

Introduction

A three-week independent trip to Madagascar, a popular birding destination because of the many endemic species, including 5 endemic families making the island unique. We made the standard 3-week roundtrip with a similar itinerary as most tour groups (but in a somewhat different order): Isalo, Zombitse, Ilfaty, Tulear/Anakao, Ranomafana, Andasibe, Ankafaransika and the Betsiboka delta. Additionally, we visited Anjazorobe forest, which offers similar birding as Ranomafana/Andasibe. At Andasibe we spend an extra day at Iaroka forest, a nearby reserve where since recently Helmeted and Berniers Vanga can be found (making a visit to Masoala no longer necessary). For some photo's see: https://goo.gl/photos/KQk9boRf16FpbMD47

Itinerary

Day 1	Saturday 12 Nov	Arrive Tana (15.30) and drive to Antsirabe (night in Antsirabe)
Day 2	Sunday 13 Nov	Antsirabe to Isalo (night in Ranohira)
Day 3	Monday 14 Nov	Birding Isalo + Zombitse and drive to Ilfaty (night in Ilfaty)
Day 4	Tuesday 15 Nov	Birding Ilfaty in morning + late afternoon (night in Ilfaty)
Day 5	Wednesday 16 Nov	Birding Tulear – La Table and wetlands (morning) (night in Tulear)
Day 6	Thursday 17 Nov	Birding Tulear + Boat to Anakoa + birding Nosy Ve and Anakao
Day 7	Friday 18 Nov	Birding Anakao + Boat to Tulear, drive + short stop at Zombitse (night at Ambalavao)
Day 8	Saturday 19 Nov	Drive to Ranomafana + Afternoon birding (night in Ranomafana)
Day 9	Sunday 20 Nov	Birding at Ranomafana
Day 10	Monday 21 Nov	Birding at Ranomafana
Day 11	Tuesday 22 Nov	Drive to Andasibe (night in Andasibe)
Day 12	Wednesday 23 Nov	Birding at Analamazoatra forest (night in Andasibe)
Day 13	Thursday 24 Nov	Birding at Mantadia Forest (night in Andasibe)
Day 14	Friday 25 Nov	Birding at Iaroka forest (night in Andasibe)
Day 15	Saturday 26 Nov	Birding Mantadia Forest + drive to Anjazorobe (night at Anjazorobe)
Day 16	Sunday 27 Nov	Birding at Anjazorobe
Day 17	Monday 28 Nov	Birding at Anjazorobe + drive to Tana
Day 18	Tuesday 29 Nov	Drive to Ampijoroa/Ankafaransika (night in Ampijoroa) and drive to Majunga (Matheve)
Day 19	Wednesday 30 Nov	Birding at Ankafaransika NP + drive to Majunga (night in Majunga
Day 20	Thursday 1 Dec	Birding at Betsiboka delta + drive to Ampijoroa (night at Ampijoroa)
Day 21	Friday 2 Dec	Birding at Ankafaransika NP (night at Ampijoroa)
Day 22	Saturday 3 Dec	Drive to Tana

Species we did not see

We focussed on the endemics and other species new for our world list. Even though we tried hard we missed some species, for completeness we mention the species we missed.

White-browed Owl: normally seen on a day roost at Zombitse. We tried two times, but it was not there. Others see it near Berenty (we did not go there) and some hear it near Isalo (we slept in closeby Ranohira).

Mad. Sandgrouse: The site near Tulear is not reliable anymore, we tried two times but failed. Later we heard there is a new site along the road somewhere near Sakahara. Based on ebird and observado try here: -22.931, 44.340 and or here -22.952,44.342

Grey Emutail: We visited a site near Ranomafana that had recently been converted to rice fields (so no good for emutails anymore). Another site became more difficult to reach because some of the bridge-supports had been stolen. We should have probably tried walking anyway, but kept trying for Rufous-headed Ground Roller. We tried to go to Mananara lodge from Anjozorobe but that wasn't possible because the warden wasn't there. They are easy at Andasibe near Torofotsy marsh, but our guide failed to tell us we had to get tickets a day in advance. Basically, we should have seen this, tactical error on our side and some bad luck.

Other endemics: We did not visit sites for Red-tailed Newtonia (Andohela), Tsingy Wood Rail, Sakalava Rail, Mad. Pochard, Mad. Serpent-eagle and Red Owl. Dusky Tetraka is still a mystery as far as we know. Birdlife/HBW as resplit the Amber Rock thrush so that one also has to wait for a next trip. Kelp Gull and Mad. Cuckoo-hawk were a bonus as they are usually not seen on this itinerary (but only in the far south).

What would we do different in hindsight

We chose to drive everything and not use flight because of the high chance of cancelled flights or missing luggage. If you include flying to Taolagnaro and try for the Red-tailed Newtonia (and Mad. Sandgrouse, White-browed Owl, Cuckoo-Hawk, Banded Kestrel and reliable Kelp Gull) and then fly to Tulear you can probably have a more effective trip. Furthermore, we recommend to do Andasibe before Ranomafana, this gives better focus at Ranomafana.

Other birders

Peak season to visit Madagascar is Sep – Nov. We were at the end of this period but to have good guides available we tried to avoid the big tour companies as much as possible in our itinerary. We still ran into a Birding Ecoturs group, 2 Swedish tour groups, a Taiwanese tour, a German tour group, a birding couple from Oregon (US) and our friends Martijn and Rinske who we set up to meet with for one day in Andasibe.

Practicalities

Guiding

Guides are obligatory at almost all sites and essential in finding all targets. We were guided by: Gildas in Ankarafantsika, Freddy in Ifaty, Samuel (I think?) in Zombitse, Dauphin in Ranomafana, Tina in Andasibe, Etienne in Iaroka and a local guide in Anjozorobe. We were expertly guided throughout, only at Andasibe our guide Tina did not have enough experience and did not know specific sites for all targets. Also he failed to tell us about the need for additional ticket to try for Grey Emutail. Turned out he had just started as a bird guide. Going with one of the 5 experienced bird guides of Andasibe (Florent, Patrice, Maurice, Luc & Julien) is a more reliable choice.

Literature

We took both field guides (Birds of Madagascar and Birds of Indian Ocean islands) and both are fine. For sounds we downloaded a selection from Xeno-Canto.org. We used some tripreports found on <u>www.cloudbirders.com</u> as input for our itinerary (among others Matheve 2012, Blaber 2015). Some other references are also included further on in this report.

Travelling

We wrote to several companies for a car with driver and in the end chose Eugene Rakotobe (<u>eliotlestar93@yahoo.fr</u>, +261 34 17 50039 contact details found in Knass 2010). He has lot of experience and knows what birders want. He has

contact details for guides, hotels and boats. We paid around 2000 euro's for three weeks (including his costs and gasoline). He joined for birding a couple of times when the car was guarded by others. The only problem we experienced was a broken driving shaft which had to be repaired in Tana. But he managed this expertly (Eugene put us in a Taxi Brousse and in the end it did not cost us any birding time). He has also visited Bemenavika so knows how to get there as well. An excellent choice if you are looking for a driver/fixer.

Eating & Sleeping

We stayed in hotels chosen by Eugene which was fine by us. Most hotels had a restaurant as well and on the road Eugene knew places to eat breakfast/lunch as well.

Weather

We visited at the start of the rainy season, but did not experience much rain. If you want to visit Bemenavika a visit earlier in the season is probably wise because of road conditions (but still possible in December see Gregory 2015). But otherwise a November/December visit is no problem.

Health and safety

We felt safe anywhere, and except for a few moments of mild diarrhea did not have any health problems. Unfortunately, on our final day Helen picked up some bacteria and was sick for a week after we returned (luckily no birds were missed).

Money

ATM's are pretty widespread. Bank of Africa only accepts Visa, but Societe General (BFV-SG) accepts all cards. Maximum withdrawal was 400.000 but repeated withdrawals are no problem.

Costs

We spent 950 euros per person on flight tickets, 2000 euro on transport and another 2000 on accommodation, food, entrance fees and guiding. Note that we never bargained (we don't like to) so probably some fees could have been cheaper, although a lot of prices were on official lists. Park entrance fees (average: 50.000 per person) and guiding fees (average 150.000-200.000 per day) are quite steep, making this an expensive trip (travelling with a group of 4 would have brought the price per person down). We also tipped the guides generously, economic benefits from visiting tourists might give the remaining forests a chance.

Visited Sites

We took a few GPS points of sites and specific birds, those are available here goo.gl/OzYv8n, and can also be requested in e.g. .kml (for Google Earth), .gpx (for GPS devices and GPS software) format.

Tulear area

A couple of sites near Tulear in the south west near Tulear (or on the way towards Ranomafana).

<u>Ifaty (Mangily</u>): A visit to the spiny forest is a necessity. It can feel a bit like zoo, but the fact that the birds are still there probably means they don't suffer too much by the herding. One morning and one afternoon should be enough, when in a hurry only one morning would probably suffice. A visit to the salt flats is necessary to see Mad. Plover. (-23.15746, 43.61781). We were expertly guided by Freddy. He also accompanied us to La Table and Tulear lakes.

<u>Tulear Lakes</u> (-23.29134, 43.64408): A good site for some wetland species (and we saw Mad. Harrier here as well). We tried for Painted Snipe which is usually seen here but couldn't find it. Pectoral sandpiper was quite a surprise.

<u>Anakoa (and Nosy Ve)</u>: A visit to Anakoa is a must for Littoral Rock Thrush and Nosy Ve is easily included for Red-tailed Tropicbird and Crab plover. Some tours do this as a day trip from Tulear. We decided to stay one night in Anakoa. Not many boats seem to travel back to Tulear in the afternoon so a day trip is probably more expensive (We paid 100.000

per person for a return trip, and 200.000 for the Nosy Ve trip (with the same boat when we dropped all passengers). Eugene fixed this for us as well.

<u>La Table</u>: Dry habitat near Tulear, visited with Freddy one morning and quite easily saw our targets. Park here - 23.42044, 43.80576 and wandering the small trails while taping will get you the species.

<u>Zombitse</u>: A NP adjacent to the main road. We visited late morning and thanks to the guide quickly saw all the birds (except for the White-browed owl which had abandoned its day roost). Main targets: Appert's Tetraka, Giant Coua and White-browed Owl. Our best views of Cuckoo Roller were here as well. On our second visit we were shown Madagascan Owl (1 ad, 2 juv) which is not seen often in Zombitse (unfortunately not the owl we were looking for).

Isalo: A short stop on the drive towards Ranomafana (or towards Tulear) Mad. Partridge is reliable in the high grass near a small lake (-22.65329, 45.32755) and 'bensoni' Forest Rock Thrush reliable near the museum (-22.61774, 45.36255). Others see Harlequin Quail in the grassland between Isalo and Ranohira, we didn't try... We did see Mad. Harrier (-22.40644, 45.96042) just west of Ihosy.

Ranomafana

Basically two main trail systems you have to bird to see the local specialties.

There is quite some overlap with the Andasibe area but especially Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity and Brown Mesite have to be seen in this area. We spent one afternoon on the trails near the HQ (Wedge-tailed Jery, Pollen's Vanga and heard Brown Mesite) and then spent two days in the Vohipara area for Brown Mesite (2 birds seen) and tried long and hard for Rufous-headed Ground roller (only heard). We saw Mad. Snipe at some rice fields a bit west of Vohipara (-21.23614, 47.38519). Yellow-bellied Sunbird-asity was quite easy at a nesting site.

Andasibe

The Andasibe-area contains a few sites that are being visited for years and a new site on the map since last year (laroka Forest). We stayed at Feon'ny Ala (+261 205683202/ <u>contact.feonnyala@gmail.com</u>) which is where most birders stay. Excellent view of the forest from the dining area. See the chapter on guiding above about our experiences here.

<u>Analamazoatroa reserve</u>: Just 2 km up the road from the hotel, this is the main HQ (buy your ticket here for Mantadia as well). We birded here our first day. Quite a small reserve as you look at satellite photos, but it contains some good species. Red-breasted Coua was only seen here.

<u>Mantadia</u>: A larger forest further up the road, which is the best site for the Ground Rollers (although Rufous-headed is rare). A small lake (an old graphite mine) had Meller's Duck and Mad. Little Grebe.

<u>laroka forest</u>: Ticket office is near Andasibe (-18.95296, 48.41637). We made arrangements to go there a day earlier (on the main road near Analamazoatro reserve were we met Etienne). This day we were expertly guided by Etienne, the manager of this community conservation project. In the forest also a local ranger from the community joined us who had very sharp eyes as well. After obtaining tickets you drive to -19.00935, 48.43527 (high clearance necessary) where the track turns into a trail. The forest is quite good; this year they found two nests for Helmet Vanga. The close ones had already fledged so we walked to the second site (3 hours walk) at -19.02623, 48.47275 and found the nest containing a large chick being fed by a parent. On the way back we also saw Bernier's Vanga at a nest (-19.02843, 48.46936) and saw Brown Emutail, Common Sunbird-Asity, Rufous-headed Ground Roller and Forest Rock Thrush making this a excellent day. Quite a bit easier than flying to Masoala!

Anjozorobe

Saha Forest Camp (-18.41369, 47.94107) is a site 3 hours North of Tana. We payed 190.000 per night, but without entrance fees for the forest staying here was similar in price to the other forest sites. It's a nice place right at the edge of the forest. The local guide (our only female guide) knew some bird sounds an locations for a few species. She also

knew the site for Slender-billed Flufftail on the ground of the Mananara Lodge (which no longer exists). When we asked if we could still visit the place she asked the warden, but since he was not on the grounds a visit was not possible. Grey Emutail should be there as well...

Birding can be done on some good trail along a forested ridge. We saw three species here that we did not see at other sites: Yellowbrow (-18.40762, 47.94271), Grey-crowned Tetraka (-18.41082, 47.94362) and Henst Goshawk (-18.41542, 47.94613). We also heard a few Brown Emutail, at least two Rufous-headed Ground Rollers and saw Madagascan snipe. All species that are sometimes missed at the other sites. Especially if a visit can be combined with Mananara lodge this can be a useful addition to the itinerary.

Ankarafantsika (inc. Betsiboka delta).

Towards the city of Mahajanga in the North West two good birding sites are situated.

<u>Ankarafantsika</u>: Gildas expertly guided us to the important targets on our first morning after which we left for the Betsiboka delta. Gildas joined us to the delta (his first time there) and he got a few new species. After this we returned for another day of relaxed birding. The first night we slept in a bungalow at the lake side (100.000) and although Eugene made a reservation for the next two nights as well the NP decided to give the bungalows to a birdtour, so we slept in another room (30.000). Camping is possible here as well and a restaurant is on site.

Schlegel's Asity (-16.29488, 46.81466) is only found on the grid trails North of the road. Van Dam's Vanga (-16.31791, 46.80905), White-breasted Mesite (quite common) is found on the grid trails south of the road. The Coua's (Redcapped and Coquerel's) were common here and one Banded Kestrel (-16.31679, 46.81109) was seen as well (our only of the trip). We taped Tororoka Scops owl in the HQ area (heard near restaurant, seen near bungalows). Mad. Fish Eagle is usually found in the trees adjacent to the lake. Mad. Jacana is (-16.13766, 46.7717) becoming more difficult, we found to on the shores of a big lake on the way to Mahajanga after crossing a stream in with the help of one of the farmer/fisherman. Our final day we found one on Lac Ravelobe near the HQ as wel to the surprise of Gildas.

Gildas also knew a site for Mad. Sandgrouse (in october) when rice is being harvested this site is reliable for this species. We didn't visit the site because the birds were gone.

We saw at least three Mad. Harriers along the road towards Ankaranfantsika (km 75/76 & km 105/106), an Mad. Pratincole is common at this major river crossing (-16.93798, 46.95087)

<u>Betsiboka Delta</u>: Eugene had contact details for the owner of a speedboat. We paid 480.000 for the trip. The owner/guide knew the species and that we had to account for the tide. He picked us up at our hotel, the boat left from here -15.72568, 46.30638. The Mad. Sacred Ibis was easily found (at least ten: -15.86001, 46.34593) but we had to search long and hard for the Bernier's Teal (-15.88858, 46.36313). Another group in the area on the same day missed them. Our captain told us they might be breeding, a month earlier he easily saw 14 on a morning, and now we only found 2.

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

We have tried to accurately indicate the proper subspecies for all our observations, usually based on geographic locations based on the IOC World Bird List version 6.4. We tried to keep detailed notes throughout the trip but especially commoner species might not have been written down daily. Triplist generated with iGoterra trips, see www.igoterra.com for details. In my view the best listing software/website!.

GPS points

A complete list of GPS points of sites and specific birds is available here goo.gl/OzYv8n, and can also be requested in e.g. .kml (for Google Maps), .gpx (for GPS devices and GPS software) format.

1 White-faced Whistling Duck Dendrocygna viduata

2 Ifaty pans 16.11, Common Alarobia Lake 28.11, 2 en route 29.11, 5 en route 30.11 and 2 Ampijoroa 2.12. Observed 6 days in total

2 Knob-billed Duck Sarkidiornis melanotos

2 Ampijoroa 30.11 and 1 Ampijoroa 2.12

3 Meller's Duck Anas melleri Endemic

1 Mantadia NP 24.11 and 2 Anjozorobe 26.11

4 Bernier's Teal Anas bernieri Endemic

2 Betsiboka delta 1.12

Only two after some searching. Another group was searching at the same time and missed them.

5 **Red-billed Teal** Anas erythrorhyncha

2 Anjozorobe 27.11 and Fairly Common Alarobia Lake 28.11

6 Hottentot Teal Anas hottentota

Common Ifaty pans 16.11 and Fairly Common Alarobia Lake 28.11

7 Madagascan Partridge Margaroperdix madagarensis Endemic

2 Isalo NP 14.11

8 Little Grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis

Common Ifaty pans 16.11

9 Madagascan Grebe Tachybaptus pelzelnii Endemic

3 Mantadia NP 24.11

10 Lesser Flamingo Phoeniconaias minor

25 Betsiboka delta 1.12

11 **Red-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon rubricauda rubricauda*

Common Nosy Ve 17.11

12 Yellow-billed Stork Mycteria ibis

2 en route 30.11

13	Malagasy Sacred Ibis Threskiornis bernieri bernieri Endemic		
	10 Betsiboka delta 1.12		
14	Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus		
	8 en route 1.12 and 2 Ampijoroa 2.12		
15	Madagascan Ibis Lophotibis cristata Endemic		
	cristata: 2 Andasibe 23.11 and 1 Mantadia NP 24.11		
	urschi: 1 Ampijoroa 2.12		
16	Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus podiceps Endemic		
	1 Mantadia NP 26.11		
17	Black-crowned Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax		
	3 Tana 12.11, 3 en route 13.11, Common Alarobia Lake 28.11, 2 heard Ampijoroa 30.11 and Fairly Common Ampijoroa 2.12		
18	Striated Heron Butorides striata rutenbergi		
	Common.		
19	Squacco Heron Ardeola ralloides		
	Common.		
20	Malagasy Pond Heron Ardeola idae		
20	Malagasy Pond Heron Ardeola idae 5 Alarobia Lake 28.11		
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27 Dimorphic Egret Egretta dimorpha

Common.

28 Hamerkop Scopus umbretta umbretta

Fairly Common en route 13.11, 3 en route 19.11, 1 en route 22.11, 1 Anjozorobe 28.11, 2 en route 28.11 and 1 en route 3.12

29 Madagascan Harrier-Hawk Polyboroides radiatus Endemic

1 Ifaty 15.11, 1 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 1 Anjozorobe 28.11 and 1 Ampijoroa 2.12

30 Madagascan Cuckoo-Hawk Aviceda madagascariensis Endemic

1 Ifaty 15.11

31 Frances's Sparrowhawk Accipiter francesiae francesiae Endemic

1 Iaroka Forest 25.11, 1 Ampijoroa 29.11, 1 Ampijoroa 2.12 and 1 Ampijoroa 3.12

Quite difficult, the one on the way back from Iaroka forest flew over the car and Helen missed it. The first we saw at Ampijoroa was hunting gecko's in the restaurant!

32 Madagascan Sparrowhawk Accipiter madagascariensis Endemic

2 Ifaty 15.11

33 Henst's Goshawk Accipiter henstii Endemic

1 Anjozorobe 27.11 and 1 heard Anjozorobe 28.11

Very easy at Anjozorobe

34 Malagasy Harrier Circus macrosceles

1 **Q** Ifaty pans 16.11, 1 **d** en route 18.11, 2 en route 29.11 and 1 en route 3.12

Quite easy with a couple of sightings: Seen at Tulear lakes, en route back from Isalo and en route between between Tana & Ampijoroa near km 75/76 & km 105/106

35 Yellow-billed Kite Milvus aegyptius parasitus

Regularly in the dry west.

36 Madagascan Fish Eagle Haliaeetus vociferoides Endemic

1 Ampijoroa 30.11 and 2 Ampijoroa 2.12

37 Madagascan Buzzard Buteo brachypterus Endemic

1 en route 13.11, 1 Zombitse NP 14.11, 2 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 1 Ranomafana NP 21.11, 1 en route 22.11, 2 heard Andasibe 23.11, 2 Mantadia NP 24.11, 1 en route 29.11, 1 Ampijoroa 30.11 and 1 Ampijoroa 2.12

38 White-breasted Mesite Mesitornis variegatus Endemic

1 Ampijoroa 30.11 and 6 Ampijoroa 2.12

39 Brown Mesite Mesitornis unicolor Endemic

1 heard Ranomafana NP 19.11 and 2 Ranomafana NP 20.11

Heard two several times on our first afternoon near the HQ-area and saw two crossing the trail after quite some effort.

40 Subdesert Mesite Monias benschi Endemic

2 Ifaty 15.11

41 Madagascan Wood Rail Canirallus kioloides kioloides Endemic

1 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 4 Andasibe 23.11 and 2 heard laroka Forest 25.11

42 Madagascan Flufftail Sarothrura insularis Endemic

1+3 heard Ranomafana NP 20.11, 5 Andasibe 23.11, 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 25.11, 1 heard Mantadia NP 26.11 and 1 heard Anjozorobe 28.11

43 Madagascan Rail Rallus madagascariensis Endemic

2 heard Ranomafana NP 21.11 and 1 heard Mantadia NP 26.11

44 White-throated Rail Dryolimnas cuvieri cuvieri

2 Andasibe 23.11, 1 heard Ampijoroa 30.11 and 1 heard Ampijoroa 1.12

45 Allen's Gallinule Porphyrio alleni

4 Ampijoroa 30.11

46 **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorrhoa*

1 Mantadia NP 24.11, Fairly Common Alarobia Lake 28.11 and 1 en route 30.11

47 Red-knobbed Coot Fulica cristata

1 lfaty pans 16.11

- 48 Madagascan Buttonquail *Turnix nigricollis* Endemic3 Isalo NP 14.11, 3 Ifaty 15.11 and 1 Ampijoroa 3.12
- 49 Crab-plover Dromas ardeola

20 Anakao 17.11 and 1 Betsiboka delta 1.12

50 Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

5 Ifaty 14.11 and 15 Ifaty pans 16.11

- 51 **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola squatarola* 1 Anakao 17.11 and 1 Betsiboka delta 1.12
- 52 **Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula tundrae*

1 Ifaty 14.11, 5 Ifaty pans 16.11 and 3 Betsiboka delta 1.12

- 53 Madagascan Plover Charadrius thoracicus Endemic1 Ifaty 15.11
- 54 **Kittlitz's Plover** Charadrius pecuarius

6 Ifaty 14.11, 8 Ifaty 15.11, 20 Ifaty pans 16.11, 2 Tulear 17.11, 2 en route 30.11 and 10 Betsiboka delta 1.12

55 **Three-banded Plover** Charadrius tricollaris bifrontatus Endemic

1 Tulear 16.11, 1 Ranomafana NP 20.11 and 1 en route 26.11

The form concerned is endemic bifrontatus which some recent authors, including the recent Birdlife/HBW Checklist, split as Madagascar Three-banded Plover C. bifrontatus on the basis of several small differences in head and breast pattern and colour.

56 White-fronted Plover Charadrius marginatus tenellus Endemic

3 Betsiboka delta 1.12

57 Greater Sand Plover Charadrius leschenaultii scythicus

1 Nosy Ve 17.11 and 5 Betsiboka delta 1.12

58 Madagascan Jacana Actophilornis albinucha Endemic

6 en route 30.11 and 1 Ampijoroa 2.12

This species is getting more difficult. Our guide told us they are not found in the NP anymore (a day later we found one along Lac Ravelobe), and where guided to another big lake where we had to walk quite a bit (and cross a stream in a hollowed out tree) to find any vegetation. There we found 6, but the habitat is under threat with increased use.

59 Madagascan Snipe Gallinago macrodactyla Endemic

1 Ranomafana NP 20.11 and 1 Anjozorobe 27.11

60 Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus phaeopus

4 Ifaty 15.11, 3 Nosy Ve 17.11 and Common Betsiboka delta 1.12

61 **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

15 Ifaty 15.11, 3 Ifaty pans 16.11, 2 en route 30.11 and 5 Betsiboka delta 1.12

62 Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola

2 Ifaty pans 16.11

63 **Terek Sandpiper** Xenus cinereus

Common Betsiboka delta 1.12

64 **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

3 en route 28.11, 6 en route 30.11, 10 Betsiboka delta 1.12 and 1 en route 3.12

65 **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres interpres*

5 Ifaty 15.11, 5 Nosy Ve 17.11, 5 Anakao 17.11 and 10 Betsiboka delta 1.12

66 **Pectoral Sandpiper** Calidris melanotos

1 lfaty pans 16.11

67 **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

20 Ifaty 15.11 and Common Betsiboka delta 1.12

68 Madagascan Pratincole Glareola ocularis

1 en route 26.11, 1 en route 29.11 and 10 en route 3.12

69 Kelp Gull Larus dominicanus melisandae Endemic

1 Nosy Ve 17.11

Usually only seen in the south, this species is sometimes seen as a candidate for a split.

70 Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspia

2 Betsiboka delta 1.12

71 Greater Crested Tern Thalasseus bergii thalassinus

5 Anakao 17.11 and 5 Betsiboka delta 1.12

72 Lesser Crested Tern Thalasseus bengalensis bengalensis

2 Anakao 17.11 and 10 Betsiboka delta 1.12

Saunders's Tern Sternula saundersi

[10 Betsiboka delta 1.12]

See [Bech - 2012 - Cloudbirders] for a discussion about the identification of Saunders vs. Little in Madagascar), for this reason identification is uncertain.

Roseate Tern Sterna dougallii arideensis

[1 Betsiboka delta 1.12]

Winter plumaged bird, identification uncertain.

73 Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybrida delalandii

2 en route 30.11

74 Malagasy Turtle Dove Nesoenas picturatus picturatus Endemic

5 Ifaty 15.11, 1 Ranomafana NP 21.11, 5 Andasibe 23.11, 4 Mantadia NP 24.11, 3 en route 26.11, 1 Anjozorobe 27.11, 1 Anjozorobe 28.11, 6 Ampijoroa 30.11 and Common Ampijoroa 2.12

75 Namaqua Dove Oena capensis aliena Endemic

6 en route 14.11, 3 Ifaty 15.11, Common Tulear 17.11, 5 en route 18.11, 6 en route 29.11, 4 en route 30.11 and 5 en route 3.12. Observed 8 days in total

76 Madagascan Green Pigeon Treron australis Endemic

xenius: 5 Ifaty 15.11 and 10 Ampijoroa 30.11

australis: 1 Andasibe 23.11

77 Madagascan Blue Pigeon Alectroenas madagascariensis Endemic

2 Ranomafana NP 19.11, 3 Andasibe 23.11, 1 Andasibe 24.11 and 1 Mantadia NP 24.11

78 Malagasy Coucal Centropus toulou toulou Endemic

Very Common

79 Crested Coua Coua cristata Endemic

dumonti: 3 Ampijoroa 30.11 and 5 Ampijoroa 2.12

pyropyga: 1 Zombitse NP 14.11, 3 Ifaty 15.11 and 1 Zombitse NP 18.11

Split by birdlife as Chestnut-vented Coua

80 Verreaux's Coua Coua verreauxi Endemic

3 La Table 16.11

81 Blue Coua Coua caerulea Endemic

3 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 4 Ranomafana NP 21.11, 1+1 heard Andasibe 23.11, 1 Mantadia NP 24.11, Fairly Common Iaroka Forest 25.11 and 1 heard Anjozorobe 27.11

82 Red-capped Coua Coua ruficeps Endemic

ruficeps: 3 Ampijoroa 30.11 and 11 Ampijoroa 2.12

olivaceiceps: 1 La Table 16.11

SW subspecies known as Brown-capped Coua (or Green-capped Coua).

83 Red-fronted Coua Coua reynaudii Endemic

1 heard Ranomafana NP 19.11, 2 heard Ranomafana NP 20.11, 4 heard Ranomafana NP 21.11, 1 laroka Forest 25.11, 1 Mantadia NP 26.11, 2 heard Anjozorobe 27.11 and 2 heard Anjozorobe 28.11

84 Coquerel's Coua Coua coquereli Endemic

2 Zombitse NP 14.11, 1 Zombitse NP 18.11 and 4 Ampijoroa 2.12

85 Running Coua Coua cursor Endemic

3 Ifaty 15.11

86 Giant Coua Coua gigas Endemic

6 Zombitse NP 14.11

87 Red-breasted Coua Coua serriana Endemic

1 Andasibe 23.11

88 Madagascan Cuckoo Cuculus rochii

Commonly heard and some seen

89 Western Barn Owl Tyto alba hypermetra

2 Ampijoroa 2.12

90 Torotoroka Scops Owl Otus madagascariensis Endemic

1 heard Ampijoroa 30.11 and 1+3 heard Ampijoroa 2.12

91 Rainforest Scops Owl Otus rutilus Endemic

1 heard Andasibe 22.11 and 1 Andasibe 23.11

92 Madagascan Owl Asio madagascariensis Endemic

3 Zombitse NP 18.11

93 Collared Nightjar Gactornis enarratus Endemic

1 Mantadia NP 24.11

94 Madagascan Nightjar Caprimulgus madagascariensis madagascariensis Endemic

5+5 heard lfaty 15.11, 2 Anjozorobe 26.11, 1 heard Analamazoatra Special Reserve 26.11, 2 Ampijoroa 29.11 and 1 Tana 3.12

95 Madagascan Spinetail Zoonavena grandidieri grandidieri Endemic

5 en route 18.11 and 2 Mantadia NP 24.11

96 African Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus gracilis Endemic

Common Isalo NP 14.11, 5 en route 18.11, Common Ranomafana NP 20.11, Fairly Common Ranomafana NP 21.11, Fairly Common en route 29.11 and Fairly Common Ampijoroa 3.12

97 Malagasy Black Swift Apus balstoni balstoni Endemic

1 en route 13.11, 3 Tulear 17.11, Fairly Common en route 18.11, Fairly Common en route 28.11, 15 en route 29.11 and 1 Tana 3.12

98 Little Swift Apus affinis affinis

5 Tana 3.12

99 Cuckoo Roller Leptosomus discolor discolor

Fairly Common Zombitse NP 14.11, Fairly Common heard Zombitse NP 18.11, Fairly Common heard Ranomafana NP 19.11, Fairly Common heard Ranomafana NP 20.11, Fairly Common heard Ranomafana NP 21.11, 1+0 heard Andasibe 23.11, Fairly Common heard Iaroka Forest 25.11, Fairly Common heard Anjozorobe 27.11, Common heard Anjozorobe 28.11, Fairly Common heard Ampijoroa 30.11 and Fairly Common heard Ampijoroa 2.12. Observed 12 days in total

100 Broad-billed Roller Eurystomus glaucurus glaucurus

1 Isalo NP 14.11, 1 Ranomafana NP 21.11, Fairly Common Mantadia NP 24.11, Fairly Common Ampijoroa 29.11, Common Ampijoroa 30.11, Fairly Common Ampijoroa 2.12 and Fairly Common Ampijoroa 3.12

101 Short-legged Ground Roller Brachypteracias leptosomus Endemic

2 Mantadia NP 26.11

102 Scaly Ground Roller Geobiastes squamiger Endemic

1 Mantadia NP 24.11 and 1 Mantadia NP 26.11

103 **Pitta-like Ground Roller** *Atelornis pittoides* Endemic

Fairly Common Ranomafana NP 19.11, 2 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 5 Ranomafana NP 21.11, 3 heard Mantadia NP 24.11, 2 heard Iaroka Forest 25.11, 1+2 heard Mantadia NP 26.11 and 4 Anjozorobe 27.11

Easiest of the Ground Rollers

104 Rufous-headed Ground Roller Atelornis crossleyi Endemic

1 heard Ranomafana NP 20.11, 2 heard Ranomafana NP 21.11, 1 laroka Forest 25.11, 1 heard Anjozorobe 27.11 and 2 heard Anjozorobe 28.11

105 Long-tailed Ground Roller Uratelornis chimaera Endemic

1 Ifaty 15.11

106 Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher Corythornis madagascariensis madagascariensis Endemic

1 Mantadia NP 24.11, 1 heard laroka Forest 25.11 and 1 Ampijoroa 2.12

107 Malagasy Kingfisher Corythornis vintsioides vintsioides Endemic

1 en route 13.11, 2 en route 19.11, 1 Anjozorobe 27.11, 1 Alarobia Lake 28.11, 1 en route 29.11 and 1 en route 30.11

108 **Olive Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus superciliosus*

3 en route 13.11, Fairly Common Isalo NP 14.11, 2 Ifaty 15.11, 3 Tulear 17.11, 1 Mantadia NP 24.11, 3 en route 25.11, 4 en route 28.11, 15 en route 29.11, 6 en route 30.11, 4 Ampijoroa 2.12 and Fairly Common en route 3.12. Observed 13 days in total

109 Madagascan Hoopoe Upupa marginata Endemic

2 Isalo NP 14.11, 1 Ifaty 15.11, 1 Anakao 17.11, 1 en route 28.11, 8 Ampijoroa 30.11 and 3 Ampijoroa 2.12

110 Malagasy Kestrel Falco newtoni newtoni Endemic

Common.

111 Banded Kestrel Falco zoniventris Endemic

1 Ampijoroa 30.11

112 Eleonora's Falcon Falco eleonorae

2 en route 13.11, 3 en route 26.11, 1 en route 29.11, 1 Ampijoroa 30.11, 2 Ampijoroa 2.12 and 3 en route 3.12

113 Sooty Falcon Falco concolor

1 Tana 12.11, 1 Tana 3.12 and 1 en route 3.12

114 Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrinus radama

1 Ampijoroa 2.12

115 **Greater Vasa Parrot** *Coracopsis vasa* Endemic

drouhardi: 1 Zombitse NP 14.11 and 2 en route 3.12

vasa: 2 Ranomafana NP 21.11, 5 Mantadia NP 24.11 and 2 Iaroka Forest 25.11

116 Lesser Vasa Parrot Coracopsis nigra Endemic

libs: 1 Ifaty 15.11, 2 Andasibe 23.11, 1 en route 29.11, 1+5 heard Ampijoroa 30.11 and 6 heard Ampijoroa 2.12

nigra: 2 Ranomafana NP 19.11, 3 heard Mantadia NP 24.11, 3 heard Iaroka Forest 25.11, 3 Mantadia NP 26.11, 4 heard Anjozorobe 27.11 and 2 heard Anjozorobe 28.11

117 Grey-headed Lovebird Agapornis canus Endemic

canus: 6 en route 29.11 and 6 Ampijoroa 2.12

ablectaneus: 5 Isalo NP 14.11, 10 Ifaty 15.11, 25 Tulear 16.11 and 35 Tulear 17.11

118 Velvet Asity Philepitta castanea Endemic

1 Ranomafana NP 19.11, 1 & Ranomafana NP 20.11, 2 Ranomafana NP 21.11, 3 Andasibe 23.11, 2 Iaroka Forest 25.11 and 1 Anjozorobe 27.11

119 Schlegel's Asity Philepitta schlegeli Endemic

2 Ampijoroa 30.11

120 Common Sunbird-Asity Neodrepanis coruscans Endemic

2 Ranomafana NP 21.11 and 2 Iaroka Forest 25.11

121 Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity Neodrepanis hypoxantha Endemic

1 d'Ranomafana NP 20.11 and 1 Ranomafana NP 21.11

122 **Red-tailed Vanga** *Calicalicus madagascariensis* Endemic

2 heard Ifaty 15.11, 1 heard Zombitse NP 18.11, 5 Ranomafana NP 19.11, 2 heard Mantadia NP 24.11 and 3 Anjozorobe 28.11

123 **Red-shouldered Vanga** *Calicalicus rufocarpalis* Endemic

1 La Table 16.11

124 Hook-billed Vanga Vanga curvirostris Endemic

curvirostris: 1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 25.11 and 2 Ampijoroa 30.11

cetera: 1 Ifaty 15.11

125 Bernier's Vanga Oriolia bernieri Endemic

1 laroka Forest 25.11

126 Lafresnaye's Vanga Xenopirostris xenopirostris Endemic

2 Ifaty 15.11

- 127 Van Dam's Vanga Xenopirostris damii Endemic2 Ampijoroa 30.11 and 1+3 heard Ampijoroa 2.12
- 128 **Pollen's Vanga** *Xenopirostris polleni* Endemic 2 Ranomafana NP 19.11 and 1 Iaroka Forest 25.11
- 129 Sickle-billed Vanga Falculea palliata Endemic

2 Ifaty 15.11, 1 Betsiboka delta 1.12 and 4 Ampijoroa 2.12

White-headed Vanga Artamella viridis Endemic
 viridis: 1 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 1 Ranomafana NP 21.11 and 1 Andasibe 23.11

annae: 1 Ifaty 15.11 and 1 Ampijoroa 2.12

131 Chabert Vanga Leptopterus chabert Endemic
 chabert: 3 Ranomafana NP 21.11, 4 Andasibe 23.11 and 6 Ampijoroa 30.11
 schistocercus: 5 Ifaty 15.11 and 4 La Table 16.11

- Blue Vanga Cyanolanius madagascarinus madagascarinus Endemic
 1 Zombitse NP 14.11, 1 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 2 Anjozorobe 28.11 and 2 Ampijoroa 30.11
- 133 **Rufous Vanga** *Schetba rufa occidentalis* Endemic

3 Zombitse NP 14.11, 2 Ampijoroa 30.11 and 6 Ampijoroa 2.12

134 Helmet Vanga Euryceros prevostii Endemic

2 Iaroka Forest 25.11

135 **Tylas Vanga** *Tylas eduardi eduardi* Endemic

3 Ranomafana NP 19.11, 5 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 3 Ranomafana NP 21.11, 3 Andasibe 23.11, 2 Iaroka Forest 25.11, 1 Mantadia NP 26.11 and 1 Anjozorobe 28.11

136 Nuthatch Vanga Hypositta corallirostris Endemic

1 Mantadia NP 24.11 and 1 Mantadia NP 26.11

137 Dark Newtonia Newtonia amphichroa Endemic

4 Ranomafana NP 19.11, 1 Iaroka Forest 25.11 and 1 Anjozorobe 27.11

138 Common Newtonia Newtonia brunneicauda brunneicauda Endemic

Common Zombitse NP 14.11, 5 Ifaty 15.11, 1 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 4 Ranomafana NP 21.11, Common Andasibe 23.11, 3 Mantadia NP 24.11, Fairly Common heard Iaroka Forest 25.11, 3 Anjozorobe 27.11, 5 Anjozorobe 28.11, Fairly Common Ampijoroa 30.11 and Fairly Common Ampijoroa 2.12

139 Archbold's Newtonia Newtonia archboldi Endemic

1 lfaty 15.11

140 Ward's Flycatcher Pseudobias wardi Endemic

1 Andasibe 23.11

141 Crossley's Vanga Mystacornis crossleyi Endemic

1 Analamazoatra Special Reserve 23.11, 1 heard laroka Forest 25.11 and 1 heard Anjozorobe 27.11

142 Madagascan Cuckooshrike Coracina cinerea Endemic

cinerea: 1 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 4 Ranomafana NP 21.11, 5 Andasibe 23.11, 2 Mantadia NP 24.11 and 4 Iaroka Forest 25.11

pallida: 1 Zombitse NP 14.11, 6 Ampijoroa 30.11 and 2 Ampijoroa 2.12

143 Crested Drongo Dicrurus forficatus forficatus Endemic

Common

144 Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher Terpsiphone mutata mutata Endemic

Common

145 **Pied Crow** *Corvus* albus

Common in the dry west.

146	Madagascan Lark Eremopterix hova Endemic
	Common in the dry west.
147	Malagasy Bulbul Hypsipetes madagascariensis madagascariensis
	Common
148	Mascarene Martin Phedina borbonica madagascariensis
	Common
149	Brown-throated Martin Riparia paludicola cowani Endemic
	1 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 10 en route 26.11 and 8 en route 3.12
150	Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica rustica
	2 Ifaty pans 16.11
151	Malagasy Brush Warbler Nesillas typica typica Endemic
	1 en route 13.11, Fairly Common heard Ranomafana NP 20.11, Fairly Common Ranomafana NP 21.11, Common Andasibe 23.11, 3 Mantadia NP 24.11, Fairly Common Iaroka Forest 25.11, Fairly Common Anjozorobe 27.11 and Fairly Common Anjozorobe 28.11
152	Subdesert Brush Warbler Nesillas lantzii Endemic
	1 Ifaty 15.11, 4 La Table 16.11, Common Anakao 17.11 and Common Anakao 18.11
153	Madagascan Swamp Warbler Acrocephalus newtoni Endemic
	1 Ifaty pans 16.11, 1 Mantadia NP 24.11, 1 Mantadia NP 26.11 and 6 Anjozorobe 27.11
154	Brown Emutail Bradypterus brunneus Endemic
	1 Iaroka Forest 25.11, 1 heard Anjozorobe 27.11 and 2 heard Anjozorobe 28.11
155	White-throated Oxylabes Oxylabes madagascariensis Endemic
	5 Ranomafana NP 19.11 and 2 Iaroka Forest 25.11
156	Long-billed Bernieria Bernieria madagascariensis Endemic
	<i>madagascariensis:</i> 2 Ranomafana NP 19.11, 1 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 6 Ranomafana NP 21.11 and 8 Andasibe 23.11
	incelebris: 7 Zombitse NP 14.11, 6 Ampijoroa 30.11 and 6 Ampijoroa 2.12
157	Cryptic Warbler Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi Endemic
	2 Ranomafana NP 20.11
158	Wedge-tailed Jery Hartertula flavoviridis Endemic
	8 Ranomafana NP 19.11
159	Thamnornis Thamnornis chloropetoides Endemic
	4 Ifaty 15.11

160 **Spectacled Tetraka** *Xanthomixis zosterops zosterops* Endemic

Common Ranomafana NP 19.11, 3 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 6 Ranomafana NP 21.11, 5 Andasibe 23.11, 1 Mantadia NP 26.11, 2 Anjozorobe 27.11 and 10 Anjozorobe 28.11

161 Appert's Tetraka Xanthomixis apperti Endemic

2 Zombitse NP 14.11

162 Grey-crowned Tetraka Xanthomixis cinereiceps Endemic

1 Anjozorobe 28.11

163 Madagascan Yellowbrow Crossleyia xanthophrys Endemic

1 Anjozorobe 28.11

164 Rand's Warbler Randia pseudozosterops Endemic

4 Ranomafana NP 19.11, 2 heard Ranomafana NP 21.11 and 1 Andasibe 23.11

165 Common Jery Neomixis tenella Endemic

decaryi: 1 Ampijoroa 1.12

orientalis: 4 Ranomafana NP 19.11, Fairly Common heard Iaroka Forest 25.11, Fairly Common Mantadia NP 26.11, 4 Anjozorobe 27.11 and 4 Anjozorobe 28.11

debilis: Fairly Common Ifaty 15.11 and Common Tulear 17.11

166 Green Jery Neomixis viridis viridis Endemic

3 Ranomafana NP 19.11 and 2 Ranomafana NP 21.11

167 Stripe-throated Jery Neomixis striatigula Endemic

striatigula: 3 Ranomafana NP 19.11, 4 Andasibe 23.11 and Fairly Common heard laroka Forest 25.11

pallidior: Common Ifaty 15.11

168 Madagascan Cisticola Cisticola cherina

Common.

169 Malagasy White-eye Zosterops maderaspatanus maderaspatanus Endemic

5 Zombitse NP 14.11, 4 Ranomafana NP 19.11, Common Ranomafana NP 20.11, Common Ranomafana NP 21.11, Abundant Andasibe 23.11, Common Mantadia NP 24.11, Common Iaroka Forest 25.11, Common Anjozorobe 27.11, Fairly Common Anjozorobe 28.11 and 3 Tana 3.12. Observed 11 days in total

170 Madagascan Starling Hartlaubius auratus Endemic

1 Andasibe 23.11

171 Madagascan Magpie-Robin Copsychus albospecularis Endemic

pica: 2 Zombitse NP 14.11, Common Ifaty 15.11, 3 Tulear 17.11, 6 en route 30.11 and 6 Ampijoroa 2.12. observed 6 days in total

inexspectatus: Common Ranomafana NP 19.11, Common Ranomafana NP 20.11, Fairly Common Ranomafana NP 21.11, Fairly Common Andasibe 23.11, Fairly Common Mantadia NP 24.11, Common Iaroka Forest 25.11 and 1 Anjozorobe 28.11. Observed 8 days in total 172 Littoral Rock Thrush Monticola imerina Endemic

5 Anakao 17.11 and 5 Anakao 18.11

173 Forest Rock Thrush Monticola sharpei Endemic

sharpei: 2 Iaroka Forest 25.11

bensoni: 1 Isalo NP 14.11

Although been lumped with Forest Rock Thrush on the basis of a lack of genetic seperation it is an easy tick in Isalo (easier than it's true forest dwelling sistersubspecies).

174 Madagascan Stonechat Saxicola sibilla sibilla Endemic

Fairly Common en route 13.11, 2 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 1 Andasibe 23.11, Common en route 25.11, Common en route 26.11, 5 en route 28.11, Fairly Common en route 29.11 and 5 en route 3.12

175 Souimanga Sunbird Cinnyris sovimanga Endemic

sovimanga: Common.

apolis: Common

176 Malagasy Green Sunbird Cinnyris notatus notatus Endemic

1 en route 13.11, Fairly Common Zombitse NP 14.11, 2 Ifaty 15.11, 1 Ranomafana NP 20.11, 5 Andasibe 23.11 and 2 Mantadia NP 26.11

177 Nelicourvi Weaver Ploceus nelicourvi Endemic

6 Ranomafana NP 19.11, 4 Ranomafana NP 21.11, 10 Andasibe 23.11, 4 Iaroka Forest 25.11 and 1 Anjozorobe 27.11

178 Sakalava Weaver Ploceus sakalava Endemic

sakalava: 60 en route 29.11 and Fairly Common en route 3.12. observed 3 days in total

minor: Common Ifaty 15.11 and Fairly Common en route 18.11

179 **Red Fody** *Foudia madagascariensis*

Common.

180 Forest Fody Foudia omissa Endemic

1 Ranomafana NP 21.11 and 1 Mantadia NP 24.11

181 Madagascan Mannikin Lepidopygia nana Endemic

1 Ifaty 15.11, 5 Tulear 16.11, 2 Tulear 17.11, 3 Ranomafana NP 20.11 and 3 Anjozorobe 27.11. Observed 6 days in total

182 Madagascan Wagtail Motacilla flaviventris Endemic

3 en route 13.11, 4 Ranomafana NP 19.11, Common Ranomafana NP 20.11, 8 Andasibe 23.11, 5 Mantadia NP 24.11, 5 en route 26.11, 2 Tana 3.12 and 5 en route 3.12