

Madagascar

Naturetrek Tour Report

22 October – 14 November 2012



By Jean Parfitt



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Images courtesy of Jean Parfitt



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Day 1

Monday 22nd October

Flight to Paris

The group left London Heathrow and arrived at Paris in the evening. We checked in to Hotel Campanile, close to the airport and met up with Mike, Charley and Pamela from the USA, who'd arrived earlier. After quick introductions it was time to head for bed.

Day 2

Tuesday 23rd October

Paris to Antananarivo

We took the 07.25 complementary shuttle bus to the airport. The flight took off an hour late at 11.45, and we touched down at Antananarivo at 22.30. Desi, our local guide, was there to meet us and after changing money we had a quick transfer to the Orchid Hotel, arriving just after midnight.

Day 3

Wednesday 24th October

Antananarivo to Antsirabe

Weather: fine and hazy in the morning, then heavy rain, thunder and lightning in the afternoon

Mike was up early, and from the hotel's terrace overlooking some rice paddies, he spotted Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Madagascar Coucal, Madagascar Fody, Namaqua Dove and Common Myna. Another keen birder in our group, John M noted Souimanga Sunbird and Madagascar Fody. After breakfast, Cathy and Desi gave a tour briefing, while the luggage was loaded onto the bus by driver Solo and his helper Toto.

Our first stop of the day was at Lake Alarobia, a Ramsar wetland site centred on a small lake, close to the centre of Antananarivo. Here we observed numerous Squacco Heron, both dark and light phase Dimorphic Egrets, Black Egret, Great Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron. Cattle Egrets were nesting in the trees surrounding the lake, where large numbers of Red-billed Teal and White-faced Duck had congregated. In amongst them, we picked out ten of the much less common Hottentot Teal and four Knob-billed Duck. This rewarding birding site also gave us Madagascar Kestrel, Yellow-billed Kite and a large raptor in flight, which we identified as a female Madagascar Harrier. Madagascar Kingfisher, Common Moorhen and a noisy Madagascar Brush Warbler skulking in a bamboo thicket added variety to the birding.

We stopped to admire and photograph an impressive Fashion Commodore butterfly, a Common Grass Blue and a Small Grass Yellow butterfly. Large specimens of Golden Orb Spider were much admired as were our first Flatid Leaf Nymphs. Pamela and Charley focused on insects...amongst their finds were a Stick Insect, Praying Mantis and Crab Spider.

Over lunch in the garden of the station café we saw a large flock of Madagascar Fody in a pine tree with some very territorial males in action. Here too we found Common Myna, Madagascar Mannikin, Madagascar Wagtail and Brown-throated Sand Martins. Some very fine specimens of Citrus Swallowtail butterflies flew over the lunch table.

After lunch we set off south on the winding RN7, a traffic-clogged street flanked by vendors selling everything from straw hats to phone cards. We passed the president's residence; an opulent edifice modelled on the 19th Century Queen Ranaivalona's Palace. On the outskirts of the city we passed brick ovens, supplying hand-made building bricks for the construction boom that Madagascar is experiencing. Soon, we were enjoying the typical scenery of Madagascar's Hauts Plateaux, smooth granite inselbergs rising from the fertile rice paddies, where women were toiling in the back-breaking planting out of rice seedlings from the nursery paddies. With almost no original forest remaining, wildlife is sparse in this part of the island. Pied Crow, Madagascar Bee-eater and Common Stonechat were noted as we drove along. We paused to buy raffia hats and bags at a roadside stall, where we saw Madagascar Kingfisher and Common Sandpiper by a river. Passing the town of Ambatolampy, we hit a storm with heavy rain, lightening and thunder, which lasted an hour. Arriving at the industrial city of Antsirabe at 17.45, there was a power cut in progress and rain continued throughout the evening. We checked into our spacious rooms at the family-run Camelia Hotel and a dinner of vegetable soup, a choice of zebu steak or roast chicken, and caramel banana went down well.

Day 4

Thursday 25th October

Antsirabe to Ranomafana

Weather: cloudy and cool, then drizzle and more persistent rain

We made an early start for today's long but exciting drive along the backbone of Madagascar's mountainous interior, punctuated by colourful scenes from village life. Zebu cattle were breaking up the hard-baked clay of the rice paddies and ploughing in preparation for planting. When we stopped to photograph them, we were waylaid by dozens of village children, keen to look at the pictures in our bird books as we pointed out a Hamerkop and Mascarene Martins in flight.

We made a short stop in a patch of native *Tapia* forest. These fire-resistant trees resemble cork oaks, but are *Euphorbiaceae*. Here we caught a glimpse of several more birds: Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo, Madagascar White-eye, Common Jery and Souimanga Sunbird. Continuing south, we paused by a fragment of rainforest, where a small pond and marsh looked promising. Desi, our expert local guide soon had us searching for Madagascar Snipe and three showed well but in the process we spooked a flock of Red-billed Teal, which took off. Here we saw our first Madagascar Coucal, a pair of Hamerkop, and two Purple Heron, Madagascar Swamp Warbler, Madagascar Cisticola and a Madagascar Buzzard in flight all of which contributed to making this a worthwhile stop. We heard but did not see Madagascar Flufftail. Our drivers Solo and Toto found a multi-coloured Rainbow Locust, munching away at the side of the road, a Giant Millipede and a female Jewel Chameleon. In contrast to most other chameleons, this species is often found on low scrubby vegetation, near to ground level.

Our lunch stop was at the rustic Ialatsara Forest Lodge where the food was delicious and freshly prepared. After lunch we were entertained by a Spectacled Greenbul, a Nelicourvi Weaver and two new chameleon species: a Parson's Chameleon and Short-horned Chameleon. At Ambohimahasoa we took on fuel and admired a large colony of nesting Cattle Egret and Dimorphic Egret. We then left the main road to head east to Ranomafana on the last leg of this long journey, pausing where the River Namorona drops in tumultuous leaps over the escarpment to the plain below. There's a damp cliff face by the road where we found a Madagascar Tree Frog and several unusual plant species: *Cynorchis purpurescens* (Dancing Ladies Orchid), a purple *Streptocarpus sp* a rainforest *Kalanchoe sp* and a vine-like pink-flowering *Medinilla sp*. Golden Orb Spider, Thorn Spider and two moths, one with prominent orange and black markings, were also noted. Some got a good view of Forest Fody while Common Newtonia and Madagascar Brush Warbler were flitting around in the lush foliage surrounding the waterfall. Arriving in a torrential downpour, we checked into Centre-Est Hotel, in Ranomafana Village. The hotel and its gardens offered their own wildlife show tonight with a tiny Nose-horned Chameleon, two frogs *Heterixalus betsileo* on a leaf and a spotted *Heterixalus alboguttatus* by a lamp, plus a couple of geckos, an emerald *Phelsuma lineata* and a house gecko *Hemidactylus mercatorius*.

Day 5

Friday 26th October

Ranomafana

Weather: mostly cloudy and warm, with some sunny spells

After a six o'clock breakfast we gathered in the hotel car park where some of the group were watching Chabert's Vanga, Madagascar Wagtail and Long-billed Green Sunbird. We drove the short distance to the National Park entrance with guides Jean-Chrys and Bertain and lemur spotters Ju and Bako. Ranomafana's rainforest protects important tracts of both primary and re-growth forest and was created when Golden Bamboo Lemur *Hapalemur aureus* was identified as a new species in 1985. While Desi arranged for park permits, a Lesser Vasa Parrot flew overhead and we watched an introduced Giant African Land Snail exploring the damp undergrowth. A large group of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs were moving through the distant canopy, tails swinging as they leapt from bough to bough. Splitting into two groups, the birders soon found Pitta-like Ground Roller, one of the island's most colourful birds. It always makes me chuckle to watch the bird head-bob each time it launches its 'whoop' contact call. Abruptly this changed to an alarm call and Jean-Chrys got a fleeting glimpse of a Ring-tailed Mongoose but it slunk into the undergrowth before we got a fix on it.

Crossing the Namorona River and plunging into thicker forest on its opposite bank, the birders found Madagascar Magpie Robin, Spectacled Greenbul, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Souimanga Sunbird, Madagascar Coucal, Crested Drongo, Rufous Vanga, Paradise Flycatcher and Madagascar Bulbul. A highlight of the morning was a mixed flock of Blue Vanga, Ashy Cuckoo Shrike, Tylas and Madagascar White-eye. We spent time searching for Brown Mesite, one of the park's rare birds but without success.

The lemur spotters had gone ahead and found a pair of Golden Bamboo Lemurs feeding in the canopy. These 'unsung heroes' of the guiding fraternity, hike miles of difficult terrain to find lemurs for the visitors, who are often unaware of the extent of their efforts... Next up were a group of four Red-bellied Lemurs. The male of the species is very striking with white tear-drop markings around the eyes. They're often quite hard to observe and sure enough this group moved off in bounding leaps through the canopy. The generalists also found a pair of Greater Bamboo Lemur, now acknowledged to be even rarer than Golden Bamboo Lemur. All three Bamboo Lemur species rest between feeding bouts but often hidden in the foliage. In the distance, we heard Black and White Ruffed Lemur call – they sound like a pack of snarling dogs about to set upon one another. A Red Forest Rat was spotted foraging on the forest floor by the side of the trail.

After the heavy rainfall, invertebrates were abundant and with knowledgeable enthusiasts like Pamela and Charley, the morning's pickings were rewarding: five species of Stick Insect, Elephant Weevil, Giraffe-necked Weevil, Glass Fly, numerous Beetles, a Praying Mantis, Monarch Butterfly and two species of Land Snail. Bertain and Desi's group also found the masters of camouflage: a Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko which mimics dead leaves, and a Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko that blends perfectly into a mossy tree trunk, casting not even a shadow. A Lined Forest Snake, Nose-horned Chameleon, Ornate Plated Lizard and Lined Emerald Day Gecko added to the morning's reptile list. We returned to the hotel for lunch.

After lunch we explored Vohiparara, a tract of National Park forest sited at the top of the escarpment. The terrain is flatter and it's easier going but being rainforest it's still challenging to find and observe the wildlife. Mammals proved difficult this afternoon, though we did get decent views of a pair of Red-bellied Lemurs. The birding was excellent and if anything, easier than the morning. We got very good views of Grey-crowned Greenbul and a Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher on a tiny cup-shaped nest, just 3ft of the ground. Long-billed Greenbul, Stripe-throated Jery, Ashy Cuckoo-shrike, Nelicourvi Weaver and Forest Fody also showed well. A very vocal Blue Coua was easy to spot and we got good views of this large bird gliding from tree to tree. We paused to observe an African Map Butterfly at rest, perfectly mimicking a leaf, and found a tiny Madagascar Glass Frog in the foliage of a *Pandanus*.

At dusk, the rainforest night shift takes over and we stopped to walk along the road in search of lemurs and chameleons. Using eye shine, our guides found a family group of nocturnal Eastern Woolly Lemurs. Briefly, we observed them staring down at us from their tree trunk perch, then bounding away into the darkness. A large male Glaw's Chameleon, two O'Shaughnessy's Chameleons and a diminutive Nose-horned Chameleon obliged the photographers.

Day 6

Saturday 27th October

Ranomafana

Weather: fine in the morning, then cloudy with heavy rain and thunder, clearing later

Everyone was keen to see Milne Edwards Sifaka and Vohiparara is the easiest place to find this large vertical-clinging lemur. The lemur spotters went ahead and located a group of four consisting of an adult pair, an older juvenile and a youngster. Whilst the adults kept their distance, the juvenile was keen to check us out and some of our group got excellent pictures. Nearby, a family of Red-bellied Lemurs stirred from their siesta and Tony filmed them as they began to move off to forage.

We paused at a forest clearing, enjoying good views of Souimanga Sunbird, Chabert's Vanga, Long-billed Greenbul, Blue Coua, Stripe-throated Jery, Forest Fody Purple Heron and Broad-billed Roller. Madagascar Turtle Dove, Madagascar Brush Warbler and Madagascar Magpie Robin were spotted several times, but today's birding highlight had to be four Pollen's Vanga, identified by their short whip-crack call. We also got a fleeting glimpse of Rufous Vanga and repeatedly heard but did not see White-headed Vanga. Searching the foliage of a *Dichaetanthera cordifolia* shrub, we found a Giraffe-necked Weevil – it is the female which rolls the leaf of this striking pink-flowering *Melastomataceae* into an egg parcel. We stopped to admire a handsome purple Stink Beetle, a pair of mating frogs and two stunning Emerald Day Geckos, *Phelsuma quadriocellata* and *Phelsuma lineata*. We also stopped to photograph a pink-flowered parasitic plant *Bakerella clavata*, favoured by sunbirds.

Back at the car park, we were entertained by a Crested Drongo mobbing a Madagascar Buzzard in flight. By the river, some of the group photographed an introduced Spider Lily. On our way back to the hotel we stopped at the waterfall for a Blue-legged Chameleon and O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon, the latter showing off his range of flashing colours. Madagascar Tree Boas were hanging out by the wall opposite Domaine Nature and also obliged the photographers.

Over lunch, we caught up with Mike and John, who had chosen to go birding around the village and had seen Coucal, Madagascar Kestrel, Blue Vanga, Palm Swift, Bee-eater, Green Sunbird, Bulbul, Magpie Robin, Wagtail, Common Newtonia, White-eye, Broad-billed Roller, Madagascar Mannikin, Madagascar Fody, Forest Fody and Common Myna.

After lunch we got back on the bus and stopped to photograph Belted Chameleon, two Baron's Painted Mantella frogs and several Giraffe-necked Weevils in action. Taking the ridge path, we walked among Tree Heather *Erica* sp., and *Vaccinium madagascariensis* species that have colonised the ridge after a forest fire in the area. A couple of Meller's Ducks flew overhead and down by the marshes we found Grey Emutail, a tiny warbler with a ridiculous fluffy tail. We heard, but failed to see Madagascar Flufftail.

Day 7

Sunday 28 October

Ranomafana to Isalo

Weather: hot and sunny, with scattered clouds

Today's road journey is long but never dull. Rejoining RN7, we headed south to Fianarantsoa, Madagascar's second city, and like the capital sited on a cluster of hills. We broke the journey here to take on fuel and have a coffee at Hotel Soafia, which also does rather good pastries. The road out of town is lined with brick ovens, which are testimony to the building boom taking place as more and more people leave their villages to find work in the cities.

Among the rice paddies we noted Dimorphic Egrets, Hamerkop and flocks of Mascarene Martins in flight. From time to time our progress was halted by herds of zebu cattle on the move – they are walked to market on a long march lasting months. Abruptly, the road plunges hundreds of metres to a vineyard on the approach to the town of Ambalavao. Here we paused for the view and enjoyed a small flock of Grey-headed Lovebirds in flight and Monarch butterflies feeding on *Lantana*. At Ambalavao, we were shown the traditional craft of paper-making using the pulp of the Avoha shrub.

Here we picked up a packed lunch and local guide Patrick took us to Anja, a small community reserve sited at the foot of an impressive granite cliff. Local taboos have protected a healthy population of Ring-tailed Lemurs and their forest habitat and now that they are getting a steady flow of admiring visitors, they are far from shy. Often seen as the emblem of Madagascar, Ring-tails are actually not that widespread and are confined to the drier areas of the south of the island. More terrestrial than other lemur species, they are as happy on the ground as in the trees and at the Anja Reserve, they are often seen hopping from boulder to boulder. The young are born in September and October. Older babies were already riding piggy-back, while the newborn still cling to mum's belly. A couple of the more adventurous youngsters were engaged in a bout of rough and tumble in the trees, whilst their mothers were feeding. It is always a privilege to sit and quietly observe the lemurs, putting aside your camera for a while. But this is a popular spot and soon it was time to let another group of visitors in. But there is more to Anja than just lemurs and we had another chameleon treat in store: four huge Oustalet's Chameleons, one of whom we observed in action as its long tongue darted out to snatch a hapless bug. An almost imperceptible rustle gave away a Lined Snake camouflaged in the leaf-litter at the base of a tree.

After a picnic lunch by the reserve, we were on the road again. We paused briefly south of Anja to look at a cluster of native flora on a granite outcrop: *Pachypodium densiflorum* whose single yellow blooms are held on a long stem, a yellow-flowered *Senecio cedrorum* and a *Kalanchoe* sp.. In the distance, through a hazy sky we could just make out the serrated Andringitra limestone peaks on the horizon to the east. Much of the haze is caused by burning off the dry grass to allow the new tender shoots to grow for zebu to feed on. The charred landscape is an awful sight and where the walls of fire were still burning, clouds of insects were rising in the heat and were snatched on the wing by dozens of Yellow-billed Kites. After a fuel stop at Ihosy, we climbed to the Horombe Plateau, where we spotted a couple of Madagascar Partridges. On the approach to Isalo, recent rainfall had turned the dry grass to a lush green carpet. The Isalo sandstone massif rose ahead of us bathed in the dying glow of a spectacular sunset. We checked into well-appointed rooms at Relais de la Reine and gathered over dinner to discuss plans for the next day. Madagascar Nightjars were calling in the hotel gardens.

Day 8

Monday 29 October

Isalo National Park

Weather: very hot, scattered cloud in the afternoon

Some of the group were up and about at dawn for a walk in the grounds of the hotel. It was a chilly start to the morning and the air was pleasantly cool. We strolled by a male Benson's Rock Thrush, singing from a perch on the hotel roof. Past the swimming pool by a stream flanked by thirsty *pandanus* trees, we enjoyed the spectacle of sunrise at Isalo and some rewarding bird observations. The first Pied Crows were up and about and a Yellow-billed Kite was perched on a tree stump, its presence causing some distress to a Broad Billed Roller, which chased it off.

A Madagascar Coucal was warming up, its feathers all fluffed up, while Turtle Doves and a Madagascar Hoopoe were foraging on the lawn of the hotel. A pair of Broad Billed Rollers showed well in a tree and a Madagascar Kestrel flew off its perch to grab a grasshopper for breakfast. A couple of very loud Greater Vasa Parrots flew over and chattering Bee-eaters could be seen in flight beautifully lit up in the morning sun.

After a 6.30am breakfast and a wonderful fruit platter, we left at 7am and drove the 20 minutes to Ranohira, where we picked up our National Park guide Roland. We drove a 17km dirt road to get to the Canyons section of the park, which is a quieter area of the park, and its forests contain three lemur species. Along the way we noted Madagascar Kestrel, Purple Heron, Mascarene Martins and Madagascar Bee-eaters. Along the way Roland explained the history and geology of the area, touching on some of the traditions of the local people. We paused at a viewpoint, where the sun illuminated the sandstone cliffs in nuances of red, ochre and brown. The shady clefts ahead of us are the entrance to deep canyons cut through the sandstone by the clear streams that run all year round. Here pockets of lush palm and *pandanus* forest hug the river courses and other endemic trees attract lemurs, birds and following recent heavy rain, a plethora of insect life.

We wound our way through dry paddies, baked iron-hard in the unforgiving heat. In the distance a team of reluctant zebu were attempting to plough and women were planting out rice seedlings. We paused to photograph pale blue, deep blue, yellow and pink dragonflies, flashy grasshoppers, and a Rainbow Locust that took off flashing its scarlet wings. A Common Grass Blue butterfly with pale blue wings was seen repeatedly. We disturbed a Madagascar Grass Frog in an irrigation ditch and some of the group witnessed an Oustalet's Chameleon devouring a skink. Rolling back a rock, we found two Scorpions, one at least an inch and a half in length. Purple flowering *Pemphis madagascariensis*, a pink Morning Glory and a white-flowered *Apocynaceae* shrub were identified by our guide Roland. He pointed out *Cryptostegia madagascariensis* a pink-flowering *Apocynaceae* shrub which is toxic and *Sclerocarya birrea*, whose edible fruit and seed and mixed with sugar cane to make rum. A red-flowering pea was identified as *Clitoria sp* and a yellow *Fabaceae* proved to be a *Crotalaria sp*.

Roland led us to a dry riverbed in the shade of the forest, where we re-grouped while guide and helpers went off to look for lemurs. This was a peaceful, shady spot where we could enjoy many butterflies flitting to and fro, among them Citrus Swallowtail and the huge and showy Madagascar Swallowtail. John M saw a female Benson's Rock Thrush perched on a liana. Setting off again, we came across a rufous male Paradise Flycatcher displaying. Bright pink Flatid Leaf Bugs and nymphs coated the stems of a shrub, like flashy Christmas decorations. Yellow and black Plataspid Bugs and their grey nymphs had taken over another shrub, where we also found a silk worm cocoon of the native *Borocera madagascariensis*.

We walked across more open ground to reach the Canyon des Makis. Along the way, we heard the alarm call of Ring-tailed Lemurs near the base of the cliffs but frustratingly we could not see them. By the stream a Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher flew past but as the heat was mounting we decided to head back to the bus at this point. Arriving back at the hotel at 1.30 for a late lunch, we then had time to rest or make use of the hotel pool. Late afternoon we gathered by the swimming pool, where several Iguanids were engaged in head-bobbing territorial disputes on the walls above the pool. We walked behind the hotel climbing between two sandstone outcrops, where we observed endemic *Pachypodium rosulatum gracilis*, *Aloe Isaloensis* and *Kalanchoe sp* and a small shrub known locally as Salotse, after which the park is named.

We dropped down into a canyon, where some trees were being savaged by Plataspid bugs in both nymph and adult stages. We also came across Flatid Leaf Bugs in an intermediate stage – white, which then turns to green and finally pink. We climbed to a sunset viewpoint and watched the rocks turned yellow, orange and finally pink. Yellow-billed Kites circled above us and from this vantage point we enjoyed the spectacle of a very promiscuous female Greater Vasa Parrot sporting her bare orange head and attended by several solicitous males. If the squawking was anything to go by, she was clearly enjoying the attention!

Day 9

Tuesday 30th October

Isalo to Ifaty

Weather: very hot and humid

A packed breakfast was brought to our rooms and we left the hotel at 5.00am at first light. Crossing a grassy plain, dotted with *Medemia nobilis* palms, we passed the sapphire mining town of Ilakaka to arrive at Zombitse National Park. Accompanied by guide Lucien, we set off on foot through the forest, which contains elements of rainforest as well as dry deciduous species and is known as a 'Transitional Forest'. Not yet in full leaf, plenty of light was coming through to the forest floor, which is helpful when you're looking for birds. Lucien pointed out a Giant Coua, ambling along the forest floor, pecking in the leaf litter and we also got excellent views of the locally endemic Appert's Greenbul. A perching male Cuckoo Roller gave the photographers a good opportunity as did a beautiful Emperor Swallowtail butterfly *Papilio morondavana*.

Zombitse is a good place to observe Verreaux's Sifaka and we spotted a group of seven with an unusually dark male. A juvenile came down to check us out – what a privilege to watch it eyeing us up – who knows what it was thinking? A female with baby kept her distance, leaping in huge bounds from trunk to trunk, her infant precariously clinging to her back. After failing to see any lemurs at Isalo, it was a huge relief to see the sifakas here. This was followed by a second group of four plus a youngster. Continuing through the forest, Lucien found us a Hubbard's Sportive Lemur wedged into a hollow in a tree-fork, a preferred roosting site for this nocturnal species. Large eyes peered down at us – probably its day vision is affected by the bright daylight but clearly it could hear us. Unusually, it climbed right out of its hole so we saw the whole animal. We stopped to photograph an impressive white orchid, an *Aeranthes* sp and a brilliant yellow-flowered *Uncarina grandidieri*, a plant whose leaves are used by locals as shampoo. This forest also gave us our first baobab of the tour, an *Adansonia* sp. Peeping out from between its twin trunks was a Standing's Day Gecko – its muted colouring matching the dry forest.

Leaving Zombitse, we continued through a landscape punctuated by baobabs, which we stopped to photograph and were instantly surrounded by children soliciting pens, sweets and money. Beyond Sakaraha, another sapphire mining town with a busy market, the sandstone gives way to coral rag and a scrubby vegetation of *Euphorbiaceae* and *Alluandia comosa*, a species that only grows on limestone. The occasional Crested Drongo perched in full sun, a Chabert's Vanga, Namaqua Dove and a succession of Pied Crows were the only signs of life in this parched and inhospitable place. Yet there are villages, where local people eke a living from charcoal production. You know you're getting close to Toliara long before you reach the coast as the air gets heavy and humid. Dropping down off the arid tableland, we saw a white line of surf from the 40-mile long barrier reef. In the midday heat, we appreciated the cool surrounds of the Victory Hotel, where most of the group opted for pizzas.

In the hotel gardens we saw Sakalava Weavers and a nesting Madagascar Bulbul, along with Green Sunbird and Common Jery and several captive Radiated Tortoises. After lunch we continued north on the bumpy coast road to Ifaty. We passed the *taxi brousse* station, where robust trucks were being loaded up with people, animals and all description of goods for long journeys on dusty roads. I don't think any of us would swap our comfortable minibus for one of those! North of Toliara, a roadside pond provided our next stop and here we found Black-winged Stilt, Kittlitz Plover, Terek Sandpiper and Namaqua Dove. A little further north among the mangroves we noted Whimbrel, Greenshank, Common Sandpiper, Grey Plover, Souimanga Sunbird and Green-backed Heron. Arriving at Dunes Hotel, we checked into our rooms and there was time to relax in the afternoon and enjoy the swimming pool and beach. With a very early start planned for the morning, most opted for an early night.

Day 10

Wednesday 31st October

Ifaty

Weather: hot and humid; thunder, lightning and wind in the afternoon

We assembled in the hotel car park at dawn for the short drive to Reniala Reserve. Privately owned and run, Reniala protects a pocket of spiny forest, threatened by population pressure. Stretching in a narrow band north of Ifaty, this sub-arid thorn scrub matches the distribution zone of two endemic bird species, Long-tailed Ground Roller and Sub-desert Mesite. Reniala is a great little reserve for several reasons: the bird life is abundant and easy to see; the trees and shrubs are as bizarre and fascinating as they get and the trails are flat! The morning's birding was rewarding with good views of Long-tailed Ground Roller, Archbold's Newtonia and Thamnornis Warbler. Sickle-billed Vanga and White-headed Vanga showed readily and we observed both Hook-billed Vanga and Lafresnaye's Vanga on the nest. Running Coua, Green-capped Coua, Madagascar Bulbul, Stripe-throated Jery, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Souimanga Sunbird, Madagascar Turtle Dove, Grey-headed Love Bird, Madagascar Kestrel and Green Pigeon were also noted. We missed out on Sub-desert Mesite - the reserve guides are experts at finding the birds, but it doesn't always happen.

As the sun rose, the bulbous trunks of *Adansonia za* baobabs took on a pink hue and we found a tiny Sakalava Velvet Gecko *Blaesodactylus sakalava* keeping a low profile wedged between two trunks. An impressive Spiny-tailed Iguanid *Oplurus cyclurus* was warming up on a tree stump and posed for photographers. Some of our group spent time looking at the shrubs and trees and helpfully some of these are labelled up. A few were in bloom, including *Combretum grandidieri*, whose long red and yellow tubular flowers produce large oval seeds. Octopus Tree *Didierea madagascariensis* was also flowering, its tall spiny boughs producing both male and female beige papery flowers. *Commiphora aprevalli* photosynthesises through its bark, which has a greenish tinge. The outer layers flake off like peeling skin, and locals like to tease visitors by calling it the 'Foreigner Tree'. Euphorbias are an important component of the spiny forest and *Euphorbia stenoclada* is one of the most widespread and its spiny branches are often fed to cattle. Our guide Dabe pointed another important tree for local people *Givotia madagascariensis*, whose smooth, bulbous trunks are hollowed out to make the local fishing *pirogues*. We noted cocoons of *Junonia radama* butterflies on the bark of Ironwood *Capurodendron perrieri* (*Sapotaceae*). By 8am the temperature was rising fast and stomachs were rumbling, so it was time to return to the hotel for a late breakfast.

After breakfast, Jean, Rosemary, Keith and Cathy took a trip out to the reef on a dug-out pirogue. This was great fun, not only for the ride but also for the snorkelling once we got out there. The 'Rose Garden' as its known, is a protected coral outcrop and though the corals are in very poor shape, there's a surprising variety of marine life in the area. After an hour in the water, our list looked like this: Blue Sea Star, Sun Star, Spiny Sea Urchin, Mushroom Coral, Staghorn Coral, Lettuce Coral, Trumpetfish, Checkerboard Wrasse, Six-bar Wrasse, Moon Wrasse, Cleaner Wrasse, Bird Wrasse, Sergeant Major, Moorish Idol, Chocolate-dip Chromis, Green Chromis, Bicolour Parrotfish, Bridled Parrotfish, Orange-lined Triggerfish, Black-backed Butterflyfish, Pufferfish, Fusilier, and Peacock Grouper.

Gathering for lunch, Sue W and Bill had walked along the beach and found Ringed Plover, Whimbrel, around 30 Greenshank and nine Ruddy Turnstones. While Sue M enjoyed the swimming pool, John M scoured the rocky shoreline, finding Bouton's Coral Rag Skink, a new species for our list. Late afternoon Desi took some of the group for a walk through the hotel gardens, where we paused to watch dozens of Sakalava Weavers flying to and from their nests suspended from a Casuarina. Crested Drongo, Madagascar Coucal, Magpie Robin and Sub-desert Brush Warbler were around the hotel, along with countless Three-eyed Lizards. Returning to the hotel, noisy Common Mynas were returning to their roost site over the reception area. As the noise level subsided, we spotted the eye shine of a Reddish Grey Mouse Lemur on its way to join the night shift and four Madagascar Nightjars winging across the car park.

Day 11

Thursday 1st November

Ifaty to Anakao

Weather: warm and breezy

I think we're getting used to all the early starts! After a 6am breakfast we were on the road by 6.45 for the bumpy journey back to Toliara. Madagascar Bush Larks flew out of the dust in front of the coach and Yellow-billed Kites soared overhead. We made a short stop for waders, which yielded Kittlitz Plover and Greenshank and Cisticola and Coucal were also noted along the way. At Toliara, we were bundled onto zebu carts for the short ride out to the boat moored offshore. It's an exhilarating ride but too fast and bumpy to use binoculars. Anakao is around an hour's journey by boat to the south and as it lies south of the wide Onilahy estuary, getting there by road is impractical.

On arrival we checked into our rooms and then went straight out by boat to the offshore island bird reserve of Nosy Ve, a perfect desert island coral cay. Charley had a swim; Pamela, Sue M and Jean went beachcombing and found Chiton, Clam Shell, Brittlestar, Mussels, Tunicates, Hermit Crab, Ghost Crab and Sand Dollar. The rest of us made our way along the beach at a faster pace to view the Red-tailed Tropicbird colony, nesting on the north end of the island. We noted four or five active nests, sited in the shade of thorny bushes, and with a mix of new and older chicks. A dozen or so adults were seen in flight over the colony. Making our way back on the beach on the other side of the island, a couple of Dimorphic Egrets were surveying the exposed beach rock, while Whimbrel, Grey Plover, White-fronted Plover, Greenshank and a lone Crab Plover foraged on the shore. As the island has no shade, this is not a place to linger in the middle of the day and we made our way back to the hotel for a lunch of squid salad, fish kebabs and fresh fruit. A Littoral Rock Thrush and Namaqua Dove were observed from the table and Three-eyed Lizards scuttled to and fro on the sandy paths.

After a rest, we set out to visit the fishing village of Anakao, with its brightly painted pirogues lined up along the beach. We were collared by a nun, who led us to a handicraft store, where local women sell their produce. Moving on, we explored the scrub behind the village, where as things cooled off, we began to see some birds; a pair of Hoopoes, several Littoral Rock Thrush, Souimanga Sunbird, Sub-desert Brush Warbler and Madagascar Kestrel, Yellow-billed Kite and Common Myna. As the light faded Madagascar Nightjars began calling. One of the most memorable things about Anakao is the dark sky and in the absence of artificial light, the millions of tiny distant stars look close enough to reach out and grab. Magic!

Day 12

Friday 2nd November

Anakao to Berenty

Weather: surprisingly cool! Windy at Fort Dauphin

After an early breakfast, we loaded our luggage onto the boat for the transfer back to Toliara. The sea was still calm and a handful of Lesser Crested Terns winged by at speed. Making straight for the airport, we said goodbye to our driver Solo and helper Toto who had done so much to make our road journeys safe and comfortable, as well as joining in the excitement of our wildlife sightings along the way. When in Madagascar expect surprises, and never more so than with the Air Madagascar (Air Mad!) schedules. Instead of a direct flight they decided to route us via Tana, which meant one flight became two. Arriving at Fort Dauphin it was a blustery day and the sea was foaming with white horses as we flew in to land. We were bundled onto one of Berenty's minibuses and set off on the potholed road to Berenty. It is slowly being upgraded but in Madagascar, that can take years.... They're starting by replacing the rickety old iron bridges, built during the French occupation of the island, which ended in 1960, so who knows how old they might be! We walked over the bridge where a second more comfortable bus was waiting for us. As we drove past lush green paddies, we got a flash of blue from a Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher in flight. Cattle Egrets, Dimorphic Egrets, Black Egrets and White-faced Duck were noted, and circling overhead was a succession of Yellow-billed Kites and Pied Cows. We passed groves of lychee trees laden with fruit and orange-flowering *Grevillea robusta*. As it was Sunday, the locals were out in their best clothes. We passed roadside ponds filled with water lilies and patches of rosy periwinkle.

Soon the lush vegetation gave way to a transitional forest dominated by the curious triangular palms *Dypsis decaryi*, which are only found here. This tiny pocket of forest forms part of the larger protected area of Andohahela National Park, which also includes some rainforest and spiny forest. Another prominent species is thorny *Mimosa delicatula*, known locally as 'Roy' from which the local people the Antandroy (People of the Thorns) get their name. Soon we emerged into a 'sea' of spiny forest, the dominant natural vegetation of Southern Madagascar. Huge stands of *Didieracae* swayed in the breeze, their thorny boughs sporting the new season's growth of leaves. Superficially cactus-like, these are deciduous trees. One species, *Allaudia procera*, recognised by its flowers emerging from the top of the branches, is a valuable timber species planked for local housing needs. Much of the spiny forest has been cleared for the sisal plantations that surround the town of Amboasary. Crossing the dried bed of the Mandrare River by a huge bridge, the locals thronged the riverside, bathing, washing clothes and frolicking in the remaining pools of water. We now turned off the main road down the dusty trail leading through sisal to the entrance to Berenty, where a gang of Ring-tailed Lemurs were there to greet us!

We checked into our bungalows and at dusk set off with reserve guide Rolland for a night walk through a pocket of spiny forest that was left intact when the De Heulme family cleared the land to plant sisal in the 1930s. The branches of *Didieraceae* are armed with inch-long spines, each protecting a delicate rosette of deciduous leaves. It would be hard to imagine a less likely habitat for lemurs yet this is where nocturnal White-footed Sportive Lemurs hang out, feeding on the tender leaves and flowers, dodging the spines as they leap from bough to bough. Rolland was adept at finding their eye shine and that of Reddish-grey Mouse Lemurs, who share the spiny forest. Berenty is one of the few reserves in Madagascar, where it is still possible to walk into the forest at night, and that alone justifies a visit. On this walk, we also saw two Warty Chameleons, a dry forest species that is subdued in colouring. After dinner everyone was pretty much ready for bed anticipating an early rise in the morning.

Day 13

Saturday 3rd November

Berenty Reserve

Weather: cool in the morning, pleasantly warm afternoon

This is not the Berenty I remember – it's never been cool enough in November to snuggle under a blanket at night! Setting off at dawn to explore the Malaza gallery forest there was a chill in the air and we weren't the only ones to feel it. A group of Ring-tailed Lemurs were spread-eagled in the canopy of a large Tamarind, baring their dark chests to the sun to warm up before they began to feed on the new foliage. Crested Couas were at it too, wings outstretched, taking in the rays. A Lesser Vasa Parrot was singing from a perch, then took off and flew overhead, joined a few moments later by a flock of Cattle Egrets en route to the river. Sakalava Weaver, Common Newtonia, Madagascar Bulbul, Turtle Dove, Common Jery and Madagascar White-eye were all up and about. Giant Couas rustled in the leaf litter and a Broad-billed Roller cackled from its perch on a dead tree stump. Here too we could see six Yellow-billed Kites beautifully lit up in the sun. A White-footed Sportive Lemur sat by his tree-hole roost, peering down at us. A diminutive Radiated Tortoise baby wandered across the path in front of us, looking a bit lost. What is special about Berenty is that the bungalows are in the reserve so you wake up to all this wildlife at your doorstep.

Deeper into the forest, we came across Red-fronted Brown Lemurs feeding on the beautiful pink and white blooms of an *Albizia* sp. Next a juvenile Verreaux's Sifaka dropped down to check us out, while a mother and baby peered down from an overhead branch! We spotted a pale phase male Paradise Flycatcher polishing off a butterfly, three White-headed Vangas and a pair of Crested Couas warming up in the sun. We were then drawn to a group of 13 Red-fronted Brown Lemurs engaged in a bout of rough and tumble on the forest floor.

By 8am we were ready for breakfast. There's a cheeky group of Ring-tailed Lemurs whose territory takes in the restaurant area. Using smash and grab tactics these 'Breakfast Bandits' help themselves to jam and fruit off the table. The waiters are forever struggling to keep them away. After breakfast we decided to make our way back into the forest and it was still pleasantly cool. We started by watching a Hook-billed Vanga on its nest in the fork of a tree near the reception area. Then a group of Sifakas crossed the path ahead of us, 'dancing' sideways on hind limbs. Rolland found a White-browed Owl roosting on a Tamarind branch - the light was good and we were able to photograph it. Some Red-fronted Brown Lemurs were sticking their muzzles into a low tree fork and we were curious to find out what the attraction might be – it turned out to be water.

In spite of the cold start to the day, a few reptiles were beginning to emerge: a very handsome skink *Trachylepis aureopunctata* was basking on a dead log. Six or more different beetles were around on the forest floor, including a striking orange and black one. We noted a Crab Spider, several Precious Blue butterflies and a very obliging orange and brown butterfly *Aterica rabena*, which kept still enough to be photographed. Thanks to Keith, we got to see a Hissing Cockroach – they're nocturnal but you can find them roosting behind tree bark. We rounded off the morning's viewing with a Torotoroka Scops Owl, again found by Rolland, several more ambling Giant Couas, one collecting nesting material and a Madagascar Hoopoe in front of us on the trail.

After lunch, there was time for a rest and for those with the energy, a chance to explore Berenty on their own as it is one of the few reserves in Madagascar, where this is permitted. At 4pm we took the minibus to Rapihy forest parcel, where Rolland showed us some of the different trees, shrubs and vines of the spiny forest. These included *Euphorbia fiha*, whose waterproof bark is used for roofing; *Kalanchoe beharensis* whose large leaves have a velvet texture; *Alluaudia dumosa*, a tree favoured by roosting mouse lemurs because its sausage shaped branches form an impenetrable barrier. Used by locals as a cure for diarrhoea (Naturetrek tour leaders take note!), it has tiny white flowers but never gets any leaves, photosynthesising through the branches instead; *Folotsia floribunda*, a succulent vine with scented white flowers; *Alluaudia humbertii* and *Didierea trolli* whose tentacle-like branches give it the name Octopus Tree; *Aloe vahombe*, which can reach three metres in height. During the walk we found some moth cocoons, a Pill Millipede and a Praying Mantis case. There were rather few birds about but we did see Common Quail, Running Coua and Crested Drongo.

Back at the bungalows, we grabbed our torches and Rolland took us into the gallery forest for the night walk. Here we observed tiny Bark Geckos *Lygodactylus tuberosus* played hide and seek with us on a tree trunk and several larger Big Headed Geckos *Paroedura picta* in the leaf litter. A couple of White-footed Sportive Lemurs were up and calling and Hissing Cockroaches were active too.

Day 14

Sunday 4th November

Berenty to Fort Dauphin

Weather: cool in the morning, then warming up; cloudy and rain later

At 5am we made our way onto open fields by the airstrip to look for Sandgrouse. First a group of four birds flushed and landed ahead of us, where Desi spotted them on the ground. A further eight birds were noted. Jean found a Praying Mantis and a moth. Next we went into the Malaza gallery forest and walked to a viewpoint over the river, where Helmeted Guineafowl, Whimbrel, Cormorant, Common Sandpiper and Greenshank were gathered on the sandbanks or in flight. A flock of 20 Grey-headed Love Birds flew overhead in formation, landing on a bare tree. What a fabulous sight! Desi spotted a France's Sparrowhawk male on a branch overhead and everyone got really good views and a chance to photograph it. Both Giant Coua and Crested Coua were up and about and Paradise Flycatchers were collecting nesting material. A Broad-billed Roller showed well on a dead branch. Madagascar Bulbul, Madagascar White-eye, Common Jery, Coucal, Ashy Cuckoo-shrike and Crested Drongo were also noted during the walk. After a chilly night the lemurs were taking their time to stir and we found Ring-tailed lemurs and Verreaux's Sifaka warming up in the early morning sun. A group of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs took off at speed, perhaps in response to an aerial predator. A large dark brown millipede crossed our path and was much admired.

We were back for an 8 o'clock breakfast and then had time to pack before loading up the luggage at 10am and departing for Fort Dauphin. With possible delays due to the bridge work we had to allow extra time, plus we planned several stops along the way. The first was in the spiny forest, where we photographed an orange/pink flowering shrub with clusters of pointed needles and flowers that reminded us of azaleas. There was also a small yellow-flowered mimosa. In the transitional forest that forms part of Andohahela National Park, we stopped to look at the *Dyopsis decaryi* Triangular Palms and again to photograph lotus flowers. Everywhere, there was evidence of recent heavy rainfall with abundant surface water and deep puddles on the rain. Once we got to the bridge undergoing repairs, we swapped buses and walked over the bridge. In the new bus, our picnic lunch of cheese sandwiches, lychees, bananas and snacks was waiting for us.

We made our way on the new bypass road around Fort Dauphin and then took the coastal dirt road north for a few miles to the Saïidi Gardens. Along the way our driver got the bus stuck in a deep rut in a puddle. This gave us a chance to get off and look in the surrounding ponds where we found a fluorescent green *Heterixalus boettgeri* frog basking on a fern. Owned by the De Heaulme family, the gardens are a pocket of original coastal forest, with some planted species. We noted species such as Raffia Palms, Travellers' Palms, *Dyopsis*, Elephant's Ears and some introduced *Robusta* ironwoods and Giant Bamboo. Birdlife was subdued but we could hear Souimanga Sunbird and saw a Madagascar Coucal. We found several tiny mottled-brownish frogs. Some Ring-tailed Lemurs have recently been brought in to the gardens and they bounded up to us in anticipation of a banana or two. Some Brown Lemurs were in cages awaiting release. On the way to the hotel we stopped at the viewpoint over the port and bay and saw a lone Kelp Gull in flight, swooping down from time to time to investigate what was floating on the sea. Checking into the Dauphin Hotel, we had a little time before dinner and bed. It was Keith's birthday and Desi had arranged a birthday cake to celebrate the occasion.

Day 15

Monday 5th November

Fort Dauphin to Tana

Weather: warm and sunny

Following a seven o'clock breakfast, Desi went ahead with the luggage to the airport. Some of the group walked with Cathy to the seafront where out at sea several Humpback Whales were breaching and lob-tailing, making huge splashes in the distance. A pod of Bottlenose Dolphins cruised by closer to shore. We were lucky to catch what must have been the last of the Humpbacks on their migration south. It would have been great to spend longer but it was time to return to the hotel from where the bus transferred us to the airport.

Arriving at Tana, Cathy went ahead with Pamela and Charley to Hotel Orchid, while the rest of the group came with Desi and the luggage. After lunch we visited Tsimbazaza Zoo and Gardens in the centre of Antananarivo. Cathy and Sue M focused on the botanical section, whilst the rest of the group went with Desi to look for bird life around the lakes where large numbers of Squacco Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Egret, Dimorphic Egret, Black Egret and Cattle Egret nest and are easily seen. Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher and Common Myna were also noted. Cathy and Sue found a large Green Lynx Spider on a spiny bough.

Day 16

Tuesday 6th November

Tana to Mahajanga

Weather: hot and windy

An early flight again! Why break the habit? Due to continually changing flight schedules we found ourselves with a day to spare in Mahajanga. We took the bus to Hotel Les Roches Rouges, overlooking the Betsiboka Estuary, checked into our rooms and then after lunch, used the jeeps to access a small reserve outside the city. Mangatse is the name given to an area of small lakes and woodland protected by local taboos and home to a handful of Coquerel's Sifaka. We walked past the Sacred Lake, a crystal clear pond teeming with fish, mostly Tilapia, which commonly features on restaurant menus here. The Sifaka were hanging out in a mango tree, easy to find with their creamy white fur and stunning chestnut patches on chest, fore and hind limbs. Melancholy yellow eyes peered out from a dark face. This may be an isolated population, but they looked to be in good shape and the two youngsters were healthy enough. They were resting in the lower boughs of a mango tree sitting out the heat of the day and in no mood to bother about us. After a while they began to forage on Tamarind leaves. We watched an Oustalet's Chameleon catch a meal and a splendid Changeable Emerald Day Gecko on a mango tree. A number of birds were around: Green-backed Heron, Madagascar Bulbul, Madagascar Coucal, Common Jery, Common Newtonia, Madagascar Hoopoe, Chabert's Vanga, Green Pigeon, Great Egret and Cattle Egret.

Back in town, some of the group took a walk to the giant Baobab that straddles a roundabout in the city centre. For a while we watched the sailing boats tacking across the broad estuary of the Betsiboka, one of the huge arterial sediment-laden rivers that drain from the central highlands.

Day 17

Wednesday 7th November

Mahajanga to Ankarafantsika

Weather: very hot and humid with a light breeze

We set off early for the two and a half hour road journey to Ankarafantsika National Park on a well-surfaced, though winding road. Once out of the city, we climbed to a barren coral rag plateau, where we passed a succession of Yellow-billed Kites, Pied Crows and Palm Swifts. Madagascar Bee-eaters, Fody and Cisticola were also noted, where we stopped for a view over the Betsiboka Estuary. A little further on we broke the journey at Berivotra to read some information panels by the side of the road that tell the story of 70 million year old dinosaur fossils found in the area some years earlier by a team of scientists from Stony Brook University and the University of Antananarivo.

Our next stop was at Lake Amboromalandy, where we walked along a retaining dike on the shore of the lake. Here we picked out three Little Grebe, Green-backed Heron, a Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher, Dimorphic Egret, Madagascar Kestrel and a Madagascar Buzzard spotted by Keith. A Yellow-billed Kite flew overhead with a snake. As we returned to the bus, a group of children gathered to observe us, their faces smiling, yet watchful and charmingly shy. We made a second stop at the head of the lake, where flocks of Black Egret, Black-winged Stilt and Glossy Ibis were stalking in the rice paddies. We arrived at Ankarafantsika (also known as Ampijoroa Forestry Station) at 10.30am. The reserve protects one of the largest remaining tracts of dry deciduous forest on the island and sees relatively few visitors because of the limited accommodation but its wildlife viewing can be superb. The bungalows and campsite are located by Lake Ravelobe, where several viewing platforms overlook the lake and surrounds.

The birding is often good around the reception area and campsite and as our rooms were not yet ready, we began our wildlife viewing here with reserve guides Amade and Guy. Seven of the endemic Vangas can be readily seen in the park and we had three in as many minutes; Sickle-billed Vanga probing on a mango bough, Hook-billed Vanga collecting nesting material and Chabert's Vanga perched on a high branch. The car park is also great for observing the territorial disputes of Collared Iguanids and Broad-tailed Plated Lizards, scuttling around on the paths and in the leaf litter. The restaurant is now under new management and we found the service and food much improved. Over lunch, we watched Koch's Giant Day Gecko, and a very showy female Oustalet's Chameleon. A Long-billed Greenbul was hopping along the branches in search of grubs. It's unfailingly hot and sticky at Ampijoroa, with just a narrow window of comfort early in the morning and late afternoon so we delayed our forest walk until 3.30pm.

Access to Ampijoroa's forest is allowed in three areas and the most extensive grid of trails criss-cross a plateau behind the reception area, which is where we were heading this afternoon. Three species of diurnal lemur are readily seen here. A pair of Coquerel's Sifaka greeted us just inside the park, followed by a larger group of 10 Common Brown Lemurs with two very endearing youngsters riding pillion. Some of the group dropped down from the canopy to nose around in the leaf litter but then lost interest and moved off. Buttonquails were stirring up the leaf litter to forage and a pair of Red-capped Couas strutted along the path ahead of us. We got good views of a perching female France's Sparrowhawk, while Madagascar Bulbul, Magpie Robin, Long-billed Greenbul, Paradise Flycatcher, Souimanga Sunbird and Cuckoo Roller added to the afternoon's bird list. We stopped to admire and photograph a large speckled moth trying (and failing) to mimic lichen on a tree trunk. Many hundreds of grey, red and brown furry moth caterpillars were grouped over another tree trunk – we wondered what they might turn into.

Returning to the bungalows to pick up torches, we set off to see what the night shift would bring. Now that night walks are no longer allowed inside the forest, it's hard to see the park's signature species Golden-brown Mouse Lemur. Walking along the park boundary, we found several Grey Mouse Lemurs – these super-speedy diminutive lemurs are fun to watch as they hurtle along branches and jump from bush to bush but you can forget about trying to photograph them, they are so quick! We also found Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur, a species just emerged from a period of dry-season inactivity. Three very photogenic Rhinoceros Chameleons posed nicely while a couple of *Lygodactylus tolampae* Bark Geckos were so well-camouflaged we could barely distinguish them. We also came across a very sleepy Broad-billed Roller and Common Jery, and numerous beautiful moths.

Day 18

Thursday 8th November

Ankarafantsika National Park

Weather: very hot, then cloudy with thunder and a few raindrops

The day dawned clear and we met our guides in the car park at first light. For the birders (Rose, Keith, Mike, John H and John M), Guy was keen to look for one of the park's specialities Schlegel's Asity and for this we took the bus to a patch of forest at the western end of the lake. With time, and a lot of patience, everyone got great views of the very handsome and colourful male and his female, as they came down low. The morning also brought good sightings of a Hook-billed Vanga on the nest, a Cuckoo Roller in flight, Madagascar Hoopoe, Common Jery, Long-billed Greenbul, Magpie Robin, Paradise Flycatcher and a Green Pigeon feeding on a *Ficus*. Guy pointed out a Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemur in its tree-trunk hole, 40ft off the ground.

After breakfast, the birders focused on the plateau, getting great views of Coquerel's Coua and a pair of acrobatic Blue Vangas gleaning in the foliage just above our heads. A Red-capped Coua ambled across the path, then extended its wings to warm up in a sunny spot. Because the forest isn't yet in full leaf, plenty of light gets through to the floor. Rufous Vanga showed well and we also saw plenty of common species; Buttonquail, Broad-billed Roller, Paradise Flycatcher, Common Newtonia, Long-billed Greenbul and Common Jeru. We stopped to photograph a white shaving brush flower *Tylachium angustifolium* on a long stem, whose Malagasy name 'Teloravina' means "three leaves". By 10 o'clock it was getting too hot to be enjoyable and after a brief encounter with a group of Common Brown Lemurs, we headed back to base.

Desi and Amade with the rest of the group had rewarding encounters with Mongoose Lemur, Coquerel's Sifaka and Common Brown Lemur, as well as a sleepy Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur. Moreover, they came across White-breasted Mesite, as well as Schegel's Asity, which couldn't help but make the birders a little envious. They also reported Cuckoo Roller, Broad-billed Roller, Magpie Robin, Rufous Vanga and an excellent view of Sicklebilled Vanga. Oustalet's Chameleon, a Bark Gecko *Blaesodactylus antongilensis* and a white orchid were also found. Along the edge of the lake Desi's group found the spectacular arums in bloom *Amorphophallus hildebrandtii* and a straw-coloured Praying Mantis.

John M had spent time on the viewing platform and saw Knob-billed Duck and Madagascar Pond Heron. A very active Brown Hog-nosed Snake was spotted digging in the sand by the car park – my guess would be looking for iguanid eggs. After lunch we split into two groups for the boat trip on Lake Ravelobe. John H, Pamela, Charley, Rosemary, Keith, Mike and Cathy went with Guy. The boat trip gives the best chance to see Madagascar Fish Eagles and Nile Crocodile but the sheer numbers of bird sightings packed into just an hour make it more than worthwhile. This year the lake is badly choked with invasive Water Hyacinth and Guy explained that it is women's work to clear it! As we chugged around the lake, Purple Heron, Green-backed Heron, Squacco Heron and a splendid Humblot's Heron were all viewed with ease. We added Glossy Ibis, Great Egret, Dimorphic Egret, Common Moorhen, and Lesser Gallinule – the Gallinule is often very shy but several of them were visible hopping among the Water Hyacinth out in the open. We got good views of a Malachite Kingfisher and great photos of a pair of Fish Eagles perched overlooking the lake. Guy explained that they had not bred this year, which was worrying as the species is in decline. As we made our way around the lake, thunder clouds began forming and the sky darkened. We could just pick out the movement of a very shy White-throated Rail in dense vegetation above the shoreline. It moved briefly into view but the light was fading. A flock of White-faced Ducks and a Sooty Falcon flew overhead as we made our way back to the mooring site past numerous Nile Crocodiles. Tony, Jean, John and Sue M and Bill and Sue with Desi and Amade saw most of the above species, plus Little Bittern.

Following the boat trip, some of the group elected to search for Mongoose Lemur at the entrance to the forest, where they usually show up at dusk. And indeed they did, along with a fabulous Pygmy Kingfisher, perched at eye level. What a treat! One of the group of three Mongoose Lemurs is apparently a hybrid with Common Brown Lemur. There weren't many takers for the night walk but it was a rewarding one, with several Grey Mouse Lemurs and Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur, Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemur, a Western Tuft-tailed Rat, Rhinoceros Chameleon and Hissing Cockroach.

Day 19

Friday 9th November

Ankarafantsika to Mahajanga

Weather: hot; windy at Mahajanga

We met in the reception area at dawn with Charley, Pamela, Mike, John M, Keith and Rosemary joining Cathy and Guy. With some effort we got to see Van Dam's Vanga and White-breasted Mesite, the two bird species that had eluded us yesterday. There are five pairs of Van Dam's Vanga in this part of the forest but as they have huge territories, they're not always easy to locate. Both Coquerel's and Red-capped Couas showed well along with Crested Coua, a couple of obliging Hoopoes, numerous Paradise Flycatchers and a very friendly Coucal. An Ashy Cuckoo Shrike was upsetting a Crested Drongo – it doesn't matter what the Drongo takes on, it always seems to come out on top. The bird of the morning had to be the Crested Ibis, ambling along the path ahead of us – they are getting harder and harder to see. We got great views of a Citrus Swallowtail Butterfly wings extended, warming up in the sun. A male Oustalet's Chameleon was also much admired. This morning we hit the lemur jackpot...first up was a male Mongoose Lemur, then two Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemurs, a group of Coquerel's Sifaka and finally a gorgeous pair of sleepy Western Woolly Lemurs. Thank you Guy! This morning we also passed many beautiful shrubs and trees in bloom but were unable to get them identified. Desi, Amade and the rest of our group had got excellent views of Coquerel's and Red-capped Couas, Rufous Vanga, Hook-billed Vanga and Blue Vanga and found a Madagascar Buzzard on the nest.

Over a late breakfast we watched a Sickle-billed Vanga in action, probing for grubs on a low branch, just yards from the table. What a great sighting! After breakfast some of the group went to look at the *Amorphophallus* arums and there was also free time to do some photography, and then pack up before lunch. Leaving Ampijoroa at 1pm, we drove back to Mahajanga, only to find out when we checked in at the hotel that our flight next morning had been rescheduled for the evening, leaving us a whole day to fill. Luckily the local agents stepped in and arranged a surprise trip for us...

Day 20

Saturday 10th November

Katsepy Reserve and flight to Tana

Weather: very hot and windy, cool in Tana

We took a short transfer to the ferry terminal – if you can call it that! Boats of all descriptions were being loaded and unloaded with baskets of fruit, livestock, crates of beer, bicycles and what have you. Here we boarded a comfortable motorboat for a 40-minute journey across the Betsiboka estuary to Katsepy. It was a wet beach landing on the other side, from where we walked through scrub up a steep path to a tall lighthouse. There was an impressive view over the estuary from here and a light breeze made the heat bearable as we waited while the guide went to check the forest for lemurs. Luckily, the family group of two Crowned Sifakas with a youngster were close and resting in the shade of a large baobab. Given the heat, they were fairly lethargic, the male draped over a horizontal branch. In the same pocket of forest were a group of Mongoose Lemurs and this was a great chance to photograph them close. There were rather few birds around - a Madagascar Buzzard and Yellow-billed Kite, Drongo and Bulbul were all we could muster. John M found a spectacular female Green Lynx Spider, which was much admired. Bill found an Ant Lion Lacewing. Walking back down to the beach we noted an Elegant Skink.

Back down on the beach a local family had prepared a huge lunch of grilled fish, vegetables and rice, followed by bananas – simple but beautifully cooked. It was then time to hop back on the boat and return to Mahajanga. We had time to shower and change at the hotel before heading for the airport. As the incoming flight unloaded, we understood why it had been rescheduled – a government minister and entourage were on board. Arriving in Tana we transferred to the Metis Hotel, near the city centre and were in bed by 11pm.

Day 21

Sunday 11th November

Tana to Andasibe

Weather: sunny in the morning, clouding over in the afternoon

We opted for an early start to make the most of the day. The Metis Hotel served an excellent breakfast, the staff members were friendly and rooms comfortable and stylish. Once the luggage was loaded we were on the road by 7.00 and being a Sunday, the traffic was light, enabling a speedy exit from the city. The journey to Andasibe takes us past a succession of country towns and villages surrounded by market gardens and rice fields. The paddies were brilliant green and many colourful shrubs and trees were coming into bloom along the roadside, including yellow-flowering *Cassia* sp. In the paddies we spotted a couple of Hamerkops and Dimorphic Egrets and Mascarene Martins were in flight. The terrain is hilly with the underlying crystalline basement rocks at the surface. All around we could see huge granite boulders being split by hand in response to demand from the recent building boom in Antananarivo. Granite chips are made by hand too, and we noticed women with young families sitting by the side of the road chipping by hand. We stopped by a viewpoint on the eastern escarpment before the road drops to the plain below.

Later we paused by the Mangoro River where four Madagascar Pratincoles were gathered on a distant rock. Increasingly because of human pressure in the area, the species has become more difficult to see. To make the most of the day we went straight into Analamazaotra Reserve, now part of the huge Andasibe-Mantadia National Park. This part of the reserve, which was created to preserve Indri habitat, is by the village of Andasibe. Though containing some original forest cover, much of it is re-growth yet there's an impressive variety of wildlife on offer here. Once Desi had sorted out permits, we split into smaller groups joined by guides Maurice, Tina and Nestor. First stop was by the former fish farm ponds, which had been destroyed during a cyclone. Here we found a Madagascar Tree Boa holed up by a retaining wall. Dragonflies were darting out from their perches and we noted a small blue *Palpopleura vestita* and larger red *Tritbemis selika* and an Elegant Skink scuttled over the wall.

Maurice led us first to a family of Diademed Sifaka, one of the largest lemur species; its contrasting orange, grey and black pelage makes it one of the most striking. This group have been successfully introduced into the reserve following destruction of their habitat when a nickel pipeline was laid a few years ago. A male, female with baby and an older juvenile were clinging vertically to the tree trunks, long limbs extended as they foraged drawing leaves to their mouth. Every so often in one great bounding leap, they would move to the next tree. After observing them quietly for a while, we moved on to a group of five Common Brown Lemurs, taking a rest, all huddled together in a big furry ball. Then news came in that Indri had been sighted so we moved quickly to the ridge, where a family group of four were feeding in the canopy. This first visit to the reserve brought great views of a male Velvet Asity, Spectacled Greenbul, a pair of Long-eared Owl chicks and a rare sighting of Collared Nightjar roosting in the leaf-litter. It's been a couple of years since I've seen one of these stunningly camouflaged birds and it's all down to the skill of the reserve guides. Thank you Maurice!

We also had rewarding sightings of a splendid male Parson's Chameleon, a tiny frog *Guibemantis albolineatus* in the leaf axil of a *Pandanus*, an Emerald Day Gecko, a Blue and Black Swallowtail *Papilio Oribazus*, an impressive large blue Dragonfly with black 'saddlebag' markings and a very impressive green moth horned caterpillar rescued from an ant attack by Pamela. Flatid Leaf Bugs and Giraffe-necked Weevil were also much admired. Some of the group got a brief view of a Lowland Streaked Tenrec and a snake identified by Desi as *Liophidium Andasibe*.

We drove to Vakona Lodge, where we checked into bungalows, beautifully sited around a small lake in lush sub-tropical gardens. John H saw a Lowland Streaked Tenrec on the steps near his bungalow. At dusk we drove back to Andasibe village for a night walk with our guides along the road leading to the reserve. We saw two Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur, three Short-horned Chameleons and a Firefly. Back at the lodge, everyone was ready for an early night after dinner.

Day 22

Monday 12th November

Andasibe Mantadia National Park

Weather: intermittent rain

A wet start to the day... After a 5.30 breakfast, we hopped on the bus for the bumpy journey to Mantadia. The park entrance is only a couple of miles from the lodge but the best area for wildlife is deep into the reserve and it takes over an hour to drive there. The dirt road was built when the graphite mine began operations but since that closed a few years back, the road is no longer properly maintained. But it's a gorgeous drive. We passed the forest corridor being planted to link the smaller Indri reserve with the vast Mantadia forest. Stands of bamboo line the road, their stems bending across the track like giant hoops. Here we stopped to look at three Grey Bamboo Lemurs, a Stink Bug, a spectacular green Bush Cricket (Katydid), Land Snail and a Leech!

From the car park area we set out on Mantadia's network of paths, focusing on the easier terrain along the river courses. The name Mantadia means 'tough walking' which aptly describes the trails that snake up its steep ridges. Maurice was keen to show us the endemic Ground Rollers, which are easiest to find by their call. With considerable effort and persistence we did get to see Short-legged Ground Roller, which is one of the easier ones to photograph as it usually perches in the open. We found a light phase male Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, its long tail sticking out awkwardly from the tiny cup-shaped nest. Other species observed during the forest walk were Pitta-like Ground Roller, Hook-billed Vanga, Red-tailed Vanga, Ward's Flycatcher, Ashy Cuckoo-shrike, Brush Warbler, Cryptic Warbler, a Madagascar Buzzard in flight and a very obliging Spectacled Greenbul with two chicks. Two brilliantly coloured *Mantella madagascariensis* frogs, two Giant Millipedes and a Pill Millipede were also admired. Lemurs were in short supply today as they tend to be less active when it's raining so it's harder to find them. Given the weather we did well to see two Red-bellied Lemurs. Emerging from the forest, we walked up to a small lake where three Meller's Duck, a Swamp Warbler and Madagascar Little Grebe and chick showed well. Driving back to the lodge for a late lunch, we stopped to observe a group of three Indri's from the road.

After lunch there was free time. Sue, Bill and Sue went to Lemur Island for a close up encounter with Grey Bamboo Lemur, Red-fronted Brown Lemur and Black and White Ruffed Lemur, rescued from the pet trade. Around the hotel gardens other group members saw Mascarene Martins, Ward's Flycatcher, Madagascar White-eye, Chabert's Vanga, Madagascar Bulbul, Lesser Vasa Parrot and Lowland Streaked Tenrec.

We only had two takers, Bill and Sue, for the night walk at the Mitsinjo Reserve, a pocket of forest bordering the main Indri Reserve but managed by a local Guides' Association. This was a rewarding walk, which produced two Parson's Chameleons, a White-bellied Chameleon, two Broad-browed Chameleons, a Madagascar Jumping Frog *Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis*, a sleepy Pygmy Kingfisher, Land Crab, Cricket, Praying Mantis and a Perinet Snake *Ithyocyphus perineti*.

Day 23

Tuesday 13th November

Andasibe to Tana

Weather: cloudy but dry; sunny intervals

After a 6.30am breakfast we loaded the luggage onto the bus and headed straight for the Indri Reserve for our final morning of Madagascar's wildlife. It had stopped raining, we could hear the Indri calling and spirits were up. Dividing into groups, we set off into the forest. With Maurice we found Nuthatch Vanga close to the park entrance and got great views of it. Crossley's Babbler was less obliging but we did eventually see it. A pair of Blue Coua showed well, along with Ashy Cuckoo Shrike, Hook-billed Vanga, Brush Warbler, White-eye, Nelicourvi Weaver, Paradise Flycatcher, Long-billed Greenbul, Madagascar Coucal, Crested Drongo, Madagascar Green Sunbird, Turtle Dove and Cisticola. Sue and Bill with Nestor also found Madagascar Wood Rail, Red-fronted Coua, Red-tailed Vanga and Tylas. John H had France's Sparrowhawk, Blue Vanga, Rand's Warbler and Chabert's Vanga to add, while Jean, Rosemary and Tony finally found Blue Pigeon, a species that until now had eluded us. Well done!

Lemurs were easy to find today and we began with three Grey Bamboo Lemurs feeding, stripping the outer sheath of the bamboo to get to the soft pith. A second group of three gave us excellent photo opportunities. We got distant views of four Indri's feeding in the canopy, and Diademed Sifaka and Common Brown Lemur as well, and then the final scoop – a pair of roosting Eastern Woolly Lemurs. Parson's Chameleon and Short-horned Chameleon were also reported. Over lunch at Feo'ny Ala restaurant there was time to stock up on vanilla to take home and buy a few last minute souvenirs. From our tables overlooking the forest and lake, we spotted Blue Vanga, Nelicourvi Weaver, Crested Drongo, Common Newtonia, Madagascar Wagtail and Magpie Robin.

On the way back to Antananarivo we observed Great Egret, Dimorphic Egret and Cattle Egret in the rice paddies. We made a short stop at the craft market in Tana for souvenirs and then had time to rest and repack at the Orchid Hotel. Our last dinner was at the bistro down the road, where we were served copious helpings of good food. From here we continued to the airport where it was time to say goodbye to local guide Desi, whose kindness, good humour and above all else tremendous knowledge and enthusiasm, had seen us through the ups and down of our three week tour of Madagascar. Thank you Desi!

Day 24

Wednesday 14th November

Flight to Paris and on to UK and USA

Check in was easy and soon we were assembled in the departure lounge, where the flight boarded just after midnight. At Paris we parted company with Pamela, Charley and Mike who were flying back to the States and the rest of us departed on various short flights back to the UK.

Species List

Lemurs (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
		Cheirogaleidae																								
1	Reddish-grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>							1			4														
2	Grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>														2	3									
3	Rufous Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>				1																				
4	Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus crossleyi</i>																		2						
5	Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus medius</i>														1	2									
		Lepilemuridae																								
6	Small-tooth Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur hubbardii</i>							2																	
7	White-footed Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur leucopus</i>										3	2	1												
8	Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>															6	2								
		Lemuridae																								
9	Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>																			3	8				
10	Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>			2																					
11	Greater Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur simus</i>			2																					
12	Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>					✓	H				✓	✓	✓												
13	Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>														10+2	10			5		15				
14	Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufus</i>			15								✓	✓												
15	Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>			6	4															2					
16	Mongoose Lemur	<i>Eulemur mongoz</i>															3	1	3							
17	Black and White Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>			H																					
		Indridae																								
19	Eastern Woolly Lemur	<i>Avahi laniger</i>			2+1																		2			
20	Western Woolly Lemur	<i>Avahi occidentalis</i>																	2							
21	Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>							14+2				✓	✓												
22	Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>													4+2	✓	✓	✓								
23	Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>																			3+		3+1			
24	Crowned Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coronatus</i>																		3						
25	Milne-Edwards' Sifaka	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>			4	4																				
26	Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>																			4	3	4			

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
17	Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>		1																	1	2	1			
18	Glaw's Chameleon	<i>Calumma glawi</i>			2																					
19	Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>		1	2																					
20	Rhinoceros Chameleon	<i>Furcifer rhinocerotus</i>															3	3								
21	Spiny-backed Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>										2	1			1										
22	Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>					4								2	1	3	1								
23	Jewel (Carpet) Chameleon	<i>Furcifer lateralis</i>		1																						
24	Belted Chameleon	<i>Furcifer balteatus</i>				1																				
25	Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i>								✓	✓															
26	Collared Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cuveri</i>															✓	✓	✓							
27	Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>									1															
28	Four-lined Iguanid	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>		1				✓																		
29	Large-headed Gecko	<i>Paroedura picta</i>													1											
30	a Day Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tuberosus</i>													3											
31	a Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tolampyae</i>															2									
32	a Gecko	<i>Blaesodactylus antongilensis</i>																1								
33	Sakalava Velvet Gecko	<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>									1															
34	Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>				2																				
35	Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>				1																				
36	Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata bifasciata</i>		1			2			2						1					✓					
37	Four-eyed Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>			4	2																				
38	Marbled Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>								1																
39	Changeable Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>													2	1		4								
40	Koch's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis kochi</i>															3		1							
41	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mercatorius</i>		1				2	1					2				3				1				
42	Gold-spotted Skink	<i>Trachylepis aureopunctata</i>													2											
43	Boulder Skink	<i>Trachylepis vato</i>						1																		
44	Gravenhorst's Skink	<i>Trachylepis gravenhorstii</i>							1												✓					
45	Elegant Skink	<i>Trachylepis elegans</i>				1	1													✓						
46	Bouton's coral rag skink	<i>Cryptoblepharus boutonii</i>									1															
47	Broad-tailed Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>															✓	✓	✓							
48	Ornate Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus ornatus</i>			1																					

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
49	Madagascar Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>									1															
50	Perinet Snake	<i>Ithycyphus perineti</i>																			1	1				
51	Andasibe Snake	<i>Liophidium andasibe</i>																			1					
52	Lined Forest Snake	<i>Compsophis infralineatus</i>			1																					
53	Lined Snake	<i>Bibilava lateralis</i>					1																			
54	Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>					2														2					
55	Brown Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Leioheterodon modestus</i>																1								
56	Radiated Tortoise	<i>Geochelone radiata</i>											1													
57	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>																12	1							

Birds

1	Madagascar Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelni</i>																				2+1
2	Little Grebe	<i>Trachybaptus ruficollis</i>											3									
3	Red-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>									15											
4	Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>												3								
5	Madagascar Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola idae</i>																4	1			
6	Common Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	✓											✓			✓	✓	✓			
7	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>																	1			
8	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓											✓			1					
9	Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>							1							1	6	✓	3		1	1
10	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	✓	✓											2	✓	2	✓	2	✓	1	✓
11	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
12	Black Egret	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	12										✓		✓		✓					
13	Dimorphic Heron	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	✓	✓		1	✓	3			3	✓			✓	1	✓	✓	✓		✓	2
14	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	1	2		1		1								1	✓	✓	6			1
15	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	3															1				
16	Humblot's Heron	<i>Ardea humbloti</i>																	1			
17	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	2	10				1													2	
18	Madagascar Crested Ibis	<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>																		1		
19	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>																✓	✓	2		
20	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	✓	17		✓	3															
21	Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>	10																			

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																				
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
22	Meller's Duck	<i>Anas melleri</i>				2																3	
23	White-faced Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	✓									7					✓	✓	✓				
24	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	12															1					
25	Madagascar Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>																2					
26	Madagascar Harrier- Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>								1													
27	Madagascar Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>		2	1	1										1			1	3		1	
28	Madagascar Harrier	<i>Circus maillardi</i>	1♀																				
29	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptus</i>	1	1			50	✓	2	1	✓	✓		✓			1		2	2			
30	Banded Kestrel	<i>Falco zoniventris</i>										1											
31	Frances's Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>												2		1					H	1	1
32	Madagascar Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	2	6	1	✓	1	3	1	2	1		1	3		2	2			1	1		
33	Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>																1					
34	Madagascar Partridge	<i>Margaroperdix madagascariensis</i>					4																
35	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>												2	2								
36	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>												✓	✓								
37	Madagascar Wood Rail	<i>Canirallus kioloides</i>																					1
38	White-breasted Mesite	<i>Mesitornis variegata</i>																5	2				
39	Subdesert Mesite	<i>Monias benschi</i>											2										
40	Madagascar Button-quail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>															3	2					
41	White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>																1				1	
42	Madagascar Rail	<i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>																				H	
43	Madagascar Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>		H	H	H																	H
44	Lesser Gallinule	<i>Porphyryla alleni</i>																5					
45	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2														1	3					
46	Madagascar Snipe	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>		3																			
47	Madagascar Jacana	<i>Actophilornis albinucha</i>															1	1	1				
48	Madagascar Pratincole	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>																			4		
49	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>									8												
50	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>							8	1							3		1				
51	Crab Plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>									1												
52	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>							1		2												
53	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								1													

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
54	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>								1	1	2														
55	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>										2														
56	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>								1																
57	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>								✓	✓	1			1											
58	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								✓	✓	2			12											
59	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>								1																
60	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1							1					3											
61	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>													1											
62	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>																		3						
63	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>											10													
64	Madagascar Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles personatus</i>													12											
65	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		
66	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	1							✓	✓	✓	✓	6	✓		✓	✓	2		✓					
67	Madagascar Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>																						1		
68	Madagascar Green Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>									1					3			2							
69	Madagascar Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia picturata</i>					1	2	4	1	4			4	6			✓	✓	1				1		
70	Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>						1	2		1			2	20											
71	Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>							10		5															
72	Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>			3	H				3				8	1			✓	✓	1		H	2			
73	Madagascar Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>	4	5	1	1		4		1	1	1		4	4		1	1	1	3		H	1	3		
74	Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>		H	H	H	H	H						H				1	H		H	H	H	H		
75	Green-capped Coua	<i>Coua olivaceiceps</i>									1															
76	Red-capped Coua	<i>Coua ruficeps</i>																2	1	6						
77	Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>									1			2												
78	Giant Coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>								2				✓	2											
79	Coquerel's Coua	<i>Coua coquereli</i>																		3	5					
80	Red-fronted Coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>																					H	1		
81	Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>			2	2																H		4		
82	Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>									H		2	6	8					2						
83	Madagascar Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>					H															2Y				
84	White-browed Owl	<i>Ninox supercilialis</i>													1											
85	Rainforest Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>																					H	H		

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
86	Torotoroka Owl	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>						H				H	1													
87	Collared Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus enarratus</i>																			1					
88	Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>							H	4	H	1						H								
89	Madagascar Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni</i>								1																
90	Madagascar Spine-tailed Swift	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>						✓		✓			1													
91	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>					✓		2	✓						✓	✓									
92	Brown-throated Sand Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	6					✓																		
93	Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>		✓	18	✓	✓	2				1		✓							✓	✓				
94	Madagascar Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo vintsioides</i>	2					1				2			1		1	2			2	2				
95	Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx madagascariensis</i>																1				2				
96	Madagascar Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	1				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						1	1	3			1				
97	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>					1		5				1	4	8			5	6	10		H	1	1		
98	Madagascar Cuckoo-Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>		2	1				1								1	2	1	1	1					
99	Short-legged Ground-Roller	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>																				1				
100	Pitta-like Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>			2																	1				
101	Rufous-headed Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis crossleyi</i>			H																					
102	Long-tailed Ground Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>								1																
103	Velvet Asity	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>			1																1					
104	Schlegel's Asity	<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>																3								
105	Madagascar Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			2	4		2	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
106	Appert's Greenbul	<i>Bernieria apperti</i>							2																	
107	Grey-crowned Greenbul	<i>Bernieria cinereiceps</i>			2																					
108	Long-billed Greenbul	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>			1	2											2	✓	✓		H		4			
109	Spectacled Greenbul	<i>Bernieria zosterops</i>		1	1																1	1+2				
110	White-throated Oxylabes	<i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>					1																			
111	Crossley's Babbler	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>																					1			
112	Madagascar Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>		1	6	4			3	6	1	3	4	2			3	4	4		4	1				
113	Madagascar Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>						4				2	1	1		1		6	4							
114	Littoral Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola imerinus</i>										6														
115	Benson's Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei bensoni</i>						4																		
116	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	1	12				1														2				
117	Madagascar Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	1	1	10	✓	✓									1					4	2	✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
118	Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>			3	4		2		3			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		1	4	✓			
119	Ward's Flycatcher / Vanga	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>																				2				
120	Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>		6	6	2			1				1	1		1	H	2	✓		✓	1	1			
121	Archbold's Newtonia	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>								2																
122	Madagascar Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>		✓		✓	H	4	2	1	2	1		1		1	✓				1		1			
123	Madagascar Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra hova</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓		1	2		1							
124	Madagascar Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>	H	1																		1				
125	Madagascar Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>	1	✓		2												H				1	2			
126	Thamnomis Warbler	<i>Thamnomis chloropetoides</i>								1																
127	Subdesert Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>								4	6															
128	Grey Emu-tail	<i>Amphilaus seebohmi</i>				3																				
129	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>			1			4	1	3			2	✓		1	2	4	✓		✓	1				
130	Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>			1	1				2											H					
131	Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>			1	1															H	H	1			
132	Cryptic Warbler	<i>Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi</i>																				1				
133	Madagascar White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>			6	✓	✓	1	2				10	✓				✓	2		✓	✓	✓			
134	Madagascar Green Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia notata</i>			1	1			1					1		1					1		1			
135	Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia sovimanga</i>	1	1	✓	✓	1	1	1	6	1		1		1	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	H				
136	Nuthatch Vanga	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>																					1			
137	White-headed Vanga	<i>Artamella viridis</i>				H				1			3					1								
138	Chabert's Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>			2	2	1									1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3		
139	Madagascar Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>			1	1												2	2				2			
140	Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falcula palliata</i>								4						2	1	4								
141	Rufous Vanga	<i>Schetba rufa</i>			1	H											2	1								
142	Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>			H	H																1				
143	Lafresnaye's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>								1																
144	Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>			1					1			1	1			1	1	1			1	1			
145	Pollen's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>				4																				
146	Van Dam's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>																	1							
147	Tylas Vanga	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>			1	1																	1			
148	Madagascar Cuckoo Shrike	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>			2	2							1	1			1	2	1			1				
149	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
150	Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>			1	3	2	10	✓	10	✓	✓	✓	✓		1	2	✓	✓	✓	2	1	✓			
151	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	1	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	1	2		1					
152	Madagascar Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	✓			1		1	✓	1					1	1					1					
153	Forest Fody	<i>Foudia eminentissima</i>		3	2	6	1																			
154	Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>							✓	✓	✓		1	4		✓	✓			2	1					
155	Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>		1	1	1														1		1	2			
156	Madagascar Mannikin	<i>Lonchura nana</i>	1	✓		✓	✓							2		1	✓			1	✓					

Butterflies

1	A Swallowtail	<i>Saribia tepahi</i>			✓																		
2	Blue and black Swallowtail	<i>Papilio oribazus</i>																			1		
3	Madagascar Emperor Swallowtail	<i>Papilio morondavana</i>							1														
4	Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>		1				✓					✓		1					1	1		
5	Madagascar Swallowtail	<i>Atrophaneura antenor</i>						✓	✓	✓													
6	Blue-green Swallowtail	<i>Papilio epiphorbas</i>																					
7	Common Grass Blue	<i>Cupidopsis cissus</i>						✓					1										
8	Orange-Tip	?																		1			
9	African Monarch	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>			1		✓	✓						✓				✓	✓				
10	Precious Blue	<i>Junonia radama</i>												1	1								
11	A Butterfly	<i>Acraea zitja</i>		1																			
12	Red Clear-wing	<i>Acraea lia</i>								✓													
13	African Map Butterfly	<i>Cyrestis camillus elegans</i>			1																		
14	Silver Salamis	<i>Salamis duprei</i>																				1	
15	Fashion Commodore	<i>Precis pelarga</i>	1																				
16		<i>Aterica rabena</i>												1									

Dragonflies

1	A Blue Dragonfly	<i>Neodythemis hildebrandti</i>																					✓
2	A Blue Dragonfly	<i>Palpopleura vestita</i>			1																	✓	
3	A Red Dragonfly	<i>Trithemis selika</i>						✓														2	
4	A Blue 'saddlebag' Dragonfly	?																				✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			

Spiders

1	Golden Orb Spider	<i>Nephila madagascariensis</i>		✓																				✓			
2	Green Lynx Spider	<i>Peucetia madagascariensis</i>													1										1		
3	Thorn Spider	<i>Gasteracantha versicolor formosa</i>																							✓		

Other Invertebrates

1	Hissing Cockroach	<i>Gromphadorhina portentosa</i>													2	✓									3				
2	Praying Mantis	<i>Mantodea (4 species)</i>		1	1												1										1		
3	Stick Insect	<i>Phasmatodea (8 species)</i>		1	5		1																					1	
4	Rainbow Locust	<i>Phymateus saxosus</i>		1						✓																			
5	Yellow & Green Grasshopper																1												
6	Bush Cricket (Katydid)	<i>Tettogoniidae (several species)</i>																											3
7	Fire Millipede (brown/black)	<i>Aphistogoniulus sp.</i>															1												
8	Fire Millipede (red/orange)	<i>Aphistogoniulus sp.</i>																											1
9	Emerald Giant Pill Millipede	<i>Zoosphaerium neptunus</i>																											1
10	A Pill Millipede																2												
11	Four-spotted red & black beetle																1												
12	Brown beetle																1												
13	Purple sheen beetle						1																						
14	Giraffe-necked weevil	<i>Trachelophorus giraffa</i>				1																						✓	
15	Elephant weevil					1																							
16	Plataspid Bug	<i>Libyaspis coccinelloides</i>																											
17	Flatid Leaf Bug	<i>Phromnia rosea</i>		✓				✓																				✓	
18	True Bug (white)					1																							
19	A Scorpion	<i>Opisthacanthus sp.</i>								2																			
20	A Scorpion	<i>Opisthacanthus sp.</i>																										2	
21	A Land Snail	<i>Helicophanta farafanganensis</i>					1																						2
22	A Flat Slug	?																										3	
23	A Worm																												1
24	A Land Crab	?																											1

Plants

Scientific name	Common name
MAGNOLIIDAE (Dicotyledons)	FLOWERING PLANTS
Apocynaceae, Periwinkle Family	
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> , Madagascan Periwinkle	<i>Cerbera manghas</i> , -
<i>Pachypodium geayi</i> , an Elephant's Foot	<i>Pachypodium lamerei</i> , -
<i>Pachypodium rosulatum</i> agg, an Elephant's Foot	<i>Pachypodium rosulatum</i> ssp. <i>gracilis</i> , an Elephant's Foot
<i>Pachypodium rosulatum</i> ssp. <i>rosulatum</i> , an Elephant's Foot	<i>Petchia erythrocarpa</i> , -
<i>Stapelianthus decaryi</i> , -	<i>Stapelianthus insignis</i> , -
<i>Stapelianthus madagascariensis</i> , -	<i>Satpelianthus pilosus</i> , -
Bombacaceae, Baobab Family	
<i>Adansonia rubrostipa</i> , Red-stipuled Baobab	<i>Adansonia za</i> , -
Buddlejaceae, Butterfly-bush Family	
<i>Buddleja madagascariensis</i> -	
Cactaceae, Cactus Family	
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> , Barbary Fig	<i>Rhipsalis baccifera</i> subsp. <i>mauritiana</i> , Mistletoe Cactus
<i>Rhipsalis baccifera</i> subsp. <i>horrida</i> , -	
Didiereaceae, Octopus Tree Family	
<i>Alluaudia ascendens</i> , -	<i>Alluaudia comosa</i> , -
<i>Alluaudia dumosa</i> , -	<i>Alluaudia humbertii</i> , -
<i>Alluaudia montagnacii</i> , -	<i>Alluaudia procera</i> , -
<i>Alluaudiopsis fiherenensis</i> , -	<i>Didierea madagascariensis</i> , Octopus tree
<i>Didierea trollii</i> , -	

Euphorbiaceae, Spurge Family*Euphorbia milii*, -*Euphorbia tetraptera*, -*Euphorbia stenoclada*, -*Uapaca bojeri*, Tapia**Fabaceae, Pea Family***Bauhinia humbertii*, -*Delonix floribunda* (*D.adansonioides*), -*Tamarindus indicus*, a Tamarind*Delonix decaryi*, -*Delonix pumilla*, -**Malvaceae, Mallow Family***Hibiscus ferrugineus*, -*Hibiscus sp* (Pale Yellow), -*Hibiscus hybridus*,**Mimosaceae, Acacia Family***Acacia anceps*, -*Acacia menabeensis*, -*Mimosa delicatula*, -*Acacia latispinosa*, -*Acacia millotica*, -*Mimosa pudica*, Sensitive Mimosa**Moraceae, Fig Family***Ficus benghalensis*, Banyan*Ficus pyrifolia*, Strangler Fig*Ficus lutea*, -*Ficus sp*, -**Myrtaceae, Myrtle Family***Eucalyptus citriodora*, Lemon-scented Gum*Eucalyptus robusta*, Ironbark*Eugenia pluricimosa*, -*Eucalyptus globulus*, Tasmanian Blue Gum*Eugenia jambos*, -

Nepenthaceae, Pitcher Plant Family

Nepenthes madagascariensis, Pitcher plant

Nymphaeaceae, Water-lily Family

Nymphaea stellata, African Water-lily

Plumbaginaceae, Plumbago Family

Plumbago aphylla (White), Plumbago

Solanaceae, Nightshade Family

Datura stamonium, Thorn Apple

Solanum incanum, -

Solanum sp, -

Solanum croatii, -

Solanum mauritanicum, Mauritius Nightshade

Strelitziaceae, Strelitzia Family

Ravenala madagascariensis, Traveller Palm

LILIIDAE (Monocotyledons)**Araceae, Arum Family**

Colocasia esculenta, Taro or Elephant Ear

Typhonodorum lindleyanum, Yam

Pothos scandens, -

Areaceae, Palm Family

Baccariophoenix madagascariensis, Marula Palm

Dypsis decaryi, Three-cornered Palm

Dypsis isaloensis (*Chrysalidocarpus i*), -

Dypsis mananjarensis, -

Bismarkia nobilis, -

Dypsis hildebrandtii, -

Dypsis louvelii, -

Dypsis nodifera, -

Dyopsis saintelucei, -
Dyopsis scotiana, -
Raphia farinifera (*R. ruffia*), Raffia Palm
Ravenea robustior, -

Liliaceae, Lily Family

Aloe cortinqua-
Aloe descoingsii-
Aloe divaricata-
Aloe isaloensis-
Aloe tessieri-
Aloe vaotsanda-
Dracaena bakeri-
Smilax kraussiana

Orchidaceae, Orchid Family

Aerangis articulata, -
Angraecum compactum, -
Angraecum sp (White), -
Angraecum viguieri, -
Bulbophyllum occultum, -
Cynorchis purpurescens, Dancing Ladies
Eulophiella roempleriana (*Pink*), -
Gastrorchis tuberculosa, -
Jumellea sagittata, -
Lissochilus decaryi, -
Oeceoclades sp., -
Oeonia rosea, -

Dyopsis sp., -
Phoenix reclinata, Senegal Date Palm
Ravenea rivularis, -
Ravenea sambiranensis, -

Aloe deltoideadonta-
Aloe discoinsii-
Aloe helenae-
Aloe suzannae-
Aloe vahombe-
Asparagus sp.-
Dracaena reflexa-

Aeranthes ramosa, -
Angraecum germinyianum, -
Angraecum superbum, -
Bulbophyllum baronii (*Yellow*), -
Cynorchis natans (*Pink & White*), -
Cynorchis sp (Pink), -
Gastrorchis humblotii var. schlechteri, -
Gastrorchis sp (Green), -
Jumellea gracilipes, -
Microcoelia exilis, -
Oeoniella polystachys (*White*), -
Vanilla madagascariensis, a Vanilla Orchid

Vanilla planifolia, a Vanilla Orchid

Pandanaceae, Pandanus Family

Pandanus amborgensis, Screwpine

Pandanus delphinensis, Screwpine

Pandanus pucher (Branched), Screwpine

Pandanus vandanii, Screwpine

Pandanus aff. bipyramidus, Screwpine

Pandanus longistylis, Screwpine

Pandanus rollotii, Screwpine

Pandanus xerophyta, Screwpine

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