



Madagascar Blue Pigeon (Chris Kehoe)

BEST OF MADAGASCAR

30 OCTOBER – 11 NOVEMBER 2017

LEADER: CHRIS KEHOE

Our recent shorter tour to the endemic-rich island of Madagascar was a hugely enjoyable exploration of three major biomes, the dry forest and lakes of the north, the coast, scrub and remarkable spiny forest of the west and the rich upland rainforests of the east. Truly special birds were found everywhere we went with particular highlights being White-breasted Mesites, Sickle-billed Vangas, Madagascar Fish Eagles and the stunning Schlegel's Asity in the north, Long-tailed Ground Roller, Red-shouldered Vanga and Crab Plover in the west and Short-legged, Scaly and Pitta-like Ground Rollers, Cuckoo Roller, Velvet Asity and Collared Nightjar in the east, ensuring that members of all the endemic bird families were recorded on the tour. Mammals were a feature of the tour too with diminutive Mouse Lemurs and noisy Indris at the opposite ends of the size spectrum while Coquerel's and Diademed Sifakas impressed with their agility. There really is nowhere quite like Madagascar and despite its shorter duration this tour does far more than simply scratch the surface of the wonders on offer there.

Our tour began at a hotel near Tana Airport where we had just enough time to see the likes of Red Fodys and Madagascar Wagtails near our rooms before the light faded and distant Madagascar Nightjars began calling.

We began the long drive north to Ampijoroa long before dawn. As the sun rose we admired an impressive central plateau landscape with short stops to stretch our legs producing Madagascar Bushlarks and Cisticolas plus Souimanga Sunbirds, Madagascar Buzzard and others. After a stop for an early lunch we spent 30 minutes at the Betsiboka River crossing where several Madagascar Pratincoles showed well and our first Olive Bee-eaters and Malagasy Kestrel were noted. A final stop before we reached Ampijoroa station was at a roadside wetland where we were delighted to see a rare Humblot's Heron and three Madagascar Jacanas plus a couple of African Pygmy geese and several African Palm Swifts. On arrival at Ampijoroa we began birding immediately in the parking area where Chabert Vanga, Hook-billed Vanga, Lesser Vasa Parrots and many Broad-billed Rollers were on show along with a busy troupe of Coquerel's Sifakas. After dropping off our bags we made our way to Lac Ravelobe where a boat took us on an hour-long tour of the lake where we found a couple of Malagasy Pond Herons, several Madagascar Kingfishers, a few Three-banded Plovers, Madagascar Harrier Hawk and the top target here, a pair of showy Madagascar Fish Eagles. Back at the station the light was starting to fade but we had decent views of Grey-headed Lovebird, Madagascar Bulbul and Sickle-billed Vangas before dark. After dinner a quick spotlighting session near our rooms gave us some noisy Milne-Edwards's Sportive Lemurs and a Torotoroka Scops Owl, one of several calling birds tonight.



The Central Plateau between Tana and Ampijoroa (Chris Kehoe)

Just before dawn we set off into the forest at the north end of Lac Ravelobe. Our first Long-billed Bernierias and Malagasy Paradise Flycatchers were quickly found but we did not linger as we had bigger fish to fry in the shape of the amazing Schlegel's Asity. We left the forest an hour later having enjoyed wonderful views of two males and a female Asity. It was now time to explore a slightly different type of dry forest above the station where we quite quickly found our first target when a dapper Red-capped Coua appeared on the path in front of us, the first of several seen this morning. A little while later a Coquerel's Coua obliged and shortly after that a Crested Coua put on a good show. Rufous Vangas showed several times this morning but soon after the first we heard the calls of White-breasted Mesites that showed well striding through the leaf litter. A

roosting Totoroka Scops Owl showed very well too before we continued our pursuit of one remaining target, the scarce and very localised Van Dam's Vanga, two pairs of which were eventually seen well. The supporting cast this morning included Common Newtonias, White-headed and Blue Vangas and Madagascar Turtle Doves. After a leisurely lunch we continued birding around the station grounds where Madagascar Green Pigeon was new and we had repeat views of several species. With no remaining targets to search for in the area we opted for another boat trip on the lake where, predictably, the species composition was very similar to yesterday. After dark we drove to a small track where an hour of spotlighting gave us several Grey Mouse Lemurs, a brief Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur, Oustelet's Chameleons and fine spotlight views of a flying Madagascar Nightjar.



Schlegel's Asity and Sickle-billed Vanga at Ampijoroa (Chris Kehoe)

With a little time available before we had to commence the return journey to Tana we birded around Ampijoroa Station for 90 minutes with rewards in the shape of Madagascar Cuckoo, Madagascar Coucal, Malagasy Green Sunbird and Hook-billed Vanga, the latter a catch-up species for most. The rest of the day was spent driving but with occasional short stops and a longer lunch break during which we saw a displaying male Malagasy Harrier and our first Madagascar Stonechat. A further extended stop about 90 minutes north of Tana gave us two more Malagasy Harriers and we reached our comfortable hotel a little before sunset.

We were at Tana Airport early the next morning with Red Fodys, Madagascar Wagtails, Mascarene Martins and both Little and Madagascar Black Swifts seen while we waited for our flight to Tulear. On arrival at Tulear we immediately set off to the nearby coral rag scrub of Tulear Tablelands. Our local guide took us straight to the nest of a Verreaux's Coua that gave good views before we set off along a track to a current territory of the fabled Red-shouldered Vanga, a highly distinctive species that, remarkably, was only discovered in 1997. After a short wait we heard the Vanga calling and a few moments later enjoyed fine views of an obliging pair. With both of our top targets safely on the list we could relax a little and look at other species before the temperature got too hot. Common Newtonia and Common Jery were both seen again but Subdesert Brush Warbler and Stripe-throated Jery were both new and we saw another Verreaux's Coua before returning towards our vehicles. Along the way we had good but brief views of a Running Coua and just as we were about to depart, a Lafresnaye's Vanga popped into view and while watching it a Chabert Vanga of the local, white-tailed, subspecies also appeared. It was now decidedly hot so we decamped to our hotel and had a leisurely lunch while waiting for the heat to subside. In the evening we returned to the tablelands where 'Brown-capped' Couas gave a couple of brief views, two more Verreaux's Couas posed nicely and our first Sakalava Weavers included striking males building their elaborate nest. Back at the hotel a couple of Madagascar Nightjars were hawking around at dusk.

The next morning we visited an area near the coast at Tulear where, after a short wait, the hoped-for Madagascar Sandgrouse appeared at its drinking hole and showed very well before flying right past us. Also here were several Madagascar Mannikins, Cisticolas and Larks plus several Grey-headed Lovebirds and a couple of Madagascar Coucals. Nearby, our hard-working local guide tracked down a 'Brown-capped' Coua for improved views. We then made our way up the coast towards Ifaty. A 90-minute stop at Tulear Lakes gave us a surprise Madagascar Plover amongst the many Kittlitz's Plovers and a few Palearctic shorebirds. Also here were Madagascar Swamp Warblers, a few Hottentot Teals, Greater Flamingos and Common Little Grebes plus our only Barn Swallows and a few Madagascar Black Swifts. Closer to Ifaty we stopped to watch a Three-banded Plover at some roadside pools. By now it was rather hot so we continued to our hotel for lunch and a siesta. Once the temperature began to fall we visited the nearby spiny forest where in a couple of hours we saw a splendid Subdesert Mesite, a nesting Madagascar Sparrowhawk, Crested and Running Couas, Greater and Lesser Vasa Parrots, Sickle-billed Vanga, a nesting Madagascar Nightjar and the real star of the show, a fantastic Long-tailed Ground Roller. Also seen was an as yet not formally described species of Sportive Lemur while back at our hotel two Grey Mouse Lemurs emerged from under the restaurant roof at dusk and a Hubbard's Sportive Lemur was in a small tree next to our dinner table.



Long-tailed Ground Roller (Chris Kehoe)

We were back in the Spiny Forest at sunrise with just a few remaining targets to find. One by one we enjoyed great views of each, namely Archbold's Newtonia, Thamnornis Warbler and Madagascar Buttonquail along with the likes of Chabert Vanga, Grey-headed Lovebirds and a showy pair of Greater Vasa Parrots. We then visited nearby Ifaty salt pans where further Madagascar Plovers, White-fronted Plover and Caspian Tern were all seen well along with a few Palearctic shorebirds. A little further along the coast several Grey Plovers and Whimbrel were sitting on a sandspit waiting for the tide to fall and amongst them was a pair of much-wanted Crab Plovers. During the hot part of the day we relaxed at the hotel before returning to the spiny forest where Red-tailed Vanga was new, a Lafresnaye's Vanga was seen on its nest and various previously seen species were found.

We began the return journey to Tulear soon after dawn. At Ifaty salt pans both Humblot's and Grey Heron were with the egret flocks along with several commoner shorebirds. The Crab Plovers were still on their sandspit while Tulear Lakes produced a locally rare Wood Sandpiper. Our flight to Tana departed on time and after dropping off our bags and a bite to eat we drove across town to Lac Alarobia. Masses of Red-billed Teal and White-faced Whistling Ducks thronged the lake and after a few moments we located the first of several rare Meller's Ducks. Many herons and egrets were nesting on the island and amongst them we found a single Malagasy Pond Heron. A couple of Madagascar Grebes were a welcome surprise. Madagascar Brush Warblers and White-eyes were new for some and after trying a few likely looking spots we had splendid views of an adult and two full grown young White-throated Rails. Just as we were about to leave a pair of Knob-billed Ducks flew in to round off a very pleasant and productive couple of hours city birding.



Humblot's Heron and Great Egrets (Chris Kehoe)

Most of the next morning was spent driving east to our hotel on the edge of Perinet Special Reserve. A stop at the Mangoro Bridge gave us a couple of Madagascar Pratincoles plus a busy group of screaming Madagascar Black Swifts. While eating lunch at the hotel a young White-throated Rail fed unconcernedly below us as Chabert Vangas, Madagascar White-eyes, Green Jery and others came and went. Later on, we were taken to see an excellent Madagascar Owl roosting in a pine tree and shortly afterwards a Rainforest Scops Owl showed at close range deep inside a bush. We then visited the nearby VOI reserve where it didn't take too long to track down a pair of hoped-for Red-breasted Couas for excellent views of this sometimes tricky species. Rain began to fall so we made our way towards the waiting bus with a rather damp looking Indri and a couple of Nelicourvi Weavers seen along the way.

After an early breakfast, and scope views of Rand's Warbler and Indri from the hotel restaurant we set off in 4x4's on a rather bumpy ride to the primary forest at Mantadia. Stopping along the road before the main trail system gave us a couple of brief Madagascar Starlings and, better still, two noisy displaying Cuckoo Rollers high in the blue sky. Madagascar Spinetails were new for some here too before we set off into the forest. A mixed flock of Vangas contained our first Tylas but there was no sight or sound of the hoped-for Short-legged Ground Roller so we set off along the road to check another area. Eventually a Ground Roller was heard and after hacking up a wooded slope we enjoyed good views of a pair. Elsewhere, a Madagascar Ibis showed well sitting in a tree near its nest and as the sky darkened and rain began to fall a Scaly Ground Roller gave a series of good views to most. We ate our box lunches in a small shelter while waiting for the rain to stop, when it did we visited a small lake where a pair of Madagascar Grebes were sporting their

dapper breeding plumage. We then revisited the Scaly Ground Roller which showed beautifully before the rain returned and we commenced the return journey towards Andasibe. Just beyond the Mantadia gate a couple of Madagascar Rails were coaxed into view as many Mascarene and a couple of Brown-throated Martins appeared as the rain returned and we retreated to the hotel for a while. It was dry at dusk so we set off on a short walk that produced a Pitta-like Ground Roller in the half-light plus a few distant Dwarf Lemurs and a selection of chameleons and frogs.

A little before dawn we were travelling along a bumpy road towards Antavolobe. Having picked up a local guide and a couple of porters from a nearby village we set off on the two-hour hike into the reserve but there was birding interest along the way with our first Dark Newtonias and several previously seen species found, though a calling Rufous-headed Ground Roller refused to show itself, despite approaching closely. As no active Helmet Vanga nest had been located it was always going to be tricky to connect with this rare species and after many hours we had to admit defeat, though several mixed Vanga flocks had been found to hold our interest, Nuthatch Vanga and Wedge-tailed Jery were added to our list and we had fine views of a striking male Common Sunbird Asity and a couple of Velvet Asitys.



Indri (Chris Kehoe)

We began the next morning at Perinet with absolutely stunning views of a Crossley's Vanga that crept about like a rail. Next up was a fantastic Collared Nightjar incubating two chicks just a couple of metres away. Madagascar Wood Rail was our next target and they led us a bit of a merry dance before eventually showing well running along the trail. We concluded an excellent morning with wonderful views of three Indris, feeding or slumbering unconcernedly, at very close range. In the afternoon we visited an area of open swampland at Ifotsy, where a Grey Emutail gave several flight views and a couple of brief perched views, three of four Madagascar Snipe were flushed and gave good fly-by views while a male Madagascar Flufftail gave mostly frustrating views as it scuttled through cover, though at one point it did walk between the tour leader's legs! Many Brown-throated Martins appeared, probably moving ahead of oncoming rain, for as we returned

towards the waiting bus the sky darkened, the wind began to howl and heavy rain, then hail, began to fall giving us a good soaking.

Our final morning was spent back at Perinet; new species were inevitably hard to come by but we managed to add Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher to our list while also enjoying excellent views of the likes of Pitta-like Ground Roller, Madagascan Ibis feeding along a quiet trail and a very confident Red-fronted Coua. Before returning to the hotel for some final packing and lunch we visited a couple of sites for Madagascar Flufftail, eventually securing sensational views of a calling male at very close range. During the drive back to Tana where the tour ended, the votes for Bird of the Trip were gathered with the following result:

- 1 – White-breasted Mesite.
- 2 – Pitta-like Ground Roller
- 3 – Long-tailed Ground Roller
- 4 – Schlegel's Asity
- 5 – Collared Nightjar



Sakalava Weaver nests in a Baobab (Chris Kehoe)



Madagascar Buttonquail (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* A dozen at Lac Ravelobe, hundreds at Lac Alarobia.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* Two at Lac Alarobia.

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus* Two near Ampijoroa.

Meller's Duck ◊ *Anas melleri* At least 10 at Lac Alarobia.

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* Hundreds at Lac Alarobia, smaller numbers elsewhere.

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota* Up to 10 at Tulear Lakes and 20 at Lac Alarobia.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* About 20 at Tulear Lakes.

Madagascar Grebe ◊ *Tachybaptus pelzelinii* Two at Lac Alarobia and two at Mantadia.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* Six at Tulear Lakes

Madagascar Ibis ◊ (M Crested I) *Lophotibis cristata* Very good views at Mantadia and Perinet.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Over 100 at Lac Alarobia.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Regularly seen at various wetlands.
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Common at Lac Ravelobe and Lac Alarobia, a few elsewhere.
Malagasy Pond Heron ◊ *Ardeola idea* Two at Lac Ravelobe and one t Lac Alarobia.
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Locally common, nesting at Ampijoroa and in Tana.
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* One at Ifaty salt pans.
Humblot's Heron ◊ *Ardea humbloti* One near Ampijoroa and another at Ifaty salt pans.



Meller's Ducks and Red-billed Teal (Chris Kehoe)

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* One near Ampijoroa and another at Ifotsy.
Great Egret *Ardea alba* Present at most wetlands.
Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* Common at Lac Alarobia and Lac Ravelobe.
Dimorphic Egret ◊ *Egretta dimorpha* Many breeding at Lac Alarobia and several elsewhere.
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* Two at Tulear Lakes, three east of Tana.
Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus* One at Lac Ravelobe.
Madagascan Harrier-Hawk ◊ *Polyboroides radiatus* One at Lac Ravelobe then a handful in the west.
Frances's Sparrowhawk ◊ *Accipiter francesiae* Two at Ampijoroa.
Madagascan Sparrowhawk ◊ *Accipiter madagascariensis* One at its nest at Ifaty.
Malagasy Harrier ◊ *Circus macroscelus* Three, two males, on the Central Plateau north of Tana.
Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Widespread encounters
Madagascan Fish Eagle ◊ *Haliaeetus vociferoides* A pair at Lac Ravelobe showed well.
Madagascan Buzzard ◊ *Buteo brachypterus* Regular encounters throughout.
White-breasted Mesite ◊ *Mesitornis variegatus* Great views of two pairs at Ampijoroa.
Subdesert Mesite ◊ *Monias benschi* A 'treed' female at Ifaty.
Madagascan Wood Rail ◊ *Canirallus kioloides* Three or four at Perinet.
Madagascan Flufftail ◊ *Sarothrura insularis* Stellar views near VOI after one at Ifotsy.
Madagascan Rail ◊ *Rallus madagascariensis* Two or three scuttled past near Mantadia Gate.
White-throated Rail ◊ *Dryolimnas cuvieri* Great views at Lac Alarobia and at our hotel near Perinet.
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* A few near Ampijoroa, Tulear and Lac Alarobia.
Madagascan Buttonquail ◊ *Turnix nigricollis* Great views at Ifaty.
Crab-plover *Dromas ardeola* Two near Ifaty on two dates.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Several in the west.
Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* Ten near Ifaty.
Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* A handful at Tulear Lakes.



Subdesert Mesite (Chris Kehoe)

Madagascan Plover ♦ *Charadrius thoracicus* One at Tulear Lakes and two near Ifaty.
Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* Common in the west.
Three-banded Plover ♦ *Charadrius tricollaris* Up to eight at Lac Ravelobe and one near Ifaty.



Madagascan Plover and Sandgrouse (Chris Kehoe)

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus* Several near Ifaty.

Madagascar Jacana ◇ *Actophilornis albinucha* Three near Ampijoroa and one on Lac Ravelobe.
Madagascar Snipe ◇ *Gallinago macrodactyla* Three or four at Ifatsy.
Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* About 40 near Ifaty.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* One at Tulear Lakes.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* A handful in the west.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* A couple at Ampijoroa and near Ifaty.
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* A couple near Ifaty.
Sanderling *Calidris alba* 15 near Ifaty.
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* About 50 along the west coast.
Madagascar Pratincole ◇ *Glareola ocularis* Up to six at the Betsiboka and Mangoro River crossings.
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* Two at Ifaty.
Madagascar Sandgrouse ◇ *Pterocles personatus* Great views of one near Tulear



Totoroka Scops Owl (Chris Kehoe)

Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* Present in some built up areas.
Malagasy Turtle Dove ◇ *Nesoenas picturatus* A handful at Ampijoroa, several in the west
Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* Several in more arid areas, mainly in the west.
Madagascar Green Pigeon ◇ *Treron australis* Two at Ampijoroa, one on a nest.
Madagascar Blue Pigeon ◇ *Alectroenas madagascariensis* Up to 20 in the east.
Malagasy Coucal ◇ *Centropus toulou* Seen at Ampijoroa, Tulear and in the east.
Crested Coua ◇ *Coua cristata* One at Ampijoroa, another at Ifaty
Verreaux's Coua ◇ *Coua verreauxi* Four at Tulear Tablelands.
Blue Coua ◇ *Coua caerulea* Several in the east
Red-capped Coua ◇ *Coua [ruficeps] ruficeps* Great views of six at Ampijoroa.
Red-capped Coua ◇ (Olive, Brown or Green-c C) *Coua [ruficeps] olivaceiceps* Two at Tulear.
Red-fronted Coua ◇ *Coua reynaudii* Two at Antavolobe and a showy bird at Perinet.
Coquerel's Coua ◇ *Coua coquereli* Three at Ampijoroa.

Running Coua ◇ *Coua cursor* One at Tulear Tablelands and another at Ifaty.
Red-breasted Coua ◇ *Coua serriana* Seen well at VOI and Antavolobe.
Madagascar Cuckoo ◇ *Cuculus rochii* seen at Ampijoroa, Mantadia and Ifotsy, many others heard.
Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba* One flew past at Ampijoroa
Torotoroka Scops Owl ◇ *Otus madagascariensis* Two at Ampijoroa, one roosting, several more heard there.
Rainforest Scops Owl ◇ *Otus rutilus* One roosting near Perinet, others heard in the east
Madagascar Owl ◇ *Asio madagascariensis* One at its day roost near Perinet.
Collared Nightjar ◇ *Gactornis enarratus* Great views of an adult incubating two chicks at Perinet.
Madagascar Nightjar ◇ *Caprimulgus madagascariensis* Seen well at Ampijoroa, Tulear and Ifaty, others heard
Madagascar Spinetail ◇ *Zoonavena grandidieri* One at Ifaty and about 10 at Mantadia.



Madagascar Nightjar (Chris Kehoe)

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* Several at and near Ampijoroa.
Malagasy Black Swift ◇ *Apus balstoni* Three over Tana Airport and four the Mangoro River crossing.
Little Swift *Apus affinis* One over Tana Airport.
Cuckoo Roller ◇ *Leptosomus discolor* Seen in display flight at Mantadia and Antavolobe, others heard.
Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* Numerous and noisy at Ampijoroa, smaller numbers elsewhere.
Short-legged Ground Roller ◇ *Brachypteracias leptosomus* Two at Mantadia, heard at Antavolobe.
Scaly Ground Roller ◇ *Geobiastes squamiger* One attending a nest at Mantadia.
Pitta-like Ground Roller ◇ *Atelornis pittoides* Two singles at Perinet, one gave splendid views.
Rufous-headed Ground Roller ◇ *Atelornis crossleyi* (H) Heard near Antavolobe but refused to show.
Long-tailed Ground Roller ◇ *Uratelornis chimaera* Great views at Ifaty.
Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher ◇ *Corythornis madagascariensis* Three at Perinet on the final morning.
Malagasy Kingfisher ◇ (Madagascar Malachite K) *Corythornis vintsioides* Widespread encounters.
Olive Bee-eater (Madagascar B-e) *Merops superciliosus* Widespread, often common.
Madagascar Hoopoe ◇ *Upupa marginata* Several at Ampijoroa and a couple near Ifaty.
Malagasy Kestrel ◇ *Falco newtoni* Widespread encounters.
Greater Vasa Parrot ◇ *Coracopsis vasa* A handful at Ifaty.
Lesser Vasa Parrot ◇ *Coracopsis nigra* Frequently seen after the first at Ampijoroa.
Grey-headed Lovebird ◇ *Agapornis canus* Noted at Ampijoroa and especially around Tulear and Ifaty.
Velvet Asity ◇ *Philepitta castanea* One at Mantadia and two, both males, at Antavolobe.

Schlegel's Asity ◇ *Philepitta schlegeli* Fabulous views of three, two males, at Ampijoroa.
Common Sunbird-Asity ◇ *Neodrepanis coruscans* Wonderful views of a male at Antavolobe.
Red-tailed Vanga ◇ *Calicalicus madagascariensis* One at Ifaty and several in the east.
Red-shouldered Vanga ◇ *Calicalicus rufocarpalis* Great views of a pair at Tulear Tablelands.
Hook-billed Vanga ◇ *Vanga curvirostris* One at Ampijoroa on two occasions, heard at Perinet.



Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher and Olive Bee-eater (Chris Kehoe)

Lafresnaye's Vanga ◇ *Xenopirostris xenopirostris* One at Tulear Tablelands, another on a nest at Ifaty.
Van Dam's Vanga ◇ *Xenopirostris damii* Good views of three at Ampijoroa.
Sickle-billed Vanga ◇ *Falcula palliata* Great views at Ampijoroa, where nesting, a couple at Ifaty.
White-headed Vanga ◇ *Artamella viridis* A few at Ampijoroa and in the west.
Chabert Vanga ◇ *Leptopterus chabert* Several encounters after the first at Ampijoroa.
Blue Vanga ◇ *Cyanolanius madagascarinus* A handful at Ampijoroa and Perinet/Mantadia.
Rufous Vanga ◇ *Schetba rufa* Up to eight at Ampijoroa.
Tylas Vanga ◇ *Tylas eduardi* Several at Mantadia and Antavolobe.
Nuthatch Vanga ◇ *Hypositta corallirostris* A couple at Antavolobe.
Dark Newtonia ◇ *Newtonia amphichroa* Two at Antavolobe.
Common Newtonia ◇ *Newtonia brunneicauda* Common and widespread in more wooded areas.
Archbold's Newtonia ◇ *Newtonia archboldi* Close views of two at Ifaty.
Ward's Flycatcher ◇ (W's Vanga) *Pseudobias wardi* Three at Mantadia.
Crossley's Vanga ◇ (C's Babbler) *Mystacornis crossleyi* Fabulous views at Perinet.
Madagascar Cuckooshrike ◇ (Ashy C) *Coracina cinerea* Good views at Ampijoroa and Perinet.
Crested Drongo *Dicrurus forficatus* Widespread and common.
Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher ◇ *Terpsiphone mutata* Common in the east and a handful at Ampijoroa.
Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Common in arid areas.
Madagascar Lark ◇ *Eremopterix hova* Several in more arid areas.
Malagasy Bulbul ◇ *Hypsipetes madagascariensis* Common and widespread.
Mascarene Martin ◇ *Phedina borbonica* Locally common.
Brown-throated Martin (Plain M) *Riparia paludicola* About 100 at Ifotsy, a couple elsewhere in the east.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* A handful near Tulear
Malagasy Brush Warbler ◇ *Nesillas typica* Numerous in the east.

Subdesert Brush Warbler ◇ *Nesillas lantzii* Common around Tulear and Ifaty.
Madagascan Swamp Warbler ◇ *Acrocephalus newtoni* A handful at Tulear Lakes and Mantadia.
Grey Emutail ◇ *Amphispalis seebohmi* One at Ifotsy.
White-throated Oxylabes *Oxylabes madagascariensis* Three at Mantadia.
Long-billed Bernieria *Bernieria madagascariensis* Several at Ampijoroa, a couple elsewhere.
Wedge-tailed Jery ◇ *Hartertula flavoviridis* Good views at Antavolobe, heard at Perinet.
Thamnornis ◇ (T Warbler) *Thamnornis chloropetoides* Great views at Ifaty.



Souimanga Sunbird and Thamnornis (Chris Kehoe)

Spectacled Tetraka ◇ (Short-billed T, S Greenbul) *Xanthomixis zosterops* Several at Perinet and VOI.
Rand's Warbler ◇ *Randia pseudozosterops* A handful at Perinet/ Mantadia.
Common Jery ◇ *Neomixis tenella* Widespread around Ampijoroa and in the west, less so in the east.
Green Jery ◇ *Neomixis viridis* A handful seen and others heard in the eastern rainforests.
Stripe-throated Jery ◇ *Neomixis striatigula* Numerous at Tulear, Ifaty and in the east.
Madagascan Cisticola ◇ *Cisticola cherina* Fairly common in some arid areas.
Malagasy White-eye ◇ *Zosterops maderaspatanus* Widespread in small numbers after the first in Tana.
Common Myna ◇ (introduced) *Acridotheres tristis* Widespread and often common.
Madagascan Starling ◇ *Hartlaubius auratus* Twos at Mantadia and Antavolobe
Madagascan Magpie-Robin ◇ *Copsychus albospecularis* widespread encounters.
Forest Rock Thrush ◇ *Monticola sharpei* One at Antavolobe
Madagascan Stonechat ◇ *Saxicola sibilla* A couple on the Central Plateau, at Mantadia and near Perinet.
Souimanga Sunbird ◇ *Cinnyris sovimanga* Common and widespread.
Malagasy Green Sunbird ◇ (Long-billed G S) *Cinnyris notatus* Just one male at Ampijoroa.
Nelicourvi Weaver ◇ *Ploceus nelicourvi* Fairly common in the eastern rainforests.
Sakalava Weaver ◇ *Ploceus sakalava* Numerous in the far west, especially around Ifaty.
Red Fody ◇ *Foudia madagascariensis* Widespread and locally common, absent in rainforest.
Forest Fody ◇ *Foudia omissa* A handful at Mantadia.
Madagascan Mannikin ◇ (M Bibfinch) *Lepidopygia nana* About 40 at three Tulear sites.
Madagascan Wagtail ◇ *Motacilla flaviventris* A few at Tana and Perinet.

MAMMALS

Grey Mouse Lemur *Microcebus murinus* Several at Ampijoroa and two at Ifaty.

Grey-brown Mouse Lemur (Reddish-grey M L) *Microcebus griseorufus* Several at Ampijoroa.

Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur edwardsi* A few seen and others heard at Ampijoroa.

Hubbard's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur hubbardi* One at Ifaty.

Mongoose Lemur *Eulemur mongoz* a handful at Ampijoroa

Common Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus* Noted at Ampijoroa and Perinet.

Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus diadema* Noted at Perinet and Mantadia, good views.

Coquerel's Sifaka *Propithecus coquereli* Prominent at Ampijoroa.

Indri *Indri indri* Great looks at Perinet where their haunting calls are unforgettable.

Eastern Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus* Two at Mantadia.



Coquerel's Sifaka (Chris Kehoe)