

M A D A G A S C A R 2 0 1 2

**Bird Observations and Notes from a Danish group of birders travelling on
Madagascar 27.October – 21.November 2012.**

Also covers notes on Mammals, Amphibians, Reptiles, and some Invertebrates.

Jørgen Bech & Thomas Læssøe ©



INTRODUCTION

This report deals with a journey through Madagascar for almost 4 weeks in October/November 2012 by a group of 7 Danish ornithologists.

Four of the members of this group travelled in Papua New Guinea in 2010 and at the end of this trip decided that the other great endemic isolate – Madagascar – should be our next target.

The set-up was identical to the Papua-trip and all planning was done by the group.

The group

Anders Bacher Nielsen (ABN), Claus Brostrøm Nielsen (CBN), Henrik Læssøe (HL), Jørgen Bech (JB), Michael Trasborg (MT), Thomas Læssøe (TL), and Aage Kappelgaard (AaK).

Madagascar!

When the continents split up 120 mill years ago Madagascar broke off and from this early time was left in isolation in the Indian Ocean far enough from the African coast to develop an astonishing endemism. The old families – the super-endemics of Madagascar – arrived by chance on floating vegetation or blown by some tropical storm. From a few ancestors evolution created the families of the extremely specialized Vangas, the Mesites, the Ground-Rollers, and other great families specific to Madagascar. Later invaders of more modern species added further endemic bird species closer to relatives on the continents.

In about four weeks we managed to record 128 of these 138 endemic/near-endemic species of birds. One extinct, 2 rarely seen, and 3 not included in our IT left us with only 4 “dips” as such - Bernier’s Teal (due to a logistic failure), M.Cuckoo-Hawk, Tootoroka Scops Owl, and Dusky Tetraka.

The major part of the species observed, gave us extremely good observations. And among them precious gems like the 5 species of Ground-Rollers, Helmet Vanga, Velvet Asity, and many others.

During the trip also some birds rare to the island were recorded: Jouanin’s Petrel, Lesser Frigatebird, White-cheeked Tern, and a Red-necked Phalarope.

For all relevant species notes are given in the species account about documentation, concept of finding, taxonomy, anecdotes etc.

28 species of Lemurs were recorded. Formerly 32 species of Lemurs were described, but new taxonomy has increased the number to at present 98 species!

And the diversity of Chameleons, Reptiles, and Invertebrates on Madagascar is unsurpassed with a row of unbelievable creatures. If you have not seen Giant Leaf-Tailed Gecko “you ain’t seen nothing yet”!

So – Madagascar is adventure and incredible species on a broad scale on an island with highly diverse habitats.

This efficiency was due to a well working IT, the willingness in the group to do non-stop intensive field-work, and not as the least the skills of the local guides.





The Cuckoo-Roller and (previous page) the Indri (photos ABN) – incarnations of Madagascar and classic sounds of the eastern rainforests. Front-page: Subdesert Mesite, Ifaty Spiny Forest (photo JB)

PLANNING AND TRAVELLING

Decide your IT

The first step is always to decide the IT. Within the time-limits priorities have to be made. The days needed at each place must be fixed. It is recommended to start the process about a year before the actual trip. Choosing the classic main-localities with easy access and educated guides is straight-forward. But one main decision is if or if not Masoala should be part of the IT. More remote, no educated guides, and tricky transport. But it was a must for us – Helmet Vanga and the remote scenery drew like a magnet! We decided to drop Berenty and settled on this main IT:

Andasibe(Perinet)-Mantadia 6 days (important to include one day and night in Anjozorobe).

Tulear-Ifaty 6 days (one day boat-trip to Nosy Ve, one day Zombitse).

Masoala 5 days.

Ampijoroa 4 days (one day Mahajunga for the boattrip to Betsiboka delta).

Ranomafana 4 days (2 days driving from/to Tana).

Find your local tour operator.

With your wish for the IT ready it is time to find the local tour operator, built up the final IT, and agree on costs.

We chose MEA (Madagascar Expedition Agency) on mea@moov.mg Homepage: www.tourmadagascar.com

We recommend MEA and Nadia with whom we made all the negotiations. MEA booked all domestic flights, cars, hotels/lodge, and boat-transports and successfully translated our proposals into a realistic IT. They managed to book the right guides – an extremely important key to success. During the trip we were accompanied by a MEA-guide (Jean-Jacques) which proved to be a necessity especially travelling on a very tight schedule and facing repeated problems with Air Madagascar.

Only they forgot to pick us up in the airport at the arrival from Paris! The last moment changes created by Air France did make some confusion, but we found our hotel and within a few hours the next morning the trip was back on a smooth track.

The first offer was costly as we were placed on some very expensive lodges, but we had standards reduced (still fully acceptable). Having no tour-leader as such we sheared rooms in a flexible way to further reduce costs.

The Guides.

MEA-guide: Jean-Jacques Randriamanindry.

He worked hard for us in a difficult infra-structure. In addition he was a qualified man and we could draw on his great, professional experience of the Madagascar fauna, though his greatest skill is on the green plants. A true natural historian!

His arrival was delayed, but we soon learned why he was with us. He became a most appreciated part of the group. Which may – at times – have been not too easy to work with.

Andasibe-Mantadia: Luc.

Soon to be called Lucky Luc as he seemed to be capable of tracing any skulker. An absolute top-guide! Skilled and familiar with his forests. Never lost overview, very good technique at play-back situations. And nice company. Extremely recommendable. Anyone heading for Mantadia: try to get a deal with Luc!

Anjozorobe: Julien.

Worked hard and competent under difficult conditions, a truly difficult mission of finding rare and skulky species which he did with a patient and calm approach. Highly recommendable. Anjozorobe? – ask for Julien.

Tulear-Ifaty: Mossa and family.

Very effective in the Spiny Forest which they know into details including sites for all the species. It is big show, a lot of chasing birds. Mossa is the chief of the clan and seems to maintain an absolute monopoly. Probably by all means. Sometimes they show lack of engagement. Timing of the Sandgrouse was wrong but they knew the place.

The Spiny Forest calls for formal protection and the presence of a forest-authority!

So – ethics seem doubtful, but luckily we had very pleasant drivers who also knew some of the hotspots.

Zombitse: Flaubert (?) and colleague.

Very nice and very competent guides. In the heat of the day they had the task to show us 3 specified species and finding groups of Lemurs. Which they did. Certainly they knew their forests.

Masoala: Ursula.

No bird-guides available on Masoala. And no locals with traditional experience of the forest since the area is more or less uninhabited apart from a few settlers along the coast. Ursula did what she could – took us to some of the few paths and lead us to Helmet Vanga! For which we are very grateful. They – the sweet landlady of Tampolo Lodge - try to find local talents but the one they brought did more trouble than good.

Ampijoroa: Jacky - and help from a younger colleague (Justin?).

Jacky did an engaged, competent guiding. He is an elderly guide, very experienced and pleasant. Got into trouble with Schlegel's Asity, but kept the focus and got help from a younger colleague.

Ranomafana: Theo.

Again great competence and knowledge of the forest. When you find a Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity and a Fossa no further recommendations are needed.



Benefits by day roosts known by the guides:
Collared Nightjar, Mantadia (photo jb) – and...

...White-browed Owl, Zombitse (photo ABN)

Hotels and Lodges.

Ivotel (Tana): Standard hotel inside town with sheared rooms and ok for the purpose and a fair restaurant. The main problem was the long transport to the airport.

Andasibe Forest Lodge: Sheared cabins in nice surroundings and ok for our purpose. May have some problems with the food, not always too tasty and intestinal infections appeared during our stay.

Mananara Lodge (Anjozorobe): Sheared cabins in very nice surroundings, atmosphere and food of a higher standard than Andasibe.

Ikotel (Ifaty Spiny Forest): Very nice sea-side hotel, sheared cabins, good food, and a nice atmosphere.

Mamayana (Tulear): Hotel in town, sheared rooms. Not too spacy in the heat.

Hippocamp (Maroantsetra): Surprisingly interesting, somewhat eccentric place, close to luxurious.

Tampolo Lodge (Masoala): Absolute top-price to this place at the Masoala sea-coast, remote and bordered by the forest– any dream of a tropical paradise fulfilled and calling for at least a weeks' stay. Very well run by the sweet land-lady, food fine, despite of isolation and difficult transport.

Gite Ampijoroa: Older somewhat scout-like cluster of lodges, camps, and houses. Rather warn and dusty. Worked ok. Food fine.

Zahamotel (Mahajunga): More modern, somewhat sterile seaside motel, worked ok for a one-night-stay.

Ranomafana:

Flights

Air France (Air Arrogant!) and Air Madagascar (Air Perhaps!).

True nightmares to planning and to staying on the planned itinerary through Madagascar. Nerves have to be cool! But in some way we managed to get through with only some standard-delays.

International flights: We did our own bookings and chose Air France staying at a cheap hotel in Paris the night before the transcontinental flight. ABN had the ungrateful task of negotiating Air France which made 2 changes of flight-dates shortly before the date of departure. Provoking a lot of acute work adjusting the IT etc. Departure from Paris was chaotic and delayed due to an airport-strike.

Local flights: All nicely booked by MEA and fitting the IT. MEA had warned us as flights were more and more unreliable. Over-bookings – delays – cancellations..... This was the condition during the trip, you never

knew if or when a flight would be, having to arrive early to airports not to be the last and victim to some overbooking just to stay and wait in the airports for hours.

Culmination came at remote Masoala – where alternative transport over land was hardly possible or at least a hazard. Return-flight cancelled! Next (over-booked) flight days later. We were trapped and our IT broke down. After pressure from MEA and other organizations they eventually re-introduced a flight. Saved and back on the track. For travellers and for the tour-operators this is a major problem and a constant stress. It leaves the impression that this could collapse any day. Of course the demand for efficiency with the very tight IT makes the problem worse compared to a more flexible travelling-mode. For anyone heading for Madagascar reservations must be taken for problems with the infra-structure. Beforehand.

Health

Vaccinations should include Hepatitis A and Diphtheria-Tetanus. Typhoid can be considered.

Even cholera and plaque is still endemic in Madagascar but is not a threat during an organized trip.

Malaria-prevention is highly recommended (malarone or doxycycline). Schistosomiasis (Bilharzia) is a potential risk at lakes and slow waterways – so do not enter marshland (even boots can be flooded) if there is any sign of local traffic.

Madagascar is a destination where traveler's diarrhoea – with or without fevers - occurs with a very high frequency even compared to most part of Africa and other tropical destinations. It is a good idea to expect problems and be prepared. It must be noted that especially Giardia-infections seem very common. So it is advised to bring metronidazole for Giardia as well as ciprofloxacin for bacterial infections. And we did experience our problems as 6 of 7 were affected during the trip. For some of us metronidazole 2 g daily in 2 days was efficient.

So medicine to bring: Metronidazole and Ciprofloxacin for prolonged diarrhoea. Loperamide to control diarrhoea i.e. during transports. Penicillin. Maybe Clarithromycin or related for skin-infections. Paracetamol. Antibacterial and steroid ointments.

Safety

Generally we experienced a good atmosphere and no hostility. Most concern of safety is in the south. The road from Tulear to Zombitse has its "black spots" and should not be done during darkness. Also a somewhat gloomy atmosphere noticed around Tulear harbour.

Insects and climate.

Pleasantly low level of insect-problems throughout. The climate was generally pleasant apart from the very hot Ampijoroa – Mahajunga. On Masoala a cyclone with some rain and heavy winds that created problems but also unexpected birds from the sea.

Optical gear, bird-sounds, and what to bring.

Bring good telescopes! We brought 5. There is a lot of birding at sea-shore and lakes, even sea-watch, and telescopes are also useful inside forests. Try to get photos – hope for at least 1 or 2 keen photographers in the group. We had all relevant bird-sounds on mobile telephones (worked ok) and many guides carry equipment. Some species responded well to provocation.

Bring good torch-lights for the night watch. Rubber boots are not an absolute necessity, but walking can be rough.

Books

Birds of Madagascar – a photographic guide (Morris and Hawkins), 1998.

Birds of the Indian Ocean Islands (Sinclair and Langrand), 2003.

Mammals of Madagascar – a complete guide (Garbutt), 2008.

A field guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Madagascar (Glaw, Vences) 1994 – a lot of information as it also describes a lot of invertebrates as well as mammals.

Madagascar – lonely planet, for some practical, historical, and cultural information.

Homework

Be prepared. Do a good homework. When you enter the field you have to know which species to go for at each location. Some gives you only one chance. For the birds this is not too hard a job, number of species being limited.

But mammals, reptiles, and invertebrates are major targets too. Thomas and not the least Jean-Jacques were our true professionals on these fields.

People and culture

Madagascar was reached by the first settlers for only about 2000 years ago coming from Asia. Later new waves of immigrants reached the island including people from the more nearby Africa. In the last decade's human population have grown to the present 23 million leading to a heavy loss and fragmentation of natural habitats, extinctions, and a high percentage of the endemic species today being endangered. Political problems and mismanagement has haunted Madagascar for a long time increasing poverty, and development is stagnant. This created some problems during the trip in respect to infra-structure and to sanitation.

The nice, relaxed, and friendly people we generally met during our trip certainly deserve better.

Visa-currency

You get a visa for free at arrival to Tana Airport (up to 30 days).

Bring some Euro (Madagascar relates to France and the Euro) or USD and change in the airport. Expenses during the trip are very limited, some beverages and tips to the guides. When you go back the local currency – the ariary (Ar) – cannot be used inside the airport.



Costs

In the end a trip like this end up close to 5360 EU/ 40.000 DKkr. International flight takes 1340-1475 EU/ 10-11.000 DKkr. Land-costs 3917-4170 EU/ 29205-31105 DKkr.

ITINERARY (IT)

- 26.Oct: Arriving Tana at midnight (2 hours delay). Taxi (no pick-up) to Ivotel. Night: Ivotel.
- 27.Oct: Tana morning, driving Tana-Andasibe(Perinet), stop at Mangoro River (1230), birding around Andasibe from 14.00. Night:Andasibe Forest Loddge.
- 28.Oct: Mantadia 05.30-1600. Ampatsimpotsy Marsh. Night watch outside NP. Night: Andasibe FL.
- 29.Oct: Andasibe / Analamazaotra Forests. Night: Andasibe FL.
- 30.Oct: Mantadia 0530-1600. Night watch. Night: Andasibe FL.
- 31.Oct: Drive Andasibe-Anjozorobe, Anjozorobe 12.15- Night: Mananara Lodge.
- 01.Nov: Anjozorobe Marsh & Forest. Late afternoon: Drive for Tana.Night: Ivotel.
- 02.Nov: Flight Tana-Tulear morning, Tulear-Ifaty 09.00-, Spiny Forest 15.00-18.00 Night: Ikotel.
- 03.Nov: Spiny Forest 0515-09.30, Ifaty-Tulear (coast, plains),. Night: Ikotel
- 04.Nov: Tulear 06.00-09.00 (sandgrouse), La Table, Tulear-Ifaty, Spiny Forest 16.00-18.00. Night: Ikotel.
- 05.Nov: Drive Ifaty-Zombitse 0500-0840, Zombitse 0840-1330, Drive Zombitse-Tulear. Night: Mamayana Hotel.
- 06.Nov: Boat trip to Nosy Ve, later landing at Anakao. Night: Mamayana Hotel.
- 07.Nov: Most day Tulear and airport (repeated delays), flight to Tana. Night: Ivotel.
- 08.Nov: Tana and flight to Maroantsetra, birding coast, night: Hippocamp.
- 09.Nov: 8.00- boat cross passing Nosy Mangabe to Masoala, Masoala, night: Tampolo Lodge.
- 10.Nov: Masoala all day, nightwalk, night: Tampolo Lodge.
- 11.Nov: Masoala all day, afternoon sea-watch from Tampolo Lodge. Night: Tampolo Lodge.
- 12.Nov: Boat-cross 06.30-0815 Masoala to Maroantsetra. Waiting for late flight and arriving Tana at 22.00. Night: Ivotel.
- 13.Nov: Flight Tana-Mahajunga. 12.00- drive Mahajunga-Ampijoroa, 16.00- Lac Ravelope, night: Gite Ampijoroa.
- 14.Nov: Ampijoroa all day. Night: Gite A.
- 15.Nov: Ampijoroa, afternoon drive to Mahajunga, stop at wetlands, night: Zahamotel.
- 16.Nov: Boat trip to Betsiboka Delta. Afternoon: Wetlands close to Mahajunga. Flight and late arrival Tana 21.30. Tana Airport. Night: Ivotel.
- 17.Nov: Birding in Tana around airport, at midnight fly out for Paris (AaK,MT,JB)
Drive Tana-Ranomafana all day (stop at lake and marshland with Snipe) (CBN,ABN,HL,TL).
- 18.Nov: Ranomafana all day. Nightwalk.
- 19.Nov: Ranomafana all day. Late afternoon visit at a local Mantella-spot.
- 20.Nov. Drive Ranomafana – Tana with a stop at a Mantella-spot. Flight for Paris at midnight.

Night-walks.

Nocturnal Lemurs, Chameleons, Geckos... In the dark extreme forms of life come active. So night-walks are indispensable as part of a trip to Madagascar. There are restrictions and only some circuits are allowed for night-walk. They are often in secondary forest and close to roads and lodges. Still very rewarding!

Some hints to localities.

1. Tana: We did no specific excursions but note the Airport: M. Harrier, Sooty Falcon, and Marsh Owls were only seen at this place. Keep watching! Your delays might be compensated.

2. Andasibe (Perinet): Nothing compares to Matadia in respect to species potentials. Make it an early part of the trip as it is here the foundation of the eastern rainforest-species is to be made. Some species are very hard to see at other places and there is a row of gems waiting for you! Always include Anjozorobe for the marsh and higher ridges.

3. Tulear-Ifaty: Finding most of the key-species in the South was quite straight-forward. One challenge is the Sandgrouse (if you do not go to Berenty). The two whole-day excursions to Nosy Ve and to Zombitse are highly recommendable.

4. Masoala: This is remote Madagascar. Only a few paths and no educated guides available, but it is the home of the Helmet Vanga! We never really managed to penetrate into deeper parts of the primary forest, the coastal zone being more or less secondary forest. Pray for flights and boats on time! The place is no less than a tropical paradise.

Afternoon tends to be windier and as you have to cross the bay from Maroantsetra in small open boats you will often be forced to do so early in the day. We were hit by an unexpected tropical cyclone and had to cross back early morning in extremely windy conditions. A dramatic, wet, maybe somewhat hazardous trip among waves up to three or four meters.

5. Ampijoroa-Mahajunga: Ampijoroa is straight-forward, but be very careful about the trip to the delta. You have to arrive at an early stage of falling tide. We were seriously delayed as the boat-company had rented our boat to another company. We arrived too late. Damned it – and them!

6. Ranomafana: Can be reached from Tana by car but it takes 1 day each way. 4 members of the group made the trip with only 3 bird-targets left for two days. Done successfully including a great bonus: Fossa!



Helmet Vanga, Masoala, - a nest-picture but too great not to bring! (photo TL)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Nadia from MEA for patiently turning our ideas to reality.

Jean-Jacques for doing the at times stress-full trip with us and shearing his knowledge.

The local guides working with us in the field.

From home information from Erling Krabbe – including a pre-trip pep-talk! - and Leif Schack Nielsen.

Discussions of tern-identification: Uffe Gjøl Sørensen and Klaus Malling Olsen.

THE REPORT AND CONTACTS.

Introduction: Jørgen Bech

Annotated list of Bird: Jørgen Bech

Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians, and some Invertebrates: Thomas Læssøe

Photos: Anders Bacher Nielsen (ABN), Thomas Læssøe (TL), and a few Jørgen Bech (JB).

Any requests to the report:

Jørgen Bech rockfowl@dadlnet.dk

Thomas Læssøe thomasl@bio.ku.dk

Photos by Anders Bacher Nielsen abnx@novonordisk.com



The group searching for Snipe and Flufftail, Anjozorobe Marsh. From left to right: Thomas Læssøe, Jørgen Bech, Anders Bacher Nielsen, Claus Brostrøm Nielsen, Michael Trasborg, Aage Kappelgaard, and Henrik Læssøe.

BIRDS : Annotated list of birds, Madagascar 27.Oct – 21.Nov 2012.

Systematics: Follow IOC (vers 2.7), Gill&Donsker. Preferred, as this include the present knowledge of the taxonomy of the birds of Madagascar. This implies the extended families of the Vangas and the Malagasy warblers. This is also chosen, as it is more consistent with the impressions some of these super-endemics gave us in the field.

Presentation: No family-headlines, but birds presented in families/family-groups to ease overview.

Birds are listed in this geographical sequence: 1.Tana. 2. Andasibe (= Perinet) – Mantadia - Anjozorobe.

3.Tulear – Ifaty (incl. Nosy Ve and Zombitse). 4.Masoala. 5.Ampijoroa - Mahajunga. 6.Ranomafana.

Documentation: Photo = the species is documented by photo (majority by ABN, a few TL and JB).

Documentary notes for some species. The vast majority seen by all members of the group, fewer by at least 3-4 observers. 2 species seen only by 1 observer (Harlequin Quail and Madagascar Harrier).

Abbreviations:

* = Notes to the species.

E = endemic, **E(b)** = breeding endemic, **NE**=near endemic.

Conservation status, if under concern: **nt** = near-threatened, **vu** = vulnerable, **en** = endangered, **crit** = critically endangered.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* introduced

11/11 2 Masoala.

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei*

4/11 1 male Tulear seen by only one observer (AaK). Characteristic head-pattern reported.

Madagascar Partridge *Margaroperdix madagascarensis* **E** photo

8/11 1 Tana Airport and 13/11 2 Tana Airport seen from the airport restaurant, running across and in the edge of the runways. 29/10 2 (male, female) Andasibe – foraging and made a runner at a track in some grassy woodland and brush.

*Typically seen in secondary habitats, but not numerous and might be tricky to find.

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* photo

3/11 10 Tulear-Ifaty.

8/11 1 Maroantsetra, 10/11 9 and 11/11 5 Masoala.

13/11 60, 14/11 75, and 15/11 + Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe, 16/11 2 Besibokta Delta, 2 Mahajunga (wetland).

17/11 25+ Tana-Ranomafana (Ambatofotsy Lake).

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*

16/11 4 Mahajunga (wetland/lake).

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus* photo

16/11 50 Mahajunga (wetland/lake).

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhynchos* photo

17/11 24 Tana Airport – grassland/paddies.

31/10 3+5+2 migrating at dusk Anjozorobe, probably this species rather than Meller's Duck, 1/11 10 fly by Anjozorobe.

2/11 2 and 3/11 24+40 Tulear-Ifaty.

17/11 200+ Tana-Ranomafana(Ambatofotsy Lake).

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*

2/11 15 Tulear-Ifaty.

Meller's Duck *Anas melleri* E en photo

28/10 4 Mantadia roosting in a small lake close to the road together with Mad. Little Grebe - another vanishing endemic species, 1/11 2 Anjozorobe Marsh, flew close by, the green seals sparkling in the sun.

*Most endangered species suffering a heavy habitat loss and isolation of small populations. The above spots are easy to reach and offer a good chance for a sighting.

Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax*

11/11 1 migrating south Masoala – during a very heavy southern wind in the afternoon scoped from the shore-line, 12/11 1 roosting Masoala Bay during a stormy boat-cross.

*These records of 1 or 2 birds are at a very southern latitude as most of these Petrels stay north of the equator. It was seen from the shore in scopes, and on the next day from a small boat during tough conditions. It was an all dark, small Petrel/Shearwater and dynamic in flight during the windy conditions making arches well above sea-level, wings and tail long and very slender. Alternative species are all much bigger, broader-winged, or black/white, and we had no doubts to the identification.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

2/11 8 and 3/11 4 Tulear-Ifaty.

Madagascar Little Grebe *Tachybaptus pelzelni* E vu photo

28/10 3 – a pair + 1 juv Mantadia.

*Small lake close to the road through Mantadia offering 2 threatened endemics – the Grebe and Meller's Duck.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* photo

2/11 3 imm and 3/11 1 + 1 Tulear-Ifaty.

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaeton rubricauda* photo

6/11 40 ad + 10 juv Nosy Ve.

*A tropical, pelagic beauty, big and strong with red antenna. The black feet are cornering the tail-base in flight. Harsh, cackling voice. A maximum of 36 adults were seen at the same time in the air. 10-12 nests with nestlings and old birds under the thorny bushes to give some shelter from the tough sun-light. A single juvenile was found dead. No restrictions to visitors on the island! This colony seems to have survived do to the protection from a local fady (a taboo).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* photo

13/11 90+ and 14/11 10+ Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe.

Malagasy Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis bernieri* E end photo

16/11 1 Betsiboka Delta.

Sacre de dieu – one and only, and the only target-bird of the delta boat-trip since we dipped on Bernier's Teal. A logistic failure – a delayed boat – lead to an arrival to the mangrove at a too advanced state of falling tide and odds went bad. The Ibis was standing on an exposed mudflat and could be approached.

Madagascar Crested Ibis *Lophotibis cristata* **E nt** photo

29/10 1 Andasibe, 30/10 1 Mantadia.

11/11 1 Masoala.

*A total of 3 of this elusive forest-ibis seen at quite close but all went off from their roosts in the preferred over-grown river-beds. The white colours in flight illuminates the bird especially at take-off – somewhat strange, that evolution has not provided this species with all dark colours.

African Spoonbill *Plataea Alba*

16/11 1 Betsiboka Delta.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

27/10 5 and 8/11 2 Tana.

14/11 1 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe, 15/11 1 Mahajunga (wetland).

17/11 1 and 19/11 4 + 1 imm at a colony Ranomafana-Tana.

Common Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* photo

8/11 15+, 13/11 15, and 20/11 15+ Tana.

2/11 1 and 3/11 2 Tulear-Ifaty.

10/11 1 Masoala.

14/11 and 15/11 150+ Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe.

Malagasy Pond Heron *Ardeola idea* **E(b) en** photo

27/10 1 Tana (morning crossing with other spp Herons from night-roosts).

8/11 1 ad Maroantsetra – backwater channel at the coast behind Hippo-camp, 10/11 2 and 11/11 1 Masoala – small paddies behind the coast.

14/11 1 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe.

*We did not make any special excursion for this species, which proved to be quite uncommon, but managed to pick up a few during the trip. The “Mad. Pond of the trip” definitely the Maroantsetra-bird to be enjoyed, beautifully plumed white with buffy wash and bright blue bill. Competition from Squacco Heron and disturbed habitats are major threats to this bird.

(Western) Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* photo

27/10 15 Tana and 15+ Tana-Andasibe, 8/11 5 + 10 and 13/11 100+ Tana.

31/10 75+ Andasibe-Anjozorobe.

5/11 10 Tulear-Zombitse.

8/11 300 Maroantsetra migrating to roost at Nosy Mangabe, 9/11 same flocks, 12/11 30+ Maroantsetra.

13/11-15/11 about 1000 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe, 16/11 20+ Mahajunga (wetland).

17/11 300+ and 20/11 200+ Tana-Ranomafana(Lake Ambatofotsy).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* photo

28/10 1 and 30/10 1 Mantadia, 31/10 1 Andasibe-Anjozorobe.

8/11 6 Maroantsetra, 9/11 4 Maroantsetra/Nosy Mangabe, 11/11 1 Masoala, 12/11 2 Maroantsetra.

13/11-15/11 15+ Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe.

17/11 2 Tana-Ranomafana.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

2/11 3, 3/11 5 and 4/11 8 Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 2 Nosy Ve.

13/11 1 and 15/11 1 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe, 16/11 2 Betsiboka Delta.

Humblot's Heron *Ardea humbloti* **E en** photo

6/11 1 coastal cliffs Tulear, flew off as the boat passed bound for Nosy Ve.

13/11 – 14/11 1 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe – absent 15/11.

*Only 2 of this big, vanishing, endangered heron, gloomy, lead-black with a dark mask.

(Western)Great White Egret *Casmerodius albus*

27/10 25+ Tana(mig), 5 Tana-Andasibe, 8/11 30+ and 13/11 10+ Tana(airport), 31/10 10+ Andasibe-Anjozorobe. 3/11 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 5/11 1 Tulear-Zombitze, 6/11 1 Nosy Ve.

8/11 3+ Maroantsetra, 9/11 10 Maroantsetra, 75 Nosy Mangabe (colony), 12/11 3 Maroantsetra.

13/11 5 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe, 14/11 10 Lac Ravelobe.

17/11 30+ and 20/11 10+ Tana-Ranomafana.

Dimorphic Egret *Egretta dimorpha* **NE** photo

27/10 5 Tana (mig), 5+ Tana-Andasibe, 8/11 1 Tana (airport).

31/10 40+ Andasibe-Anjozorobe.

2/11 1 and 3/11 6 Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 2 Tulear ("Sandgrouse-meadow"), 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 4 at cliffs Tulear (2 pairs, one dark, one light), 25+ Nosy Ve – 5 dark, 5 Tulear H.

8/11 1 and 10/11 2 Masoala.

13/11-15/11 6 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe, 16/11 20+ Betsiboka Delta.

17/11 30+ and 20/11 150+ (many dark morph) Ranomafana-Tana.

Black Egret *Egretta ardesiaca* photo

27/10 3 Tana migrating from a night-roost, 8/11 8 + 8 and 13/11 4 Tana airport-vicinity.

8/11 2 and 9/11 2 Maroantsetra.

13/11 6, 14/11 7, and 15/11 20 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe.

Green-backed Heron *Butorides striatus* photo

27/10 5 Tana-Andasibe, 2 Andasibe, 28/10 1 and 29/10 2 Andasibe, 31/10 1 Andasibe-Anjozorobe.

2/11 1 and 3/11 2 Tulear-Ifaty, 5/11 1 Tulear-Zombitze, 6/11 3 Tulear Harbour.

9/11 3 Maroantsetra, 2 Masoala, 10/11 2 and 11/11 2 Masoala.

13/11-15/11 15 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe, 16/11 1 Mahajunga (wetland).

17/11 5 and 20/11 3 Tana-Ranomafana, 18/11 and 20/11 1 Ranomafana.

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* photo

27/10 8 Tana-Andasibe, 31/10 4 Andasibe-Anjozorobe.

3/11 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 5/11 2 Tulear-Zombitze(nest).

17/11 1 and 20/11 2 Tana-Ranomafana.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

11/11 1 ad/subad female migrating south and later roosting a little off-shore at Masoala during a strong southern wind.



Humblot's Heron, Lac Ravelobe(TL)

*Scoped from the shore and blown in by heavy winds suddenly erupting from the south. Species and sex based on the white pattern of breast and axillaries and blackish head.

Reed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

8/11 1 Masoala Bay.

13/11 15 Lac Amboromalandy between Mahajunga and Ampijoroa.

African Darter *Anhinga rufa* photo

13/11 - 15/11 1 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe – probably the same bird.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptus*

27/10 7 Tana-Andasibe.

31/10 3 and 1/11 1 Anjozorobe.

2/11 2 and 3/11 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 2 Tulear(“Sandgrouse-meadow”), 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 5/11 25 Tulear-Zombitse (6 attracted by a bush-fire).

8/11 1 and 12/11 1 Maroantsetra.

13/11 25+ Mahajunga–Ampijoroa, 14/11 2 Ampijoroa, 15/11 20+ Ampijoroa-Mahajunga.

17/11 10+ and 20/11 8 Ranomafana-Tana.

Madagascar Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus vociferoides* E crit photo

13-14/11 2 ad (pair) Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe.

*Very impressive first encounter with this species in a silent creek of the lake, the pair interacting at close range, calling. Later seen on the meadows and perched in trees. The species now confined to about 600 km of coast-line in the NW, declining and probably less than a 100 pairs left. Listed as critically endangered.

Reunion (Madagascar) Harrier *Circus maillardi (macroscelens)* NE vu

2/11 1 female/imm Tana Airport seen by only one observer (CBN) – during flight taxi before departure.

*CBN reported a Harrier in low flight typical to the genus through his port-hole. Brownish bird with a white rump. No chance of a co-observer. In the end this came out as the only observation. Later inspection of the air-port area (esp. 17/11) did not re-produce this species. Severely affected by habitat-loss and very difficult to find – even at former strongholds.

Madagascar Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides radiates* E photo

31/10 1 ad and 1/11 1 Anjozorobe.

3/11 1 ad Ifaty Spiny Forest, 4/11 1 ad Spiny Forest (nest), 5/11 1 Zombitse.

10/11 and 11/11 1 imm Masoala – seen emptying a Pratincole nest on the coastal rockeries.

15/11 2 ad Ampijoroa, 16/11 3 ad Betsiboka Delta.

Frances' Sparrowhawk *Accipiter francesiae* E photo

28/10 1 ad Andasibe – nightwalk!, roosting bird ignoring the spotlights, 29/10 1 ad Andasibe, 30/10 1 ad Mantadia.

*Nor the “shikra-type” endemic *Accipiter* was an easy watch during the trip. 2 birds flying over and a casual find during nightwalk.

Madagascar Sparrowhawk *Accipiter madagascariensis* E nt photo

14/11 1 ad male Ampijoroa – inside the forest.

*It is uncommon and very elusive spending its' life in closed forests beneath the canopy. We could have passed this bird unnoticed too (and missed an endemic raptor), if it had not been for a roost of 2 Cuckoo-Rollers provoking the Sparrowhawk. It made several mobbing attacks returning to perches close to our positions.

Henst's Goshawk *Accipiter henstii* E nt

28/10 1 Mantadia (crossing), 29/10 2 (a pair) Andasibe – inside Analamazotra forest, calling violently and seen between and on roosts, 30/10 1 Mantadia, 1/11 1 female Anjozorobe close fly by at Anjozorobe Marsh.

*5 birds all in Mantadia-Anjozorobe on 4 observations made it the most approachable of the 3 endemic Accipiters.

Madagascar Buzzard *Buteo brachypterus* E photo

28/10 4 Mantadia, 29/10 2 Andasibe, 30/10 5+ Mantadia, 31/10 2 and 1/11 1 Anjozorobe.

4/11 1 Tulear/La Table, 5/11 1 Zombitse.

9/11 2 at Nosy Mangabe, 6 Masoala, 10/11 4 and 11/11 1 Masoala.

13/11 2, 14/11 3 and 15/11 1 Ampijoroa, 16/11 1 Betsiboka Delta.

18/11 1 and 20/11 1 Ranomafana.

*A total of 35-40 birds during the trip. So it is around, but require some forest/woodland and is absent from open habitats.

Madagascar Kestrel *Falco newtoni* E photo

27/10 3 Tana, 12 Tana-Andasibe, 8/11 2 + 3(airport) Tana, 13/11 2 Tana Airport, 17/11 6 Tana Airport (grassland-paddies).

28/10 2 Mantadia, 29/10 1 Andasibe, 30/10 3 (female+2 imm) Mantadia, 31/10 5 Andasibe-Anjozorobe, 2 Anjozorobe, 1/11 1 Anjozorobe.

3/11 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest, 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 1 female with juveniles Tulear ("Sandgrouse-meadow"), 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 1 Spiny Forest, 5/11 3 Tulear-Zombitse, 1 Zombitse, 6/11 1 Anakao, 7/11 1 Tulear Airport.

8/11 2 Maroantsetra, 9/11 3 Maroantsetra, 1 Masoala, 12/11 2 Maroantsetra.

16/11 1 Mahajunga, 1 Betsiboka Delta.

17/11 5 and 20/11 10+ Tana-Ranomafana, 19/11 1 Ranomafana.

Banded Kestrel *Falco zoniventris* E photo

1/11 2 fly by Anjozorobe.

3/11 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest (nest).

9/11 1 ad Masoala – at roost in coastal scrub-forest.

13/11 1 Ampijoroa – perched in the dry forest for perfect views.

*4 observations of 5 individuals! A sluggish, often perched falcon with a heavy bill. We had expected it to be much harder to find.

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*

16/11 1 Mahajunga flying along the beach at the Zaha-motel.

17/11 26 Tana-Ranomafana – one flock!, 20/11 1 Ranomafana-Tana.

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor* photo

13/11 1 ad Tana Airport.

*Even the epidemic of flight delays can be generously compensated: A Sooty Falcon perched just outside the airport restaurant! So we opened a window to enjoy it.



M.Sparrowhawk, Ampijoroa (ABN)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* photo

31/10 2 Andasibe-Anjozorobe.

5/11 and 6/11 1 ad Tulear on the tall mast.

White-breasted Mesite *Mesitornis variegata* E vu photo

14/11 2+1+1+heard Ampijoroa, 15/11 2 Ampijoroa.

*Early morning is the time to watch this wonder of the dry forest-scrub bottom. Very vocal and it will soon get into sight, moving and running on the forest floor. Prefers low, level grounds. Member of the endemic family of 3 species, an old family that does not relate to rails, but is linked to sandgrouse!

Brown Mesite *Mesitornis unicolor* E vu photo

18/11 2 seen + heard Ranomafana.

*The forest-edition of the Mesites has a very patchy distribution and by far the best chance is Ranomafana. The guide took advantage of its' habit of running and could chase it into view.

Subdesert Mesite *Mesitornis benschii* E vu photo

3/11 1 female Ifaty Spiny Forest.

*Freeze! Sat motionless on a spiny branch at 45 degrees bill pointing downwards. 1 m above ground. And kept frozen relying on its camouflage. This observation is the true Subdesert Mesite classic. See photo on the front-page.

Madagascar Flufftail *Sarothrura insularis* E photo

29/10 1 male Andasibe - came out of the road-side scrub after provocation, very excited, to be seen at 3-4 meters.

19/11 1 heard Ranomafana.

Slender-billed Flufftail *Sarothrura watersii* E en

31/10-1/11 1-2 birds Anjozorobe Marsh.

*Rare, poorly known, and difficult species, but inhabits this marsh. We and especially our guide Julien worked hard in the evening and the next morning in the central part of the marsh. The Flufftail answered repeated provocations and in the morning of 1/11 one calling bird was played into a range of a few meters. At last it zipped over a narrow open space only to be seen by one member of the group (HL). Anyway, it was great to include this endangered species on our Madagascar list.

Madagascar Wood Rail *Canirallus kioloides* E

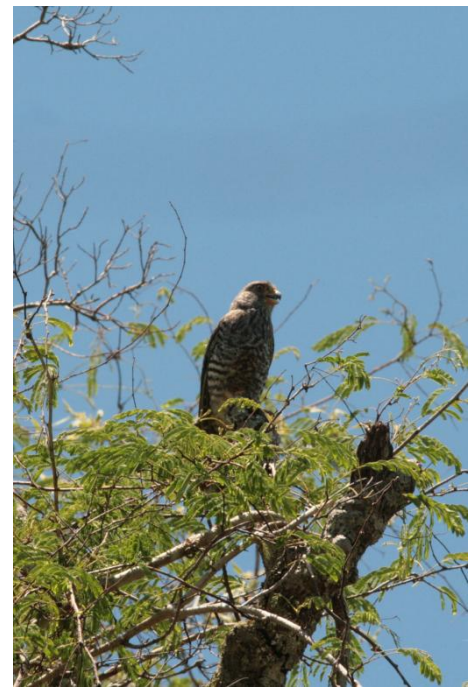
10/11 1 + 1 seen Masoala.

18/11 2 seen Ranomafana

*For a long time kept very tricky and despite some efforts negative in Andasibe-Mantadia. In Masoala heard and 1 bird seen running off. Later another was flushed – on short, rounded, and soundless wings, soon to land and run off. Both with a single observer. At last 2 birds in Ranomafana were a bit more cooperative.

Madagascar Rail *Rallus madagascarensis* E vu photo

28/10 4 Mantadia at Ampasimpotsy Marsh - 3 heard and 1 came out in the open for a close view after provocation, 1/11 1 Anjozorobe Marsh.



Banded Kestrel, Masoala (JB)

20/11 heard Ranomafana-Tana (marsh/lake at Amkazomivady Forest).

*Hide in reed-beds, but responded well to provocation at the marsh behind the (semi)-abandoned Ampasimpotsy railway station.

White-throated Rail *Dryolimnas curvieri* E photo

29/10 3 Andasibe.

11/11 1 Masoala.

17/11 1+1 Tana-Ranomafana.

*Sneaks around stagnant waterways inside wooded areas, so you have to sneak too along the banks for a look.

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyryla alleni*

13/11 5 and 14/11 2 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe.

*This is not an easy bird in Africa. So it is advised to take the opportunity of its presence at Lac Ravelobe.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

8/11 and 9/11 10 Maroantsetra.

16/11 6 Mahajunga (wetland).

Madagascar Buttonquail *Turnix nigricollis* E photo

3/11 2 Ifaty Spiny Forest, 4/11 3 Spiny Forest, 5/11 1 road-cross Tulear-Zombitse (where the great amounts of dust-bathing spots indicated that this is a numerous species).

14/11 1 and 15/11 2 Ampijoroa.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

2/11 8, 3/11 10, 4/11 2 and 5/11 2 Tulear-Ifaty.

15/11 2 Ampijoroa-Mahajunga.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

2/11 7 and 3/11 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 10 Tulear Harbour.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* photo

2/11 15+ Tulear-Ifaty, 3/11 8+ Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 1 Tulear ("Sandgrouse-meadow"), 3 Tulear-Ifaty.

8/11 1 Maroantsetra.

14/11 2 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe.

Madagascar Plover *Charadrius thoracicus* E vu photo

2/11 and 3/11 2 ad (male,female) Tulear-Ifaty.

*One breeding pair left to see at this part of the coast, a beautiful endemic Kittlitz-variety. The habitat is close to Ifaty village on shallow lakes/sandy flats behind the coast nearby the road. A very limited piece of coast keeps this species alive.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*

13/11 2 ad, 1 juv, 14/11 5 and 15/11 2 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe.

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*

4/11 4 Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 2 Nosy Ve.

16/11 2 Betsiboka Delta.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia*

2/11 3, 3/11 55, and 4/11 3 Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 1 Tulear Harbour.

16/11 15 Betsiboka Deltas.



Madagascar Plover, Tulear-Ifaty(ABN)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

2/11 3, 3/11 4+, and 4/11 25+ Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 60 Nosy Ve, 20 Tulear Harbour.

Madagascar Jacana *Actophilornis albinucha* E photo

14/11 1 ad Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe.

*Looked in vain for some time, but was tipped that a bird moved around in the open at close range and rushed to the lake to watch it. A “mirror-copy” of the African species. Probably only one pair at the lake.

Madagascar Snipe *Gallinago macrodactyla* E vu

31/10 3 – 1 flushed + 2 calling Anjozorobe Marsh, 1/11 2 flushed Anjozorobe Marsh – 1 close uttering “eck-eck-eck”, showing dark golden striping, a heavy Snipe recalling Great Snipe.

17/11 2 Tana-Ranomafana – marsh at Amkazomivady Forest.

*No displays heard, so only one way to see this important species with so few habitats left: Get out in the water-soaked marsh and flush!

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

6/11 3 Tulear Harbour.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* photo

2/11 25, 3/11 20+, and 4/11 60+ Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 75+ Nosy Ve, 250 Tulear Harbour, 7/11 5 Tulear Harbour.

8/11 5 Maroantsetra, 9/11 1 and 11/11 1 Masoala.

16/11 25+ Betsiboka Delta.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

3/11 1 heard Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 1 Nosy Ve.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

2/11 20+, 3/11 30+, and 4/11 30+ Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 50 Tulear Harbour.

16/11 1 Betsiboka Delta.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinerius* photo

2/11 6 and 3/11 1 Ifaty-Tulear.

9/11 1 Maroantsetra.

16/11 6 Betsiboka Delta.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

27/10 2 Mangoro River, 31/10 2 Andasibe-Anjozorobe.

2/11 1 and 4/11 2 Tulear-Ifaty, 7/11 1 Tulear Harbour.

8/11 2 Maroantsetra, 9/11 1 Maroantsetra, 2 Masoala, 10/11 2 and 11/11 1 Masoala.

13/11 1, 14/11 3 and 15/11 1 Ampijoroa at Lac Ravelobe, 16/11 2 Betsiboka Delta.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

2/11 10+ and 4/11 3 Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 30 Nosy Ve, 10 Tulear Harbour.

9/11 1, 10/11 3, and 11/11 1 Masoala.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

2/11 70+, 3/11 70+, and 4/11 10+ Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 30 Nosy Ve and 10 Tulear Harbour, 7/11 2 Tulear Harbour.

16/11 10+ Betsiboka Delta.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

2/11 5 Tulear-Ifaty.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* photo

2/11 50+ and 3/11 25+ Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 10 Tulear Harbour.

16/11 20 Betsiboka Delta.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* photo

2/11 – 3/11 1 Tulear-Ifaty.

*An irregular winter-visitor to Madagascar. On both days in the shallow saline lake close to Tulear.

Madagascar Pratincole *Glareola ocularis* **E(b) vu** photo

27/10 1 Mangoro River.

9/11 5 at Nosy Mangabe seen during the boat-cross, 6 Masoala, 10/11 and 11/11 25 Masoala – on the shore and rockeries along the coast.

*If including Masoala the species is seen daily along the shores of this remote, peaceful place – always birds to enjoy around Tampolo Lodge. Nesting on the rockeries – one nest was predated by an immature Harrier-Hawk. The situation of the population breeding along the rivers is much more critical due to the ever growing disturbance, but our one distant bird from the bridge of the Mangoro River proved the species still to be present at this traditional spot.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

12/11 1 ad Masoala Bay close to the boat during the boat-cross in very tough weather. Another 2 Skuas spp. following the tern-flocks probably also this species.

*Completed the unexpected pelagic chapter created by the sudden rough weather in Masoala Bay. The close bird was a typical powerful light-morph adult, also the distant birds had a jizz pointing to Pomarine Skua.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* photo

4/11 1 Tulear-Ifaty.

Swift Tern *Sterna bergii* photo

3/11 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 3 Nosy Ve.

9/11 5 Masoala Bay, 10/11 2 Masoala, 11/11 500+ migrating south Masoala during heavy winds.

16/11 4 Betsiboka Delta.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* photo

6/11 10 Nosy Ve.

8/11 4 Maroantsetra, 9/11 40 Masoala Bay, 10/11 50+ and 11/11 1000 migrating south Masoala, 12/11 50+ Masoala Bay.

16/11 2 Betsiboka Delta.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* photo

2/11 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 35 Nosy Ve.

8/11 2 Maroantsetra, 9/11 20+ Masoala Bay + 350 Common/Roseate Tern with many imm, 11/11 ++ (hundreds) Common/Roseate Terns migrating south Masoala, 12/11 20+ Masoala Bay.

White-cheeked Tern (*Sterna repressa*) photo

6/11 1 off Nosy Ve.

*At least 1 specimen on sandbars off Nosy Ve in the 5-species communal tern-roost. No safe identification was made in the field though the possibility of this species in fact being present was mentioned.

Scrutinizing photos identified at least one bird as a highly possible candidate. An id-discussion followed in the group and among Danish tern-intelligence (Klaus Malling Olsen and Uffe Gjøl Sørensen) leading to the

conclusion that at least 1 White-cheeked Tern could be identified. On the pictures below the roosting bird furthest to the right shows a long, slender drooping bill and the central bird flying an all grey rump/uppertail with no contrast to the grey back – certainly not a Common Tern.

The species is not known to occur at this southern latitude as birds from the Red Sea in autumn migrate into the Indian Ocean only to reach the coasts of Kenya. But it seems probable that some specimens could disperse further south. So the requirement of this identification is on a high level and we refer to these pictures for general judgment.



ID-photos (ABN): Communal tern-roost with White-cheeked Tern and most likely Little Tern, off Nosy Ve (see text)

Little/Saunders Tern (*Sterna albifrons/saundersi*) photo

6/11 2 off Nosy Ve.

*No safe identification between these two species was possible in the field. Even the photos above (showing birds on roost as well as one flying) left us unable. But the contrasting white rump of the flying bird points more to Little Tern than Saunder's Tern. Anyway one conclusion can be made: Small terns in southern Madagascar cannot automatically be named Saunder's – in fact we believe these birds to be Little Terns.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

9/11 20 ad Masoala Bay, 11/11 at least 300 ad migrating south Masoala in tough winds, 12/11 50+ Masoala Bay close to the boat during the stormy boat-cross.

*Surprising numbers, especially at 11/11 when the terns were wind-blown into the bay and shore-zone and seen in compensating migration against the wind close to the shoreline. They were moving in some dense, species-specific flocks of 10 – 15 birds and at least 20 – 30 flocks passed our observation-point at Tampolo Lodge. Other terns were seen in mixed flocks under poor conditions at sea or at a distant range and could not be safely separated to species.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

14/11 23 Ampijoroa-Mahajunga at Lac Amboromalandy.

Madagascar Sandgrouse *Pterocles personatus* E photo

4/11 1 male Tulear.

*As we by-passed Berenty the only chance to see this species was at Tulear. It is seen in small numbers and with some irregularity at a drinking spot on a dry meadow with a few water-holes just south of the town. So it was a tense group arriving to the scene at 6.15 in the morning. According to the local “Mosa-rule” it should be seen before 7.30, if not: no sightings! The time was passed, locals started to invade the meadow, odds were down. At 7.40 a few of us reported a distant “ka-ka-ka” which could not convince the rest of the group. Just at the point of leaving the spot our driver pointed with a thick finger: Sandgrouse flying in! One bird settled on the meadow, and after a short flight began to approach a deep water-hole close to the scrubland which we had overlooked. Now at a very close distance. Entered the hole, came up after a few minutes, and took off for the arid flats. Time: 08.10-0835.



Madagascar Sandgrouse, Tulear (ABN)



Madagascar Blue Pigeon, Ranomafana (ABN)

Rock (Feral) Dove *Columba livia* introduced

27/10 + Tana, 2/11 + Ifaty, 17/11 Tana.

Madagascar Turtle Dove *Streptopelia picturata* NE photo

28/10 3 Mantadia, 29/10 3 Andasibe, 30/10 5+ Mantadia, 31/10 1 and 1/11 2 Anjozorobe.

3/11 5+ Ifaty Spiny Forest, 4/11 1 Tulear-Ifaty.

10/11 1 and 11/11 6 Masoala.

13/11 2, 14/11 6+, and 15/11 4+ Ampijoroa.

19/11 4+ Ranomafana.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* photo

2/11 20 Ifaty, 5+ Ifaty Spiny Forest, 3/11 5 Spiny Forest, 40+ Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 50 Tulear ("Sandgrouse-meadow"), 20+ Tulear-Ifaty, 5+ Spiny Forest, 5/11 15+ Tulear-Zombitse, 6/11 10 Anakao, 10 Tulear, 7/11 5+ Tulear.

14/11 2 and 15/11 4 Ampijoroa.

Madagascar Green Pigeon *Treron australis* E photo

3/11 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest.

10/11 1 and 11/11 4 Masoala.

13/11 1, 14/11 9, and 15/11 8 Ampijoroa.

Madagascar Blue Pigeon *Alectroenas madagascariensis* E photo

30/10 4 Mantadia, 1/11 7+2 Anjozorobe.

18/11 1 and 20/11 2 Ranomafana.

Grey-headed Lovebird *Agapornis canus* NE photo

2/11 3 Ifaty, 3/11 6 (3 pairs) Ifaty Spiny Forest, 3/11 2 Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 4 Tulear ("Sandgrouse-meadow"), 25+ Tulear-Ifaty, 5/11 4 Zombitse.

14/11 4 and 15/11 3 Ampijoroa.

Greater Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis vasa* NE photo

28/10 5 + and 30/10 3 Mantadia.

10/11 1 and 11/11 2 Masoala.

18/11 5 Ranomafana.

Lesser Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis nigra* NE photo

8/11 1 Tana.

28/10 10 and 30/10 2 Mantadia, 1/11 1 Anjozorobe.

2/11 3, 3/11 8+, and 4/11 5+ Ifaty Spiny Forest, 5/11 2 Zombitse.

10/11 5+ and 11/6 6 Masoala.

13/11 3, 14/11 6, and 15/11 5+ Ampijoroa.

18/11 2 Ranomafana.

Malagasy Coucal *Centropus toulou* NE photo

8/11 1 Tana Airport, 27/10 1 Mangoro River.

27/10 3 Andasibe, 28/10 2 Mantadia, 29/10 3 (1 seen, 2 heard) Andasibe, 30/10 5 (2 seen, 3 heard) Mantadia, 31/10 5+ heard and 1/11 5 heard Anjozorobe.

2/11 1 Ifaty, 2 heard Ifaty Spiny Forest, 4/11 1 heard Tulear ("Sandgrouse-meadow"), 6+ Spiny Forest.

8/11 1 seen + 2 heard and 9/11 4 Maroantsetra, 4 Masoala, 10/11 8+ heard and 11/11 5 heard Masoala.

13/11 3+ heard, 14/11 8+ heard, and 15/11 3+ heard Ampijoroa.

18/11 heard and 19/11 3+ heard Ranomafana.

Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus rochii* E(b) photo

8/11 2 Tana Airport.

27/10 1 Tana-Andasibe, 3 heard Andasibe, 28/10 10 Mantadia, 29/10 1 Andasibe, 30/10 10+ heard and 1 seen Mantadia, 31/10 10+ heard and 1/11 13+ seen/heard Anjozorobe.

2/11 2 heard, 3/11 1 seen + 2 heard, and 4/11 heard Ifaty Spiny Forest.

14/11 1 seen, 4 heard and 15/11 2+ heard Ampijoroa.

17/11 1 seen, 3 heard and 20/11 2 heard Ranomafana-Tana, 18/11 1 seen, 5 heard and 19/11 3+ heard Ranomafana.

*One of the commonest calls of all wooded habitats.

Crested Coua *Coua cristata* E photo

3/11 3 and 4/11 4 Ifaty Spiny Forest.

11/11 1 Masoala.

13/11 1, 14/11 3, and 15/11 3 Ampijoroa.

*Seen perched and climbing in bushes and trees.

Verreaux's Coua *Coua verreauxi* E nt photo

4/11 1 La Table, Tulear.

*Great views of this extremely local endemic. Smaller than Crested, no framing of the head-characters, and more erect crest. Confined to the "coral rag", a thorny, coastal bush-land. Easily reached after climbing the escarpment at the Table Mountain south of Tulear.

Blue Coua *Coua caerulea* E photo

27/10 2 Andasibe – seen in rich river-gallery forest from Feon'Ny Ala restaurant, 28/10 1 heard Mantadia, 29/10 2 Andasibe, 1/11 1 heard Anjozorobe.

9/11 1, 10/11 5, and 11/11 10 Masoala.

17/11 2, 18/11 heard, 19/11 3, and 20/11 1 Ranomafana.

*Unlike its relatives a bird of higher strata and typically seen operating in the middle-story in lush green forest. The "Turaco-Coua", big and blue.

Red-capped Coua *Coua ruficeps* E photo

14/11 6 Ampijoroa.

Green-capped Coua *Coua olivaceiceps*

2/11 1 and 3/11 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest.

*Red-capped and Green-capped Coua previously treated as one species, and obviously are very close sibling-species.

Red-fronted Coua *Coua reynaudii* E photo

27/10 1 heard Andasibe, 30/10 1 heard Mantadia, 1/11 1 heard Anjozorobe.

10/11 3 Masoala.

*Rather skulky, and despite being not uncommon in Mantadia we came out without sightings.

Compensated in Masoala with good views.

Coquerel's Coua *Coua coquereli* E photo

5/11 2 seen and another 5 heard Zombitse.

14/11 4 and 15/11 3 Ampijoroa.

*Strongly terrestrial, run-and-freeze, not uncommon in the western dry forests.

Running Coua *Coua cursor* E photo

3/11 2 Ifaty Spiny Forest, 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 2 Ifaty Spiny Forest.

*Another runner, slim and rapid. Confined to the arid thorny southwest as a limited range species. As with the other Couas splendid views.

Giant Coua *Coua gigas* E photo

5/11 1 + 1 Zombitse.

*Without Berenty as part of the itinerary this was one of the major targets of Zombitse Forest. Did not disappoint us. The real giant among Couas, two of this heavy-weight champs seen sneaking around in the forest bottom.

Red-breasted Coua *Coua serriana* E photo

30/10 1 Mantadia.

9/11 1 and 11/11 5 ad + 1 juv Masoala.

*Worked hard for the first sighting in Mantadia where uncommon, but a much easier job in Masoala.

Rainforest Scops Owl *Otus rutilus* E photo

27/10 1 dark morph on day-roost Andasibe , 28/10 1 heard Andasibe, 31/10 and 1/11 1 heard Anjozorobe(lodge).

8/11 1 seen + 1 heard Masoala – a light morph bird calling close to Tampolo Lodge could be approached to patting-distance, 10/11 3 heard and 11/11 1 seen + 2 heard Masoala.

*Vocal and approachable in the east, silent and unseen in the west. So maybe we should stay conservative to the new split of Madagascar Scops into eastern Rainforest and western Torotoroka Scops Owl!

White-browed Owl *Ninox supercilialis* E photo

5/11 1 at day roost Zombitse.

*A top-target of Zombitse with Berenty excluded from our trip. So we prayed for the local guides of Zombitse to know a day-roost. And they knew their forest and took us to a roosting owl. Now recognized as a member of *Athene* and not a *Ninox*. A very distinct owl, and a great watch.

Madagascar Long-eared Owl *Asio madagascariensis* E photo

27/10 1 ad + 1 juv at day roost Andasibe.

*Once again we could profit from the local guides and their knowledge of roosting-sites for night-birds. Looked for in secondary forest close to the village, and after drawing a blank at one site, an adult and a fledged young were located close to the road. The young still spooky white. The adult was big for an *Asio* associating a smaller *Bubo*.

Marsh Owl *Asio capensis* photo

16/11 2 Tana Airport perched on fences at the parking-area at the airport at 21:30.

*Returning after another delayed flight. The compensation was perched on the airport-fence – 2 Marsh-owls! This African species must be in great trouble on Madagascar as little natural grassland is left.

Madagascar Nightjar *Caprimulgus madagascariensis* E photo

20/11 2 Tana.

27/10 3 heard and seen, 28/10 3 heard, 29/10 2, and 30/10 heard Andasibe at the Andasibe Lodge camp-ground, 31/10 3 heard Anjozorobe.

2/11 2 seen + heard Spiny Forest, 3/11 1 heard and 4/11 1 heard Ifaty, 4 seen Spiny Forest, 5/11 1 Ifaty roosting on a roof.

13/11 2 Ampijoroa.

Collared Nightjar *Caprimulgus enarratus* E photo

28/10 + 30/10 1 Mantadia at a day-roost inside the forest.

*No voice is connected to this nightjar! And as it stays inside dense forests all depends on a known roost.

And the skilled guide of Mantadia took us to a day-roosting bird in a small grove. Stayed motionless, totally relying on its cryptic camouflage.

Madagascar Spinetail *Zoonavena grandidieri* E

28/10 15+ and 30/10 10+ Mantadia, 1/11 2 Anjozorobe.

5/11 2 Zombitse, displaying.

9/11 3, 10/11 3, and 11/11 10 Masoala.

18/11 1 Ranomafana.

Madagascar Black Swift *Apus balstoni* NE

27/10 10 Tana, 4 Tana-Andasibe, 8/11 20+5 Tana.

31/10 1 and 1/11 50+ Anjozorobe.

4/11 15 Tulear("Sandgrouse-site"), 5/11 5 Zombitse.

17/11 2 Tana-Ranomafana.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

27/10 2 Tana-Andasibe, 1 Andasibe, 29/10 2 Andasibe.

4/11 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest, 5/11 2 Zombitse, 6/11 1 Tulear.

9/11 2 and 10/11 1 Masolala, 12/11 2 Maroantsetra.

13/11 15+, 14/11 10+, and 15/11 10+ Ampijoroa, 16/11 10+ Mahajunga.

18/11 20+ Ranomafana.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

1/11 1 Anjozorobe.

5/11 2 Zombitse.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

8/11 6 and 20/11 10+10 Tana.

Cuckoo-Roller *Leptosomus discolor* (N)E photo

28/10 1 Mantadia, 29/10 1 male Andasibe, 30/10 4 Mantadia, 31/10 2+ heard and 1/11 3 heard Anjozorobe.

5/11 8+ Zombitse, very vocal and several seen in aerial display or at roosts.

13/11 1 heard, 14/11 2+, and 15/11 3 Ampijoroa – including a perched pair mobbed by a Madagascar Sparrowhawk.

17/11 1 Tana-Ranomafana at Amkazomivady Forest, 18/11 1 seen, 3 heard and 19/11 5 heard Ranomafana.

*Through the habits of soaring, the great size, and loud whistling song from aerial display this is a frequent encounter in forested Madagascar. And a classic sound. The most odd and impressive creature among the Madagascar super-endemics.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* photo

27/10 1 Tana-Andasibe. 28/10 2 Mantadia, 29/10 3 Andasibe, 30/10 4 Mantadia.

9/11 2, 10/11 1, and 11/11 1 Masoala.

13/11 2+2, 14/11 8, and 15/11 8 Ampijoroa.

Short-legged Ground-Roller *Brachypteracias leptosomus* E vu photo

28/10 2 Mantadia.

*Nothing compares to Ground-Rollers! Super-endemics of Madagascar. Each of the species has developed an individual, distinctive character of its' own. The 5 species have derived from a communal ancestor, some ancient Roller. Evolution brought them to empty niches on the forest bottom. Of the 5 the Short-legged G-R is believed to be the oldest species. It is the most arboreal and it is less long-legged. So it is the one Ground-Roller to look up for in the branches of the trees. It was found 10 meters above the ground, a pair on thick mossy branches. Offering prolonged observations.

Scaly Ground-Roller *Brachypteracias squamiger* E vu

28/10 2 seen + 1 heard Mantadia, 30/10 2 (male,female) Mantadia.

*A skulker. Found in the low part of the Mantadia forest under thick vegetation. We achieved short, but repeated sightings at pretty close range especially on 28/10, found also 30/10 in the same area. A real forest bottom star.

Pitta-like Ground-Roller *Atelornis pittoides* E photo

28/10 1 and 30/10 1 Mantadia.

18/11 6 seen, + heard and 19/11 2 seen + heard Ranomafana.

*The first birds in Mantadia popped up from the ground on fallen mossy trunks and exposed their beauty. The habitat was gentle slopes in lower parts of the forest. In Ranomafana more common with frequent sightings.

Rufous-headed Ground-Roller *Atelornis crossleyi* E nt

28/10 1 seen Mantadia.

19/11 1 heard Ranomafana

*This is a bird of the upper slopes of forest-ridges, skulks in areas of dark, tangled vegetation and deep litter, and perhaps the most difficult of the Ground-Rollers. So we had to work hard up and down numerous ridges outside trails inside the forest. The ultimate reward was the close views of a Rufous-headed Ground-Roller.

So – the 28.oct became our historical day on Madagascar with great observations of all 4 rainforest Ground-Rollers in one day in the extremely rich forest of Mantadia. Mastered by the guide Luc.

Long-tailed Ground-Roller *Uratelornis chimaera* E vu photo

2/11 2 (male,female) Ifaty Spiny Forest – around a digged out nesting-hole, 3/11 2 Spiny Forest – 1 picked up a scolopender, 4/11 4 Spiny Forest.

*In the Ifaty Spiny Forest you can hardly miss this species – seen spontaneously or chased out by Mosa and co-guides. Performing and offering close views. It is a truly astonishing bird, Roadrunner-like but with great plumage-features. A restricted range species confined to a narrow strip of unprotected spiny forest.



Pitta-like and
Short-legged
Ground-Roller
(photo ABN)



Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher *Ceyx madagascarensis* E photo

28/10 1 ad seen + 1 heard Mantadia.

9/11 1 ad found dead Masoala.

18/11 1 Ranomafana.

*A tiny, elusive forest-Kingfisher, very popular! Opened the big party of 28. Okt, where Luc took us through a pearl-row of endemic birds. Perched road-side a few meters up in the early morning. Probably closer to Asian Ceyx than the African Dwarfs.

Malagasy Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo vintsioides* E photo

27/10 3 Tana-Andasibe, 8/11 1 Tana.

28/10 1 Mantadia, 29/10 2 Andasibe, 31/10 5 Andasibe-Anjozorobe.

3/11 2 Tulear-Ifaty.

8/11 2 Maroantsetra, 9/11 1 Maroantsetra, 1 Masoala, 10/11 1 Masoala, 11/11 3 Masoala, 12/11 1 Maroantsetra.

13/11 2 and 14/11 1 Ampijoroa/Lac Ravelope, 16/11 2 Mahajunga (wetland).

Madagascar (Olive) Bee-Eater *Merops superciliosus* NE(b) photo

27/10 3+3 Tana-Andasibe, 28/10 8 Mantadia, 29/10 2 Andasibe, 30/10 2 Mantadia, 31/10 2 Andasibe-Anjozorobe.

2/11 10 Ifaty, 3 Spiny Forest, 3/11 3 Spiny Forest, 20 Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 2 Tulear("Sandgrouse-meadow"), 10+ Tulear-Ifaty, 2 Spiny Forest, 5/11 5+ Zombitse, 6/11 6 Tulear, 7/11 2 Tulear.

10/11 7 Masoala, 12/11 1 Maroantsetra.

13/11 2 and 14/11 10+ Ampijoroa, 16/11 4 Mahajunga (wetland).

17/11 2 Tana-Ranomafana.

Madagascar Hoopoe *Upupa marginalis* E photo

3/11 4 (2+1+1) Ifaty Spiny Forest, 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 1 Spiny Forest, 5/11 1 Tulear-Zombitse, 6/11 2 Anakao.

14/11 4 and 15/11 3 Ampijoroa.

17/11 1 Tana-Ranomafana.

Velvet Asity *Philepitta castanea* E photo

29/10 1 ad male + 1-2 females Andasibe inside Analamazaotra Forest, 1/11 1 ad male Anjozorobe.

18/11 1 male Ranomafana.

*The adult male is an absolute top-star among Madagascar endemics. With the deep velvet black and the green ornament it gave us a nice association to New Guinean Birds-of-Paradise! It is rather discrete operating in low or middle story moving and hiding in the foliage and is best looked for on forest-ridges. We got splendid views.

The Asities is another unique bird-family on the island. It is believed to have derived from the Broadbills of Africa as an early branch of the family. Later to develop into the two very different species-pairs.

Schlegel's Asity *Philepitta schlegeli* E nt photo

14/11 1 probably imm male Ampijoroa, 15/11 3 males + 1 female Ampijoroa.

*This absolute top-target of Ampijoroa was close to develop into a top-frustration. Prolonged search had left us with only a possible immature seen way up in the canopy. Our guide Jacky made a last effort and brought a younger colleague for a try on 15/11 during the heat of the day. Goal! 3 males with colourful caruncles and a female to be enjoyed.

Common Sunbird-Asity *Neodrepanis coruscans* E photo

30/10 2 (male,female) Mantadia.

18/11 1 male and 19/11 2 Ranomafana.

*Not that “common” and not too easy to get. Found it working in the middle-story along middle-altitude ridges.

Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity *Neodrepanis hypoxantha* E vu

19/11 1 male Ranomafana!

*The really scarce Asity. At Ranomafana a lot of focus on Sunbird-Asities. In the end one of these brightly coloured tiny birds was located for good views. It is a bird of higher altitude ridges, and has got the only at least fair chance in Ranomafana.



Schlegel's Asity, Ampijoroa (ABN)



Red-shouldered Vanga, La Table, Tulear (ABN)

Red-tailed Vanga *Calicalicus madagascariensis*

E photo

27/10 1 Andasibe, 28/10 1 heard Mantadia, 29/10 1 Andasibe, 30/10 2 Mantadia.

11/11 2 Masoala.

18/11 2 (male,female) + 3 heard and 19/11 1 male Ranomafana.

*A pleasant, small tit-like Vanga. Can cope with rather degraded habitats and we saw it in all the eastern forests.

Red-shouldered Vanga *Calicalicus rufocarpalis* E vu photo

4/11 2 (male,female) La Table, Tulear.

*Readily found and high quality observations of this endemic of the dry thorn-bush of the table-land, the “coral rag”. Only described from its very restricted range recently though quite distinct in plumage. The male was highly vocal, excited when provoked, and rushed into sight.

Hook-billed Vanga *Vanga curvirostris* E photo

27/10 1 heard Andasibe, 28/10 2 Mantadia (1 seen, 1 heard), 29/10 1 heard Andasibe, 30/10 1 heard Mantadia, 1/11 1 seen Anjozorobe.

4/11 1 Ifaty, 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest.

11/11 1 Masoala.

14/11 1 and 15/11 1 Ampijoroa.

18/11 1 Ranomafana.

*More often heard through the drawn-out single-note whistle, but widespread with a number of observations. A predatory Vanga.

Bernier's Vanga *Oriolia bernieri* E vu

11/11 2 + 2 (male, female) Masoala,

*A Masoala-target, scarce and confined to rainforests of the north-east. Seen in the clearing a little uphill behind Tampolo lodge, but silent, fleeting, and moving in the subcanopy. Tossing moss and bark for food. Later on the same day another pair was observed during a canoe-trip up the small water-courseway at Tampolo Lodge. It was not easy, but we got decent looks of both male and female.

Lafresnaye's Vanga *Xenopirostris xenopirostris* E photo

2/11 2 (male, female) Ifaty Spiny Forest, 4/11 1 La Table.

*A tough shrike-like or even butcherbird-like Vanga confined to the arid scrub in the south. Guides lead us to a nest in the Spiny Forest, later we located a perched bird on La Table.

Van Dam's Vanga *Xenopirostris damii* E en photo

14/11 1 male seen + 3 heard Ampijoroa.

*The most endangered Vanga confined to two tiny areas of dry deciduous forests. In Ampijoroa we worked for it uphill in the heat of the afternoon, recorded vocal birds, and finally found and enjoyed a perched male.

Pollen's Vanga *Xenopirostris pollen* E nt

18/11 3 seen and 19/11 heard Ranomafana.

*The third of the heavy-billed, gloomy Vangas, the rainforest edition, and a Ranomafana target.

Sickle-billed Vanga *Falcula palliate* E photo

2/11 1 and 4/11 6 Ifaty Spiny Forest.

14/11 10+ including 2 active nests and 15/11 6 Ampijoroa.

*A great character of the dry western forests, arboreal, moves around and uses the peculiar, decurved bill to probe cavities and glean bark. Big, often noisy, and conspicuous.

White-headed Vanga *Artamella viridis* E photo

30/10 2 (male, female) Mantadia.

10/11 1 male and 11/11 2 (male, female) Masoala.

13/11 1, 14/11 2, and 15/11 2 Ampijoroa, 16/11 1 Betsiboka Delta in the mangrove.

18/11 1 heard Ranomafana.

Chabert's Vanga *Leptopterus chabert* E photo

27/10 8 Mangoro River, 1 Andasibe.

2/11 4 (nest) and 3/11 2+ Ifaty Spiny Forest, 3/11 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 1 La Table, 6 Spiny Forest.

9/11 1, 10/11 1, and 11/11 1 Masoala.

13/11 3, 14/11 4, and 15/11 3 Ampijoroa.

18/11 1 Ranomafana.

Blue Vanga *Cyanolanius madagascariensis* NE

27/10 1 and 29/10 1 Andasibe.

10/11 3 Masoala.

14/11 2 and 15/11 1 heard 15/11 2 Ampijoroa.

17/11 1 Ranomafana.

Rufous Vanga *Schetba rufa* E photo

1/11 1 heard Anjozorobe.

8/11 1 heard Zombitse.

10/11 3 seen + 3 heard and 11/11 1 heard Masoala.

14/11 3 (male, female + male) seen + heard Ampijoroa.

19/11 1 male Ranomafana.

*Broad range of primary forest-habitats. The first were only calling birds and caused some impatience until the break-through on a Masoala hill-side offering the first views. More easy to locate in the more open dry deciduous forest of the west.

Helmet Vanga *Euryceros prevostii* E vu photo

9/11 2 Masoala.

*The image of this extraordinary species with the massive, blue bill was one main reason, that Masoala became a must as part of the itinerary. We just had to go for it! On our first day in Masoala we made a walk about 3 km down the coast and entered a path uphill into the forest which at this point quickly turned into primary forest. And we were guided to a nest-site soon having splendid looks on this icon. It gave us peace of mind for the rest of our stay at this beautiful place. No further observations. No educated guides or local forest-experts as such are available in Masoala but they gave us the mega-target – the Helmet Vanga.

Tylas Vanga *Tylas eduardi* E photo

27/10 1 Andasibe (forest gallery at the Feon'Ny Ala restaurant), 29/10 1 Andasibe, 30/10 3 Mantadia.

18/11 1 Ranomafana.

*Canopy-species. Taxonomy often disputed, but now seems safely allocated to the Vanga-family as an early off-spring of the "primitive Vanga". Share plumage-feature with Pollen's, but much more slender and narrow-billed.

Nuthatch Vanga *Hypositta corallirostris* E photo

29/10 1 Andasibe, 30/10 1 Mantadia.

*Vanga-diversity also includes this bird, a true copy of a nuthatch, climbing tree-trunks and branches, vertically as horizontally. Strong associations to Velvet-fronted Nuthatch of Asia.

Dark Newtonia *Newtonia amphichroa* E

28/10 10+ Mantadia, 29/10 1 Andasibe, 1/11 3 Anjozorobe.

19/11 4 Ranomafana.

*Newtonias are now believed to be a warbler/small tit-like group of Vangas. This species always seen in dense under-story.

Common Newtonia *Newtonia brunneicauda* E photo

27/10 1 Andasibe, 28/10 5 Mantadia, 29/10 1 Andasibe, 30/10 3 Mantadia, 31/10 1 and 1/11 4 Anjozorobe.

2/11 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest, 5/11 5+ Zombitse.

10/11 4+ and 11/11 2 Masoala.

14/11 4 seen + 8 heard and 15/11 10+ Ampijoroa.

17/11 2, 18/11 4+ heard, and 19/11 2+ heard Ranomafana.

Archbold's Newtonia *Newtonia archboldi* E

3/11 2 Ifaty Spiny Forest

*Restricted to a coastal strip of about 100 km. Only observation, but a very qualified one. Darkish with wicked eyes. One of the birds was ringed with a colour-band.

Ward's Flycatcher *Pseudobias wardi* E photo

27/10 3 Andasibe, 28/10 1 Mantadia, 30/10 1 Mantadia.

*A number of observations in Andasibe-Mantadia. Looks like a monarch flycatcher giving associations to African Batis or Wattle-Eyes. But according to newer taxonomy this is another bird of the diverse Vangas. Share the broad blue, plastic eye-ring with Chabert's Vanga.

Crosley's Vanga (Babbler) *Mystacornis crossleyi* E photo

28/10 1 seen Mantadia, 31/10 1 heard Anjozorobe.

*One of the most striking Madagascar-endemics and one of the real highlights of the forest-bottom. But rather skulky. We had splendid views of a bird walking on the forest floor. New taxonomy points to it being in fact an aberrant Vanga with no connections to the babblers.

Madagascar Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina cineria* E photo

27/10 2 and 9/10 1 Andasibe, 30/10 1 Mantadia, 1/11 2 Anjozorobe.

10/11 2 and 11/11 1 Masoala.

13/11 2, 14/11 2, and 15/11 1 Ampijoroa.

17/11 2 Tana-Ranomafana.

Crested Drongo *Dicrurus forficatus* E photo

27/10 3+ Andasibe, 28/10 5 Mantadia, 29/10 5 Andasibe, 30/10 3+ Mantadia, 31/10 2 Anjozorobe.

2/11 5+ Ifaty, 1 Spiny Forest, 3/11 4+ Spiny Forest, 5+ Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 5+ Tulear-Ifaty, 4 Spiny Forest, 5/11 5+ Zombitse, 6/11 2 Anakao.

8/11 4 Maroantsetra, 9/11 2 Maroantsetra, 2 Masoala, 10/11 5+ and 11/11 12 Masoala, 12/11 1 Maroantsetra.

13/11 2, 14/11 8+, and 15/11 20 Ampijoroa.

17/11 1 Tana-Ranomafana (Amkazomivady Forest), 18/11 1 and 19/11 2 Ranomafana.

Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone mutata* NE photo

27/10 2 Andasibe, 28/10 2 Mantadia, 29/10 5 Andasibe – 2 pairs with nesting birds + 1 imm, 30/10 2 (male, female) Mantadia hatching by turns in a nest-cup, 1/11 1 female on nest Anjozorobe.

2/11 1, 3/11 2, and 4/11 2 Ifaty Spiny Forest, 5/11 3 Zombitse.

9/11 2, 10/11 3 and 11/11 2 Masoala.

14/11 10 and 15/11 5 Ampijoroa.

18/11 1 Ranomafana.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* photo

27/10 3 and 8/11 5+ Tana.

27/10 1 Tana-Andasibe, 31/10 2 Andasibe-Anjozorobe.

2/11 20+ Tulear-Ifaty, 3/11 5 Spiny Forest, 10 Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 10+ Tulear("Sandgrouse-meadow"), 10+ Tulear-Ifaty, 5/11 50+ Tulear-Zombitse, 6/11 4 Anakao, 5+ Tulear, 7/11 8 Tulear.

8/11 10+ and 12/11 20+ Maroantsetra.

13/11 10+ Mahajunga-Ampijoroa, 14/11 2 and 15/11 3 Ampijoroa.

17/11 10+ and 20/11 5+ Ranomafana-Tana.

Madagascar Lark *Miafra hova* E photo

13/11 4 Tana airport-vicinity.

31/10 2 Anjozorobe.

2/11 5 Ifaty, 3/11 10+ Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 25+ Tulear ("Sandgrouse-meadow"), 5 La table, 5/11 5 Tulear-Zombitse, 7/11 15 Tulear Airport.

15/11 2 Ampijoroa-Mahajunga.

20/11 2 Ranomafana-Tana.

Madagascar Bulbul *Hypsipetes madagascariensis* NE photo

27/10 5 Tana, 2 Tana-Andasibe.

17/10 6 Andasibe, 28/10 20+ and 29/10 30+ Andasibe, 30/10 40+ Mantadia, 31/10 5+ and 1/11 20+ Anjozorobe.

2/11 2+ Ifaty Spiny Forest, 3/11 2 Spiny Forest, 5 Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 5+ Tulear-Ifaty, 2 Spiny Forest, 5/11 4+ Zombitse.

8/11 2 Maroantsetra, 9/11 2 Maroantsetra, 6 Masoala, 10/11 20+ and 11/11 25+ Masoala, 12/11 4+ Maroantsetra.

13/11 5+, 14/11 10+, and 15/11 25+ Ampijoroa.

17/11 2, 18/11 5+, and 19/11 10+ Ranomafana.

Mascarene Martin *Phedina borbonica* NE photo

27/10 30 Tana, 5 Tana-Andasibe, 13/11 15 Tana Airport.

28/10 10 and 30/10 5+ Mantadia, 31/10 5 Andasibe-Anjozorobe, 20+ Anjozorobe, 1/11 5+ Anjozorobe.

3/11 10+ Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 3 Tulear("Sandgrouse-meadow"), 6/11 2 Tulear cliffs.

9/11 15+, 10/11 15+, and 11/11 20+ Masoala, 12/11 5 Maroantsetra.

14/11 10+ Ampijoroa.

17/11 10+ Tana-Ranomafana, 18/11 30+, 19/11 5, and 20/11 10+ Ranomafana, 20+ Ranomafana-Tana.

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola*

31/10 6 Andasibe-Anjozorobe. 8/11 2 Tana.

17/11 1 Tana-Ranomafana.

Madagascar Wagtail *Motacilla flaviventris* E photo

27/10 8 Tana, 1 Tana-Andasibe, 13/11 2 Tana Airport, 20/11 10 Tana.

27/10 2 Andasibe, 28/10 2 Mantadia, 29/10 2 Andasibe, 31/10 3 Andasibe-Anjozorobe, 1 Anjozorobe, 1/11 1 Anjozorobe(lodge).

3/11 2 Tulear-Ifaty.

10/11 – 12/11 2 Masoala at the mouth of the small water-course at Tampolo Lodge.

17/11 10 Tana-Ranomafana, 18/11 10, 19/11, and 20/11 10+ Ranomafana.

Madagascar Brush Warbler *Nesillas typical* NE

27/10 3 Tana.

28/11 5 and 29/10 5 Andasibe, 30/10 5+ heard Mantadia, 31/10 heard and 1/11 5+ Anjozorobe.

17/11 4+ and 19/11 1 Ranomafana, 20/11 1 Ranomafana-Tana.

Subdesert Warbler *Nesillas lantzii* E photo

2/11 2 and 3/11 1 heard Ifaty Spiny Forest, 4/11 2 Tulear (Sandgrouse-site), 3 La Table, 3 Spiny Forest, 6/11 6 Anakao.

Madagascar Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus newtonii* E

28/10 2 Mantadia, 31/10 4 and 1/11 10 Anjozorobe Marsh.

3/11 5 Tulear-Ifaty, 6/11 5 and 7/11 2 Tulear Mangroves.

17/11 1 Tana-Ranomafana – marsh at Amkazomivady Forest.

Brown Emutail *Dromaeocercus brunneus* E

30/10 1 seen + 1 heard Mantadia, 1/11 1 heard Anjozorobe.

*Both at high elevations at ridge-tops, skulks in the bottom of dark vegetation and hard to see. One bird was initially heard at Mantadia and responded to the tape. Luc left the group on the path and tried to provoke the bird to cross. And in some crucial seconds it passed us like a crawling tailed mouse.

Grey Emutail *Amphilais seebohmi* E photo

29/10 2 Andasibe at Ampasimpotsy Marsh, 31/10 2 and 1/11 1 Anjozorobe Marsh.

*Confined to marsh and rather difficult to watch. But eventually will pop up. Sometimes looked more brownish than grey. Most of former habitat lost.

White-throated Oxylabes *Oxylabes madagascariensis* E photo(ABN)

29/10 1 Andasibe seen briefly inside Analamazotra Forest, 30/10 2 Mantadia.

*Another specialty. In Mantadia close observations of two birds moving in the low story.

Long-billed Berniera (Greenbul) *Berniera madagascariensis* E photo

28/10 2 Mantadia, 29/10 1 Andasibe, 30/10 2

Mantadia, 31/10 1 Anjozorobe.

5/11 3 Zombitse.

11/11 2 Masoala.

14/11 10 and 15/11 10+ Ampijoroa.

19/11 3 Ranomafana.

Cryptic Warbler *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi* E

28/10 1 Mantadia, 30/10 4 heard Mantadia.

19/11 2 Ranomafana.

*You never get close to this species, singing from the absolute top of a tree.

Wedge-tailed Jery *Hartertula flavoviridis* E nt

28/10 2 Mantadia, 30/10 2 Mantadia.

*Definitely not like the other Jeries. Working and gleaning on stems and branches in the under-story, at times hanging upside-down like a Long-tailed Tit using the graduated, long tail as counter balance. Logically now placed in the group of Malagasy Warblers.

Thamnornis *Thamnornis chloropetoides* E

3/11 2 seen and heard Ifaty Spiny Forest.

*Uniform Subdesert Warbler-look-alike. Tail white-tipped and square but not too easy to see when the birds move in the scrub. Voice a "speedy Subdesert". Taxonomy has shown that it is an older invader and it is placed in the heterogeneous family of Malagasy Warblers.

Spectacled Tetraka (Greenbul) *Berniera zosterops* E photo

28/10 4 Mantadia, 29/10 1 Andasibe, 30/10 2 Mantadia.

18/11 3 Ranomafana.



White-throated Oxylabes, Mantadia(ABN)

Appert's Tetraka (Greenbul) *Bernieria apperti* E vu photo

5/11 1 Zombitse.

*Extremely calm and undisturbed moving on the dry litter of the forest floor. Prolonged views – fortunately, as it was the only bird observed. Only known from a tiny area.

Grey-crowned Tetraka (Greenbul) *Bernieria cinereiceps* E nt

30/10 1 Mantadia.

*Another scarce Tetraka, seen well one meter up in moist shrubs inside the forest.

Madagascar Yellowbrow *Crossleyia xanthophrys* E nt photo

1/11 2 (male, female) Anjozorobe.

*This specialty is a tough skulker of the forest bottom along ridges at high elevation. That was where we found it after a long search lead by Julien. Moved around on or very close to the ground, calling, and possible for all of us to get good looks.

Rand's Warbler *Randia pseudozosterops* E

30/10 2 Mantadia.

*Like Cryptic Warbler to be found through the song uttered high up in the canopy.

Madagascar Cisticola *Cisticola cherina* E

13/11 2 and 17/11 5 Tana Airport.

29/10 3 Andasibe, 1/11 3 Anjozorobe Marsh.

2/11 5 and 3/11 10+ Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 5 Tulear("Sandgrouse-meadow"), 5/11 2 Tulear-Zombitse, 6/11 3 Nosy Ve.

Common Jery *Neomixis tenella* E photo

27/10 1 Andasibe, 28/10 1 Mantadia, 29/10 2 Andasibe, 31/10 5 Anjozorobe.

2/11 5+ and 3/11 10+ Ifaty Spiny Forest, 4/11 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 4 Spiny Forest, 6/11 2 Tulear.

10/11 2 Masoala.

13/11 1, 14/11 2 Ampijoroa, and 15/11 2+ Ampijoroa.

Green Jery *Neomixis viridis* E

31/10 1 seen/heard Anjozorobe – probably another 1-2.

*It was quite a job – not always carried out with too much concentration – to separate the Jeries. And especially to isolate the Green Jery from the two commoner species. We got help from Julien to find the Green Jery on a hillside of Anjozorobe, mainly by voice. Subtle plumage features difficult, often seen against the light.

Stripe-throated Jery *Neomixis striatigula* E

27/10 3 Andasibe, 28/10 1 Mantadia, 29/10 2+ Andasibe, 30/10 2 Mantadia, 1/11 2 Anjozorobe.

18/11 1 and 19/11 5 heard Ranomafana.

Malagasy White-eye *Zosterops moderaspatana* NE

27/10 3 and 8/11 4 Tana.

27/10 Andasibe, 28/10 50+ Mantadia, 29/10 15+ Andasibe, 30/10 10+ Mantadia, 31/10 1 and 1/11 10+ Anjozorobe.

5/11 1 Zombitse.

10/11 6 and 11/11 25 Masoala.

15/11 3 Ampijoroa.

18/11 3 and 19/11 4+ Ranomafana.

Madagascar Starling *Creatophora cinerea* E photo

28/10 3 Mantadia, 1/11 2 Anjozorobe Marsh.

10/11 3 and 11/11 8 Masoala.

18/11 2 Ranomafana.

*Silent at all our observations, flying or at best roosting in tree-tops around forest clearings. The best observations were at the clearing beyond Tampolo Lodge during the watch for Bernier's Vanga.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* introduced photo

27/10 50+ Tana-Andasibe, 8/11 40 + 20 Tana Airport.

29/10 10+ Andasibe, 30/10 5+ Mantadia, 31/10 20+ Andasibe-Anjozorobe, 31/10 20+ Andasibe-Anjozorobe, 1/11 10+ Anjozorobe.

2/11 20+ Ifaty, 3/11 40+ Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 50+ Tulear ("Sandgrouse-site"), + Tulear-Ifaty, 5/11 20+ Tulear-Zombitse, 6/11 5 Nosy Ve, 7/11 30+ Tulear.

8/11 15+ Maroantsetra, 10/11 2 and 11/11 2 Masoala, 12/11 20+ Maroantsetra.

13/11 10+ and 14/11 2 Ampijoroa.

17/11 and 20/11 30+ Tana-Ranomafana, 18/11 and 19/11 10+ Ranomafana.

Madagascar Magpie-Robin *Copsychus albospecularis* E photo

27/10 3 Andasibe, 28/10 3 Mantadia, 29/10 3 Andasibe, 30/10 2 Mantadia, 31/10 3 Anjozorobe.

2/11 2 and 3/11 4 Ifaty Spiny Forest, 4/11 1 Tulear-Ifaty, 2 Spiny Forest.

9/11 2, 10/11 1, and 11/11 1 Masoala.

14/11 5 and 15/11 4+ Ampijoroa.

17/11 1 Tana-Ranomafana, 18/11 5 and 19/11 5 Ranomafana.

African (Madagascar) Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus (sibilla)* (E) photo

27/10 4 Tana-Andasibe, 2 Andasibe, 28/10 7+ Mantadia, 29/10 3 Andasibe, 30/10 2 Mantadia, 31/10 5+ Andasibe-Anjozorobe, 1/11 10 Anjozorobe.

17/11 6+ Tana-Ranomafana.

*According to IOC ranked as a species, more often treated as a race of the African Stonechat.

Littoral Rock-Thrush *Monticola imerinus* E photo

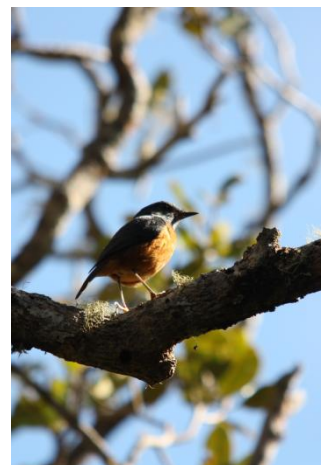
6/11 3 Anakao.

*Readily found after landing at Anakao (Nosy Ve boat-trip). The species is restricted to a narrow coastal area. 2(male,female) were around at a nest-site between the bungalows, another male whas singing from euphobia.

Forest Rock-Thrush *Monticola sharpie* E photo

30/10 3 (male, 2 female/imm) Mantadia.

*Not easy to find. Silent, elusive species. Special demands for the habitat: Along ridges, big trees, semi-open under-story, and often near a water-course. Could stay motionless, before running on a broad trunk for a prey-item.



Forest Rock-Thrush,
Mantadia (ABN)

Souimanga Sunbird *Nectarinia souimanga* NE photo

28/10 5 Mantadia, 30/10 6+ Mantadia, 31/10 5 Andasibe L., 1/11 2+ Anjozorobe.

2/11 2 Ifaty, 5+ Ifaty Spiny Forest, 3/11 20+ Spiny Forest, 4/11 2+ La Table, 5 Tulear-Ifaty, 10+ Spiny Forest, 5/11 2 Zombitse.

9/11 3 and 10/11 6 Masoala, 12/11 2 Maroantsetra.

14/11 15+ and 15/11 25 Ampijoroa.

17/11 3+, 18/11 5+, and 19/11 5+ Ranomafana, 20/11 1 Ranomafana-Tana.

Madagascar Green Sunbird *Nectarinia notata* NE

27/10 1 Mangoro River, 4 Andasibe, 31/10 1 Andasibe Lodge, 1/11 3 Anjozorobe.

11/11 1 Masoala.

13/11 2 and 14/11 1 Ampijoroa.

17/11 1 Ranomafana.

Nelicourvi Weaver *Ploceus nelicourvi* E photo

27/10 1 Andasibe, 28/10 1 Mantadia, 29/10 1 male Andasibe, 30/10 3 Mantadia, 31/10 2+ Anjozorobe.

11/11 1 Masoala.

18/11 3 Ranomafana.

*Non-colonial forest-weaver seen in small numbers

Sakalava Weaver *Ploceus sakalava* E photo

2/11 15+ Ifaty, 3+ Ifaty Spiny Forest, 3/11 50 Spiny Forest, 20+ Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 20+ Tulear, 20+ Tulear-Ifaty, 5+ Spiny Forest, 5/11 20+ Tulear-Zombitse, 6/11 20 Anakao.

13/11 10+ Mahajunga-Ampijoroa, 14/11 5+ and 15/11 10 Ampijoroa.

Madagascar Red Fody *Foudia madagascariensis* E photo

27/10 40, 8/11 10+, 13/11 20, and 20/11 30+ Tana.

2/11 10 Ifaty, 5 Spiny Forest, 3/11 4+ Spiny Forest, 2 Tulear-Ifaty, 4/11 1 Tulear, 5/11 5 Zombitse, 6/11 2 and 7/11 1 Tulear.

9/11 1, 10/11 5, and 11/11 20 Masoala, 12/11 15+ Maroantsetra.

17/11 5+Tana-Ranomafana (Ambatofotsy Lake), 18/11 3 and 19/11 2 Ranomafana.

Madagascar Red/Forest Fody *Foudia madagascariensis/omissa*

28/10 5+ Mantadia, 29/10 1 Andasibe, 30/10 40 Mantadia, 31/10 10+ and 1/11 20+ Anjozorobe.

Forest Fody *Foudia omissa* E

27/10 3 Andasibe – 2 males+1 seen from Feon'Ny Ala restaurant.

17/11 1 male Ranomafana.

*These birds were studied closely and in all ways matched the Forest Fody. Further birds were suspected but the impact of the M. Red Fody including hybridization seems strong, the common species facilitated by ever growing cultivation and isolation of primary habitats.

Madagascar Mannikin *Lonchura nana* E photo

27/10 2 Tana, 8/11 1 Tana Airport.

28/10 1 Mantadia, 29/10 3 Andasibe.

2/11 2 Ifaty, 4/11 2 Tulear("Sandgrouse-meadow").

11/11 8 Masoala.

16/11 2 Mahajunga (wetland).

17/11 2 Tana-Ranomafana (Ambatofotsy Lake), 18/11 6 and 20/11 2 Ranomafana.

N=196

**Mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and some Invertebrates –
recorded Madagascar 28.oct – 21. Nov 2012.**

Nomenclature for lemurs follows Mittelmeier et al. 2010: Lemurs of Madagascar, 3d ed.

MAMMALS.

Cheirogaleidae – mouse lemurs etc

Grey Mouse Lemur *Microcebus murinus*

13/11 7+ forest edge near village, Ampijoroa/Ankarafantsika National Park 18.30-19.

Grey-brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus griseorufus*

2/11 10+ and 4/11 2 Ifaty Spiny Forest, 18.30-19.30.

Rufous Mouse Lemur *Microcebus rufus* photo(TL)

18/1 2 Ranomafana NP, roadside, lured by banana smeared on twigs and trunks.

Goodman's Mouse Lemur *Microcebus lehilahytsara* photo(ABN)

28/10 2 Andasibe, orchid garden, 1/11 2+ roosting in lodge roof, Anjozorobe. Was named "brown mouse lemur" by the guides but according to Mittelmeier this is the only *Microcebus* present.

Undescribed (?) Mouse Lemur

10 and 11/11 1 cinnamon plantation near Tampolo Lodge, Masoala NP.

Hairy-eared Dwarf Lemur *Allocebus trichotis*

28/10 1 Orchid garden, Andasibe.

Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus medius*

13/11 4 forest edge close to a village Ampijoroa near Ankarafantsika National Park – 18.30-19.

Greater Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus major*

10/11 1 cinnamon plantation near Tampolo Lodge, Masoala NP.

Lepilemuridae – sportive lemurs

Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur edwardsi* photo(TL)

13/11 heard Ampijoroa at the forest station Ankarafantsika National Park, 14/11 1 day roost above the forest station + heard at the station.

Zombitse Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur hubbardorum* photo(ABN,TL)

5/11 2 on day roost Zombitse.

Petter's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur petteri*

2/11 and 4/11 1 day roost + at night Ifaty Spiny Forest.

Lemuridae – true Lemurs

Gray Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur griseus*

27/10 3+ Andasibe.

Golden Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur aureus* photo(TL)

18/11 2 Ranomafana NP. Very confinding at our just above the ground.

Greater Bamboo Lemur *Prolemur simus*

18/11 2 Ranomafana NP.

(Common) Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus* (ABN)

27/10 2 Andasibe, 30/10 2 Mantadia, 14/11 1 Ampijoroa, Ankarafantsika National Park.

Red-fronted Brown Lemur *Eulemur rufifrons*

18/11 1 Ranomafana NP.

White-fronted Brown Lemur *Eulemur albifrons*

10/11 heard Masoala from Tampolo Lodge, 11/11 8 + 1 Masoala close to the waterfall and from Tampolo Lodge.

Red-bellied Lemur *Eulemur rubriventer* photo(TL)

19/11 4 Ranomafana NP.

Mongoose Lemur *Eulemur mongoz*

14/11 4 near Lac Ravelobe and the forest station, Ampijoroa, Ankarafantsika National Park, 15/11 1 Ampijoroa, inside the forest.

Southern Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur *Varecia variegata editorum* photo(ABN)

30/10 3 (1 radio tacked) Mantadia NP. They performed extremely long leaps between stands of trees at a seemingly risky height. What capacity!

Red Ruffed Lemur *Varecia rubra* photo(TL,ABN)

9/11 1 seen + several heard Masoala NP, primary forest. A large, distinctive, beautiful Lemur – a Masoala target.

Indriidae – Wolly Lemurs, Sifakas, and the Indri.

Masoala Woolly Lemur *Avahi mooreorum* photo(TL)

10/11 2 groups (including 1 female with young + 1 male and 1 female with young) and 11/11 1 Masoala, cinnamon plantation. Avahis are the only nocturnal Lemurs of the Indri-group.

Western Woolly Lemur *Avahi occidentalis* photo(TL)

14/11 1 female with young + 1 in hiding above the forest station, Ampijoroa, Ankarafantsika National Park.

Verreaux's Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi* photo(TL,ABN)

5/11 about 10 Zombitse.

Coquerel's Sifaka *Propithecus coquereli* photo (TL,ABN)

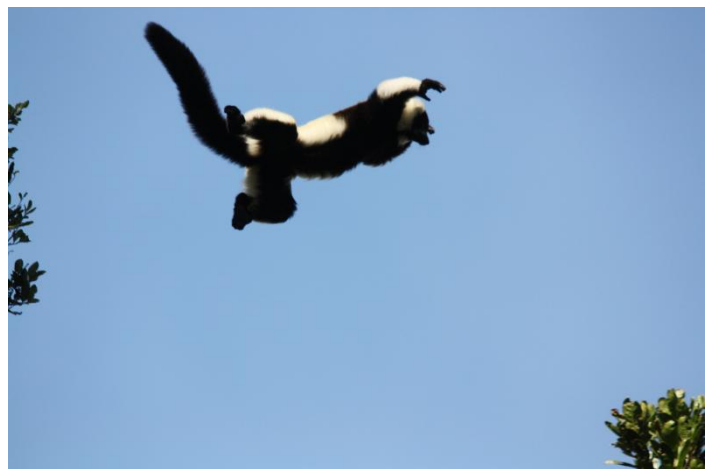
13/11 4+4, 14/11 6+, and 15/11 4+ Ampijoroa, Ankarafantsika National Park.

Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus diadema* photo(TL)

30/10 5+ Mantadia NP. Sifakas are beauties! – not least this species.



Lowland Streaked Tenrek, Masoala (TL)



Canopy-jump performed by B&W Ruffed Lemur, Mantadia (ABN)

Milne-Edwards Sifaka *Propithecus edwardsi* photo(TL)

19/11 2 upper Ranomafana NP.

Indri *Indri indri* photo(TL,ABN)

27/10 1 male + heard Andasibe, seen from Andasibe Forest Lodge, 30/10 chorus Mantadia, 1/11 3 ad + young (almost black) Anjozorobe Angavo Protected Area.

The largest survivor whose eerie song through the rainforest is unforgettable.

Other mammals

Fossa *Cryptoprocta ferox*

18/11 1 younger animal Ranomafana NP, found at bright day light by the guide Theo. It was an unexpected highlight for the group that made their way to Ranomafana to see the top-predator of the island.

Ring-tailed Mongoose *Galidia elegans*

11/11 1 Masoala, 18/11 1 Ranomafana NP.

Lowland Streaked Tenrek *Hemicentetes semispinosus* photo(TL)

9/11 1 inside Tampolo Lodge camp ground, Masoala.

An odd member of an old tribe of mammals on the island – a primitive off-shoot to what became the insectivorous. But we met with only one (possibly two) individuals. One being much better than none!

Eastern Red Forest Rat - *Nesomys rufus*

31/10 and 1/11 2+ Anjozorobe Angavo Protected Area, 18/11 2 and 19/11 2 Ranomafana NP.

Lowland Red Forest Rat – *Nesomys audeberti*

10/11 1 Masoala. [IUCNredlist.org: If populations on the Masoala Peninsula are indeed shown to represent a distinct species, then both taxa will require reassessment].

Dormouse [Western] Tufted-tailed Rat - *Eliurus myoxinus*

13/11 1 night walk, village near Ampijoroa, Ankarafantsika National Park.

House Mouse *Mus musculus* [not native]

13/11 1 night walk, village near Ampijoroa, Ankarafantsika National Park.

REPTILES

Crocodiles

Nile Crocodile – *Crocodilus niloticus* photo(ABN)

13-14/11 10+ Lac Ravelope, Ampijoroa.

Snakes

Madagascar Tree Boa *Boa manditra* photo(ABN,TL)

27/10 1 Andasibe.

Dumeril's [Malagassy] Ground Boa *Acrantophis dumerili* photo(TL)

20/11 1 caught by locals between Ranomafana and Tana.

Colubrid/Water Snake, unidentified *Liopholidophis sp.*

30/10 1 Mantadia.

Malagasy Cat Eyed Snake, species *Madagascarophis ocellatus*

3/11 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest.

Tiny Night Snake *Ithycyphus miniatus* photo(TL)

14/11 1 in the shower of a cabin at the forest station, Ampijoroa, Ankarafantsika NP.

Common Big Eyed Snake *Mimophis mahfalensis* photo(TL,ABN)

3/1 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest. Tried to hide in one of our shoulder bags left on the ground.

Boulenger's Forest Snake *Compsophis boulengeri* photo(TL)

18/11 1 Ranomafana NP, caught by day light.

Malagasy Cat-eyed Snake, unidentified species *Madagascarophis* sp.

14/11 1 Ampijoroa inside the cabin at the forest station eating a frog.

Chameleons

A total of at least 16 species of Chameleons identified. This extreme diversity of chameleons is only offered on Madagascar and should be one of the priorities on a trip like this. From tiny leaf-dwellers to large, slow monsters.

Globe-horned Chameleon - *Calumma globifer* photo(TL,ABN)

31/10 1 night time in Anjozorobe Angavo Protected Area.

Big-nosed Chameleon - *Calumma nasutum* photo(TL)

31/10 1 night time in Anjozorobe Angavo Protected Area, 18/11 1+ Ranomafana NP, night walk roadside.

Perinet Chameleon - *Calumma gastrotaenia* photo(TL)

31/1 1 night time in Anjozorobe Angavo Protected Area, 18/11 1+ Ranomafana NP, night walk roadside.

Parson's Chameleon - *Calumma parsonii* photo(TL)

28/10 1 Orchid Garden, Andasibe.

Short-horned Chameleon *Calumma brevicorne* photo(TL)

28/10 1 Orchid Garden, Andasibe.

Blue-legged Chameleon *Calumma crypticum* photo(TL)

18/11 3+ Ranomafana, night walk roadside.

O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon *Calumma oshaughnessyi* photo(TL)

18/11 1+ Ranomafana, night walk roadside.

"Diagonal-striped" Chameleon *Calumma balteatus*

19/11 1 big female brought to the lodge, Ranomafana.

Chameleon (unnamed) *Calumma glawi* photo(TL)

18/11 1 Ranomafana NP, night walk roadside.

Antimena Chameleon *Furcifer antimena* photo(TL,ABN)

2/11 1 seen day and night, Ifaty Spiny Forest, 4/11 1 Ifaty at the lodge being chased by a Hook-billed Vanga.

Jewelled Chameleon (Carpet or White-lined C.) *Furcifer lateralis* photo(TL,ABN)

1/11 1 daytime at the lodge, Anjozorobe Angavo Protected Area.

Malagasy Giant Chameleon [Oustalet's C.] *Furcifer oustaleti* photo(TL)

5/11 1 Zombitse.

Panther Chameleon - *Furcifer pardalis* photo(TL)

9/11 1 day time, Masoala.



Panther Chameleon,
Masoala (TL)

Rhinoceros Chameleon *Furcifer rhinoceratus*

13/11 1 night walk near a village, Ampijoroa.

Domergue's Leaf Chameleon *Brookesia thieli* photo(TL)

28/10 about 5 night time in Orchid Garden, Andasibe, 31/10 1 night time in Anjozorobe Angavo Protected Area.

Elongate Leaf Chameleon *Brookesia nasus* photo(TL)

18/11 1 Ranomafana NP, night walk roadside.

Geckoes and Lizards.

Madagascar is the island of the reptiles! A lot of entertaining and amazing creatures also in this group reaching a climax at the two large Leaf-Geckoes.

Hemidactylus-Gecko sp. *Hemidactylus sp.*

18/11 5+ Ranomafana NP.

Dwarf Gecko sp. *Lycodactylus sp.* photo(TL)

30/10 1 Mantadia.

Lined Day Gecko *Phelsuma lineata* photo(TL)

28-30/10 several in the Andasibe-Matadia area, 8/11 2+ Maroantsetra at the Hippo-lodge, 18/11 5+ (lineata? and bifasciata?) Ranomafana NP.

Speckled Day Gecko *Phelsuma guttata* photo(TL)

10/11 2 and 11/11 2 Masoala.

Madagascar Day Gecko *Phelsuma madagascariensis* photo(TL)

13/11 1 Ampijoroa, Ankarafantsika National Park, 16/11 3+ boating hotel Mahajunga.

Standing's Day Gecko *Phelsuma standing* photo(TL)

2/11 1 at night time Ifaty Spiny Forest.

Giant Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus fimbriatus* photo(ABN,TL,JB)

10/11 2 and 1/11 1 Masoala, cinnamon plantations near Tampolo lodge.

May be appointed the most excessive creature of the trip. Beyond any imagination. Large protruding eye-bulbs with a network of orange vessels...

Henkel's Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus henkeli* photo(TL)

14/11 1 Ampijoroa, Ankarafantsika NP, inside the level forest (Mosite-area).

Another Leaf-tailed Gecko beyond any imagination. This large species capable of flattening out and adjust colours on a broad trunk creating an extreme camouflage in colours and shape.

Pygmy Panther Gecko(?) *Paroedura androyensis* (?) photo(TL)

2/11 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest

Blaesodactylus antongilensis

11/11 1 night time on trunk, cinnamon plantation, Masoala. Photo(TL)

Geckolepis cf. maculata (a species complex) photo(TL)

11/11 1 Masoala at night time on a trunk, cinnamon plantation.

Collared Iguanid Lizard [Collared Iguana, Madagascar Collared I.] *Oplurus curvieri*
photo(TL)

13-14/1 10+ Ampijoroa, Ankarafantsika National Park at HQ.

Malagasy 3-eyed Lizard *Chalarodon madagascariensis* photo(TL)

2/11 2+ Ifaty Spiny Forest and several around our lodgings.

Madagascar Girdled Lizard [or M. Plated Lizard] *Zonosaurus madagascariensis* photo(TL)

9/11 2 at Tampolo Lodge and 10/11 3+ Masoala.

Broad-tailed Girdled Lizard *Zonosaurus laticaudatus* photo(TL)

13/11 and 14/11 10+ Ampijoroa, Ankarafantsika NP, Forest Park HQ and nearby.

Ornate Girdled Lizard *Zonosaurus ornatus* photo(TL)

20/11 1 Ranomafana-Tana at the snipe site.

Lizard – unidentified

6/11 3+ Nosy Ve, extremely fast running tiny lizards.



Giant Leaf-tailed Gecko, Masoala (ABN), and Henkel's Leaf-tailed Gecko, Ampijoroa (TL)

AMPHIBIANS (frogs)

Some of the brightly coloured Mantella-frogs of the eastern rainforest were found in Ranomafana.

Frog: *Mantella madagascariensis*

19-20/11 1 village above Ranomafana NP. photo(TL)

Frog: *Mantella baroni*

19-20/11 1 village above Ranomafana NP. photo (TL)

Frog in Mantellidae family *Mantidactylus melanopleura* photo(TL)

30/10: 1 Mantadia.

Frog 1 (stream)

18/11 1 Ranomafana NP. photo (TL).

Frog 2 (stream)

18/11 2 Ranomafana NP.

Gephiromantis sp.

18/11 1 night walk, road side, Ranomafana NP. photo(TL)

Boophis madagascariensis

18/11 1 night walk, Ranomafana NP. photo(TL)

Heterixalus alboguttatus

19/11 1 wall at the lodge during night time, Ranomafana.

Boophis sp.

13/11 3 Ampijoroa/Ankarafantsika NP, bathroom at HQ photo(TL)

Some INVERTEBRATES.

Some selected highlights. Also in these fields you will face creatures and phenomena difficult or impossible to see outside Madagascar. All species: photo (TL)

Insects.

Giraffe Weevil *Trachelophorus giraffe*

29/10 1 Andasibe, 19-20/11 4 village above Ranomafana. A classic, famed creature from Madagascar.

Weevil sp.

3/11 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest.

Club-tailed Emperor *Charaxes zoolina betsimisaraka*

30/10 1+ Mantadia.

Butterfly, *Trichiolaus daurius*

28/10 1 Mantadia.

Madagascar Giant Swallowtail *Pharmacophagus antenor*

2/11 many near Tulear; 3/11 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest.

Hawkmoth sp. *Nephila sp.*

13/11 2 Ampijoroa/Ankarafantsika NP at HQ

Phymateus cf. saxosus (Rainbow Bush Locust, Rainbow Milkweed Locust, or Giant Milkweek Locust)

13/11 Ampijoroa/Ankarafantsika NP. Equipped with colourful spines and wattles.

Frommea sp: From Zombitse and Ampijoroa gathering like reddish and yellowish false leaves – as nymphs like mealy rags.

Shield Bugs: Zombitse. Big, pale grey, and densely packed covering trunks and branches.

Miliped sp: Giants seen Andasibe and Masoala.

Wood Louse: Giants, like small green tanks, Mantadia.

Cricket sp: With extremely long antenna used to guide the prey to its mouth.

Mantise sp: Preying mantise entertaining in Ranomafana.



Spiders, arachnidae.

Wolf Spiders sp. *Gasteracantha sp.*

31/10 1 Anjozorobe Angavo Protected Area.

Several wolf spider types on the forest bottom in Ifaty Spiny Forest.

[Giraffe Weevil, Ranomafana\(TL\)](#)

“Black Widow Spider sp.”

Photographed at Ranomafana.

Delta Spider sp.

Reddish, with a compact, spiny shield! – Anjozorobe.

Madagascar Golden Orb-Weaver *Nephila madagascariensis*

Common all over the east coast, big and coloured.

Sure, arachnophobians should be warned before entering Madagascar.



M. Golden Orb-Weaver and a Delta Spider(TL)

Scorpions.

Scorpion sp

Well grown individual in Ifaty Spiny Forest.

Crabs, crustaceans.

Hermit Crab

10/11 2 Masoala.

Tree-climbing Crab *Malagasya antongilensis*

10/11 100+ Masoala. A damp slope inhabited by troops of reddish, smart-looking terrestrial crabs.



Red-tailed Tropicbird, Nosy Ve (photo ABN) – a fady-protected bird. One of numerous images of Madagascar.