

# Madagascar's Lemurs

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 September - 4 October 2019

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Indri by Cathy Harlow



Verreaux's Sifaka by Cathy Harlow



Ring-tailed Lemur by Luis Henriques de Lancastre



Zombitse Sportive Lemur by Luis Henriques de Lancastre

Report by Cathy Harlow  
Images courtesy of Luis Henriques de Lancastre & Cathy Harlow

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Tour participants: Cathy Harlow (Leader) and Parson (Local guide) with 11 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

**Saturday 21st September**

### London Heathrow to Addis Ababa

Most of our group met up at Heathrow Airport at check-in and in the departure lounge. We discovered our flight to Addis Ababa with Ethiopian Airlines was delayed due to the late arrival of the incoming aircraft but finally we were airborne on the overnight flight.

## Day 2

**Sunday 22nd September**

### Addis Ababa to Antananarivo

As we began our descent, it was clear we'd have a very tight transfer to make our onward flight connection, as would most of the other passengers on the flight. Ethiopian Airlines rose to the challenge however, and when we landed directed us to a fleet of buses, each duly depositing passengers at the right aircraft, without even going into the terminal. Once on board we met Luis, the last member of our group who had flown from Zurich, and were swiftly on our way.

We arrived on time at Antananarivo Airport, where immigration formalities were slightly better organised than on previous visits. We were amazed, but happy, that our luggage had all arrived and after meeting our local guide Parson, we changed money and then set off by coach for the Combava Hotel, a 20-minute drive from the airport. During the ride, we noted Malagasy Black Swift and Little Swift in flight and Great Egret, Dimorphic Egret, Black Heron and Squacco Heron among the rice paddies that surround the suburban settlements of Antananarivo, Madagascar's capital.

In the afternoon some of the group wandered to the rice paddies by the hotel, finding a Striated Heron, while in the car park area of the hotel Luis found a Malagasy Bulbul was nesting and a flock of Red Fodies chattered noisily in the trees, flying to and fro. We also found a Malagasy White-eye, a Madagascar Wagtail and several noisy Common Mynas.

Over dinner at the the hotel, Cathy and Parson gave a briefing on the tour schedule and what might lie ahead on our journey through Madagascar. It didn't take long to establish that our group of well-travelled, like-minded wildlife enthusiasts shared a further valuable attribute – a good sense of humour.

## Day 3

**Monday 23rd September**

### Antananarivo to Antsirabe

After a good night's sleep and a substantial breakfast, our drivers loaded the luggage onto the roof of the bus. We found a Madagascar Wagtail feeding its chick in the car park. We set off to visit Lake Alarobia and the Tsarasaotra Reserve, a RAMSAR wetland site in Antananarivo. In spite of the roaring traffic outside the walled reserve, inside we found a peaceful haven teeming with wildfowl. Among thousands of Red-billed Teal and hundreds of White-faced Whistling Duck we found small groups of Fulvous Whistling Duck, Hottentot Teal and Meller's Duck, a pair of Madagascar Grebe plus Red-knobbed Coot and Common Moorhen. Egrets were

plentiful with Dimorphic Egret, Great Egret, Squacco Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron. We admired a Malagasy Kingfisher on its various perches above the water. In the surrounding woodland we found Malagasy Coucal, Red Fody, Yellow-billed Kite, Malagasy White-eye, Madagascan Mannikin and Common Jery and we heard the distinctive rattle of a Malagasy Brush Warbler.

Along the path around the lake we spotted three dragonflies: Orange-winged Dropwing, Southern Banded Groundling and African Bluetail. The morning sun warmed up sufficiently to produce a few butterflies: Brilliant Blue, Brown Pansy and Tiny Grass Blue. Gery, the land snail expert in our group identified an *Achatina fulica* and we saw a Red-legged Golden Orb-web Spider. Among the plants we identified were Blood Sage *Salvia coccinea*, Lantana *Lantana camara*, Black Nightshade *Solanum nigrum*, Goatweed *Ageratum Conyzoides*, a Bulrush *typha latifolia*, Water Hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*, Black-eyed Susan *Thunbergia alata*, Papyrus *Cyperus papyrus* and a stunning Jacaranda and *Canna indica* in bloom. At the end of our visit to the reserve we got excellent views of a Madagascan Hoopoe as it flew into its tree-hollow nest.

We skirted Madagascar's colourful and chaotic capital, a city of almost two million, sprawled over a chain of hills rising from a patchwork of rice paddies and irrigation canals, where we observed Mascarene Martin, Great Egret, Dimorphic Egret and Squacco Heron. We then joined the RN7, the main road winding south through the backbone of the island's mountainous interior. Soon, we were enjoying the sweeping vistas typical of Madagascar's high plateau region. Smooth granite inselbergs formed a backdrop to the fertile rice paddies. We passed roadside stalls where locals skilfully crochet hats and bags from raffia. We spotted a Madagascan Stonechat perched by the road but year on year we find fewer birds along the roadside, due largely to increasing human presence. We stopped for lunch at Ambatolampy at the restaurant Relais des Pêcheurs. Some of the group bought souvenirs of polished aluminium, made in the town.

Continuing the journey after lunch we passed many stands of Mexican Weeping Pines, an introduced species used for cooking fuel and tapped for resin. We noted garden hedging of *Spiraea cantoniensis lanceolata*. Following alongside a river, we spotted Brown-throated Martin, Common Sandpiper, Pied Crow and a Malagasy Kestrel perched on a derelict building. We arrived just before dark at Antsirabe the 'Place of Big Salt', a name that may derive from the occasional frost recorded here. We made a stop by the thermal baths and lake, where we saw a Hamerkop in flight and three more perched on a roof. David identified some introduced plants found there: Mexican Fleabane *Erigeron karvinskyanus*.

We had dinner at the Café Couleur, where we stayed in comfortable bungalows set in beautiful gardens.

## Day 4

Tuesday 24th September

### Antsirabe to Ranomafana via Ambositra and Ankazomifady

Around the hotel we spotted Malagasy Brush Warbler and Red Fody in the gardens and Parson found a female Oustalet's Chameleon. After a copious breakfast buffet, including some interesting Malagasy dishes, we set off to continue the drive south. The spectacular granite mountains were a scenic backdrop to the changing scenes from village life. Zebu cattle, important symbols of wealth, were ploughing and softening the hard-baked clay of the rice paddies, prior to the planting out of rice seedlings. The Indonesian origin of Madagascar's highland people is evident in the way the paddies are stacked up the hillsides in terraces. From time to time we broke the journey and were soon joined by a gaggle of children, who came to check out the 'vazaha', the Malagasy name for

foreigners. We stopped by a pond where we saw Great Egret, Madagascar Wagtail and a Malagasy Kingfisher. Indian Lilac *Melia azedarach* was in bloom and heavy with scent, while Popcorn Senna *Senna didymobotrya* offered bright splashes of yellow candelabra flowers along the roadside.

Next we stopped at a forest of native Tapia trees *Uapaca bojeri*. Madagascar's native silk worm feeds on the leaves of this fire-resistant tree, which also produces an edible fruit. This was a good place to break the journey and taking a short walk we spotted a female Forest Rock Thrush drinking from a stream. We heard several Madagascar Cuckoos calling but failed to find them. Nearby we stopped to look at some bee-eater nests in a road cutting. An Olive Bee-eater flew overhead and June spotted a Malagasy Kestrel perched on a Khasi Pine. A female Souimanga Sunbird was feeding on the flowers of a *Pandanus sp.* and a Common Jery was flitting from bough to bough. This was a good spot for butterflies with Blue Pansy, Small Grass Yellow, African Migrant, Brilliant Blue, Madagascar Commodore and a Madagascar Satyr. We photographed both male and female Broad Scarlet dragonflies. Parson pointed out the enormous elongated cocoons of Comet Moth, hanging like decorations from the branch of a tree.

Arriving at the historic town of Ambositra we stopped to pick up our packed lunch. A little further on at Ankazomivady we came to a suitable picnic spot by a fragment of rainforest and a small pond and marsh. The area is a community reserve, run by local villagers, providing shade and the chance of some wildlife. Over lunch we were disturbed by a group of five Red-fronted Brown Lemurs, keen to join in. It appears that other visitors may have been feeding the lemurs and Parson explained to the reserve staff why this was not to be encouraged. A Madagascar Buzzard flew overhead and David found a male France's Sparrowhawk, perched on a branch just inside the forest. A Souimanga Sunbird was feeding on a Kalanchoe, a pair of Malagasy Bulbuls flew by and a small flock of Red-billed Teal swam to and fro on the pond. From a vantage point overlooking the marsh we observed a pair of Madagascar Snipe take off and land. A Swamp Warbler was calling but failed to show.

A male Madagascar Emperor Dragonfly was in flight over the pond, patrolling its territory and we also noted a Broad Scarlet. On a nearby boulder a Dumeril's Madagascar Swift (an iguanid) played 'hide and seek' and in the grass and shrubby undergrowth we found four Jewel Chameleons.

After lunch we continued the journey, stopping en route to photograph a Purple Broom *Pohygalia lancifolia*. We passed the small town of Camp Robin where a colourful market was in progress. In Madagascar people often walk for many hours to go to market to sell their produce but markets are also important social occasions. Lining the road were sacks of charcoal, still the main source of cooking fuel for many Malagasy people.

For the last stage of the journey we turned off the main road into rainforest and the sky clouded over as we wound our way down the escarpment towards the village of Ranomafana (meaning hot water). Setam Lodge, our accommodation for the next three nights, is located close to the entrance to Ranomafana National Park. After dinner, some of our group went in search of the hotel's garden nightlife, which included a slug found by David and Gery *Deroceras laeve*, a flatworm *Bipalium kewense* found by Rob, and a stunning Verdant Hawkmoth *Euchloron megaera* found by Luis.

## Day 5

## Wednesday 25th September

### Ranomafana National Park

Mascarene Martins were flying over the hotel as we enjoyed an early breakfast. From the dining room window we got great views of a Red-fronted Coua foraging along the forest margin, and a Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher.

We drove to the Talatakely (the name translates as Little Tuesday) entrance to Ranomafana National Park. While Parson was sorting out tickets, our reserve guide Jean-Chrys sent the lemur spotters Bako and Delor ahead while we took advantage of the open views around the car park to look for birds. A pair of Madagascar Starlings perched on a bare branch, a flock of Malagasy White-eye were feeding in an avocado tree and Malagasy Bulbul, Rand's Warbler, Madagascan Magpie Robin, Malagasy Green Sunbird and African Palm Swift were also noted.

We descended on a steep trail to the Namorona River, and crossed the torrent by a new footbridge, the previous one having been taken out during a cyclone. Debbie found a large black millipede feeding in the leaf litter. While we awaited news from the lemur spotters, we stopped to photograph an *Oenea rosea* orchid and Jean-Chrys found a male Velvet Asity, a stunning bird with a bright green caruncle. A forest-dwelling Pygmy Kingfisher also showed well and Gery spotted a Madagascan Cuckoo.

Making our way off trail we came to a thicket of bamboo, the habitat for Golden Bamboo Lemur, a species recognised by scientists in 1986 whose scarcity prompted the founding of the National Park. Madagascar's seven types of bamboo can contain up to 16% cyanide, yet are the preferred food for at least three lemur species – ingesting soil helps deal with the toxins. And there, foraging in front of us, was a group of Golden Bamboo Lemurs, whose celebrity status had attracted quite a crowd of admirers. They may look lethargic on an energy-depleted diet but this is not the case, as we witnessed when they leapt off to investigate another bamboo tangle.

The 40,000 hectare Ranomafana National Park is spread over several steep hills of interlinked ridges and deep valleys. Though the paths are usually well-maintained, the lemurs do not follow them and we found we often needed to go off-trail to view them, which involved some difficult terrain. Luckily, when needed there was usually a hand or tree trunk to grasp.

We next made our way to a group of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs feeding on flower buds and close by were a pair of Red-bellied Lemurs. Rounding off the morning's lemur viewing was a father and daughter pair of Greater Bamboo Lemur. When watching lemurs it pays to be patient. These two were obscured by foliage as they foraged in the canopy but then descended to our eye level to show us how they adeptly nibble the tender base of the leaves.

We were incredibly lucky to see one of Madagascar's endemic carnivores, a Ring-tailed Vontsira, on the path. It seemed in no hurry to evade our cameras and soon we discovered why – it was waiting for a youngster to join it. Once reunited, the pair scampered off, leaving us with the knowledge that we'd witnessed something special.

Another of the morning's surprises was a Madagascan (Long-eared) Owl getting mobbed by a Madagascan Sparrowhawk. Nearby we heard the characteristic 'wolf whistle' call of a Red-tailed Vanga which flew into view and shortly afterwards we had an even better view of a male Velvet Asity, feasting on a red berry.

During the morning we also got good views of a Mascarene Ridged Frog, Brown Leaf Chameleon and a Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko, a perfect dead-leaf mimic and master of deception. How do the guides spot them, we all wanted to know? Amongst the plants noted were a pink terrestrial orchid *Cynorkis ridleyi* and *Lobelia madagascariensis*. We observed two butterfly species: a possible *Saribia perroti* and an Indian Ocean Satyr *Heteropsis vola*.

After a busy morning, we were ready for lunch. Back at the hotel, we found a stunning Banded Blue Swallowtail *Papilio oribazus* and a Peacock Emerald Day Gecko *Phelsuma Quadriocellata*. After lunch there was time for a rest and as we reassembled a group of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs appeared on the hotel lawn. Though this was a great photo opportunity, it is not natural behaviour and we wondered if someone had been feeding them.

We drove past the village of Vohiparara where our guides found a Baron's Painted Mantella, a colourful frog that bears a remarkable similarity to the poison dart frogs of South America, independently obtaining alkaloids from a diet of mites and storing the toxins in skin glands. A classic example of convergent evolution, as both sport bright colors that advertise their toxicity. We spotted a female Giraffe-necked Weevil on its host plant *Dichaetanthera cordifolia*. A Blue Pigeon was perched on a dead tree and we got good views of a Blue Coua foraging as it moved silently from tree to tree. A Madagascar Cuckoo was calling near by and after some effort we found it perched on a branch.

The driver dropped us by the waterfall where the River Namorona tumbles off the edge of the escarpment. Here we looked at plants growing on a damp cliff-face by the road: a native *Kalanchoe peltata*, Dancing Ladies Orchid *Cynorkis lowiana*, a purple-flowering *Streptocarpus hilsenbergii*, an orange daisy *Emilia humifuga* and a Madagascar Sundew *Drosera madagascariensis*. Here too we found several very vocal tree frogs *Boophis madagascariensis* wedged into rock crevices. It was fascinating to watch their vocal sacs inflating. Suspended above the road, we found Mistletoe Cactus *Rhipsalis baccifera*, Madagascar's only native cactus and a rainforest species.

We walked slowly down the road, with views of a Red-fronted Coua. Carol found a diminutive Nose-horned Chameleon, while the spotters showed us the larger O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon in both adult and juvenile forms, and a couple of Glaw's Chameleons, a species believed to be confined to Ranomafana. At dusk, we focused our efforts on observing nocturnal Rufous Mouse Lemurs, with the help of banana smear on a branch. These tea-cup sized primates are among the smallest on earth but are one of Madagascar's most abundant lemurs. Yet, they can be difficult to observe, scurrying at speed along the branches of the understory and capable of spectacular leaps. The banana smears attract the lemurs so we can watch them with a low-powered light that won't damage their eyes. This activity takes place outside the National Park, as night walks are no longer permitted within it.

As we continued our search for wildlife along the roadside, Carol spotted an impressive Ghost Mantis. Over dinner we took time to go through what we had seen during this fantastic first day in Ranomafana's forests.

## Day 6

Thursday 26th September

### Ranomafana National Park

After another early breakfast we decided to head for the Vohiparara section of the National Park for the best chance of seeing Milne-Edwards Sifaka. At the park entrance, spotters Bako and Delor went ahead to look for

lemurs while we ambled along the flat paths, enjoying sightings of a variety of bird species: White-throated Oxylobes, Blue Coua, Cuckoo Roller, Common Newtonia, Long-billed Berniera, Brown Emutail and Madagascan Cuckooshrike. We photographed the egg packet of a Giraffe-necked Weevil, carefully sewn up and then allowed to fall into the leaf litter at the base of the host plant. Locating lemurs is more challenging in Vohiparara because there are far fewer visitors, fewer trails and a lower canopy, with correspondingly denser understory growth. And furthermore, mobile phone signals are very patchy here, meaning that our lemur spotters would have to run to find us and let us know of any sightings. But this is all part of the challenge of wildlife viewing in Madagascar.

We marvelled at the clear-running streams, lined with Screw-pines *Pandanus* – Madagascar has 26 species, and Tree Ferns *Cyathea* – of which the island has 49 endemic species! In a slow-flowing stretch of water, we found two Ivohimanitra Madagascar Frogs *Mantidactylus majori* perched on twigs above the water. Another frog *Blommersia sp.* was tucked inside a cluster of dead leaves, while among the leaves of a Screw-pine we found a Malagasy Glass Frog *Mantidactylus pulcher*. Another species was White whiskered Madagascar Frog *Mantidactylus melanopleura*, with pale back, dark sides and a prominent white stripe stretching to the nostril. Even though we hadn't yet seen lemurs this morning, everyone was enjoying just being there and taking in the often quirky rainforest flora and fauna including a large stick insect and a snake which slid off too quickly into the undergrowth so we did not manage to identify it.

Just as we began to wonder if the lemurs were on strike, the spotters arrived with news of a group of four Milne-Edwards's Sifakas. Joint holders of the 'Largest Lemur' title with Indri and Diademed Sifaka, the sight of a Milne-Edwards's Sifaka's orange-red eyes peering down at you is thrilling. A juvenile in the group was curious, even audacious, coming to within a few yards of us. One of the adults had a baby and stayed at a distance from us. Using their long hindlimbs for grip and stretching out their forelimbs to snatch clusters of leaves we watched as they foraged. Then, exhausting the potential of one tree, they'd bound to the next, in acrobatic leaps of many metres, landing vertically on the trunk. This was a really great encounter, made all the more special by the fact we were alone in the forest with the lemurs.

Not wanting to outstay our welcome, we moved on and got great views of a pair of Blue Couas and a Long-billed Berniera foraging. Our next lemur encounter was thanks to excellent spotting by Carol, who noticed rustling in the canopy, which turned out to be a pair of Red-bellied Lemurs with a baby. After some reasonable views, they bounded off into the distance and this was our cue to return to the hotel for lunch. Over lunch we observed a Malagasy Kestrel and several Ornate Girdled Lizards *Zonosaurus ornatus* on the Bermuda Grass lawn.

After lunch and a short rest, we drove to the Talatakely entrance to explore the main section of the reserve again. In the afternoon, the trails are usually much quieter but we seemed to be tailed by a group of rather boisterous Malagasy visitors. However, we were soon distracted by the family of Golden Bamboo Lemurs foraging in the canopy. Continuing along up the stepped trail, we got good views of a Pitta-like Ground Roller on the path but unfortunately the light was too poor for a decent photograph. Nearby we found a Pygmy Kingfisher but as the spotters had called in with a sighting of Black and White Ruffed Lemur, we were off at speed. The pair were high in the canopy, at rest to start with but later moving off to forage. Fruit and nectar eaters, these lemurs are important forest pollinators. With the light now fading fast, we made our way to the Bellevue viewpoint, where some of the group saw a Madagascan Wood Rail. We found a Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko getting ready for the

night shift and looking much more like a gecko than the dead-leaf mimic we'd seen yesterday. We then descended directly to the river and back to the car park.

A short night walk brought O'Shaughnessy's, Glaw's and Nose-horned Chameleons and an impressive count of 15 Madagascar Bright-eyed Frogs. It was now time to say goodbye to our guide Jean Chrys and spotters Bako and Delor who had done a marvellous job for us over the last two days.

In a last-ditch attempt to see Starry-night Reed Frog, Parson arranged for us to look around the gardens of Centrest Hotel, where this beautiful frog is often seen – and we were in luck, a male of the species found by Luis. We also noted a Lined Emerald Day Gecko by one of the hotel lights.

## Day 7

Friday 27th September

### Ranomafana to Isalo

Another early rise this morning. Over breakfast we saw a group of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs crossing the road by the hotel. Rob saw a Red-fronted Coua, perhaps the same individual we'd seen yesterday. We were on the road by 7.00, the early morning sun lighting up the forest, where threads of mist lingered. We saw evidence of *Tavy*, the slash and burn practice that is fragmenting Madagascar's forests at an unsustainable rate. *Tavy* tends to be most evident along the road as this is where local people want to farm, to be able to sell any surplus produce for cash to passing traffic.

At Madagascar's second highland city Fianarantsoa, the drivers took on fuel, while we used the facilities. Back on the move, we passed the taxi brousse (bush taxi) station, where throngs of overlaid minibuses were preparing to depart, their roof racks piled high with anything from bicycles and sofas to hens and ducks. Leaving the city, many of the rice paddies had been turned to brickworks, and huge smoking brick ovens lined the road. We passed herds of zebu cattle on a long slow march north to the capital to be sold – in some parts of Madagascar a family's wealth is measured by the size of their herd and zebu take the place of money.

We passed fields of *Artemisia*, a plant used to treat fever and malaria, but also grown as bio-fuel. We saw Purple Heron, Yellow-billed Kite, Pied Crow and Hamerkop along the way and stopped to admire the unusual seed heads of Lion's Ear *Leonotis nepetifolia*, also noting the yellow blooms of *Crotalaria retusa*.

Arriving at the town of Ambalavao, we were shown around the Antaimoro paper workshop, where beautiful flower-impregnated paper is made by hand from the pulp of the Avoha shrub *Trilepisium madagascariensis*, following a technique developed by Arab settlers on the coast. A Peregrine Falcon flew overhead during our visit.

Some of our group visited the colourful market in Ambalavao while Parson collected our picnic lunch. From there it was a short drive to the community forest reserve at Anja, sited among boulders at the foot of monumental granite domes. The forest supports a healthy population of Ring-tailed Lemurs and at this time of year they are easy to find as they feed on the flowers of Indian Lilac *Melia azedarach*, whose heady scent was in the air. The reserve was set up by local villagers and the entry fee benefits the community. There have been huge changes in the fourteen years since the reserve began and the village now has its own school and health post.



The guides led us to the first of several groups of Ring-tailed Lemur, where we enjoyed quietly observing them at rest in the boughs of an Indian Lilac. These are social lemurs and grooming and scent marking to define their territory and leave messages to one another are all part of the daily routine. Unlike most of the lemur species we'd observed in Ranomafana, Ring-tails form larger groups and here we were seeing up to 15 adults and juveniles headed by a dominant female. There were also many new-born babies, the youngest clinging to their mother's belly, older ones riding pillion. One female we noted had twins. What makes Anja a particularly rewarding place to see the Ring-tails are the large granite boulders that are natural adventure playground for these agile and acrobatic lemurs, who are as comfortable on the ground as they are in trees. We witnessed some of the lemurs ingesting soil to aid digestion and neutralise toxins.

A flock of Red-billed Teal were on the lake and we got good views of Grey-headed Lovebirds, Olive Bee-eater, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Bulbul and a Madagascar Harrier Hawk in flight over the granite cliffs. We spotted a frog-hunting Striped Madagascar Garter Snake *Thamnosophis lateralis* with bold black and pale yellow stripes, a Madagascar Golden Reed Frog *Heterixalus luteostriatus*, a Karsten's Girdled Lizard *Zonosaurus karsteni* and several Oustalet's Chameleons *Furcifer oustaleti* – the female being green and the male a dull brown. Several butterflies were flitting about – Citrus Swallowtail, Brilliant Blue, Blue Pansy, Painted Lady, Madagascar Orange Tip and African Monarch. A very large centipede *Scolopendra morsitans* crossed the path in front of us – they can deliver a very nasty bite and our guides gave it a wide berth!

Our picnic lunch was spread on tables under a shady straw canopy but all too soon it was time to move on with still several hours drive ahead of us. Around us, the coarse dry grass, which zebu find unpalatable, had been burned off to encourage new shoots – this introduced grass has largely replaced the original savanna. Along the roadside Madagascar Larks, Yellow-billed Kites and Pied Crows were plentiful and we also spotted a Purple Heron. We stopped near the 'Bishop's Hat' a prominent rock formation, where the endemic *Xerophyta dasylirioides* was growing.

After a short stop at Ihosy, the centre for the Bara people, we tackled the long climb to the Horombe Plateau. Soon Isalo's sandstone massif appeared ahead of us in the fading evening light. We arrived at the well-appointed Hotel Jardin du Roi, where we checked into spacious rooms and enjoyed an excellent choice on the dinner menu. Madagascar Nightjar were calling on the path to our rooms.

## Day 8

Saturday 28th September

### Isalo National Park

Our plan for an early morning walk was scuppered by heavy rain that started just as we assembled. We huddled under the veranda of the hotel bar from where we spotted Souimanga Sunbird, Madagascar Magpie Robin, Madagascar Bulbul and a Madagascar Wagtail. A Grandidier's Dwarf Gecko shared our shelter. However, it was largely dry for the rest of the morning spent in Isalo National Park with a mix of spectacular scenery, very obliging lemurs, some great bird sightings, interesting plants and downright quirky invertebrates.

After breakfast we set off for the town of Ranohira, which means 'watering place for Ring-tailed Lemurs', a name that sounded promising. Along the way we spotted a Malagasy Coucal and Madagascar Stonechat. We picked up our National Park guide Rolland and continued by coach to the foot of Isalo's sandstone cliffs. Along

the way, Rolland explained how Isalo formed when a deep valley filled with sediments, which were subsequently pushed up by tectonic force and over time eroded into the spectacular formations we were about to witness.

We set off on foot at a slow pace into the Namaza Canyon, Rolland stopping frequently to show us an ever-lengthening list of natural curiosities.

We admired a Ground Mantis *Tarachodes* sp, a Twig Mimic Mantis possibly a *Popa spurca*, and Snout Bug *Zanna tenebrosa*, perfectly camouflaged as a twig but sporting flashy blue and red wings, when disturbed. We marvelled at a Net-throwing Spider *Deinopsis* sp. as Rolland explained how it spins a net web to throw and capture prey. Somewhat bravely, Rolland picked up a Scorpion *Opisthacanthus madagascariensis* to show us.

Isalo is famous for its flora with over 1200 plant species found there, of which 15% are endemic to the park and 40% are medicinal. Among the species we identified were the parasitic Dodder *Cuscuta planiflora*, a *Lycopodium* sp Clubmoss, an orange-flowered endemic shrub *Chadsia flammea* attracting Souimanga Sunbirds to its nectar, a purple-flowering shrub *Pemphis madagascariensis* (Lythraceae), a *Hibiscus ferrugineus* and *Dalbergia purpurea*, a type of Rosewood, Rosary Pea *Abrus precatorius*, which has bright orange poisonous seeds, *Bonamia spectabilis*, a pale mauve convolvulus and *Tambourissa purpurea*, whose seeds are a favourite of Malagasy Bulbuls.

As the sun had not yet appeared, birds were still pretty active and on our way into the Namaza Canyon we saw Malagasy Kestrel, Madagascar Stonechat, Malagasy Bulbul, Olive Bee-eater, Malagasy Coucal, Malagasy Green Sunbird, Chabert Vanga, Forest Rock Thrush, Common Jery, Malagasy Turtle Dove, Madagascar Mannikin, Malagasy Kingfisher, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher and Madagascar Cuckooshrike. We heard White-throated Rail call from the riverbank but did not see it.

Arriving at the forest surrounding the Namaza campsite, we encountered a Verreaux's Sifaka. This individual is the only one left of a group that used to reside in the area, the others having fled when fire swept through the canyon. It is planned to reintroduce others of the species in the hope that this youngster will be accepted into a new group. A group of Ring-tailed Lemurs were spread out over several trees, foraging on the fruit of a *Ficus*. While we spent time watching and photographing the Ringtailed Lemurs, Rolland took off to look for other wildlife, returning with news of a roosting Scops Owl, of which we got good views. We also watched a female Buttonquail and later a male accompanied by a chick, stirring up the leaf-litter looking for food, leaving bare circular patches of soil. In this species, the female is more colourful than the male, who incubates the eggs and cares for the young.

At this point some of our group elected to stay around the forest with Parson, while others continued with Rolland further into the gorge. We descended to a clear stream, flanked by the palms *Dyopsis onilabensis*, *Dyopsis variabilis* and *Ravenea glauca*. Following the stream, which had rather a lot of water in it following the heavy rain, we observed Crimson Dropwing *Trithemis selika* and Broad Scarlet *Crocothemis erythraea* dragonflies. Climbing a rocky path with steps cut into the boulders, we arrived at Cascade des Nymphes and its refreshing pool fed by a small waterfall. We noted a purple carnivorous bladderwort *Utricularia bisquamata*, and numerous *Cyathea* tree ferns.

On the way back to the car park we found a Mascarene Ridged Frog, a Mahafaly Sand Snake, and got good views of Madagascan Cuckooshrike, Olive Bee-eater, Madagascan Cisticola, a pair of perching Madagascan Hoopoes and a Peregrine Falcon and Madagascan Buzzard in flight over the cliffs.

During the morning we saw a number of interesting butterflies including Madagascar Swallowtail, a Brilliant Blue, African Migrant, African Monarch, Cream-lined Swallowtail, Broad-bordered Grass Yellow, Spotted Sailer and Common Zebra Blue.

Returning to the hotel for a late lunch, we then had time for a rest and a swim. We set out late afternoon to explore the hotel grounds and the network of canyons and sandstone bluffs behind the hotel. We admired the bulbous water-storing trunks and delicate yellow flowers of Elephant's Foot *Pachypodium rosulatum ssp gracilis*, endemic Aloe *Aloe imalotensis*, Rosy Periwinkle *Catharanthus roseus* and Salotse *Ichnolepis graminifolia*, the plant that gives Isalo its name. We found many thousands of orange and black Plataspid Shield Bugs *Libyaspsis coccinellaoides* gorging on the sap of *Albizia gummifera*. Four Emerald Day Geckos *Phelsuma hielscheri* teased us with a game of hide and seek on a *Pandanus* leaf. A beautiful Green Lynx Spider, an ambush predator, was lying in wait on a leaf.

We climbed to a viewpoint overlooking the area from where we spotted a pair of Lesser Vasa Parrots in flight, a Crested Drongo and several Bulbuls. Returning to the hotel, there was time for a shower before drinks in the hotel's bar before dinner. With an early rise scheduled for the morning, everyone turned in straight after dinner.

## Day 9

## Sunday 29th September

### Isalo to Zombitse National Park & Ifaty

We were on the road by 5am this morning, heading west over savanna grassland. We passed the sapphire mining town of Ilakaka, which exploded from a hamlet to a city in the early years of a recent sapphire boom. As mining operations shift to elsewhere in the region, it has begun to take on the look of an abandoned shanty town.

En route to Zombitse, we stopped by some rice paddies and a river where we spotted a Striated Heron, a few White-faced Whistling Ducks, an Olive Bee-eater and a Cattle Egret.

Zombitse National Park is a pocket of dry deciduous forest, sharing some characteristics of spiny forest and known as a transitional forest. Not many people stop here as the lack of accommodation means that most visitors arrive during the heat of the day, but with our early start we were there by 7.00am. Accompanied by park guide Randria, we set off to look for birds along the network of easy, flat trails, while spotter Martin went ahead to look for lemurs. Because at this time of year the forest is not in full leaf, birds are easier to spot and we had good views of Cuckoo Roller, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Madagascan Green Pigeon, Running Coua, Red-tailed Vanga, Common Newtonia and Common Jery. The local endemic Appert's Tetraka showed well as it hopped from branch to branch in the understory and we got excellent views of a Madagascan Harrier Hawk being mobbed by two Lesser Vasa Parrots and an unexpected sighting of Banded Kestrel.

The spotters meanwhile had located a group of five Verreaux's Sifakas, limbs spread-eagled facing the sun to warm up. In a while, they began feeding on fruit and leaves and we noticed that one of them had a small baby, born in August and still clinging tenaciously to its mother's back. The early morning light was perfect for photography. After feeding for a while, the group moved off and the mother and baby came down onto the path

and took a few quasi-comical dancing side steps. Their forelimbs are much shorter than their hindlimbs, making it impossible for them to walk on all fours. Next the spotters found a locally endemic Zombitse Sportive Lemur, a largely solitary nocturnal species that during the day holes up in a tree cavity. Their large eyes give them good night vision but when roosting during the day they can detect sudden movement and noise to warn them of predators. After observing this one for a while, we left it to rest and continued our walk. It was Luis who spotted our next lemur, another Zombitse Sportive Lemur resting in a tree fork.

Returning to the park entrance, we found a Standing's Day Gecko, another local endemic only found in the area - a large species with a subtle but intricate pattern and colouring. A Giant Coua was spotted wandering through the undergrowth and ambled onto the path in front of us, giving us great views. A Three-eyed Lizard (Iguanid) scuttled around in the sand, its third eye plainly visible on the top of the head. We found a skink *Trachylepis dumasi*, which freezes to confuse predators, becoming invisible in the process and a large Oustalet's Chameleon. The guide took us to a roosting place for White-browed Owl and Scops Owl, with good views of both. Back in an open area we saw several butterflies: Mocker Swallowtail, Spotted Blue Swallowtail. African Monarch, Common Leopard and Madagascan Orange-tip.

We admired some interesting plants: an endemic Tree Aloe *Aloe vahombe*, *Euphorbia enterophora* which like many others in the family produces tiny leaves and photosynthesises on its branches, a flowering tree *Dicoma incana* and a splendid Za Baobab *Adansonia za*.

Parson pointed out Flatid Leaf Bugs *Phrommia rosea*, that come in candy colours – the juveniles are green and adults pink, while the nymphs are clad in fluffy-white secretions. We also found a hissing cockroach.

Continuing the journey, we passed rolling hills, dotted with statuesque Za Baobabs and the highly decorative roadside tombs of the Mahafaly people. On the approach to Toliara, we crossed an ancient coral rag limestone plateau, whose scrub vegetation was dominated by flat-topped *Alluandia comosa*, a species endemic to the area.

We took lunch and a guided walk at the Antsokay Arboretum, set up by a Swiss botanical enthusiast Hermann Petignat in 1980. Covering 4 hectares, the reserve boasts 90% regional endemic species and 85% have medicinal properties. For the first time visitor, walking among these weird and wonderful trees is a lesson in the extremes to which plants will go to adapt to hostile conditions. Celia the guide, pointed out some of the specialities of the reserve: a natural bonsai *Operculicarya pachypus* (Anacardiaceae), a *Delonix floribunda* (Fabaceae) which photosynthesises on the trunk and is used to make musical instruments as the timber has good resonance, *Euphorbia laru*, with a sticky white sap, a characteristic of many of that family, *Commiphora aprevalii* (Burseraceae) whose peeling bark gives it the name 'Vazaha (foreigner)' tree, *Moringa drouhardii* the false baobab (Moringaceae), *Kalanchoe beharensis* (Crassulaceae) whose leaf shape gives it the name Napoleon's Hat, a red-flowered *Kalanchoe linearifolia* (Crassulaceae), *Pachypodium geayi* (Apocynaceae) forming a tall tree, *Cyphostema montagnaci* (Vitaceae) with a flattened bulbous water-storing trunk, *Jatropha mahfalensis* (Euphorbiaceae) a tree whose seeds produce biodiesel, *Alluandia montagnaci* (Didieraceae) the deciduous 'Compass Tree' whose trunk points south to catch humidity in the air, *Euphorbia onoclada* which photosynthesises through its sausage-shaped branches – it doesn't even bother to produce any leaves, *Cedrolopsis grevei* (Rutaceae), with a common cure for backache and rheumatism in its leaves, *Pluchea grevei* (Asteraceae) – a cure for the common cold, *Strophanthus boivinii* (Apocynaceae) with medicinal properties to treat cardiac problems and Wild Vanilla *Vanilla decaryana* (Orchidaceae).

In spite of the mounting heat, there were birds around: Magpie Robin, Souimanga Sunbird, Buttonquail, Turtle Dove and Green-capped Coua. Reptiles were abundant : Thick-tailed Day Gecko *Phelsuma mutabilis*, a Spiny-tailed Iguanid *Oplurus cyclurus*; a Warty Chameleon *Furcifer verrucosus*, which we witnessed changing colour from green to grey; a Skink *Trachylepis vato*; a Mahafaly Sand Snake *Mimophis mahfalensis* and a Madagascar Keeled Plated Lizard *Tracheloptychus madagascariensis*. Over lunch, we watched Sakalava Weavers, Madagascar Mannikins and Namaqua Doves.

After lunch, we passed the bustling city of Toliara, then headed north on the road to Ifaty. We stopped by a pond to observe Black-winged Stilt, Kittlitz's Plover, Three-banded Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Ringed Plover Cattle Egret and Squacco Heron. Along the way we passed the fishing villages of the Vezo people, their reed huts scattered over the sand dunes. Arriving at the seaside Hotel Paradisier, we checked in. At dusk we went to look for Grey-Brown Mouse Lemurs emerging from their daytime roost. Wide-eyed and wary, these diminutive primates are most active at dusk. Over dinner, a local folklore group performed songs and dance to traditional music inviting us to join them - thank you Debbie for doing the honours.

## Day 10

Monday 30th September

### Ifaty & Reniala Reserve

We were up at first light for pre-breakfast birding at the Reniala private reserve, a 10 minute drive north of our hotel and adjacent to the village of Ifaty. Visitors can explore a small pocket of protected spiny forest, where the guides are expert at finding Long-tailed Ground Roller and Sub-desert Mesite - two local rarities confined to this corner of the island. Abundant leaf litter forms an ideal foraging ground for these ground-dwelling birds, both of which are under threat because of habitat loss. Also typical of this forest are *Givotia madagascariensis*, used to make dug-out canoes, and red-barked *Adansonia rubrostipa* baobabs, Octopus Trees *Didiera madagascariensis*, tree-sized Aloes *Aloe divaricata* and statuesque Elephant's Foot *Pachypodium geayi*.

We enjoyed a busy and productive morning, with good views of Hook-billed Vanga perched on the top of an Octopus Tree, several sightings of White-headed Vanga, Chabert Vanga, Archbold's Newtonia, Running Coua, Crested Coua and a very good sighting of a perched Madagascar Harrier Hawk.

Special mention should be recorded of our sighting of a male Sub-desert Mesite at its roost on a branch and a Long-tailed Ground Roller, ambling among the leaf-litter, showing its splendid blue feathers and incredibly long tail. We also witnessed a pair of Malagasy Kestrels mating on the top of an Octopus tree. Rounding off the morning's sightings was a brief encounter with a Malagasy Speckled Hognose Snake. Ring-tailed Lemurs rescued from the pet trade are now roaming free at Reniala and we noticed a group of them sleeping on the top of their former enclosure.

After a late breakfast at the hotel, we had free time to relax, take a walk through the hotel grounds and surrounding spiny forest or along the beach. Debbie shared her breakfast with a Magpie Robin and saw Grey-headed Lovebird, Namaqua Dove, Spiny-tailed Iguanid, Three-eyed Lizard and Spotted Blue Swallowtail. Sue and Alan saw Namaqua Dove, Magpie Robin, Sub-desert Brush Warbler, Giant Swallowtail, Souimanga Sunbird and Three-eyed Lizard. Luis found Grey-headed Lovebird, Sub-desert Brush Warbler, Namaqua Dove and Three-eyed Lizard. Mike and June got Crested Coua, Hoopoe, Magpie Robin, Grey-headed Lovebird and Namaqua Dove. Carol and Rob saw Great Egret, Sub-desert Brush Warbler and Red-capped Coua. Cathy

spotted Ruddy Turnstone, Common Greenshank, Whimbrel and an African Caper White butterfly. There were also huge numbers of Madagascan Giant Swallowtail and Madagascan Orange-tipped butterflies around the hotel gardens. David recorded some of the plant species around the hotel.

Over a late lunch, we saw Curlew Sandpiper and Ringed Plover on the beach and Olive Bee-eaters, Namaqua Doves and a Grey-headed Lovebird drinking from the swimming pool. In the late afternoon we drove to the salt pans where we found Madagascan Plover, Kittlitz's Plover, White-fronted Plover, Ringed Plover, Common Greenshank, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone and Little Stint. On the ponds near the Hotel Paradisier we found Three-banded Plover, Common Sandpiper, Madagascan Plover, Common Greenshank, and nearby perched in a tree Malagasy Coucal and Malagasy Kestrel. At dusk we looked again for Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs with our torches and spotted the eyeshine of at least eight individuals – these tiny lemurs dart around like clockwork toys and are most active just after nightfall. We could also see the eye-shine from Madagascan Nightjars in flight around the hotel swimming pool, attracted by the insects gathering around the lights.

## Day 11

Tuesday 1st October

### Ifaty to Tana and on to Andasibe

With our flight to Tana scheduled for the afternoon, we had time for another early morning visit to Reniala Reserve, arriving in time for a spectacular sunrise tinging the baobab trunks pink and then orange. Dabe showed us a pair of rescued Black and White Ruffed Lemurs, being held at Reniala temporarily pending eventual release into a rainforest habitat. We had another fantastic morning at Reniala, which turned into the day of the Sickle-billed Vanga, a species that had hitherto evaded us. This spectacular bird is equipped with a long down-curved bill, used to extract prey from crevices. One of its vocalisations resembles the wailing of a baby and as we followed the path around the perimeter of the reserve, Dabe was listening attentively for the call and patience paid off as we spotted three Sickle-billed Vangas. We got several views of them during the morning both in flight and feeding.

The morning's sightings also brought good views of *Thamnornis*, a local endemic species, Crested Coua, an arboreal species with stunning turquoise and purple bare skin around the eye, seen hopping from branch to branch, and Green-capped Coua and Running Coua, both terrestrial in habit. The spotters found Sub-desert Mesite and Long-tailed Ground Roller and we were treated to great views and photo opportunities of both of Reniala's signature species. We also enjoyed memorable and very close views of a perched Madagascan Harrier Hawk before it took off, and a Madagascan Nightjar on the ground totally camouflaged against the leaf-litter. Madagascan Hoopoe, Crested Drongo, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Malagasy Turtle Dove, Grey-headed Lovebird and Red-tailed Vanga also showed well. We ended the morning with great views of Ring-tailed Lemurs feeding on the leaves of an Octopus Tree, and we saw a Warty Chameleon and a Thick-tailed Gecko. We photographed a red-flowering *Combretum grandidieri*.

After breakfast at the hotel, it was time to pack and get ready for the drive to Toliara. Along the way we encountered a flock of 30 Greater Flamingo in flight. At Toliara, we had pizzas at the Victory Hotel before the drive to the airport, where we said our farewells to our very amenable and competent driver and assistant, who now had a long drive back to the capital. During the flight we looked down on Madagascar's parched southern interior and the many soil-laden rivers draining to the Mozambique Channel. We landed at Tana at nightfall in a dramatic thunderstorm and heavy rain, collected our luggage and met our new driver. We picked up a packed

supper from the Hotel Relais des Plateaux and then began the long journey to Andasibe. Unfortunately we hit the rush hour and got stuck in endless queues of traffic so what should have been a four-hour journey became seven hours! We were all pretty exhausted when we arrived at Vakona Lodge in need of a comfortable room and a restful though short night's sleep.

## Day 12

## Wednesday 2nd October

### Andasibe-Mantadia National Park (Analamazaotra Indri Reserve in the Morning Andasibe Community Reserve in the Afternoon)

After breakfast we assembled in the car park where Mascarene Martins were flying overhead, Malagasy White-eyes and a female Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher were feeding on a Bottle Brush and Nelicourvi Weaver, Malagasy Kingfisher and Madagascar Cisticola were active in the car park area and around the pond. David saw Crested Drongo and Chabert Vanga by the moth blanket, where Rob saw a Walker's Owl Moth.

We picked up Parson and Luis, who had seen a nesting Green Pigeon and once at the entrance to Analamazaotra Indri Reserve, we met our guide Maurice, who together with his son Christophe would spend the next days showing us the rainforest flora and fauna of the park. Our first visit would be to the Indri Reserve, now part of the Andasibe-Mantadia National Park.

While we were waiting for our tickets, we saw Malagasy Green Sunbird, a pair of Madagascar Cuckooshrikes and a rather sleepy Tree Boa, coiled up on the ground. Maurice showed us a Crossley's Vanga on its nest, sited just a metre above the ground and a Lined Emerald Day Gecko. We also noted Ginger *Zingiber officinale*, Black-eyed Susan *Thunbergia alata*, Soapbush *Clidemia hirta*. Maurice pointed out the Vakona Screw pine *Pandanus vandani* after which our hotel is named, a *Canarium madagascariensis*, a tree whose sap is used as incense and a *Smilax anceps*, a vine with sharp snagging thorns and two orchids, *Cynorkis ridleyi* and *Bulbophyllum analamazaotrae*.

We witnessed several beautiful butterflies. Mike spotted and photographed a Clouded Mother of Pearl butterfly and we also saw Cream-lined Swallowtail, Banded Blue Swallowtail and a possible *Saribia perroti*. A tree trunk was festooned with processionary caterpillars but we did not discover what species. We also admired a splendid Madagascar Fire Millipede, on the path.

Inside the reserve we got good views of a Rainforest Scops Owl, Long-billed Berniera, Spectacled Tetraka, France's Sparrowhawk, White-throated Oxylobes, Tylas, Ward's Vanga, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Blue Vanga and a Nelicourvi Weaver making a nest.

Towards the end of our visit we encountered a mixed feeding flock of Common Jery, Nelicourvi Weaver, Long-billed Berniera, Blue Vanga, Red-tailed Vanga, Common Newtonia, Crested Drongo and Malagasy White-eye. Unusually, we were able to stay with the flock as they followed the path for quite a distance. The views of Blue Vanga were especially rewarding. On Lac Vert, we found a pair of Red-billed Teal amongst the Lotus flowers.

Our first encounter with lemurs was a group of Common Brown Lemurs feeding on the nectar of a *Solandra longiflora*, an introduced vine with huge yellow cup-shaped flowers. Next we enjoyed the company of a group of around ten Diademed Sifakas, one with a small baby. The sifakas were brought to Andasibe when the construction of a nickel pipeline robbed them of a large part of their territory. The introduction was successful as

Diademed Sifakas do not compete for food with Indri. The sifakas were in a 'playful' mood and we watched them not only feeding and socialising but also taking huge bounding leaps from trunk to trunk. We heard their contact call, a bit like a cow mooing.

Our last lemurs of the morning were a family group of three Indri. What's not to like about these gorgeous green-eyed black and white 'teddy bear' lemurs, we wondered? After a foraging bout, one of them sat back in tree fork, gazing down at us... How could anyone not be moved by the plight of the largest living lemurs as they are a target for the bush meat trade, which along with habitat fragmentation puts their long-term survival at risk. Indris cannot survive away from the forest – they pine and die.

After lunch at the hotel, we picked up Maurice and Christophe, and went to look for Madagascan Owl perched high in a thicket of pines. At the Andasibe Community Reserve, Maurice showed us a pair of Collared Nightjars roosting on the forest floor among moss and leaves and almost invisible due to their cryptic plumage. We witnessed a pair of Crested Drongos collecting nesting material. Maurice showed us the 'magic tree', an mystery species whose leaves change every three months. Loyal people come to touch it and make a wish, then leave a gift or make an animal sacrifice in return.

We saw a Greater Vasa Parrot in flight and heard the more tuneful Lesser Vasa Parrot call. We came across a single Common Brown Lemur and nearby Maurice showed us a very well-camouflaged Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko, whose cryptic colouring totally matches the mossy tree trunk where it hides, facing downwards, during the day. It even has a fringe around its body blending with the trunk to avoid casting a shadow. Next were two young female Parson's Chameleons - a species inhabiting the interior of the rainforest. As night fell, we continued the walk by torchlight spotting a couple of Bright-eyed Frogs *Boophis viridis* and *Boophis luteus*, a Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko in action and a Nose-horned Chameleon. We got great views of two Goodman's Mouse Lemurs and an Eastern Woolly Lemur, the largest of the nocturnal lemurs, plus a brief view of a Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur.

Back at the hotel, Cathy found a Lowland Streaked Tenrec by the steps going up from the car park and Luis later spotted a tenrec in the same area. After dinner we opted for an early night to catch up on lost sleep. Luis and Parson were up in the night to look for Comet Moths, with success.

## Day 13

Thursday 3rd October

### Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

At breakfast the Comet Moth was still in the hotel gardens for the rest of us to admire. Many other moths were on the moth blanket attracting a Paradise Flycatcher, Wagtails and a Drongo. David volunteered to try to identify some of them and he also spotted a pair of White-throated Rail in the hotel gardens. We gathered in the car park and set off by 4WD jeeps to Mantadia for a full morning in a primary rainforest reserve. The reason for swapping vehicles soon became apparent as the dirt track to access the park is rutted. We saw evidence of slash and burn along the forest margin as Madagascar's population continues to rise.

We broke the journey part way and Maurice and Christophe took us to look for Short-legged Ground Roller and this is where having guides who know where to look is essential. The detour involved crossing a small stream, made easier with plenty of helping hands to steady us. Maurice pointed out the bird, which had just caught a frog, probably a Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog. It flew up onto a perch and we watched mesmerised as it slowly



began to swallow the huge frog whole, a process that took a good 15 minutes. On the way back to the road, a White-headed Vanga flew over.

Continuing the bumpy ride for another 30 minutes, we parked up at the start of one of the trails into the forest. Numerous butterflies were flitting around in the car park clearing: Green Lady, Banded Blue, Clouded Mother of Pearl and a Madagascar Satyr. Here we also spotted a Thorn Spider and a Giraffe-necked Weevil. As we entered the forest a Stripe-throated Jery was singing from a perch and an Eastern Red Forest Rat scuttled through the leaf litter. Crossing a stream by a bridge, the path was flanked by huge buttressed trees festooned with epiphytic *Asplenium nidus* and orchids. Giant stands of *Pandanus*, a tangle of lianas and many tree ferns lined the forest floor.

Further into the forest we heard Madagascan Flufftail calling and managed to get a reasonable view of the male of this very secretive bird. We also got good views of a White-throated Oxylabes, an understory bird and a Nuthatch Vanga, climbing up a tree trunk. Wedge-tailed Jery and Dark Newtonia were two additional new species for us during the walk. We also saw what our guides believed to be Grey-crowned Tetraka, but looking closely at photos later we decided was Spectacled Tetraka.

Mantadia translates as 'hard walking' and lives up to its name when you ascend the steep ridges on either side of the valley, however we were sticking to the lower trails, which apart from ever-present tree roots, were fairly level. The reason for this was about to become apparent as Black and White Ruffed Lemurs like the large mature trees on the valley floor, which offer their preferred flowers and fruit. We had heard their 'crazy dog snarling' call earlier and soon we could see them high in the canopy resting initially but then moving off to forage, allowing us glimpses as they moved in and out of the foliage. Nearby, we encountered a group of three Indris bounding from tree to tree but then settling down to rest. We remarked how much darker in colour these Indris were compared to those we'd seen yesterday. Maurice explained that colour variation is normal in Indri and some individuals are almost entirely black.

Eventually we emerged from the forest close to a former graphite mine. We we sat down to have our picnic lunch by a secluded pond, in the company of Madagascan Grebe, Common Moorhen and a pair of Meller's Duck. Over lunch we also observed Nelicourvi Weaver, Madagascan Starling, Madagascan Spinetail, Malagasy Kestrel, Malagasy Kingfisher, Lesser Vasa Parrot and Swamp Warbler. We noticed an interesting Clubmoss *Selaginella sp.*

On the drive back we stopped in some marshland to look for Madagascan Rail which Maurice tried very hard to find for us but although we heard it call, it didn't want to show. We settled instead for another view of Madagascan Flufftail.

Returning to the hotel mid-afternoon, some of the group visited Lemur Island, a place where lemurs rescued from the pet trade wander freely on an island – lemurs can't swim so they are confined to the island but are fed by visitors. It's a chance to get really close to several species of lemur, in fact so close you could be said to be 'wearing' a lemur as they are not shy about climbing on you, even sitting on your head!

At dusk we gathered for a night walk at the Mitsinjo Reserve. Mitsinjo is a community association that manages a tract of rainforest and engages in re-forestation with tree nurseries and replanting among its projects. We found several chameleons: Parson's Chameleon, which can live to be five or six years old, Short-nosed Chameleon and

a Brown Leaf Chameleon, almost indistinguishable from the leaf litter until it moves. We spotted two nocturnal lemurs - Eastern Woolly Lemur and a Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur.

## Day 14

Friday 4th October

### Andasibe Mantadia National Park

We elected for another early rise to make the most of our last morning in the Analamazaotra Indri Reserve and once the bags were loaded on the coach, we were off. There was still one lemur species we were keen to find: Grey Bamboo Lemur. Though widespread, it can be puzzlingly elusive but we were lucky – a pair of them were feeding deep inside a thicket of bamboo by the bridge near the park entrance. With a little patience, we eventually got a decent view of them, watching how they strip the outer sheath off the bamboo to get at the soft pith. We also encountered three Common Brown Lemurs and a group of three Indri, which launched into an unforgettable symphony of territorial wailing, audible over a mile away and at close range almost deafening – it sounds uncannily like the vocalisation of an orca!

The morning's bird sightings included Madagascan Magpie Robin, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Green Sunbird, Madagascan Cuckooshrike, Stripe-throated Jery, Striated Heron and Velvet Asity. Maurice showed us several spectacular orchids in bloom: *Bulbophyllum analamazaotracae*, *Bulbophyllum occultum*, *Microcoelia gilpiniae* with a bright orange flower, a pale yellow *Jumellea sp.* with a very long nectary and a pink terrestrial orchid *Cynorkis ridleyi*.

All too soon it was time for the long, winding journey back to Tana, which we hoped would be quicker than last time! Fortunately it was! We enjoyed a farewell dinner at Hotel Combava and a good night's sleep

## Day 15

Saturday 5th October

### Flying Home

Arriving at the airport it was time to say goodbye to our drivers and our guide and friend Parson, who'd worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth-running of the tour, and generously shared so much of his knowledge of Madagascar and its flora and fauna with us.

Our flight to Addis Ababa left on time where we had a five hour stop over before boarding the overnight flight to London Heathrow. At Addis Ababa we said goodbye to Luis, who was flying to Zurich.

## Day 16

Sunday 6th October

We arrived early morning at London Heathrow and now it was time to say goodbye to one another after a memorable holiday.

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## Species Lists

### Lemurs

|    | Common name                              | Scientific name                   | September/October |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |    |    |      |   |   |     |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|------|---|---|-----|
|    |  |                                   | 22                | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26  | 27 | 28 | 29  | 30 | 1  | 2    | 3 | 4 |     |
|    |  | <b>Cheirogaleidae</b>             |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |    |    |      |   |   |     |
| 1  | Grey-brown Mouse Lemur                   | <i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>     |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    | 2   | 8  |    |      |   |   |     |
| 2  | Rufous Mouse Lemur                       | <i>Microcebus rufus</i>           |                   |    |    | 2  | 1   |    |    |     |    |    |      |   |   |     |
| 3  | Goodman's Mouse Lemur                    | <i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>   |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |    |    | 2    |   |   |     |
| 4  | Crossley's (Furry-eared) Dwarf Lemur     | <i>Cheirogalus crossleyi</i>      |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |    |    | 1    | 1 |   |     |
|    |  | <b>Lepilemuridae</b>              |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |    |    |      |   |   |     |
| 5  | Zombitse Sportive Lemur                  | <i>Lepilemur hubbardorum</i>      |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    | 2   |    |    |      |   |   |     |
|    |  | <b>Lemuridae</b>                  |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |    |    |      |   |   |     |
| 6  | Grey Bamboo Lemur                        | <i>Hapalemur griseus griseus</i>  |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |    |    |      |   |   | 3   |
| 7  | Golden Bamboo Lemur                      | <i>Hapalemur aureus</i>           |                   |    |    | 4  | 3   |    |    |     |    |    |      |   |   |     |
| 8  | Greater Bamboo Lemur                     | <i>Hapalemur simus</i>            |                   |    |    | 2  |     |    |    |     |    |    |      |   |   |     |
| 9  | Ring-tailed Lemur                        | <i>Lemur catta</i>                |                   |    |    |    |     | 40 | 20 |     | 14 | 14 |      |   |   |     |
| 10 | Common Brown Lemur                       | <i>Eulemur fulvus</i>             |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |    |    | 4    |   |   | 4+1 |
| 11 | Red-fronted Brown Lemur                  | <i>Eulemur rufifrons</i>          |                   |    | 5  | 5  |     | 8  |    |     |    |    |      |   |   |     |
| 12 | Red-bellied Lemur                        | <i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>        |                   |    |    | 2  | 2+1 |    |    |     |    |    |      |   |   |     |
| 13 | Variiegated Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur | <i>Varecia variegata editorum</i> |                   |    |    |    | 2   |    |    |     |    |    |      |   | 3 |     |
|    |  | <b>Indridae</b>                   |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |    |    |      |   |   |     |
| 14 | Eastern Woolly Lemur (Avahi)             | <i>Avahi laniger</i>              |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |    |    | 1    | 1 |   |     |
| 15 | Verreaux's Sifaka                        | <i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>      |                   |    |    |    |     |    | 1  | 5+1 |    |    |      |   |   |     |
| 16 | Diademed Sifaka                          | <i>Propithecus diadema</i>        |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |    |    | 10+1 | 2 |   |     |
| 17 | Milne-Edwards' Sifaka                    | <i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>       |                   |    |    |    | 4+1 |    |    |     |    |    |      |   |   |     |
| 18 | Indri                                    | <i>Indri indri</i>                |                   |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |    |    | 3    | 3 | 3 |     |

### Other Mammals

|   |                         |                                  |  |  |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1 | Ring-tailed Vontsira    | <i>Galidia elegans</i>           |  |  |  | 1+1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |
| 2 | Lowland Streaked Tenrec | <i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i> |  |  |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |
| 3 | Eastern Red Forest Rat  | <i>Nesomys rufus</i>             |  |  |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |

|  | Common name | Scientific name | September/October |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
|  |             |                 | 22                | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

## Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

|    |                            |                                   |    |      |    |   |   |     |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |   |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|------|----|---|---|-----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|---|---|
| 1  | White-faced Whistling Duck | <i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>        |    | 400  |    |   |   |     |    | 15 |    |    |   |    |    |   |   |
| 2  | Fulvous Whistling Duck     | <i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>        |    | 2    |    |   |   |     |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |   |
| 3  | Meller's Duck              | <i>Anas melleri</i>               |    | 5    |    |   |   |     |    |    |    |    |   |    |    | 2 |   |
| 4  | Red-billed Teal            | <i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>        |    | 2000 | 15 |   |   | 38  |    |    |    |    |   | 2  |    |   |   |
| 5  | Hottentot Teal             | <i>Anas hottentota</i>            |    | 10   |    |   |   |     |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |   |
| 6  | Madagascan Grebe           | <i>Tachybaptus pelzelni</i>       |    | 2    |    |   |   |     |    |    |    |    |   |    |    | 1 |   |
| 7  | Greater Flamingo           | <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>      |    |      |    |   |   |     |    |    |    | 30 |   |    |    |   |   |
| 8  | Black-crowned Night Heron  | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>      |    | 40   | 1  |   |   |     |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |   |
| 9  | Striated Heron             | <i>Butorides striata</i>          | 1  |      |    |   |   |     |    | 1  | 1  | 1  |   |    |    |   | 1 |
| 10 | Squacco Heron              | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>          | 3  | 50   |    |   |   |     |    | 2  |    |    |   |    |    |   |   |
| 11 | Western Cattle Egret       | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>              | 11 | 10   | 30 |   |   | 4   |    | 20 |    | 1  |   |    |    |   |   |
| 12 | Purple Heron               | <i>Ardea purpurea</i>             |    |      |    |   |   | 3   |    |    |    |    |   | 1  |    |   |   |
| 13 | Great Egret                | <i>Ardea alba</i>                 | 10 | 5    | 10 |   |   |     |    | 3  |    |    |   |    |    |   | 4 |
| 14 | Black Heron                | <i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>          | 1  | 30   |    |   |   |     |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |   |
| 15 | Dimorphic Egret            | <i>Egretta dimorpha</i>           | 8  | 200  | 50 |   |   | 50  | 20 | 1  | 7  | 1  | 2 |    |    |   | 5 |
| 16 | Hamerkop                   | <i>Scopus umbretta</i>            |    | 4    | 4  |   |   | 2   |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |   |
| 17 | Madagascan Harrier-Hawk    | <i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>      |    |      |    |   |   | 1   | H  | 1  | 1  | 1  |   |    |    |   |   |
| 18 | Frances's Sparrowhawk      | <i>Accipiter francesiae</i>       |    | 1m   |    |   |   |     |    |    |    |    |   | 1m |    |   |   |
| 19 | Madagascan Sparrowhawk     | <i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i> |    |      |    | 1 |   |     |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |   |
| 20 | Yellow-billed Kite         | <i>Milvus aegyptius</i>           |    | 2    | 6  |   |   | 6   | 10 | 20 | 2  |    |   |    |    |   |   |
| 21 | Madagascan Buzzard         | <i>Buteo brachypterus</i>         |    |      | 2  |   |   |     | 1  |    |    |    |   |    |    | 1 |   |
| 22 | Subdesert Mesite           | <i>Monias benschi</i>             |    |      |    |   |   |     |    |    | 1m | 1m |   |    |    |   |   |
| 23 | Madagascan Wood Rail       | <i>Canirallus kioloides</i>       |    |      |    |   | 1 |     |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   | H |
| 24 | Madagascan Flufftail       | <i>Sarothrura insularis</i>       |    |      |    |   | H |     |    |    |    |    |   |    | 2m |   | H |
| 25 | Madagascan Rail            | <i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>    |    |      |    |   |   |     |    |    |    |    |   |    |    | H |   |
| 26 | White-throated Rail        | <i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>         |    |      |    |   | H |     |    |    |    |    |   |    | 2  |   |   |
| 27 | Common Moorhen             | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>        |    | 2    |    |   |   |     |    |    |    |    |   |    |    | 5 |   |
| 28 | Red-knobbed Coot           | <i>Fulica cristata</i>            |    | 1    |    |   |   |     |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |   |
| 29 | Madagascan Buttonquail     | <i>Turnix nigricollis</i>         |    |      |    |   |   | 4+1 | 3  |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |   |
| 30 | Black-winged Stilt         | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>      |    |      |    |   |   |     |    | 3  |    |    | 6 |    |    |   |   |

|    | Common name             | Scientific name                     | September/October |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
|----|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|
|    |                         |                                     | 22                | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 |   |
| 31 | Common Ringed Plover    | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>         |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 6  |   |   |   |   |
| 32 | Madagascan Plover       | <i>Charadrius thoracicus</i>        |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 3  |   |   |   |   |
| 33 | Kittlitz's Plover       | <i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>         |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 2  | 13 |   |   |   |   |
| 34 | Three-banded Plover     | <i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>       |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 2  | 4  |   |   |   |   |
| 35 | White-fronted Plover    | <i>Charadrius marginatus</i>        |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 2  |   |   |   |   |
| 36 | Madagascan Snipe        | <i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>       |                   |    | 2  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| 37 | Whimbrel                | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>            |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 4  | 1 |   |   |   |
| 38 | Common Greenshank       | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>             |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 10 |   |   |   |   |
| 39 | Common Sandpiper        | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>           |                   | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 2  |   |   |   |   |
| 40 | Ruddy Turnstone         | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>           |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 29 |   |   |   |   |
| 41 | Little Stint            | <i>Calidris minuta</i>              |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |   |   |   |   |
| 42 | Curlew Sandpiper        | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>          |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 7  | 20 |   |   |   |   |
| 43 | Rock Dove               | <i>Columba livia</i>                | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ |   |   | ✓ |
| 44 | Malagasy Turtle Dove    | <i>Nesoenas picturatus</i>          |                   |    | 1  |    | 1  |    | 4  | 1  | 6  |    |   |   |   |   |
| 45 | Namaqua Dove            | <i>Oena capensis</i>                |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 3  | 20 |    |   |   |   |   |
| 46 | Madagascan Green Pigeon | <i>Treron australis</i>             |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |   | 1 |   |   |
| 47 | Madagascan Blue Pigeon  | <i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i> |                   |    |    | 1  | 2  |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| 48 | Malagasy Coucal         | <i>Centropus toulou</i>             |                   | 2  | 1  | H  | 1  |    | 10 | 2  | 2  | 1  | 2 | 3 | 1 |   |
| 49 | Crested Coua            | <i>Coua cristata</i>                |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | H  | 3  | 4  |   |   |   |   |
| 50 | Blue Coua               | <i>Coua caerulea</i>                |                   |    |    | 1  | 5  |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| 51 | Red-capped Coua         | <i>Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps</i>   |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 3  | 1  |   |   |   |   |
| 52 | Red-fronted Coua        | <i>Coua reynaudii</i>               |                   |    |    | 3  |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| 53 | Running Coua            | <i>Coua cursor</i>                  |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 1  | 1  |   |   |   |   |
| 54 | Giant Coua              | <i>Coua gigas</i>                   |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| 55 | Madagascan Cuckoo       | <i>Cuculus rochii</i>               |                   |    | 1  | 2  | H  |    |    |    |    |    |   |   | H | H |
| 56 | Western Barn Owl        | <i>Tyto alba</i>                    |                   |    |    |    |    |    | H  |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| 57 | Rainforest Scops Owl    | <i>Otus rutilus</i>                 |                   |    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 3  | 3  |    | 1 |   |   |   |
| 58 | White-browed Hawk-Owl   | <i>Ninox supercilialis</i>          |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| 59 | Madagascan Owl          | <i>Asio madagascariensis</i>        |                   |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |   | 1 |   |   |
| 60 | Collared Nightjar       | <i>Gactornis enarratus</i>          |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   | 2 |   |   |
| 61 | Madagascan Nightjar     | <i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i> |                   |    |    |    |    |    | H  | 5  | 4  | 2  |   |   |   |   |
| 62 | Madagascan Spinetail    | <i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>        |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   | 6 |   |

|    | Common name                 | Scientific name                     | September/October |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|
|    |                             |                                     | 22                | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |   |
| 63 | African Palm Swift          | <i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>             |                   |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |   | 2 |   |   |   |
| 64 | Alpine Swift                | <i>Tachymarptis melba</i>           |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 3  |    |   |   |   |   |   |
| 65 | Malagasy Black Swift        | <i>Apus balstoni</i>                | 4                 | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |
| 66 | Little Swift                | <i>Apus affinis</i>                 | 1                 |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |
| 67 | Cuckoo Roller               | <i>Leptosomus discolor</i>          |                   |    |    | 1  | 2  |    |    |    | 4  |   |   | 2 | H |   |
| 68 | Short-legged Ground Roller  | <i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>   |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   | 1 |   |
| 69 | Pitta-like Ground Roller    | <i>Atelornis pittoides</i>          |                   |    |    | H  | 1  |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |
| 70 | Long-tailed Ground Roller   | <i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>         |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1 | 1 |   |   |   |
| 71 | Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher | <i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i> |                   |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |
| 72 | Malagasy Kingfisher         | <i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>      |                   | 3  | 1  |    |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |   |   | 1 | 2 |   |
| 73 | Olive Bee-eater             | <i>Merops superciliosus</i>         |                   |    | 1  |    |    |    | 2  | 6  | 7  | 2 | 2 |   | 2 |   |
| 74 | Madagascan Hoopoe           | <i>Upupa marginata</i>              |                   | 1  |    |    |    |    |    | 2  |    | 2 | 2 |   |   |   |
| 75 | Malagasy Kestrel            | <i>Falco newtoni</i>                |                   | 3  | 5  |    |    | 1  | 2  | 4  |    | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 76 | Banded Kestrel              | <i>Falco zoniventris</i>            |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1 |   |   |   |   |
| 77 | Peregrine Falcon            | <i>Falco peregrinus</i>             |                   |    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |   |   |   |   |   |
| 78 | Greater Vasa Parrot         | <i>Coracopsis vasa</i>              |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   | 1 |   |   |
| 79 | Lesser Vasa Parrot          | <i>Coracopsis nigra</i>             |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 2  | 4  | H |   |   | 2 |   |
| 80 | Grey-headed Lovebird        | <i>Agapornis canus</i>              |                   |    |    |    | 20 | 2  |    | 2  | 6  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 81 | Velvet Asity                | <i>Philepitta castanea</i>          |                   |    |    | 2  |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   | 1 | 2 |
| 82 | Red-tailed Vanga            | <i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i> |                   |    |    | 2  | H  |    |    |    | 2  |   | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 83 | Hook-billed Vanga           | <i>Vanga curvirostris</i>           |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 3 |   | H |   |   |
| 84 | Sickle-billed Vanga         | <i>Falcoelea palliata</i>           |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   | 5 |   |   |   |
| 85 | White-headed Vanga          | <i>Artamella viridis</i>            |                   |    |    |    |    | 1  |    | 1  |    | 3 |   |   | 3 |   |
| 86 | Chabert Vanga               | <i>Leptopterus chabert</i>          |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 2  |    | 2 | 1 |   | 1 | 1 |
| 87 | Blue Vanga                  | <i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>   |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   | 5 |   |
| 88 | Tylas Vanga                 | <i>Tylas eduardi</i>                |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   | 4 |   |
| 89 | Nuthatch Vanga              | <i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>     |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   | 1 |
| 90 | Dark Newtonia               | <i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>          |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   | 1 |
| 91 | Common Newtonia             | <i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>        |                   |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |    |    | 4  | 2 |   | 3 |   |   |
| 92 | Archbold's Newtonia         | <i>Newtonia archboldi</i>           |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 2 |   |   |   |   |
| 93 | Ward's Flycatcher           | <i>Pseudobias wardi</i>             |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   | 3 |   |
| 94 | Crossley's Vanga            | <i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>        |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   | 1 | 1 |

|     | Common name                  | Scientific name                    | September/October |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
|-----|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|
|     |                              |                                    | 22                | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3  | 4  |
| 95  | Madagascan Cuckooshrike      | <i>Coracina cinerea</i>            |                   |    |    |    | 1  |    | 2  | 1  |    |   | 2 |    | 1  |
| 96  | Crested Drongo               | <i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>         |                   |    |    | 3  | 2  |    | 3  |    | 7  | 8 | 6 | 6  | 4  |
| 97  | Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher | <i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>          |                   |    |    | 2  | 1  | 1  | 2  | 1  |    | 1 | 6 | 2  | 3  |
| 98  | Pied Crow                    | <i>Corvus albus</i>                |                   | 2  | 20 |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |   | 1 |    | 1  |
| 99  | Madagascan Lark              | <i>Eremopterix hova</i>            |                   |    | 1  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | 3  |    |   |   |    |    |
| 100 | Malagasy Bulbul              | <i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i> | 2                 |    | 4  | 2  | H  | 1  | 20 | 6  | 6  |   | 8 | 8  | 2  |
| 101 | Mascarene Martin             | <i>Phedina borbonica</i>           |                   | 2  |    | 20 | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |    |   | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  |
| 102 | Brown-throated Martin        | <i>Riparia paludicola</i>          |                   | 3  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
| 103 | Malagasy Brush Warbler       | <i>Nesillas typica</i>             |                   | H  | 2  | 1  | H  |    |    |    |    |   | 1 | 2  | 1  |
| 104 | Subdesert Brush Warbler      | <i>Nesillas lantzii</i>            |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | H  | 5  |   |   |    |    |
| 105 | Madagascan Swamp Warbler     | <i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>        |                   |    | H  |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   | 1  |    |
| 106 | Brown Emutail                | <i>Bradypterus brunneus</i>        |                   |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
| 107 | White-throated Oxylabes      | <i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>   |                   |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |   | 2 | 2  |    |
| 108 | Long-billed Bernieria        | <i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>  |                   |    |    |    | 2  |    |    |    |    |   | 3 | 1  |    |
| 109 | Wedge-tailed Jery            | <i>Hartertula flavoviridis</i>     |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   | 1  |    |
| 110 | Thamnornis                   | <i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>   |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 4  | 2  | 2 |   |    |    |
| 111 | Spectacled Tetraka           | <i>Xanthomixis zosterops</i>       |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   | 1 | 2  |    |
| 112 | Appert's Tetraka             | <i>Xanthomixis apperti</i>         |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 2  |    |   |   |    |    |
| 113 | Madagascan Yellowbrow        | <i>Crossleyia xanthophrys</i>      |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
| 114 | Rand's Warbler               | <i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>      |                   |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |   | H |    |    |
| 115 | Common Jery                  | <i>Neomixis tenella</i>            |                   | 2  | 2  | 2  |    |    | 2  | 8  | 8  | 2 | 3 |    |    |
| 116 | Stripe-throated Jery         | <i>Neomixis striatigula</i>        |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   | 2  | 1  |
| 117 | Madagascan Cisticola         | <i>Cisticola cherina</i>           |                   | H  | H  |    |    |    | 1  | H  | 1  |   | 1 |    |    |
| 118 | Malagasy White-eye           | <i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>    | 2                 | 1  |    | 20 | 20 | 1  | 1  |    |    |   | 5 | 10 | 10 |
| 119 | Common Myna                  | <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>        | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ |   |    | ✓  |
| 120 | Madagascan Starling          | <i>Hartlaubius auratus</i>         |                   |    |    | 2  | 2  |    |    |    |    |   |   | 1  |    |
| 121 | Madagascan Magpie-Robin      | <i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>   |                   |    |    | 2  | 1  | 2  | 4  | 2  | 5  | 2 | 2 | 4  | 1  |
| 122 | Forest Rock Thrush           | <i>Monticola sharpei</i>           |                   |    | 1  |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |   |   |    |    |
| 123 | Madagascan Stonechat         | <i>Saxicola sibilla</i>            |                   | 1  | 8  |    |    |    | 2  |    |    |   |   | 1  | 2  |
| 124 | Souimanga Sunbird            | <i>Cinnyris sovimanga</i>          |                   |    | 4  | 5  | 4  | 12 | 4  | 2  | 16 | 8 | 4 | 2  | 2  |
| 125 | Malagasy Green Sunbird       | <i>Cinnyris notatus</i>            |                   |    |    | 2  | 1  |    | 1  |    |    |   | 1 |    |    |
| 126 | Nelicourvi Weaver            | <i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>          |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   | 3 | 1  | 1  |

|     | Common name         | Scientific name                | September/October |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|
|     |                     |                                | 22                | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 127 | Sakalava Weaver     | <i>Ploceus sakalava</i>        |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 20 | 20 | 8 |   |   |   |
| 128 | Red Fody            | <i>Foudia madagascariensis</i> | 20                | 20 | 3  |    |    |    | 5  |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| 129 | Madagascan Mannikin | <i>Lepidopygia nana</i>        | 8                 | 10 |    |    |    |    | 1  | 3  |    |   |   |   |   |
| 130 | Madagascan Wagtail  | <i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>  | 1                 | 2  | 2  | 3  | 2  | 2  | 3  |    |    |   | 2 | 2 | 1 |

## Frogs

|    |                                 |                                   |  |  |  |   |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|----|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| 1  | Red-eyed Bright-eyed Frog       | <i>Boophis luteus</i>             |  |  |  |   |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |   |
| 2  | Green Bright-eyed Frog          | <i>Boophis viridis</i>            |  |  |  |   |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |  | 3 |   |
| 3  | Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog     | <i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>   |  |  |  | 6 | 15 |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 1 |
| 4  | Baron's Mantella                | <i>Mantella baroni</i>            |  |  |  | 1 |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |
| 5  | A frog                          | <i>Blommersia sp.</i>             |  |  |  |   | 1  |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |
| 6  | Ivohimanitra Madagascar Frog    | <i>Mantidactylus majori</i>       |  |  |  |   | 2  |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |
| 7  | White-whiskered Madagascar Frog | <i>Mantidactylus melanopleura</i> |  |  |  |   | 1  |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |
| 8  | Malagasy Glass Frog             | <i>Guibemantis pulcher</i>        |  |  |  |   | 1  |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 1 |
| 9  | Mascarene Ridged Frog           | <i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i>  |  |  |  | 3 |    |   | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |
| 10 | Starry-night Reed Frog          | <i>Heterixalus alboguttatus</i>   |  |  |  |   | 1  |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |
| 11 | Madagascar Golden Reed Frog     | <i>Heterixalus luteostriatus</i>  |  |  |  |   |    | 1 |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |

## Chameleons

|    |                              |                                |  |  |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   |   |
|----|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| 1  | Brown Leaf Chameleon         | <i>Brookesia superciliaris</i> |  |  |   | 3 |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   | 1 |
| 2  | Blue-legged Chameleon        | <i>Calumma crypticum</i>       |  |  |   | 1 |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   |   |
| 3  | Short-nosed Chameleon        | <i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>    |  |  |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   | 2 |
| 4  | Glaw's Flap-necked Chameleon | <i>Calumma glawi</i>           |  |  |   | 2 | 2 |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   |   |
| 5  | Nose-horned Chameleon        | <i>Calumma nasuta</i>          |  |  |   | 4 | 1 |   |  |   |  |   |  | 1 |   |   |
| 6  | O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon    | <i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>   |  |  |   | 4 | 2 |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   |   |
| 7  | Parson's Chameleon           | <i>Calumma parsonii</i>        |  |  |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  | 3 | 2 |   |
| 8  | Jewel' Chameleon             | <i>Furcifer lateralis</i>      |  |  | 4 |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   |   |
| 9  | Oustalet's Chameleon         | <i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>      |  |  | 1 |   |   | 3 |  | 3 |  |   |  |   |   |   |
| 10 | Warty Chameleon              | <i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>     |  |  |   |   |   |   |  | 2 |  | 1 |  |   |   |   |



|  | Common name | Scientific name | September/October |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
|  |             |                 | 22                | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

## Lizards, Geckos &amp; Skinks

|    |  |   |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
|----|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| 1  | Three-eyed Lizard                                | <i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i>      |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   | 1 | ✓ | ✓ |  |   |   |   |
| 2  | Merrem's Madagascar Swift (Spiny-tailed Iguanid) | <i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>                 |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   | 4 | 1 |   |  |   |   |   |
| 3  | Dumeril's Madagascar Swift (Four-lined Iguanid)  | <i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>          |  |  | 1 |   |   |  |   | 1 |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| 4  | Grandidier's Dwarf Gecko                         | <i>Lygodactylus tolampyae</i>           |  |  |   |   |   |  |   | 1 | 1 |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| 5  | Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko                        | <i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>           |  |  |   | 1 | 1 |  |   |   |   |   |   |  | 1 |   |   |
| 6  | Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko                          | <i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>                |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  | 1 |   |   |
| 7  | Lined Emerald Day Gecko                          | <i>Phelsuma lineata bifasciata</i>      |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   | 2 | 1 |
| 8  | Lined Emerald Day Gecko                          | <i>Phelsuma lineata lineata</i>         |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  | 2 |   |   |
| 9  | Peacock Day Gecko                                | <i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>          |  |  | 1 | 4 | ✓ |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| 10 | Standing's Day Gecko                             | <i>Phelsuma standingi</i>               |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   | 1 |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| 11 | Thick-tail Day Gecko                             | <i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>               |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   | 2 |   | 1 |  |   |   |   |
| 12 | A Day Gecko                                      | <i>Phelsuma hielscheri</i>              |  |  |   |   |   |  |   | 4 |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| 13 | Common House Gecko                               | <i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>            |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |  |   |   |   |
| 14 | Madagascar Keeled Lizard                         | <i>Tracheloptychus madagascariensis</i> |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   | 1 | 1 |   |  |   |   |   |
| 15 | A Skink  | <i>Tracheloptychus dumasi</i>           |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   | 1 |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| 16 | Boulder mabuya                                   | <i>Trachylepis vato</i>                 |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   | 1 |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| 17 | Ornate Girdled Lizard                            | <i>Zonosaurus ornatus</i>               |  |  |   | 1 | 4 |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| 18 | Madagascar Girdled Lizard                        | <i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>      |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   | 1 |   |
| 19 | Karsten's Girdled Lizard                         | <i>Zonosaurus karsteni</i>              |  |  |   |   |   |  | 1 |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |

## Snakes

|   |                                   |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1 | Mahafaly Sand Snake               | <i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>     |  |  |  |  |  |  |   | 1 | 3 |   |  |  |   |   |  |
| 2 | Striped Madagascar Garter Snake   | <i>Thamnosophis lateralis</i>    |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |   |   |   |  |  |   | 1 |  |
| 3 | Madagascar Tree Boa               | <i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i> |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |  |  | 1 |   |  |
| 4 | Madagascar Speckled Hognose Snake | <i>Leioheterodon geayi</i>       |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   | 1 |  |  |   |   |  |

## Turtles &amp; Tortoises

|   |                                  |                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | Radiated Tortoise (in captivity) | <i>Geochelone radiata</i> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Spider Tortoise (in captivity)   | <i>Pyxis arachnoids</i>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   | ✓ |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  | Common name | Scientific name | September/October |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
|  |             |                 | 22                | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

## Butterflies

|    |                               |                                   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|--|---|---|---|
|    |                               | <b>Papilionidae</b>               |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 1  | Madagascar Giant Swallowtail  | <i>Pharmacophagus antenor</i>     |  |  |  |   |   |   |   | 6 | 1 | 20 | 2  |    |  |   |   |   |
| 2  | Mocker Swallowtail            | <i>Papilio dardanus meriones</i>  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 3  | Green Lady                    | <i>Graphium cyrnus</i>            |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  |   | 1 |   |
| 4  | Cream-lined Swallowtail       | <i>Papilio delalandei</i>         |  |  |  |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 5  | Banded Blue                   | <i>Papilio oribazus</i>           |  |  |  | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  | 1 | 1 |   |
| 6  | Citrus Swallowtail            | <i>Papilio demodocus</i>          |  |  |  |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |    |    |    |  |   | 1 |   |
| 7  | Spotted Blue Swallowtail      | <i>Papilio epiphorbas</i>         |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2  | 1  |    |  |   |   |   |
|    |                               | <b>Hesperiinae</b>                |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 8  | A butterfly (no English name) | <i>Coeliades ramanatek</i>        |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1  |    |    |  |   |   |   |
|    |                               | <b>Nymphalidae</b>                |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 9  | African Monarch               | <i>Danaus chrysippus</i>          |  |  |  |   |   |   | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4  |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 10 | Madagascar Beauty             | <i>Salamis anteva</i>             |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   | 1 |
| 11 | Painted Lady                  | <i>Vanessa cardui</i>             |  |  |  |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 12 | Brilliant Blue                | <i>Junonia rhadama</i>            |  |  |  | 2 | 3 |   |   | 2 | 1 | 2  | 2  |    |  |   |   |   |
| 13 | Madagascan Brown Pansy        | <i>Junonia goudotii</i>           |  |  |  | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 14 | Blue Pansy                    | <i>Junonia oenone</i>             |  |  |  |   | 1 |   |   | 1 |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 15 | Madagascar Commodore          | <i>Precis andremiaja</i>          |  |  |  |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 16 | Clouded Mother-of-Pearl       | <i>Protogoniomorpha anacardii</i> |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  | 1 | 1 |   |
| 17 | Spotted Sailor                | <i>Neptis saclava</i>             |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 18 | A Madagascar Satyr            | <i>Strabena vinsoni</i>           |  |  |  |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 19 | A Madagascar Satyr            | <i>Strabena tamatave</i>          |  |  |  |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   | 1 |
| 20 | An Indian Ocean Satyr         | <i>Heteropsis vola</i>            |  |  |  |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 21 | An Indian Ocean Satyr         | <i>Heteropsis difficilis</i>      |  |  |  |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 22 | Common Leopard                | <i>Phalanta phalantha</i>         |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1  |    |    |  |   |   |   |
|    |                               | <b>Pieridae</b>                   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |
| 23 | African Migrant               | <i>Catopsilia florella</i>        |  |  |  |   | 1 | 1 |   |   | 1 |    | 4  |    |  |   |   |   |
| 24 | African Caper White           | <i>Belenois creona</i>            |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    | 1  |    |  |   |   |   |
| 25 | Grandidiars Caper White       | <i>Belenois grandidieri</i>       |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    | 20 |    |  |   |   |   |
| 26 | Madagascan Orange Tip         | <i>Colotis evanthe</i>            |  |  |  |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |    | 20 | 10 |  |   |   |   |

|    | Common name                 | Scientific name                | September/October |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|
|    |                             |                                | 22                | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 27 | Broad-bordered Grass Yellow | <i>Eurema brigitta</i>         |                   |    | 1  |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |   |   |   |   |
| 28 | Angled Grass Yellow         | <i>Eurema desjardinsii</i>     |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   | 1 |   |
|    |                             | <b>Lycaenidae</b>              |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| 29 | Tiny Grass Blue             | <i>Zizula hylax</i>            |                   | 10 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| 30 | Common Zebra Blue           | <i>Leptotes pirithous</i>      |                   |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| 31 |                             | <i>Saribia perroti</i> (poss.) |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   | 1 |   |   |

## Moths:

|    |                   |                               |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
|----|-------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| 1  | Comet Moth        | <i>Argema mittrei</i>         |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 2 |   |
|    |                   | <b>Crambidae</b>              |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 2  | Dotted Sable      | <i>Bocchoris inspersalis</i>  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 1 |   |
| 3  | Maruca Pod Borer  | <i>Maruca vitrata</i>         |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 2 | 1 |
|    |                   | <b>Eribidae</b>               |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 4  |                   | <i>Eilema argentea</i>        |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 1 | 1 |
| 5  |                   | <i>Eilema kingdoni</i>        |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 2 | 2 |
| 6  |                   | <i>Episparis vitrea</i>       |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 3 | 1 |
| 7  | Walker's Owl Moth | <i>Erebus walkeri</i>         |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |   |   |
| 8  |                   | <i>Lymantria rosea</i>        |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   | 1 |
| 9  |                   | <i>Serodes trispila</i>       |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   | 1 |
| 10 |                   | <i>Mpanjaka gentilis</i>      |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 1 | 1 |
|    |                   | <b>Geometridae</b>            |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 11 |                   | <i>Cleora</i> sp.             |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 1 | 5 |
| 12 |                   | <i>Pingasa grandidieri</i>    |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   | 1 |
| 13 |                   | <i>Psilocerea penicillata</i> |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   | 1 |
| 14 |                   | <i>Psilocerea</i> sp.         |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   | 1 |
| 15 |                   | <i>Zamarada excavata</i>      |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 1 |   |
| 16 | Comet Moth        | <i>Argema mittrei</i>         |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 1 |   |
|    |                   | <b>Sphingidae</b>             |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 17 | Verdant Hawkmoth  | <i>Euchloron megaera</i>      |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 18 |                   | <i>Nephele oenopion</i>       |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   | 1 |
| 19 |                   | <i>Temnora grandidieri</i>    |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   | 1 |

|  | Common name | Scientific name | September/October |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
|  |             |                 | 22                | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

## Other Invertebrates

|    |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
|----|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| 1  | Madagascar Emperor                          | <i>Anax tumorifer</i>                    |  |   | 2 |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 2  | Crimson Dropwing                            | <i>Trithemis selika</i>                  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  | 1 |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 3  | Orange-winged Dropwing                      | <i>Trithemis kirbyi</i>                  |  | 1 |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 4  | Broad Scarlet                               | <i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>             |  |   | 2 |   |   |   |  | 1 |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 5  | Southern Banded Groundling                  | <i>Brachythemis leucosticta</i>          |  | 1 |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 6  | African Bluetail                            | <i>Ischnura senegalensis</i>             |  | 1 |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 7  | A Damselfly                                 | <i>Phaon rasoherinae</i>                 |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |   |   |
| 8  | A flatworm                                  | <i>Bipalium kewense</i>                  |  |   | 1 |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 9  | Praying Mantis                              | <i>Polyspilota aeruginosa</i>            |  | 1 |   |   |   | 1 |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 10 | Ground Mantis                               | <i>Tarachodes sp.</i>                    |  |   |   |   |   |   |  | 1 |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 11 | Twig-mimic Mantis                           | <i>Popa spurca (poss.)</i>               |  |   |   |   |   |   |  | 1 |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 12 | Ghost Mantis                                | <i>Phyllocrania paradoxa</i>             |  |   |   | 1 |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 13 | Hissing Cockroach                           | <i>Gromphadorhina portentosa</i>         |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 14 | Black Cockroach                             | -  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 15 | A Stick Insect                              |  |  |   |   | 1 | 1 |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 16 | A Stick Insect                              | <i>Achrioptera impennis</i>              |  |   |   |   |   |   |  | 1 |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 17 | Flatid Leaf-bug                             | <i>Phromnia rosea</i>                    |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  | ✓ |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 18 | Plataspid Shield Bugs                       | <i>Libyaspis coccinelloides</i>          |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  | ✓ |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 19 | Snout Bug or Flat-backed Weevil             | <i>Zanna tenebrosa</i>                   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  | 1 |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 20 | Giraffe-necked Weevil                       | <i>Trachelophorus giraffa</i>            |  |   |   | 1 | 1 |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   | 1 |
| 21 | Large Black Millipede                       | -  |  |   |   | 1 |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 22 | Madagascar Fire Millipede                   | <i>Aphistogoniulus sp.</i>               |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   | 1 |   |
| 23 | A Centipede                                 | <i>Scolopendra morsitans</i>             |  |   |   |   |   |   |  | 1 |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 24 | Madagascar Red-legged Golden Orb-web Spider | <i>Nephila inaurata madagascariensis</i> |  | 1 |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 25 | Thorn Spider (Orange)                       | <i>Gasteracanthinae sp</i>               |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   | 1 |
| 26 | Green Lynx Spider                           | <i>Peucetia madagascariensis</i>         |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 27 | Broad-headed Bark Spider                    | <i>Caerostris extrusa</i>                |  |   |   | 1 |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 28 | A Bark Spider                               | <i>Caerostris sp.</i>                    |  |   |   | 1 |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 29 | A Net-throwing Spider                       | <i>Deinopsis sp.</i>                     |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 30 | Scorpion                                    | <i>Opisthacanthus madagascariensis</i>   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |

|    | Common name               | Scientific name          | September/October |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |  |  |
|----|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|    |                           |                          | 22                | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |  |
| 31 | Snouted Harvester Termite | <i>Trinevitermes sp.</i> |                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |   |   |   |   |  |  |

## Molluscs (Identified by Geraldine and David)

|    |  |                                   |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1  |  | <i>Achatina fulica</i>            |  | 1 | 1 |   | 1 |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2  |  | <i>Architectonica perspectiva</i> |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3  |  | <i>Phalium glaucum</i>            |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4  |  | <i>Conus betulinus</i>            |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5  |  | <i>Monoplex pilearis</i>          |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6  |  | <i>Cypraea tigris</i>             |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7  |  | <i>Erosaria caputserpentis</i>    |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8  |  | <i>Erosaria erosa</i>             |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9  |  | <i>Erronia erronea</i>            |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 |  | <i>Mauritia arabica</i>           |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 |  | <i>Mauritia scurra</i>            |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 |  | <i>Talparia talpa</i> (           |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 |  | <i>Harpa major</i> Röding         |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14 |  | <i>Lambis lambis</i>              |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 |  | <i>Tropidophora perinetensis</i>  |  |   |   |   | 1 |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 |  | <i>Tropidophora philippiana</i>   |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 |  | <i>Tropidophora semidecussata</i> |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 |  | <i>Helicophanta betsiloensis</i>  |  |   |   | 1 |   |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 |  | <i>Deroceras laeve</i>            |  |   |   | 1 |   |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 |  | <i>Bipalium kewense</i> Moseley   |  |   |   | 1 |   |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |

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