Madagascar
Highlights II
14th to 28th October 2017 (15 days)
Trip Report

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Adam Walleyn
Tour Summary

Our group met in the bustling national capital of Antananarivo (Tana) the evening before the tour began, where we settled into our very pleasant accommodations and watched a couple of Madagascan Nightjars hovering overhead at dusk before we enjoyed our first of many meals together.

We had a relaxed start to the first day with a leisurely breakfast and quiet stroll around the grounds of our hotel. A reasonably good number of endemics were already ticked off right around our hotel: Olive Bee-eater, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Malagasy White-eye, Madagascan Magpie-Robin, Madagascan Stonechat (building a nest), Souimanga Sunbird, Red Fody, Madagascan Mannikin, and Madagascan Wagtail – a great introduction.

We then enjoyed lunch and boarded our bus to head down to the city’s prime birding site – Lake Alarobia. It was a Sunday, so traffic was very light and we made it there quickly to be met with an astounding quantity of birds. Red-billed Teals and White-faced Whistling Ducks covered the two water bodies, along with a handful of Hottentot Teal and at least three impressive Knob-billed Ducks. Even better was the great showing of Meller’s Duck – an endangered endemic that is now thriving on the lake with a minimum of 19 individuals present!

The lake is also swarming with herons, with throngs of Black-crowned Night Herons and Western Cattle Egret on the fringes. The heronry in the middle was in full breeding mode, with large numbers of several species offering up breeding displays and sitting on nests: Black Herons, Dimorphic Egrets and Squacco Herons. After some scanning, we picked up a small number of Madagascar Pond Herons, an endangered near-endemic that is surviving here in small numbers. Other water-related birds around the fringes of the waterbodies included Common Moorhen, Great Egret, Grey Heron, Striated Heron and a couple of very cooperative Malagasy Kingfishers. The scraps of vegetation around the lake also harboured both Malagasy Brush Warbler and Madagascan Swamp Warbler – two similar species that offered up good comparisons. Additional sightings included a Malagasy Coucal popping up in the reeds, Malagasy Bulbuls and Common Jeries in the avocado trees and both Malagasy Kestrel and Madagascan Martins flying swiftly.
overhead. Not long before we left, we had a memorable performance from a pair of White-throated Rails. Wow, what a great start to our Madagascar birding tour. Despite its unpromising location in the middle of a huge city, this is actually one of the birdiest places in the country!

After another leisurely breakfast, we boarded our fleet of four-wheel drives, navigated our way through the narrow streets of Tana and were headed eastbound for the Andasibe region. The drive was through small villages, rice paddies and extensive non-native *Eucalyptus* plantations. It wasn’t especially birdy, but we did see a few interesting birds en route, including Hamerkop, Sooty Falcon and Malagasy Black Swift. A stop at the Mangoro River was rewarding, as we were able to scope up a Madagascan Pratincole and also had a close Common Sandpiper.

By midday, we had arrived at our Andasibe area lodge set on the edge of the magnificent eastern rainforests, one of the most fascinating and endemic-rich rainforests the world has to offer. As we settled into what would be our base for almost an entire week, the soundtrack of the forest could be heard – the strident calls of Stripe-throated Jeries soon being overshadowed by the haunting wails of incredible Indris. We sat down to lunch overlooking a small wetland, where we watched a Purple Heron and a brilliantly coloured Striped Day Gecko as we ate, and then eagerly set off into the forests to experience our first taste of rainforest birding. Shortly after entering the forests, a pair of Cuckoo Rollers slowly flew past – a monotypic family that is almost endemic to the island (it also occurs in the Comoros). An exciting start!

Our incredible local guide Luc then emerged from some tangles and said for the first of many times: “would you come here please!” After a bit of manoeuvring, we were soon spying a pair of incredibly cute rufous morph Rainforest Scops Owl peering down at us. Next up for the group was our very first lemur of the trip, the nocturnal Eastern Woolly Lemur, which was snuggled up for the day in a tree fern. Shortly after that, we enjoyed a troupe of Common Brown Lemurs grunting and jumping about in the canopy.

We then climbed a small hill and Luc had us staring eyeball to eyeball with a beautifully patterned Collared Nightjar. This is one of the
island’s most poorly-known and unique endemic birds – *what a privilege to be able to get such fine views of this bird sitting on its nest in a birds-nest fern!* Not much further on, we visited another nest in a birds-nest fern. This was the dome-shaped nest of a Madagascan Wood Rail, which emerged from its hole to check us out – *a shy ground bird that gave us such a good look!* The park was soon closing, so we made our way out, but not before stopping at yet another bird nest, that of a Madagascan Sparrowhawk sitting up in its large stick nest. It had been an action-packed and rather incredible start to our time here, with all these shy forest birds being seen so well in our very first hours here!

We returned to our lodge for a quick break, where we saw a beautiful little orange and white frog called *Hetarixalus punctatus* before embarking on our first night walk along the main road. An undoubted highlight of the walk was obtaining a good view of the nocturnal Furry-earred Dwarf Lemur, a very localised species that is actually quite common here. We were also thrilled to spot our first chameleons – the Nose-horned Chameleon and the Short-horned Chameleon – along with a greenish tree frog called *Boophis viridis*. Lots to process today as we sat down for dinner, but we did head to bed promptly afterwards with a very early start coming up.

We had an early start for the drive to Mantadia National Park, although we paused briefly right in the parking lot for a Broad-billed Roller and a group of Robust House Bats coming into the roost in the top of one of the lodge buildings. Heading out on the bumpy four-wheel drive track was worth it for the chance to spend the day in Mantadia National Park, one of the most extensive tracts of primary eastern rainforest left. We passed through some rice paddies and heavily degraded forest – we were lucky to have a couple of Madagascan Cuckoos sitting out on open branches obviously drying out from last night’s rain. We also picked up a couple of Madagascan Starling – an uncommon forest edge species. Eventually, we arrived at some wonderful roadside rainforest and began making regular stops. The first stop we made was for the incredibly beautiful Pitta-like Ground Roller, arguably the best-looking member of this wonderful family that is endemic to Madagascar. It performed to perfection as it sat up on a tree branch in full view, bobbing its head every time it whooped. Other stops along the road offered up shy rainforest birds. These included our first Couas – both the arboreal Blue Coua and the shy terrestrial Red-fronted offering up good views after a bit of persistence.
We also scored our first Vangas, another of the endemic Malagasy bird families. Of these, we saw Tylas, Blue, Chabert and the secretive Crossley’s Vanga, plus Common Newtonia. A cute little Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher was enjoyed along with a sluggish male Velvet Asity – a spectacular rainforest frugivore. A Rand’s Warbler was scoped up on its typical high song perch, our first sighting of yet another endemic family: the tetrakas.

A main priority of Mantadia birding is always to see some of those fantastic ground rollers; and with one already under our belt, we set off in search of more! It wasn’t too long before we heard a Short-legged Ground Roller calling not far above us. After a steep scramble, we could savour views of this beautiful arboreal ground roller at very close range, fantastic.

It was now lunchtime, so we moved to the main picnic area for a well-earned picnic. Nearby, we were all able to obtain views of the incredibly intricately-patterned Scaly Ground Roller – making it a three ground roller day! Luc then beckoned us to carry on another “200 metres” and the prize at the end of this interesting walk was a Crossley’s Vanga feeding her very young chicks and then settling back into the nest to brood them – well worth the walk. Along the way, we also encountered our first Indris, along with a shy Madagascan Ibis plus Long-billed Berniera, Wedge-tailed Tetraka and a couple of interesting reptiles – a Brown Leaf Chameleon and a snake called Liophidium torquatum.

By now it was time to head back towards Andasibe, but a few highlights were still in store for us. On the drive back, we paused for an Eastern Bamboo Lemur sitting on a bamboo stalk over the road, watched a couple of Madagascan Rail skulking through their marsh, but undoubtedly best of all was a stunning male Madagascan Flufftail that repeatedly crossed the road – hard to see a flufftail better than that! Just before returning to our lodge, we made one last stop to admire a stunning Madagascan Green Pigeon dining on some bright red fruits. What a day it had been!

This morning we headed back into Analamazoatra for another walk through this wonderful reserve. A focus of this session was to spend some quality time with Indri, and we certainly achieved that as we were enthralled by a couple of family groups of this, the largest of all lemurs. Their leaping powers are amazing, but it was their incredible vocalisations that really left us in awe of them. Luc also found us a pair of Eastern Woolly Lemurs that were sleeping.
completely out in an open area for some unparalleled viewing. In terms of the birds, we were also successful in adding a number of species to our ever-growing list, including Greater Vasa Parrot, excellent Ward’s Flycatchers, Madagascan Cuckoo-shrikes, Madagascan Cisticola and Nelicourvi Weaver. We also had much improved views of stunning Blue Couas and an unbeatable look at a Madagascan Blue Pigeon that was building a nest. *A very fine morning’s walk.*

After lunch and a well-earned siesta, we headed up to the VOIMMA community reserve for some more birding. On the short drive there, most of us saw a Madagascan Harrier-Hawk fly across the road and then briefly perch up. It was reasonably hot and quiet in the reserve, although we did enjoy good looks at Spectacled Tetraka, a perched Frances’ Sparrowhawk, a brief Madagascan Wood Rail and a pair of White-headed Vanga, along with an impressive Madagascan Tree Boa coiled up on a tree branch.

As darkness set in, we embarked on another roadside night walk. In addition to another Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur that was actually running across the road, we were very pleased to get excellent looks at the minute Goodman’s Mouse Lemur, one of the world’s smallest primates. There were also more chameleons to enjoy, along with a stunning little red-spotted frog called *Boophis bottae.*

We now returned for another full day at the glorious Mantadia National Park. Here we split into two groups for the morning. One group went on a rather adventurous walk that accessed some slightly higher elevations and resulted in the sighting of several new species, namely Common Sunbird-Asity, Dark Newtonia, Forest Rock Thrush, White-throated Oxylabes and Cryptic Warbler. The culmination of the walk was a strenuous bush-bashing exercise that ultimately resulted in views of a stunning Rufous-headed Ground Roller. The other group spent the morning slowly birding along the road and visiting a small forest lake. Highlights of their walk included excellent views of Pitta-like and Scaly Ground Rollers, a bonus pair of Common Sunbird-Asity, a Forest Fody and a pair of Madagascan Grebe. It was also a good opportunity to spend time just watching and photographing some of the more common birds. Everyone reconvened at the picnic area for lunch to swap stories of their respective mornings and then we all had a chance to go a short ways inside the forest, where a couple of Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs were dozing up in the canopy, one of the most striking lemur species! Luc
also turned up a Baron’s Mantella frog – with its striking orange, green and black colours, it is surely one of the best-looking amphibians in the world.

Following lunch, we walked a short distance inside the forest, where we were treated to the head and bill of a Madagascan Ibis just over the top of its large stick nest high in the tree – for most of us, this would be our only view of this shy forest interior species, so we were glad for the chance to see it. In this area, we also saw our only Red-bellied Lemur along with another Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur. We had a second visit to the forest lake so all could catch up with Madagascan Grebe and Forest Fody, then headed on the bumpy drive back home, arriving back just before dark with another memorable day in the books!

For our final full day in the Andasibe area, we returned to Analamazoatra Reserve for another morning walk. We tried hard to find the Red-breasted Coua, but despite getting close to a calling bird it slipped away unseen. We did manage good views of Pygmy Kingfisher, Pitta-like Ground Roller and a few other birds, but the morning’s highlights were mainly non-avian. We still had not caught up with the endearing Diademed Sifakas, and so set off in search of them. We were soon able to locate a family group and enjoyed terrific views of these beauties as they bounded low through the forest. We managed to intercept them at a wide forest trail, where they paused to feed for some time before making a spectacular leap across the trail, one by one. Next up, we put in a request for Giraffe-necked Weevil and Luc obliged by finding one in less than a minute! Leaving the reserve, we walked into the pine plantation across the road where we soon had scope and cameras trained upon a sleepy-looking Madagascan Owl perched high up in a pine. We found a spot that offered very nice views of the animal and on the way out also managed to see a beautiful pink-bellied snake called *Liopholidophis rhabdinea*.

For a change of pace, we enjoyed lunch at Vakona – a delicious meal and also a chance to watch Mascarene Martins from just a few feet away. Following lunch, we drove to Torotorofotsy Marsh. The ceaseless conversion of the marsh into rice paddies continues but there is still some good habitat left here. Upon entering the marsh, we quickly flushed up our first of several Madagascan Snipes; but despite a thorough search, we could not turn up a Grey Emutail – this is almost inexplicable, as the species is common here, we can only hope that the deterioration of the marsh is halted before the species is gone entirely from here. A consolation prize for some was an unexpected Marsh Owl quartering over the marsh in the late
afternoon. For our final night, we did a last night walk in the VOIMMA reserve. In addition to Goodman’s Lemur, and Nose-horned and Short-horned Chameleons, we were pleased to find several Parson’s Chameleons along with the amazingly camouflaged Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko.

We had a final morning in Analamazoatra Reserve and again split into two groups. One of the groups put in a last effort to try and find either of the two remaining species that we had not yet encountered. While the shy Red-breasted Coua would not cooperate, the group did have great views of a pair of Nuthatch Vangas – *a good reward for the efforts!* The other group did a slow walk, enjoying some final sightings of the more common species, and a highlight was a prolonged encounter with the Common Brown Lemurs, plus brief views of a couple of Hook-billed Vangas.

Following a final lunch at our lodge, we headed back towards Tana. We were soon braking for a huge Oustalet’s Chameleon that we helped safely cross the road. We also discovered that we needed to change a tire here, before we returned to Tana via some Hamerkops and some urban traffic before settling into our very pleasant accommodations in the city, having had a really successful week in those excellent eastern rainforests!

We now had a travel day as we embarked on the next and very different leg of our adventure. After a pleasant lie-in and breakfast, we made our way the short distance to the domestic airport and had a relatively hassle-free check in for our flight south to Toliara. We arrived at Toliara only a few minutes behind our scheduled arrival time, and were soon boarding a new fleet of 4wd vehicles and heading up the recently much-improved coastal road towards Ifaty. We were now in a completely different setting, with blazing sun, spiny forest and the sparkling seas of the Mozambique Channel our new backdrop. We arrived in the later afternoon to check into our very pleasant beachside resort with time to settle in, enjoy a fine sunset and then a great dinner, eager for the new adventures that would await us tomorrow.

We were out very early to beat the heat and were soon strolling the sandy paths of Parc Mosa – a small but well-protected reserve that harbours a fine example of spiny forest replete with nearly all of its endemic birds; and expert local guides: Mosa, Fredy and co. that would show them all to us with great skill! Wandering along, we admired the large baobabs, *Pachypodiums, Euphorbias, Didieras* and other exotic and spiny looking vegetation; and in no time at all, we were staring down at the star bird of this site –
Long-tailed Ground Roller. It provided unbeatable close views to the great satisfaction of all, and then we left it to resume its normal activities!

The birding here is great in the early morning hours, and shortly after we left the ground roller behind, we were enjoying views of a pair of Sickle-billed Vangas. Soaking in the views of this, we were called away to enjoy amazing views of the other most-wanted bird in these spiny forests, the gorgeous Subdesert Mesite, a fine male glaring down at us as it sat motionless on its perch.

Not far away, a Madagascan Sparrowhawk sat on its stick nest watching us warily below – we had already been fortunate to see this species in the rainforest, but this was a much better look as the bird was lower down. We next observed a pair of Archbold’s Newtonia, another spiny forest endemic, and then the unusual Thamnornis sat out for all to see. Some more walking led us to a Running Coua, yet another speciality of the area, with its bright pink and blue facial skin showing to full effect. Before leaving, we saw a cryptically-coloured but beautiful Madagascan Nightjar, as well as a Hook-billed Vanga sitting on a nest, plus a Warty Chameleon.

With an incredible morning in the books, it was actually only 8 am and high time for some breakfast, so we left the spiny forest behind for now and enjoyed our beachside breakfast before heading a short distance away to the Ifaty salt pans. We set up on the edge of the pans and scoped up Madagascan Lark and a variety of shorebirds – White-fronted and Kittlitz’s Plover, Common Greenshank, Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel and Curlew Sandpiper, but not our main quarry: the now endangered Madagascan Plover. We got in the vehicle and drove to the other side of the pans, where Mosa was waiting with a pair of these gorgeous little plovers walking around brightly coloured drying laundry – not hard to understand why this bird is endangered.

We returned to our resort for lunch and a siesta, and most people enjoyed a bit of time swimming in the sea and/or the pool. Two species of day geckos – Standing’s and Modest – enlivened the afternoon for the herpetologically inclined. As the afternoon heat started to wane, we headed out to the Ifaty wetlands, where we were greeted with 10 Greater Flamingos and an interesting assortment of waterbirds – Hottentot Teal, Black-winged Stilt, Common Ringed Plover and many Kittlitz’s Plover. We then spent some time
along the edge of the cattails, enjoying surprisingly good views of 3 Baillon’s Crakes and also flushed up 4 Greater Painted Snipes – *definitely a couple of bonus birds here*. We also enjoyed amazing views of Olive Bee-eater, Grey-headed Lovebird and Madagascan Mannikin in these open habitats. The short drive back to our resort produced two more surprises – a Madagascan Harrier-Hawk and a Humblot’s Heron. We gathered outside the restaurant at dusk, having only just glimpsed the resident Grey Mouse Lemur the evening before. Tonight, we were ready for it, and enjoyed super views of this very cute little primate before another great dinner.

We set out again in the early morning light for our second session in the spiny forest with a very small list of targets, and we found every one of them! Our very first bird of the morning was a pair of Subdesert Brush Warblers, and then we caught up with Madagascan Hoopoe – of which we were able to enjoy a few. We also had our best looks at Madagascan Harrier-Hawk and a memorable encounter with a Hook-billed Vanga. This was followed up with a Red-capped Coua seen at close quarters. Having glimpsed a Lafresnaye’s Vanga early in the morning and then having a false start with a Madagascan Cuckooshrike, we were thrilled to see a male Lafresnaye’s settle down onto its nest that it was delicately putting the finishing touches on with its massive bill. The next surprise our intrepid guides had in store for us was a fantastic little Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec, and this was soon followed by a pair of stunning female Madagascan Buttonquails creeping along on the ground. The grand finale of the morning was a roosting “Black-shouldered” Sportive Lemur – *the undescribed lemuroid that is still only known from this tiny area!*

It was getting very hot by now, and was high time for breakfast, after which we had some downtime to enjoy one last swim in the ocean. After lunch, we travelled the rather short distance to Toliara with a Three-banded Plover en route and settled into our comfortable base there. Waiting again for the heat of the day to abate, we headed out into the stunted thorn forest of the La Tabla area. Perhaps a minute after starting birding there, we were enjoying a pair of Red-shouldered Vanga at super close range. *This rare vanga is the star bird of the area, and is often much more difficult to find than this!* We then set about finding the other endemic of this strange desolate habitat, the Verreaux’s Coua. The bird was not playing ball until Fredy miraculously found the blue eye patch of a coua glaring down at him from a very well concealed nest in a *Didiera*, allowing us all to have great looks at this rare bird. As we were leaving, just for good measure, a Lafresnaye’s Vanga dropped in for some excellent looks. In high spirits, we returned to the bustling little city of Toliara for dinner.
Our next day was a change of pace, as the morning saw us boarding zebu carts for a short transfer to our speedboat that would set off south along the coast. With very pleasant conditions, we made it to the San Augustin cliffs in good time, where we spied a pair of Peregrine Falcons, one of which was devouring a bird. We also enjoyed excellent views of a pair of Humboldt’s Herons on these rather forbidding-looking cliffs. We then carried on to Nosy Ve and headed for the spit, where 10 birds gathered together proved to be Crab Plover – *much to our excitement* – and they offered excellent views. With high tide, we were able to circumnavigate the tiny island, adding Ruddy Turnstone and Whimbrel to the day’s list; and, of course, the elegant Red-tailed Tropicbirds for which the island is well-known were soaring overhead. We landed on the island to see some of them nesting under dense shady bushes – adults and chicks.

At this stage, some of us stayed on the island to enjoy some more time with the tropicbirds and other wildlife – not forgetting the sacred chicken. The rest of us snorkelled in the reef. Visibility was very good today, and we enjoyed a myriad of underwater creatures, highlights of which included squid, lionfish, pipefish and three species of moray eel amongst the many colourful wrasses, damselfish, parrotfish and butterflyfish. We now left behind Nosy Ve and landed on the mainland of Anakao, where we soon enjoyed a couple of confiding Littoral Rock Thrush before having a tasty lunch. We then spent some time lounging on the beach and/or spending some time with the throngs of local kids playing along the beach.

The ride back to Toliara was a pleasant one, and we finally saw some terns of three species – Great Crested, Lesser Crested and Common – all working a large baitball. The highlight, however, was a bonus encounter with 10 Spinner Dolphins that came charging towards our boat in a very playful fashion and enjoyed some bow-riding before carrying on – *really fantastic*. We returned to the hotel to rinse off the salt and relax before dinner.

With another morning in the area, we had an optional pre-breakfast excursion to a waterpoint south of Toliara. We were hoping to get lucky and have Madagascan Sandgrouse come in for a drink. As we waited, we were happy to get terrific views of a Greater Painted Snipe, a Three-banded Plover and several other species of bird, but the hoped-for sandgrouse appeared to be a no-show. Just as we were returning to the vehicle, a pair of the birds flew in and came down for a drink so, much to our surprise, we were able to get fabulous views of the male and female!
After breakfast we set back out, this time to the Arboretum. It was quite hot, but we did enjoy a nice selection of very tame birds, including a couple of Red-capped Coua. Our local guide was very knowledgeable about the spiny forest plants and we learned a lot. We also recorded four species of reptiles – Warty Chameleon, Spiny-tailed Iguana, the cryptically-coloured *Phelsuma mutabilis* and the skink *Trachelophytyxus madagascariensis*. We even got to see a new lemur as he pointed out a tiny Grey-brown Mouse Lemur roosting up in a *Euphorbia* tangle.

After enjoying a final meal in Toliara, we headed the short distance to the airport and eventually boarded our plane for the short hop to Tolagnaro, where we would begin the final leg of our adventure. Upon arrival, we boarded our vehicle and set off on the potholed drive to Berenty Reserve. We spotted a Malagasy Pond Heron and a few more common birds as the sun sank over the Andohahela Mountains. We arrived at Berenty to enjoy a late dinner and settle into our very pleasant rooms eager for the exciting day ahead.

Noises on our roof as the sun rose alerted us that the lemurs were waking up and so should we! Making the most of the relatively cool early morning hours, we headed out on a pre-breakfast walk. The walk was highlighted by a few curious Ring-tailed Lemurs, but it was the antics of the incomparable Verreaux’s Sifaka that really stole the show, and we spent much of the walk enjoying these fabulous mammals. Although admittedly overshadowed by their more extroverted cousins, we did also pause to observe a couple of groups of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs and a couple of roosting White-footed Sportive Lemurs. There were, of course, some birds to look at as well, and we were very pleased to see a tame Giant Coua and great views of a roosting White-browed Hawk-Owl amongst the more common species.

We enjoyed breakfast, as much for the tasty meal as the antics of the Ring-tailed Lemurs that successfully employed diversionary tactics on us in order to grab a couple of bananas away from us. With the day slowly heating up, we set out into the gallery forest for another walk. A highlight of this was visiting the large roost of Malagasy Flying Foxes. We also had perfect views of Giant Couas and enjoyed some good looks at Frances’ Sparrowhawk, Madagascar Hoopoes and others, not to mention plenty of lemurs, although they were certainly becoming more subdued as the day heated up!

By late morning the heat was becoming quite intense, so we retired to the lodge area where we could continue to enjoy the lemurs right outside our rooms, along with at least three species of gecko inside
the rooms. A delicious lunch was followed by a prolonged siesta; and as the sun’s rays became less intense, we headed out into a fabulous little patch of spiny forest, where we followed a local guide around as he pointed out one wonder after another with his homemade spear. Roosting White-footed Sportive Lemurs and Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs were great to see, along with a perfectly camouflaged Madagascan Nightjar. A couple of scorpions and orb weaver spiders were also pointed out. Reptiles were much in evidence, with a number of species seen, including Three-eyed Lizard, Spiny-tailed Iguana, Sakalava Velvet Gecko and both Warty and Carpet Chameleon. Some massive and ancient baoababs were passed and the grand finale was two different Torotoroka Scops Owl roosting at fantastically close range. We returned to the lodge enjoying some final antics from the lemurs and making a quick visit to the local museum, where in addition to learning some of the local history, we also watched (and smelled) a fantastic colony of several hundred Peter’s Goblin Bats.

As darkness settled, we headed out for a final walk into that fantastic spiny forest for an atmospheric night walk. A half-moon and a sky full of stars illuminated the octopus trees, and calls of owls, nightjars and nocturnal lemurs rang out. We saw several White-footed Sportive Lemurs, and they were being quite sportive. We also saw some Warty Chameleons and several roosting birds, including Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Namaqua Doves and Subdesert Brush Warblers. We then settled in for a final dinner.

We had a very early departure from Berenty as we returned to Tolagnaro, where we had breakfast in a very pleasant setting and headed to the airport – *where our flight was not only on time, but early!* After settling into our hotel in Tana for a final night, most of us returned to the Alarobia Lake for a final birding session. It is, after all, amongst the birdiest places in the country. The usual crowds of herons and ducks were enjoyed again, including the specialities like Meller’s Ducks and Malagasy Pond Heron. A pair of Madagascan Grebe was the only new find from our earlier visit to the lake. It was a very enjoyable birding session in the nice afternoon light, and then we returned to the hotel for dinner.

The following morning, we enjoyed a final breakfast together before heading off on our onward journeys. Thanks to such a congenial group for making this a very successful and enjoyable tour!
Annotated List of species recorded

Note: Number in brackets ( ) indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.
List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

Birds (152 in total: 151 seen, 1 heard)
Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.2).
Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced
IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck
*Dendrocygna viduata*
(3) 350 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 10 Ifaty 22.10 and 250 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

Knob-billed Duck
*Sarkidiornis melanotos*
(2) 3 Alarobia Lake 14.10 and 3 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

Meller's Duck (EN)
*Anas melleri*
(3) 19 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 1 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 6 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

Red-billed Teal
*Anas erythrorhyncha*
(5) 750 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 1 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10 and 300 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

Hottentot Teal
*Anas hottentota*
(3) 25 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 8 Ifaty 22.10 and 6 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl
*Numida meleagris*
(1) 10 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Madagascan Grebe (VU)
*Tachybaptus pelzelnii*
(2) 2 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 2 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

Greater Flamingo
*Phoenicopterus roseus*
(1) 10 Ifaty 22.10.

Tropicbirds Phaethontidae

Red-tailed Tropicbird
*Phaethon rubricauda rubricauda*
(1) 20 Nosy Ve 24.10.

Ibis and Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

Madagascan Ibis (NT)
*Lophotibis cristata*
(2) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10 and 1 Mantadia NP 18.10.
Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

**Black-crowned Night Heron**  *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*
(2) 100 Alarobia Lake 14.10 and 75 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Striated Heron**  *Butorides striata rutenbergi*
(3) 1 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 1 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10 and 2 Antananarivo to Andasibe 20.10.

**Squacco Heron**  *Ardeola ralloides*
(3) 100 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 1 Ifaty 22.10 and 60 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Malagasy Pond Heron (EN)**  *Ardeola idae*
(3) 4 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 1 Fort Dauphin 25.10 and 3 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Western Cattle Egret**  *Bubulcus ibis*
(8) 200 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 100 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10, 15 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10, 10 Antananarivo to Andasibe 20.10, 5 Ifaty 22.10, 50 Fort Dauphin 25.10, 250 Berenty Reserve 26.10 and 200 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Grey Heron**  *Ardea cinerea firasa*
(4) 1 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 1 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10, 1 Nosy Ve 24.10, 5 Anakao 24.10 and 1 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Humblot's Heron (EN)**  *Ardea humbloti*
(2) 1 Ifaty 22.10 and 2 Anakao 24.10.

**Purple Heron**  *Ardea purpurea madagascariensis*
(5) Up to 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15-18.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Great Egret**  *Ardea alba melanorhynchos*
(5) 4 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 4 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10, 1 Ifaty 22.10, 1 Nosy Ve 24.10 and 10 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Black Heron**  *Egretta ardesiaca*
(4) 30 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 5 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10, 1 Antananarivo to Andasibe 20.10 and 70 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Dimorphic Egret**  *Egretta dimorpha*

Hamerkop *Scopidae*

**Hamerkop**  *Scopus umbretta umbretta*
(3) 3 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10, 5 Antananarivo to Andasibe 20.10 and 1 Fort Dauphin 27.10.

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites *Accipitridae*

**Madagascan Harrier-Hawk**  *Polyboroides radiatus*
(4) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 1 Mantadia NP 18.10, 1 Parc Mosa 22.10, 1 Parc Mosa 23.10 and 1 Ifaty 22.20.

**Frances's Sparrowhawk**  *Accipiter francesiae francesiae*
(3) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Madagascan Sparrowhawk (NT)**  *Accipiter madagascariensis*
(2) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10 and 1 Parc Mosa 22.10.
Yellow-billed Kite  
*Milvus aegyptius parasitus*  
(6) 2 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10, 5 Ifaty 22.10, 2 Parc Mosa 23.10, 1 Anakao 24.10, 2 Fort Dauphin 25.10 and 30 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

Madagascan Buzzard  
*Buteo brachypterus*  
(6) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 1 Mantadia NP 16.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 2 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10 and 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Mesites Mesitornithidae**

Subdesert Mesite (VU)  
*Monias benschi*  
(1) 1 Parc Mosa 22.10.

Madagascan Wood Rail  
*Canirallus kioloides*  
(4) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Flufftails Sarothruridae**

Madagascan Flufftail  
*Sarothrura insularis*  
(3) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10 and 1 heard Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10.

Ralls, Gallinules, and Coots Rallidae

**Rails, Gallinules, and Coots Rallidae**

Madagascan Rail (VU)  
*Rallus madagascariensis*  
(1) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10.

White-throated Rail  
*Dryolimnas cuvieri cuvieri*  
(6) 2+2 heard Alarobia Lake 14.10, 2 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 18.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10 and 1 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

Baillon's Crake  
*Porzana pusilla intermedia*  
(1) 3 Ifaty 22.10.

Common Moorhen  
*Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorhhoa*  
(3) 10 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 1 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 4 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

Buttonquails Turnicidae

Madagascan Buttonquail  
*Turnix nigricollis*  
(1) 2 Parc Mosa 23.10.

**Crab Plover Dromadidae**

Crab-plover  
*Dromas ardeola*  
(1) 1 Tulear 24.10 and 10 Nosy Ve 24.10.

Stilts and Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt  
*Himantopus himantopus*  
(3) Up to 10 Ifaty 21-23.10.
Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*

**Grey Plover**
(1) 1 Nosy Ve 24.10.

**Common Ringed Plover**
(1) 5 Ifaty 22.10.

**Madagascan Plover (VU)**
(1) 2 Ifaty 22.10.

**Kittlitz's Plover**
(3) 30 Ifaty 22.10, 2 Ifaty 23.10 and 2 Tulear 25.10.

**Three-banded Plover**
(2) 1 Ifaty 23.10 and 1 Tulear 25.10.

**White-fronted Plover**
(1) 10 Ifaty 22.10.

Painted-Snipes *Rostratulidae*

**Greater Painted-snipe**
(2) 4 Ifaty 22.10 and 1 Tulear 25.10.

Sandpipers and Allies *Scolopacidae*

**Madagascan Snipe (VU)**
(1) 4 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10.

**Whimbrel**
(3) 1 Ifaty 21.10, 2 Ifaty 22.10, 75 Tulear 24.10 and 6 Nosy Ve 24.10.

**Common Greenshank**
(3) 1 Ifaty 21.10, 5 Ifaty 22.10 and 2 Tulear 25.10.

**Common Sandpiper**
(2) 1 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10 and 1 Ifaty 22.10.

**Ruddy Turnstone**
(2) 3 Ifaty 22.10 and 10 Nosy Ve 24.10.

**Curlew Sandpiper**
(1) 40 Ifaty 22.10.

Pratincoles and Coursers *Glareolidae*

**Madagascan Pratincole (VU)**
(1) 1 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10.

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers *Laridae*

**Greater Crested Tern**
(1) 1 Nosy Ve 24.10.

**Lesser Crested Tern**
(1) 15 Nosy Ve 24.10.

**Common Tern**
(1) 1 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10.

**Greater Crested Tern**
(1) 1 Nosy Ve 24.10.

**Lesser Crested Tern**
(1) 15 Nosy Ve 24.10.

**Common Tern**
(1) 1 Nosy Ve 24.10.
(1) 1 Nosy Ve 24.10.

Sandgrouse *Pteroclidae*

**Madagascan Sandgrouse** *Pterocles personatus*
(1) 2 Tulear 25.10.

Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae*

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia var. domestica*

**Malagasy Turtle Dove** *Nesoenas picturatus picturatus*
(8) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 1 Mantadia NP 16.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 10 Parc Mosa 22.10, 10 Parc Mosa 23.10, 1 Tulear 25.10 and 15 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis aliena*
(6) 1 Parc Mosa 22.10, 1 Ifaty 22.10, 2 Ifaty 23.10, 10 La Table 23.10, 1 Anakao 24.10, 2 Tulear 25.10, 2 Berenty Reserve 26.10 and 10 Fort Dauphin 27.10.

**Malagasy Green Pigeon** *Treron australis*
(1) 6 Mantadia NP 16.10.

**Malagasy Blue Pigeon** *Alectroenas madagascariensis*
(5) 4 Mantadia NP 16.10, 3 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 3 Mantadia NP 18.10, 4 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10 and 4 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

**Malagasy Coucal** *Centropus toulou toulou*
(11) 1 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 1+1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 1 heard Mantadia NP 16.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 2 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 heard Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 3 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 1 Ifaty 21.10, 1 Tulear 25.10, 2 Berenty Reserve 26.10 and 1 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Crested Coua** *Coua cristata*
(2) 2 Parc Mosa 23.10 and 5 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Verreaux's Coua (NT)** *Coua verreauxi*
(1) 1 La Table 23.10.

**Blue Coua** *Coua caerulea*
(3) 1+1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 2+2 heard Mantadia NP 16.10 and 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10.

**Red-capped Coua** *Coua ruficeps*
(3) 1 Parc Mosa 23.10, 2 Tulear 25.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Red-fronted Coua** *Coua reynaudii*
(3) 1+3 heard Mantadia NP 16.10, 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10 and 1 Mantadia NP 18.10.

**Running Coua** *Coua cursor*
(3) 1 Parc Mosa 22.10, 2 heard La Table 23.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 27.10.

**Giant Coua** *Coua gigas*
(1) 3 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Red-breasted Coua**
*Coua serriana*
(1) 2 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

**Madagascan Cuckoo**
*Cuculus rochii*
(8) 2 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 2+10 heard Mantadia NP 16.10, 3 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 5 heard Mantadia NP 18.10, 5 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 3 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 1 heard Parc Mosa 22.10 and 1 Parc Mosa 23.10.

**Barn-Owls Tytonidae**

**Western Barn Owl**
*Tyto alba hypermetra*
(1) 2 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Owls Strigidae**

**Torotoroka Scops Owl**
*Otus madagascariensis*
(1) 2 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Rainforest Scops Owl**
*Otus rutilus*
(5) 2+2 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10 and up to 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17-20.10.

**White-browed Hawk-Owl**
*Ninox superciliaris*
(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Madagascan Owl**
*Asio madagascariensis*
(3) 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

**Marsh Owl**
*Asio capensis hova*
(1) 1 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10.

**Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae**

**Collared Nightjar**
*Gactornis enarratus*
(1) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10.

**Madagascan Nightjar**
*Caprimulgus madagascariensis madagascariensis*
(7) 1+1 heard Antananarivo 14.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 16.10, 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 1 Parc Mosa 22.10, 1 heard Ifaty 22.10, 1 heard Ifaty 23.10, 1 Berenty Reserve 26.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 27.10.

**Swifts Apodidae**

**Madagascan Spinetail**
*Zoonavena grandidieri grandidieri*
(3) 4 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 8 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 1 Ifaty 22.10.

**African Palm Swift**
*Cypsiurus parvus gracilis*
(2) 6 Mantadia NP 16.10 and 10 Fort Dauphin 27.10.

**Malagasy Black Swift**
*Apus balstoni balstoni*
(5) 10 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10, 6 Parc Mosa 23.10, 10 Anakao 24.10, 20 Tulear 25.10 and 5 Antananarivo 27.10.
Cuckoo-Roller *Leptosomidae*

**Cuckoo Roller**  
*Leptosomus discolor discolor*  
(3) 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10 and 1 heard Mantadia NP 18.10.

Rollers *Coraciidae*

**Broad-billed Roller**  
*Eurystomus glaucurus glaucurus*  
(6) 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 16.10, 3 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10 and 3 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

Ground rollers *Brachypteraciidae*

**Short-legged Ground Roller (VU)**  
*Brachypteracias leptosomus*  
(1) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10.

**Scaly Ground Roller (VU)**  
*Geobiastes squamiger*  
(2) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10 and 1 Mantadia NP 18.10.

**Pitta-like Ground Roller**  
*Atelornis pittoides*  
(3) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10, 1 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

**Rufous-headed Ground Roller (NT)**  
*Atelornis crossleyi*  
(1) 2 Mantadia NP 18.10.

**Long-tailed Ground Roller (VU)**  
*Uratelornis chimaera*  
(1) 1 Parc Mosa 22.10.

Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

**Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher**  
*Corythornis madagascariensis*  
(4) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10, 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Malagasy Kingfisher**  
*Corythornis vintsioides vintsioides*  
(8) 3 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 1 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, up to 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17-20.10, 1 Mantadia NP 18.10, 1 Antananarivo to Andasibe 20.10, 1 Tulear 25.10 and 2 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

Bee-eaters *Meropidae*

**Olive Bee-eater**  
*Merops superciliosus superciliosus*  
(9) 2 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 2 Antananarivo 14.10, 2 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10, 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 1 Mantadia NP 18.10, 5 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10, 5 Ifaty 21.10, 10 Ifaty 22.10, 5 Parc Mosa 22.10, 5 Parc Mosa 23.10, 1 Anakao 24.10 and 2 Tulear 25.10.

Hoopoes *Upupidae*

**Madagascan Hoopoe**  
*Upupa marginata*  
(2) 4 Parc Mosa 23.10, 2 La Table 23.10 and 2 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae*

**Malagasy Kestrel**  
*Falco newtoni newtoni*  

(8) 1 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 1 Antananarivo 14.10, 1 Antananarivo to Andasibe 20.10, 1 Ifaty 21.10, 3 Ifaty 22.10, 2 Parc Mosa 23.10, 1 La Table 23.10, 1 Anakao 24.10, 3 Tulear 25.10 and 10 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Sooty Falcon (NT)**  
*Falco concolor*  
(1) 1 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10.

**Peregrine Falcon**  
*Falco peregrinus radama*  
(1) 2 Anakao 24.10.

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**Old World Parrots Psittaculidae**

**Greater Vasa Parrot**  
*Coracopsis vasa*  
(3) 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 4 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Lesser Vasa Parrot**  
*Coracopsis nigra*  
(7) 2 Antananarivo 14.10, 5 Mantadia NP 16.10, 10 Mantadia NP 18.10, 1 Antananarivo 21.10, 10 Parc Mosa 22.10, 10 Parc Mosa 23.10 and 3 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Grey-headed Lovebird**  
*Agapornis canus*  
(3) 30 Parc Mosa 22.10, 10 Parc Mosa 23.10, 50 Ifaty 22.10 and 25 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

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**Broadbills Eurylaimidae**

**Velvet Asity**  
*Philepitta castanea*  
(1) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10.

**Common Sunbird-Asity**  
*Neodrepanis coruscans*  
(1) 4 Mantadia NP 18.10.

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**Vangas Vangidae**

**Red-tailed Vanga**  
*Calicalicus madagascariensis*  
(6) 1 heard Mantadia NP 16.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 1 heard Mantadia NP 18.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 1 heard Parc Mosa 22.10 and 1 Parc Mosa 23.10.

**Red-shouldered Vanga (VU)**  
*Calicalicus rufocarpalis*  
(1) 2 La Table 23.10.

**Hook-billed Vanga**  
*Vanga curvirostris*  
(4) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 1 Parc Mosa 22.10, 1 Parc Mosa 23.10 and 1 heard Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Lafresnaye's Vanga**  
*Xenopirostris xenopirostris*  
(1) 1 Parc Mosa 23.10 and 1 La Table 23.10.

**Sickle-billed Vanga**  
*Falculea palliata*  
(2) 2 Parc Mosa 22.10 and 2 Parc Mosa 23.10.

**White-headed Vanga**  
*Artamella viridis*  
(1) 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10.

**Chabert Vanga**  
*Leptopterus chabert*  
(7) 2 Mantadia NP 16.10, 6 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 2 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 4 Parc Mosa 22.10, 8 Parc Mosa 23.10 and 1 Tulear 25.10.

**Blue Vanga**  
*Cyanolanius madagascarinus madagascarinus*
(4) 3 Mantadia NP 16.10, 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 1 heard Mantadia NP 18.10 and 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Tylas Vanga**  
*Tylas eduardi*  
(4) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10, 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 1 heard Mantadia NP 18.10 and 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Nuthatch Vanga**  
*Hypositta coralliurostris*  
(1) 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Dark Newtonia**  
*Newtonia amphichroa*  
(1) 1 Mantadia NP 18.10.

**Common Newtonia**  
*Newtonia brunneicauda*  
(7) 4 Mantadia NP 16.10, 2 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 4 Mantadia NP 18.10, up to 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19-20.10, 2 heard Parc Mosa 22.10 and 2 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Archbold’s Newtonia**  
*Newtonia archboldi*  
(1) 2 Parc Mosa 22.10.

**Ward’s Flycatcher**  
*Pseudobias wardi*  
(5) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 1 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Crossley’s Vanga**  
*Mystacornis crossleyi*  
(1) 4 Mantadia NP 16.10.

**Cuckoo-shrikes Campephagidae**

**Madagascan Cuckoo-shrike**  
*Coracina cinerea*  
(3) 3 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 3 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 1 Parc Mosa 23.10.

**Drongos Dicruridae**

**Crested Drongo**  
*Dicrurus forficatus forficatus*  
(10) 2 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 2 Mantadia NP 16.10, 5 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 2 Mantadia NP 18.10, 3 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 6 Parc Mosa 22.10, 10 Parc Mosa 23.10, 4 La Table 23.10, 6 Tulear 25.10 and 10 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Monarch Flycatchers Monarchidae**

**Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher**  
*Terpsiphone mutata mutata*  
(9) 4 Mantadia NP 16.10, 6 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 4 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 4 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 1 Parc Mosa 22.10, 2 Parc Mosa 23.10, 2 Tulear 25.10 and 10 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Crows, Jays, and Magpies Corvidae**

**Pied Crow**  
*Corvus albus*  
(7) Up to 10 Ifaty 21-23.10, 5 La Table 23.10, 2 Nosy Ve 24.10, 15 Anakao 24.10, 10 Tulear 25.10, 30 Berenty Reserve 26.10 and 10 Fort Dauphin 27.10.

**Larks Alaudidae**

**Madagascan Lark**  
*Eremopterix hova*
(4) 5 Ifaty 22.10, 20 La Table 23.10, 1 Tulear 25.10 and 2 Fort Dauphin 27.10.

### Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*

**Malagasy Bulbul** *Hypsipetes madagascariensis madagascariensis*

(12) 2 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 2 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10, 6 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 10 Mantadia NP 16.10, 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 10 Mantadia NP 18.10, 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 5 Parc Mosa 22.10, 2 Parc Mosa 23.10, up to 5 Tulear 23-25.10 and 6 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

### Swallows *Hirundinidae*

**Mascarene Martin** *Phedina borbonica madagascariensis*

(4) 5 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 10 Antananarivo 21.10 and 5 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Brown-throated Martin** *Riparia paludicola cowani*

(2) 1 Parc Mosa 22.10 and 4 Tulear 25.10.

### Reed-Warblers and Allies *Acrocephalidae*

**Malagasy Brush Warbler** *Nesillas typica*

(8) 4 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 4 Mantadia NP 16.10, 3 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 4 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 3 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10 and 1 heard Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Subdesert Brush Warbler** *Nesillas lantzii*

(6) 1 Ifaty 21.10, 2 heard Parc Mosa 22.10, 2 Parc Mosa 23.10, 2 La Table 23.10, 1 Anakao 24.10, 2 Tulear 25.10 and 2 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Madagascan Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus newtoni*

(3) 1 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 2 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 3 Ifaty 22.10.

### Malagasy Warblers *Bernieridae*

**White-throated Oxylabes** *Oxylabes madagascariensis*

(2) 1 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

**Long-billed Berneria** *Berneria madagascariensis*

(2) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10 and 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

**Cryptic Warbler** *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi*

(1) 2 Mantadia NP 18.10.

**Wedge-tailed Jery** *Hartertula flavoviridis*

(2) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

**Thamnornis** *Thamnornis chloropetoides*

(1) 1 Parc Mosa 22.10.

**Spectacled Tetraka** *Xanthomixis zosterops*

(3) 5 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Rand's Warbler** *Randia pseudozosterops*

(4) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10, 4 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 5 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.
Cisticolas and Allies Cisticolidae

**Common Jery**  
*Neomixis tenella*  
(10) 2 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 2 heard Mantadia NP 16.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 2 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 10 Parc Mosa 22.10, 5 Parc Mosa 23.10, 2 Tulear 25.10, 5 Berenty Reserve 26.10 and 1 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Green Jery**  
*Neomixis viridis*  
(4) 1+3 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 4 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10 and 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Stripe-throated Jery**  
*Neomixis striatigula*  
(7) 1+6 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 5 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 3 Parc Mosa 22.10 and 5 Parc Mosa 23.10.

**Madagascan Cisticola**  
*Cisticola cherina*  
(5) 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 10 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10, 5 Ifaty 22.10, 6 Nosy Ve 24.10 and 5 Tulear 25.10.

Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies Zosteropidae

**Malagasy White-eye**  
*Zosterops maderaspatanus maderaspatanus*  
(9) 2 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 2 Antananarivo 14.10, 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 10 Mantadia NP 16.10, 20 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 20 Mantadia NP 18.10, 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 5 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 1 Berenty Reserve 26.10 and 2 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

Starlings Sturnidae

**Common Myna**  
*Acridotheres tristis tristis*  
(11) Alarobia Lake 14.10, Antananarivo 14.10, 100 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10, 2 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10, 10 Antananarivo to Andasibe 20.10, 10 Ifaty 21.10, 20 Ifaty 22.10, 10 Parc Mosa 23.10, 10 La Table 23.10, 10 Tulear 24.10, 10 Tulear 25.10, 10 Nosy Ve 24.10, 10 Berenty Reserve 26.10 and 10 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Madagascan Starling**  
*Hartlaubius auratus*  
(3) 2 Mantadia NP 16.10, 2 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

**Madagascan Magpie-Robin**  
*Copsychus albospecularis*  
(9) 1 Antananarivo 14.10, 1 Mantadia NP 16.10, 3 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 1 Mantadia NP 18.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 2 Parc Mosa 22.10, 4 Parc Mosa 23.10, 2 La Table 23.10, 5 Tulear 25.10 and 2 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Littoral Rock Thrush**  
*Monticola imerina*  
(1) 4 Anakao 24.10.

**Forest Rock Thrush**  
*Monticola sharpei*  
(1) 1 Mantadia NP 18.10.

**Madagascan Stonechat**  
*Saxicola sibilla*  
(6) 2 Antananarivo 14.10, 2 Antananarivo 15.10, 2 Mantadia NP 16.10, 1 Mantadia NP 18.10, 10 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.
Sunbirds and Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*

**Souimanga Sunbird**  *Cinnyris sovimanga*
(11) 2 Antananarivo 14.10, 2 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 10 Mantadia NP 16.10, 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 20 Mantadia NP 18.10, 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 5 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 10 Parc Mosa 22.10, 5 Parc Mosa 23.10, 4 Anakao 24.10 and 10 Tulear 25.10.

**Malagasy Green Sunbird**  *Cinnyris notatus notatus*
(5) 1 Antananarivo 15.10, 4 Mantadia NP 16.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 5 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

Weavers and Allies *Ploceidae*

**Nelicourvi Weaver**  *Ploceus nelicourvi*
(4) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 2 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Sakalava Weaver**  *Ploceus sakalava*

**Red Fody**  *Foudia madagascariensis*
(8) 5 Alarobia Lake 14.10, 5 Antananarivo 14.10, 5 Antananarivo 15.10, 30 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10, 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 2 La Table 23.10, 2 Anakao 24.10, 5 Tulear 25.10 and 10 Alarobia Lake 27.10.

**Forest Fody**  *Foudia omissa*
(2) 2 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

Waxbills and Allies *Estrildidae*

**Madagascan Mannikin**  *Lepidopygia nana*
(5) 2 Antananarivo 14.10, 4 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10, 10 Ifaty 22.10 and 30 Tulear 25.10.

Wagtails and Pipits *Motacillidae*

**Madagascan Wagtail**  *Motacilla flaviventris*
(7) 2 Antananarivo 14.10, 2 Antananarivo to Andasibe 15.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 2 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10 and 2 Antananarivo 27.10.

Mammals (21 in total: 21 seen)

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**Tenrecs** *Tenrecidae*

**Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec**  *Echinops telfairi*
(1) 2 Parc Mosa 23.10.
**Lemurs* Lemuridae**

**Brown Lemur*** 
*Eulemur fulvus*
(5) 5 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 4 Mantadia NP 16.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 18.10 and 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Red-bellied Lemur*** 
*Eulemur rubriventer*
(1) 2 Mantadia NP 18.10.

**Red Brown Lemur*** 
*Eulemur rufus*
(10) 10 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur*** 
*Hapalemur griseus*
(3) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10 and 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Ring-tailed Lemur*** 
*Lemur catta*
(1) 30 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur*** 
*Varecia variegata*
(2) 1 heard Mantadia NP 16.10 and 3 Mantadia NP 18.10.

**Sportive Lemurs* Lepilemuridae**

**White-footed Sportive Lemur*** 
*Lepilemur leucopus*
(1) 8 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**“Black-shouldered” Sportive Lemur*** 
*Lepilemur spp*
(1) 1 Parc Mosa 22.10.

**Dwarf and Mouse Lemurs* Cheirogaleidae**

**Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur*** 
*Cheirogaleus crossleyi*
(2) 3 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10.

**Grey-brown Mouse Lemur*** 
*Microcebus griseorufus*
(2) 1 Tulear 25.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Goodman's Mouse Lemur*** 
*Microcebus lehilahytsara*
(2) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

**Grey Mouse Lemur*** 
*Microcebus murinus*
(2) 3 Parc Mosa 22.10 and 1 Ifaty 23.10.

**Indrid Lemurs, Sifakas* Indriidae**

**Eastern Woolly Lemur*** 
*Avahi laniger*
(2) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10 and 3 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10.

**Indri*** 
*Indri indri*
(6) 2 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 3 Mantadia NP 16.10, 5+5 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 1 Mantadia NP 18.10 and up to 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19-20.10.

**Diademed Sifaka*** 
*Propithecus diadema*
(2) 2 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 10 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

**Verreaux's Sifaka*** 
*Propithecus verreauxi*
(1) 25 Berenty Reserve 26.10.
Oceanic Dolphins *Delphinidae*

**Spinner Dolphin**  
*Stenella longirostris*  
(1) 10 Nosy Ve 24.10.

Free-tailed Bats *Molossidae*

**Peters' Goblin Bat**  
*Mormopterus jugularis*  
(1) 300 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

Old World Fruit Bats *Pteropodidae*

**Madagascan Flying Fox**  
*Pteropus rufus*  
(1) 300 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

Common Bats *Vespertilionidae*

**Robust House Bat**  
*Scotophilus robustus*  
(1) 20 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 16.10.

Reptiles (27 in total: 27 seen)

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Chameleons *Chamaeleonidae*

**Brown Leaf Chameleon**  
*Brookesia superciliaris*  
(1) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10.

**Short-horned Chameleon**  
*Calumma brevicorne*  
(3) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

**Nose-horned Chameleon**  
*Calumma nasutum*  
(3) 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 5 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10 and 4 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

**Parson's Chameleon**  
*Calumma parsonii*  
(2) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10 and 3 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

**Carpet Chameleon**  
*Furcifer lateralis*  
(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

**Oustalet's Chameleon**  
*Furcifer oustaleti*  
(1) 1 Antananarivo to Andasibe 20.10.

**Warty Chameleon**  
*Furcifer verrucosus*  
(3) 1 Parc Mosa 22.10, 1 Tulear 25.10 and 3 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

Iguanas *Iguanidae*

**Madagascar Iguana**  
*Chalarodon madagascariensis*  
(3) 1 Parc Mosa 23.10, 1 La Table 23.10, 1 Nosy Ve 24.10 and 5 Berenty Reserve 26.10.
Merrem's Madagascar Swift

(2) 5 Tulear 25.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

*Oplurus cyclurus*

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**Geckos Gekkonidae**

Sakalava Velvet Gecko

(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

*Blaesodactylus sakalava*

House Gecko

(1) 2 Ifaty 21.10.

*Hemidactylus mabouia*

Mercator Tropical House Gecko

(2) 1 Antananarivo 14.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

*Hemidactylus mercatorius*

Southern Bark Gecko

(1) 3 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

*Lygodactylus tuberosus*

Robust Dwarf Gecko

(1) 1 Antananarivo 27.10

*Lygodactylus pictus*

Striped Day Gecko

(5) 3 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10, 2 Mantadia NP 16.10, 4 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 2 Mantadia NP 18.10 and 3 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

*Phelsuma lineata*

Madagascar Day Gecko

(1) 1 Antananarivo 14.10.

*Phelsuma madagascariensis*

Modest Day Gecko

(2) 1 Ifaty 22.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 26.10.

*Phelsuma modesta*

Thicktail Day Gecko

(1) 2 Tulear 25.10.

*Phelsuma mutabilis*

Standing's Day Gecko

(3) Up to 1 Ifaty 21-23.10, 2 Parc Mosa 22.10 and 1 Parc Mosa 23.10.

*Phelsuma standingi*

Southern Flat-tail Gecko

(1) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

*Uroplatus sikorae*

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**Plated Lizards Gerrhosauridae**

Madagascar Keeled Cordylid

(1) 2 Tulear 25.10.

*Tracheloptychus madagascariensis*

Madagascar Girdled Lizard

(1) 1 Torotoro Fotsy marsh 19.10.

*Zonosaurus madagascariensis*

Girdled Lizard

(3) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10, 5 Mantadia NP 18.10, 2 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

*Zonosaurus aenus*

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**Skinks Scincidae**

Gravenhorst's Skink

(1) 1 Tulear 26.10.

*Trachylepis gravenhorstii*

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**Boas Boidae**

Madagascar Tree Boa

(3) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10, 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10 and 1

*Sanzinia madagascariensis volontany*
Analamazoatra Special Reserve 20.10.

**Lamprophiidae Lamprophiidae**

**Collared Bright Snake**  
*Liophidium torquatum*  
(1) 1 Mantadia NP 16.10.

(1) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 18.10

**Amphibians (7 in total: 6 seen, 1 heard)**

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**Sedge frogs or bush frogs Hyperoliidae**

**Spotted Reed Frog**  
*Heterixalus punctatus*  
(1) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10.

**Madagascar frogs Mantellidae**

**Red-eyed Bright-eyed Frog**  
*Boophis luteus*  
(1) 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 19.10.

**Green Bright-eyed Frog**  
*Boophis viridis*  
(2) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 15.10 and 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10.

**Bott’s Bright-eyed Frog**  
*Boophis bottae*  
(1) 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 17.10

**Baron’s Mantella**  
*Mantella baroni*  
(1) 1 Mantadia NP 18.10.

**True frogs Ranidae**

**Mascarene Grass Frog**  
*Ptychadena mascareniensis*  
(1) 1 Mantadia NP 18.10.

**Narrow-mouthed frogs Microhylidae**

**Marbled Rain Frog**  
*Scaphiophryne marmorata*  
(1) 1 Mantadia NP 18.10.

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