

Madagascar

Highlights II

19th October to 2nd November 2022 (15 days)

Trip Report



Subdesert Mesite by Nigel Redman

Trip report by Tour Leader: Nigel Redman



Tour Summary

Madagascar is one of the world's top birding destinations, boasting no fewer than five endemic bird families and a very high degree of endemism in all its wildlife. This year's Highlights tour was a great success. In just two weeks, we managed to see representatives of all the endemic bird families plus a high proportion of the endemic birds. We saw all five species of ground rollers and 16 species of vangas and allies. Almost everyone who had not been to Madagascar before saw more than 100 new birds. But Madagascar also has lemurs, and we saw 14 species of these on the tour including the iconic Indri, mesmerising ruffed lemurs and dancing sifakas. We also managed a few spectacular chameleons, a decent number of other reptiles, and some very bizarre trees. Madagascar is unlike anywhere else on Earth.



Meller's Duck by Nigel Redman

Tour in detail

Prior to the official start of the tour, half the group undertook a pre-tour excursion to Lac Alarobia, in Antananarivo. The lake was teeming with wildfowl, and amongst the hundreds of Red-billed Teals and White-faced Whistling Ducks, we quickly found a handful of endemic Meller's Ducks. Scrutiny of the heron and egret colony also revealed several immaculate Malagasy Pond Herons with more plumes than any of the other species – it was a treat to see all these heron species in full breeding plumage. A White-throated Rail also showed well, as did a couple of Malagasy Kingfishers.

Tulear–Ifaty

Some early morning birding in the hotel garden at Tana netted us a few endemics, including Malagasy Brush Warbler, Malagasy Green Sunbird and Madagascar Mannikin. Later we took a flight to Tulear, in the southwest. On the drive to Ifaty we stopped at some saltpans where we found Madagascar Lark and Madagascar Cisticola, as well as a few waders. We had just two hours at the spiny forest at Ifaty, and it proved to be a spectacular success. A 'frozen' Subdesert Mesite posed brilliantly for all to see, and after a bit of effort we all saw a pair of fabulous Long-tailed Ground Rollers. Other great birds here included Sickie-billed Vanga, Archbold's Newtonia, Thamnornis, Madagascar Harrier-Hawk and Madagascar Sparrowhawk both on nests, and Crested and Running Couas. It was a great start to our time in the southwest.



Chabert Vanga by Nigel Redman

We returned early to Tulear where we caught a high-speed boat to take us to the island of Nosy Ve. Here we enjoyed spectacular views of many Red-tailed Tropicbirds, including some on nests, as well as a bit of snorkelling for some. Back on the mainland at Anakao for lunch, we birded the surrounding area for Littoral Rock Thrush and Subdesert Brush Warbler. In the afternoon we visited an area of scrubby forest near La Table where we connected with Chabert, Lafresnaye's and Red-shouldered Vangas, and a couple of Verreaux's Couas.



Madagascar Owl by Nigel Redman

On our final morning in the southwest, we headed back north towards Ifaty. Here we birded the salt pans where we quickly found our primary target, Madagascar Plover. There was a good supporting cast of waders here too, notably with several White-fronted Plovers. On the way back,

a Greater Vasa Parrot was a bonus, while at the hotel in Tulear, a Madagascar Coucal showed well. We returned to Tana where, in a great bit of good luck, a pair of Madagascar Partridges was spotted from the plane in the grass at the side of the runway. Even more surprisingly, we were still able to watch them from the airport terminal after we had all disembarked. This species can be hard to find in Madagascar. For the final part of the afternoon, we returned to Lac Alarobia where we quickly found Meller's Duck and Malagasy Pond Heron for those who had not been there on the pre-tour excursion.

Andasibe-Mantadia NP (Périnet)

The journey to Périnet was slow due to the bad road conditions, with few birds to watch en route, but once we had arrived at Analamazoatra Special Reserve we began to see some great birds. Several new birds were found in the hotel grounds, while in the nearby forest we found such gems as Madagascar Ibis and Nuthatch Vanga, as well as Rainforest Scops Owl and Madagascar Flufftail. We also found our first lemurs with Eastern Grey Bamboo and Eastern Woolly Lemurs by day and Crossley's Dwarf and Goodman's Mouse Lemurs at night.



Collared Nightjar by Nigel Redman

It was a rough journey to the nearby Mantadia NP, but the first morning produced Pitta-like, Short-legged and Scaly Ground Rollers, which was very respectable. A Henst's Goshawk in the same area proved to be rather elusive and only showed intermittently. Later, we had lunch at a small lake where Madagascar Grebe and Madagascar Starling were added to the list. In the afternoon we walked various forest trails, seeing another pair of Madagascar Ibises and a pair of Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs. We

finished the day watching a family group of Madagascar Owls, which included two cute white fluffy juveniles.

The following morning, we returned to Mantadia NP, but it was slow birding. A suite of vangas included White-headed, Blue and Tylas Vangas, while a pair of Common Sunbird-Asities completed the endemic families of Madagascar for us. Other notable birds were a pair of Blue Couas, an obliging Wedge-tailed Jery (Tetraka) and a Rand's Warbler. Non-avian highlights were some photogenic Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs and a superb Diademed Sifaka.



Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher by Nigel Redman

On our third day, we explored Iaroka Forest. Cryptic Warblers showed well early on, and during the morning we notched up a good selection of vangas and tetrakas. A Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher was most obliging and Rufous-headed Ground Rollers showed well to some, but our main target, the Helmet Vanga, did not appear. We saw its recently constructed nest in the crown of a tree fern, but as the bird was not incubating yet, it was only visiting the nest very infrequently.

On our final full day in Périnet, we first visited a superbly camouflaged Collared Nightjar on its nest. Then, we entered the reserve and enjoyed close encounters with both Indri and Diademed Sifaka. Further walks in the forest found us a few tetrakas and vangas, but little new for the trip. In the afternoon, several people opted for a long hike in the forest for a Rufous-headed Ground Roller. The views were only brief, but it came close and called frequently. On the way back, a pair of Velvet Asities was a welcome surprise. Those who opted for a shorter stroll in the forest were rewarded with a splendid Madagascar Wood Rail.

Our final morning in the Périnet area found us exploring the local community park (VOIMMA) which proved to be rather quiet. Eventually we were rewarded with great views of a pair of Madagascar Wood Rails and an obliging, Red-breasted Coua. The rest of the day was spent driving back to Tana, with a memorable stop at a chameleon park en route.



Red-breasted Coua by Solohery Rasamison

Berenty

Our final destination of the tour was to Berenty, in the southeast of Madagascar. An early flight took us to Fort Dauphin, where the conditions were surprisingly cool and overcast. The drive north to Berenty was uneventful though the dramatic change in habitats was notable. At Berenty we explored both the spiny forest and gallery forest. Giant Coua and White-browed Owl were both new birds for the trip, and we finally got views of Hook-billed Vanga. But it was the lemurs that stole the

show: Ring-tailed Lemurs and Verreaux's Sifakas were the commonest species, and both performed superbly for us. At night, White-footed Sportive Lemur and Grey-brown Mouse Lemur dominated the spiny forest, but owls were very quiet.

A pre-breakfast excursion produced a pair of Madagascar Sandgrouse, while a morning walk in the spiny forest found us a superb male Madagascar Nightjar feigning injury to distract us from its nest as well as a roosting Totoroka Scops Owl. A Red-capped Coua was also new for the list and, for some, a pair of Madagascar Buttonquail. In the afternoon, we found an obliging pair of Frances's Sparrowhawks, a Madagascar Hoopoe and a Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk.

On our final morning in Berenty, we enjoyed a flock of Madagascar Sandgrouse, and several more Madagascar Buttonquails, although the latter still proved elusive to some. More Madagascar Hoopoes also showed themselves, but as the day heated up the bird activity quietened down. In the afternoon we returned to Fort Dauphin where we found several Malagasy Palm Swifts.



Ring-tailed Lemurs by Nigel Redman

Leaving Fort Dauphin, we returned to Tana. In the afternoon, we made a final visit to Lac Alarobia where we connected with White-throated Rail and Fulvous Whistling Duck, as well as some immaculate Malagasy Pond Herons. Just as we were about to leave, a magnificent Humblot's Heron showed briefly before flying off to deeper cover. It was a great end to the tour.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Solohery ('Sulu') our excellent local guide throughout the tour. Solo also provided a few of the photos for this report.



Group photo at Berenty by Nigel Redman

Annotated List of species recorded

Note: The number in brackets at the beginning of each species entry indicates the number of days on the tour the species was recorded.

Birds (149 species seen)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follow Gill, F., Donsker, D. & Rasmussen, P. (eds). 2022. IOC World Bird List (v 12.1). Doi 10.14344/IOC.ML.12.1.

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

Abbreviations: NP = National Park, SR = Special Reserve

IUCN codes: CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Itinerary (places visited):

Antananarivo: Alarobia Lake.

Tulear (= Toliara): Ifaty; Nosy Ve; Anakao; La Table.

Andasibe area (formerly Périnet): Analamazaotra SR; Mantadia NP; Iaroka Forest; VOIMMA Community Park.

Fort Dauphin (= Tolagnaro): Berenty Reserve.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

(5) Several hundred at Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 22.10, 28.10, 1.11 and 2.11.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

(2) 1 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 1.11 and 2.11.

Blue-billed Teal *Spatula hottentota*

(4) About 50 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 22.10, 1.11 and 2.11.

Meller's Duck (EN) *Anas melleri*

(5) 14 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 8 Alarobia Lake 22.10, 2 Mantadia NP 24.10 (local guide only), 1 Alarobia Lake 28.10 and 3 Alarobia Lake 1.11. None was seen at Alarobia on 2.11.

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha*

(6) More than 1000 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 22.10, 28.10, 1.11 and 2.11. Also 8 Mantadia NP 24.10.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris mitratus*

(3) Up to 12 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Pheasants & Allies Phasianidae

Madagascar Partridge *Margaroperdix madagarensis*
 (2) 2 Antananarivo airport 22.10 and 1 Antananarivo airport 29.10.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Collared Nightjar *Gactornis enarratus*
 (1) 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Madagascar Nightjar *Caprimulgus madagascariensis madagascariensis*
 (5) 3 Ifaty 20.10, 2 Ifaty 21.10, 4 Berenty Reserve 29.10, 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 1 Antananarivo 1.11.

Swifts Apodidae

Madagascar Spinetail *Zoonavena grandidieri grandidieri*
 (1) 8 Mantadia NP 24.10.

Malagasy Palm Swift *Cypsiurus gracilis gracilis*
 (3) 2 en route from Fort Dauphin to Berenty 29.10, 6 Fort Dauphin 31.10 and 2 Fort Dauphin 1.11.

Malagasy Black Swift *Apus balstoni balstoni*
 (2) 8 Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and 1 Antananarivo 29.10.

Little Swift *Apus affinis affinis*
 (1) 4 Fort Dauphin 31.10.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Malagasy Coucal *Centropus toulou toulou*
 (13) Singles or pairs were seen or heard almost every day.

Crested Coua *Coua cristata*
 (4) 3 Ifaty 20.10 and up to 6 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Verreaux's Coua *Coua verreauxi*
 (1) 2 La Table 21.10.

Blue Coua *Coua caerulea*
 (4) 2 Mantadia NP 25.10, 4 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 2 heard Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and 1 heard VOIMMA Community Park 28.10.

Red-capped Coua *Coua ruficeps*
 (2) 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Red-fronted Coua *Coua reynaudii*
 (1) 1 Mantadia NP 24.10.

Running Coua *Coua cursor*
 (3) 1 Ifaty 20.10, 1 La Table 21.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Giant Coua
Coua gigas

(3) 2 Berenty Reserve 29.10, 5 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 2 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Red-breasted Coua
Coua serriana

(1) 1 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10.

Madagascar Cuckoo
Cuculus rochii

(8) 1 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 10 Mantadia NP 24.10, 10 Mantadia NP 25.10, 6 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 4 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 2 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10, 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 31.10. Most were heard only, but several were seen well.

Mesites Mesitornithidae
Subdesert Mesite (VU)
Monias benschi

(1) 1 Ifaty 20.10.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae
Madagascar Sandgrouse
Pterocles personatus

(2) 2 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 22 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Pigeons & Doves Columbidae
Rock Dove
Columba livia domestica

(9) Small numbers were seen in towns and cities.

Malagasy Turtle Dove
Nesoenas picturatus picturatus

(6) 1 Ifaty 20.10, 2 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 2 Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and up to 8 per day in Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Namaqua Dove
Oena capensis aliena

(6) 4 Ifaty 20.10, 4 La Table 21.10, 2 Anakao 21.10, 2 Ifaty salt pans 22.10, 4 en route from Fort Dauphin to Berenty 29.10, 2 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 6 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Madagascar Green Pigeon
Treron australis

(3) 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 6 Berenty Reserve 29.10 and 2 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Madagascar Blue Pigeon
Alectroenas madagascariensis

(2) 3 Analamazaotra SR 23.10 and 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Flufftails Sarothruridae
Madagascar Wood Rail
Mentocrex kioloides

(2) 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and 2 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10.

Madagascar Flufftail
Sarothrura insularis

(4) 1 seen Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 2 heard Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 heard Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and 1 seen Analamazaotra SR 28.10.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

White-throated Rail

Dryolimnas cuvieri cuvieri

(4) 1 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 1 heard Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 22.10, 1 heard Analamazaotra SR 23.10 and 1 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 1.11.

Common Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorhoa

(5) 15 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 6 Alarobia Lake 22.10, 2 Mantadia NP 24.10, 10 Alarobia Lake 1.11 and 6 Alarobia Lake 2.11.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Madagascar Grebe (EN)

Tachybaptus pelzelni

(1) 1 Mantadia NP 24.10.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

Lesser Flamingo (NT)

Phoeniconaias minor

(1) 17 Ifaty salt pans 20.10.

Buttonquails Turnicidae

Madagascar Buttonquail

Turnix nigricollis

(2) 2 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 5 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

(2) 10 Ifaty salt pans 20.10 and 15 Ifaty salt pans 22.10.

Plovers Charadriidae

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola squatarola

(2) 6 Tulear 21.10, 2 Nosy Ve 21.10 and 1 Ifaty salt pans 22.10.

Common Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula tundrae

(2) 1 Ifaty salt pans 20.10 and 4 Ifaty salt pans 22.10.

Madagascar Plover (VU)

Charadrius thoracicus

(2) 1 Ifaty salt pans 20.10 and 1 Ifaty salt pans 22.10.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

(2) 1 Ifaty salt pans 20.10 and 20 Ifaty salt pans 22.10.

White-fronted Plover

Charadrius marginatus tenellus

(2) 1 Nosy Ve 21.10 and 10 Ifaty salt pans 22.10.

Greater Sand Plover

Charadrius leschenaultii scythicus

(2) 6 Tulear 21.10 and 10 Tulear 22.10.

Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae

Eurasian Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

(2) At least 100 on mudflats at Tulear 21–22.10.

Eurasian Curlew

Numenius arquata orientalis

(1) Several were observed with the Eurasian Whimbrels at Tulear 22.10.

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres interpres

(2) 8 Nosy Ve 21.10 and 2 Ifaty salt pans 22.10.

Curlew Sandpiper (NT)

Calidris ferruginea

(2) 1 Nosy Ve 21.10 and 30 Ifaty salt pans 22.10.

Sanderling

Calidris alba alba

(1) 1 Ifaty salt pans 22.10.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

(2) 2 Ifaty salt pans 22.10 and 2 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

(1) 6 Ifaty salt pans 20.10.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

(3) About 50 Tulear 21– 22.10 and 15 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Crab-plover Dromadidae

Crab-plover

Dromas ardeola

(1) 2 Tulear 21.10.

Tropicbirds Phaethontidae

Red-tailed Tropicbird

Phaethon rubricauda rubricauda

(1) About 20 Nosy Ve 21.10.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

Madagascar Ibis (NT)

Lophotibis cristata

(2) 2 Analamazaotra SR 23.10 and 2 Mantadia NP 24.10.

Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae

Little Bittern

Ixobrychus minutus podiceps

(1) 1 Mantadia NP 24.10.

Black-crowned Night Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax

(6) More than 100 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 22.10, 28.10, 1.11 and 2.11. Many were recently fledged juveniles. Also 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata rutenbergi*

(4) 1 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 2 Ifaty salt pans 22.10, 1 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 22.10, 1 Mantadia NP 24.10 and 1 en route from Andasibe to Antananarivo 28.10.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

(6) More than 100 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 22.10, 28.10, 1.11 and 2.11. Also 1 en route from Andasibe to Antananarivo 23.10.

Malagasy Pond Heron (EN) *Ardeola idae*

(5) 5 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 2 Alarobia Lake 22.10, 1 Alarobia Lake 28.10, 4 Alarobia Lake 1.11 and 2 Alarobia Lake 2.11. All were in full breeding plumage and on nests.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

(9) Frequently seen in rice paddies but particularly numerous at Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea firasa*

(1) 1 Nosy Ve 21.10.

Humblot's Heron (EN) *Ardea humbloti*

(2) 1 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 1.11 and again on 2.11.

Great Egret *Ardea alba melanorhynchos*

(5) Up to 20 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 22.10, 28.10, 1.11 and 2.11. Also, 5 en route from Andasibe to Antananarivo 28.10.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*

(6) Up to 40 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 22.10, 28.10, 1.11 and 2.11. Also, 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Dimorphic Egret *Egretta dimorpha*

(6) At least 50 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 22.10, 28.10, 1.11 and 2.11 (all white-morph birds). About 20 at Nosy Ve 21.10 included 4 dark-morph birds.

Hamerkop *Scopidae*

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta umbretta*

(2) 1 en route from Andasibe to Antananarivo 23.10 and 1 en route from Andasibe to Antananarivo 28.10.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles *Accipitridae*

Madagascar Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides radiatus*

(2) 2 at a nest at Ifaty 20.10 and 1 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda madagascariensis*

(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Frances's Sparrowhawk *Accipiter francesiae francesiae*

(4) 1 Mantadia NP 25.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 3 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Madagascar Sparrowhawk (NT) *Accipiter madagascariensis*

(1) 1 on a nest at Ifaty 20.10.

Henst's Goshawk (NT)

Accipiter henstii

(2) 1 heard Analamazaotra SR 23.10 and 1 seen Mantadia NP 24.10.

Yellow-billed Kite

Milvus aegyptius parasitus

(7) 1 Ifaty 20.10, 1 La Table 21.10, 1 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 22.10, 1 Tulear 22.10, up to 15 Berenty Reserve 29–31.10, 2 Antananarivo 29.10 and 1 Alarobia Lake 2.11.

Madagascar Buzzard

Buteo brachypterus

(3) 2 Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10 and 2 heard Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Owls Strigidae

White-browed Owl

Athene superciliaris

(3) 1 seen Berenty Reserve 29.10 and singles heard there 30–31.10.

Torotoroka Scops Owl

Otus madagascariensis

(2) 1 heard Berenty Reserve 29.10 and 1 seen Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Rainforest Scops Owl

Otus rutilus

(2) 2 seen Analamazaotra SR 23.10 and 2 heard Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Madagascar Owl

Asio madagascariensis

(1) 3 Mantadia NP 24.10 (an adult and two juveniles).

Cuckoo-roller Leptosomidae

Cuckoo-roller

Leptosomus discolor discolor

(4) 1 seen Mantadia NP 24.10, 2 heard Mantadia NP 25.10, 2 heard Iaroka Forest 26.10 and 2 heard Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Hoopoes Upupidae

Madagascar Hoopoe

Upupa marginata

(3) 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10, 3 Berenty Reserve 31.10 and 3 Antananarivo 2.11.

Rollers Coraciidae

Broad-billed Roller

Eurystomus glaucurus glaucurus

(6) 1 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 2 Mantadia NP 24.10, 2 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 2 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Ground Rollers Brachypteraciidae

Short-legged Ground Roller (VU)

Brachypteracias leptosomus

(1) 1 Mantadia NP 24.10.

Scaly Ground Roller (VU)

Geobiastes squamiger

(1) 2 Mantadia NP 24.10.

Pitta-like Ground Roller

Atelornis pittoides

(1) 1 Mantadia NP 24.10.

Rufous-headed Ground Roller (NT)

Atelornis crossleyi

(2) 2 seen + 2 heard Iaroka Forest 26.10 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Long-tailed Ground Roller (VU)

Uratelornis chimaera

(1) 2 Ifaty 20.10.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher

Corythornis madagascariensis

(3) 1 heard Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Malagasy Kingfisher

Corythornis vintsioides vintsioides

(8) 2 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 2 Alarobia Lake 22.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 26.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 28.10, 1 Alarobia Lake 1.11 and 2 Alarobia Lake 2.11.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Olive Bee-eater

Merops superciliosus superciliosus

(7) 2 Tulear 20.10, 2 Antananarivo 20.10, 4 La Table 21.10, 2 Ifaty salt pans 22.10, 1 Mantadia NP 24.10, 3 Mantadia NP 25.10, 1 Berenty Reserve 29.10 and 2 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Falcons Falconidae

Malagasy Kestrel

Falco newtoni newtoni

(10) 2 Antananarivo 19.10, 1 Tulear 20.10, 2 Tulear 21.10, 1 Ifaty 20.10, 1 Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 1 en route from Andasibe to Antananarivo 28.10, up to 2 Berenty Reserve 29–31.10 and 1 Antananarivo 2.11.

Old World Parrots Psittaculidae

Greater Vasa Parrot

Coracopsis vasa

(3) 1 Ifaty salt pans 22.10, 1 heard Mantadia NP 24.10 and 3 heard Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Lesser Vasa Parrot

Coracopsis nigra

(9) 2 Ifaty 20.10, 1 heard Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 3 Mantadia NP 24.10, 2 Mantadia NP 25.10, 3 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 2 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10 and up to 6 Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Grey-headed Lovebird

Agapornis canus

(4) 2 Ifaty salt pans 20.10, 2 Ifaty 20.10, 8 Ifaty salt pans 22.10, 8 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 20 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Asities Philepittidae

Velvet Asity

Philepitta castanea

(2) 2 Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and 1 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10.

Common Sunbird-Asity
Neodrepanis coruscans

(2) 2 Mantadia NP 25.10 and 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Vangas & Allies Vangidae
Red-tailed Vanga
Calicalicus madagascariensis

(6) 2 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 1 Mantadia NP 24.10, 2 Mantadia NP 25.10, 2 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 3 Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and 1 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10.

Red-shouldered Vanga (VU)
Calicalicus rufocarpalis

(1) 1 La Table 21.10.

Hook-billed Vanga
Vanga curvirostris

(7) 1 heard Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 heard Mantadia NP 25.10, 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 1 heard Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and up to 2 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Lafresnaye's Vanga
Xenopirostris xenopirostris

(1) 1 La Table 21.10.

Pollen's Vanga
Xenopirostris polleni

(1) 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Sickle-billed Vanga
Falculea palliata

(1) 2 Ifaty 20.10.

White-headed Vanga
Artamella viridis

(3) 1 Mantadia NP 25.10, 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Chabert Vanga
Leptopterus chabert

(7) 3 La Table 21.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 1 Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10, 2 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Blue Vanga
Cyanolanius madagascarinus madagascarinus

(3) 2 Mantadia NP 25.10, 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Tylas Vanga
Tylas eduardi

(2) 3 Mantadia NP 25.10 and 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Nuthatch Vanga
Hypositta corallirostris

(3) 2 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Dark Newtonia
Newtonia amphichroa

(1) 4 Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Common Newtonia
Newtonia brunneicauda

(9) 1 heard La Table 21.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 2 Mantadia NP 25.10, 2 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 3 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 2 Analamazaotra SR 28.10 and up to 2 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Archbold's Newtonia
Newtonia archboldi

(2) 1 Ifaty 20.10 and 1 heard Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Ward's Flycatcher
Pseudobias wardi

(2) 2 Analamazaotra SR 23.10 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Crossley's Vanga

Mystacornis crossleyi

(1) 1 Mantadia NP 24.10.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Madagascar Cuckooshrike

Ceblepyris cinereus

(2) 2 Analamazaotra SR 23.10 and 3 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Drongos Dicruridae

Crested Drongo

Dicrurus forficatus forficatus

(10) 4 Ifaty 20.10, 2 La Table 21.10, 2 Ifaty salt pans 22.10, 4 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 2 Mantadia NP 24.10, 4 Mantadia NP 25.10, 2 Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and up to 10 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Monarchs Monarchidae

Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher

Terpsiphone mutata mutata

(9) 2 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 2 Mantadia NP 24.10, 6 Mantadia NP 25.10, 3 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 2 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 1 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10 and up to 6 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Crows & Jays Corvidae

Pied Crow

Corvus albus

(7) Up to 10 per day Tulear 20–22.10, 15 en route from Fort Dauphin to Berenty 29.10, 30 Berenty Reserve 30.10, 20 Berenty Reserve 31.10 and 2 Fort Dauphin 1.11.

Larks Alaudidae

Madagascar Lark

Eremopterix hova

(7) 2 Ifaty salt pans 20.10, 6 La Table 21.10, 6 Ifaty salt pans 22.10, 1 en route from Andasibe to Antananarivo 28.10, 4 Berenty Reserve 30.10, 2 Berenty Reserve 31.10 and 1 Fort Dauphin 1.11.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Malagasy Bulbul

Hypsipetes madagascariensis madagascariensis

(13) 6 Ifaty 20.10, 2 Tulear 21.10, 2 Tulear 22.10, 2 Antananarivo 22.10, 4 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 10 Mantadia NP 24.10, 10 Mantadia NP 25.10, 10 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 6 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 6 Analamazaotra SR 28.10, up to 6 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10 and 1 Antananarivo 2.11.

Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

Mascarene Martin

Phedina borbonica madagascariensis

(9) 8 Antananarivo 19.10, 6 Antananarivo 20.10, 6 Antananarivo 22.10, 1 en route from Andasibe to Antananarivo 23.10, 10 Mantadia NP 25.10, 10 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 4 Antananarivo 29.10, 4 Antananarivo 1.11 and 6 Antananarivo 2.11.

Brown-throated Martin
Riparia paludicola cowani

(2) 1 Mantadia NP 24.10 and 6 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae
Malagasy Brush Warbler
Nesillas typica

(9) 2 Antananarivo 20.10, 2 heard Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 2 heard Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 heard Mantadia NP 25.10, 6 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 4 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 2 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10, 1 Antananarivo 1.11 and 1 Antananarivo 2.11.

Subdesert Brush Warbler
Nesillas lantzii

(2) 2 La Table 21.10, 2 Ifaty 21.10, 4 Anakao 21.10 and 2 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Madagascar Swamp Warbler
Acrocephalus newtoni

(1) 2 seen briefly Mantadia NP 25.10.

Tetrakas & Allies Bernieridae
White-throated Oxylabes
Oxylabes madagascariensis

(3) 2 Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10 and 2 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Long-billed Bernieria (Long-billed Tetraka)
Bernieria madagascariensis

(3) 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and 1 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10.

Cryptic Warbler
Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi

(1) 2 seen + 4 heard Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Wedge-tailed Jery (NT)
Hartertula flavoviridis

(2) 1 heard Mantadia NP 24.10 and 1 seen Mantadia NP 25.10.

Thamnornis
Thamnornis chloropetoides

(1) 1 Ifaty 20.10.

Spectacled Tetraka
Xanthomixis zosterops

(4) 2 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10, 3 Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and 1 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10.

Grey-crowned Tetraka (NT)
Xanthomixis cinereiceps

(1) 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Rand's Warbler
Randia pseudozosterops

(2) 1 Mantadia NP 25.10 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae
Common Jery
Neomixis tenella

(10) 2 Tulear 21.10, 1 Tulear 22.10, 1 Anakao 21.10, 1 Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10, 2 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 2 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 1 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10 and up to 4 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Green Jery
Neomixis viridis

(3) 2 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10 and 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Stripe-throated Jery
Neomixis striatigula

(9) 3 Ifaty 20.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 2 Mantadia NP 24.10, 6 Mantadia NP 25.10, 2 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 2 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 1 en route from Fort Dauphin to Berenty 29.10, 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 2 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Madagascar Cisticola
Cisticola cherina

(9) 10 Ifaty salt pans 20.10, 4 La Table 21.10, 4 Nosy Ve 21.10, 20 Ifaty 21.10, 10 Ifaty salt pans 22.10, 1 en route from Andasibe to Antananarivo 28.10, 1 Fort Dauphin 29.10, 2 Berenty Reserve 30.10, 4 Berenty Reserve 31.10, 1 Fort Dauphin 1.11 and 1 Antananarivo 2.11.

White-eyes Zosteropidae
Malagasy White-eye
Zosterops maderaspatanus maderaspatanus

(9) 1 Antananarivo 20.10, 6 Mantadia NP 24.10, 6 Mantadia NP 25.10, 2 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 2 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 2 en route from Andasibe to Antananarivo 28.10, 2 Berenty Reserve 30.10, 2 Berenty Reserve 31.10 and 2 Antananarivo 2.11.

Starlings Sturnidae
Common Myna
Acridotheres tristis tristis

(12) Common throughout in non-forested areas and seen on all but three days.

Madagascar Starling
Hartlaubius auratus

(3) 2 Mantadia NP 24.10, 2 Mantadia NP 25.10 and 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Chats & Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae
Madagascar Magpie-Robin
Copsychus albospecularis

(10) 2 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 1 Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10, 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 28.10, up to 4 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10 and 1 Antananarivo 2.11.

Littoral Rock Thrush
Monticola imerina

(1) 1 Anakao 21.10.

Forest Rock Thrush
Monticola sharpei

(1) 2 Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Madagascar Stonechat
Saxicola sibilla

(7) 2 Antananarivo 19.10, 1 Antananarivo 20.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 2 Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10, 2 Iaroka Forest 26.10 and 4 Antananarivo 2.11.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae
Souimanga Sunbird
Cinnyris sovimanga

(15) Very common throughout and up to 10 seen every day.

Malagasy Green Sunbird
Cinnyris notatus notatus

(5) 1 Antananarivo 20.10, 1 Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10, 3 Iaroka Forest 26.10 and 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

Nelicourvi Weaver

Ploceus nelicourvi

(3) 2 Mantadia NP 25.10, 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10 and 2 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Sakalava Weaver

Ploceus sakalava

(5) 4 Ifaty 20.10, 2 Anakao 21.10, 3 en route from Fort Dauphin to Berenty 29.10, 2 Berenty Reserve 30.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Red Fody

Foudia madagascariensis

(10) 10 Alarobia Lake (Antananarivo) 19.10, 4 Ifaty 20.10, 6 Antananarivo 20.10, 2 Tulear 22.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10, 2 en route from Fort Dauphin to Berenty 29.10, 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10, 4 Berenty Reserve 31.10, 6 Fort Dauphin 1.11 and 10 Antananarivo 2.11.

Forest Fody

Foudia omissa

(1) 1 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Madagascar Mannikin

Lepidopygia nana

(4) 1 Antananarivo 20.10, 3 Ifaty 20.10, 8 Ifaty salt pans 22.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 29.10.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

Madagascar Wagtail

Motacilla flaviventris

(6) 1 Antananarivo 20.10, 2 Antananarivo 22.10, 2 Analamazaotra SR 23.10, 1 Mantadia NP 24.10, 1 Antananarivo 29.10 and 1 Antananarivo 2.11.

Mammals (16 species seen)

Tenrecs Tenrecidae

Lowland Streaked Tenrec

Hemicentetes semispinosus

(1) 1 Mantadia NP 24.10.

Old World Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Madagascan Flying Fox (VU)

Pteropus rufus

(1) 50 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Dwarf and Mouse Lemurs Cheirogaleidae

Crossley's Dwarf Lemur (DD)

Cheirogaleus crossleyi

(1) 2 Analamazaotra SR 23.10.

Red-and-grey Mouse Lemur (Grey-brown ML)

Microcebus griseorufus

(2) 1 Berenty Reserve 29.10 and 4 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Goodman's Mouse Lemur (VU)
Microcebus lehilahytsara

(1) 4 Analamazaotra SR 23.10.

Grey Mouse Lemur
Microcebus murinus

(1) 2 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Sportive Lemurs *Lepilemuridae*
White-footed Sportive Lemur (EN)
Lepilemur leucopus

(3) Up to 10 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Lemurs *Lemuridae*
Brown Lemur (NT)
Eulemur fulvus

(2) 3 Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and 3 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10.

Red-fronted Lemur (VU)
Eulemur rufus

(3) Up to 15 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur
Hapalemur griseus

(2) 3 Analamazaotra SR 23.10 and 3 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Ring-tailed Lemur (EN)
Lemur catta

(3) Up to 40 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur (CR)
Varecia variegata

(2) 2 Mantadia NP 24.10 and 4 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Indrid Lemurs & Sifakas *Indriidae*
Eastern Woolly Lemur (VU)
Avahi laniger

(2) 3 Analamazaotra SR 23.10 and 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Indri (CR)
Indri indri

(6) Heard Analamazaotra SR 23.10, heard Mantadia NP 24.10, heard Mantadia NP 25.10, heard Iaroka Forest 26.10, 3 seen and others heard Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and heard VOIMMA Community Park 28.10.

Diademed Sifaka (CR)
Propithecus diadema

(2) 1 Mantadia NP 25.10 and 4 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Verreaux's Sifaka (EN)
Propithecus verreauxi

(3) Up to 20 per day Berenty Reserve 29–31.10.

Reptiles (15 species seen)

Tortoises Testudinidae

Southern Spider Tortoise (CR)

Pyxis arachnoides

(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Chameleons Chamaeleonidae

Parson's Chameleon (NT)

Calumma parsonii

(1) 1 Iaroka Forest 26.10.

Oustalet's Chameleon

Furcifer oustaleti

(1) 1 Antananarivo 2.11.

Warty Chameleon

Furcifer verrucosus

(2) 1 Berenty Reserve 29.10 and 1 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Madagascar Iguanas Opluridae

Madagascar Iguana (Three-eyed Lizard)

Chalarodon madagascariensis

(2) 1 Nosy Ve 21.10 and 3 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Merrem's Madagascar Swift

Oplurus cyclurus

(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 30.10.

Geckos Gekkonidae

House Gecko

Hemidactylus mabouia

(2) 1 Tulear 21.10 and 3 Fort Dauphin 31.10.

Striped Day Gecko

Phelsuma dorsivittata

(2) 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10 and 1 Antananarivo 2.11.

Peacock Day Gecko

Phelsuma quadriocellata

(3) 1 Ifaty 20.10, 2 Iaroka Forest 26.10 and 1 Fort Dauphin 31.10.

Southern Flat-tail Gecko (Mossy Leaf-tailed G)

Uroplatus sikorae sikorae

(1) 1 VOIMMA Community Park 28.10.

Plated Lizards Gerrhosauridae

Madagascar Girdled Lizard

Zonosaurus madagascariensis madagascariensis

(1) 3 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Skinks Scincidae



Elegant Skink

Trachylepis elegans

(2) 1 Berenty Reserve 31.10 and 1 Fort Dauphin 1.11.

Typical Boas Boidae

Madagascar Tree Boa

Sanzinia madagascariensis

(1) 1 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Lamprophiid Snakes Lamprophiidae

Giant Hog-nosed Snake

Leioheterodon madagascariensis

(1) 1 Analamazaotra SR 27.10.

Mahafaly Sand Snake

Mimophis mahfalensis

(1) 1 Berenty Reserve 31.10.

Amphibians (2 species seen)

Mantellas Mantellidae

Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog

Boophis madagascariensis

(1) 1 Analamazaotra SR 23.10.

Green Bright-eyed Frog

Boophis viridis

(1) 1 Analamazaotra SR 23.10.

Bird of the trip (as voted by the tour participants):

1. Scaly Ground Roller
- 2= Giant Coua
- 2= Rufous-headed Ground Roller
- 4= Collared Nightjar
- 4= Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher

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