MADAGASCAR II

16 NOVEMBER - 5/11 DECEMBER 2012

LEADER: CHRIS KEHOE

Our November 2012 Madagascar tour continued the long tradition of highly successful explorations of the ‘eighth continent’. A total of 199 bird species were recorded including all of the Mesites, Asities, Ground Rollers and Couas which offer such a draw to visitors. Those who undertook the extension to the Masoala Peninsular also completed the Madagascar Vanga set with views of the very localized Helmet and Bernier’s Vangas. Some often tricky to see species such as Madagascar Yellowbrow and Grey Emutail showed particularly well. Aside from the endemic and near endemic species we enjoyed great views of such delights as Red-tailed Tropicbirds, White-backed Ducks and Terek Sandpipers while a fine White-tailed Tropicbird was an unexpected bonus. Madagascar is almost synonymous with Lemurs of course and during the course of our birding we encountered a total of 22 species including all major groups with particularly memorable views of four Sifaka species plus close encounters with the amazing Indri.

Our tour began with a long day drive south from the capital Antananarivo to the rainforest of Ranomafana. A short roadside stop just south of Tana at Ambotofotsky produced a small selection of commoner endemics such as Madagascar Wagtail, Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher and Madagascar Hoopoe, also present were good numbers of Red-billed Teal and White-faced Whistling-ducks. As we travelled southward we noted a
few Madagascar Stonechats and Madagascar Bee-eaters while a stop at a small roadside marsh after lunch produced good views of two White-throated Rails. As we approached Ranomafana a Peregrine flew over just before the light began to fade.

Visiting the main trails at Ranomafana in the morning proved very productive indeed as, in quick succession, we found Pitta-like Ground Roller, Madagascar Wood Rail, Brown Mesite, several Pollen's Vanga and a Henst's Goshawk that posed for the scope. Also seen as we returned slowly towards the bus were Dark Newtonia, Long-billed Tetraka, Common Sunbird-asity and our first Lemurs, Red-bellied and Greater Bamboo.

An afternoon visit to Amboditanimena was slightly delayed, first by a torrential rainstorm and then by a chance encounter with three Madagascar Snipes, an increasingly difficult species to connect with. Disembarking from the bus we were soon watching Madagascar Starlings and a Blue Coua. Once at the marsh we quickly located the first Grey Emutail and later saw a couple more, plus a few Madagascar Swamp Warblers. The return journey to our hotel was punctuated by a 45 minute stop to watch Brown Mouse Lemurs at dusk plus a few chameleons and frogs found by our local guides.

A morning visit to Vohiparara included roadside stops en route there to watch Forest Rock Thrush, Forest Fody and a singing Cryptic Warbler. Once on the trails we quickly came across a small feeding flock containing a few Grey-crowned and Spectacled Tetrakas and Long-billed Bernierias (all three species recently found not to be greenbuls as their former names suggested). A little further on were a couple of Velvet Asities then we found another ‘greenbul’ flock, this time also containing a few Wedge-tailed Jery's. A Madagascar Yellowbrow gave some reasonable views before we reached the designated area for Yellow-bellied Sunbird-asity. We settled in for a lengthy wait and finally saw a single female after about 90 minutes. Also seen here were three Red-bellied Lemurs. The return walk towards the bus saw us duelling, largely unsuccessfully with a couple of Brown Emutails . A Dark Newtonia showed well before we came across a small flock of Vangas containing our first Blue Vanga. While trying to keep track of this flock a superb Collared Nightjar was unexpectedly flushed and settled on an exposed stump giving stellar views. The final
new bird of the morning was a scoped Stripe-throated Jery and while watching it our local guides located a couple of Giraffe-necked Weevils for us to marvel at.

An afternoon return to Vohiparara was delayed by 30 minutes due to a downpour but with the result that a couple of presumably migrating Madagascar Pratincoles were forced down by the weather and showed quite well on the river by the lodge. Back in the forest it was predictably a little quiet but with perseverance some managed a brief view of a Rufous-headed Ground Roller and a Madagascar Yellowbrow showed briefly too.

An early return to Vohiparara saw us engage in an extended duel with a Rufous-headed Ground Roller but although it approached closely on a few occasions the viewing conditions were rather poor and it just wouldn't give itself up. A Crossley's Vanga was heard though also refused to show but Green Jery and Hook-billed Vanga were new. By 09.00 we were on our way west, a long day drive to Isalo punctuated by a coffee stop in Fianarantsoa, a picnic lunch near Ihosy and an extended stop on the Horombe Plateau where we enjoyed a superb encounter with a pair of Malagasy Harriers, the male in particular giving repeated close views. A Madagascar Grebe on one of the pools on the plateau was a surprise and as darkness descended a Marsh Owl was seen briefly perched and in flight.

A pre-breakfast exploration of the area near our fancy hotel produced a Benson's Rock Thrush singing from the restaurant roof and a pair of Madagascar Partridges which conveniently posed for the scope. Also seen before we left at 07.45 were a perched Madagascar Cuckoo-roller and our first Grey-headed Lovebirds. After 90 minutes we reached Zombitse Forest where a couple of hours strolling through the attractive dry woodland produced Coquerel's, Crested and Giant Couas, a White-browed Owl, a pair of Rufous Vangas attending a nest and, after a bit of a search, an ultra-localised Appert's Greenbul at ranges too close for some to focus on. The mammals here were impressive too with a sleepy looking Hubbard's Sportive Lemur nestled in a tree fork and a fabulous display by a group of Verreaux's Sifakas that seemed just as interested in us as we were in them. In the rather overcast conditions large numbers of Swifts were hawking over the spot where we ate our picnic lunch, most were Madagascar Black Swifts but mixed in with them were several Alpine Swifts and a single Madagascar Spinetail. By 15.00 we were at our hotel in Tulear where, after
dropping off our bags we set off to the nearby tablelands. Red-shouldered Vanga was found quite quickly and we managed prolonged and often extremely close views of an inquisitive male. Verreaux's Coua provided a little more of a challenge but, after a few brief encounters, we finally managed extended close views of a pair.

We began the next day with a fruitless search for Madagascar Sandgrouse to the south of Tulear but by 07.30 we were on a boat heading to Nosy Ve which, in nice flat condition, we reached in about an hour. A large Tern gathering towards the southern tip contained mostly Lesser-crested Terns plus a few Greater-crested and Common Terns. Moving on to the north end of the island we were soon watching a fabulous display by Red-tailed Tropicbirds, including numerous birds overhead and others attending nests under bushes. A surprise here was an adult White-tailed Tropicbird (a 'write-in') that performed perfectly flying around with its larger relatives. The absence of Crab Plovers was a bit of a concern and we were just considering visiting another island when our boatman came rushing up to tell us there was now a flock at the southern end of the island, hastening there, with a stop to look at White-fronted Plovers en route, we enjoyed good scope views of a flock of 45 birds. A short boat ride then took us to Anakao where our target bird, Littoral Rock Thrush, was found quickly and we had a bonus encounter with two showy Madagascar Buttonquails. The journey back to Tulear was a little bumpier but we remained mostly dry. Our evening birding session took us back to the tablelands area where Lafrenaye's and Chabert Vangas, Subdesert Brush Warbler and rather too brief for some Brown-capped Coua were the highlights.

Another fruitless search for Madagascar Sandgrouse preceded our departure from Tulear. The journey north to Ifaty was punctuated by several stops, firstly at two lagoons where we found a good selection of commoner shorebirds such as Kittlitz's and Common Ringed Plovers, Curlew Sandpipers, Greenshanks and Black-winged Stilts. Three Little Stints were more unusual here and we also saw four Hottentot Teal. Next stop was along the coast where a gathering of Whimbrel, Grey Plovers and Greater Crested Terns was found plus Greater Sandplover and a single Caspian Tern. We then had a quick stop to view Three-banded Plovers on roadside pools but our final stop was to watch a nesting Madagascar Plover on the barren saltflats near our hotel. The birding wasn't quite over however as the short walk from the hotel car park to the reception area produced a couple of roosting Madagascar Nightjars. As the temperature began to subside later in the afternoon we drove the short distance to the famous spiny forest. After a short search we found ourselves face to face with a Long-tailed Ground Roller and enjoyed excellent views at close range of this most charismatic bird. Continuing our exploration we found a Running Coua up a tree then watched a subtle Archbold's Newtonia. A bit of a hike then took us, via a nesting Sickle-billed Vanga, to the nest of a Banded Kestrel; the bird was sitting and mostly obscured but we persevered and eventually enjoyed some good scope views as it stood up and shuffled around revealing most of its features. Finally, as we returned towards the bus we watched a Crested Coua and then, as the light began to fade our first Thamnornis Warbler appeared. Back at the hotel Madagascar Nightjars were hawking over the car park and swimming pool.
We returned to the Spiny Forest just before dawn with just a few key target birds remaining. Our primary focus was Subdesert Mesite and it took quite some time and effort to finally find one but when we did it performed to perfection sitting in clear view in a nearby small tree.

Also seen during our search for the Mesite where a pair of hoped-for Madagascar Harrier-hawks and a more obliging Brown-capped Coua while additional species seen before we returned to the hotel for breakfast, and to escape the by now hot sun, included Grey-headed Lovebirds, Crested Coua, a group of Sickle-billed Vangas, Archbold's Newtonia on a nest, Madagascar Hoopoes and a Hubbard's Sportive Lemur. A return to the spiny forest in the afternoon yielded further views of such local specialities as Long-tailed Ground Roller, Archbold's Newtonia, Running Coua and Thamnornis Warbler plus a host of more widespread species such as Madagascar Buttonquail, Hook-billed and Sickle-billed Vangas and our first perched Lesser Vasa Parrot. A Star Tortoise and a spectacular Day Gecko species made up the supporting cast before we returned to the hotel for a cold beer and the evening Nightjar show there.

Early risers saw Madagascar Nightjars and a Madagascar Buttonquail before we set off back to Tulear after breakfast. A stop to look at the Madagascar Plovers revealed them to now have a downy youngster while a stop at the coast gave us our first Terek Sandpipers amongst the previously seen shorebird species. Our flight to Fort Dauphin was on time and by early evening we were on our way to Berenty where we arrived about an hour after dark and in heavy rain.

Our morning at Berenty began with a drive around the Sisal fields where we quickly found a flock of Madagascar Sandgrouse and enjoyed good flight views and distant scope views of settled birds. A quick look around the adjacent gallery forest gave us our first Ring-tailed Lemurs (plus introduced Red-fronted Brown Lemurs) and a few Verreaux’s Sifakas. Returning to the gallery forest after breakfast we were soon face to face with the hoped-for Torotoroka Scops Owl and Giant Couas and Crested Couas put on a fine show. Madagascar Flying Foxes were watched at their day roost before we returned to the car park area in the hope a Madagascar Cuckoo-hawk might fly over; it didn't but a Sooty Falcon did and Hook-billed Vangas showed well. The afternoon was spent on the slow return journey to Fort Dauphin where we stayed overnight.
An early start delivered us to Andohahela NP soon after a rather overcast dawn. By the time we reached the site for Red-tailed Newtonia it was beginning to rain and heavy rain, and liberal quantities of hungry leeches marked the rest of our visit. Two or perhaps three Red-tailed Newtonias were heard briefly, and glimpsed by some, but the conditions were far from conducive for finding small canopy dwelling passerines and we left, rather wet and frustrated several hours later. After freshening up, sandwiches for lunch and a change to dry clothes, we made a short visit to the headland near our hotel and after a little while a Cape Gull performed a close range fly-past and a small pod of Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphins were seen offshore. Our evening flight to Tana left on time and by mid-evening we were eating dinner at the Orchid Hotel.

Back at Tana Airport for our mid-morning flight to Majunga we watched a fine Sooty Falcon sitting on the lights near the car park. On arrival in Majunga we had time to visit our hotel for lunch before making our way to the coast where a speedboat was waiting to take us to the Betsiboka Estuary. Within an hour of setting off we were watching a Madagascar Sacred Ibis on the muddy edge of a mangrove Island and a few minutes later were enjoying very good views of six Bernier's Teal wading around on the fast disappearing mud as the tide rose. Good numbers of Terek Sandpipers and Greater Sandplovers were seen but a search for Humblot's Heron gave us only rather distant flight views. The return journey to Majunga was against the swell and a freshening wind and proved rather bumpy but we found a feeding flock of Saunders's Terns and stopped to watch them for a little while. Back on land we drove to the Majunga Airport pools where the highlights were White-backed Ducks, African Pygmy Geese and our first Black Egrets.

As tidal conditions had allowed us to fit in the Betsiboka trip already we opted for an early start to reach Ampijoroa in time to do some early morning birding there. This proved a successful strategy as before 09.00 we had seen all the key forest specialities of the area, namely: a superb pair of Schlegel's Asities; a pair of White-breasted Mesites that stalked slowly across a path right in front of us; several Red-capped Couas and, finally an excellent male and more retiring female Van Dam's Vanga. With Coquerel's Couas also showing well, Coquerel's Sifakas performing to perfection, nesting Sickle-billed Vangas in the car park, displaying Cuckoo-rollers and an overhead Sooty Falcon it had been an excellent morning and we returned to the lodge.
for cold drinks well satisfied. An afternoon boat trip on nearby Lac Ravelobe produced most of our remaining targets, first up was a Madagascar Fish Eagle and we eventually enjoyed astonishingly close views of its mate. A Madagascar Jacana was most welcome and other species seen included large numbers of commoner herons and egrets and Glossy Ibises, a Peregrine, a distant Sooty Falcon, an African Darter and several Allen's Gallinules. A trio of African Pygmy Geese caused great excitement amongst our local guides. After watching a group of Common Brown Lemurs we travelled a short distance to a nest site of the often elusive Madagascar Crested Ibis. On arrival the bird was sitting and we could see most of its head, but not its bill or much else, in the scope. During dinner Milne-Edwards's Sportive Lemurs were rather noisy and a Grey Mouse Lemur was seen briefly.

Our full day at Ampijoroa began with a pre-breakfast visit to the lakeshore where the Madagascar Fish Eagles again showed ridiculously well (sitting on a goal crossbar 30 metres away!). A different Madagascar Jacana to yesterday was noted, two Knob-billed Ducks flew in, a male Little Bittern perched prominently and, eventually, a Madagascar Pond Heron was seen in flight. A return to the Crested Ibis nest gave similar views to yesterday. After breakfast some opted to relax while others took a walk behind the lodge where highlights included a pair of Blue Vangas, a roosting Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur, our first Mongoose Lemurs and several previously seen species including Red-capped Couas and various reptiles. A scan from the tower overlooking the lake then revealed, finally, a Humblot's Heron in a tree, the Madagascar Pond Heron sitting out in the open and a rather distant Eleonora's Falcon hawking insects. As the temperature subsided we returned once more to the Crested Ibis nest in the hope of a more comprehensive view but in the end saw a little less of the bird than previously. Finally, at dusk we went on an hour long night walk that produced a few Mouse Lemurs, including the locally endemic Golden-brown,, a roosting Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher and a couple of Chameleons.

As Air Madagascar seemed very unlikely to deliver us to Tana as planned we rose early and began the long drive to there. A major bonus on route was great views of Madagascar Pratincoles at the Betsiboka River crossing. Arriving in Tana by mid-afternoon gave us a few hours of relaxation around the hotel where Madagascar Stonechats, Madagascar Wagtails and Red Fodies were prominent.

We began the day with a 90 minute visit to Lac Alarobia in central Tana where, amongst the large numbers of nesting herons and egrets were a handful of Madagascar Pond Herons. Six Hottentot Teals and a single male Knob-billed Duck were the pick of the gathered wildfowl. By lunchtime we were at Andasibe for a three night stay and as the heat subsided off birding. First stop was along a series of forest trails where Crossley's Vanga remained elusive but a Madagascar Wood Rail showed well. Pressing on we reached a marshy area near the Mantadia NP gate and after a few moments had a series of excellent views of a Madagascar Rail. Returning towards the lodge as darkness began to descend we stopped and were soon watching a downy, but large and flight capable Madagascar Owl. Remaining in the area until darkness arrived gave us brief views of another juvenile and an overflying adult though several calling Rainforest Scops Owls refused to show themselves. A walk along the road after dark produced a single Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur.

This morning we visited Mantadia National Park, a rather long and bumpy journey but well worth it. First stop was to see Madagascar Little Grebes and a single Meller's Duck on a forest pool where Madagascar Swamp Warblers showed well and Madagascar Crested Ibis was seen briefly by some. Nearby a couple of Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs were scoped in a distant tree. A small feeding flock along the road gave us our first Nuthatch Vangas and Red-tailed Vangas plus several previously seen species and a Henst's Goshawk soared high overhead. An extended search for Short-legged Ground Roller and then Scaly Ground Roller drew a complete blank but in the process we came across several Pitta-like Ground Rollers and a few other bits and pieces. Our picnic lunch was interrupted by the appearance of Diademed Sifakas before we moved on to a nearby area to try again for Ground Rollers and succeeded in getting a series of good views of an adult and juvenile Scaly Ground Roller. Returning to Andasibe we tried hard for Crossley's Vanga again but they remained remarkably quiet and we also failed to see Red-breasted Coua and Madagascar Flufftail though a Madagascar Wood Rail was seen well again and, just as it became dark, we had some brief but close views of a Rainforest Scops Owl.
A return visit to Mantadia was in order today. The early highlight there was a Crossley's Vanga that called in the distance and then crept in silently and gave some very good views which were much appreciated after all the effort we had previously made to look for this smart species. Resuming our search for Short-legged Ground Roller we eventually made our way back to the road where a Madagascar Sparrowhawk was a surprise, and very welcome, find. The distant calls of a Short-legged Ground Roller then caught our ears and a rather strenuous uphill hike brought us face to face with this fabulous bird which just sat looking at us for as long as we wished. Returning to the road a Red-fronted Coua began to call and after a prolonged duel most people managed a couple of decent views. Rainy weather marked our return to the bus for a picnic lunch before we returned towards Andasibe to look for the few remaining target species. First up was a Madagascar Flufftail that responded well and gave a series of brief views then one excellent view as paused while crossing a small clearing in a hedge.

Along the trails at the VOI reserve we admired a small group of Indri before finally getting to grips with our final Coua, a fine Red-breasted that performed well at close range.

Our primary objective during a final morning at Perinet was Rufous-headed Ground Roller and at the second attempt we found a very obliging individual that sat and called at us from an open perch for 20 minutes. Also seen as we traversed the Perinet trail system were Collared Nightjar, several Velvet Asities, Blue Vangas and several others though Brown Emeutails were either simply silent or perhaps absent from their usual haunts after recent drought conditions. A spectacular, and huge Parson's Chameleon impressed and mammal interest came in the shape of Indris, Diademmed Sifakas and Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs. After lunch we returned to Tana where we sat down for a final evening meal together and the votes for bird of the trip were gathered - the winner being Long-tailed Ground Roller with Schlegel's Asity and White-breasted Mesite as runners-up.

Next day, those undertaking the extension to the Masoala Peninsular took a mid-morning flight to Maroantsetra and after a little while to settle in to our beachfront hotel we set off on a boat trip around the nearby estuary. Nothing of great note was seen though we managed good views of several previously seen wetland species.
A calm morning saw us set off by boat on the smooth two hour transfer to our lodge on the Masoala Peninsular where we arrived soon after 09:30 having stopped to admire Madagascar Pratincoles en route. The rest of the morning was spent exploring the trails immediately inland of our lodge but in rather warm conditions birdlife was subdued and we found just a couple of Rufous Vangas and a few commoner bird species plus some showy White-fronted Brown Lemurs. A mid-afternoon departure took us along the beach to the main trail system at Varignena where we found several Red-ruffed Lemurs but birdlife was again hard to come by though a small group of Madagascar Cuckoo-shrikes were noted, Spectacled Tetrakas showed well and we saw the recently vacated nest of a Helmet Vanga.

Our first full day on the Masoala saw us depart at dawn for a long hike along the trails inland of Tampolo. A couple of Bernier's Vangas would have been an early highlight had they been at all settled but for most it was just calls from the canopy and a couple of fleeting views. Later in the morning however we came across several more Bernier's Vangas, including a very obliging female that was mobbing a Ring-tailed Mongoose along with Madagascar Cuckoo-shrikes, Paradise Flycatcher and White-headed Vangas. A couple of Red-breasted Couas were seen briefly as we continued our search for Helmet Vanga. Despite eventually finding a promising seeming feeding flock containing Tylas Vangas, with which Helmet Vangas often associate, we returned empty-handed. The boat journey back to the lodge passed rocks where numerous Lesser-crested Terns were roosting and among them were a couple of Common Terns and a single Roseate Tern. Our afternoon hike took us back along the trails immediately inland of the lodge but rather than finding the hoped-for Helmet Vanga we came across two more, rather scarcer, Bernier's Vangas plus Blue Couas and various other previously seen species. A short night walk along the same trails before dinner produced Weasel Sportive Lemur and a couple of Mouse Lemurs.

Our final full day on the Masoala began at dawn with a search of the woodland towards Tampolo but Helmet Vangas were again conspicuous by their absence though Bernier's was heard again and a feeding flock held Tylas, Blue and White-headed Vangas. The rest of the morning was spent searching for Helmet Vanga along a different set of trails near Tampolo but again we came back empty handed though Hook-billed Vangas and Rufous Vangas both showed well. With just one full birding session remaining we gambled on a return visit to the trails at Varignena. All seemed rather quiet until we eventually heard the tell-tale calls of a Helmet Vanga in the distance. Hastening towards the area the calls seemed to be coming from all was quiet so we stood and waited...and waited...hoping the bird might call again and reveal its location. In the event no further calls were heard but the bird itself suddenly appeared at very close range, and surprisingly at ground level before flying up into a nearby tree and performing beautifully for as long as we wanted. A further bonus here was a Madagascar Crested Ibis that appeared on the trail and gave some good views before wandering off into deeper cover. A short night walk produced a similar cast of characters to yesterday.

A calling but evidently very mobile Helmet Vanga near our lodge at breakfast could not be located during a brief search and by 07.00 we were heading back towards Maroantsetra. The crossing was again mostly smooth and we had a little while to relax and freshen up at the beachfront hotel there before transferring to the airport and catching our early afternoon flight to Tana. On arrival at Tana we transferred into a minibus for a half hour journey to Mananara Lodge near Anjozorobe.

Soon after dawn we drove the short distance and walked a little further to the marsh famed for its notoriously elusive Slender-billed Flufftails. During a two hour vigil we stood up to our knees in muddy water but only Doug managed one brief view of the bird as it ran across a ditch we were staking out. Madagascar Snipes were seen well in flight here though and Madagascar Swamp Warbler put on a good show, as did a single Madagascar Rail. Back at the lodge we ate breakfast, and marvelled at the large flocks of Madagascar Blue Pigeons flying around, before setting off in to the forest opposite, a Meller's Duck was flushed from a small pool as we went. Our primary target here was Brown Emutail but we managed just a couple of brief and distant calls for our trouble though a Vole Tenrek species was more obliging and both Spectacled Tetrakas and Long-billed Bernierias were seen. After lunch we returned to Tana where a final dinner together revealed Helmet Vanga to be the undoubted bird of the extension.
Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).
Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).
Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered ‘special’ birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Location/Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little Grebe</td>
<td>Tachybaptus ruficollis</td>
<td>18 were at the Tulear Lakes and one at Amboromalandy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madagascar Little Grebe</td>
<td>Tachybaptus pelzelnii</td>
<td>One at Horombe Plateau, three at Mantadia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-tailed Tropicbird</td>
<td>Phaethon rubricauda</td>
<td>Up to 15, including juveniles, were on Nosy Ve</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-tailed Tropicbird</td>
<td>Phaethon lepturus</td>
<td>An splendid adult at Nosy Ve was a nice surprise and a 'write-in'</td>
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<tr>
<td>African Darter</td>
<td>Anhinga rufa</td>
<td>One was at Lac Ravelobe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Bittern</td>
<td>Ixobrychus minutus</td>
<td>A male was at Lac Ravelobe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-crowned Night Heron</td>
<td>Nycticorax nycticorax</td>
<td>Small numbers were noted at three widespread wetland sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Squacco Heron (Common S H)</td>
<td>Ardeola ralloides</td>
<td>Fairly common and widespread, locally abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malagasy Pond Heron</td>
<td>Ardeola idae</td>
<td>One was at Lac Ravelobe and three at Lac Alarobia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Cattle Egret</td>
<td>Bubulcus ibis</td>
<td>Common and widespread, a large colony was at Lac Ravelobe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Striated Heron (Green-backed H)</td>
<td>Butorides striatus</td>
<td>Scattered records at very widespread sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Egret</td>
<td>Egretta ardesiaca</td>
<td>Locally common at Majunga, Ampijoroa and in Tana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimorphic Egret</td>
<td>Egretta dimorpha</td>
<td>Common and widespread</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Egret</td>
<td>Egretta alba</td>
<td>Fairly widespread and locally common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Heron</td>
<td>Ardea purpurea</td>
<td>Regularly seen in wetland areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Heron</td>
<td>Ardea cinerea</td>
<td>Scarce, noted on five dates at widespread sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humblot’s Heron</td>
<td>Ardea humboldti</td>
<td>Flight views at the Betsiboka Estuary and a distant perched bird at Ampijoroa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamerkop</td>
<td>Scopus umbretta</td>
<td>Ones and twos were in scattered rice paddies as we travelled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madagascar White Ibis</td>
<td>Threskiornis bernieri</td>
<td>Good views of one on the Betsiboka Estuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glossy Ibis</td>
<td>Plegadis falcinellus</td>
<td>Common at Ampijoroa, breeding at Lac Ravelobe there</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madagascar Ibis</td>
<td>Lophotibis cristata</td>
<td>Nesting at Ampijoroa and Perinet but seen best at Masoala</td>
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<tr>
<td>African Spoonbill</td>
<td>Platalea alba</td>
<td>Four were seen in flight near Fort Dauphin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Flamingo</td>
<td>Phoenicopterus roseus</td>
<td>Eight were between Tulear and Ifaty</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-faced Whistling Duck</td>
<td>Dendrocygna viduata</td>
<td>Regularly seen at wetlands throughout</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-backed Duck</td>
<td>Thalassornis leuconotus</td>
<td>At least seven were at Majunga Airport Pools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knob-billed Duck</td>
<td>Sarkidiornis melanotos</td>
<td>Two were at Lac Ravelobe and one at Lac Alarobia; see note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Pygmy Goose</td>
<td>Nettapus auritus</td>
<td>About 30 were at Majunga Airport Pools and three at Ampijoroa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meller’s Duck</td>
<td>Anas melleri</td>
<td>One showed well at Mantadia with another in flight at Anjozorobe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernier’s Teal</td>
<td>Anas bernieri</td>
<td>Six showed very well on the Betsiboka Estuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-billed Teal</td>
<td>Anas erythropus</td>
<td>Noted in good numbers at various wetlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hottentot Teal</td>
<td>Anas hottentota</td>
<td>Four were at Tulear Lakes and six at Lac Alarobia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-billed Kite</td>
<td>Milvus aegyptius</td>
<td>Locally common, especially in the south and west</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar Fish-Eagle</td>
<td>Haliaeetus vociferoides</td>
<td>Astonishingly close views of a pair at Lac Ravelobe on two dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar Harrier-Hawk</td>
<td>Polyboroides radiatus</td>
<td>A pair showed very well at Ifaty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malagasy Harrier</td>
<td>Circus macrorasum</td>
<td>Superb views of a pair on the Horombe Plateau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henst’s Goshawk</td>
<td>Accipiter henstii</td>
<td>Scope views at Ranomafana, seen in flight at Mantadia where also heard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar Sparrowhawk</td>
<td>Accipiter madagascariensis</td>
<td>One showed well at Mantadia; a scarce species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances’s Sparrowhawk</td>
<td>Accipiter francesii</td>
<td>Four were at Perinet / Mantadia and one at Masoala</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Madagascar Buzzard ◊ *Buteo brachypterus*  Scattered records throughout

Madagascar Kestrel ◊ *Falco newtoni*  Fairly common and very widespread

Banded Kestrel ◊ *Falco zoniventris*  One on a nest at Ifaty showed quite well at times

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*  One hawked insects over Ampijoroa though rather distant

Sooty Falcon ◊ *Falco concolor*  One showed well at Tana Airport with three in flight at Ampijoroa and one at Mantadia

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*  Singles were near Ranomafana and at Ampijoroa

Madagascar Partridge ◊ *Margaroperdix madagascarensis*  Good views of a pair at Isalo

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*  A handful were near Tulear and at Berenty

White-breasted Mesite ◊ *Mesitornis variegata*  Great views of a pair stalking past us at Ampijoroa

Brown Mesite ◊ *Mesitornis unicolor*  Great views of two at Ranomafana

Subdesert Mesite ◊ *Monias benschi*  A 'treed' female showed superbly at Ifaty after a long search

Madagascar Buttonquail ◊ *Turnix nigricollis*  Good views at Anakoa, Ifaty and Ampijoroa

Madagascar Flufftail ◊ *Sarothrura insularis*  Great views of a male near the VOI Reserve at Andasibe, others heard

Slender-billed Flufftail ◊ *Sarothrura watersi* (NL) One was seen briefly by Doug near Anjozorobe

Madagascar Wood Rail ◊ *Canirallus kioloides*  Seen well at Ranomafana, Perinet and on the Masoala

Madagascar Rail ◊ *Rallus madagascariensis*  Perfect views near Mantadia Gate with another at Anjozorobe

White-throated Rail ◊ *Dryolimnas cuvieri*  Two near Ivato, up to eight, including juveniles, at Andasibe, others heard

Allen's Gallinule (Lesser G) *Porphyryla alleni*  At least 10 were at Lac Ravelobe

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*  A handful were noted at several wetlands

Madagascar Jacana ◊ *Actophilornis albinucha*  Two individuals were at Lac Ravelobe

Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola*  A large gathering of 45 on Nosy Ve was much appreciated

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*  Small numbers were at a few wetlands

Madagascar Pratincole ◊ *Gaireola oculata*  Two at Ranomafana, 25 at the Betsiboka crossing, several at Masoala

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*  Quite common at Tulear and Ifaty, also seen at Maroantsetra

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*  Locally common in the west, especially near Ifaty

Madagascar Plover ◊ *Charadrius thoracicus*  Great views of a nesting pair and their downy chick at Ifaty

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*  A handful were at Tulear and Ifaty

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*  Four were on Nosy Ve and one near Ifaty
Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* 10 or more were near Ifaty and 50 at the Betsiboka Estuary
Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* Small numbers on the coast at Ifaty, Majunga and Maroantsetra
Madagascar Snipe ◊ *Gallinago macrodactyla* Three in flight near Vohiparara with two or more at Anjozorobe
Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* One was on Nosy Ve
Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Quite common at most coastal sites visited. See note
Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* Singles were at Tulear and the Betsiboka Estuary
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Ones and twos were at several wetlands
Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* Ten were near Ifaty and 50 or more on the Betsiboka Estuary
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Small numbers were found at most wetlands visited
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Small numbers were at Nosy Ve and Ifaty
Sanderling *Calidris alba* Hundreds were along the coast at Ifaty
Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Three were at the lakes near Tulear, a scarcity in Madagascar
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* One was near Ifaty
Cape Gull *Larus vetula* Close flight views of an adult at Fort Dauphin; see note
Greater Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* About 20 were at Nosy Ve with others at Ifaty and Masoala
Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* Hundreds were at Nosy Ve and the Masoala with a few at Ifaty
Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* Two were found during the Masoala extension
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Small numbers were seen at a few coastal sites
Saunders’s Tern ◊ *Sterna saundersi* A single feeding flock of 25 birds was near Majunga
Madagascar Sandgrouse ◊ *Pterocles personatus* Good views of 16 at Berenty
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* Scattered records in built-up areas
Madagascar Turtle Dove ◊ *Streptopelia picturata* Widespread in small numbers in wooded contexts
Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* Common in the arid west
Madagascar Green Pigeon ◊ *Treron australis* Three were at Ifaty and eight or more at Ampijoroa
Madagascar Blue Pigeon ◊ *Alectroenas madagascariensis* Great views at Perinet, over 100 at Anjozorobe
Greater Vasa Parrot ◊ *Coracopsis vasa* Widespread in more wooded areas
Lesser Vasa Parrot ◊ *Coracopsis nigra* Distribution similar to the last species but a little more common
Grey-headed Lovebird ◊ *Agapornis canus* Quite common in the arid west and at Berenty
Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo ◊ *Cuculus rochii* Heard frequently throughout with a few seen well
Giant Coua ◊ *Coua gigas* One showed well at Zombitse with another four were at Berenty
Coquerel’s Coua ◊ *Coua coquereli* Three were at Zombitse and three more at Ampijoroa
Running Coua ◊ *Coua cursor* One of three at Ifaty showed very well
Red-breasted Coua ◊ *Coua serriana* Good views at the VOI Reserve near Andasibe, others at Masoala
Red-fronted Coua ◊ *Coua reynaudi* Some reasonable views at Mantadia and Perinet
Red-capped Coua ◊ *Coua ruficeps* Six were noted at Ampijoroa, some showed very well
Brown-capped Coua ◊ *Coua olivacea* Singles were at Tulear tablelands and Ifaty. See note
Crested Coua ◊ *Coua cristata* Many good views at Zombitse, Ifaty, Berenty, Ampijoroa and Masoala
Verreaux’s Coua ◊ *Coua verreauxi* Three or four eventually showed well at Tulear tablelands
Blue Coua ◊ *Coua caerulea* Good views at several, mainly rainforest, sites
Madagascar Coucal ◊ *Centropus toulou* Common and widespread
Rainforest Scops Owl◊ *Otus rutilus*  One seen and several heard at Perinet, also heard at Andohahela and Masoala

Torotoroka Scops Owl◊ *Otus madagascariensis* Three roosting birds at Berenty where also heard

White-browed Owl◊ *Ninox superciliaris*  Superb views at Zombitse, heard at Berenty, Ampijoroa and Masoala

Madagascar Long-eared Owl◊ *Asio madagascariensis* Three, two flying juveniles seen well, at Perinet

Marsh Owl (African M O)◊ *Asio capensis* One briefly perched and in flight at dusk on the Horombe Plateau

Collared Nightjar◊ *Caprimulgus enarratus* Stelllar views of one at Vohimaparara plus a juvenile at Perinet

Madagascar Nightjar◊ *Caprimulgus madagascariensis*  Common at Ifaty, others, mainly heard, at widespread sites

Madagascar Spinetail◊ *Zoonavena grandidieri* Singles at Zombitse and Ifaty, two at Mantadia, several at Masoala

African Palm Swift◊ *Cypsiurus parvus* Fairly common and widespread

Alpine Swift◊ *Asio melba* About 10 were over Zombitse

Madagascar Black Swift◊ *Asio balstoni* Several flocks were at widespread sites, mainly in the west

Little Swift◊ *Asio affinis* (NL) A small flock was seen from the bus in Tana

Madagascar Kingfisher◊ (M Malachite K)◊ *Alcedo vintsioides* Scattered records throughout

Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher◊ *Ceyx madagascariensis* Great views of one at Mantadia and other glimpses there

Olive Bee-eater (Mad. B-e)◊ *Merops superciliosus* Common and widespread

Broad-billed Roller◊ *Eurystomus glaucurus* Common at Ampijoroa with a handful elsewhere

Short-legged Ground-Roller◊ *Brachypteracias leptosomus* Great views at Mantadia, three more at Masoala

Scaly Ground-Roller◊ *Brachypteracias squamiger* An adult and a juvenile showed well at Mantadia...eventually...

Pitta-like Ground-Roller◊ *Atelornis pittoides* Up to six at Ranomafana/ Vohimaparara, four or five at Mantadia/ Perinet

Rufous-headed Ground-Roller◊ *Atelornis crossleyi* Glimpsed at Vohimaparara, great views at Perinet

Long-tailed Ground-Roller◊ *Uratelornis chimaera* Perfect views at Ifaty, another heard there
Madagascar Cuckoo-Roller  ◊  *Leptosomus discolor*  Recorded quite widely with several good views
Madagascar Hoopoe  ◊  *Upupa marginata*  Locally quite common, mainly in the west
Velvet Asity  ◊  *Philepitta castanea*  Three were at Vohiparara and four more at Perinet and Mantadia
Schlegel’s Asity  ◊  *Philepitta schlegeli*  Fabulous views of a pair at Ampijoroa

Schlegel’s Asity at Ampijoroa. Photo by Linda Cherepow

Common Sunbird-Asity  ◊  *Neodrepanis coruscans*  Good views at Ranomafana, Vohiparara and Perinet
Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity  ◊  *Neodrepanis hypoxantha*  A female at Vohiparara after an extended wait
Madagascar Bush Lark  ◊  *Mirafra hova*  Common in more arid areas in the west
Mascarene Martin  ◊  *Phedina borbonica*  Fairly common and widespread
Brown-throated Sand Martin  *Riparia paludicola*  Noted at a few wetlands
Barn Swallow  *Hirundo rustica*  A handful were at and around Tulear
Madagascar Wagtail  ◊  *Motacilla flavigula*  Fairly common in upland areas with one at the Masoala
Ashy Cuckoo-Shrike  ◊ (Madagascar C-S)  *Coracina cinerea*  Small numbers were at several wooded sites
Madagascar Bulbul  ◊  *Hypsipetes madagascariensis*  Very common and widespread
Long-billed Berneria  ◊  (L-b Greenbul)  *Phyllastrephus madagascariensis*  Noted at three sites
Spectacled Tetraka  ◊  (S Greenbul)  *Phyllastrephus zosterops*  Small numbers were at most rainforest sites
Appert’s Tetraka  ◊  (A Greenbul)  *Phyllastrephus apperti*  Excellent views of one at Zombitse
Grey-crowned Tetraka  ◊  (G-c Greenbul)  *Phyllastrephus cinereiceps*  A least four were seen at Vohiparara
Red-tailed Vanga  ◊  *Calicalicus madagascariensis*  Small numbers were at widespread wooded sites
Red-shouldered Vanga  ◊  *Calicalicus rufocarpalis*  Point blank views of a male at Tulear tablelands
Rufous Vanga  ◊  *Schetba rufa*  A nesting pair at Zombitse, one at Ampijoroa and several at the Masoala
Hook-billed Vanga  ◊  *Vanga curvirostris*  Ones and twos were at Vohiparara, Ifaty, Berenty and the Masoala
Lafresnaye’s Vanga  ◊  *Xenopirostris xenopirostris*  One showed very well at Tulear Tablelands
Pollen’s Vanga  ◊  *Xenopirostris polleni*  Five were seen at Ranomafana
Van Dam’s Vanga  ◊  *Xenopirostris damii*  Good views of a pair at Ampijoroa
Sickle-billed Vanga  ◊  *Falculea palliata*  A handful were at Ifaty, breeding in the car park at Ampijoroa
White-headed Vanga ◊ *Artamella viridis* Noted at most well wooded sites

Chabert Vanga ◊ (Chabert’s V) *Leptopterus chabert* Fairly common in many wooded areas

Blue Vanga ◊ *Cyanolanius madagascariensis* Nice views at Vohiparara, Ampijoroa, Perinet and the Masoala

Bernier’s Vanga ◊ *Oriolla bernieri* Six were seen and a couple more heard at Masoala

Helmet Vanga ◊ *Euryceros prevostii* Great views of one at Masoala after a very long search, another heard there

Nuthatch-Vanga ◊ *Hypositta corallirosus* Several good views at Mantadia and Perinet

Tylas Vanga ◊ (Tylas) *Tylas eduardi* Small numbers were at Ranomafana, Mantadia and the Masoala

Littoral Rock Thrush ◊ *Pseudocossyphus imerinus* A pair showed well at Anakoa

Forest Rock Thrush ◊ *Pseudocossyphus sharpei* A singling bird showed well near Vohiparara

Benson’s Rock Thrush ◊ *Pseudocossyphus bensoni* Great views of three at Isalo. See note

Madagascar Magpie-Robin ◊ *Copsychus albospectularis* Fairly common throughout

Madagascar Stonechat ◊ *Saxicola sibilla* Regularly seen in the uplands, especially as we travelled. See note

White-throated Oxylabes ◊ *Oxylabes madagascariensis* Good views at Mantadia, heard at Perinet and Masoala

Madagascar Yellowbrow ◊ *Crossleyia xanthophrys* One gave some good views at Vohiparara

Crossley’s Babbler ◊ *Mystacornis crossleyi* Heard distantly at Vohiparara, eventually seen very well at Mantadia

Brown Emutail ◊ *Dromaeocercus brunneneus* (LO) One was glimpsed at Vohiparara, also heard at Anjozorobe

Grey Emutail ◊ *Amphilais seebohmi* Three gave some good views at Amboditanimenana

Madagascar Brush Warbler ◊ *Nesillas typica* Fairly common in the east, especially at Mantadia

Subdesert Brush Warbler ◊ *Nesillas lantzi* Common in the arid south west near Tulear and Ifaty

Madagascar Swamp Warbler ◊ *Acrocephalus newtoni* Noted at Amboditanimenana, Mantadia and Anjozorobe

Thamnornis Warbler ◊ *Thamnornis chloropetoides* A few seen very well and others heard at Ifaty

Rand’s Warbler ◊ *Randia pseudozosterops* Scope views at Ranomafana and a couple more at Mantadia

Common Newtonia ◊ *Newtonia brunniceaudia* Quite common in many wooded areas

Dark Newtonia ◊ *Newtonia amphichroa* Seen well at Ranomafana and Vohiparara, heard at Perinet

Archbold’s Newtonia ◊ *Newtonia archboldi* A nesting pair and one other at Ifaty

Red-tailed Newtonia ◊ *Newtonia fanovanae* Poor views for some of two at Andohahela in heavy rain

Madagascar Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola cherina* Common in more arid areas

Common Jery ◊ *Neomixis tenella* Fairly common and widespread in wooded contexts

Green Jery ◊ *Neomixis viridis* Seen well at Vohiparara and more briefly at Mantadia, others heard

Stripe-throated Jery ◊ *Neomixis striatigula* Seen regularly with several more heard in widespread wooded sites

Cryptic Warbler ◊ *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi* A singling bird was scoped at Vohiparara

Wedge-tailed Jery ◊ *Hartertula flavoviridis* Three showed well at Vohiparara with two more at Perinet

Ward’s Flycatcher ◊ *Pseudobias wardi* One at Ranomafana and a couple at Andasibe

Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher ◊ *Terpsiphone mutata* Common in most wooded contexts

Souimanga Sunbird ◊ *Nectarinia souimanga* Common and widespread

Long-billed Green Sunbird ◊ (Madagascar G S) *Nectarinia notata* Ones and twos at a few well wooded sites

Madagascar White-eye ◊ *Zosterops maderaspatana* Fairly common, mainly in the east

Madagascar Mannikin ◊ *Lonchura nana* Fairly widespread, sometimes in quite large flocks

Nellicourvi Weaver ◊ *Plocœus nellicourvi* Ones and twos at Ranomafana, Vohiparara Mantadia and the Masoala.

Sakalava Weaver ◊ *Plocœus sakalava* Common in the arid southwest

Madagascar Red Fody ◊ (Madagascar F) *Foudia madagascariensis* Common and widespread

Forest Fody ◊ *Foudia omissa* Good views at Vohiparara and especially Mantadia

Common Myna ◊ *Acridotheres tristis* Very common and widespread

Madagascar Starling ◊ *Hartlaubius auratus* Ones and twos were at all rainforests sites visited

Crested Drongo ◊ *Dicrurus forficatus* Common in wooded contexts

Pied Crow ◊ *Corvus albus* Fairly common in the arid west with smaller numbers elsewhere
MAMMALS

Lowland Streaked Tenrec  *Hemicentetes semispinosus*  One was seen well at Mantadia

Madagascar Flying Fox  *Pteropus rufus*  Many were in the roost at Berenty

Commerson’s Leaf-nosed Bat  *Hipposideros commersoni*  One was at Ampijoroa

Grey Mouse Lemur  *Microcebus murinus*  A handful were at Ampijoroa

Brown Mouse Lemur  *Microcebus rufus*  A few were at Ranomafana and Masoala

Golden-brown Mouse Lemur (Golden Mouse Lemur)  *Microcebus ravelobensis*  One was at Ampijoroa

Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur  *Cheirogaleus crossleyi*  A handful were at Perinet

Weasel Sportive Lemur  *Lepilemur mustelinus*  Seen twice at the Masoala

Milne-Edward’s Sportive Lemur  *Lepilemur edwardsi*  One seen and many heard at Ampijoroa

Hubbard’s Sportive Lemur  *Lepilemur hubbardi*  Singles were at Zombitse and Ifaty

White-footed Sportive Lemur  *Lepilemur leucopus*  One was at Berenty

Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur (Grey Bamboo Lemur)  *Hapalemur griseus*  A handful were at Perinet

Greater Bamboo Lemur  *Hapalemur simus*  Two were at Ranomafana

Ring-tailed Lemur  *Lemur catta*  Common at Berenty

Mongoose Lemur  *Eulemur mongoz*  Seven were seen at Ampijoroa, some in broad daylight

Red-bellied Lemur  *Eulemur rubriventer*  A handful were at Ranomafana/ Vohiparara

Common Brown Lemur  *Eulemur fulvus*  Six were at Ampijoroa with a similar number at Perinet

White-fronted Brown Lemur  *Eulemur albifrons*  Fairly common at Masoala

Red-fronted Brown Lemur  *Eulemur rufus*  Only seem at Berenty where introduced

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur  *Varecia variagata*  Seen twice at Mantadia and also heard there

Red Ruffed Lemur  *Varecia rubra*  A few seen well and many more heard at the Masoala

Eastern Avahi (Eastern Woolly Lemur)  *Avahi laniger*  One was found on the Masoala
Western Avahi (Western Woolly Lemur) *Avahi occidentalis* One was at Ampijoroa

Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus diadema* Seen three times at Mantadia and Perinet

Verreaux’s Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi* Cracking views at Zombitse and Berenty

Coquerel’s Sifaka *Propithecus coquereli* Two or three groups were seen regularly at Ampijoroa

Indri *Indri indri* Two close encounters and many more heard at Perinet and Mantadia, also heard at Anjozorobe

Ring-tailed Mongoose *Galidia elegans* Two encounters at the Masoala

Eastern Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus* Seen briefly at Vohiparara

Lowland Red Forest Rat *Nesomys audeberti* A couple of glimpses at Masoala

Western Tuft-tailed Rat *Eliurus myoxinus* One was at Ampijoroa

Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops aduncus* About six were off Fort Dauphin

**NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST**

Additional to or replacing those in the tour checklist

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. Gill, F and Donsker, D (Eds). 2012. IOC World Bird Names (v2.11). Available at http://www.worldbirdnames.org

**Knob-billed Duck** (Comb D) *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Old World and New World forms are now regarded as separate species, the names Knob-billed Duck and Comb Duck have in the past been used interchangeably for the enlarged species but the latter is now reserved for New World *S. sylvicola*

**Eurasian Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

IOC currently retain dark-rumped Hudsonian Whimbrel *N. hudsonicus* in an enlarged species simply called Whimbrel but are reviewing this treatment

**Brown-capped (or Green-capped) Coua** *Coua olivaceiceps*

IOC and some others lump this form which is found in the southwest (in the Tulear area) in Red-capped Coua *C. ruficeps*. The name Brown-capped seems preferable as their is only the faintest hint of an olive tone in the crown.

**Benson’s Rock Thrush** *Pseudocossyphus bensoni*

IOC lump this form in Forest Rock Thrush *P. sharpei*. Recent research has cast doubt of the ecological separation of the two forms but even so they are vocally distinct and largely geographically separated

**Madagascar Stonechat** *Saxicola sibilla*

This is a recent split from African Stonechat *S. torquatus* which previously also included forms from across Eurasia with the name Common Stonechat used for the greatly enlarged species