



*Running Coua at Ifaty (Chris Kehoe)*

# MADAGASCAR

**4 – 15 AUGUST 2015**

**LEADER: CHRIS KEHOE**

This new, shorter Madagascar itinerary proved a great success. We concentrated on three of the ornithologically richest areas of this dramatically diverse and fascinating island: the eastern rainforest, the stunning spiny forest in the south-west and the dry deciduous forest of the north. We had no trouble finding representatives of each endemic Malagasy bird family, seeing Madagascar Cuckoo-Roller, two species of Mesite, three species of Ground Roller, numerous examples of Malagasy Warblers and Vangas and three species of Asity, of which the sensational Schlegel's Asity was voted bird of the trip. The amazing Couas, perhaps themselves deserving of an upgrade to family status, were very well represented too with seven species seen, often exceptionally well with Blue and Running Couas especially popular. Further highlights included a nesting pair of Madagascar Fish Eagles, numerous Madagascar Nightjars and a stunning Collared Nightjar at a day roost, all three Madagascar *Accipiter* species, both endemic kingfishers, Banded Kestrel, Madagascar Plover (plus the likely to be split 'Madagascar' Three-banded Plover), Madagascar Ibises, Meller's Ducks and Madagascar Little Grebes. In addition we found eleven species of Lemurs including members of most groups, from wailing Indris and bouncing Sifakas to diminutive Mouse Lemurs. Overall the tour logistics ran fairly smoothly, though we had to endure one frustrating flight cancellation that cost us some time in the west. The weather throughout was very good apart from a few short showers in the eastern rainforest.

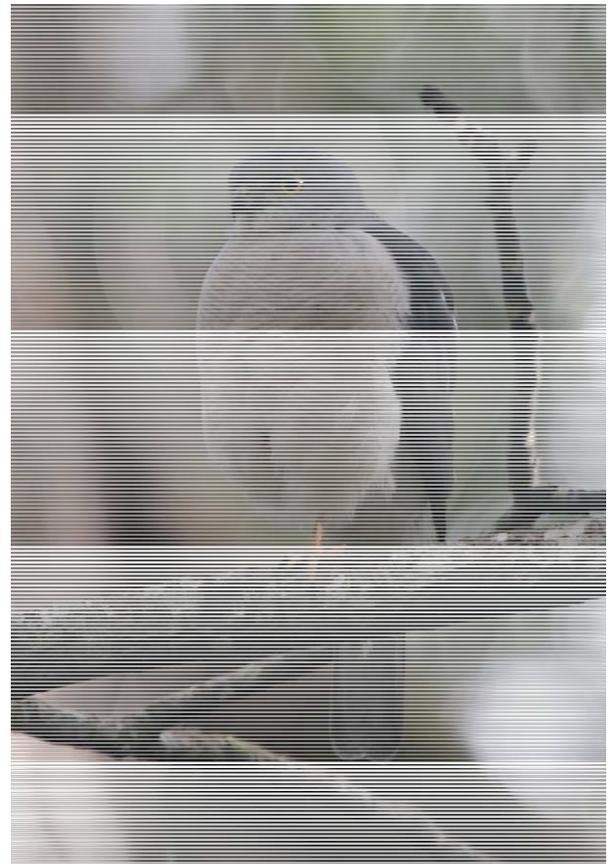


*Dawn in Antananarivo (Tana), the bustling capital and by far the largest town. (Chris Kehoe)*

After a couple of hours sleep we set off at dawn and soon arrived at the urban oasis of Lac Alarobia. Masses of Red-billed Teals and plenty of White-faced Whistling Ducks were on the lake along with a single Knob-billed Duck while lots of Dimorphic Egrets were on the island along with Western Cattle Egrets and several Black Herons. Malagasy Kingfishers showed well, a few Red Fodys were in the trees and we soon found a few Madagascar Brush Warblers. At a nearby pond at least 19 Meller's Ducks were a welcome sight as they occur here only erratically. Just as we were leaving a Madagascar Wagtail was watched. Most of the rest of the morning was taken up by the drive to Perinet, birds seen around our lodge there either side of lunch included Malagasy Bulbuls, Common Newtonia, Malagasy Paradise Flycatchers, Blue Vanga, Olive (or Madagascar) Bee-eater and Madagascar Buzzard. In the afternoon we visited nearby Perinet Special Reserve where new birds came thick and fast as Malagasy White-eyes and Madagascar Cuckooshrikes, Nelicourvi Weaver, Long-billed Bernieria, Red-tailed Vanga and Spectacled Tetrakas all appeared quickly. The early highlight though was a superb Velvet Asity at very close range while nearby a Common Sunbird-osity was equally obliging. Not long afterwards we were enjoying good views of our first Lemurs as a couple of Indris sat and stared at us from the treetops. Returning towards the park entrance we stopped to watch a few Lesser Vasa Parrots, some initially skulky White-throated Oxylobes and a Malagasy Coucal. We then left the park to search for roosting owls, though a superb Frances's Sparrowhawk perched at close range distracted us for a while. Dragging ourselves away we were soon watching a roosting Rainforest Scops Owl at the roadside while just around the corner a Madagascar Owl was watched in the scope as it slumbered in the canopy of a tall conifer. Finally, we visited a marshy area where we tried for Madagascar Rail though it proved rather uncooperative today with just a couple of people getting brief glimpses.

We spent the whole of the next morning back at Perinet Special Reserve where we covered many productive kilometres on the fine network of trails. Hook-billed Vanga was an early highlight near the entrance and soon afterwards we were enjoying repeat views of the likes of Blue Coua and Red-tailed Vanga. A group of Madagascar Wood Rails then gave a series of great view as they circled around us and soon afterwards some very dapper Diademed Sifakas put on a good show. A calling Red-breasted Coua refused to show itself but while maneuvering to try to get near it we found an unusually obliging pair of Crossley's Vangas that remained in view for several minutes. Indris were in evidence again, showing and giving their ear piercing calls at close range. Nuthatch and Tylas Vangas and a couple of Velvet Asitys showed well and a furtive Wedge-tailed Jery was new. A calling Henst's Goshawk was watched circling high above the forest and as we returned to the entrance a superb Madagascar Cuckoo Roller flew right overhead calling wildly. After lunch we concentrated on areas adjacent to the Special Reserve where our first Blue Pigeons showed very well perched in bare treetops. Nearby, a small mixed flock contained Stripe-throated and Common Jerys

plus a very obliging Rand's Warbler, a species more normally seen when singing from a high snag in the early morning. Ward's Vangas also put on a good show before we tried again for Madagascar Rail which today gave a series of good views. Not far away a lovely little Madagascan Flufftail performed very well at the roadside and we ended a very rail-rich day with two smart White-throated Rails in a roadside wetland as we returned towards the lodge.



*Indri and Frances's Sparrowhawk at Perinet (Chris Kehoe)*

After an early breakfast we set off on the rather bumpy ride to the excellent Mantadia National Park in two 4x4's. Our first stop this morning was at a short trail where we enjoyed perfect views of a Short-legged Ground Roller after a surprisingly short search - this species can often be tricky to find and sometimes requires strenuous effort to get near, though thankfully not today. Along another trail we were similarly successful with a fabulous Scaly Ground Roller that gave a series of excellent close views as it bounced along in the leaf litter. It then went a little quiet for a while but we had some fine views of mixed Vanga flocks containing the likes of Blue, Nuthatch and Tylas Vangas and Nelicourvi Weavers, as we searched for various more skulking species. A Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur showed very well and we had further views of Velvet Asity and others before visiting a small forest pool which held a pair of Madagascan Grebes and a couple of Meller's Ducks plus our first Madagascar Swamp Warbler. Overhead we watched soaring Malagasy Kestrels, Buzzards and Spinetails and a couple of Alpine Swifts also put in an appearance. A displaying Henst's Goshawk soared against a blue sky as we returned towards our vehicles for lunch and a small group of Madagascan Mannikins showed well at the roadside. After lunch and a short break we returned to the trails where we were quite quickly rewarded with fine views of an eventually very cooperative Red-fronted Coua. The journey back to Perinet produced nothing of great note but after a short rest at our lodgings we visited the VOI Reserve where we remained until after dark in the hope of seeing some nocturnal lemurs. In the event no lemurs were found though a singing Green Jery was seen well just before dusk. A Madagascan Crested Ibis called several times after dark but despite trying various routes we couldn't get anywhere near it. The real highlight this evening was several Madagascan Nightjars sitting on the roof of Andasibe Railway Station and sallying out from there to catch moths in the station lights.



*Short-legged Ground Roller at Mantadia (Chris Kehoe)*

The next morning we returned to Mantadia where we explored a trail that took us up onto a high ridge, though a short diversion first gave us a couple of scarce Grey-crowned Tetrakas in the valley below. Up on the ridge we eventually coaxed a Dark Newtonia into view while a Forest Rock Thrush put on an excellent show. Back on the road a couple of Madagascan Starlings appeared in a bare treetop briefly before we went in search of Pitta-like Ground Roller, a species which surprisingly evaded us, usually being the easiest of its clan to see. However, we did enjoy really fantastic close views of a roosting Collared Nightjar and were surprised to find two typically furtive and mouse-like Brown Emutails in rather atypical habitat. After our

picnic lunch we searched again for Pitta-like Ground Roller but drew a blank before driving back towards Perinet and visiting the VOI Reserve for a couple of hours. Our target here was Red-breasted Coua and we eventually had excellent views of a bird herded towards us by our hard working and skillful local guides.

We spent our final morning in the rainforest back at Perinet Special Reserve where, just beyond the gate, a group of six Madagascan Ibises appeared on the trail right ahead and lingered long enough for scope views in the early mist. We then went in search of Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher and were quite soon successful, eventually obtaining point-blank views of two birds. A search for Rufous-headed Ground Roller proved predictably unsuccessful but we had great views of several previously seen species such as Blue Coua, Blue Vanga and Tylas Vanga. After lunch we drove back to Tana where we stayed overnight.



*Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher at Perinet (Chris Kehoe)*

Air Madagascar's reputation for unreliability was unfortunately found to be fully justified today as we arrived at the airport to discover our flight to Tulear was cancelled. We had no option but to try to rebook for the following morning though we did enjoy excellent views of Mascarene Martins around the airport buildings. Once we had secured some rooms in a nearby hotel we removed to there and waited for news of the rebooking. There were a few interesting birds in the pleasant hotel grounds to hold our interest and a stroll there and along the lane outside gave us our first Squacco Herons, Madagascan Hoopoe and Malagasy Green Sunbird plus lots of Red Fodys and a few Madagascan Mannikins, Stonechats and Brush Warblers.

The flight to Tulear eventually left at 10.00 the next day and we reached there about 70 minutes later. The lost time made it impractical to visit the coral rag scrub near Tulear so we immediately drove north towards Ifaty to maximise our time in the wonderful spiny forest habitat there. Two short stops along the way gave us a 'Madagascan' Three-banded Plover and a pair of Madagascan Plovers, both of which showed beautifully. After a spot of lunch at our beach hotel we drove the short distance to the spiny forest where we spent the remainder of the afternoon and evening. A dedicated team of trackers spread out to search for our target birds but first we went to see a very showy roosting Madagascan Nightjar. Then it was time for Long-tailed Ground Roller and we lined up at a small clearing as the bird was gently ushered towards us for perfect views at close range. Moving on we went in search of Lafresnaye's Vanga, eventually having a series of

quite good views, with Sickle-billed, White-headed and Chabert Vangas seen along the way. We were then taken to see a 'treed' Subdesert Mesite that showed to perfection. A Madagascar Harrier Hawk was seen rather poorly but not so a very responsive *Thamnornis* Warbler. Our first Crested Coua bounced around in a treetop while a simply superb pair of Running Couas put on a fabulous performance at close range. We ended an excellent session with prolonged views of a Banded Kestrel atop a *Didieria* spike in the warm evening sunlight before returning to our hotel at sunset.



*'Madagascar' Three-banded Plover and Madagascar Plovers with a Kittlitz's Plover at Ifaty (Chris Kehoe)*

We were back in the Spiny Forest at sunrise with several remaining targets in mind. Eventually we found all of these: Archbold's *Newtonia* showed well after quite a search, Madagascar Harrier Hawk showed much better than yesterday and a Brown-capped Coua posed very nicely. Madagascar Sparrowhawk and Madagascar Buttonquail were good bonuses and several species seen the day before showed well again. We were packed and on our way to Tulear airport by late morning and our flight back to Tana left just half-an-hour late so that we were at our comfortable city hotel in time for drinks before dinner.



*Madagascar Nightjar at Ifaty (Chris Kehoe)*

Due to a late flight schedule change we opted to drive to Ampijoroa today to maximise our birding time. This meant an early start (though with Barn Owls as compensation in the hotel car park) and a long journey, albeit through a spectacular central plateau landscape and on good roads. By mid afternoon we were dropping off

our bags at our lodge near Ampijoroa and a few minutes later were watching Coquerel's Sifakas at the reserve HQ before boarding a small boat for a tour of Lac Ravelobe. The undoubted highlight this afternoon was the resident pair of critically endangered Madagascan Fish Eagles that eventually gave excellent views. The current breeding attempt is the first by this pair for four years while the latest population estimate for the species is a maximum of only 120 pairs. Also new this afternoon were Glossy Ibises and Purple Herons amongst the assembled other herons and egrets. Back on shore we watched a flock of Sickle-billed Vangas at the parking area where White-headed and Chabert Vangas and Grey-headed Lovebirds were also on view while the troop of Coquerel's Sifakas bounced past.

At first light the next morning we were on our way to an area of dry forest near the lake. Our target here was the fantastical Schlegel's Asity and after a fairly short search we found a pair that gave outstanding views at eye-level. A Madagascan Sparrowhawk here was a surprise but was seen very well. At another area of dry forest we quite soon found a Rufous Vanga before a Red-capped Coua put in an appearance. After further searching we eventually found a pair of showy Van Dam's Vangas. White-breasted Mesites gave us a bit of a runaround before everyone had views of three birds strutting along the trail. We then went in search of our final target, Coquerel's Coua, which quite soon appeared and gave superb views as it strolled right past us. We rounded off an excellent morning with cold drinks at the restaurant. After sitting out the heat of the afternoon we visited a small lake where a single Madagascar Jacana was in residence and a Madagascar Harrier Hawk flew past. Later in the evening we went in search of nocturnal Lemurs, finding a single Golden-brown Mouse Lemur and several Grey Mouse Lemurs.



*Madagascar Fish Eagle at Ampijoroa (Chris Kehoe)*

Before embarking on the long drive back to Tana we spent a couple of hours near the reserve HQ at Ampijoroa where, not unexpectedly, nothing new was found but we had great views of the likes of Madagascan Little Grebe, White-headed Vanga and Grey-headed Lovebirds while the Coquerel's Sifakas put on another fine show. There was little of note during the drive back to Tana though Madagascar Larks showed well. After a final dinner together in Tana most of the group traveled to the airport where the tour ended.

BIRD OF THE TRIP RESULTS:

- 1 - Schlegel's Asity 18 points
- 2 - Brown Emutail 11 points
- 3 - Running Coua 10 points
- 4 - Short-legged Ground Roller 7 points
- 5 - Sickle-billed Vanga 6 points



*Coquerel's Sifaka and admirers at Ampijoroa (Chris Kehoe)*



*Dawn in the Spiny Forest at Ifaty (Chris Kehoe)*



*Badlands on the high plateau north of Tana (Chris Kehoe)*



*Schlegel's Asity at Ampijoroa, 'bird of the trip' (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 near Ampijoroa.

**Knob-billed Duck (Comb D)** *Sarkidiornis melanotos* One at Lac Alarobia.

**Meller's Duck** ◊ *Anas melleri* Nineteen at Lac Alarobia and a couple at Mantadia.

**Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha* Many at Lac Alarobia.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (NL) One near Tulear.

**Madagascan Grebe** ◊ *Tachybaptus pelzelni* Two at Mantadia and one at Ampijoroa.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* Numerous at Ampijoroa.

**Madagascan Ibis** ◊ (M Crested I) *Lophotibis cristata* Six at Perinet, others heard there.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* Several at Lac Alarobia and Ampijoroa.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* A couple at Ampijoroa.

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* A few in Tana and at Ampijoroa.

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread in open country.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* One near Ifaty.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* Several at Ampijoroa.  
**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Small numbers in wetter areas.  
**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca* Common at Lac Alarobia and Ampijoroa, a few elsewhere.  
**Dimorphic Egret** ◊ *Egretta dimorpha* Seen at a few wetlands  
**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* (NL) One from the bus between Tana and Perinet.  
**Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C)** *Microcarbo africanus* (NL) Three near Tulear.  
**Madagascar Harrier-Hawk** ◊ *Polyboroides radiatus* Singles at Ifaty and Ampijoroa.  
**Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk** ◊ *Aviceda madagascariensis* (H) Heard at Perinet.  
**Frances's Sparrowhawk** ◊ *Accipiter francesiae* Singles at Perinet and Mantadia.  
**Madagascar Sparrowhawk** ◊ *Accipiter madagascariensis* Singles at Ifaty and Ampijoroa.  
**Henst's Goshawk** ◊ *Accipiter henstii* Singles at Perinet and Mantadia.



*Henst's Goshawk and Madagascar Grebe at Mantadia (Chris Kehoe)*

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius* A few in the uplands and near Ifaty.  
**Madagascar Fish Eagle** ◊ *Haliaeetus vociferoides* Great views of a nesting pair at Lac Ravelobe.  
**Madagascar Buzzard** ◊ *Buteo brachypterus* Widespread in small numbers.  
**White-breasted Mesite** ◊ *Mesitornis variegatus* Three at Ampijoroa.  
**Subdesert Mesite** ◊ *Monias benschi* A 'treed' female at Ifaty.  
**Madagascar Flufftail** ◊ *Sarothrura insularis* One near Mantadia gate, others heard in the Perinet area.  
**Madagascar Wood Rail** ◊ *Canirallus kiolooides* At least six seen at Perinet.  
**Madagascar Rail** ◊ *Rallus madagascariensis* Two near Mantadia Gate.  
**White-throated Rail** ◊ *Dryolimnas cuvieri* Three at Perinet.  
**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* A couple at Lac Alarobia and Mantadia.  
**Madagascar Buttonquail** ◊ *Turnix nigricollis* Four in one busy group at Ifaty.  
**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* (NL) A few near Tulear.  
**Madagascar Plover** ◊ *Charadrius thoracicus* Two near Ifaty.  
**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius* A handful near Ifaty.  
**Three-banded Plover** ◊ *Charadrius tricollaris* One near Ifaty.  
**Madagascar Jacana** ◊ *Actophilornis albinucha* One near Ampijoroa.  
**Eurasian Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* Several near Ifaty.  
**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* A handful near Ifaty.  
**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* A couple at random wetland sites.  
**Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)** *Columba livia* Several in towns and villages.

**Malagasy Turtle Dove** ◇ *Nesoenas picturata* Small numbers at all wooded sites.  
**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* Several in dry country in the west and near Ampijoroa.  
**Madagascar Green Pigeon** ◇ *Treron australis* A few at Mantadia and Ampijoroa.  
**Madagascan Blue Pigeon** ◇ *Alectroenas madagascariensis* Great views at Perinet and Mantadia.



*Blue Coua at Perinet (Chris Kehoe)*

**Malagasy Coucal** ◇ *Centropus toulou* Small numbers throughout, more heard than seen.  
**Crested Coua** ◇ *Coua cristata* Three at Ifaty and one at Ampijoroa.  
**Blue Coua** ◇ *Coua caerulea* Several at Perinet/ Mantadia.  
**Red-capped Coua** ◇ *Coua ruficeps* Two at Ampijoroa.  
**Brown-capped Coua** ◇ (Olive-c C, Green-c C) *Coua olivaceiceps* One at Ifaty.  
**Red-fronted Coua** ◇ *Coua reynaudii* One at Mantadia.  
**Coquerel's Coua** ◇ *Coua coquereli* One at Ampijoroa.  
**Running Coua** ◇ *Coua cursor* Three at Ifaty, superb views of these gorgeous birds.  
**Red-breasted Coua** ◇ *Coua serriana* Two or three at the VOI Reserve near Perinet.  
**Western Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* Three at a Tana hotel carpark and another at Ampijoroa.  
**Rainforest Scops Owl** ◇ *Otus rutilus* A roosting bird at Perinet.  
**Madagascan Owl** ◇ (M Long-eared O) *Asio madagascariensis* A roosting bird at Perinet.  
**Collared Nightjar** ◇ *Gactornis enarratus* A fantastic roosting bird at Mantadia.  
**Madagascan Nightjar** ◇ *Caprimulgus madagascariensis* Widespread encounters, even more heard.  
**Madagascan Spinetail** ◇ *Zoonavena grandidieri* Several at Mantadia and one at Ifaty  
**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* A few at Ampijoroa and towards Tana from there.  
**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* A couple at Mantadia.  
**Cuckoo Roller** ◇ (Mad. CR) *Leptosomus discolor* Seen best at Perinet but small numbers throughout.  
**Short-legged Ground Roller** ◇ *Brachypteracias leptosomus* One at Mantadia.  
**Scaly Ground Roller** ◇ *Geobiastes squamiger* One at Mantadia.  
**Pitta-like Ground Roller** ◇ *Atelornis pittoides* (H) Heard once at Mantadia but a surprising miss.  
**Long-tailed Ground Roller** ◇ *Uratelornis chimaera* One at Ifaty.

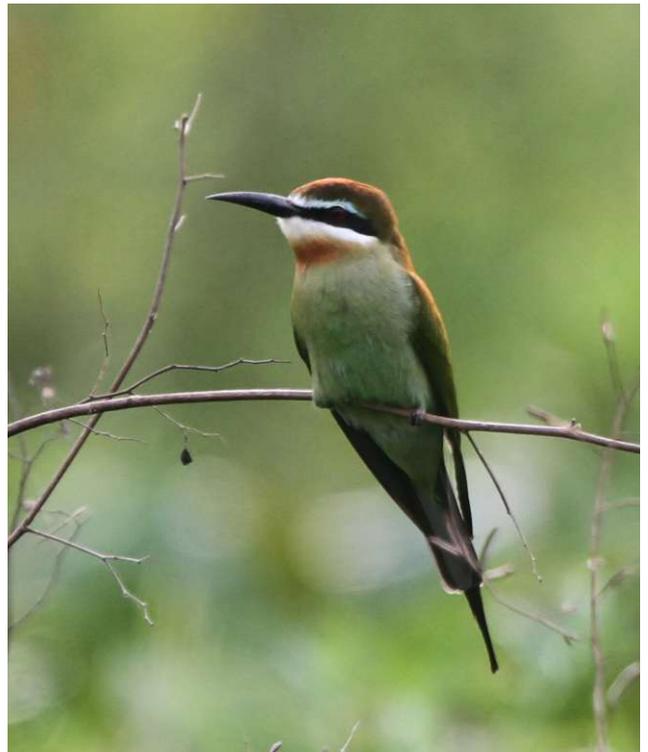


Long-tailed Ground Roller at Ifaty and Scaly-Ground Roller at Mantadia (Chris Kehoe)

**Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher** ◇ *Corythornis madagascariensis* Two stunners at Perinet.

**Malagasy Kingfisher** ◇ (Mad. Malachite K) *Corythornis vintsioides* Present at most wetlands visited, great views.

**Olive Bee-eater (Mad. B-e)** *Merops superciliosus* Widespread and rather common.



Madagascar Kingfisher and Madagascar Bee-eater at Ampijoroa (Chris Kehoe)

**Madagascan Hoopoe** ◇ *Upupa marginata* One in Tana and a handful at Ampijoroa and Ifaty.

**Malagasy Kestrel** ◇ *Falco newtoni* Widespread in small numbers.

**Banded Kestrel** ◇ *Falco zoniventris* One at Ifaty caught a chameleon.

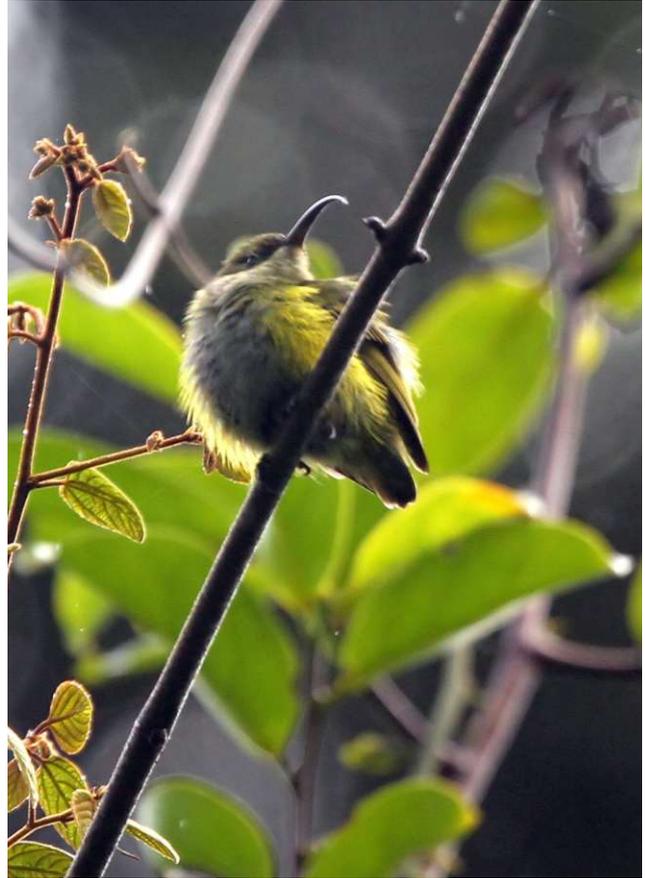
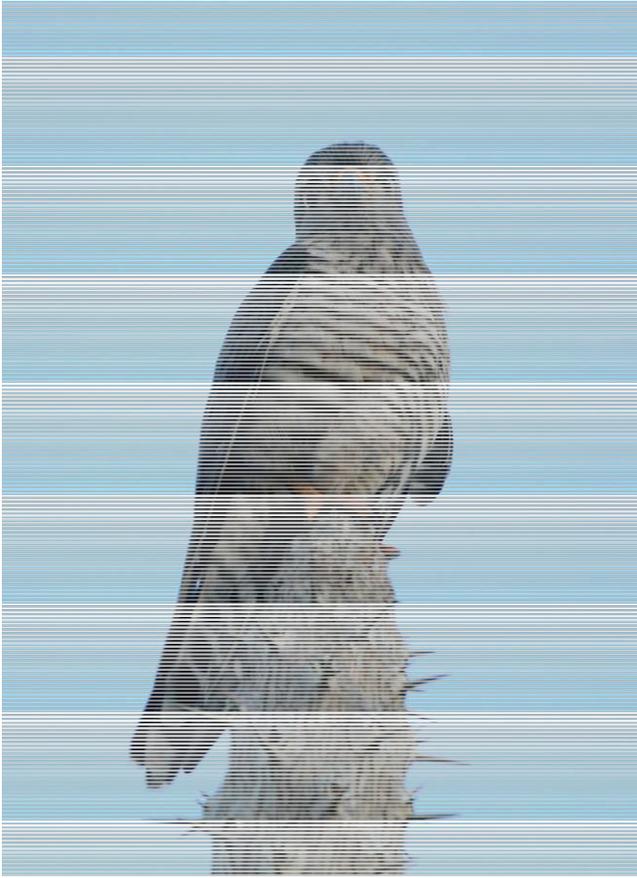
**Grey-headed Lovebird** ◇ *Agapornis canus* A couple at Ifaty and several at Ampijoroa.

**Greater Vasa Parrot** ◇ *Coracopsis vasa* Noted at Mantadia, Ifaty and Ampijoroa.

**Lesser Vasa Parrot** ◇ *Coracopsis nigra* Small numbers at all sites.

**Velvet Asity** ◇ *Philepitta castanea* At least eight at Perinet and Mantadia, more than usual.

**Schlegel's Asity** ◇ *Philepitta schlegeli* A very obliging pair at Ampijoroa.



*Banded Kestrel at Ifaty and Common Sunbird-Asity at Perinet (Chris Kehoe)*

- Common Sunbird-Asity** ◊ *Neodrepanis coruscans* Two female plumaged birds at Perinet and Mantadia.  
**Red-tailed Vanga** ◊ *Calicalicus madagascariensis* Seen everywhere except Ampijoroa, some smart males.  
**Hook-billed Vanga** ◊ *Vanga curvirostris* Noted at Perinet, Ifaty and Ampijoroa.  
**Lafresnaye's Vanga** ◊ *Xenopirostris xenopirostris* One or two at Ifaty.  
**Van Dam's Vanga** ◊ *Xenopirostris damii* Two at Ampijoroa.  
**Sickle-billed Vanga** ◊ *Falcula palliata* Two at Ifaty and 10 at Ampijoroa, always popular.



*Rand's Warbler and Ward's Vanga at Perinet (Chris Kehoe)*

- White-headed Vanga** ◊ *Artamella viridis* A handful at Ampijoroa and Ifaty, heard at Perinet.  
**Chabert Vanga** ◊ *Leptopterus chabert* Widespread in small numbers.

**Blue Vanga** ◊ *Cyanolanius madagascarinus* Several at Perinet and Ampijoroa.  
**Rufous Vanga** ◊ *Schetba rufa* Two or three at Ampijoroa.  
**Tylas Vanga** ◊ *Tylas eduardi* Several at Perinet/ Mantadia.  
**Nuthatch Vanga** ◊ *Hypositta corallirostris* Seen daily at Perinet and Mantadia, far more than usual.  
**Dark Newtonia** ◊ *Newtonia amphichroa* One or two at Mantadia.  
**Common Newtonia** ◊ *Newtonia brunneicauda* Widespread and fairly common.  
**Archbold's Newtonia** ◊ *Newtonia archboldi* At least two at Ifaty.  
**Ward's Flycatcher** ◊ (W's Shrike-f) *Pseudobias wardi* A handful at Perinet and Mantadia.  
**Crossley's Vanga** ◊ (C Babbler, Mad. Groundhunter) *Mystacornis crossleyi* A showy pair at Perinet.  
**Madagascar Cuckooshrike** ◊ *Coracina cinerea* Several at Perinet/Mantadia and Ampijoroa.  
**Crested Drongo** (Mad. CD) *Dicrurus forficatus* Widespread, locally common.  
**Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher** ◊ *Terpsiphone mutata* Widespread and rather common.  
**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* Several in arid country in the west and south of Ampijoroa.  
**Madagascar Lark** ◊ *Mirafra hova* Several in arid country.  
**Malagasy Bulbul** ◊ *Hypsipetes madagascariensis* Widespread and common.  
**Mascarene Martin** ◊ *Phedina borbonica* Best views at Tana airport, a few elsewhere.  
**Brown-throated Martin (Plain M)** *Riparia paludicola* A few at roadside wetlands near Perinet.  
**Malagasy Brush Warbler** ◊ *Nesillas typica* Commonly heard except in the west, seen best at Lac Alarobia.



White-headed and Rufous Vangas at Ampijoroa (Chris Kehoe)

**Subdesert Brush Warbler** ◊ *Nesillas lantzii* A couple at Ifaty, others heard there.  
**Madagascar Swamp Warbler** ◊ *Acrocephalus newtoni* One at Mantadia, a couple more heard.  
**Brown Emutail** ◊ *Bradypterus brunneus* Two at Mantadia in surprising habitat.  
**White-throated Oxylabes** *Oxylabes madagascariensis* Two or three at Perinet one afternoon.  
**Long-billed Bernieria** *Bernieria madagascariensis* Several at Perinet/ Mantadia and Ampijoroa.  
**Wedge-tailed Jery** ◊ *Hartertula flavoviridis* Ones and twos at Mantadia and Perinet.  
**Thamnornis** ◊ (T Warbler) *Thamnornis chloropetoides* A couple at Ifaty.  
**Spectacled Tetraka** ◊ (Short-billed T, S Greenbul) *Xanthomixis zosterops* Common at Perinet/ Mantadia.  
**Grey-crowned Tetraka** (G-c Greenbul) *Xanthomixis cinereiceps* A couple at Mantadia.  
**Rand's Warbler** ◊ *Randia pseudozosterops* A handful at Perinet and Mantadia.  
**Common Jery** ◊ *Neomixis tenella* Common and widespread.  
**Green Jery** ◊ *Neomixis viridis* One at VOI near Perinet.  
**Stripe-throated Jery** ◊ *Neomixis striatigula* A couple at Perinet and Ifaty, others heard.  
**Madagascar Cisticola** ◊ *Cisticola cherina* A few in the west.  
**Malagasy White-eye** ◊ *Zosterops maderaspatanus* Fairly common at Perinet.



Malagasy Green Sunbird in Tana (Chris Kehoe)

**Common Myna** ◇ *Acridotheres tristis* Widespread.

**Madagascar Starling** ◇ *Hartlaubius auratus* Brief scope views at Mantadia.

**Madagascar Magpie-Robin** ◇ *Copsychus albospecularis* Small numbers throughout.



Forest Rock Thrush at Mantadia and Madagascar Wagtail at Perinet (Chris Kehoe)

**Forest Rock Thrush** ◇ *Monticola sharpei* Great views at Mantadia.

**Madagascar Stonechat** ◇ *Saxicola sibilla* Several in the uplands.

**Souimanga Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris sovimanga* Fairly common and widespread.  
**Malagasy Green Sunbird** ◊ (Long-billed G S) *Cinnyris notatus* Noted in Tana and at Ifaty.  
**Nelicourvi Weaver** ◊ *Ploceus nelicourvi* Several at Perinet/ Mantadia.  
**Sakalava Weaver** ◊ *Ploceus sakalava* Small numbers at Ifaty.  
**Red Fody** ◊ *Foudia madagascariensis* Several in Tana and in the west.  
**Madagascan Mannikin** ◊ (M Bibfinch) *Lemuresthes nana* A few at Mantadia.  
**Madagascan Wagtail** ◊ *Motacilla flaviventris* Several around Perinet and in Tana.

## MAMMALS



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

**Grey Mouse Lemur** *Microcebus murinus* A handful near Ampijoroa.  
**Golden-brown Mouse Lemur (Golden M L)** *Microcebus ravelobensis* One near Ampijoroa.  
**Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur** *Lepilemur edwardsi* One at Ampijoroa.  
**White-footed Sportive Lemur** *Lepilemur leucopus* One at Ifaty.  
**Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur (Grey B L)** *Hapalemur griseus* Noted at Mantadia.  
**Common Brown Lemur** *Eulemur fulvus* Seen a few times at Perinet.  
**Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur** *Varecia variagata* One at Mantadia, others heard.  
**Eastern Avahi (Eastern Woolly Lemur)** *Avahi laniger* One at Perinet.  
**Diademed Sifaka** *Propithecus diadema* Great views at Perinet.  
**Coquerel's Sifaka** *Propithecus coquereli* Very cooperative at Ampijoroa.  
**Indri** *Indri indri* Some great views at Perinet.



*Subdesert Mesite at Ifaty (Chris Kehoe)*