



Subdesert Mesite at Ifaty (Chris Kehoe)

BEST OF MADAGASCAR

26 JULY – 6 AUGUST 2016

LEADER: CHRIS KEHOE

Our recent Best of Madagascar tour took us to the dry forests and lakes of the north, the arid southwest with its stunning spiny forest and finally to the lush rainforests of the east. This wide variety of habitats led to a diverse list of highlights that included such fantastic species as Long-tailed Ground Roller (voted bird of the trip by a substantial margin), superb White-breasted and Subdesert Mesites, a host of Vangas that ranged from the furtive Crossley's to the extrovert Sickle-billed via the rare and extremely localized Red-shouldered, all nine of the possible, and spectacular, Couas, Madagascar and White-browed Owls at day roosts, the critically endangered Madagascar Fish Eagle, sky dancing Madagascar Harriers plus the exquisite Collared Nightjar. Members of all the endemic Malagasy bird families were found along with a fine selection of lemurs including the amazing Indri that serenaded us at ear splitting volume. With the exception of one rainy afternoon at Tulear the weather was fine throughout, if a little chilly at times.

After a few hours rest at a hotel in Tana, where a noisy Barn Owl was in the car park when we arrived, we set off north towards Ampijoroa. We eventually reached there in the late afternoon where we immediately

started birding around the park HQ, soon seeing some quality birds such as dapper Chabert and amazing Sickie-billed Vangas, a flock of 20 of the latter moved through the trees where Coquerel's Sifakas were bouncing around as Crested Drongos and Malagasy Bulbuls looked on and Lesser Vasa Parrots flew over. As we checked into our nearby lodge a couple of Madagascar Nightjars were hawking around our luggage !



Badlands of the high plateau between Tana and Ampijoroa (Chris Kehoe)

We began the next day with a brief visit to the park HQ, where White-headed Vangas were on view, before visiting the dry forest beyond the lake. Schlegel's Asity was playing very hard to get with just brief flight views for some after a couple of hours searching. Several other species were seen however with Madagascar Green Pigeon, Malagasy Paradise Flycatchers, Madagascar Magpie Robins and Common Newtonias all obliging. We then set off up the hill behind the HQ where, within just a few minutes, we bumped into a busy group of Rufous Vangas and were pleased that one Van Dam's Vanga, normally a much trickier bird to find, was accompanying them and showing well. Continuing up the hill we were soon watching our first Coquerel's Coua strutting through the leaf litter. It took rather longer to find Red-capped Couas but we eventually connected and our guide herded the pair towards us for good views. That left us with just White-breasted Mesite to find in this area and they duly appeared, a busy group of 5 or 6 birds performing nicely as they crossed and re-crossed the trail ahead. On the way down the hill for lunch we stopped to admire three sleepy looking Western Woolly Lemurs or Avahis. After lunch we drove to a small wetland near our lodge where a Madagascar Jacana was quickly found along with a couple of African Pygmy Geese and a few other bits and pieces. After a short rest at the lodge we visited a small lake below the park HQ where a Madagascar Grebe was an unexpected find, Madagascar Cuckooshrike was also seen here along with a troupe of Common Brown Lemurs. We then boarded a small boat for an hour long tour of Lac Ravelobe where the undoubted highlight was a perched Madagascar Fish Eagle but also seen were masses of herons and egrets plus several Glossy Ibises. Malagasy Coucals showed very well here too along with the likes of Malagasy Kingfishers and Olive (or Madagascar) Bee-eaters. A short visit to the dry fields beyond the lake gave us Madagascar Mannikins and Sakalava Weavers and another Fish Eagle was seen distantly in flight. Back at the park HQ we lingered until dusk when Madagascar Nightjars appeared overhead before concluding a busy day with an hour long night walk that produced a surprise Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, a few very petite Grey Mouse Lemurs and further Madagascar Nightjars.

Before commencing the long drive back to Tana, we spent a few more hours searching for Schlegel's Asity. In the event they were almost as uncooperative as yesterday though some had decent views of a frustratingly mobile pair that just wouldn't settle long enough for all to connect with them. Little else was seen during our single minded quest but a few Madagascar White-eyes and several previously seen species were noted. As we collected our box lunches a flock of Grey-headed Lovebirds were on view at the Park HQ. We finally reached our comfortable hotel in Tana about an hour after dark, the undoubted highlight of the long but scenic journey being fantastic views of two pairs of displaying Malagasy Harriers, all of which were in the air together at one point. Other brief stops along the way gave Madagascar Stonechats and a single Reed Cormorant while Madagascar Larks and Malagasy Kestrels were also seen as we journeyed south.

A rescheduling of our flight to Tulear meant we drove to the airport straight after breakfast and watched Mascarene Martins, Malagasy Black, Alpine and Little Swifts hawking over the terminal as we waited for our flight which eventually departed two hours late at noon. Ninety minutes later we were sitting down for lunch at our Tulear hotel before driving to the nearby Tulear tablelands. Unfortunately it began to rain heavily soon after we arrived and remained wet for most of the evening making it impossible to locate our top targets of Red-shouldered Vanga and Verreaux's Coua today. We did have good views of a soggy but responsive Subdesert Brush Warbler, a brief 'Olive-capped' Coua and some commoner species such as Madagascar Bushlark, Sakalava Weavers and Namaqua Doves.



Red-shouldered Vanga near Tulear and 'Chestnut-vented' Crested Coua at Ifaty (Chris Kehoe)

We were back at the tablelands at sunrise and soon watching the first of two sunbathing Verreaux's Couas in the scope. Olive-capped Coua was seen again and after a while our diligent local guides found a pair of Red-shouldered Vangas that performed very nicely indeed. After picking up our bags from the hotel we set off north up the coast towards our next base at Ifaty. We made four stops along the way, firstly at Tulear Lakes where there were a few commoner shorebird and masses of Little Grebes plus one Red-billed Teal. Of more consequence though was a feeding Greater Painted Snipe while Madagascar Swamp Warblers were persuaded to show well. The big surprise here though was a very smart Baillon's Crake that was feeding right out in the open for a while. The next stop, near an area of coastal mangroves gave us surprise Greater Frigatebirds while the next stop, at some roadside pools, soon provided us with a pair of dapper 'Madagascar' Three-banded Plovers. Our final stop was at Ifaty salt flats where we quickly found four Madagascar Plovers amongst the many Kittlitz's Plovers there. After lunch and a short rest we made our way to the nearby spiny forest with its spectacular Baobab and Didieria landscape. Once there we set off along the trails with one local guide while a team of others spread out to search for our target birds. It wasn't long before a shout went up and a few moments later we were enjoying prolonged views of a 'treed' male Subdesert Mesite. Not long afterwards we took up positions while the team gently persuaded a fabulous Long-tailed Ground Roller to show itself which it did very well indeed before we left it in peace. Next up was a sleepy looking Sportive Lemur (exactly which species it is here is unclear after recent splits) and soon after that a showy Hooked-billed Vanga was appreciated. Not far away an equally obliging Lafresnay's Vanga

perched in the top of a fruiting baobab. Both Archbold's *Newtonia* and *Thamnornis* were then seen but neither was particularly cooperative so we targeted better views for the next day.



Long-tailed Ground Roller at Ifaty (Chris Kehoe)

We were back at the spiny forest before sunrise and quickly set off in search of our remaining targets. Running Coua was the top priority and after about 30 minutes we were enjoying scope views of one sunbathing in a Baobab. *Thamnornis* proved much more obliging today with three birds seen together at one point while nearby a smart little Archbold's *Newtonia* showed very well as it sang back at us. An unexpected calling Madagascar Sparrowhawk was tracked down and showed quite well, if a little distantly. Eventually a shout went up and we were soon watching a small group of bustling Madagascar Buttonquails as our team gently herded them into view. As the temperature began to rise we watched Stripe-throated and Common Jerys and a Common *Newtonia* as a Subdesert Brush Warbler showed well. With almost everything we could realistically have hoped-for under the belt we returned to the hotel to sit out the heat of the day, while there some saw a Frances's Sparrowhawk upsetting a large group of Sakalava Weavers. Our afternoon visit to the Spiny Forest was a little quiet with most of our time devoted to an unsuccessful search for Banded Kestrel though locals warned it was an unlikely target as none had been seen recently. Red-tailed Vanga was new however, as was a brief Madagascan Spinetail and as we waited around while the team searched for the kestrel we were shown a warty Chameleon, various insects and arachnids and a rather dazed and sleepy Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec.

Just before sunrise we were on our way back to Tulear Airport. A brief stop at the mangroves along the coast added Ruddy Turnstone and Eurasian Whimbrel to our list while a longer stop at Tulear Lakes gave us Red-knobbed Coots and Hottentot Teal as well as various previously seen species including a pair of Greater Painted Snipe. Our flight back to Tana departed on time and we were back there in time for lunch before starting the drive to the eastern rainforest at Perinet where we arrived at dusk with a Hamerkop along the way to distract us.

In a misty, chilly dawn at Perinet Special Reserve we watched *Nelicourvi* Weavers in the parking area before setting off along the trails. Canopy birds were hard to appreciate in the murky light but we had brief views of

a Common Sunbird Asity and a Green Jery in the gloom. A Madagascar Wood Rail showed to some on the trail ahead but refused to be enticed out again. Not so a Red-breasted Coua that eventually gave a series of close views. A calling Crossley's Vanga prompted an off-piste excursion where a pair strutted about in front of us though not everyone got on them in the dark forest interior. A calling Henst's Goshawk was seen by some through gaps in the canopy before we found a Vanga flock containing our first Tylas and Nuthatch Vangas plus the much-wanted Blue Vanga. Nearby our first Madagascar Blue Pigeon was seen in the canopy of a fruiting tree. Long-billed Bernierias and a Spectacled Tetraka were also seen briefly and a fine Red-fronted Coua walked out of the forest right in front of us. On and off during the morning we had heard the eerie wailing of Indris in the forest and shortly before returning to the bus had great views of a troupe in the trees right above us. During lunch back at the lodge a pair of Cuckoo Rollers were flying and calling overhead on a couple of occasions and more Blue Pigeons were seen. We returned to the Special Reserve after a short rest and quickly heard Madagascar Flufftails calling, a female then obliging by crossing the trail at close range. Otherwise it was a little quiet in the forest and we searched in vain for Madagascar Crested Ibises before our guides received word of a roosting Madagascar Owl at the nearby VOI Reserve. We set off there and enjoyed fabulous views of the bird as it was woken up by the ear splitting calls of Indris. We continued our birding along the road where Ward's Vangas showed well but a White-throated Rail frustrated by remaining in an area impossible to view before quickly flying across the river and disappearing.



Madagascar Buzzard and Madagascar Harrier-Hawk (sadly not a Cuckoo-hawk!) at Mantadia (Chris Kehoe)

Early the next morning we set off on the rather bumpy ride to Mantadia National Park, the very misty weather thwarting hopes of finding birds perched on treetops during the journey. However, by the time we reached the first trailhead the weather was bright and clear. Malagasy Brush Warbler was a catch-up species for some along the road, as were Madagascar Spinetails. Just a few metres along the trail a lovely little Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher was on show. A little further on we played cat and mouse with a busy group of Dark Newtonias and just around the corner a gorgeous male Crossley's Vanga was enticed into giving stellar views as it shouted back at us from a few metres away. Nearby, a Rufous-headed Ground Roller suddenly appeared on the trail and we managed to coax it close on several occasions but the thick ground cover meant views were often rather unsatisfying though it did perch up briefly a couple a times. Next up was a small group of much more obliging White-throated Oxylabes while nearby two Wedge-tailed Jerys showed well amongst a small group of Long-billed Bernierias and Spectacled Tetrakas, some also seeing a Grey-crowned Tetraka in this flock. We then went on a lengthy search for Scaly Ground Roller but had just the briefest of views of a very elusive individual as it rushed across the trail and vanished. A couple of Vanga flocks entertained us though, with Tylas, Blue and Nuthatch all seen again. At a small forest pool we found a couple of Madagascar Grebes and two Meller's Ducks as Madagascar Spinetails soared overhead. A Madagascar Swamp Warbler crept about and a Madagascar Stonechat perched prominently. We lingered here a while in the hope a Henst's Goshawk might appear overhead but instead had fabulous views of a juvenile Madagascar Harrier-Hawk flying past. Eventually we returned towards Perinet where we had a short rest at the lodge before setting off on a night walk which yielded a couple of Long-and Short-nosed

Chameleons and tree frogs though a calling Rainforest Scops Owl proved typically unresponsive and refused to leave its concealed perch.

Early the next morning we set off back to Mantadia. It was again very misty initially so again little was visible along the way. At our first stop though our team of guides soon spread out and quickly located a pair of roosting Collared Nightjars that showed well at close range in the gloomy forest interior (though we returned to them later in better light). On the opposite side of the road a Short-legged Ground Roller was then found and showed superbly for a while. We spent most of the rest of the morning in an unsuccessful quest for further Ground Rollers but along the way had greatly improved views of the likes of Spectacled Tetrakas and Long-billed Bernierias. A couple of very furtive Brown Emutails were glimpsed by some before we set off in pursuit of a Madagascar Crested Ibis which had sadly vanished before we reached the spot. A Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur glared down at us before we returned to the vehicles for lunch. Stops along the road back towards Perinet gave us a Frances's Sparrowhawk while an extended vigil at a swamp near Mantadia gate gave most a glimpse or two, and one more extended view, of a couple of noisy Madagascar Rails. Along the road near Perinet we watched Blue Pigeons in the scope before setting off on a short trail where the undoubted highlight was a small group of Madagascar Wood Rails that eventually gave great close views, albeit in fading light.



Rice paddies and traditional plateau houses on the edge of Tana (Chris Kehoe)

Our final morning was spent along the trails of the VOI Reserve in the hope of adding a few additions to our list. A Common Sunbird Asity was enticed down from the canopy for excellent eye-level views, Rand's Warbler showed quite well and two Madagascar Starling were scoped in a bare treetop. We had repeat views of the likes of Nelicourvi Weaver and Red-tailed Vanga and a male Madagascar Flufftail was coaxed into view before we returned to the lodge for packing and lunch. The afternoon was spent driving to Tana where we enjoyed a final hour of birding at Lac Alarobia. After numerous earlier attempts a White-throated Rail finally showed very well here. We also watched masses of Red-billed Teal and White-faced Whistling Ducks here, amongst which were a handful of Meller's Ducks and Hottentot Teal. After a final dinner together at our city hotel, where the bird of the trip votes were cast, we drove to the airport where the tour ended.

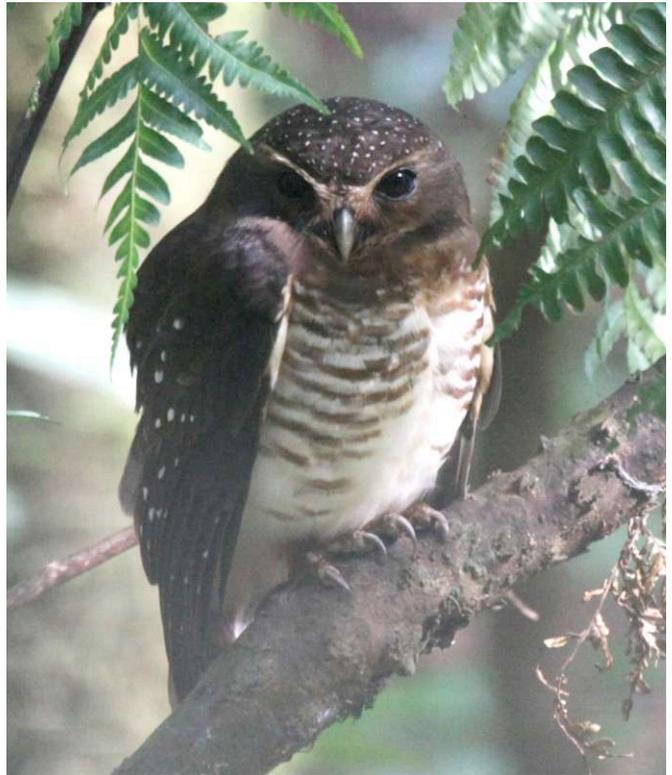
Bird of the Trip:

- 1 Long-tailed Ground Roller 28 points
- 2 Red-shouldered Vanga 9 points
- 3= Crossley's Vanga 8 points
- 3= White-browed Owl 8 points
- 5= Malagasy Harrier 5 points

- 5= Collared Nightjar 5 points
- 5= White-breasted Mesite 5 points
- 5= Madagascar Flufftail 5 points
- 5= Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher 5 points



Sickle-billed Vanga at Ampijoroa and Madagascar Grebe at Mantadia (Chris Kehoe)



Madagascar Coucal at Ampijoroa and White-browed Owl at Mantadia (Chris Kehoe)



Collared Nightjar at Mantadia (Chris Kehoe)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

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).

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Numerous at Lac Alarobia, a few at Ampijoroa.

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus* Two near Ampijoroa.

Meller's Duck ◊ *Anas melleri* Two at Mantadia and about eight at Lac Alarobia.

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* Very numerous at Lac Alarobia, a few elsewhere.

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota* One at Tulear Lakes and three at Lac Alarobia.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* One at Ampijoroa and numerous at Tulear Lakes.

Madagascan Grebe ◊ *Tachybaptus pelzelinii* One at Ampijoroa and two at Mantadia.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Numerous at Ampijoroa.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Over 20 at Lac Ravelobe and about 100 at Lac Alarobia.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Ones and twos at three sites.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Present on many wetlands and as we traveled.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread encounters.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* One near Ifaty.

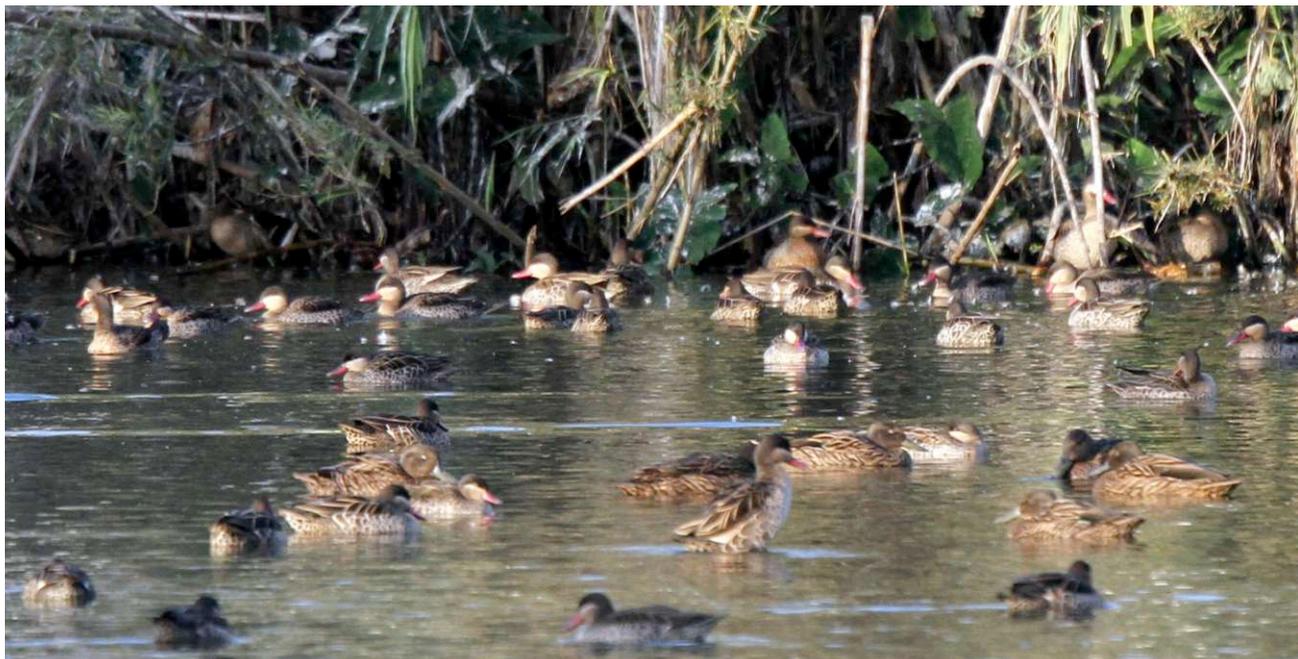
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* A handful at Ampijoroa and one near Perinet.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Small numbers at widespread sites.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* Common at Ampijoroa and at Lac Alarobia.

Dimorphic Egret *◊ Egretta dimorpha* Widespread, common at Lac Alarobia.

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* A couple in rice paddies as we travelled.



Meller's Ducks and Red-billed Teal at Lac Alarobia, Tana (Chris Kehoe)

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* Three near Ifaty, probably pushed onshore by an approaching shower.

Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus* One north of Tana.

Madagascan Harrier-Hawk *◊ Polyboroides radiatus* Good views at three sites, displaying at Ifaty.

Frances's Sparrowhawk *◊ Accipiter francesiae* Singles at Ifaty, Perinet and Mantadia.

Madagascan Sparrowhawk *◊ Accipiter madagascariensis* One at Ifaty.

Henst's Goshawk *◊ Accipiter henstii* Briefly seen in flight at Perinet, heard at Mantadia.

Malagasy Harrier *◊ Circus macroscelus* Five during the return drive from Ampijoroa gave some superb views.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* A few in open country, mostly north of Tana.

Madagascan Fish Eagle *◊ Haliaeetus vociferoides* Two at Ampijoroa, one perched and one in flight.

Madagascan Buzzard *◊ Buteo brachypterus* Noted at Ampijoroa and especially around Perinet and Mantadia.

White-breasted Mesite *◊ Mesitornis variegatus* Six at Ampijoroa gave some good views.

Subdesert Mesite *◊ Monias benschi* A fantastic 'treed' male at Ifaty.



Baillon's Crake near Tulear and White-throated Rail in Tana (Chris Kehoe)

Madagascar Wood Rail ◊ *Canirallus kioloides* Very good views at Perinet.

Madagascar Flufftail ◊ *Sarothrura insularis* A female and two males at Perinet/ Mantadia, others heard.



Malagasy Harrier north of Tana, Madagascar Plover at Ifaty and Madagascar Flufftail at Perinet (all Suzanne Bonmarchand)

Madagascar Rail ◇ *Rallus madagascariensis* Two or three briefly seen birds at Mantadia.

White-throated Rail ◇ *Dryolimnas cuvieri* Glimpsed at Perinet but then seen very well at Lac Alarobia.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* One showed very well at Tulear Lakes.



'Madagascar' Three-banded Plover near Ifaty and Madagascar Blue Pigeons at Perinet (Chris Kehoe)

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Present at a few wetlands.

Red-knobbed Coot (Crested C) *Fulica cristata* Two at Tulear Lakes.

Madagascar Buttonquail ◇ *Turnix nigricollis* Three at Ifaty.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Several at Tulear Lakes.

Madagascar Plover ◇ *Charadrius thoracicus* Great views of three or four near Ifaty.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* Common north of Tulear.

Three-banded Plover ◇ *Charadrius tricollaris* Two near Ifaty

Lesser Sand Plover (Mongolian P) *Charadrius mongolus* One briefly near Ifaty.

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* Two at Tulear Lakes.

Madagascar Jacana ◇ *Actophilornis albinucha* One near Ampijoroa, getting rarer....

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Two near Ifaty.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* One at Tulear Lakes.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* A handful north of Tulear.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* One near Ifaty.

Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* A few in some towns.

Malagasy Turtle Dove ◇ *Nesoenas picturatus* Noted at Ampijoroa, Ifaty and Perinet but always in flight.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* Fairly common in arid areas.

Madagascar Green Pigeon ◇ *Treron australis* About 10 at Ampijoroa.

Madagascar Blue Pigeon ◇ *Alectroenas madagascariensis* Several at Perinet, sometimes in the scope.

Malagasy Coucal ◇ *Centropus toulou* Widespread in small numbers.

Crested Coua ◇ *Coua cristata* Five at Ampijoroa and a similar number at Ifaty.

Verreaux's Coua ◇ *Coua verreauxi* Two at Tulear tablelands gave good scope views.

Blue Coua ◇ *Coua caerulea* Several at Perinet and Mantadia, always popular !

Red-capped Coua ◇ *Coua [ruficeps] ruficeps* Three at Ampijoroa.

Red-capped Coua ◇ (Brown, Olive or Green-c C) *Coua [ruficeps] olivaceiceps* A few at Tulear and Ifaty.

Red-fronted Coua ◇ *Coua reynaudii* Good views at Perinet, a couple more heard.

Coquerel's Coua ◇ *Coua coquereli* Three at Ampijoroa.

Running Coua ◇ *Coua cursor* Three at Ifaty, one in the scope.

Red-breasted Coua ◇ *Coua serriana* Good views of one at Perinet.

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba* One at our hotel in Tana on a couple of occasions.

Torotoroka Scops Owl ◇ *Otus madagascariensis* (H) Heard very distantly at Ampijoroa.

Rainforest Scops Owl ◇ *Otus rutilus* (H) Heard at Perinet but unresponsive.

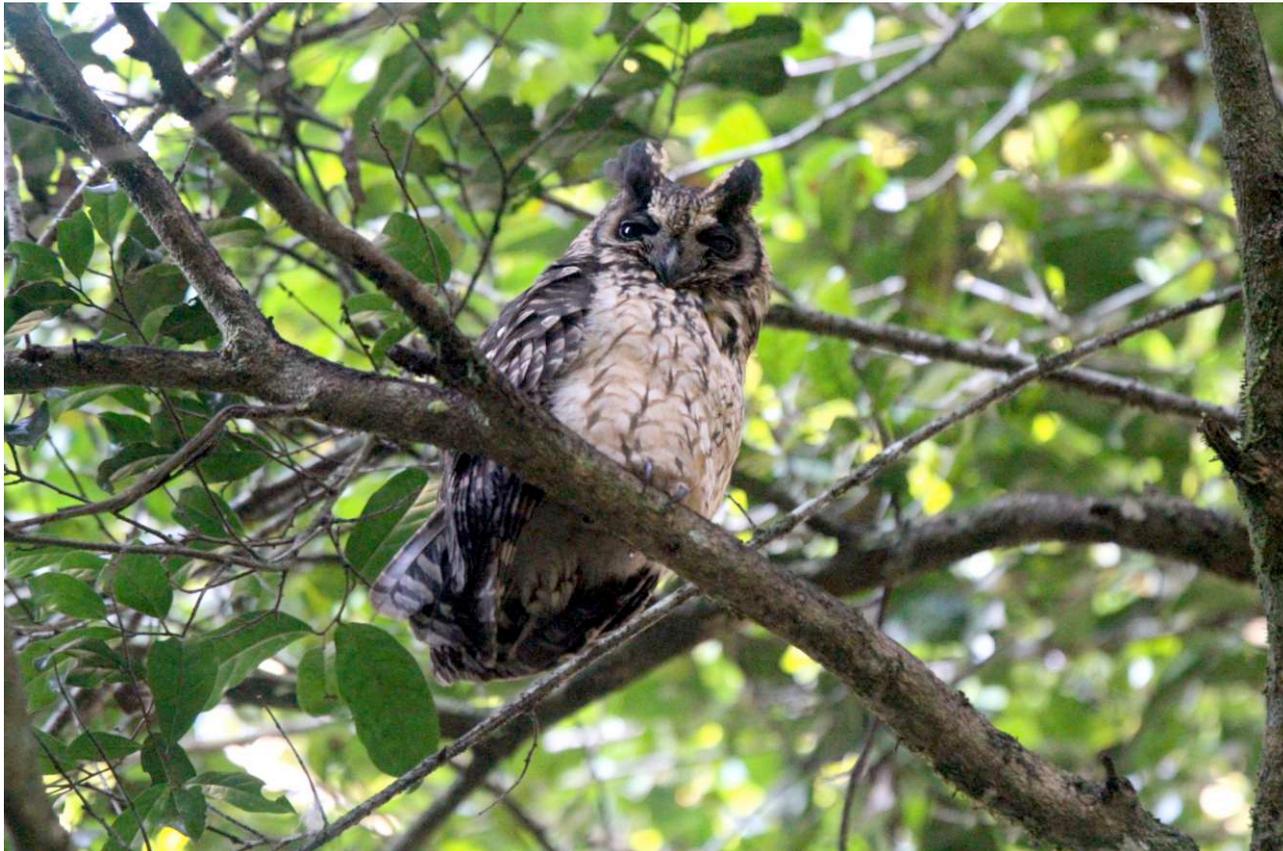
White-browed Hawk-Owl ◇ *Ninox superciliaris* A roosting bird at Mantadia.

Madagascar Owl ◇ *Asio madagascariensis* A roosting bird at VOI Reserve was woken up by Indris.

Collared Nightjar ◇ *Gactornis enarratus* Two roosting birds at Mantadia gave superb views.

Madagascan Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus madagascariensis* Widespread, often common.

Madagascan Spinetail ◊ *Zoonavena grandidieri* One at Ifaty and several at Mantadia.



Madagascan Owl near Perinet (Chris Kehoe)

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* A few near Ampijoroa.

Alpine Swift* *Tachymarptis melba* Singles at Tana airport and Mantadia.

Malagasy Black Swift ◊ *Apus balstoni* Up to 20 at Tana airport.



Malagasy Black Swift at Tana and Madagascan Spinetail at Mantadia (Chris Kehoe)

Little Swift *Apus affinis* A handful at Tana airport.

Cuckoo Roller ◊ *Leptosomus discolor* Flight views at Perinet and Mantadia, a few others heard.

Short-legged Ground Roller ◊ *Brachypteracias leptosomus* Great views at Mantadia.

Scaly Ground Roller ◊ *Geobiastes squamiger* Just a couple of glimpses at Mantadia.

Rufous-headed Ground Roller ◇ *Atelornis crossleyi* A typically furtive bird at Mantadia but seen well by some.

Long-tailed Ground Roller ◇ *Uratelornis chimaera* Great views at Ifaty.

Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher ◇ *Corythornis madagascariensis* Singles at Ampijoroa and Mantadia.

Malagasy Kingfisher ◇ (M Malachite K) *Corythornis vintsioides* First noted at Ampijoroa, several thereafter.

Olive Bee-eater (Madagascar B-e) *Merops superciliosus* Widespread, sometimes common.

Madagascar Hoopoe ◇ *Upupa marginata* Good views at Ampijoroa and Ifaty.

Malagasy Kestrel ◇ *Falco newtoni* One in the scope at Perinet, others as we traveled.

Greater Vasa Parrot ◇ *Coracopsis vasa* A handful at Perinet and Mantadia.

Lesser Vasa Parrot ◇ *Coracopsis nigra* Common at Ampijoroa, a few elsewhere.

Grey-headed Lovebird ◇ *Agapornis canus* Small numbers at Ampijoroa and Ifaty.

Schlegel's Asity ◇ *Philepitta schlegeli* Two at Ampijoroa but frustratingly volatile, only seen well by some.

Common Sunbird-Asity ◇ *Neodrepanis coruscans* Great views at Perinet.

Red-tailed Vanga ◇ *Calicalicus madagascariensis* Ones and twos at Ifaty and Mantadia.

Red-shouldered Vanga ◇ *Calicalicus rufocarpalis* Great views of a pair at Tulear tablelands.

Hook-billed Vanga ◇ *Vanga curvirostris* Two showy birds at Ifaty, heard at Ampijoroa.

Lafresnaye's Vanga ◇ *Xenopirostris xenopirostris* One at Ifaty showed very well.

Van Dam's Vanga ◇ *Xenopirostris damii* Good views at Ampijoroa.

Sickle-billed Vanga ◇ *Falcolea palliata* Great views of 20 at Ampijoroa, an unusually large gathering.

White-headed Vanga ◇ *Artamella viridis* A few at Ampijoroa, Ifaty and Perinet.

Chabert Vanga ◇ *Leptopterus chabert* Several at Ampijoroa, Ifaty and Perinet.

Blue Vanga ◇ *Cyanolanius madagascarinus* A handful at Perinet and Mantadia.

Rufous Vanga ◇ *Schetba rufa* Seven at Ampijoroa, one flock of five.

Tylas Vanga ◇ *Tylas eduardi* A handful in mixed flocks at Perinet and Mantadia.

Nuthatch Vanga ◇ *Hypositta corallirostris* Several good views at Perinet and Mantadia, more than normal.



Lafresnaye's Vanga and Hook-billed Vanga at Ifaty (Chris Kehoe)

Dark Newtonia ◇ *Newtonia amphichroa* Three together at Mantadia.

Common Newtonia ◇ *Newtonia brunneicauda* Widespread, often common, more heard than seen though.

Archbold's Newtonia ◇ *Newtonia archboldi* Great views at Ifaty.

Ward's Flycatcher ◇ (W's Vanga) *Pseudobias wardi* A handful at Perinet.

Crossley's Vanga ◇ (C's Babbler) *Mystacornis crossleyi* Great views at Mantadia and more briefly at Perinet.

Madagascar Cuckooshrike ◇ *Coracina cinerea* Noted first at Ampijoroa, a few elsewhere.

Crested Drongo *Dicrurus forficatus* Widespread and common.

Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher ◇ *Terpsiphone mutata* Several at Ampijoroa and plenty at Perinet and Mantadia.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* A few in open country north of Tana and near Ifaty.

Madagascan Lark ◇ *Eremopterix hova* Numerous in arid areas.

Malagasy Bulbul ◇ *Hypsipetes madagascariensis* Common and widespread.

Mascarene Martin ◇ *Phedina borbonica* A few at Tana airport and one at Perinet.

Malagasy Brush Warbler ◇ *Nesillas typica* Widespread and fairly common in the east, more heard than seen.



Archbold's Newtonia and Stripe-throated Jery at Ifaty (Chris Kehoe)



Souimanga Sunbird and Madagascan White-eye at Perinet (Chris Kehoe)

Subdesert Brush Warbler ◇ *Nesillas lantzii* Common in the arid southwest.

Madagascan Swamp Warbler ◇ *Acrocephalus newtoni* Two at Tulear Lakes and one at Mantadia.

Brown Emutail ◇ *Bradypterus brunneus* Two briefly at Mantadia, others heard there.

White-throated Oxlabyes *Oxlabyes madagascariensis* A handful showed well at Mantadia.

Long-billed Bernieria (L-b Greenbul) *Bernieria madagascariensis* Several at Perinet and Mantadia.

Wedge-tailed Jery ◇ *Hartertula flavoviridis* Two at Mantadia.

Thamnornis ◇ (T Warbler) *Thamnornis chloropetoides* Some good views at Ifaty.

Spectacled Tetraka ◇ (Short-billed T, S Greenbul) *Xanthomixis zosterops* Seen best at Mantadia.

Grey-crowned Tetraka (G-c Greenbul) *Xanthomixis cinereiceps* (NL) One at Mantadia.

Rand's Warbler ◊ *Randia pseudozosterops* A couple at Perinet and Mantadia but largely silent.
Common Jery ◊ *Neomixis tenella* Common throughout but many more heard than seen.
Green Jery ◊ *Neomixis viridis* Just one at Perinet.
Stripe-throated Jery ◊ *Neomixis striatigula* Noted at Ifaty and Perinet.
Madagascan Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola cherina* Several near Tulear.
Malagasy White-eye ◊ *Zosterops maderaspatanus* Several at Ampijoroa and Perinet.
Common Myna ◊ (introduced) *Acridotheres tristis* Widespread, locally common.
Madagascan Starling ◊ *Hartlaubius auratus* Two in the scope at Perinet.
Madagascan Magpie-Robin ◊ *Copsychus albospecularis* Widespread and fairly common.
Madagascan Stonechat ◊ *Saxicola sibilla* A few, often as we travelled.
Souimanga Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris sovimanga* Widespread and common.
Malagasy Green Sunbird ◊ (Long-billed G S) *Cinnyris notatus* Ones and twos at several sites.
Nelicourvi Weaver ◊ *Ploceus nelicourvi* A handful at Perinet and Mantadia.
Sakalava Weaver ◊ *Ploceus sakalava* A few at Ampijoroa and many at Ifaty.
Red Fody ◊ *Foudia madagascariensis* Small numbers in Tana and numerous at Ifaty.
Madagascan Mannikin ◊ (M Bibfinch) *Lepidopygia nana* Noted at Ampijoroa and Tulear.
Madagascan Wagtail ◊ *Motacilla flaviventris* Noted occasionally after the first in Tana.

MAMMALS



Indri at Perinet and Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec at Ifaty (Chris Kehoe)

Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec *Echinops telfairi* One at Ifaty.
Grey Mouse Lemur *Microcebus murinus* Five at Ampijoroa.
Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur edwardsi* Three at Ampijoroa
Hubbard's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur hubbardi* Three at Ifaty
White-footed Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur leucopus*
Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur (G B L) *Haplemur griseus* A couple at Perinet.
Mongoose Lemur *Eulemur mongoz* Brief views at Ampijoroa at dusk.
Eastern Avahi (E Woolly Lemur) *Avahi laniger* A couple at Perinet.
Western Avahi (W Woolly Lemur) *Avahi occidentalis* Three at Ampijoroa.
Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus diadema* Seen well at Perinet and Mantadia.
Coquerel's Sifaka *Propithecus coquereli* Several at Ampijoroa.
Indri *Indri indri* Several troupes seen and others heard at Perinet and Mantadia.
Eastern Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus* Two at Mantadia.



Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur at Mantadia (Chris Kehoe)