

# Madagascar's Endemic Birds

Naturetrek Tour Report

2 - 18 October 2018



Long-tailed Ground Roller



White-browed Owl



Madagascar Fish Eagle



Coquerel's Sifaka

Report & images compiled by Aniket Sardana



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Tour participants: Aniket Sardana (leader), Desire Rajery, Parson & Claude Rambelosan (local naturalists) and eight Naturetrek clients, assisted by Roget (driver) and local guides Dabe (Tulear), Olivier & Mady (Reniala), Lucien & Andry (Zombitse), Nirina (Isalo), Andy (Anja), Jean-chry, scouts Sylvia & Bako & trainee guide Ambeanantsoa (Ranomafana), and Olga & Gerald (Ankarafantsika)

## Day 1

Monday 2nd October

### Fly London Heathrow to Charles de Gaulle

Three group members met Aniket at London Heathrow's Terminal 4 departures, ready for a flight to Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG). We were soon on our way. At CDG we collected our baggage before making our way to the Ibis Hotel. Here we checked in and met in the foyer, where we were soon joined by two more members; Hilary from the south of France and Gary from the USA. We soon settled in for dinner in the Italian restaurant and started getting to know one another. With a busy day ahead, we weren't too late in retiring.

## Day 2

Tuesday 3rd October

### Fly Paris to Antananarivo

The six of us met in reception and made our way back to the airport on the monorail to check in for our Air France flight to Antananarivo (Tana). The flight was on time and after having breakfast in departures, we were soon boarding. Ten hours later we landed and after patiently clearing immigration and collecting our bags, we changed money and then met Desi, who was waiting for us. Our stop for the first night was at Combava Hotel, just a short drive away.

## Day 3

Wednesday 4th October

### Tana to Tulear

The day started with a hearty breakfast at the Combava Hotel and the group was finally formed when we met Alf, Carol and Gil who had arrived earlier. We loaded our minibus and returned to the airport, spotting a few species along the way including our first Madagascar Bulbul, African Palm Swift, Madagascar Kestrel, Yellow-billed Kite, Pied Crow and later a Madagascan Wagtail in the airport departure lounge. After our timely arrival at Tulear, we made a swift exit from the airport and proceeded directly to Andatabo (Table Mountain) to maximise our chances of success at this location in the remaining hours of daylight.

Andatabo is a secondary, semi-degraded forest site and our first example of Madagascar's highly endangered spiny desert forest zone. We arrived here just as the temperature was starting to drop into the more comfortable 20s to try and locate some highly localised specialities, including Red-shouldered Vanga and Verreaux's Coua, amongst others. We left our driver, Roget, with our vehicle and continued down the dirt road on foot, with Dabe having now joined us as our local guide for this location. The vegetation is characterised by species that are highly adapted to the arid climate and characterised by succulent plants such as those of the genera *Aloe*, *Euphorbia*, *Delonix* and *Didierea* and also a few small baobabs (*Adansonia rubrostipa*). It wasn't long before we sighted our first Namaqua Dove, closely followed by Madagascar Bee-eater, Madagascar Magpie Robin and Chabert's Vanga; all fairly common, widespread species.

Our search for Red-shouldered Vanga continued. Souimanga Sunbird, Sakalava Weaver and the chirpy Madagascar Bee-eater all made appearances before Desi finally picked up the call of a Red-shouldered Vanga. We located a pair of these beautifully and extremely range-restricted birds and the whole group enjoyed superb views. The elusive Verreaux's Coua evaded us on this walk, but we would try again for it tomorrow.

With the sun going down we returned to town and checked into our stop for the night, Victory Hotel. Dinner was preceded by a group drink and a chance to reflect on our productive start to this two week birding itinerary as we scrolled through our checklists and put the first marks in the columns.

## Day 4

Thursday 5th October

### Tulear to Ifaty via St Augustin's Bay, Andatabo and Antsokay Arboretum

The day started at 5am with a pre-departure cup of tea that was supplemented by intimate views of a pair of Madagascan Nightjars flying over the swimming pool. Our first stop was St Augustin's Bay where high on the agenda was Madagascar Sandgrouse. Our guide Dabe went ahead to scout for this species and our early arrival at the site was rewarded as we succeeded in locating a sandgrouse before there was too much human disturbance in the area. The bird landed into a marshy clearing and we all got excellent views, both on the ground and in flight. The walk continued to produce new species including Common Jery, Madagascan Cisticola, Sakalava Weaver and Madagascar Mannikin. We returned to Table Mountain again to have a further attempt at locating the elusive Verreaux's coua. After passing an inquisitive Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, a Madagascan Mannikin and a fleeting Souimanga Sunbird, a glimpse of our target bird was achieved and a shy Verreaux's Coua was seen launching from a tree. The Running Coua was far more obliging.

With time getting on we returned to the Victory Hotel for breakfast before checking out and moving to our final location of the morning, the Antsokay Arboretum. The site has a wide range of endemic plants, many in situ, and others planted by the proprietor, giving an excellent cross section of spiny forest species for the visitor to see in one location. It's also a great location for birds and some reptiles, and Spiny-tailed Iguanid was well observed here. The bird highlight was Green-capped Coua which showed very well around the dining area, and also our first Malagasy Coucal.

The sun was soon up and after a hearty lunch, supervised by a flirtatious local pair of Madagascar Bee-eaters, we made tracks for Ifaty. The newly paved road made this a journey of barely 30 minutes, although we stopped at some roadside ponds on the way and observed some of our first waders of the trip including Western Cattle Egret, Black-winged Stilt, Kittlitz's Plover, Three-banded Plover, White-fronted Plover, Ruddy Turnstone and Common Greenshank.

We arrived at the Paradisier Hotel by mid-afternoon and settled into our quirky and very comfortable rooms. We had a few hours to relax before dinner and during this time were able to spot a few new species within the hotel grounds including Madagascan Harrier-hawk, Madagascar Kestrel, Yellow-billed Kite and a Big-eyed Snake. Prior to dinner we made a short walk close to the hotel grounds and managed to see our first mammal of the trip, a Grey-brown Mouse Lemur, detected by its tapetal reflex which was easily seen in our torches, and a Madagascar Scops Owl was heard.

## Day 5

Friday 6th October

### Reniala Reserve, Ifaty

The main excursion of the day was a visit to the nearby Reniala Reserve, one of the best remaining examples of spiny forest and despite its small size, it remains a crucial habitat to some extremely range-restricted endemics. In addition to Dabe, we were joined by two local guides, Olivier and Mady. The weather conditions were perfect with clear skies and moderate temperature, which made walking the well laid out trails that bit easier and improved our success at locating our target birds. Our first find was the bizarre Subdesert Mesite. It was perched motionless on the branch of a tree not far from the reserve entrance. Further up we found a nest-building pair of Hook-billed Vangas, and also Red-tailed Vanga and the beautiful Grey-headed Lovebird. Smaller passerines included the endemic Archbold's Newtonia, Madagascan Lark and Subdesert Brush Warbler. The obliging Madagascar Kestrel made its daily appearance, and then we were treated to a long sighting of one of the island's most sought-after species, the endearing Long-tailed Ground-roller. The reserve supports much of the remaining population of these terrestrial birds. As we made our way towards the reserve entrance, our guides showed us an extremely well-camouflaged roosting pair of Madagascan Nightjars. Then, just before finishing our walk, the final target on our list made an appearance as if on cue: Lafresnaye's Vanga. Reptiles were represented by Large-headed Gecko and a Standing's Day Gecko in the reserve ticket office.

After lunch, some of us made a short trip to a nearby salt lake to try for a few more waders. The sun was high in the sky by this time so we made it a brief trip, but were rewarded with a few new species including Striated Heron, Humblot's Heron, Great Egret, Whimbrel, Caspian Tern and Lesser Crested Tern. At the hotel, several more birds were seen including Lesser Vasa Parrot, Crested Coua and Madagascan Hoopoe.

Dinner was again preceded by a short night walk and several more Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs were seen. Additionally we finally managed to see a well-camouflaged Madagascar Scops Owl and also a very rare Antimena Chameleon. We wished Dabe farewell as we weren't to see him again.

## Day 6

Saturday 7th October

### Ifaty - Anakao

An early breakfast was followed by our exit from the elegant Paradisier hotel. We drove back to Tulear, passing the same roadside ponds again, but this time spotting a small flock of Lesser Flamingoes in one of them. The boat was ready for us at 7.30am and a small convoy of zebu carts transported us, along with our essential bags, to the waiting launch. With everyone loaded, we were soon skimming the waves to Anakao, passing a pod of Spinner Dolphins on the way. We pulled up on the sandy beach at Anakao, a traditional Vezo fishing village famous for its occasional hauls of Coelacanth and other unusual sea creatures. Our prime reason for being here was to visit the colony of Red-tailed Tropicbirds which live and breed on the neighbouring island of Nosy Ve. They are, in fact, the only colony of this species in Madagascar and once on the island, we were able to walk around and view several nests shaded by vegetation, as well as flying birds. Additionally, we saw our first Grey Heron of the trip, a Whimbrel, Madagascan Cisticola, Kittlitz's Plover and White-fronted Plover, and several Pied Crows were soaring overhead. A few of us opted to go for a cooling swim before we returned to Anakao for lunch.

After some much needed respite from the heat, some of us joined Aniket and Desi for a short bird walk behind the hotel. The vegetation here was not dissimilar to that at Table Mountain: an example of a disturbed/secondary forest that is common in southern Madagascar, dominated by succulents and other arid zone plants. Our key bird of interest here was the Littoral Rock Thrush, and we were able to locate our first individual under a bush within minutes of starting the walk. Additionally, Sakalava Weaver, Subdesert Brush Warbler and Crested Drongo were located. Whilst walking, numerous small, single-line trails could be seen on the ground, running in all directions, and these were almost certainly formed by one of the skinks in the genus *Voeltzkowia*. These unusual burrowing reptiles lack both eyes and extremities and are confined to the arid south-west of Madagascar where they only surface at night. A Madagascan Hoopoe made an appearance and as we returned to our cabins, we were greeted by our 'Malagasy Kestrel of the day' as they fondly became known. As we approached the first cabin, we encountered another new species as a Madagascan Buttonquail appeared from under a cabin and crossed the path before us. At dinner a Grey-brown Mouse Lemur was seen scurrying through the thatched roofing, producing our second mammal sighting of the day.

## Day 7

Sunday 8th October

### Anakao - Zombitse - Isalo

An early checkout from Safari Vezo was followed by our return boat transfer to Tuléar where, after collecting our remaining baggage, we continued north on the RN7 to our next location, Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park. This fairly recently protected site is a transition forest that bridges the spiny desert with the deciduous dry forest zone that dominates much of western Madagascar. We met our local guides, Lucien and Andry, and started on our first trail. The forest canopy offered some much needed shelter from the sun and within minutes of entering the park we encountered our first troop of Verreaux's Sifakas. It was a large unit of eight individuals, including a juvenile. Moving on, we soon encountered an Oustalet's Chameleon, followed by one of our target reptiles here, Standing's Day Gecko. Further up the trail we located our first White-Browed Owl, perched in the shade of a dense bush, and some caught a glimpse of a Red-tailed Vanga. On the way back to the bus we passed an obliging Giant Coua that offered us good views.

The trail on the opposite side to our bus also revealed a large colony of Flatid Leaf-bugs. The nymphs of these secrete a white waxy substance that grows as long feathery strands. If a predator makes an attack, it gets a mouthful of this substance, and the bug hops away. Amongst the nymphs were the red, petal-like adults.

We had some lunch before moving to I'salo National Park. We continued across the southern grasslands, passing through the town of Ilakaka, a fine example of Madagascar's sapphire rush. Virtually every shop lining the RN7 through here is selling gem stones, mostly to far eastern jewellers and dealers. We arrived at Jardin du Roy, a grand property in a beautiful setting. The gardens were planted with numerous dry zone succulents and around the rooms numerous lizards could be seen, mostly Four-lined Iguanids. A few restful hours were spent enjoying the hotel grounds, including its refreshing pool, before dinner. Our usual routine ensued with the checklist run through with a cold drink, followed by a hearty three courses.

## Day 8

Monday 9th October

### Isalo

Today was our core day for Isalo National Park, a popular site with both naturalists and hikers alike. Its range of habitats and stunning scenery rightly make Isalo a popular destination for visitors to the park. Roget drove us to the Namaza canyon on the eastern side of the Isalo sandstone escarpment. Here we met our guide for the day, Nirina, who led the way into the canyon. We soon spotted our first Madagascar Sunbird of the trip. The trail passed a small lake and some reeds followed by some fine stands of Screw-pines. Two species were present here: *Pandanus pulcher* and *Pandanus variabilis*. Nirina spotted a lot of macro life along this trail, and at times we failed to initially see creatures that he showed us at point blank range due to their excellent camouflage! The trail led us to a camping area where we saw a small family of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs by the toilets and a pair of Madagascan Hoopoe foraging on the ground. The clouds blew in, offering some much needed shade. Sitting over a small stream, we saw our first Madagascar Cuckooshrike and a Madagascar Kingfisher shot past us. Reptiles were represented by a Broad-tailed Girdled Lizard and a colour female Oustalet's Chameleon. On our way out of the camp, we passed the single lone Verreaux's Sifaka that still exists in the area. He sat in a tree thicket, entertained by a nearby Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, and then a Benson's Rock Thrush. This bird was once considered a species in its own right but is now classified as a subspecies of Forest Rock Thrush, *Monticola sharpei bensoni*. We returned to where our driver, Roget, was waiting for us, and in the car park spotted a flock of Red Fodys and a few Grey-headed Lovebirds.

We returned to Jardin du Roy for lunch and some of us had a relaxing afternoon at the spa. The afternoon was spent visiting a nearby lake which was extremely quiet, although several Olive Bee-eaters, African Palm Swifts and a Purple Heron were seen, and later a fleeting glimpse of a Bat Hawk. We also saw our first wild Madagascar Periwinkle; a plant from which the important cytotoxic chemotherapy agents vincristine and vinblastine are extracted. Macro life continued to engage us and we saw a colony of impressive shield bugs. With the sun fast fading, we returned to the lodge and settled for the evening.

## Day 9

Tuesday 10th October

### Isalo to Ranomafana

After breakfast we made an early checkout from Jardin du Roy, and set off north on the RN7 towards our next location, Ranomafana National Park, our first rainforest site of the trip. Passing through the dry open landscape, we spotted Madagascar Buzzard and three Hamerkops from the road before arriving at Anja Reserve, where we were met by our local guide Andy. This small community reserve is home to a very high density of Ringtail Lemurs, and we enjoyed some close encounters with a troop of these inquisitive primates in the reserve. On a nearby lake we also spotted our first Madagascar Pond Heron of the trip, in full breeding plumage with its distinctive blue legs.

After lunch we continued on the road north. After passing the university city of Fianarantsoa, we dropped into the lower, cooler altitudes that led us down a long winding road into Ranomafana National Park. We passed a few streams where we spotted three Meller's Ducks, before following the Namorona River along its course to our final destination, the Centrest Hotel.

## Day 10

Wednesday 11th October

### Ranomafana

Today was our first full day in Ranomafana National Park. After an early breakfast, we met our local guide Jean-chry, trainee guide Ambeanantsoa, and scouts Sylvia and Bako. Then we set off to the main park gate in our minibus. We were excited about entering the park, as there was the prospect of sighting many new species here. This was our first forest walk in the island's eastern tropical wet zone and the species diversity would be substantially higher than the areas we had been exploring thus far. The spotting started at the car park with sightings of Greater Vasa Parrots crossing the tree line and a pair of Madagascar Starlings perched high in a tree. Madagascar Blue Pigeon and Olive Bee-eater soon made an appearance, and then we saw our first Long-billed Bernieria. Continuing into the forest, a loud, ground-level call alerted us to the presence of the sought-after Pitta-like Ground Roller. Initially we achieved a brief glimpse, but later located a perched bird and managed to see this special rainforest endemic very well. The call of the roller could be heard for much of morning walk, as could that of the Madagascar Cuckoo, but the latter eluded us, at least for the time being. Another first for us soon showed up in the form of an obliging Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, perched at low level in the understory.

Aside from birds there was plenty of mammalian activity, and three lemur species were seen: Red-fronted Brown Lemur, the critically endangered Greater Bamboo Lemur and the endemic Golden Bamboo Lemur, which was only discovered in the park in 1986 by American scientist Dr Patricia Wright. On our way back to the gate we found a beautifully camouflaged Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko, which lay motionless on the trunk of a sapling, and a well-hidden Brown Leaf Chameleon on the ground. With that, it was time to return for an al fresco lunch, which delivered yet more birds due to the open view: first a pair of Madagascar Buzzards, then a Malagasy Kestrel and several African Palm Swifts hunting insects overhead.

The afternoon was overcast and a little wet, but this didn't stop us continuing our search! We headed to a different trail this time, at Vohiparara, to try for some different birds. Soon after starting our walk a pair of Ring-tailed Mongooses crossed our path, and then we spotted Wedge-tailed Jery, Green Jery and Rand's Warbler. Small passerines dominated our afternoon walk, and we went on to see Nelicourvi Weaver, Malagasy White-eye and both Souimanga and Malagasy Green Sunbirds.

On our return the drizzle had stopped, so we stopped for a roadside night walk which was very productive, with some close views of Rufous Mouse Lemur and several Chameleons including O'Shaughnessy's, Short-nosed, Nose-horned, Blue-legged, Glaw's and a rarely seen Canopy Chameleon. Amphibians were represented by a large White-lipped Bright-eyed Frog. We had walked seven-and-a-half miles today so after the night walk were ready for some dinner and much needed rest!

## Day 11

Thursday 12th October

### Ranomafana

Today was another full day exploring Ranomafana. A decision was made in the morning to focus on roadside birding instead of entering the trail at Vohiparara as originally planned, and this paid off with several new species seen from the road, and the clearer weather enabled sightings on the opposite side of the Namorona River too.



Blue Coua was spotted several times, always revealed by its distinctive call, and a Madagascan Cuckoo was found high on a bare tree in the distance. Passerine sightings included Dark Newtonia, Malagasy Brush Warbler, Grey Emutail and Stripe-throated Jery. Jean-chry's eagle eyes also picked up two Milne-edwards Sifakas feeding on the other side of the river - one of the most beautiful species in this family.

Eventually we entered the Vohiparara trail and almost immediately found a female Velvet Asity, which was followed very soon by her stunning male counterpart with his jet black body and iridescent green wattle. The bird landed very close to the trail, affording excellent photographic opportunities for some of us. Further on we found another species on our wish list, the Red-fronted Coua. Our only new mammal here was a passing Red Forest Rat. Macro life was also abundant on this trail and highlights included Flatid Leaf-bug, Madagascar Giant Fire Millipede, Pill Millipede, Giant Red Velvet Mite and the bizarre Giraffe-necked Weevil. At the trail exit we spotted another Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, and at the trail head was an unusual Microhylid Frog.

After lunch, some of the group opted to rest at the lodge for the afternoon, whilst others returned to Vohiparara where we spotted our first White-headed Vanga and one of us was especially thrilled with our sighting of a Madagascar Cuckoo Roller. Before entering the trail we stopped at a waterside location to see the Painted Mantella, one of the island's most beautiful frogs.

Another roadside night walk was made on our way back to the lodge and this was extremely productive. It was preceded by a family of Red-bellied Lemurs who crossed the road immediately in front of us. This stretch of the road was lined by a large number of Passion flowers and orchids. It wasn't long before the first chameleon was sighted, a Blue-legged Chameleon. This was followed by Nose-horned Chameleon and O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon. An impressive Madagascar Emperor Moth sat motionless with its wings spread. Several Bent-winged Bats flew overhead. Dinner was again a chance to reflect on the day's activities, with a cold drink and checklist to occupy us until the food was served.

## Day 12

Friday 13th October

### Ranomafana - Antsirabe

It was a warm and sunny morning. Today was set to be a travel day. Given the long days we'd had at Ranomafana, a later start was made to enable us to catch up on some rest. Following breakfast we checked out of the Centrest Hotel and started our way north towards Antsirabe, making a brief stop for some riverside birding as we left the park, where three Blue Couas and a Madagascar Cuckoo were spotted amongst other more common species.

Our journey led us across the Hauts Plateaux on the RN7, a mostly barren landscape interspersed with a mosaic of rice paddies, crop lands and small villages, as is the case in much of the island's interior. Much of the roadside vegetation here was Lightning Tree and the invasive Lantana, and we sighted several Yellow-billed Kites, Madagascan Buzzard, African Palm Swift and of course our token Malagasy Kestrel of the day! We made a brief service stop to fill up on fuel and drinking water, and managed to find a new reptile in the form of a *Lygodactylus* lizard enjoying the shade of the toilet!

We continued to Ambohimahasoia where we stopped at a large heronry in the centre of the town. Large numbers of Dimorphic Egret, Cattle Egret, Malagasy Pond Heron, Squacco Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron were

roosting here, enabling good views of each species. Continuing north, we passed several Tapia and Eucalyptus trees before arriving at the wood-carving town of Ambositra. Here we had lunch, entertained by some local dancers and musicians, before visiting a wood carving shop and then continuing on your way.

We stopped at an old bridge that was bombed in 2001, to check the river for any birds. Here we saw Striated Heron, Madagascar Wagtail and Forest Rock Thrush, as well as our token, almost comical, 'Malagasy Kestrel of the day'. We arrived at Antsirabe at dusk and checked into the Couleur Café, where we had dinner and a quick run through the checklist before turning in.

## Day 13

Saturday 14th October

### Antsirabe - Tana - Mahajanga

We left Antsirabe around 7.30am, continuing on our way north though the high plateau towards Tana. We stopped briefly en route at a lake that had a small flock of Red-billed Teal on it. In Tana we dropped off our leader of the last few days, Parson, and our driver, Roget, and bid them farewell. We also met Claude who would accompany us for the rest of the trip.

We had lunch at the airport before boarding our afternoon flight to Mahajanga. Upon arrival the climate was noticeable different, being hot and humid compared with the capital. While our bags were being loaded, some spotted a Sooty Falcon passing high overhead. We continued to our hotel for the night, the Blue Bay Hotel. Here we received a warm welcome and, after checking into our rooms, had dinner during which there was much anticipation of travelling to Ankarafantsika in the morning, our final location on this tour.

## Day 14

Sunday 15th October

### Mahajanga - Ankarafantsika

It was a clear, sunny morning and, after breakfast, we left the Blue Bay Hotel while the temperature was still comfortable. It would be a three-hour drive to Ankarafantsika, passing through open grassland for much of the route. There were many Mango trees lining the route, most bearing fruit which were in season. A single Harrier-Hawk was sighted in the distance by our convoy. Other raptors along the route included Yellow-billed Kite, Madagascar Buzzard and Malagasy Kestrel.

Shortly before our arrival, we stopped at the roadside by a lone Flamboyant Tree to scan some rice paddies that had many foraging waders. Here, in addition to Great Egret and Cattle Egret, we saw our first Glossy Ibis of the trip and also had our first good views of Black Heron. There were some Squacco Herons, Black-winged Stilt, Malagasy Pond Heron and also Kittlitz's and Three-banded Plovers.

We continued on our way and soon arrived at Ampijoroa, the main camp and visitor centre of the park. We were immediately bombarded by the sights and sounds of bird life including raucous Lesser Vasa Parrots, three Vanga species including Sickle-billed, White-headed and Chabert's Vangas, and the distinctive shriek of Broad-billed Roller, recently back from its African migration. There were numerous sightings of passerines from our cabins including Madagascar Cuckooshrike, Malagasy Bulbul, Crested Drongo and Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher.

After lunch the heat was getting up but some members opted to explore the camp area, which is where Durrell Wildlife Trust has a breeding facility and protection unit for some of Madagascar's most endangered reptiles, such as the Ploughshare Tortoise - only 100 are thought to remain in the wild. We embarked on our first forest walk in the afternoon where we encountered a small family of Coquerel's Sifakas, one of the most elegant of this larger group of lemurs. It's too easy to anthropomorphise whilst watching their antics. We also passed a lone Milne-edward's Sportive Lemur peering from its tree hollow, but our focus on this walk was the Van Dam's Vanga, an extremely localised endemic, and it wasn't too long before our guides Olga and Gerald spotted a pair. We all achieved brief but adequate views and were thrilled with the sighting. Our pace continued slowly even though the heat was thankfully subsiding, and further up we encountered a well camouflaged Madagascar Scops Owl and then two more target birds, the Coquerel's Coua and a Red-capped Coua, which meandered down the path ahead of us. Our return to the base camp was greeted by many curious Coquerel's Sifakas which afforded excellent photographic opportunities.

After a brief rest, we reconvened at 6.15pm for a night walk at a nearby location just outside the park boundary. This was an extremely productive walk and within minutes of arrival we spotted an Oustalet's Chameleon, Grey Mouse Lemur, Mongoose Lemur and the endemic Golden-brown Mouse Lemur, all in the same tree! Further up was a beautiful Angel's Chameleon, and continuing on the same dirt tracked we spotted several more Golden Mouse Lemurs and a few Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemurs. This was the first tropical mammal, and only primate in which hibernation has been observed. Its reason for hibernating is almost certainly to avoid the winter drought rather than food shortage. Just as we thought a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach and some Tomb Bats would complete our sightings for the night, we spotted several Giant Day Geckos at dinner. These emerald-coloured lizards were of the local subspecies '*kochi*' and were also frequently encountered in our cabins.

Our checklist run was interrupted by the loud and argumentative squeals of Milne-Edwards's Sportive Lemurs that were calling just metres from where we were sat. Common Brown Lemurs could also be heard but further away.

## Day 15

Monday 16th October

### Ankarafantsika

Today was a full day exploring this thoroughly rewarding dry zone forest. We started with hot drinks at 5.15am before a 5.30am departure. Our trail for the morning was just adjacent to Lake Ravelobe. The conditions were perfect as the sun was barely up, the light was beautiful and the temperature comfortable. There was much bird activity and we managed to see four Vanga species in a short space of time including Blue, Chabert's, White-headed and Sickle-billed Vangas. A distant Sooty Falcon could be seen soaring high overhead. Our focus on this trail was on one of Madagascar's most eccentric small birds, the Schlegel's Asity. Part of the group managed a brief sighting of a male, but half an hour later we were elated when a pair landed in a well-lit bare tree, affording good views for everyone. A male Cuckoo-roller also put on quite a show whilst feeding from his high perch. By 8.30am a very smug Naturetrek group were tucking into breakfast, after which most had a well-earned rest in the heat, although some continued searching for birds around the camp and their cabins.

Lunch was interrupted by a sighting from the table of a male France's Sparrowhawk that was perched very close to our table, and the usual Sickle-billed Vangas made appearances at close range. It was difficult to get through a meal without being interrupted by wildlife in the al fresco dining area! The area around the camp and the paths

to the cabins were as good for sighting wildlife as anywhere else, especially for reptiles. Numerous Oustalet's Chameleons, Collared Iguanids and snakes such as Bernier's Striped Snake could be found.

Our plan for the afternoon was to visit Lake Ravelobe by boat and also walk around the perimeter to look for various wetland birds, including a local highlight, the critically endangered Madagascar Fish Eagle. A circuit of the lake by boat made a refreshing change to walking the forest trails, and we were able to see several new species. The water level was extremely low for the time of year. Due to the influx of the invasive floating water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*, that carpet large areas of the lake, a decision was made to clear it using a herbicide in an attempt to reduce crocodile attacks on fisherman and bathers. This in turn has discouraged the local population of Madagascan Jacana, although we were able to spot two birds on a muddy lakeshore. Aside from these there many wetland birds of interest including Reed Cormorant, White-faced Whistling Duck, Striated Heron, Squacco Heron, Humblot's Heron, Purple Heron and Black Heron. A Whiskered Tern criss-crossed the centre of the lake and along the shores Malagasy Kingfishers were a common sight, as was the occasional introduced Nile Crocodile.

Olga took the boat around a corner into a secluded bay and there, perched on a fallen tree, was a Madagascan Fish Eagle. Its partner was just a short distance away and flew up to join its mate, offering us great views of the pair. This same pair has been residing on Lake Revelobe for at least 30 years but their ages were unknown. They certainly hadn't changed much since Aniket had first seen them here 13 years earlier! Just 100 pairs of these birds remain in Madagascar now, with at least one further pair and probably more in the Ankarafantsika area.

We returned to shore thrilled with our eagle sighting and embarked on a short walk around the periphery of the lake. A point of interest here was a Baobab *Adansonia madagascariensis boensis*, believed to be a distinct local variant of *A. madagascariensis*, with just a few remaining individuals, one having fallen in a storm a few years earlier. The trees at this location are believed to be 600 years old and it was just our luck to spot a bird we had so far missed perched high in its branches. A single Madagascan Green Pigeon took off almost as soon as we spotted it.

In the evening we made a final night walk, visiting the same location as the previous night. Mammal species seen were much the same as the night before, but we were lucky with the reptiles. Soon after entering the track a Rhinoceros Chameleon was spotted and this was soon followed by a Cat-eyed Snake and then a rare sighting of a Malagasy Tree Snake.

## Day 16

Tuesday 17th October

### Ankarafantsika - Tana

It was our final day of birding. Our domestic flight out of Mahajanga was quite conveniently delayed, which allowed us enough time to fit in an additional bird walk in the morning and a chance to try for one especially shy species in particular that had eluded us so far. We returned to the trail from our first afternoon and our guides focussed on this unusual ground-dwelling bird with a very restricted range of a handful or scattered, isolated locations, one of which was here. Soon a call was picked up and, with some patience, a sighting was produced of two individuals scurrying through the undergrowth. It was the White-breasted Mesite! Our return was met by a large troop of Common Brown Lemurs that had gathered in a tree by the camp and offered the only sighting of this species in daylight of the trip.

Our journey to Mahajanga took less than three hours and after a brief stop at the famous baobab roundabout, we stopped at a small cafe for a rest and cold drink. In addition to seeing an additional (although introduced) species of baobab, *Adansonia digitata*, we managed to spot one final bird species here - the humble House Sparrow! House sparrows are a recent introduction in Madagascar and have yet to colonise many areas.

Our flight from Mahajanga to Tana was via Nosy Be. On our return, two of our members departed on their international flights, whilst the rest returned to the Combava Hotel for a late dinner and some much needed rest.

## Day 17

Wednesday 18th October

### Return to UK

Today was the final day and after breakfast, one member engaged in a local excursion before departing from the international airport back to the UK, where another Naturetrek adventure came to an end. The remaining members continued to the tour extension, which focussed on the eastern rainforest zone.

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Sickle-billed Vanga



Lake Ravelobe



## Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	October														
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
1	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>													✓	✓	
2	Meller's Duck	<i>Anas melleri</i>								✓		✓					
3	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>												✓			
4	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>										✓	✓				
5	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>				✓											
6	Red-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>				✓											
7	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>													✓		✓
8	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>										✓					
9	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>			✓							✓				✓	✓
10	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Malagasy Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola idae</i>								✓		✓		✓			
12	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				✓											
14	Humboldt's Heron	<i>Ardea humbloti</i>			✓												✓
15	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>							✓								✓
16	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Dimorphic Egret	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓				
19	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>					✓		✓			✓					
20	Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>															✓
21	Madagascan Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>		✓											✓		
22	Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>							✓								
23	Frances's Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>					✓										✓
24	Henst's Goshawk	<i>Accipiter henstii</i>										H					
25	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Madagascan Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>															2
27	Madagascan Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
28	White-breasted Mesite	<i>Mesitornis variegatus</i>															✓
29	Subdesert Mesite	<i>Monias benschi</i>			✓												

	Common name	Scientific name	October													
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
30	Madagascan Buttonquail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>				✓	✓	H								✓
31	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓
32	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				✓										
33	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>		✓	✓	✓									✓	
34	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>		✓											✓	
35	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>		✓	✓	✓										
36	Madagascan Jacana	<i>Actophilornis albinucha</i>														✓
37	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			✓	✓										
38	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓	✓											
39	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>									✓	✓			✓	
40	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		✓	✓	✓										
41	Madagascan Pratincole	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>									✓					
42	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			✓											
43	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>			✓											
44	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>														✓
45	Madagascan Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles personatus</i>		✓												
46	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>								✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
47	Malagasy Turtle Dove	<i>Nesoenas picturatus</i>		✓				✓	✓		✓				✓	✓
48	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓
49	Madagascan Green Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>														✓
50	Madagascan Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>									✓	✓	✓			
51	Malagasy Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
52	Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>			✓		✓								✓	✓
53	Verreaux's Coua	<i>Coua verreauxi</i>		✓												
54	Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>									H	✓	✓			
55	Red-capped Coua	<i>Coua ruficeps</i>													✓	✓
56	Green-capped Coua	<i>Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps</i>		✓												
57	Red-fronted Coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>									✓					
58	Coquerel's Coua	<i>Coua coquereli</i>													✓	
59	Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>		✓	✓											
60	Giant Coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>						✓								
61	Madagascan Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>							H		H	✓	✓			



	Common name	Scientific name	October														
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
62	Madagascar Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>		H	✓										✓	H	
63	White-browed Owl	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>					✓	H									
64	Madagascan Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>		✓	✓										✓	✓	
65	Madagascan Spinetail	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>			✓						✓	✓					
66	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartus melba</i>							✓								
68	Cuckoo Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>									✓					✓	
69	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>													✓	✓	✓
70	Pitta-like Ground Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>									✓	H					
71	Long-tailed Ground Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>			✓												
72	Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i>									✓	✓					
73	Malagasy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>						✓				✓				✓	
74	Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Madagascan Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓							✓	✓	✓
76	Malagasy Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>												✓		✓	
78	Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>									✓				✓	✓	
79	Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>			✓						✓				✓	✓	✓
80	Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>		H	✓			✓								✓	
81	Velvet Asity	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>									✓						
82	Schlegel's Asity	<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>														✓	
83	Common Sunbird-Asity	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>									✓						
84	Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity	<i>Neodrepanis hypoxantha</i>									H						
85	Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>			✓		✓					H					
86	Red-shouldered Vanga	<i>Calicalicus rufocarpalis</i>	✓														
87	Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>			✓										✓	✓	H
88	Lafresnaye's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>			✓												
89	Van Dam's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>													✓		
90	Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falculea palliata</i>			✓										✓	✓	✓
91	White-headed Vanga	<i>Artamella viridis</i>									✓				✓	✓	
92	Chabert Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>	✓	✓	✓							✓			✓	✓	✓
93	Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>													✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	October														
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
94	Tylas Vanga	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>											H				
95	Dark Newtonia	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>											✓				
96	Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>			✓		✓				✓				H	✓	H
97	Archbold's Newtonia	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>			✓												
98	Madagascar Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>							✓			✓			✓	✓	✓
99	Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
100	Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
101	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Madagascar Lark	<i>Eremopterix hova</i>	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓		
103	Malagasy Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	✓						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
105	Malagasy Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>										✓					
106	Subdesert Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>		✓	✓	✓											
107	Grey Emutail	<i>Amphilais seebohmi</i>										✓					
108	Long-billed Bernieria	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>									✓	✓				✓	✓
109	Cryptic Warbler	<i>Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi</i>										H					
110	Wedge-tailed Jery	<i>Hartertula flavoviridis</i>									✓	✓					
111	Thamnornis	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>			✓												
112	Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>									✓						
113	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
114	Green Jery	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>									✓						
115	Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>										✓					
116	Madagascar Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>		✓		✓		✓									
117	Malagasy White-Eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>							H		✓	✓	✓			✓	
118	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓	✓			
119	Madagascar Starling	<i>Hartlaubius auratus</i>									✓						
120	Madagascar Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
121	Littoral Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola imerina</i>				✓											
122	Forest Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>						✓			✓	✓					
123	Madagascar Stonechat	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>						✓				✓	✓				
124	Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris sovimanga</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓
125	Malagasy Green Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris notatus</i>						✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	October														
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
126	Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>										✓	✓				
127	Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓	✓
128	Red Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
129	Madagascan Mannikin	<i>Lepidopygia nana</i>		✓	✓								✓				
130	Madagascan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
131	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>															✓

## Lemurs

1	Grey-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>		✓	✓	✓											
2	Grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>													✓		
3	Golden-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus ravelobensis</i>													✓	✓	
4	Rufous Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>									✓						
5	Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>													✓	✓	
6	Zombitse Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur hubbardorum</i>					✓										
7	Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>													✓	✓	✓
8	Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>									✓						
9	Greater Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur simus</i>									✓						
10	Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>								✓							
11	Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>													H	✓	✓
12	Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufifrons</i>							✓		✓						
13	Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>										✓					
14	Mongoose Lemur	<i>Eulemur mongoz</i>													✓		
15	Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>					✓	✓									
16	Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>													✓	✓	✓
17	Milne-Edwards' Sifaka	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>										✓					

## Other Mammals

1	Ring-tailed Mongoose	<i>Galidia elegans</i>									✓	✓					
2	Eastern Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>										✓					
3	Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>															✓
4	Tomb Bat	<i>Taphozous mauritanus</i>													✓	✓	
5	Bent-winged Bat	<i>Miniopterus sp.</i>										✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	October														
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
6	Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>				✓											

## Frogs

1	Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>							✓			✓					
2	White-lipped Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis albitabris</i>									✓						
3	Douliot's Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis doulioti</i>												✓	✓		
4	Painted Frog	<i>Mantella madagascariensis</i>										✓					
5	Microhylid Frog	<i>Scaphiophryne spinosa</i>										✓					

## Chameleons

1	Brown Leaf Chameleon	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>									✓						
2	O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>									✓	✓					
3	Short-nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>									✓						
4	Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>									✓	✓					
5	Blue-legged Chameleon	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>									✓	✓					
6	Glaw's Chameleon	<i>Calumma glawi</i>									✓						
7	Rhinoceros Chameleon	<i>Furcifer rhinocerotus</i>														✓	
8	Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>					✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	
9	Canopy Chameleon	<i>Furcifer willsii</i>									✓						
10	Antimena Chameleon	<i>Furcifer antimena</i>			✓												
11	Angel's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer angeli</i>												✓			

## Lizards, Geckos and Skinks

1	Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Oplurus (Chalerodon) madagascariensis</i>					✓										
2	Collared Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>												✓	✓	✓	
3	Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>		✓					✓								
4	Four-lined Iguanid	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>							✓								
5	Large-headed Gecko	<i>Paroedura bastardi</i>			✓												
6	Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus sp.</i>											✓		✓		
7	Spearpoint Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus ebenau</i>												✓	✓		
8	Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>									✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	October													
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9	Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>									✓	✓				
10	Peacock Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>									✓					
11	Standing's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>			✓			✓								
12	Koch's Giant Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis kochi</i>												✓	✓	✓
13	Common Four-clawed Gecko	<i>Gehyra mutilata</i>												✓	✓	✓
14	Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>		✓						✓						
15	Broad-tailed Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>						✓	✓					✓	✓	

## Snakes

1	Big-eyed Snake	<i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>		✓												
2	Thiel's Lined Snake	<i>Thamnosophis infrasingnatus</i>			✓											
3	Dumeril's Ground Boa	<i>Acrantophis dumerili</i>			✓											
4	Madagascar Cat-eyed Snake	<i>Madagascarophis calubrinus</i>														✓
5	Bernier's Striped Snake	<i>Dromicodryas bernieri</i>							✓							✓
6	Malagasy Tree Snake	<i>Stenophis arcifasciatus</i>														✓

## Turtles and Tortoises

1	Ploughshare Tortoise	<i>Astrochelys yniphora</i>													✓	✓
2	Madagascar Side-necked Turtle	<i>Erymnochelys madagascariensis</i>													✓	✓

## Others reptiles

1	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>														✓
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## Fish

1	Flying Fish sp.					✓										
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## Butterflies &amp; Moths

1	African Monarch	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>		✓					✓	✓						
2	Madagascar Giant Swallowtail	<i>Atrophaneura anterior</i>		✓	✓					✓				✓	✓	
3	Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia sp.</i>							✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	October													
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
4	Migrant	<i>Catopsilia sp.</i>								✓			✓			
5	Common Diadem	<i>Hypolimnas sp.</i>									✓					
6	Green Lady sp.												✓			
7	Madagascar Commodore	<i>Precis sp.</i>											✓			
8	Madagascar Satyr sp.												✓			
9	Madagascar Emperor Moth	<i>Bunaea aslauga</i>											✓			
10	Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema sp</i>							✓							
11	Brilliant Blue	<i>Junonia rhadama</i>							✓							

## Other Invertebrates

12	Giraffe-necked Weevil	<i>Trachelaphorus giraffa</i>											✓			
13	Flatid Leaf-bug	<i>Phromnia rosea</i>					✓						✓		✓	✓
14	Madagascar Giant Fire Millipede	<i>Aphistogoniulus sp.</i>											✓			
15	Pill Millipede	<i>Sphaerotherium sp.</i>											✓			
16	Golden Orb-web Spider	<i>Nephila madagascariensis</i>											✓			
17	Praying Mantis (unidentified)	Order Mantodea													✓	
18	Cricket sp.	<i>Anostomatidae sp.</i>														✓
19	Giant Hissing Cockroach	<i>Gromphadorrhina portentosa</i>													✓	
20	Giant Red Velvet Mite	<i>Dinothrombium pandorae</i>											✓			
21	Shieldbug sp.	<i>Pentatomoidea sp.</i>					✓									
22	Leaf Beetle sp.	<i>Chrysomelidae sp.</i>											✓			
23	Whirlygig Beetle sp.	<i>Gyrinidae sp.</i>											✓			
24	a Stick Insect	<i>Achrioptera impennis</i>							✓							
25	Snout Bug	<i>Zanna tenebrosa</i>							✓							
26	Net-throwing Spider sp.	<i>Deinopis sp.</i>							✓							
27	Rock Scarlet Dragonfly	<i>Crocothemis divisia</i>							✓							
28	Violet Dropwings	<i>Trithemis annulata</i>							✓							
29	Madagascar Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum sp.</i>							✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	October													
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

## Plants

### Baobabs

1	Fony Baobab	<i>Adansonia rubrostipa</i>	✓	✓	✓												
2	a Baobob	<i>Adansonia za</i>					✓										
3	a Baobob	<i>Adansonia madagascariensis</i>														✓	
4	a Baobob	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>															✓

### Other Trees

1	a Screwpine	<i>Pandanus pulcher</i>						✓									
2	a Screwpine	<i>Pandanus variabilis</i>						✓									
3	Lightning Tree	<i>Anthocleista madagascariensis</i>										✓					
4	Strangler Fig	<i>Ficus rubra</i>					✓										
5	Crocodile Tree	<i>Hura crepitans</i>												✓	✓	✓	
6	Jacaranda	<i>Bignoniaceae sp.</i>					✓	✓	✓								
7	Common Mango	<i>Mangifera indica</i>												✓		✓	
8	Flamboyant Tree	<i>Delonix regia</i>												✓		✓	
9	a tree	<i>Neotina isoneura</i>		✓													
10	Tapia	<i>Uapaca bojeri</i>						✓				✓					

### Palms

1	Traveller's Palm	<i>Ravenala madagascariensis</i>									✓	✓	✓				
2	Coconut Palm	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	✓	✓			✓										

### Succulents

1	a succulent	<i>Euphorbia stenoclada</i>		✓													
2	a succulent	<i>Euphorbia enterophora</i>					✓										
3	a succulent	<i>Euphorbia tuleariensis</i>		✓													

	Common name	Scientific name	October														
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
4	a succulent	<i>Aloe imalotensis</i>							✓								
5	a succulent	<i>Aloe deltoideodonta var candicans</i>		✓													
6	a succulent	<i>Aloe viguieri</i>		✓													
7	Octopus Tree	<i>Didierea madagascariensis</i>			✓												
8	a succulent	<i>Alluaudia comosa</i>	✓	✓													
9	a succulent	<i>Allaudia montagnacii</i>		✓													
10	a succulent	<i>Alluaudia procera</i>		✓													
11	a succulent	<i>Cyphostema montagnaci</i>		✓													

## Other Plants

1	Madagascar Periwinkle	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>							✓								
2	Elephant's Foot	<i>Pachypodium rosulatum gracilus</i>							✓								
3	Frangipani	<i>Plumeria rubra</i>							✓								
4	Madagascar Giant Bamboo	<i>Cathariostachys madagascariensis</i>									✓	✓					
5	Peacock Flower	<i>Albizia gummifera</i>											✓				
6	Passion Flower	<i>Passiflora sp.</i>										✓	✓				
7	Dancing Ladies	<i>Cynorkis purpurescens</i>									✓	✓	✓				
8	Madagascar Vanilla	<i>Vanilla madagascariensis</i>		✓													
9	Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>								✓			✓				
10	Madagascar Sundew	<i>Drosera madagascariensis</i>											✓				
11	Mistletoe Cactus	<i>Rhipsalis baccifera</i>						✓			✓						
12	African Water Lily	<i>Nymphaea nouchali (stellata)</i>															✓