

Madagascar Trip Report – 2 to 24 November 2017

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Overview

This trip was organized with the help of a local Madagascar company, Zina-go Travel (<https://www.facebook.com/Zina-go-1661683314051443/>). Zina Raheeritsiferana is the company owner, coordinator and driver. He is working on establishing a web site but can be reached through his Facebook page or email (sergemadatours@yahoo.fr) for now. He can organize any type of trip (natural history or otherwise), but he has clear strengths at working with birders, photographers and naturalists. We followed an approximately 3 week tour that visited most places offered by all of the big birding companies but did it at about one third of the cost. Zina hires a local birder (S. Fidson Albert– aka Fidi) to work with naturalists on the trip but Zina also has extensive knowledge about where to find the country's birds, mammals, reptiles, etc. He also hires local guides at most locations and their knowledge of specific animal territories, behaviours, etc., was invaluable. We highly recommend working with Zina. He is a fabulous guy and worked very hard to ensure that we had the best trip possible!



Jim and Alexander in front of the bus that we used for the trip. The bus was very spacious for our group of 8 – seats had been moved to provide more legroom.

General Notes

Cost

The ground cost of our trip for 23 days was €2178 per person for our group of 8. The price varies based on group size. For example, it would have been €2860 per person for 4 or €2408 per person for 6 people. This price included accommodation, breakfast, vehicles, driver, guides, fuel, park entrance fees, all transfers (including by 4x4 and boat) and our bottled water. We paid Zina by bank transfer. In addition to this, we paid our international and domestic airfare, tips, lunches, dinners, and extra drinks. Cost per day for lunch, dinner and drinks was about €15 per person. Our single domestic flight from Tulear to Tana cost €273 and our international flight from Canada cost €1300. Tipping over the course of the trip cost approximately €150 per person but this of course will vary. Total trip cost including all airfares was roughly €4000 per person (~USD \$4800 or CAD \$6100 at the time of writing).

Money

Obtaining money in Madagascar can be problematic. None of our group's varied bank cards and MasterCard worked at any bank machines. Even calls to our home banks and mastercard companies did not allow us to access cash via bank cards or these credit cards. Only Visa credit cards worked to extract cash and then only Ariary \$400,000 (about €100) could be extracted per transaction. We strongly recommend bringing USD or Euros and exchanging them at the airport. Carrying a Visa card for backup would be wise. We found that we could get money using the Visa cards in all modest sized towns and cities.

Michelle with over one million Ariary (~260 Euros).



Biting invertebrates and Diseases

We all took anti-malarials (Malarone) but in retrospect this was not likely necessary outside of the wet season (January-March). There were some mosquitoes active at dusk most nights and wearing long pants and socks virtually eradicated all bites. Most places we stayed at had insect nets over the beds, but a couple did not. Despite these bed nets, we still got a few bites in the evening and at night but not many. Dengue is likely a more serious concern outside of the rainy season so avoiding bites is the best option. There are numerous possible mosquito borne illnesses to avoid so avoiding bites is always the best option. Outside of mosquitoes, there were few biting flies (a few black flies (Simuliidae), a few biting midges/no-see-ums (Ceratopogonidae), and a few horse flies (Tabanidae)). None of our group encountered any ticks and there were no biting mites (aka chiggers or scrub itch). This was wonderful as we could sit down on logs or the forest floor if we wanted. Land leeches were in low numbers in the rainforest and at most, participants got only 1 or 2 bites over the course of the trip. Leeches carry

no diseases and are just annoying. If you get more rain on your trip you can of course expect more leeches and biting flies.

There was an outbreak of Plague while we were in the country. Although this sounds frightening, only ~2500 people out of the entire population were affected and some of our group brought full antibiotic regimens to treat this in case one of us contracted it. It is easily treatable with Cipro as long as it is quickly identified. We would not consider this a significant risk but it is good to be prepared.

Food-borne Illnesses

We were not mentally prepared for the extent of food-borne issues that we encountered. This was certainly the worst of any trip we have done (and we have been to over 60 countries as a group). Everyone had some degree of stomach issues and many of us had more than one bout of stomach problems on the trip. In fact, most of us were affected to some degree for most of the trip. Five of our group used Ciprofloxacin to treat more severe gastrointestinal issues. Two people used the antibiotic twice on the trip. I think some additional preparation here would help. We suggest either bringing your own cutlery and mug, or bringing alcohol wipes to clean cutlery and glasses before using them. We believe that washing of these items with contaminated water may have lead to much of our stomach distress.

Food

Based on our experience, you would certainly not go to Madagascar for the culinary experience. Food was rather basic and extremely repetitive. None of our group are vegetarian but I think it would be a challenge for vegetarians to get the needed protein and variation in diet. Breakfast was invariably bread (usually quite dry), jam, eggs (when requested and very greasy), minimal fruit and coffee or tea. Lunch and dinner was often similar – typically meat (beef, pork or chicken and sometimes seafood) with fries, rice or vegetables (the latter typically overcooked beans, carrots and sometimes zucchini).

Smoke and other pollutants

Typical of the 3rd world, many vehicles spew huge amounts of diesel smoke. It is necessary to be prepared for this, particularly in cities. Cities are an assault on the olfactory senses with everything from smoke, rotting meat, sewage and endless other unpleasant human smells on the air. Rural areas were much better but many of our accommodations had burn piles going and we had to endure the smell of burning plastic and rubber in several places. Cigarette smoking was not very problematic in rural areas but in restaurants in many towns and cities it was a problem. If you are sensitive, you should stress with Zina that this is a problem and he may be able to find alternative lodging for you. This was a significant annoyance for some of our group.

Vehicles and Road safety

Driving appeared chaotic but Zina is a very excellent and calm driver so we never had any concerns. Our bus had one row of seats removed and the others re-spaced so we had lots of room for our group of 8 plus driver and guides. This was important as we had many long drives (12 hours plus). During the eastern leg of the trip we used two 4 wheel drives. They were spacious and worked well on all but one very slippery clay road where we had to push a couple of times. We had two boat trips and both were comfortable, safe and enjoyable. Note that we had many long drives. This could be

avoided if you are comfortable with increasing the trip cost and adding more internal flights. Talk to Zina about options if you are concerned about the drive times.

Donations

We took school supplies (pencils, pencil crayons, sharpeners, erasers, paper, crayons, notebooks) and felt great donating them to one rural school. I regret that we did not bring old, refurbished binoculars for the local guides as none of them had binoculars. This would be in good taste if you can do it.



Notes on Air Madagascar

Domestic flights are on Air Madagascar. Our single flight was more or less on time but apparently this is not always the case. We heard stories of flights delayed by 1 to 3 days. Do not plan an international flight on the same day as a domestic departure and consider lingering an extra day in Tana (Antananarivo) to be on the safe side. You could leave one of the sites near Tana (e.g. Lake Tsarasaotra = Lake Alarobia) for the end of the trip and do this on the extra day. Or you could leave the area east of Tana until the end of the trip and totally remove this risk. Baggage allowance is 20kg per checked bag and only 5kg for each of your carry on items. They weighed these and charge a lot of money for any overweight items. Given that a typical camera bag is between 10 and 20kg, this is a problem. You could wear a vest and fill your pockets with gear. We solved it by weighing our bags with most items out with another member of the group, getting the bag tagged, then putting everything back into it. The weight allowance has nothing to do with safety and is all about squeezing extra money out of tourists. Our sleight of hand avoided confrontation and an inevitable cash grab. Putting the items on your person (in a vest for example), and moving them into camera bags and backpacks later would achieve the same effect. Pack your tripod if you can.

Equipment

We certainly benefitted by having a scope along and used this many times during the trip for better looks at various birds. (Our guide, Fidi offered to carry ours for us when we were layden down with our other gear.) We recommend at least one scope per group (the local guides will not have one). All of the guides were outfitted with bird song recordings. It is always wise for at least one of the group to have playback gear along as a backup and although we found this largely unnecessary, we did benefit by using Jim's gear several times. We made our sound library for the trip using Xeno-Canto and can Dropbox it to anyone reading this if you want to avoid reinventing the wheel. The climate (dry and dusty in some areas and very wet in others) was a challenge for camera gear. Waterproof binoculars are a must.

Wifi and Connectivity

Wifi was available in about one third of the places that we stayed and was slow to non-functional in almost all of them. Do not expect to be able to keep up with work while in

Madagascar but you will be able to keep up on email and social media. Better than wifi, some of our group purchased SIM cards at the airport. Telma charged about €11 for a SIM card and 3GB of data (no calls or texts). This was enough for our 3-week trip (extensive use of eBird, BirdsEye, Facebook and Gmail each day did not deplete this). If all of the group get this, it is easy to use iMessage or WhatsApp to communicate if separated.

Wildlife

Our experience fully lived up to our expectations. In the end, we tallied 27 species of lemurs, 2 tenrec species (34 mammal species in total), 176 bird species, 12 chameleon species, 12 snakes (47 reptile species) and 16 amphibians. We provide a complete list of birds and herps at the end of the document. For lemurs, we had no significant misses. For other mammals, it would have been nice to see a couple more of the Tenrec species as well as some of the mongoose species and relatives. See below under Park Access for more on this. If you are interested in frogs and insects, a trip between January and March is highly recommended. Disease issues during this time are pronounced so much more care is needed when traveling in the wet season.

Park Access

Parks are fully accessible during the day if you have guides (guides are a requirement of entry at parks and reserves). However, night access is not allowed. This severely hampered our nocturnal mammal viewing. Zina did his best to find habitats outside of the parks to do night walks (we did many!), but getting into pristine habitat at night would be fabulous. We noted that camping was available within at least 2 of the parks that we visited (Ramanofana and Ankarafantsika). Having Zina arrange a couple of nights of camping may be a superb option for gaining night access to these parks. We will do this without question if we return.

Timing/Dates

This trip could be reasonably completed anytime between late September and early January. Rainy season trips (January to March) would likely be as productive as we were told that rains are typically only in the afternoon. This is a quieter season for tourists as well so may offer more flexibility. Some sites may not be accessible in the wet season but increased animal activity would likely make up for this.

Guides

The guides were almost universally excellent at bird finding although only a few were also good communicators. (It is always best to ask how long of a hike you are about to go on as they didn't always communicate that.) They do not really understand that some participants may like to discover their own birds and thus it is not as interactive as on many guided trips. The local guides often disappear and leave you waiting while they search for a particular species. Many of these species were very low density and many were not singing so it would be very hard to expect to find them without the guides. The guides corralled several species towards the group. This did not always feel comfortable but was effective. Be sure to tell them that you do not want species handled for your viewing pleasure. A Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec was pried out of a tree hole and placed on the sand without our knowing what was happening until it was too late. This was a negative experience and it may not have survived. Note that one local guide who really stood out as exceptional was Gildas at Ankarafantsika (Dadazily05@yahoo.com).



Our primary helpers on the trip. From left to right: Lala (caretaker of our gear and the bus), Fidi (our primary bird guide) and Zina (driver, company owner and solver of all problems!).

Accommodations

Note that Zina can arrange virtually any type of accommodation you want. We went with fairly basic to mid-range places for the most part. Talk to Zina if you want to pay more for higher end places, if air conditioning is important to you, etc. Unless specifically noted below, we found all of our accommodations adequate. Only one place (Anakao Ocean Lodge) was high end. If you would like to recharge, this would be a great place to stay for two nights instead of just one. We also really enjoyed the Arboretum d'Antsokay near Tulear and highly recommend staying there when in the area. Note that several places we stayed at were on generators. Be very careful when charging devices at these places. It is best not to have gear plugged in during startup or shutdown of the system. One of our group lost a laptop due to a power surge.

Itinerary – Note that highlight species in italics were only seen once. Species seen on more than four occasions are not noted here. Check the eBird data at the end for more common species. Also note that the eBird data contains coordinates for sightings so cross reference species of interest with that list.

Day 1: 2 November

Arrival in Tana.

Highlights: Plain Martin, Madagascar Nightjar.

Hotel : IC Hotel.

Day 2: 3 November

Drive to Mahajanga (14 hours) for the Betsiboka Delta.

Highlights: Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk, *Madagascar Harrier* (one bird seen in the highlands on the long drive to Majunga from Tana), Madagascar Pratincole, Madagascar Black Swift, Plain Martin, Coquerel's Sifaka, *Hemidactylus frenatus* (seen on 5 different days).

Hotel : Hotel du Phare.

Day 3: 4 November

Birding in morning at the Delta. **Highlights:** *Bernier's Teal*, *Lesser Flamingo*, *Malagasy Sacred Ibis*, Humblot's Heron, *Madagascar Harrier-Hawk*, *Saunders's Tern*, Golden-brown Mouse Lemur, Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur, Common Brown Lemur (seen on 6 different days), Western Tuft-tailed Rat, *Furcifer oustaleti* (seen on 5 different days), *Furcifer rhinocerotus*, *Phelsuma mutabilis*.

Afternoon drive to Ankarafantsika (2 hours).

Hotel : Blue Vanga Lodge.

Day 4: 5 November

Ankarafantsika, Ampijoroa. **Highlights:** Humblot's Heron, Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk, *Madagascar Fish-Eagle* (we had to boat across the lake to see this bird), White-breasted Mesite, Madagascar Buttonquail, Madagascar Jacana, Gray-headed Lovebird, Red-capped Coua, Madagascar Hoopoe, *Schlegel's Asity*, Van Dam's Vanga, Sickie-billed Vanga, Rufous Vanga, Coquerel's Sifaka, *Furcifer lateralis*, *Lygodactylus tolampyae*, *Oplurus cuvieri*, *Phelsuma madagascariensis kochi*, *Zonosaurus laticaudus*, Nile Crocodile.

Hotel : Blue Vanga Lodge.

Day 5: 6 November

Ankarafantsika. **Highlights:** Humblot's Heron, White-breasted Mesite, Madagascar Buttonquail, Gray-headed Lovebird, Red-capped Coua, *Coquerel's Coua*, Madagascar Hoopoe, Van Dam's Vanga, Sickie-billed Vanga, Rufous Vanga, Golden-brown Mouse Lemur, Gray Mouse Lemur, Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur, *Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur*, *Mongoose Lemur*, *Western Woolly Lemur*, Coquerel's Sifaka, Western Tuft-tailed Rat, *Mauritian Tomb Bat* ?, *Furcifer* undescribed species?, *Phelsuma kochi*, *Oplurus cuvieri*, *Zonosaurus laticaudus*, *Leioheterodon madagascariensis*, *Mimophis mahfalensis*, Nile Crocodile, *Langaha madagascariensis*. Hotel: Blue Vanga Lodge.



Coquerel's Sifaka with baby.



Malagasy Sacred Ibis. Birding the Delta was tough work. We ended up with all of the targets but densities were low.



Some Ankarafantsika highlights (clockwise from top left): Sickie-billed Vanga, Crested Coua (we were lucky enough to see the lengthy courtship display), Madagascar Fish Eagle (the lake across from Ankarafantsika is the place to see this species - be sure to take a boat into the back corner of the lake if it is not visible from the shore), Madagascar Sparrowhawk, Madagascar Jacana (only 2 seen on the trip - this was Jeff's 5000th world bird), Madagascar Buttonquail (apparently fairly common in this area but not seen again on the trip).

Day 6: 7 November

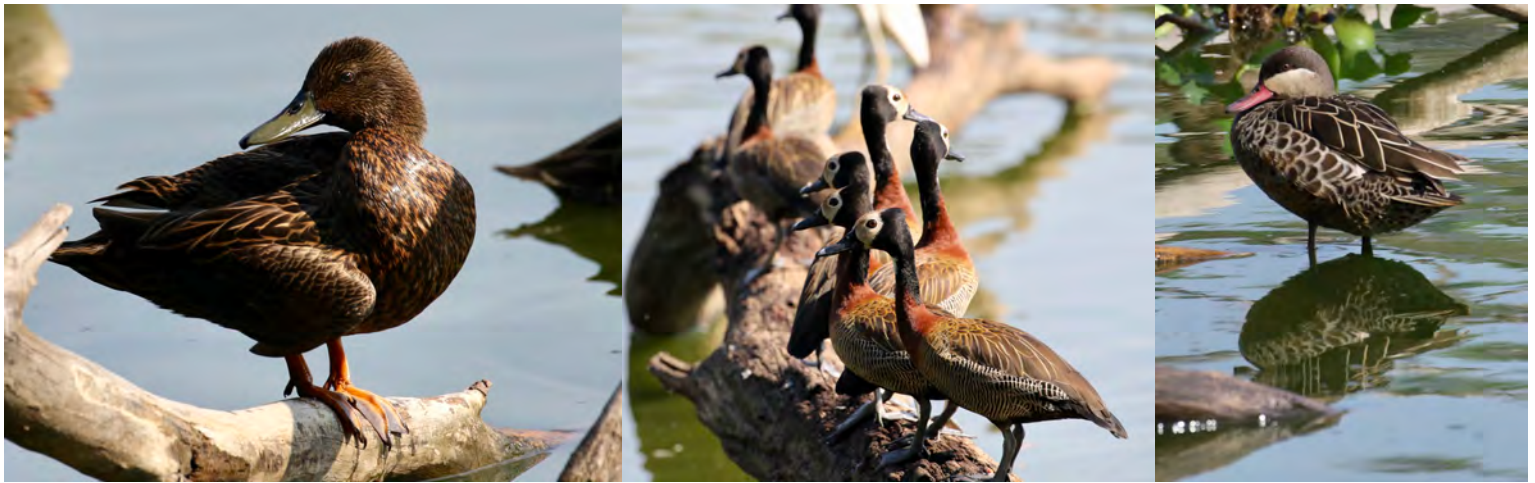
Ampijoroa – Tana (12 hours). **Highlights:** African Pygmy Goose, Madagascar Jacana, Madagascar Pratincole, Madagascar Cisticola, Madagascar Swamp Warbler, Madagascar Flying Fox, *Uroplatus henkeli*, *Mimophis mahfalensis*.

Hotel: Les Trois Metis.

Day 7: 8 November

Tana – Andasibe, after a one hour visit to Lake Tsarasaotra (= Lake Alarobia) in Tana. (4 hour drive). **Highlights:** Knob-billed Duck, Meller's Duck, Madagascar Grebe, Malagasy Pond Heron, Black Heron, Madagascar Swamp Warbler, *Phelsuma lineata* (seen on 8 different days).

Hotel : Indri Lodge.



Some of the variety of waterfowl from Lake Alarobia (from left): Meller's Duck, White-faced Whistling Ducks, Red-billed Teal).

Day 8: 9 November

Andasibe, Voimma Community Reserve.

Highlights: Henst's Goshawk, Red-fronted Coua, Madagascar Spinetail, *Short-legged Ground-Roller*, *Rufous-headed Ground-Roller*, Velvet Asity, *Common Sunbird-Asity*, Red-tailed Vanga, Forest Rock Thrush, Malagasy Green Sunbird, Indri, *Calumma brevicorne* (seen on 5 different days), *Zonosaurus madagascariensis*, *Mantela baroni*.
Hotel : Indri Lodge.

Notes: This was to be our Helmet Vanga trip. It was a rigorous 18km hike after a long, rough 4-wheel drive trip into the area. If you do this trip, take 4 to 6L of water per person and prepare for the toughest hike of the trip. Although we did not see the Vanga, we saw our guide pointing at one. The local guides here were the only disappointment of the trip. They were noisy and not communicative. We were left sitting for long periods of time while they looked for the Helmet Vangas and we ran out of water as we had no clear expectation of distances or times for the trip. There is a ridgetop near the clearing where we were positioned. I would recommend that they take the group to this ridgetop where it would be easy to bird without getting lost while they search the area. It is likely that the vangas use this hilltop regularly as it is a concentration point for insects and was quite bird-rich when we were up there.



Despite not seeing Helmet Vanga, Voimma Community Reserve was a memorable place to visit. We started the day having to push the vehicles through some tough spots but also had superb views of a Madagascar Nightjar (a common bird but not one that we had such great views of otherwise). We also had great looks at one of the mantelid frogs on this hike (Mantela baroni).

Day 9: 10 November

Mantadia National Park, Andasibe; night walk at nearby community park

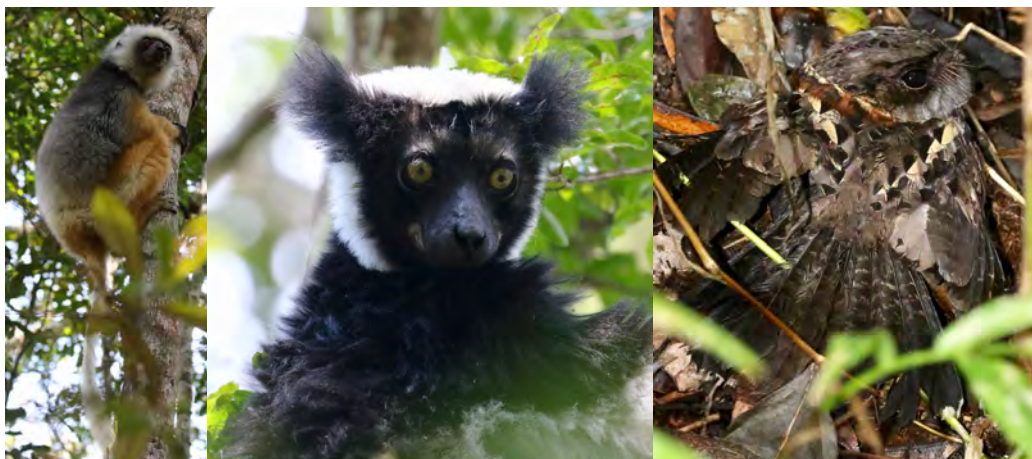
Highlights: Meller's Duck, Madagascar Grebe, Madagascar Crested Ibis, Rainforest Scops-Owl, Madagascar Spinetail, *Scaly Ground-Roller*, Pitta-like Ground-Roller, Malagasy Pygmy-Kingfisher, Velvet Asity, *Crossley's Vanga*, Madagascar Swamp Warbler, Spectacled Tetraka, Madagascar Starling, Forest Fody, *Goodman's Mouse Lemur*, *Crossley's Dwarf Lemur*, Southern Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur, Eastern Woolly Lemur, Diademed Sifaka, Indri, *Calumma nasutum* (see on 4 different days), *Calumma parsonii*, *Uroplatus sikorae* (*Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko*), *Zonosaurus madagascariensis*, *Mantella baroni*. Hotel : Indri Lodge.



A few of the Mantadia National Park highlights included Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur, Crossley's Vanga and Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko.

Day 10: 11 November

Andasibe, Analamazaotra Special Reserve. **Highlights:** Madagascar Crested Ibis, Madagascar Wood-Rail, Red-fronted Coua, *Red-breasted Coua*, *Madagascar Long-eared Owl*, Rainforest Scops-Owl, *Collared Nightjar*, Malagasy Pygmy-Kingfisher, Red-tailed Vanga, Malagasy Green Sunbird, Forest Fody, *Gray Bamboo Lemur*, Eastern Woolly Lemur, Diademed Sifaka, Indri, *Sanzinia madagascariensis*, *Boophis tephraeomystax*, *Chrysidia rhipheus* (*Madagascar Sunset Moth*). Hotel : Indri Lodge.



Analamazaotra highlights included Diademed Sifaka, Indri and Collared Nightjar.

Day 11: 12 November

Drive to Manambato and short boat trip (one hour) to Palmarium.

Highlights: Madagascar Pratincole, Hook-billed Vanga, Madagascar Starling, Malagasy Green Sunbird, Greater Dwarf Lemur, Aye-aye, Greater Hedgehog Tenrec, *Phelsuma grandis*.

Hotel : Palmarium.

Notes: The Aye-aye are habituated at an "island" a 15-min boat-ride away from the hotel, where they come to feed on coconuts. They are in a relatively small area with a water moat around it, thus making these animals quasi-wild at best. Despite this, it is the only likely way to see this amazing species in a wild setting and we would not have missed it for anything. A number of other lemurs have been introduced into the area around the lodge and all are hand tame and not really countable. This was definitely a detractor and should not be encouraged. Greater Hedgehog Tenrec are common in the forest at night and easy to find on a self-guided hike.



Madagascar Pratincole were seen on roof-tops and along rivers at several sites en route to Palmarium. They were much easier to see here than in the Northwest where most groups try for them. Habituated Aye-aye are easy to see on a night trip from the lodge. Not as rewarding as finding them in a more wild setting, but this is certainly one of the few places to hope to see this magnificent and bizarre creature. We saw our only Panther Chameleon on the way out of Palmarium and had great looks at Hook-billed Vanga here (we only saw them at a few sites).

Day 12: 13 November

Boat trip back and drive back to Tana (8 hours)

Highlights: Madagascar Pratincole, Gray-headed Lovebird, Hook-billed Vanga, Greater Dwarf Lemur, Greater Hedgehog Tenrec, *Furcifer pardalis* (Panther Chameleon).

Hotel : Chalet des Roses.

Day 13: 14 November

Tana - Ranomafana (11 hours)

Highlights: Black Heron, *Baillon's Crake*, *Madagascar Snipe*, *Alpine Swift*, Madagascar Black Swift, *Hemidactylus mercatorius* (seen on 4 different days), *Phelsuma quadriocellata*, *Heterixalus alboguttatus*.

Hotel : Cristo.

Day 14: 15 November

Visit to Ranomafana Park, Talatakely. Ranomafana upper trails (Vohiparara)

Highlights: Madagascar Flufftail, Madagascar Wood-Rail, Madagascar Green-Pigeon, Pitta-like Ground-Roller, Malagasy Pygmy-Kingfisher, Velvet Asity, Hook-billed Vanga, Plain Martin, *Gray Emutail*, *White-throated Oxylabes*, Wedge-tailed Jery, Spectacled

Tetraka, Malagasy Green Sunbird, Greater Dwarf Lemur, *Golden Bamboo Lemur*, *Greater Bamboo Lemur*, Red-bellied Lemur, *Red-fronted Brown Lemur*, Southern Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur, *Calumma crypticum*, *Calumma oshaughnessyi*, *Furcifer willsii* (*Canopy Chameleon*), *Phelsuma quadriocellata*, *Ptychadena mascareniensis*, *Heterixalus alboguttatus*.

Hotel : Cristo.



Cristo Hotel was surprisingly one of only a couple of sites where we saw Madagascar Green-Pigeons (and we saw them at the hotel every day). Ranomafana was tough birding but we managed good looks at Pitta-like Ground-roller and many other species seen nowhere else on the trip. Two of the lemurs seen here (Golden and Greater Bamboo Lemurs) are exceptionally rare and not easily found anywhere else.

Day 15: 16 November

Visit to Ranomafana, Sahamalaoatra.

Highlights: Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk, Madagascar Flufftail (good views never obtained), Madagascar Green-Pigeon, Velvet Asity, Red-tailed Vanga, *Pollen's Vanga*, *Nuthatch Vanga* (not seen by entire group), *Brown Emutail*, *Cryptic Warbler*, Stripe-throated Jery, Wedge-tailed Jery, Gray-crowned *Tetraka*, Madagascar Starling, Forest Rock Thrush. *Rufous Mouse Lemur*, Red-bellied Lemur, *Milne-Edward's Sifaka*, *Calumma crypticum*, *Calumma oshaughnessyi*, *Uroplatus fantasticus* (*Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko*), *Sanzinia madagascariensis*, *Heterixalus alboguttatus*. Hotel: Cristo.



Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko was one of the trip highlights. Our guides were astounding at finding reptiles and mammals and we would have seen few without them. However, this find seemed almost too amazing. We have since heard that guides at Ranomafana may locate species such as the Satanic and place them in convenient locations to be 'discovered' later. This is disappointing if true and should be discouraged.

Day 16: 17 November

Ranomafana - Ranohira (9 hours); stop at Anja Community Reserve en route

Highlights: *Madagascar Partridge* (one pair along the road), Madagascar Green-Pigeon, *Marsh Owl*, Madagascar Black Swift, Forest Rock Thrush, *Ring-tailed Lemur*, *Furcifer verrucosus*, *Brookesia brygooi*, *Phelsuma quadriocellata*, *Sanzinia*

madagascariensis, *Thamnophis episites*, *Ptychadena mascarniensis*, *Boophis tephraeomystax*. Hotel : Isalo Ranch.



It was well worth the stop at Anja Community Reserve. It was the only place that we observed Ring-tailed Lemurs and one of the tiny Brookesia chameleons. The only bird highlight there was the large number of Madagascars Swifts flying around the rocky cliffs (only seen at a few other sites).

Day 17: 18 November
Ranohira – Zombitse –
Tulear
All day drive with stop of
3 or 4 hours visit at
Zombitse

Highlights: Henst's
Goshawk, Madagascar
Harrier, *Banded Kestrel*,
Madagascar
Sandgrouse,
Madagascar Green-
Pigeon, *Giant Coua*,
White-browed Hawk-
Owl, Madagascar
Hoopoe, *Appert's*
Tetraka, Madagascar
Starling, *Zombitse*
Sportive Lemur,
Verreaux's Sifaka,



Verreaux's Sifaka and White-browed Hawk-Owl were Zombitse highlights.

Blaesodactylus sakalava (*Sakalava Madagascar Velvet Gecko*), *Lygodactylus tolampyae*, *Phelsuma standingi*, *Chalarodon madagascariensis* (seen on this and the

next 4 days), *Furcifer verrucosus*, *Leioheterodon madagascariensis*, *Trachylepis aureopunctata*. Hotel : Victory.

Note: Although the Victory hotel is adequate, it is busy, smoky and generally not as nice as staying somewhere outside of the city. We discovered the Arboretum during a day trip and Zina arranged for us to stay at the Arboretum d'Antsokay Bungalows on Day 21 instead of the Victory. It was amazing! We highly recommend this over staying in Tulear. It is only 20 minutes outside of the city.



Zombitse was an amazing stop. As soon as we got out of the bus we saw a pair of Giant Coua and it just continued to get better. The Zombitse Sportive Lemur was certainly amongst the cutest lemurs of the trip.



Madagascar Sandgrouse have been getting harder to find at the traditional locations the past couple of years. Our guides took us to a superb new location where we saw 47 of these birds (at -22.9537, 44.3423).

Day 18: 19 November

Visit of Andatabo (La Table, Tulear) in the morning, Lake Belalanda in the afternoon.

Highlights: *Greater Flamingo*, *Verraux's Coua*, *Green-capped Coua*, *Running Coua*, *Red-shouldered Vanga*, *Archbold's Newtonia*, *Subdesert Brush-Warbler*, *Madagascar Swamp Warbler*, *Gray-brown Mouse Lemur*, *Verreaux's Sifaka*, *Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec*, *Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat*, *Phelsuma modesta*, *Phelsuma mutabilis*, *Oplurus cyclurus*, *Mimophis mahfalensis*, *Trachylepis madagascariensis*, *Paroedura picta*.

Hotel : Victory.



There were some nice sites just outside of Tulear where we found some of the specialty dry forest birds such as Red-shouldered Vanga. The Arboretum proved to be a comfortable place to stay as well as a lovely patch of forest to wander at night. We saw Gray-brown Mouse Lemurs and Lesser Hedgehog Tenrecs here.

Day 19: 20 November

Tulear – Anakao , one hours of boat trip from Tulear. (Island: Nosy Ve)

Highlights: *Red-tailed Tropicbird*, *Subdesert Brush-Warbler*, *Littoral Rock Thrush*, Elephant bird egg shells were abundant in the first interdunal slack, *Paragehyra petiti*, *Matoatoa brevipes*. Hotel : Anakao Ocean Lodge.



Anakao was the most decadent and comfortable place that we stayed. The meals were fabulous and the rooms were very comfortable. Stay a couple of nights if you can afford the time and money. Littoral Rock Thrush were common near the lodge and of course, this is the access point for the Red-tailed Tropicbird colony.

Day 20: 21 November

Anakao – Ifaty

Highlights: *Crab Plover*, *Madagascar Plover*, Gray-headed Lovebird, Running Coua, Long-tailed Ground-Roller, Madagascar Hoopoe, Red-tailed Vanga, Lafresnaye's Vanga, Archbold's Newtonia, Subdesert Brush-Warbler, Thamnornis, Littoral Rock Thrush, Gray Mouse Lemur, *Petter's Sportive Lemur?*, *Blaesodactylus sakalava* (Sakalava Madagascar Velvet Gecko), *Paroedura bastardi*.

Hotel: Jardin de Beravy.

Day 21: 22 November

Ifaty – Tulear

Highlights: *Subdesert Mesite*, Gray-headed Lovebird, Running Coua, Madagascar Spinetail, Long-tailed Ground-Roller, Hook-billed Vanga, Lafresnaye's Vanga, Sickle-billed Vanga, Archbold's Newtonia, Subdesert Brush-Warbler, Thamnornis, Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec, Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat, *Oplurus cyclurus*, *Mimophis mahfalensis*.

Hotel : Arboretum d'Antsokay Bungalows.



Ifaty and area was marvellous. This would be a great place to visit as a single trip to really be able to enjoy it. We were pretty tired out by this point so didn't get as much out of it as we may have otherwise. Clockwise from top left: Madagascar Plover (we saw a single bird at a nest in the salt pans west of Tulear), Long-tailed Ground Roller, some of the spectacular vegetation of the spiny forest, Subdesert Mesite family and a spectacular robber fly.

Day 22: 23 November

Domestic Flight Tulear – Tana

Highlights: *Green-capped Coua*. Hotel: Chalet des Roses (four group members stayed at IC Hotel the next night – closer to the airport and more convenient for departures).

Day 23: 24 November. Flights home.

Ebird data from the trip:

skevingtonj

eBird Checklist Summary for: Nov 2, 2017 at 14:15 to Nov 24, 2017

Number of Checklists: 133

Number of Taxa: 179

Checklists included in this summary:

(1): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park (-18.8125,48.4299)

Date: Nov 10, 2017 at 14:38

(2): MG-Antananarivo Hotel (-18.8082,47.4707)

Date: Nov 2, 2017 at 16:47

(3): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 7 (-20.3999,47.1648)

Date: Nov 14, 2017 at 12:42

(4): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-16.4271,47.1381)

Date: Nov 7, 2017 at 07:35

(5): MG-Mahajanga-Mozambique Channel (-15.7280,46.2961)

Date: Nov 4, 2017 at 13:29

(6): MG-Toamasina-N 2 (-18.9830,48.6124)

Date: Nov 12, 2017 at 08:55

(7): MG-Antananarivo-N 4 (-18.1576,47.2104)

Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 08:33

(8): MG-Toamasina-N 2 (-18.9607,48.3038)

Date: Nov 8, 2017 at 13:42

(9): MG-Fianarantsoa-Ranomafana National Park (-21.2556,47.4072)

Date: Nov 17, 2017 at 06:35

(10): MG-Toamasina (-18.6646,49.2183)

Date: Nov 12, 2017 at 15:10

(11): Ankarafantsika Park Headquarters

Date: Nov 5, 2017 at 07:27

(12): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-16.8794,46.9665)

Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 14:43

(13): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park (-18.7923,48.4224)

Date: Nov 10, 2017 at 13:24

(14): MG-Antananarivo-Rue Rainitovo (-18.9090,47.5240)

Date: Nov 14, 2017 at 06:57

(15): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-16.3803,47.0802)

Date: Nov 7, 2017 at 06:57

(16): MG-Toliara-N 7 (-23.3181,43.9350)

Date: Nov 18, 2017 at 15:44

(17): MG-Mahajanga (-15.8586,46.3561)

Date: Nov 4, 2017 at 12:21

(18): MG-Toamasina-N 2 (-18.9733,48.5952)
Date: Nov 12, 2017 at 08:51
(19): MG-Antananarivo-N 4 (-18.2202,47.2076)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 08:19
(20): MG-Fianarantsoa (-21.1934,47.3720)
Date: Nov 15, 2017 at 15:34
(21): MG-Antananarivo-N 2 (-18.9277,47.8288)
Date: Nov 8, 2017 at 11:39
(22): MG-Fianarantsoa (-21.2322,47.4015)
Date: Nov 16, 2017 at 17:16
(23): MG-Toamasina (-18.6723,49.2153)
Date: Nov 12, 2017 at 15:08
(24): MG-Mahajanga (-16.3017,46.8120)
Date: Nov 5, 2017 at 05:49
(25): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-16.9377,46.9485)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 14:04
(26): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park (-18.7989,48.4279)
Date: Nov 10, 2017 at 08:56
(27): MG-Toamasina-N 2 (-18.8254,49.0718)
Date: Nov 13, 2017 at 12:18
(28): MG-Mahajanga (-16.3105,46.8213)
Date: Nov 6, 2017 at 16:45
(29): MG-Toliara (-22.9537,44.3423)
Date: Nov 18, 2017 at 13:36
(30): Bombetoka Bay
Date: Nov 4, 2017 at 09:05
(31): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park (-18.9322,48.4141)
Date: Nov 12, 2017 at 06:38
(32): MG-Antananarivo-N 4 (-18.2697,47.1728)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 07:57
(33): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 25 (-21.2131,47.3651)
Date: Nov 15, 2017 at 14:57
(34): MG-Antananarivo-N 2 (-18.8973,47.6919)
Date: Nov 8, 2017 at 11:00
(35): MG-Fianarantsoa (-21.2328,47.4015)
Date: Nov 16, 2017 at 17:11
(36): MG-Toamasina (-18.7567,49.1524)
Date: Nov 12, 2017 at 13:36
(37): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-16.3081,46.8141)
Date: Nov 5, 2017 at 05:44
(38): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-16.9505,46.9287)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 13:49
(39): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park (-18.8125,48.4294)

Date: Nov 10, 2017 at 08:02
(40): MG-Toamasina (-18.7612,49.1267)
Date: Nov 13, 2017 at 11:42
(41): MG-Mahajanga (-16.3171,46.8225)
Date: Nov 6, 2017 at 15:31
(42): Zombitse-Vohibasia NP
Date: Nov 18, 2017 at 07:47
(43): MG-Mahajanga (-15.8208,46.2845)
Date: Nov 4, 2017 at 08:36
(44): Hotel Feon'ny Ala
Date: Nov 12, 2017 at 05:55
(45): MG-Antananarivo-N 4 (-18.3223,47.1218)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 07:40
(46): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 25 (-21.2787,47.5074)
Date: Nov 15, 2017 at 14:12
(47): Antananarivo--Lac Alarobia
Date: Nov 8, 2017 at 07:55
(48): MG-Fianarantsoa (-21.2333,47.4018)
Date: Nov 16, 2017 at 16:48
(49): MG-Mahajanga (-16.3324,46.8482)
Date: Nov 5, 2017 at 05:07
(50): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-17.0654,46.8040)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 12:21
(51): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park (-19.0318,48.4508)
Date: Nov 9, 2017 at 15:46
(52): MG-Toamasina (-18.7178,49.1810)
Date: Nov 13, 2017 at 10:44
(53): Ankarafantsika--Circuit Retendrika
Date: Nov 6, 2017 at 12:59
(54): Isalo Ranch Hotel
Date: Nov 17, 2017 at 18:09
(55): MG-Mahajanga-Mozambique Channel (-15.7073,46.3047)
Date: Nov 4, 2017 at 07:54
(56): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park (-18.9332,48.4143)
Date: Nov 11, 2017 at 16:08
(57): MG-Antananarivo-N 4 (-18.4401,47.1471)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 07:22
(58): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 25 (-21.2787,47.5074)
Date: Nov 15, 2017 at 05:45
(59): MG-Antananarivo-Rue Ravoninahitriniarivo (-18.8849,47.5229)
Date: Nov 8, 2017 at 07:45
(60): MG-Fianarantsoa (-21.2339,47.4009)
Date: Nov 16, 2017 at 16:33

(61): MG-Mahajanga (-16.3379,46.8385)
Date: Nov 4, 2017 at 18:59
(62): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-17.5255,46.9784)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 11:01
(63): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park (-19.0311,48.4578)
Date: Nov 9, 2017 at 10:58
(64): MG-Toamasina (-18.6662,49.2175)
Date: Nov 13, 2017 at 10:23
(65): Ankarafantsika NP--Lac Ampijiora
Date: Nov 6, 2017 at 12:31
(66): MG-Fianarantsoa (-22.6179,45.3625)
Date: Nov 17, 2017 at 17:05
(67): MG-Mahajanga-Boulevard Marcoz (-15.7149,46.3007)
Date: Nov 4, 2017 at 06:37
(68): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park (-18.9359,48.4188)
Date: Nov 11, 2017 at 15:08
(69): MG-Antananarivo-N 4 (-18.6185,47.2520)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 06:52
(70): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 25 (-21.2573,47.4538)
Date: Nov 15, 2017 at 11:59
(71): MG-Antananarivo-Route de la Digue (-18.8931,47.4922)
Date: Nov 7, 2017 at 18:14
(72): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 25 (-21.2405,47.3945)
Date: Nov 16, 2017 at 14:58
(73): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-16.3140,46.8178)
Date: Nov 4, 2017 at 17:47
(74): MG-Antananarivo-N 4 (-17.8297,47.0282)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 10:04
(75): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park (-19.0322,48.4420)
Date: Nov 9, 2017 at 09:05
(76): MG-Toamasina Palmarium Lodge (-18.6086,49.2083)
Date: Nov 13, 2017 at 04:33
(77): Ankarafantsika Park Headquarters
Date: Nov 6, 2017 at 05:48
(78): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 7 (-22.6119,45.3829)
Date: Nov 17, 2017 at 16:50
(79): Lake Amboromalandy
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 17:13
(80): PN Andasibe
Date: Nov 11, 2017 at 06:25
(81): MG-Antananarivo (-18.6873,47.2964)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 06:39
(82): MG-Fianarantsoa-Ranomafana National Park hilltop (-21.2646,47.4217)

Date: Nov 15, 2017 at 08:40
(83): MG-Antananarivo-N 4 (-18.1576,47.2104)
Date: Nov 7, 2017 at 14:51
(84): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 25 (-21.2405,47.3945)
Date: Nov 16, 2017 at 07:35
(85): MG-Mahajanga (-16.1288,46.7446)
Date: Nov 4, 2017 at 17:14
(86): MG-Antananarivo-N 4 (-17.8610,47.0316)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 10:00
(87): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park (-19.0076,48.4337)
Date: Nov 9, 2017 at 07:38
(88): MG-Toamasina (-18.6051,49.2078)
Date: Nov 12, 2017 at 21:21
(89): Ankarafantsika Park Headquarters
Date: Nov 5, 2017 at 17:41
(90): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 7 (-22.4987,45.6975)
Date: Nov 17, 2017 at 15:51
(91): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-16.1755,46.7527)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 17:06
(92): V.O.I. M.M.A (Community Reserve)
Date: Nov 10, 2017 at 18:48
(93): MG-Antananarivo (-18.8083,47.4704)
Date: Nov 2, 2017 at 21:13
(94): Ranomafana NP
Date: Nov 15, 2017 at 06:34
(95): MG-Antananarivo-N 4 (-17.8378,47.0290)
Date: Nov 7, 2017 at 13:43
(96): MG-Fianarantsoa-Ranomafana National Park (-21.2566,47.4096)
Date: Nov 16, 2017 at 06:42
(97): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-16.0676,46.7268)
Date: Nov 4, 2017 at 16:58
(98): MG-Antananarivo-N 4 (-18.0083,47.1477)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 09:26
(99): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park Indri Lodge (-18.9532,48.4153)
Date: Nov 9, 2017 at 05:40
(100): MG-Fianarantsoa (-21.8520,46.8411)
Date: Nov 17, 2017 at 10:27
(101): MG-Toamasina (-18.6207,49.2371)
Date: Nov 12, 2017 at 17:55
(102): MG-Mahajanga (-16.3106,46.8172)
Date: Nov 5, 2017 at 15:26
(103): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 7 (-22.4065,45.9528)
Date: Nov 17, 2017 at 15:19

(104): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-16.2992,46.8106)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 16:49
(105): MG-Toamasina-Zahamena National Park (-18.8272,48.4327)
Date: Nov 10, 2017 at 15:24
(106): MG-Antananarivo-N 52 (-18.8074,47.4720)
Date: Nov 2, 2017 at 18:01
(107): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 7 (-20.7728,47.1819)
Date: Nov 14, 2017 at 16:04
(108): Betsiboka River Crossing
Date: Nov 7, 2017 at 09:27
(109): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 25 (-21.2396,47.3943)
Date: Nov 15, 2017 at 16:52
(110): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-15.9014,46.5787)
Date: Nov 4, 2017 at 16:15
(111): MG-Antananarivo-N 4 (-18.1163,47.2028)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 09:01
(112): PN Andasibe
Date: Nov 8, 2017 at 16:06
(113): MG-Fianarantsoa-N 7 (-21.7807,46.9511)
Date: Nov 17, 2017 at 09:43
(114): MG-Toamasina (-18.6049,49.2132)
Date: Nov 12, 2017 at 16:14
(115): Ankarafantsika Park Headquarters
Date: Nov 5, 2017 at 13:29
(116): MG-Toamasina-N 2 (-18.9818,48.9413)
Date: Nov 12, 2017 at 10:13
(117): MG-Mahajanga-N 4 (-16.3548,47.0349)
Date: Nov 3, 2017 at 16:14
(118): MG-Toliara (-23.4174,43.8048)
Date: Nov 19, 2017 at 07:06
(119): MG-Toliara (-23.4238,43.8069)
Date: Nov 19, 2017 at 07:14
(120): MG-Toliara (-23.4256,43.8064)
Date: Nov 19, 2017 at 07:19
(121): Belalanda Wetlands
Date: Nov 19, 2017 at 10:26
(122): Arboretum d'Antsokay
Date: Nov 19, 2017 at 15:54
(123): Arboretum d'Antsokay
Date: Nov 19, 2017 at 18:29
(124): MG-Toliara (-23.6742,43.6489)
Date: Nov 20, 2017 at 13:34
(125): Nosy Ve

Date: Nov 20, 2017 at 14:41
(126): MG-Toliara (-23.6732,43.6476)
Date: Nov 21, 2017 at 05:29
(127): Ifaty--coastal flats
Date: Nov 21, 2017 at 10:43
(128): MG-Toliara-N9 Hotel (-23.1886,43.6189)
Date: Nov 21, 2017 at 11:24
(129): Ifaty--salt pans
Date: Nov 21, 2017 at 15:17
(130): MG-Toliara (-23.1196,43.6201)
Date: Nov 21, 2017 at 16:03
(131): MG-Toliara (-23.1196,43.6201)
Date: Nov 21, 2017 at 18:54
(132): MG-Toliara (-23.1196,43.6201)
Date: Nov 22, 2017 at 05:05
(133): MG-Antananarivo-Route de la Digue (-18.8581,47.4808)
Date: Nov 24, 2017 at 11:31

328 White-faced Whistling-Duck -- (6),(47),(53),(65),(102),(121)
2 Comb Duck -- (47)
28 African Pygmy-Goose -- (4)
23 Hottentot Teal -- (47),(85),(121)
9 Meller's Duck -- (13),(47)
592 Red-billed Duck -- (47),(85),(87),(121)
4 Bernier's Teal -- (17),(30)
2 Madagascar Partridge -- (78)
9 Little Grebe -- (121)
4 Madagascar Grebe -- (13),(47)
9 Greater Flamingo -- (121)
1 Lesser Flamingo -- (30)
32 Red-tailed Tropicbird -- (125)
4 Hamerkop -- (3),(45)
5 Gray Heron (Malagasy) -- (30),(125)
6 Humblot's Heron -- (30),(65),(102)
6 Purple Heron -- (23),(30),(36),(65),(102),(110)
1 Great Egret -- (104)
25 Great Egret (African) -- (30),(47),(65),(79),(85),(102),(133)
491 Little Egret (Dimorphic) -- (30),(47),(79),(85),(100),(102),(125),(126),(129),(133)
76 Black Heron -- (47)
1085 Cattle Egret (Western) -- (4),(11),(24),(47),(50),(65),(79),(102),(104),(121),(133)
292 Squacco Heron -- (4),(47),(65),(102)
22 Madagascar Pond-Heron -- (47),(104)

13 Striated Heron -- (4),(7),(30),(102),(129)
16 Black-crowned Night-Heron (Eurasian) -- (47),(71)
2 Madagascar Ibis -- (1),(80)
13 Sacred Ibis (Malagasy) -- (30)
1 Madagascar Harrier-Hawk -- (30)
3 Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk -- (7),(24),(96)
1 Reunion Harrier (Malagasy) -- (111)
2 Frances's Goshawk -- (11),(26)
8 Madagascar Sparrowhawk -- (11),(37),(42),(77),(80),(115),(130)
2 Henst's Goshawk -- (42),(87)
86 Black Kite (Yellow-billed) -- (4),(30),(36),(76),(77),(90),(98),(100),(102),(107),(111)
1 Madagascar Fish-Eagle -- (102)
13 Madagascar Buzzard -- (11),(25),(42),(74),(77),(80),(84),(94),(110),(120)
14 White-breasted Mesite -- (11),(24),(77),(132)
6 White-throated Rail -- (28),(41),(47),(80),(112)
1 Baillon's Crake (Western) -- (107)
23 Eurasian Moorhen -- (4),(13),(47),(65),(102)
3 Madagascar Wood-Rail -- (80),(94)
4 Madagascar Flufftail -- (35),(84),(109)
20 Black-winged Stilt -- (85),(91),(121),(129)
22 Black-bellied Plover -- (30),(125),(127)
30 Greater Sand-Plover -- (30),(125),(127)
58 Kittlitz's Plover -- (121),(127),(129)
15 Common Ringed Plover -- (30),(121),(127),(129)
1 Madagascar Plover -- (129)
1 Three-banded Plover -- (30)
10 White-fronted Plover -- (30),(125),(129)
2 Madagascar Jacana -- (4),(102)
30 Whimbrel (European) -- (30),(125),(127),(128)
15 Ruddy Turnstone -- (125),(127)
324 Curlew Sandpiper -- (30),(121),(125)
1 Sanderling -- (125)
2 Little Stint -- (121)
3 Madagascar Snipe -- (107)
8 Terek Sandpiper -- (30)
9 Common Sandpiper -- (3),(7),(30),(65),(121),(127)
6 Common Greenshank -- (30),(121),(127)
1 Wood Sandpiper -- (121)
6 Madagascar Buttonquail -- (11),(53)
1 Crab-Plover -- (127)
24 Madagascar Pratincole -- (10),(25),(27),(64),(83),(108),(116)
1 Saunders's Tern -- (30)
2 Caspian Tern -- (5)

12 Great Crested Tern -- (30),(43),(52),(125)
 56 Lesser Crested Tern -- (30),(125)
 47 Madagascar Sandgrouse -- (29)
 2 Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) -- (91)
 53 Madagascar Turtle-Dove --
 (41),(77),(80),(84),(87),(94),(100),(102),(122),(126),(130),(132)
 11 Namaqua Dove -- (16),(50),(65),(120),(124),(126),(130),(132)
 14 Madagascar Green-Pigeon -- (29),(46),(58)
 5 Madagascar Blue-Pigeon -- (60),(63),(80),(112)
 12 Crested Coua -- (11),(41),(42),(53),(76),(77),(130)
 7 Verreaux's Coua -- (118),(120)
 15 Blue Coua -- (80),(84),(87),(109)
 8 Red-capped Coua (Red-capped) -- (11),(115)
 3 Red-capped Coua (Green-capped) -- (120),(132)
 4 Red-fronted Coua -- (39),(51),(80),(94)
 5 Coquerel's Coua -- (53)
 6 Running Coua -- (120),(130),(132)
 2 Giant Coua -- (42)
 1 Red-breasted Coua -- (80)
 31 Madagascar Coucal --
 (4),(18),(24),(44),(47),(76),(77),(80),(100),(102),(110),(114),(120),(123),(126),(130),(132
)
 30 Madagascar Cuckoo --
 (11),(24),(26),(39),(44),(49),(54),(65),(77),(80),(82),(84),(94),(96),(102),(107),(109),(112)
 ,(115),(130),(132)
 4 Malagasy Scops-Owl -- (68),(76),(80),(92)
 1 Madagascar Long-eared Owl -- (56)
 1 Marsh Owl -- (90)
 2 White-browed Owl -- (42)
 2 Collared Nightjar -- (80)
 25 Madagascar Nightjar -- (8),(61),(76),(87),(88),(93),(101),(123),(131)
 7 Malagasy Spinetail -- (13),(63),(132)
 2 Alpine Swift -- (107)
 36 Madagascar Swift -- (14),(62),(96),(100)
 1 African Palm-Swift -- (4)
 40 African Palm-Swift (Madagascar) -- (30),(36),(44),(65),(70),(80),(94),(102),(112)
 39 Cuckoo-Roller -- (26),(39),(42),(44),(53),(72),(80),(84),(94),(115)
 7 Madagascar Hoopoe -- (24),(102),(115),(126)
 14 Malagasy Kingfisher -- (11),(47),(65),(68),(87),(97),(102)
 2 Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher -- (80),(105)
 32 Madagascar Bee-eater --
 (2),(4),(25),(29),(40),(50),(54),(65),(108),(115),(120),(121),(122),(126),(130),(132)
 12 Broad-billed Roller (Madagascar) -- (24),(42),(46),(73),(77),(80),(102),(115)

1 Short-legged Ground-Roller -- (51)
 3 Scaly Ground-Roller -- (1),(39)
 4 Pitta-like Ground-Roller -- (84),(94),(105)
 2 Rufous-headed Ground-Roller -- (51),(84)
 2 Long-tailed Ground-Roller -- (130),(132)
 17 Madagascar Kestrel --
 (19),(25),(41),(66),(69),(70),(74),(81),(87),(95),(108),(111),(121),(124),(126),(128)
 1 Banded Kestrel -- (42)
 28 Greater Vasa-Parrot -- (11),(24),(26),(53),(77),(87),(94),(108),(112),(115),(130),(132)
 10 Lesser Vasa-Parrot -- (24),(26),(42),(80),(87),(132)
 78 Gray-headed Lovebird -- (11),(41),(126),(130),(132)
 8 Velvet Asity -- (26),(51),(84),(94)
 1 Schlegel's Asity -- (24)
 4 Sunbird Asity -- (63),(84)
 4 Archbold's Newtonia -- (120),(130),(132)
 40 Common Newtonia -- (11),(24),(26),(42),(77),(80),(84),(87),(96),(120),(130),(132)
 2 Dark Newtonia -- (84)
 13 Tylas Vanga -- (39),(80),(84),(94)
 9 Red-tailed Vanga -- (75),(80),(96),(130)
 4 Red-shouldered Vanga -- (120)
 1 Nuthatch-Vanga -- (84)
 27 Chabert Vanga -- (11),(44),(77),(80),(89),(96),(112),(115),(120),(130),(132)
 1 Crossley's Vanga -- (26)
 6 Blue Vanga (Madagascar) -- (11),(53),(77),(80),(112)
 7 Hook-billed Vanga -- (31),(44),(76),(132)
 7 Ward's Flycatcher -- (44),(80),(87),(94),(112)
 3 Rufous Vanga -- (11)
 4 Sickle-billed Vanga -- (89),(132)
 9 White-headed Vanga -- (11),(38),(80),(84),(89),(112),(115),(132)
 2 Pollen's Vanga -- (84)
 3 Lafresnaye's Vanga -- (126),(132)
 3 Van Dam's Vanga -- (77),(115)
 8 Ashy Cuckooshrike (Madagascar) -- (77),(80),(87),(94),(96),(115)
 31 Crested Drongo (Malagasy) --
 (11),(12),(41),(42),(44),(76),(80),(87),(94),(102),(112),(117),(118),(120),(122),(130),(132)
)
 40 Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher (Madagascar) --
 (11),(24),(26),(38),(39),(44),(53),(68),(77),(80),(87),(92),(96),(102),(108),(122),(123)
 31 Pied Crow --
 (3),(25),(36),(78),(86),(90),(98),(100),(110),(113),(120),(124),(125),(126)
 53 Madagascar Lark -- (19),(29),(32),(57),(86),(90),(95),(103),(120),(121),(126)
 6 Plain Martin -- (2),(33),(57)
 40 Mascarene Martin -- (25),(65),(96),(102),(108)

3 Barn Swallow (White-bellied) -- (121)
135 Madagascar Bulbul --
(11),(13),(24),(26),(42),(44),(76),(77),(80),(84),(87),(94),(96),(108),(112),(114),(115),(122),(130),(132)
26 Madagascar Brush-Warbler -- (7),(13),(26),(44),(47),(68),(80),(84),(94),(96)
43 Subdesert Brush-Warbler -- (119),(120),(122),(124),(126)
7 Madagascar Swamp Warbler -- (4),(13),(47),(121)
1 Brown Emutail -- (48)
2 Gray Emutail -- (20)
1 White-throated Oxylabes -- (94)
13 Long-billed Bernieria -- (11),(26),(42),(53),(77),(84),(94)
2 Cryptic Warbler -- (22)
6 Wedge-tailed Jery -- (84),(94)
4 Thamnornis -- (130),(132)
6 Spectacled Tetraka -- (26),(92),(94)
2 Appert's Tetraka -- (42)
2 Gray-crowned Tetraka -- (84)
12 Rand's Warbler -- (13),(39),(44),(84),(94)
33 Common Jery -- (11),(24),(42),(100),(130),(131),(132)
15 Green Jery -- (44),(68),(80),(94)
14 Stripe-throated Jery -- (44),(84),(87),(100),(120),(130),(132)
20 Madagascar Cisticola -- (4),(29),(54),(78),(87),(107),(118),(120),(121),(125),(127)
118 Madagascar White-eye -- (13),(24),(44),(80),(84),(87),(96),(109),(112)
41 Madagascar Magpie-Robin --
(11),(26),(42),(44),(53),(77),(80),(87),(94),(96),(100),(102),(112),(115),(120),(122),(123),(130),(132)
11 Littoral Rock-Thrush -- (124),(126)
1 Forest Rock-Thrush (Benson's) -- (66)
1 Forest Rock-Thrush (Forest) -- (96)
7 African Stonechat (Madagascar) -- (13),(21),(34),(44),(107)
94 Common Myna --
(2),(3),(7),(44),(47),(54),(76),(112),(121),(122),(124),(125),(126),(127),(128),(129)
1 Madagascar Starling -- (9)
180 Souimanga Sunbird --
(7),(11),(13),(24),(26),(39),(42),(44),(53),(63),(76),(77),(80),(84),(87),(94),(96),(115),(120),(122),(124),(126),(130),(132)
6 Madagascar Sunbird -- (44),(63),(70),(80),(94)
13 Madagascar Wagtail -- (7),(30),(44),(94),(96),(99),(108)
12 House Sparrow -- (55),(67)
10 Nelicourvi Weaver -- (44),(80),(84),(87),(112)
78 Sakalava Weaver -- (4),(11),(15),(55),(102),(122),(124),(128),(130),(132)
52 Red Fody -- (47),(55),(59),(106),(124),(126),(130),(132),(133)

8 Forest Fody -- (13),(76),(80)

32 Madagascar Munia -- (67),(84),(99),(121)

Reptiles and Amphibians seen in Madagascar (Nov. 2-23, 2017) – prepared by S. Smith

Reptiles - Lizards

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location (acronyms follow)
<i>Brookesia brygooi</i>	Brygooi's Chameleon	A
<i>Calumma brevicorne</i>	Short-horned Chameleon	V, An, M
<i>Calumma crypticum</i>	Cryptic (blue-legged) Chameleon	R
<i>Calumma nasutum</i>	Nose Horned Chameleon	Mt, R, V
<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>	Oshaughnessy's Chameleon	R
<i>Calumma parsonii</i>	Parson's Chameleon	Mt, P
<i>Furcifer undescribed species?</i>	Possibly undescribed species or form of Oustalet's Chameleon	Ak
<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	Oustalet's Chameleon	Ak, A, Anb, Drive
<i>Furcifer pardalis</i>	Panther Chameleon	P (♂ + ♀)
<i>Furcifer rhinocerus</i>	Rhinocerus Chameleon	Ak
<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>	Warty Chameleon	Z
<i>Furcifer willsii</i>	Canopy Chameleon	R
<i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>	Cuvier's Madagascar Swift	Ak
<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>	Merrem's Madagascar Swift	T, Anb
<i>Oplurus quadromaculatus</i>	Dumeril's Madagascar Swift	A
<i>Chlarodon madagascarensis</i>	Three-eyed lizard	Z, T, Ana, Anb
<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>	Western Plated Lizard	Ak
<i>Zonosaurus madagascarensis</i>	Madagascar Plated Lizard	Mt, V
<i>Trachylepis madagascarensis</i>	Madagascar Keeled Plated lizard	T, I
<i>Trachylepis aureopunctata</i>	Gold Spotted Skink	Z
<i>Blaesodactylus ambonihazo</i>	Madagascar Velvet Gecko	Ak
<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>	Sakalava Velvet Gecko	I, Z

<i>Paragehyra petiti</i>	Angel's Petit Gecko	Ana
<i>Matoatoa brevipes</i>		Ana
<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	Common House Gecko	R, Ana, T, I, Li
<i>Hemidactylus mecatorius</i>	Grey's House Gecko	R, Ana, Li, T
<i>Paroedura bastardii</i>	McQuard's Ground Gecko	I
<i>Paroedura picta</i>	Madagascar Ground Gecko	T
<i>Uroplatus henkeli</i>	Henkel's Leaf Tailed Gecko	Ak
<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>	Satanic Leaf Tailed Gecko	R
<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>	Mossy Leaf Tailed Gecko	An
<i>Lygodactylus blancae</i>	Lake Itasy Dwarf Gecko	Li
<i>Lygodactylus miops</i>	Rainforest Dwarf Gecko	V
<i>Lygodactylus picta</i>	Robust Dwarf Gecko	Ts
<i>Lygodactylus tolampyae</i>	Grandidier's Dwarf Gecko	Z, Ak
<i>Lygodactylus tuberosus</i>	Spiny Forest Dwarf Gecko	I
<i>Lygodactylus verticillatus</i>		I
<i>Phelsuma breviceps</i>	Short-Headed Day Gecko	Ana
<i>Phelsuma grandis</i>	Giant Day Gecko	P
<i>Phelsuma guttata</i>	Speckled Day Gecko	P
<i>Phelsuma kochi</i>	Koch's Day Gecko	Ak,
<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>	Lined Day Gecko	T, M, An, V, R, Ts, Ad
<i>Phelsuma modesta</i>	Modest Day Gecko	Ana, T
<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>	Thick tailed Day Gecko	Ak, Ana, Anb
<i>Phelsuma pusilla</i>	Small lined Day Gecko	P
<i>Phelsuma quadrocellata</i>	Peacock Day Gecko	R
<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>	Standing's Day Gecko	T, Z
Snakes		
1. <i>Sanzinia madagascarensis</i>	Madagascar Tree Boa	An, A, R
2. <i>Madagascarophis colubrinus</i>	Madagascar Cat Eyed Snake	Ak

<i>Madagascarophis meridionalis</i>	Common Big Eye Snake	Ak
<i>Leioheterodon madagascarensis</i>	Giant Hognose Snake	Ak, Z
<i>Leioheterodon modestus</i>	Blonde Hognose Snake	Anb
<i>Langaha madagascarensis</i>	Leaf Nosed Snake ♀	Ak
<i>Liopholidophis sexlineatus</i>	Six Lined Water Snake	R
<i>Ithycyphus miniatus</i>	Tiny Night Snake (red blotched)	Ak
<i>Mimophis mahfalensis</i>	Mahafaly Sand Snake	Ak, I, Z, Anb, T, Drive
<i>Thamnosophis lateralis</i>	Lateral Water Snake	A
<i>Thamnosophis epistibes</i>		R
<i>Dromicodryas quadrilineatus</i>	Four Striped Snake	Drive
Turtles		
<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	Radiated Tortoise (captive specimens)	P, T, Is
<i>Pyxis arachnoides</i>	Spider Tortoise (plastron fragment)	Ana
Crocodilians		
<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	Nile Crocodile	Ak
Amphibians - Frogs		
<i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i>	Mascarene Ridged Frog	R, A
<i>Heterixalis madagascarensis</i>	Madagascar Reed Frog	P
<i>Heterixalis alboguttatus</i>	Starry Night Reed Frog ♀ + ♂	R
<i>Heterixalis carbonei</i> (tbc)	vertical rhomboid pupil genus diagnostic	Ak
<i>Anodonthyla moramora</i>	Ranamofana Tree Hole Frog	R
<i>Boophis albilabris</i>	White Lipped Bright Eyed Frog (?)	R
<i>Boophis doulioti</i>	Western Bright Eyed Frog	A
<i>Boophis picturatus</i>	(newly emerged)	V

<i>Boophis tephraeomystax</i>	Dumeril's Bright Eyed Frog (Spike heels)	R
<i>Boophis periegetes</i>	(?)	R
<i>Aglyptodactylus madagascarensis</i>	Madagascar Jumping Frog	V, R
<i>Bloomersia bloomersae</i>	(near hanging egg clusters)	R
<i>Mantella baroni</i>	Baron's Mantella	V, Mt
<i>Guibemantis pulcher</i>	Pandanus Frog	R
<i>Gephyromantis enki</i>		R
<i>Mantidactylus majori</i>	Ivohimanitra Madagascar Frog	R

Location acronyms:

A = Anja Reserve

Ad = Andasibe

Ak = Antkarafantsika

An = Analamazoatra

Ana = Anakao

Anb = Anbify

Drive = somewhere between Antkarafantsika and Tana

I = Ifaty (Jardin de Beravy)

Li = Lake Ifasy

M = Mahajanga

Mt = Mantadia

P = Palmerium

R = Ranamofana

T = Tulear area (Belanada, Andataba, Arboretum)

Ts = Tsarasoatra Ramsar Site Tana

V = Voimma Community Reserve (Helmet Vanga)

Comments: This list includes a few species found on a day trip November 24 to Anbify and Lake Ifasy with 4 participants. For most of the frogs, identification was based on location, key characteristics or other factors and all have photos. The only one still not fully confirmed is *Boophis albilabris*. The bird poop frog from Antkarafantsika is likely the critically endangered *Heterixalus carbonei* as it is from that area and has a vertically rhomboid eye pupil diagnostic of that genus. Some frogs found were very localized endemics (e.g. Ranamofana Tree Hole Frog and *Gephyromantis enki*).

References: Glaw and Vences 2007 third Ed., Behrens and Barnes 2016 and limited internet sites



Trip participants (from left): Rick Collins, Sharon Smith, Michelle Locke, Jim Mountjoy, Jennifer Templeton, Jeff Skevington, Alexander Skevington, Angela Skevington