternoon the distinctive and almost mythical **Helmet Vanga**, a bird that was a major draw for us with its massive blue bill and black and rufous plumage. Our first **Helmet Vanga** offered brief views and most of us were not able to see the whole bird before it dropped out of sight. Our second **Helmet Vanga**, however, was much more obliging as it sat on an open branch above us under the forest canopy preening for nearly 10 minutes while we all watched and photographed it. When it finally flew, Steve relocated it and we repositioned ourselves and got very close eye level views of this striking bird. Fabulous! As we were getting ready to move on, a group of **Red-ruffed Lemurs** came through the trees showing their thick rufous fur and long black tails very well, a nice follow up to the Vanga! After lunch, we walked along the beach to another area which gave access to the forest reserve and yet another uphill climb. A **Hook-billed Vanga** moved through the trees above us and a female **Frances's Sparrowhawk** flew in and perched just above eye level. Another **Red-breasted Coua** was seen at close range and this one climbed up a tree in front of us so we could see the rufous breast very well. Another group of **Red-ruffed Lemurs** argued loudly in the trees above and we watched the interaction as one seemed to chase the other off and then rub itself intently against a tree branch. As it got dark we encountered a party of **White-fronted Brown Lemurs** near more **Red-ruffed Lemurs**. We got back down to the beach as the sun was setting through some distant storm clouds making for lovely evening light as we walked back to our camp.

20th Oct 2012

This morning we took one of the boats a few minutes up the coast to access another area of woodland. We ambled over the lava rock trail into the forest and found a nice looking **Tylas Vanga** and a close **Broad-billed Roller**. A very obliging male **Frances's Sparrowhawk** was initially identified as a Madagascar Sparrowhawk, and found just above eye level perched on a tree branch allowing plenty of time to run through the correct id features, and nearby there was **Spectacled Tetraka** flitting around. Our morning was to be devoted to finding a very special target, the **Bernier's Vanga**, a bird only recently rediscovered in this area of Madagascar. We reached an open area that had been altered into farmland and it allowed good views of the forest edge and tree tops. There were several **Chabert's Vangas** moving through the trees, feeding in a flock, and then mobbing a couple of **Cattle Egrets** that were flying through. A few **Madagascar Pratincoles** were seen as well as **Madagascar Red Fodies** and



What a bird! And one of the highlights of the entire tour. This **Helmet Vanga** gave superb prolonged views in the hot forest of the Masoala



Nice views of **Tylas Vanga**



This **Frances's Sparrowhawk** is a bird often misidentified as **Madagascar Sparrowhawk**.

Madagascar Manakins. We surveyed the area for a while and then Steve called us into the forest where he had heard the loud call of a **Bernier's Vanga**. We scrambled through the forest and tried to get a glimpse of a dark bird that darted among the tree tops but it was not easy and no one was able to get definitive views. We searched a long time and found a few Chameleons, namely Superciliaried and Parson's Chameleons, and a **Blue Coua** but no Vanga. We then backtracked toward the open field and surveyed the forest edge again. Steve this time caught sight of a dark bird flying across the tree tops and perching in a very distant tree top. As several of us tried to make out any sort of distinguishing features our local guide who was a lot closer shouted to us as the bird took off and flew over him calling. It again landed and slightly closer so we could now see that it was indeed a male **Bernier's Vanga**! The bird sat for a few moments and then flew to another tree closer to the edge of the field and perched on an open branch briefly allowing pretty good views. It moved further along the edge of the forest and then dropped out of sight just before a female **Bernier's Vanga** flew out over the field and landed in one of the trees close to us, offering really great views. We reckoned there were at least three birds in the vicinity, two males and one female and we were pleased to have our lengthy search rewarded with good views of this rare bird! It was nearly lunch time so we made our way back to the beach and the boat that took us back to our lodge. After lunch, one of the lodge workers brought us a **Lowland Streaked Tenrec** that he had found nearby, after a good look at this attractive mammal some of us went on an afternoon walk while others rested and relaxed at the lodge. The intrepid walkers were rewarded with superb views of a **Madagascar Crested Ibis** perched high on an open branch where it was bathed in sunshine. A night hike before dinner got us a large **Leaf-tailed Gecko** and at least four **Scott's Sportive Lemurs**. As we arrived back at the lodge for dinner, a **Rainforest Scops Owl** was seen perched near one of the cabins.

21st Oct 2012

This morning we walked along the beach to access another area of the reserve with the promise of getting better views of **Scaly Ground-Roller**. It was another gorgeous day with spectacular views across the bay. We made our way up the trail and soon heard a **Madagascar Wood Rail** calling. It didn't take long before we coaxed this bird out of the forest to cross the trail for good views, before ducking back into the undergrowth. A little further along was a **Lowland Red Forest Rat** that seemed unbothered by us as it foraged on the forest floor. We sat for some time while the local guides and Steve searched for the Ground-Roller. A **Blue Coua** was seen and we were entertained by several **Cuckoo-Rollers** in the trees above beating some large, hairy caterpillars against the tree branches and then eating them. No Ground-Rollers were found or heard so we moved to another trail near a stream where suddenly one was heard calling. We approached slowly and found it still calling perched on a low branch. The bird proceeded to give us an amazing show as it ascended to a higher, more open branch and called for several



Not a very good photo but a very rare bird this female Bernier's Vanga flew over and landed in a tree nearby where we enjoyed great views



Our second tenrec of the trip this Lowland Streaked Tenrec was found by one of the lodge workers



After a night walk in the forest we came back to the lodge and found this Rainforest Scops-Owl posing nicely on a tree by one of the cabins

minutes and then dropped to the ground in front of us foraging intently as our cameras clicked away. What an incredible experience to be so close to such a remarkable bird and one that we had disappointing views of previously. It was the highlight of the trip for all of us and we enjoyed every minute of the forty minutes it hopped around feet! On the way down the trail, we encountered three **Red-breasted Couas** and a troupe of feeding **Red-ruffed Lemurs**. We had achieved our targets and enjoyed a relaxing afternoon which included snorkeling for some amongst the coral reef and its multitude of tropical fish just offshore. This evenings night walk yielded the same species as last night plus a few frogs. Over dinner we reviewed our top sightings of the trip which were:

1. Helmet Vanga
2. Scaly Ground-roller
3. White-breasted Mesite
4. Indri
5. Verreaux's Sifaka
6. Collared Nightjar
7. Rufous-headed Ground-roller
8. Pollen's Vanga
9. Banded Kestrel
10. Madagascar Flufftail
11. Sickle-billed Vanga
12. Red-shouldered Vanga

We had succeeded in seeing all of the specialties possible on this tour with everyone in the group seeing 96% of the all the birds seen. It was a fabulous tour recording 197 species of birds which included 100 endemics, as well as 26 species of Lemurs, and several other unique Madagascar creatures.

22nd Oct 2012

Today was basically a travel day, as we left the fabulous Masoala Peninsula on our speed boats back to the mainland. A few terns and herons were noted along the way but most memorable was the wonderful scenery and light conditions as we past the island of Nosy Mangaby. We then spent the middle of the day relaxing in our beachside resort before transferring to the airport and our flight back to Tana. A short drive and we were at a very comfortable hotel, the perfect place to unwind.

23rd Oct 2012

After a visit to a local market, we returned to our hotel for lunch and then in the afternoon we drove to the nearby Tsarasaoatra. Not expecting too much we were pleasantly surprised at the masses of waterbirds and herons on show. Countless **Red-billed Teals**, outnumbered the **White-headed Whistling Ducks** and a few **Hottentot Teals**. There were lots of **Black-crowned Night Herons**, a few **Black Egrets**, **Squacco Herons** displaying and nesting, several **Dimorphic Egrets**, and a couple of **White-throated Rails**. Our crowning glory for our last hour of birding was when Gina spotted a **Meller's Duck** hidden amongst the commoner waterfowl. We eventually found three and enjoyed watching this drab endemic especially as we had previously come



One of the birds of the trip this Scaly Ground-Roller gave stunning views almost at our feet for 40 minutes



Red-ruffed Lemurs were beautiful, noisy and seen many times in Masoala



After several near misses we eventually found three Meller's Ducks on a pond near Tana

close, but missed it. A final dinner and reflection of the marvelous birds we had seen and we were ready for our international flight home.

Many thanks to everyone for your friendship and company

Steve & Gina

Please note all photographs taken on tour by Steve Bird unless otherwise stated Torotoroka Scops-Owl & Rainforest Scops-Owl, Giraffe Weevils, Meller's Duck, Tomato Frog, Brown Mouse Lemur, Zebu Cart and Madagascar Comet by Gina Nichol, Collared Nightjar by Christian Melgar

BIRDLIST FOR MADAGASCAR 2012

103 Endemic species recorded are highlighted in Green

Column A = Number of species recorded on tour Column D = Number of days out of 25 recorded

E = Best sightings or comment

A	SPECIES		SCIENTIFIC NAME	D	E
	Endemic = Endemic subspecies = Regional endemic = Endemic breeder =	E es re eb			
1	Little Grebe		<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1	Up to 20 were seen on a small inland lake near to Ifaty
2	Madagascar Grebe	E	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelinii</i>	1	We had great views of two adults and what looked like an immature at Mantadia N P. A couple of birds near Ifaty showed an indistinct line behind the eye and may have been hybrids with Little Grebe
3	Red-tailed Tropicbird		<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	1	Fantastic close views of adults in flight and on nests, as well as several chicks and young birds on and around Nosy Ve
4	White-tailed Tropicbird		<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	1	Two adults were seen flying along the channel between Nosy Ve and the mainland
5	Long-tailed Cormorant	es	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus pictilis</i>	2	Easiest seen on boat through wetlands before reaching open sea on the way to the Masoala Peninsula. Three birds seen
6	Little Bittern	es	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	1	Two were seen briefly in flight at the lake at Ankarafantsika National Park
7	African Darter		<i>Anhinga rufa vulsini</i>	2	Just 2 individuals seen with both on the Betsiboka river
8	Black-crowned Night Heron		<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	4	Biggest count was around 30 seen at Tsarasaotra Park in Tana
9	Squacco Heron		<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	10	Seen easily around wetlands and rice paddies with biggest count at Tsarasaotra
10	Madagascar Pond Heron	eb	<i>Ardeola idea</i>	4	One in breeding plumage was seen at the lake at Ankarafantsika N P, then a couple of other places with about 5 at Tsarasaotra P
11	Cattle Egret		<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	18	Common and easily seen especially around rice paddies
12	Striated Heron		<i>Butorides striatus rutenbergi</i>	6	Small numbers seen around suitable wetlands, rice paddies and rivers
13	Black Egret		<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	8	Seen at a variety of sites with our biggest daily count being about 50
14	Dimorphic Egret		<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	14	Seen on many occasions with both white and dark phase birds. Really nice comparisons of both together on Nosy Ve
15	Great Egret		<i>Casmerodius alba</i>	13	Small numbers seen at many sites
16	Purple Heron	es	<i>Ardea purpurea madagascariensis</i>	8	Seen in small numbers around wetlands and rice paddies. Good number flying over on our boat ride to the Masoala Peninsula
17	Grey Heron		<i>Ardea cinerea firasa</i>	1	Just two seen near heronry on Nosy Ve
18	Humblots Heron	E	<i>Ardea humbloti</i>	2	One seen well at lake at Ankarafantsika and another at a roadside stop on some hyacinths ponds after leaving the above.

19	Hamerkop		<i>Scopus umbretta bannermani</i>	7	Ones and twos seen on rice paddies
20	Madagascar White Ibis	re	<i>Threskiornis bernieri</i>	1	Three were seen feeding on mud flats from our boat trip on the Betsiboka River
21	Glossy Ibis		<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	3	Up to 40 seen at Ankarafantsika
22	Madagascar Crested Ibis	E	<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>	2	After brief views for some in the forest at Perinet, we got superb views perched high in a tree in full sunlight at Masoala.
23	Greater Flamingo		<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	2	Up to 15 seen near Ifaty
24	White-faced Whistling Duck		<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	5	Up to 80 on the Betsiboka River and probably 600 at Tsarasaotra Park, Tana
25	Comb Duck		<i>Sarkidiornis melanotus</i>	1	About five were seen on the ponds at Tsarasaotra Park in Tana
26	African Pygmy Goose		<i>Nettapus auritus</i>	1	Four were found on roadside stop by some Hyacinth ponds
27	Meller's Duck	E	<i>Anas melleri</i>	1	After several close misses we eventually caught up with three birds at Tsarasaotra Park near Tana
28	Bernier's Teal	E	<i>Anas bernieri</i>	1	We saw three pairs feeding out in the open on the mudflats from our boat on the Betsiboka River
29	Red-billed Teal		<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	6	40 seen near Ifaty but biggest count was 1000 plus at Tsarasaotra Park
30	Hottentot Teal		<i>Anas hottentota</i>	2	1 seen near Ifaty and 30 at Tsarasaotra Park
31	Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk	E	<i>Aviceda madagascariensis</i>	1	A pair were watched flying around and displaying over the forest at Berenty
32	Yellow-billed Kite		<i>Milvus aegyptius parasitus</i>	12	Maximum of around 20 on one day. Mostly seen around grass burning
33	Black Kite			2	A few were seen well in the Isalo area
34	Madagascar Fish Eagle	E	<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>	2	Seen on 2 days at the lake at Ankarafantsika N P with superb close perched views on our first day there
35	Madagascar Harrier-Hawk	E	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>	1	Surprisingly only seen on one day at Ankarafantsika N P where 3 were together
36	Madagascar Harrier	re	<i>Circus macroscelus</i>	1	One seen briefly while driving from Ankarafantsika to Tana
37	Henst's Goshawk	E	<i>Accipiter henstii</i>	2	One was heard at Mananara and another heard close near its nest site at Ranomafana
38	Madagascar Sparrowhawk	E	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>	1	Excellent views of a bird perched about 40 metres away in the forest at Masoala
39	Frances's Sparrowhawk	re	<i>Accipiter francesii</i>	6	Singles seen at various forest sites
40	Madagascar Buzzard	E	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>	16	Only seen in ones and twos but many places throughout the trip
41	Madagascar Kestrel	re	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	18	Maximum of 6 in a day but generally ones or twos throughout the trip
42	Banded Kestrel	E	<i>Falco zoniventris</i>	2	Seen on 2 days at Ankarafantsika N P where we had prolonged close views of one associating with two Cuckoo-Rollers.
43	Peregrine Falcon		<i>Falco peregrinus radama</i>	1	One seen in evening from veranda of the Orchid Hotel in Tana
44	Madagascar Partridge	E	<i>Margaroperdix madagascariensis</i>	1	A struggle to find at Isalo but eventually we found one female in the grasslands there.
45	Helmeted Guineafowl		<i>Numida meleagris</i>	4	A few seen
46	White-breasted Mesite	E	<i>Mesitornis variegata</i>	2	Seen in pairs with one particular pair showing amazingly well just a few feet away, calling and tossing leaves around at Ankarafantsika N P
47	Brown Mesite	E	<i>Mesitornis unicolor</i>	1	A female gave close and prolonged views at Ranomafana where our guides worked hard to locate it
48	Subdesert Mesite	E	<i>Mesitornis benschi</i>	1	A superb female was found sat in a tree in the Spiny Forest at Ifaty
49	Madagascar Buttonquail	E	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>	8	Maximum of 4 in a day and seen very well on many occasions
50	Madagascar Flufftail	E	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>	1	Fantastic close views of a bird close to the marsh at Mananara Lodge, Anjozorobe
51	Slender-billed Flufftail	E	<i>Sarothrura watersi</i>	1	We worked hard in the marsh at Mananara Lodge to see a bird that was calling and eventually just a couple of the group saw the bird run across an open gap

52	Madagascar Wood Rail	E	<i>Canirallus kioloides</i>	2	Only seen by Tracey at Ranomafana, heard several times there and then eventually seen very well on a forest track in Masoala
53	Madagascar Rail	E	<i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>	1	Much easier than the Flufftail we got good looks at one bird deep in the marsh at Mananara Lodge
54	White-throated Rail	re	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>	5	Heard a couple of places and seen well at Perinet and also at Tsarasaotra Park
55	Common Moorhen		<i>Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorhoa</i>	6	Small numbers seen at various wetland sites with a maximum of 4 seen in one day
56	Madagascar Jacana	E	<i>Actophilornis albinucha</i>	1	Just two were seen amongst the Hyacinths at Ankarafantsika N P
57	Crab Plover		<i>Dromas ardeola</i>	1	3 seen as we landed on Nosy Ve, but only one remained to be scoped
58	Greater Painted Snipe		<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	1	One male was seen in a rice paddy near our hotel on the first day at Tana
59	Black-winged Stilt		<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	1	10 were seen on pond near Ifaty
60	Madagascar Pratincole	eb	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>	1	We made a stop on the Betsiboka River and found 6 birds sat out amongst the huge boulders. A pair were also seen mating. Later we saw 4 at a different location on the same river and a few on the rocks at close to the beach on the Masoala Peninsula
61	Ringed Plover		<i>Charadrius hiaticula tundrae</i>	1	4 seen on pond near Ifaty
62	Kittlitz's Plover		<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	4	Biggest counts were around Tulear and Ifaty on 2 days with around 30 birds seen
63	Madagascar Plover	E	<i>Charadrius thoracicus</i>	2	One or two on almost dry estuary at Tulear and close views of a nesting pair at Ifaty
64	Three-banded Plover	es	<i>Charadrius tricollaris bifrontatus</i>	1	Just one seen at Ankarafantsika N P
65	White-fronted Plover		<i>Charadrius marginatus tenellus</i>	2	Up to 20 were seen on mudflats on the Betsiboka river and close views of 4 on the beach at Nosy Ve
66	Greater Sand Plover		<i>Charadrius leschenaultii crassirostris</i>	2	Seen on the Betsiboka river and several on dried up estuary near Tulear
67	Pacific Golden Plover		<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	1	Two were seen on the beach at Nosy Ve
68	Grey Plover		<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1	Four seen on beach on Nosy Ve
69	Madagascar Snipe	E	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>	1	A couple were flushed and seen in flight on some small pools at Mananara
70	Bar-tailed Godwit		<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	1	Seen on the Betsiboka river
71	Whimbrel		<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	4	10 seen on the Betsiboka river and a few seen at Nosy Ve and Ifaty
72	Common Greenshank		<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	3	Best were two on lake near Ifaty
73	Terek Sandpiper		<i>Tringa cinereus</i>	2	Up to 20 seen on the Betsiboka river and two on lake near Ifaty
74	Common Sandpiper		<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	6	Just singles seen at a variety of sites
75	Ruddy Turnstone		<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	2	Up to 20 seen on Nosy Ve and one at Anako
76	Sanderling		<i>Calidris alba</i>	1	One seen on beach at Nosy Ve
77	Little Stint		<i>Calidris minuta</i>	1	Six were seen on lake near to Ifaty
78	Curlew Sandpiper		<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	3	10 seen on Betsiboka river, one near Tulear and 30 on lake near Ifaty
79	Ruff		<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	1	Just one seen by a few at lake near Ifaty
80	Greater Crested Tern		<i>Sterna bergii enigma</i>	2	A few were seen well around Nosy Ve
81	Lesser Crested Tern		<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	3	Up to 10 seen at sea near Nosy Ve
82	Roseate Tern		<i>Sterna dougallii bangsi</i>	3	Up to 30 seen near Nosy Ve. Note the Indian Ocean race <i>bangsi</i> have varying colour bill from all black to all red!
83	Common Tern		<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1	Just 1 noted with Roseate's at Nosy Ve
84	White-winged Tern		<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1	Two birds were seen flying over a Hyacinth pond after leaving Ankarafantsika N P
85	Madagascar Sandgrouse	E	<i>Pterocles personatus</i>	1	Up to seven were seen feeding and flying around in weedy fields very close to Berenty Reserve
86	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon		<i>Columba livia</i>	15	Regularly seen around habitation
87	Madagascar Turtle Dove	re	<i>Streptopelia picturata</i>	10	Seen regularly in small numbers throughout the trip
88	Namaqua Dove	es	<i>Oena capensis aliena</i>	12	Seen daily on the first half of the trip

89	Madagascar Green Pigeon	re	<i>Treron australis xenia</i>	5	Singles seen except for 4 on one day at Ankarafantsika N P
90	Madagascar Blue Pigeon	E	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>	6	Mostly seen in flight but a few perched at distance in Ranomafana
91	Greater Vasa Parrot	re	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>	5	Some Vasa Parrots left unidentified, but Greater seen perched at Ankarafantsika and near Ifaty
92	Lesser Vasa Parrot	re	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>	10	Seen on at least 10 days in small groups with many good views of perched birds
93	Grey-headed Lovebird	E	<i>Agapornis canus</i>	11	The best count was of 50 birds around Ankarafantsika NP
94	Madagascar (Lesser) Cuckoo	eb	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	11	A common sound throughout Madagascar we saw single birds on 4 occasions
95	Giant Coua	E	<i>Coua gigas</i>	1	Easily seen on the trails in the gallery forest at Berenty Reserve. We had about 8
96	Coquerel's Coua	E	<i>Coua coquereli</i>	2	Great views of up to 6 at Ankarafantsika NP and one at the Zombitse Forest
97	Running Coua	E	<i>Coua cursor</i>	1	Several heard and one seen very well at the Spiny Forest.
98	Red-breasted Coua	E	<i>Coua serriana</i>	2	Quite easy to see at Masoala where were several birds showed well on the tracks
99	Red-fronted Coua	E	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>	3	Heard at Mananara and then seen briefly at Perinet but very well at Ranomafana
100	Crested Coua	E	<i>Coua cristata</i>	5	Two subspecies were seen with up to 4 <i>maxima</i> at Berenty and up to 4 <i>dumonti</i> at Ankarafantsika NP
101	Verreaux's Coua	E	<i>Coua verreauxi</i>	1	We worked hard for this one but eventually scoped one in a tree top near Tulear
102	Blue Coua	E	<i>Coua caerulea</i>	7	This attractive coua was easily seen around Ranomafana and Perinet
103	Red-capped Coua	E	<i>Coua oliviceps</i>	2	Some excellent views at Ankarafantsika NP
104	Brown-capped Coua	E	<i>Coua ruficeps</i>	1	A recent split from Red-capped Coua we had great views of two birds perched in a tree in the Spiny Forest
105	Madagascar Coucal	re	<i>Centropus toulou</i>	16	Seen in low numbers but regularly throughout the trip
106	Barn Owl		<i>Tyto alba affinis</i>	1	At a secret day roost in Berenty our guide showed us a pair asleep in a tangle
107	Rainforest Scops-owl	E	<i>Otus rutilus</i>	3	Two seen together and then another on day roosts at Pirenet and stunning views of one beside a cabin in Masoala
108	Torotoroka Scops-owl	E	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>	2	Seen in the evening of our arrival and then very well on a day roosts at Berenty Reserve. Many were easily heard at night and another on a day roost at Zombitse
109	White-browed Owl	E	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>	4	One seen while we had dinner at Ankarafantsika, another on a day roost at Zombitse and others at night in Berenty
110	Madagascar Long-eared Owl	E	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>	1	An adult was seen during the day high in a tree at Perinet along with two bright white fluffy chicks
111	Marsh Owl	E	<i>Asio capensis hova</i>	1	One was flushed and seen well in grasslands near Isalo. Another found recently killed in the same area
112	Collared Nightjar	E	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>	1	One found by Steve in the leaf litter at Pirenet. It seems that the guides regular stake out birds had been flushed by photographers using flash – Don't do it!
113	Madagascar Nightjar	re		14	Heard on many occasions and seen very well on day roosts at 5 sites
114	Malagasy Spinetail	re	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>	4	Seen nesting in well at Berenty and nice views of 8 at Mantadia
115	African Palm Swift	es	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	12	Good numbers seen throughout the tour
116	Madagascar Black Swift	es	<i>Apus baltoni</i>	8	Seen at several sites incl Isalo, Ranomafana
117	Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher	E	<i>Alcedo vintsioides</i>	10	Highest was 2 a day, and birds seen at many wetland sites
118	Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher	E	<i>Ceyx madagascariensis</i>	4	Many superb views of this stunning bird at Ankarafantsika N P, Ranomafana, a pair at Perinet and another at Masoala
119	Madagascar Bee-eater		<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	15	Common and seen anywhere in groups up to 20 birds

120	Broad-billed Roller		<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	3	Best were 2 at Isalo and 2 at Mantadia
121	Short-legged Ground-roller	E	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>	1	This can be a difficult bird but after some hard searching we eventually got fantastic views of a bird perched on a bare branch about 30ft up! So much for “ground” rolller
122	Scaly Ground-roller	E	<i>Brachypteracias squamigera</i>	2	After a complete nonsense at Perinet as explained in our report we then went on to Masoala where we watched an individual in perfect quiet, peaceful conditions just feet away for 40 minutes
123	Pitta-like Ground-roller	E	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>	3	We had fantastic close views of one of two birds at Ranomafana, a brief one at Mantadia and heard others
124	Rufous-headed Ground-roller	E	<i>Atelornis crossleyi</i>	2	A lot of people seem to be missing this one but we tracked one down and saw it well at Ranomafana and another showed very close and well at another site in Ranomafana
125	Long-tailed Ground-roller	E	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>	1	The Spiny Forest at Ifaty came up trumps with excellent views of one bird then some brief views of others followed by the most fantastic display of two birds together! A real highlight for those of us that saw this.
126	Cuckoo-Roller	re	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>	11	The sound of this species was heard throughout Madagascar and we had many sightings of these strange birds
127	Madagascar Hoopoe	E	<i>Upupa marginata</i>	7	Seen very well at many sites including Ankarafantsika. The dove-like purring call is nothing like European or African birds!
128	Velvet Asity	E	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>	3	We struggled a bit for this one but eventually everyone got to see either male or female – they were all attracted to Christian for some unknown reason
129	Schlegel’s Asity	E	<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>	1	We had fabulous views of 6 birds in the forest at Ankarafantsika N P including males, female and immature male
130	Common Sunbird-Asity	E	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>	3	Only seen well on one day at Ranomafana where they came to a flowering tree
131	Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity	E	<i>Neodrepanis hypoxantha</i>	2	Most of us just heard this species but a couple of people got to see a male near it territory in Ranomafana
132	Madagascar Bush Lark	E	<i>Mirafrja hova</i>	10	Plenty seen in the dry grassy country where no other birds seem present
133	Mascarene Martin	re	<i>Phedina borbonica madagascariensis</i>	9	Seen in numbers up to about 20 throughout the trip
134	Brown-throated Sand Martin	es	<i>Riparia paludicola cowani</i>	7	Seen in small numbers at a variety of sites
135	Madagascar Wagtail	E	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	13	Seen at many sites in ones or twos
136	Ashy Cuckoo-shrike	re	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>	7	Seen in small numbers, usually just one in many forest habitats
137	Madagascar Bulbul	re	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	19	Common throughout the tour
138	Long-billed Bernieria	E	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>	9	A noisy bird in the forest the highest count was around 8 at Ankarafantsika N P
139	Spectacled Tetraka	E	<i>Xanthomixis zosterops</i>	4	Rather elusive we had varying views of ones and twos. In the Masoala we came across the dark northern race of this species which in many reports has gone down as Dusky Tetraka! There seems to be no proven sightings from Masoala !
140	Appert’s Tetraka	E	<i>Xanthomixis apperti</i>	1	We searched hard and eventually had two birds feeding almost around our feet at the Zombitse Forest
141	Red-tailed Vanga	E	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>	3	Fabulous views of two in the Spiny Forest and another at Zombitse. Elsewhere heard
142	Red-shouldered Vanga	E	<i>Calicalicus rufocarpalis</i>	2	A pair of these very rare birds came to within a few feet of us in the dry scrub near Tulear. Another seen from the bus nearby
143	Rufous Vanga	E	<i>Schetba rufa</i>	3	Heard on a couple of days we had really good looks at one at Ankarafantsika N P
144	Hook-billed Vanga	E	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>	7	Some great looks at this bird at a variety of wooded sites

145	Lafresnaye's Vanga	E	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>	2	Heard on one day and a pair seen very well on a roadside stop in suitable habitat after leaving Berenty
146	Pollen's Vanga	E	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>	2	Seen around Ranomafana we had stunning views of one individual working on a tree
147	Van Dam's Vanga	E	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>	1	After searching for it on 2 days we eventually got superb views of a bird in Ankarafantsika N P
148	Sickle-billed Vanga	E	<i>Falco pinnatus</i>	3	A maximum of about 10 were seen on one of the days at Ankarafantsika N P, one of my favourite Vangas!
149	White-headed Vanga	E	<i>Artamella viridis</i>	8	Seen in small numbers at a variety of forested sites
150	Chabert's Vanga	E	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>	9	Small numbers seen at many sites throughout the tour
151	Blue Vanga	re	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>	9	Seen in small numbers and some great views at a few places
152	Bernier's Vanga	E	<i>Oriolia bernieri</i>	1	After a lot of hard searching we eventually found a male sat up on a tree top followed by two females that came closer and allowed super views
153	Helmet Vanga	E	<i>Euryceros prevostii</i>	1	Highlight of Masoala was our views of two superb birds that posed for ages allowing us mind-blowing views! Bird of the trip for many of us!
154	Nuthatch Vanga	E	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>	1	Thought we were going to miss this one but an obliging bird appeared while we were watching the Long-eared Owls at Perinet
155	Tylas Vanga	E	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>	3	One seen with the Pollens at Ranomafana and a really nice view on the Masoala
156	Littoral Rock Thrush	E	<i>Monticola imerinus</i>	2	Easily seen around our wonderful beach-side cabins at Anako
157	Forest Rock Thrush	E	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>	2	Seen well on roadside at Ranomafana
158	Benson's Rock Thrush	E	<i>Monticola bensoni</i>	1	We watched a pair very well in the grounds of a lodge in Isalo
159	Madagascar Magpie-Robin	E	<i>Copsychus albospectus</i>	16	Quite common and seen in small numbers throughout the trip
160	Madagascar Stonechat	E	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>	10	Recent taxonomic decisions now state that this is a full species and endemic. We regularly saw it in small numbers
161	White-throated Oxylabes	E	<i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>	1	With a bit of work we eventually got good views of up to four at Ranomafana
162	Madagascar Yellowbrow	E	<i>Crossleyia xanthophrys</i>	1	Took a bit of finding but we all managed good views of this skulker at Ranomafana
163	Crossley's Babbler	E	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>	1	A pair of these birds were very vocal and allowed pretty good views as they worked along the ground at Ranomafana
164	Brown Emutail	E	<i>Dromaeocercus brunneus</i>	1	This one really eluded us until a single bird appeared close in front of a few of our group in Ranomafana
165	Grey Emutail	E	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	1	Just one or two birds were seen up and singing in a reed bed at Mananara
166	Madagascar Brush Warbler	re	<i>Nesillas typicalis</i>	7	Heard quite a lot and seen well at several sites including Mananara and Ranomafana
167	Subdesert Brush Warbler	E	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>	4	Seen in small numbers around Tulear, Anako and Ifaty
168	Madagascar Swamp Warbler	E	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>	3	Seen easy near our hotel in Tana and several at Mananara
169	Thamnornis	E	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>	1	Just one bird came in close and gave superb views in the Spiny Forest at Ifaty
170	Rand's Warbler	E	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>	3	The first one we saw at Ranomafana was singing in a tree top but distant. After that we saw several others much closer
171	Common Newtonia	E	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>	10	Fairly common and easy to see at many sites throughout the tour
172	Dark Newtonia	E	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>	3	Up to 2 seen on three days at Ranomafana but not easy to view
173	Archbold's Newtonia	E	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>	2	Seen very well at the Spiny Forest, Ifaty
174	Madagascar Cisticola	re	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>	7	Seen very well at several sites including rice fields near to our hotel in Tana
175	Common Jery	E	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>	17	Seen regularly throughout the tour

176	Green Jery	E	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>	6	Only a few individuals seen well through scopes especially at Ranomafana
177	Stripe-throated Jery	E	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>	3	Our best views were at a lodge in Isalo
178	Cryptic Warbler	E	<i>Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi</i>	1	Quite surprised we only got to see one singing in a tree top at Ranomafana
179	Wedge-tailed Jery	E	<i>Hartertula flavoviridis</i>	2	Despite hearing the species twice we never actually managed a tickable view
180	Ward's Flycatcher	E	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>	4	Several nice views including one on a nest high up in the forest at Ranomafana
181	Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher	re	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>	14	Pretty easy to see in many of the forests
182	Souimanga Sunbird	re	<i>Nectarinia souimanga</i>	17	Common and easy to see pretty much anywhere
183	Long-billed Green Sunbird	re	<i>Nectarinia notata</i>	12	Only ever seen one or two a day but at many sites throughout the trip
184	Madagascar White-eye	re	<i>Zosterops maderaspatana</i>	12	Little groups of these delightful birds were seen at a variety of sites
185	Madagascar Munia	E	<i>Lonchura nana</i>	7	No longer called a manikin we enjoyed some very nice close views of these birds
186	Nelicourvi Weaver	E	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>	3	Several were seen at Ranomafana including one building a nest and others at Mantadia
187	Sakalava Weaver	E	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>	8	Some big flocks up to 100 included many birds in breeding plumage
188	Madagascar Red Fody	E	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	14	Common and seen at a variety of sites
189	Forest Fody	E	<i>Foudia omissa</i>	5	We saw small numbers mostly around Ranomafana. There is talk of hybridization but we never saw any Red Fodies near the Forest Fodies!
190	Common Myna		<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	23	Common and seen nearly everyday
191	Madagascar Starling	E	<i>Hartlaubia auratus</i>	3	Only seen in ones and twos at Ranomafana and Mantadia
192	Crested Drongo	re	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>	20	A common bird throughout the tour
193	Pied Crow		<i>Corvus albus</i>	18	Again another common bird throughout

MAMMALS

1	Indri	E	<i>Indri indri</i>	3	Heard on a couple of days and three seen well at Perinet
2	Grey Mouse Lemur	E	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>	1	Just one or two seen around our lodge at Ankarafantsika N P
3	Grey-brown Mouse Lemur	E		1	Up to 8 were seen really well on a night walk in the Spiny Forest at Berenty
4	Brown Mouse Lemur	E	<i>Microcebus fufus</i>	1	Up to three were seen very well on a night excursion at Ranomafana
5	Goodman's Mouse Lemur	E	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>	1	At least were two were seen well on a night walk at Perinet
6	Greater Dwarf Lemur	E	<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>	1	One was seen well feeding in a tall tree on a night walk at Ranomafana
7	White-footed Sportive Lemur	E	<i>Lepilemur leucopus</i>	1	Up to 8 were seen very well during the daytime in the forests around Berenty
8	Milne Edwards Sportive Lemur	E	<i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>	1	Two were seen during the day and at night at Ankarafantsika N P
9	Hubbard's Sportive Lemur	E	<i>Lepilemur hubbardi</i>	1	One gave fabulous views during the day at Zombitse forest
10	Scott's Sportive Lemur	E	<i>lepilemur scottorum</i>	1	Initially identified as Weasel Sportive we had good views of what has turned out to be Scott's on night walks in Masoala
11	Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur	E	<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>	1	A group of 4 showed off in the forest at Perinet
12	Greater Bamboo Lemur	E	<i>Hapalemur simus</i>	1	Two proved difficult to see although feeding close in the thick canopy above our heads in Ranomafana
13	Ring-tailed Lemur	E	<i>Lemur catta</i>	1	Up to 30 were seen in and around Berenty with several delightful babies putting on a good show
14	Common Brown Lemur	E	<i>Eulemur fulvus fulvus</i>	4	Our first group were seen well at Ankarafantsika and then we had more excellent views around Perinet

15	White-fronted Brown Lemur		<i>Eulemur albifrons</i>	2	Good views of several at Masoala
16	Red-fronted Brown Lemur	E	<i>Eulemur fulvus rufus</i>	1	Around 20 were seen in the forests around our lodge at Berenty
17	Red-bellied Lemur	E	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>	2	Two were seen well at Ranomafana and another two later at Mantadia
18	Mongoose Lemur	E	<i>Eulemur mongoz</i>	2	Only a few of us got to see the two Mongoose Lemurs at Ankarafantsika
19	Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur	E	<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>	1	A gorgeous species we watched four in the tree tops at Mantadia
20	Red-ruffed Lemur	E	<i>Varecia rubra</i>	2	We had fabulous views of up to 10 of these very attractive and noisy creatures
21	Western Avahi	E	<i>Avahi occidentalis</i>	3	We had great views of a bundle of 4 in a tree at Perinet and several around the cabins at Ankarafantsika
22	Diademed Sifaka	E	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>	1	Wonderful views of this colourful lemur along the road at Mantadia
23	Milne-Edwards Sifaka	E	<i>Propithecus diadema edwardsi</i>	2	A couple of groups gave excellent views at Ranomafana
24	Verreaux's Sifaka	E	<i>Propithecus verreauxi verreauxi</i>	1	The dancing sifaka we enjoyed a fantastic show as they danced their way across the tracks in front of us at Berenty. 20 seen
25	Coquerel's Sifaka	E	<i>Propithecus verreauxi coquereli</i>	2	Great views and the first lemur we saw on the tour. Up to 6 at Ankarafantsika
26	Ring-tailed Mongoose	E	<i>Galidia elegans</i>	1	Just one was seen briefly at Ranomafana
27	Lowland Red Forest Rat	E	<i>Nesomys lambertoni</i>	1	We had good views of three at Ranomafana
28	Eastern Red Forest Rat	E	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>	1	Possibly this species seen on the Masoala
29	Western Tuft-tailed Rat	E	<i>Eliurus myoxinus</i>	1	One was seen by a few at Berenty
30	Lowland Streaked Tenrec	E	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	1	One was caught and released for us to look at by the gardener at Masoala
31	Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec	E	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>	1	Our first tenrec gave a great show at the Spiny Forest
32	Madagascar Flying Fox	E	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>	1	A roost of about 50 were seen in the trees at Berenty

REPTILES & AMPHIBEANS

1	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodilus niloticus</i>	Ankarafantsika – Mad Fish Eagle Lake (Lac Ravelobe)
2	Madagascar Tree Boa ?	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>	Probably this species at Nautilus Hotel, Ifaty – came down from roof
3	Collared Iguanid Lizard	<i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>	Ankarafantsika - On ground in 'car park' area
4	Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i>	Common at Berenty and Spiny Forest
5	Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	Night walk in Berenty Spiny Forest
6	Globe-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma globifer</i>	Mananara Lodge in bushes near a cabin
7	Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicorne</i>	Seen on a night walk at Ranomafana
8	Dwarf Chameleon	<i>Brookesia sp.</i>	Seen on night walk at Perinet
9	"Brown Chameleon" unidentified		Outside visitors centre Perinet
10	"Green Chameleon" unidentified		In bush outside Berenty museum
11	Satanic or Fantastic Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>	Seen on forest walk in Ranomafana
12	Giant Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus fimbriatus</i>	Night walk on Masoala Peninsula
13	Standings Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>	Big Gecko on dead tree in Zombitse forest
14	Grandidier's Velvet Gecko	<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>	In a slot in a tree at Zombitse forest
15	Lined day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>	Restaurant balcony at Perinet Lodge
16	"Green Gecko" unidentified		Ankarafantsika – on restaurant wall
17	Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	Seen many accommodations
18	Madagascar Tomato Frog	<i>Dyscophus antongilli</i>	One in garden of lodge at Maroantsetra

Insects & Others Creatures

1	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Seen
2	Julia Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum julia</i>	Seen
3	Phantom Flutterer	<i>Rhyothemis semithyalina</i>	Seen

4	Pantala (Globe Skimmer)	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	Seen
5	Red Basker	<i>Urothemis assigrata</i>	Seen
6	Giraffe-necked Weevil	<i>Trachelophorus giraffa</i>	Several places
7	Madagascar Flatid Leaf Bug	<i>Phromnia rosea</i>	Lots at Berenty Spiny Forest
8	Spiny Orb Weaver	<i>Gasteracantha versicolor</i>	Veranda roof at Perinet
9	“Shield Bug” unidentified	<i>Pentatomoidea sp.</i>	Morning walk at Ranomafana
10	Praying Mantis sp?		Ranomafana
11	Madagascar Comet Moth	<i>Argema mittrei</i>	Several at lodge & Café at Ranomafana



Chameleon Sp?



Flatid Leaf Bug



Globe-horned Chameleon



Shield Bug?



Oustalet's Chameleon



Dragonfly sp? Masoala



Another Dragonfly sp? Masoala



Spiny Forest at Ifaty

If anyone can identify the two dragonfly species please let Steve know at steve@zootheabirding.com