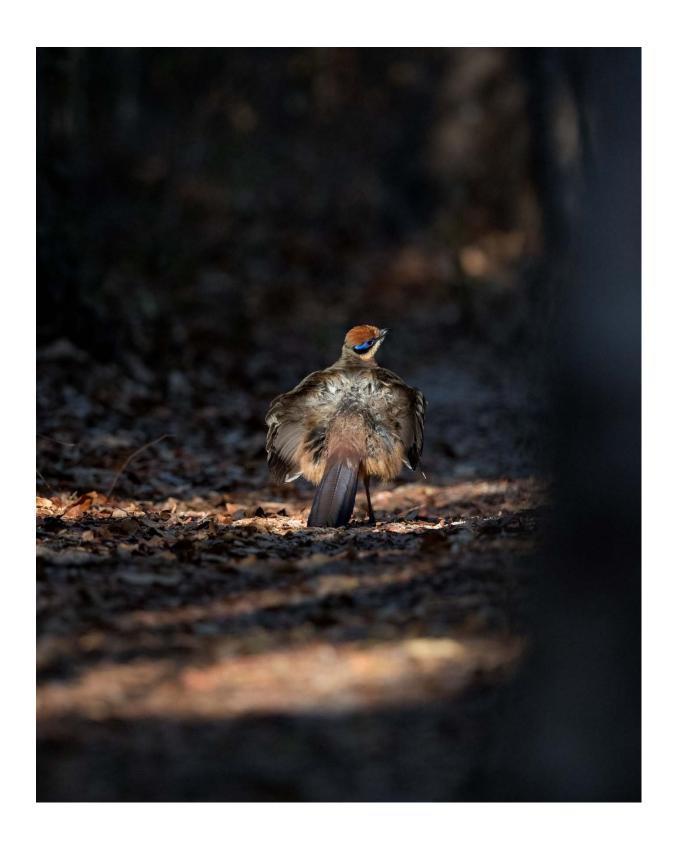
Birding Madagascar

1-22 November 2018. Trip report compiled by Tomas Carlberg.



Front cover

Red-capped Coua, sunbathing in Ankarafantsika National Park. Photo: Tomas Carlberg

Photos

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Participants

Tomas Carlberg (Tour leader), Jonas Nordin, Sweden; Rolf Nordin, Sweden; Olof Persson, Sweden; Jesper Hornskov, Denmark; Eric Schaumburg, Denmark; Hans Harrestrup Andersen, Denmark; Hans Wulffsberg, Denmark; Ian Fryer, UK Serge "Zina" Raheritsiferana (organizer and driver), Fidson "Fidy" Albert Alberto (guide), and Lala.

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Tour organizers

Serge "Zina" Raheritsiferana (Zina-Go Travel), Stig Holmstedt.

Note

The Danes (JH, ES, HW & HHA) started earlier, visiting Anjozorobe 30th October to 1st November and flew back to Tana one day later than the rest of the group. For a summary of their trip, see Appendix p. 26 (J. Hornskov & E. Schaumburg).

Itinerary

- 1.11 Flight from Europe to Antananarivo
- 2.11 Transport Antananarivo to Ankarafantsika NP
- 3.11 Ankarafantsika NP
- 4.11 Ankarafantsika NP
- 5.11 Bombetaka Bay/Betsiboka Delta
- 6.11 Transport Ankarafantsika to Antananarivo
- 7.11 Antananarivo to Andasibe-Mantadia NP
- 8.11 Mantadia
- 9.11 Iharoka
- 10.11 Andasibe-Mantadia NP; Analamazoatra
- 11.11 Andasibe-Mantadia NP; Analamazoatra to Antananariyo
- 12.11 Antananarivo to Ranomafana NP
- 13.11 Ranomafana NP
- 14.11 Ranomafana NP
- 15.11 Transport Ranomafana NP to Isalo Ranch
- 16.11 Isalo NP, Zombitse NP to Mangily/Ifaty
- 17.11 Ifaty Spiny Forest
- 18.11 La Table
- 19.11 Anakao, Nosy Ve, Reniala
- 20.11 Flight from Toliara to Antananarivo
- 21.11 Parc Tsarasaotra, Antananarivo
- 22.11 Early flight to Europe. Arrival back home.

Daily log

November 1st

Some of us (TC, JN, and RN) flew Air France from Arlanda, Stockholm at 06:00 to Paris, where we met OP (who flew from Gothenburg) and IF (flew from Manchester). An 11 hrs flight took us to Antananarivo, where we landed just before midnight. Once through after visa and passport control we met Zina at the airport. We stayed at IC Hotel and fell asleep at 01:30.

November 2nd

Woke up at 6, met the Danes (JH, ES, HW, and HHA), and had breakfast. Changed c. 400 Euro each and got 1 540 000 ariary... Departure at 7:30 heading north towards Ankarafantsika NP. Saw a male Malagasy Harrier c. 16 km south of Ankazobe (-18.45915, 47.160156), so stopped for birding there 9:45-10:05. Stop at 11:40 to buy sandwiches for lunch. Lunch with birding 12:55-13:15. Long transport today... Stopped for birding at bridge over Betsiboka River 16:30-17:30; highlight here were c. 20 Madagascan Pratincoles. Late arrival to Blue Vanga Lodge.

November 3rd

Ankarafantsika NP. Breakfast 5:30, departure at 6. Met local guide "Mr Gildas". Morning birding until lunch in dry forest (two different trails) successfully searching for Schlegel's Asity. Back for lunch at the lodge, siesta until 15. Back to the headquarter (HQ) in Ankarafantsika in the afternoon. Birding around HQ/road/bridge. We split into two groups and did boat tours at Lake Ravelobe, where we saw Humblot's Heron and a Crocodile. Looked for birds and mammals near the lodge 18:30-19:30.

November 4th

Ankarafantsika NP. Breakfast at 5, departure 5:35. Walked trail from HQ, main targets were Van Dam's Vanga and White-breasted Mesite; we managed to see both after some 'hard work'; totally 6 seen mesites and the vanga was bagged at 09:20. Birded until lunch and then back to Blue Vanga Lodge. Siesta until 15, today's temperature +35 degrees Celcius. Went to a wetland c. 1.7 km SSE of the village Beamilaka (-16.35179, 46.84229) to look for Madagascan Jacana (failed, but saw White-throated Rail and Baillon's Crake). Tried a second wetland in the vicinity, but no Jacana there. Went back to "wetland 1" and birded there until dusk. Still no jacana, but saw a Sooty Falcon flying by.

November 5th

We were served coffee and tea at 4:15, departure 4:30. Stopped after 2 hrs to look for Madagascan Sandgrouse 6:30-7:15 (failed, but saw some nice Madagascan Larks which pleased the photographers). Continued to Mahajanga, where we boarded a speedboat and had a productive trip in the Bombetaka Bay/Betsiboka Delta 8:30-11:45. Had a nice lunch (most of us had fish) at a hotel in Mahajanga. Then back to Blue Vanga Lodge. Afternoon spent at a nice wetland - Lake d'Amboromalandy, where we at last saw two Madagascan Jacanas.

November 6th

Long transport today. Left Blue Vanga Lodge at 5 for a c. 13 hours bus trip to our hotel in Tana; La Pasoa Residence. Birding at a wetland (Amborondola Ponds) 5:50-7:15 while Zina arranged with a broken tyre. We saw Madagascan Swamp Warblers, African Pygmy Goose etc. Stopped *en route* for the Malagasy Harrier we had seen 2nd November, and this time we saw both a male and a female, and also Madagascan Snipe. Had an excellent dinner at the hotel.

November 7th

Had a lie-in this morning. Departure 8:15 heading for Andasibe-Mantadia NP. Arrived at Indri Lodge (our lodge for four nights) around 12, and had lunch. Out for birding after lunch, mainly along a road at Analamazoatra Reserve. Saw Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher, Madagascan Owl, Rainforest Scops Owl and in a tree great views of hunting Ward's Flycatcher, Chabert Vanga, and Crested Drongo. Nightlighting gave us Goodman's Mouse Lemur.

November 8th

Andasibe-Mantadia NP. Breakfast at 5. We had 'technical problems' with one of our 4WD jeeps, so we had to change the programme. Instead for going to Iharoka we had a full day birding in Mantadia. We birded along roads and walked several trails. This was our "Big Ground Roller Day"; highlights were Scaly Ground Roller (at and near a nest), Short-legged Ground Roller (perched in a tree), Pitta-like Ground Roller (displaying), and Rufous-headed Ground Roller. We saw the rare (Critically Endangered) Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur, and Fidy impressed by discovering a brutally well camouflaged gecko. Our local guide found a Lowland Streaked Tenrec. We were back at the lodge around 17.

November 9th

Iharoka. Breakfast 5, departure 5:45 with three 4WD jeeps towards Iharoka. Did some stops *en route* for birding; got good views of Madagascan Rail and (only some of us) Madagascan Partridge. Started to walk at 7:15 through very nice forest. The main target today was Helmet Vanga. We walked uphill for c. 1.5 h. And waited. No Vanga... (I will not go into detail here, but this day was a major disappointment when it comes to the iconic Helmet Vanga, but the area offered some excellent birding, including Madagascan Ibis (seen by JN only), Yellow-bellied Sunbird Asity (seen by ES only), and a lovely pair of Collared Nightjars with two chicks.

November 10th

Andasibe-Mantadia NP. Analamazoatra Reserve. Breakfast at 5:15, departure 6. Short bus ride to park HQ. Walked trails in the forest until lunch. Worked hard – around two hours – before we managed to see the Rufous-breasted Coua. Brushy and warm inside the forest. Other highlights included superb views of six Indris (we also heard their fascinating calls). We had lunch and rest at a nearby pizzeria. Out on the trails again after lunch. A few raindrops fell but not more than that. Three Madagascan Wood Rails were attracted by our playback and showed nicely. A group of very charming Brown Lemurs showed well in the afternoon.

November 11th

Andasibe-Mantadia NP. Analamazoatra Reserve. Breakfast at 5:15, departure 6 for birding along road and in the forest around the 'Sacred Tree' and Orchid Garden until 9:10. Long transport and lunch S Tana. Arrived at Hotel Cristal at 18:30, after 9 hours bus ride (including a flat tyre).

November 12th

Breakfast at 7, departure 8, heading towards Ranomafana NP. Yet another long transport day, totally 11 hours. Brought picnic for lunch. A stop 1.25 hrs at a wetland – close to Reserve Villageois d'Ankazomivady – gave superb views of Madagascan Snipe. *En route* we saved the life of a Tailless Tenrec, which had been caught by some youngsters (we bought it and released it). Arrived to Hotel Cristo around 19; nice hotel with comfortable beds and good food. Heavy rain on arrival.

November 13th

Full day birding in Ranomafana NP with local guide, 22 years old Stephan (Jean-Chris's son). It was – unfortunately – raining more or less the whole day,

which hampered good birding. A tough day, walking up and down on the trails... New species among others were Grey-crowned Tetraka. Nightlighting 18-18:45 gave great views of some lemurs and chameleons.

November 14th

Ranomafana NP. Really bad luck with the weather... rain again, more or less the whole day. Birded the Vohiparara area. Today we all got mindblowing views of the Madagascan Ibis. Other new species were Grey Emutail, Brown Emutail, and Madagascan Yellowbrow. Local guides were father and son Jean-Chris and Stephan.

November 15th

Last morning in Ranomafana NP. Rain again... With local guide Jean-Chris. JN + TC went with Zina, Fidy and Jean-Chris for an early (departure 4:30) morning birding in the Vohiparara area to try see the Brown Mesite (failed). We were picked up by the rest of the group at 6:45 and continued SW towards Isalo. After a while driving we had sunshine again. We stopped at Parc Anja (Anja Community Reserve) 10:30-13 for lunch and to look for Ring-tailed Lemurs. Here we also saw the localised and newly described Bruno's Leaf Chameleon. After lunch we continued through a pretty nice landscape with vast grasslands and high mountains. Birding in the area c. 500 m NE Isalo Rock Lodge (-22.616929, 45.362177), not far from Isalo Ranch, gave a male and female 'Benson's Rock Thrush'. Reached our hotel Isalo Ranch at dusk. Nice hotel with good food.

November 16th

Some of us woke up at 03:00 when a pair of Whitebrowed Hawk-Owls were calling outside our bungalows. Left at 5:30 to look for Madagascan Partridge (failed despite intensive effort at two different spots until 08:00). Visited Zombitse NP 10-12, were we on arrival saw a flying Cuckoo Roller and a Crested Coua, and later Appert's Tetraka, Giant Coua and two White-browed Hawk-Owls on day roost. Other highlights were a Rufous Vanga at nest, and Verreaux's Sifaka. At lunch time stop to look for Madagascan Sandgrouse - we found a group of 65 with help from a local guide. It was a very warm day, approx. +39 degrees C. We continued and passed through the 'sapphire town' Andalanabo, and after Toliara we stopped at the Ifaty Salt Pans, between Toliara and Mangily. After a while we found Madagascan Plover – a pair with a chick, we also saw White-fronted Plover. Finally we reached our fancy Hotel La Bella Donna, by the sea. A Madagascan Nightjar performed well at dusk.

November 17th

Departure at 4:45, driving a short distance to Ifaty Spiny Forest, where our local guides and spotters after some effort found all our target species: Subdesert Mesite, Lafresnaye's Vanga, Thamnornis, Long-tailed Ground Roller, Archbold's Newtonia, Running Coua, and Madagascan Sparrowhawk, A nice morning! Back to La Bella Donna Hotel at 9:15 for breakfast and relax and lunch. Out again at 14:00, birding along road (scanning the shores) and finally visiting Lake Belalanda. After birding transport to our hotel Victoria in Toliara.

November 18th

Departure at 5 (without breakfast) to La Table, where we birded until 8:30. We (that is our local guide) found our main target Red-shouldered Vanga before 06:00. Also Verreaux's Coua was easily found. After that we visited the Arboretum until 10:30, together with a very nice local guide who knew plants. Back to Victoria for breakfast. Free afternoon and relax until 18:00, when we returned to the Arboretum for nightlighting, saw e.g. Grey-brown Mouse Lemur.

November 19th

We went by boat to the fishing village Anakao, where Littoral Rock Thrush was easy to see, as well as Subdesert Brush Warbler. We then continued to the island Nosy Ve, home to a colony of Red-tailed Tropicbirds. It was very pleasant to walk around here, and we also had time for a refreshing swim in the ocean.

In the afternoon birding in a spiny forest called Reniala. Good species were Madagascan Harrier-Hawk (a pair) and Subdesert Mesite (a male at nest). At dusk some of us (TC, RN) joined a night walk in Reniala and got superb views of a Torotoroka Scops Owl.

November 20th

Morning flight from Toliara to Antananarivo. Time for relax and shopping in Tana after lunch.

November 21st

Nice birding at Parc Tsarasaotra in Tana 06:00-10:00, with Meller's Duck and Malagasy Pond Heron. Late evening transport to the airport for flight back to Europe.

November 22nd

Stopovers in Nairobi (where IF & RN saw 6 Superb Starlings) and Amsterdam. Arrival in Stockholm, Arlanda for TC, JN and RN, Gothenburg (OP), and Manchester (IF).

List of birds

We noted 182 species of birds (1 heard only) 2-21st November, and totally 187 species including birds seen by the danes on their extra days.

Taxonomy: Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v8.2).

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck Dendrocygna viduata 8 Ankarafantsika (4/11), 40 Betsiboka Delta (5/11), 4 (16/11), 14 Belalanda (17/11), and 100+ Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus* 16 Amborondola ponds (6/11).

Hottentot Teal Spatula hottentota 18 Lake Belalanda (17/11) and 10 Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

Meller's Duck *Anas melleri* (EN) Endemic 4 Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* 25 (2/11), 83 Betsiboka Delta and 60 Lake d'Amboromalandy (5/11), 275 (6/11), 4+20 Andasibe-Mantadia (8-9/11), 3 (12/11), 51 (16/11), 3 (17/11), and c. 100 Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

Bernier's Teal *Anas bernieri* (EN) Endemic 1 Betsiboka Delta (5/11).



Bernier's Teal

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl Numida meleagris 1 Ankarafantsika (3/11) and 3 (16/11). Note: Introduced species.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies Phasianidae

Madagascan Partridge Margaroperdix madagarensis 2 en route to Iharoka (9/11), but unfortunately only seen by few (e.g. ES).

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis* 48 at Lake Belalanda (17/11).

Madagscan Grebe *Tachybaptus pelzelnii* (VU) Endemic 4 Lake Ravelobe (3/11), 1 (6/11), and 1 ad + 3 juv Mantadia (8/11).

Tropicbirds Phaethontidae

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda rubricauda* 8 ad + 3 juv Nosy Ve (19/11).

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

Malagasy Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis bernieri bernieri* 6 Betsiboka Delta (5/11).

Note: ssp. abbotti occur at Aldabra I, Seychelles.



Malagasy Sacred Ibis

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* 17 Lake d'Amboromalandy (5/11).

Madagascan Ibis *Lophotibis cristata cristata* (NT) Endemic

2 Iharoka (9/11, JN only), 2 Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11), and 1 Ranomafana (14/11).

Note: Decreasing population trend, currently 6,700 mature individuals, according to IUCN.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*1 Lake Ravelobe (3/11, seen by few only).

Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns Ardeidae

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

17 Betsiboka Delta (5/11), 1 (6/11), 3 (11/11), 20 (12/11), 3 + 1 Ranomafana (13-14/11), and 25+ Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

Striated Heron *Butorides striata rutenbergi* 8 Lake Ravelobe (3/11), 10 (4/11), 10 Betsiboka Delta (5/11), and 3 (6/11).

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* 60 Lake Ravelobe (3/11), 15 (4/11), 8 Betsiboka Delta (5/11), 10 (6/11), 1 Lake Belalanda 17/11, and common at Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

Malagasy Pond Heron Ardeola idea (EN) Endemic 2 ad Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

Western Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis
Common to fairly common, noted on 10 days, e.g.
10 en route (2/11), and c. 600 Lake Ravelobe
(3/11).



Western Cattle Egret

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea firasa* 5 Betsiboka Delta (5/11) and 1 Nosy Ve (19/11).

Humblot's Heron *Ardea humbloti* (EN) Endemic 1 Lake Ravelobe (3/11) and 1 Amborondolo Ponds (6/11, JH only).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea madagascariensis* 4 Lake Ravelobe (3/11), 2 Betsiboka Delta (5/11), 2 (6/11), 1 (7/11), 1 (12/11), 1 Ranomafana (13/11), and 2 *en route* (15/11).



Humblot's Heron



Dimorphic Egrets

Great Egret Ardea alba melanorhynchos 1 Ankarafantsika (4/11), 75 Betsiboka Delta (5/11), fairly common (6/11), 5 (//11), 4 (11/11), 30 (12/11), 1 Ranomafana (14/11), and 5 Tana (21/11).

Black Heron Egretta ardesiaca 150 Lake d'Amboromalandy (5/11), 5 (6/11), 70 (11/11), and 5 Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11). Dimorphic Egret Egretta dimorpha 1 (2/11), 1 Lake Ravelobe (3/11), 1 (4/11), 40 (5/11), c. 200 en route (12/11), 4 Lake Belalanda (17/11), 20 (19/11), and common at Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta umbretta* 1 (2/11), 10 (6/11), 2 (11/11), 2 (12/12), 3 (15/11), and 1 (16/11).

Cormorants and Shags Phalacrocoracidae

Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus pictilis* 1 Lake Ravelobe (3/11).

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Madagascan Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides radiatus* Endemic

1 (2/11), 3 Ankarafantsika (3/11), 1 Parc Anja (15/11), and 1 pair Reniala (19/11).

Madagascan Cuckoo-Hawk Aviceda madagascariensis Endemic 1 en route (2/11) and 1 Mantadia (8/11).

Frances's Sparrowhawk *Accipiter francesiae francesiae*

2+1 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), and 2 Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11).



Frances's Sparrowhawk

Madagascan Sparrowhawk Accipiter madagascariensis (NT) Endemic 1 at nest Ifaty Spiny Forest (17/11).

Henst's Goshawk Accipiter henstii (NT) Endemic 1 heard Analamazoatra Reserve (7/11), 1 heard Ranomafana (13/11), and 1 seen Ranomafana (14/11).

Malagasy Harrier Circus macrosceles (VU) Note: Endemic to Madagascar & Comores 1 male c. 16 km S Ankazobe (2/11), and 1 pair there 6/11.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius parasitus*Fairly common and noted with 1 up to 25 during 13 days, first sighting 20 *en route* (2/11).

Madagascan Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vociferoides* (CR) Endemic

1 ad + immature Lake Ravelobe (3-4/11).



Madagascan Fish Eagle

Madagascan Buzzard Buteo brachypterus Endemic Totally 15 noted during 11 days (often en route): 2 (2/11), 2 + 2 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 1 (6/11), 2 Iharoka (9/11), 1 Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11), 1 (11/11), 1 (12/11), 1 Ranomafana (13/11), 1 (15/11), and 1 (16/11).

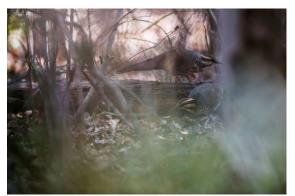
Mesites Mesitornithidae

White-breasted Mesite Mesitornis variegatus (VU) Endemic

6 seen + 2 heard Ankarafantsika (4/11).

Brown Mesite *Mesitornis unicolor* (VU) Endemic Heard only: 1 Ranomafana (13/11).

Subdesert Mesite *Monias benschi* (VU) Endemic Male + female Ifaty Spiny Forest (17/11) and 1 male at nest Reniala (19/11).



White-breasted Mesite



Subdesert Mesite

Flufftails Sarothruridae

Madagascan Wood Rail Canirallus kioloides kioloides Endemic 5 Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11).

Madagascan Flufftail Sarothrura insularis Endemic 1 heard (9/11), 1 seen (not by all) + 2 heard Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11), and 1 seen Vohiparara (14/11).

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Madagascan Rail Rallus madagascariensis (VU) Endemic

1 en route to Iharoka (9/11).

White-throated Rail Dryolimnas cuvieri cuvieri 2 seen + 2 heard at the wetland SSE Beamilaka (4/11), 1 heard Mantadia (8/11), 1 heard (9/11), 1 (11/11), and 4 Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

Baillon's Crake Porzana pusilla intermedia 2 seen (in flight) at the wetland SSE Beamilaka (4/11) and 1 at a roadside wetland close to Reserve Villageois d'Ankazomivady (12/11, seen by few).



Madagascan Wood Rail



Madagascan Rail



White-throated Rail

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorrhoa*

5 at the wetland SSE Beamilaka (4/11), 20 (6/11), 1 (7/11), 2 Mantadia (8/11), and 8 Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

Buttonquails Turnicidae

Madagascan Buttonquail *Turnix nigricollis* Endemic 2 Ankarafantsika (3/11) and 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest (17/11).

Crab-plover Dromadidae

Crab-plover Dromas ardeola 1 Betsiboka Delta (5/11, seen by RN only).

Stilts and Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus 4 Lake d'Amboromalandy (5/11), 3 Ifaty Salt Pans (16/11), c. 70 Lake Belalanda (17/11), and 5 (19/11).

Plovers and Lapwings Charadriidae

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 1 Betsiboka Delta (5/11) and 20 Anakao-Nosy Ve (19/11).

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula tundra*

2 Betsiboka Delta (5/11) and 3 Lake Belalanda (17/11).

Madagascan Plover *Charadrius thoracicus* (VU) Endemic

2 ad + 1 juv Ifaty Salt Pans (16/11).

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* 8 Ifaty Salt Pans (16/11) and 14 Lake Belalanda (17/11).

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris bifrontatus*

1 Ifaty Salt Pans (16/11) and 4 (17/11). Note: HBW/Birdlife split this taxon into the endemic Madagascar Three-banded Plover *Charadrius bifrontatus*.



Three-banded Plover

White-fronted Plover Charadrius marginatus tenellus

1 Ifaty Salt Pans (16/11), 2 (17/11, seen by few), and 2 Nosy Ve (19/11, seen by few).

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia scythicus*

11 Betsiboka Delta (5/11).

Painted-Snipes Rostratulidae

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* 8 Lake Ravelobe (4/11).

Jacanas Jacanidae

Madagascan Jacana Actophilornis albinucha 2 Lake d'Amboromalandy (5/11) and 1 Amborondola Ponds (6/11).

Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus 15 Betsiboka Delta (5/11), 15 Lake Belalanda (17/11), and 15 Nosy Ve (19/11).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* 2 Nosy Ve (19/11).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* 1 Betsiboka Delta (5/11) and c. 110 Lake Belalanda (17/11).

Sanderling Calidris alba 20 Betsiboka Delta (5/11), 10 Lake Belalanda (17/11), and 10 Nosy Ve (19/11).

Madagascan Snipe *Gallinago macrodactyla* (VU) Endemic

1 c. 16 km S Ankazobe (6/11) and superb views of 2 at a roadside wetland close to Reserve Villageois d'Ankazomivady (12/11).

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* 9 Betsiboka Delta (5/11).

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos 1 (2/11), 1 Lake Ravelobe (3/11), 2 Betsiboka Delta (5/11), 2 (6/11), and 2 Lake Belalanda (17/11).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* 1 Lake Ravelobe (3/11, not seen by all).



Madagascan Snipe

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 5 Betsiboka Delta (5/11), 20 Lake Belalanda (17/11), and 2 Nosy Ve (19/11).

Pratincoles and Coursers Glareolidae

Madagascan Pratincole Glareola ocularis 25 Betsiboka River (2/11) and 5 at the same place (6/11, where the bridge crosses the river).



Madagascan Pratincole

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* 1 Ifaty Salt Pans (17/11 and 19/11)

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii thalassinus* 1 Betsiboka Delta (5/11) and 2 Nosy Ve (19/11).

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis* c. 60 Nosy Ve (19/11).

Common Tern Sterna hirundo 3 Nosy Ve (19/11).

Sandgrouse Pteroclidae

Madagascan Sandgrouse *Pterocles personatus* Endemic

A flock of 65 at lunch time *en route* to Toliara (16/11).

Pigeons and Doves Columbidae

Rock Dove *Columba livia* 20 Tana (2/11), 20 Mahajanga (5/11), seen *en route* (15/11), and 2 (17/11).

Malagasy Turtle Dove *Nesoenas picturatus picturatus*

Totally 46 noted during 11 days: 4+10 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 2 (6/11), 3 (7/11), 3 Mantadia (8/11), 2 Iharoka (9/11), 4 Analamazoatra (10/11), 1 (12/11), 12 Ifaty-Lake Belalanda (17/11), 1 La Table (18/11), 4 (19/11).

Namaqua Dove Oena capensis aliena Totally 49 / 9 days: 2 (2/11), 6 + 4 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 10 (5/11), 4 (6/11), 6 (16/11), 6 (17/11), 10 La Table (18/11), and 1 (19/11).

Madagascan Green Pigeon *Treron australis xenius* Endemic

1 *en route* (2/11), 4 +1 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 2 (5/11), 1 (6/11), and 2 La Table (18/11).

Madagascan Blue Pigeon Alectroenas madagascariensis Endemic 2 Mantadia (8/11, not seen by all), 2 Analamazoatra Reserve (11/11, not seen by all), and 1 Ranomafana (13/11).

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Malagasy Coucal Centropus toulou

Totally 95 noted during 19 days (1 to 10 daily). First
1 heard (2/11) and 6+10 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11).

Crested Coua Coua cristata Endemic 3+3 ssp. dumonti Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 2 ssp. pyropyga Zombitse NP (16/11), 1 ssp. pyropyga Ifaty Spiny Forest (17/11), and 2 ssp. pyropyga Reniala (19/11).

Note: HBW treats *pyropyga* as a separate species; Chestnut-vented Coua *Coua pyropyga*:

"Hitherto treated as a race of *C. cristata*, but differs in its chestnut *vs* whitish or buffy-white undertail-coverts (3); slightly paler cast above with much paler glaucous *vs* dark green-blue tertials (2); considerably longer white tips on outer rectrices (effect size 2.03; score 2); distinctly larger size on basis of wing (effect size 4.57; score 2); and narrow zone of intergradation (2). Monotypic."



Crested Coua

Verreaux's Coua Coua verreauxi (NT) Endemic 2 La Table (18/11).

Blue Coua Coua caerulea Endemic 1 Analamazoatra Reserve (7/11), 2 Mantadia (8/11), 3 Iharoka (9/11), 3+1 Analamazoatra Reserve (10-11/11), and 2+2 Ranomafana (13-14/11)

Red-capped Coua Coua ruficeps Endemic 1 + 6 (nominate) Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 2 (nominate) Ranomafana (13/11), and 1 ssp. olivaceiceps Arboretum (18/11).

Note: ssp. olivaceiceps treated as s separate species in HBW: Olive-capped Coua Coua olivaceiceps.

Red-fronted Coua *Coua reynaudii* Endemic 1 Mantadia (8/11, not seen by all) and 1 Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11).

Coquerel's Coua *Coua coquereli* Endemic 4+4 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11).



Red-breasted Coua



Giant Coua



Madagascan Cuckoo

Running Coua Coua cursor Endemic 2 ad + 1 juv + heard Ifaty Spiny Forest (17/11) and 3 heard La Table (18/11).

Giant Coua *Coua gigas* Endemic 3 Zombitse (16/11).

Red-breasted Coua *Coua serriana* Endemic 1 Mantadia (8/11, not seen by all) and 1 Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11).

Madagascan Cuckoo Cuculis rochii Most often heard, but some seen. One to six noted during 15 days (2-18/11), first 2 heard (2/11). Seen well and photographed at Isalo NP.

Barn-Owls Tytonidae

Western Barn Owl Tyto alba hypermetra 1 heard (not by all) at Arboretum (18/11).

Owls Strigidae

Torotoroka Scops Owl *Otus madagascariensis* Endemic

1 was heard and subsequently gave superb views at Reniala (TC, RN with Fidy and local guides).

Rainforest Scops Owl Otus rutilus Endemic 1 seen + 5 heard Analamazoatra Reserve (7/11) and 1 heard Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11).

White-browed Hawk-Owl Ninox superciliaris Endemic

Superb views of a pair calling at Isalo Ranch in the middle of the night, and 2 at day roost in Zombitse same day (16/11).



White-browed Hawk-Owl

Madagascan Owl Asio madagascariensis Endemic 1 perched high up in a tree in Analamazoatra Reserve, near Orchid Garden (7/11).

Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae

Collared Nightjar *Gactornis enarratus* Endemic 2 ad with 2 chicks at Iharoka (9/11), and 1 on a nest in Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11).

Madagascan Nightjar Caprimulgus madagascariensis madagascariensis
Noted on nine days: 1 (2/11), 1 seen + heard
Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 1 (5/11), 1 heard
Mantadia (8/11), male + female Hotel La Bella
Donna (16/11), 4 (17/11), 4 (18/11), and 1 heard IC
Hotel, Tana (21/11).



Madagascan Nightjar

Swifts Apodidae

Madagascan Spinetail Zoonavena grandidieri grandidieri

6 Mantadia (8/11), 1 Iharoka (9/11), and 4 (19/11).



Madagascan Spinetail

African Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus gracilis Totally 113 noted during 11 days (2-16/11), first 10 (2/11), max 50 (5/11).

Alpine Swift Tachymarptis melba willsi 10 en route (2/11), 3 (6/11), and 2 Ranomafana (13/11).

Malagasy Black Swift Apus affinis affinis 10 en route (2/11), 5 (5/11), 3 (7/11), 6 + 3 Ranomafana (13-14/11), 1 (15/11), and 4 (16/11).

Cuckoo-Roller Leptosomidae

Cuckoo Roller Leptosomus discolour discolour c. 20 noted during 9 days: 3 Ankarafantsika (3/11), 4 Mantadia (8/11), 2 (9/11), 2+2 Analamazoatra Reserve (10-11/11), 2+1 Ranomafana (13-14/11), 1 (15/11), and 3 (16/11).



Cuckoo Roller



Broad-billed Roller

Rollers Coraciidae

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus glaucurus*

44 noted on 11 days: 12+10 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 8 (7/11), 12 in Andasibe-Mantadia area (8-11/11), 1 (12/11), 1+1 Ranomafana (13-14/11), and 1 Nosy Ve (19/11).

Ground-Rollers Brachypteraciidae

Short-legged Ground Roller *Brachypteracias leptosomus* (VU) Endemic 1 Mantadia (8/11).

Scaly Ground Roller *Geobiastes squamiger* (VU) Endemic

2 Mantadia (8/11, near a nest).

Pitta-like Ground Roller *Atelornis pittoides* Endemic

1 seen + 1 heard Mantadia (8/11) and 2 seen + 4 heard Ranomafana (13-15/11).

Rufous-headed Ground Roller *Atelornis crossleyi* (NT) Endemic

2 seen + 1 heard Mantadia (8/11).

Long-tailed Ground Roller *Uratelornis chimaera* (VU) Endemic

Superb views of a male + female at Ifaty Spiny Forest (17/11).



Pitta-like Ground Roller



Long-tailed Ground Roller

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher Corythornis madagascariensis Endemic

1 perched gave good views in Analamazoatra Reserve, near Orchid Garden (7/11), and 1 was heard there (8/11).

Malagasy Kingfisher Corythornis vintsioides vintsioides

Totally 23 noted during 10 days: 1 (2/11), 6+3 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 2 Betsiboka Delta (5/11), 2 (6/11), 1 (7/11), 1 Mantadia (8/11), 1 (11/11), 1 (12/11), and 4 Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).



Malagasy Kingfisher

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Olive Bee-eater Merops superciliosus superciliosus >150 noted during 18 days (almost daily). First 20 (2/11), max 30 Ankarafantsika (4/11).

Hoopoes Upupidae

Madagascan Hoopoe *Upupa marginata* Endemic 2+1 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 2 *en route*, at the 'Sandgrouse place' (16/11), 1 (17/11), and 4 La Table (18/11).

Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae

Malagasy Kestrel Falco newtoni newtoni >60 noted during 14 days. First 10 en route (2/11), max 14 between Tana and Ranomafana (12/11). Note: Endemic to Madagascar and Aldabra.

Eleonora's Falcon Falco eleonorae 1 Ankarafantsika (4/11, not seen by all), 2 en route (7/11), and 1 en route (15/11).

Sooty Falcon Falco concolor 1 at the wetland SSE Beamilaka (4/11) and 2 Lake d'Amboromalandy (5/11).

Old World Parrots Psittaculidae

Greater Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis vasa drouhardi* 2 Ankarafantsika (3/11), 1 Iharoka (9/11), 4 Analamazoatra Reserve (11/1), 2 Zombitse (16/11), 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest (17/11), and 1 Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

Note: endemic to Madagascar and Comoro Is.

Lesser Vasa Parrot Coracopsis nigra libs Endemic 10+10 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 25 Mantadia (8/11), 10 Analamazoatra Reserve /Iharoka (9/11), and 1 (16/11).

Grey-headed Lovebird Agapornis canus Endemic 13 (2/11), 12 Ankarafantsika (4/11), 5 (5/11), 5 Ranomafana (13/11), 6 Parc Anja (15/11), 1 (16/11), and 20 (17/11); ssp. ablectaneus in SW, nominate in Madagascar except SW.

Broadbills Eurylaimidae

Velvet Asity *Philepitta castanea* Endemic 1 female Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11), 1 male Ranomafana (13/11, not seen by all), and 1 female Vohiparara (14/11).

Schlegel's Asity Philepitta schlegeli (NT) Endemic Stunning views of a pair in Ankarafantsika (3/11).



Schlegel's Asity

Common Sunbird-Asity *Neodrepanis coruscans* Endemic

2 Iharoka (9/11, not seen by all) and 1 female Ranomafana (13/11).

Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity Neodrepanis hypoxantha (VU) Endemic 1 male Iharoka (9/11, seen by ES only).

Vangas Vangidae

Red-tailed Vanga *Calicalicus madagascariensis* Endemic

2 Mantadia (8/11), 10 Analamazoatra Reserve /Iharoka (9/11), 5+4 Analamazoatra Reserve (10-11/11), 6+2 Ranomafana (13-14/11), and 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest (17/11).

Red-shouldered Vanga Calicalicus rufocarpalis (VU) Endemic 3 La Table (17/11).



Red-shouldered Vanga

Hook-billed Vanga *Vanga curvirostris curvirostris* Endemic

1+1 Analamazoatra Reserve 10-11/11, and 1 Ranomafana (14/11).

Lafresnaye's Vanga *Xenopirostris xenopirostris* Endemic

2-3 Ifaty Spiny Forest (17/11) and 2 La Table (18/11).

Van Dam's Vanga Xenopirostris damii (EN) Endemic

1 male Ankarafantsika (4/11).

Pollen's Vanga *Xenopirostris polleni* (NT) Endemic 1 Ranomafana (13/11) and 2 Vohiparara (14/11).

Sickle-billed Vanga *Falculea palliata* Endemic 4+1 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11) and 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest (17/11).

White-headed Vanga Artamella viridis viridis Endemic

3 Ankarafantsika (4/11) and 1 Analamazoatra Reserve (7/11).

Chabert Vanga Leptopterus chabert Endemic Totally 24 noted during 9 days: 2 en route (2/11), 4 Ankarafantsika (3/11), 3 Analamazoatra Reserve (7/11), 1+7+2 Analamazoatra Reserve (9-11/11), 2+1 Ranomafana (13-14/11), and 2 Ifaty Spiny Forest; nominate in W, E, N Madagascar, ssp. schistocercus in SW.

Blue Vanga Cyanolanius madagascarinus madagascarinus Endemic 2+6 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 2 Iharoka (9/11), 2 Analamazoatra Reserve (11/11), and 6+2 Ranomafana (13-14/11).

Note: HBW/BirdLife split this taxon into Madagascar Blue Vanga *C. madagascarinus* and Comoro Blue Vanga *C. comorensis*.



Blue Vanga



Rufous Vanga

Rufous Vanga *Schetba rufa* Endemic 4 Ankarafantsika (4/11), 2 Ranomafana (13/11), and 1 at nest Zombitse ((16/11); ssp. *occidentalis* W Madagascar, nominate N & E Madagascar.

Tylas Vanga *Tylas eduardi eduardi* Endemic 3 Iharoka (9/11), and 4+5 Ranomafana (13-14/11).

Nuthatch Vanga *Hypositta corallirostris* Endemic 2+1 Analamazoatra Reserve (9-10/11) and 1 Ranomafana (13/11, not seen by all).

Dark Newtonia Newtonia amphichroa Endemic 2 seen + 2 heard Iharoka (9/11), and 2 Ranomafana (14/11).

Common Newtonia Newtonia brunneicauda brunneicauda Endemic
Noted on 13 days (3-19/11), often as fairly

Noted on 13 days (3-19/11), often as fairly common; first 'fairly common' Ankarafantsika (3-4/11).

Archbold's Newtonia *Newtonia archboldi* Endemic 1 Ifaty Spiny Forest (17/11).

Ward's Flycatcher *Pseudobias wardi* Endemic 4+2+1 Analamazoatra Reserve / Iharoka (7/11, 9/11, 11/11), and 6+3 Ranomafana (13-14/11).

Crossley's Vanga *Mystacornis crossleyi* Endemic 1 Analamazoatra Reserve 11/11.

Cuckoo-shrikes Campephagidae

Madagascan Cuckooshrike Coracina cinerea 4 Ankarafantsika 83/11), 2 Mantadia (8/11), 2 Analamazoatra Reserve (11/11), and 4+6 Ranomafana (13-14/11); nominate in N & E Madagascar, ssp. pallidus W, C, SW Madagascar.

Drongos *Dicruridae*

Crested Drongo Dicrurus forficatus forficatus > 80 noted during 16 days, first 1 (2/11), max fairly common Ankarafantsika (4/11) and in SW (16-17/11).

Note: Endemic to Madagascar and Comoro Is.



Crested Drongo

Monarchs Monarchidae

Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher Terpsiphone mutata mutata

Totally 65 noted during 12 days (3-19/11); first 10+15 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11).



Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher

Crows, Jays, and Magpies Corvidae

Pied Crow Corvus albus

Locally common, noted on 11 days (2-19/11), first 15 *en route* (2/11), max c. 130 *en route* (15/11).

Larks Alaudidae

Madagascan Lark *Eremopterix hova* Endemic 10 en route (2/11), 10 (5/11), 5 (6/11), 2 (7/11), 3 (11/11), 4 Isalo NP (15/11), fairly common (16/11), 3 (17/11), and 1 La Table (18/11).

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Malagasy Bulbul Hypsipetes madagascariensis madagascariensis

Common and noted during 13 days (3-18/11), first 25 Ankarafantsika (3/11). Not as common in SW; up to 3 noted daily 16-18/11.



Madagascan Lark

Swallows Hirundinidae

Mascarene Martin Phedina borbonica madagascariensis
Totally 94 noted during 12 days (2-21/11), first 15 en route (2/11).

Brown-throated Martin Riparia paludicola cowani 1 (2/11), 2 (6/11), 4 (7/11), 4 Analamazoatra Reserve /Iharoka (9/11), 2 (11/11), 3+5 Ranomafana (13-14/11), and 2 Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

Note: HBW/Birdlife split this taxon into the endemic Madagascar Plain Martin *Riparia cowani*.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica rustica* 7 Lake Belalanda (17/11).

Reed warblers and allies Acrocephalidae

Malagasy Brush Warbler *Nesillas typica typica* 5 (7/11), 24 in Andasibe-Mantadia area (8-11/11), and 10 Ranomafana (14/11).

Note: Five subspecies recognized; this taxon is endemic to Madagascar and Comoro Is.



Malagasy Brush Warbler



Subdesert Brush Warbler

Subdesert Brush Warbler *Nesillas lantzii* Endemic > 10 Lake Belalanda (17/11) and 2 Anakao lodge (19/11).

Madagascan Swamp Warbler Acrocephalus newtoni Endemic

3 Amborondola ponds (6/11), 1 heard (9/11), 2 at a roadside wetland close to Reserve Villageois d'Ankazomivady (12/11), and 2 Parc Tsarasaotra (21/11).

Grassbirds and allies Locustellidae

Brown Emutail *Bradypterus brunneus* Endemic 2 seen well (sneaking around like mice) in Ranomafana (14/11).

Grey Emutail *Amphilais seebohmi* Endemic 3 Vohiparara (14/11).

Madagascan Warblers Bernieridae

White-throated Oxylabes Oxylabes madagascariensis Endemic 1 Iharoka (9/11, JN) and 1 Ranomafana (14/11).

Long-billed Bernieria Bernieria madagascariensis madagascariensis Endemic 20 Ankarafantsika (4/11), 3+2 Analamazoatra (10-11/11), and 5+3+1 Ranomafana (13-15/11).

Cryptic Warbler *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi* Endemic

4 heard Analamazoatra Reserve (7/11) and 1 seen Iharoka (9/11, JN).

Wedge-tailed Jery *Hartertula flavoviridis* (NT) Endemic

1+1 Ranomafana (13-14/11)

Thamnornis *Thamnornis chloropetoides* Endemic 1 seen and 2 heard Ifaty Spiny Forest (17/11).

Spectacled Tetraka *Xanthomixis zosterops zosterops* Endemic

1 at nest + 10 Analamazoatra Reserve /Iharoka (9/11), 3+1 Analamazoatra Reserve (10-11/11), and 4+6 Ranomafana (13-14/11).

Appert's Tetraka *Xanthomixis apperti* Endemic 2 Zombitse (16/11).



Appert's Tetraka

Grey-crowned Tetraka *Xanthomixis cinereiceps* Endemic

10 Ranomafana (14/11).

Madagascan Yellowbrow *Crossleyia xanthophrys* (NT) Endemic

2 Ranomafana (14/11).

Rand's Warbler Randia pseudozosterops Endemic 8 heard Analamazoatra Reserve /Iharoka (9/11), 1 Analamazoatra Reserve (11/11), and 3+1 Ranomafana (13-14/11).

Cisticolas and allies Cisticolidae

Common Jery Neomixis tenella Endemic > 50 noted during 12 days (3-21/11), first 10+6 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11). Four subspecies occur: tenella (N Madagascar), decaryi (W part of C), orientalis (EC & SE) and debilis (S); we probably saw ssp. decaryi and orientalis.

Green Jery *Neomixis viridis viridis* Endemic 2 Iharoka (9/11), 1 (12/11), and 4+2 Ranomafana (13-14/11).

Stripe-throated Jery Neomixis striatigula Endemic 1 Analamazoatra Reserve (7/11), 5 Mantadia (8/11), fairly common Iharoka (9/11), 8+2 Analamazoatra (10-11/11), 5+10 Ranomafana (13-14/11), noted *en route* + 1 Parc Anja (15/11). Of ssp. *pallidior* 5 (17/11), 3 La Table (18/11), and 1 (19/11).

Note: HBW/Birdlife split this taxon into Stripethroated Jery *Neomixis striatigula* and Subdesert Jery *N. pallidior* (in SW Madagascar).

Madagascan Cisticola Cisticola cherina

Totally c. 35 noted during 10 days (2-19/11), first 5 *en route* (2/11).

Note: Endemic to Madagascar and S Seychelles.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Malagasy White-eye *Zosterops maderaspatanus maderaspatanus*

Fairly common and noted during 15 days (2-21/11), first 5 *en route* (2/11).

Starlings Sturnidae

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis tristis*Fairly common and noted during 16 days, first noted as 'common' *en route* (2/11).

Madagascan Starling Hartlaubius auratus Endemic 2 Mantadia (8/11), 4+2 Analamazoatra (10-11/11), and 4 Ranomafana (13/11).

Chats, Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

Madagascan Magpie-Robin Copsychus albospecularis Endemic

c. 80 noted during 13 days (3-18/11), first 15+10 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11). Three subspecies recognised: *pica* (West), *albospecularis* (NE), and *inexspectatus* (SE).

Littoral Rock Thrush *Monticola imerina* Endemic 1 pair Anakoa lodge (19/11).

Forest Rock Thrush *Monticola sharpei* Endemic 1 pair Ranomafana (13/11).

'Benson's Rock Thrush' *Monticola sharpei bensoni* 1 male + female c. 500 m NE Isalo Rock Lodge (-22.616929, 45.362177) (15/11).



Madagascan Magpie-Robin, ssp. pica



Madagascan Magpie-Robin, ssp. albospecularis



Littoral Rock Thrush

Madagascan Stonechat *Saxicola sibilla sibilla* Endemic

Totally 33 noted during 9 days (2-15/11); 5 *en* route (2/11), 2 (6/11), 5 (7/11), 3 Mantadia (8/11), 5 *en* route to Iharoka (9/11), 2 (11/11), 8+2 Ranomafana (13-14/11), and 1 (15/11).

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters Nectariniidae

Souimanga Sunbird *Cinnyris sovimanga sovimanga* Fairly common (locally common) and noted during 15 days (2-19/11), first 1 male (2/11).

Note: Endemic to Madagascar and some islands north of Madagascar, e.g. Aldabra is. Five subspecies recognized.

Malagasy Green Sunbird Cinnyris notatus notatus Totally 25 noted during 9 days (3-18/11); 6+1 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 5 Analamazoatra (7/11), 2 Mantadia (8/11), 1 Iharoka (9/11), 2 (11/11), 4 Ranomafana (13/11), 2 (17/11), and 2 (18/11). Note: HBW/Birdlife split this taxon into three species: Long-billed Sunbird C. notatus as endemic to Madagascar, Grand Comoro Sunbird C. moebii (Grand Comoro, W Comoro Is.) and Moheli Sunbird C. voeltzkowi (Mohéli, W Comores).

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* 10 Mahajanga (5/11).



Madagascan Stonechat



'Benson's Rock Thrush'

Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae

Nelicourvi Weaver *Ploceus nelicourvi* Endemic 3 Analamazoatra (7/11), 1 Mantadia (8/11), 4 Iharoka (9/11), and 1+1 Ranomafana (13-14/11).

Sakalava Weaver *Ploceus sakalava* Endemic 2+2 Ankarafantsika (3-4/11), 25 (5/11), 20 (17/11), and fairly common (18/11); nominate in N & W Madagascar, ssp. *minor* in SW & S Madagascar.

Red Fody Foudia madagascariensis

Totally c. 100 / 10 days (2-21/11), first 10 Tana (2/11), max 25 Ankarafantsika (4/11).

Note: Native to Madagascar. Introduced on Reunion, Mauritius, Seychelles, Rodrigues,
Amirantes and Chagos Is, in Indian Ocean; also on St Helena, in Atlantic Ocean; and Bahrain, in Arabian Peninsula. Present also on Glorieuses Is and Comoro Is, which it may have colonized without human assistance.

Forest Fody *Foudia omissa* Endemic 4 Iharoka (9/11), 5 Analamazoatra Reserve (11/11), and 2+8 Ranomafana (13-14/11).

Waxbills, Munias and allies Estrildidae

Madagascan Mannikin Lepidopygia nana Endemic Totally c. 85 noted during 10 days (2-14/11), first 2 (2/11), max c. 50 Ankarafantsika (4/11).

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae

Madagascan Wagtail *Motacilla flaviventris* Endemic

Totally 41 noted during 12 days (2-21/11), first 1 Antananarivo (2/11), max 5 noted per day (7/11, 12/11, 13/11, 15/11).



Madagascan Wagtail



Ring-tailed Lemur, Anja Community Reserve.

List of mammals

We noted 25 species of mammals. Taxonomy: HMW (Handbook of the Mammals of the World).

Tenrecs and Shrew Tenrecs Tenrecidae

Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec *Echinops telfairi* Endemic 1 Reniala (19/11).

Note: Found by a local guide in a piece of wood and (for a while) brought out in the open.



Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec

Lowland Streaked Tenrec *Hemicentetes semispinosus* Endemic

1 Mantadia (8/11).

Note: Found along a trail and handled by a local guide.

Tailless Tenrec Tenrec ecaudatus Endemic 1 en route Tana to Ranomafana (12/11). Note: This species is fairly common and widespread, but is locally threatened by overhunting. We saved the life of the one we saw by buying it from some kids and subsequently releasing it.

Bamboo, True and Ruffed Lemurs *Lemuridae*

Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus* (NT) Endemic 5 Ankarafantsika (3/11), 2 Analamazoatra Reserve (7/11), 6 Mantadia (8/11), and 15 Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11).



Brown Lemur

Red-bellied Lemur Eulemur rubriventer (VU) Endemic 1+2 Ranomafana (13-14/11).



Red-bellied Lemur

Golden Bamboo Lemur *Hapalemur aureus* (EN) Endemic

1 heard Ranomafana (13/11).

Gray Bamboo Lemur *Hapalemur griseus griseus* (VU) Endemic

2 (ad+juv) Mantadia (8/11) and 2 Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11)

Ring-tailed Lemur Lemur catta (NT) Endemic 20 Anja Community Reserve (15/11) and 3 Reniala (19/11).

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur *Varecia variegata* (CR) Endemic

2 ad + 1 juv Mantadia (8/11) and 3 heard Ranomafana (13/11).



Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur

Mouse, Giant Mouse, Dwarf and Fork-marked Lemurs *Cheirogaleidae*

Crossley's Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus crossleyi* Endemic

2 Ranomafana (13/11)

Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus medius* Endemic

4 Ankarafantsika (3/11).

Gray-brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus griseorufus* Endemic

2 Arboretum (18/11) and 1 Reniala (19/11).

Goodman's Mouse Lemur *Microcebus lehilahytsara* Endemic 3 Analamazoatra Reserve (7/11).

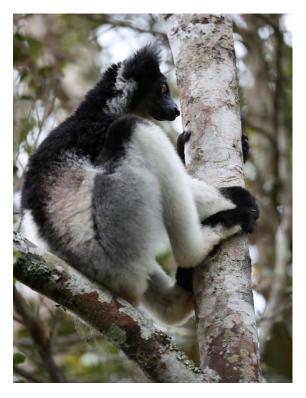
Gray Mouse Lemur *Microcebus murinus* Endemic 1 Ankarafantsika (3/11).

Rufous Mouse Lemur *Microcebus rufus* Endemic 2 Ranomafana (13/11).

Woolly Lemurs, Sifakas and Indri Indriidae

Western Woolly Lemur *Avahi occidentalis* (EN) Endemic

5 Ankarafantsika (4/11).





Indri

Indri Indri indri (EN) Endemic Heard Analamazoatra Reserve (7/11), several groups heard Mantadia (8/11), heard (9/11), 6 seen + heard Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11), and heard (11/11).

Coquerel's Sifaka *Propithecus coquereli* Endemic 6 Ankarafantsika (3/11).

Diademed Sifaka Propithecus diadema (EN) Endemic 3 Mantadia (8/11) and 2 Analamazoatra Reserve (10/11).

Verreaux's Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi* (VU) Endemic 3 ad + 1 juv Zombitse (16/11).



Verreaux's Sifaka

True Mice and Rats, Gerbils and relatives *Muridae*

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* 1 *en route* (11/11, not seen by all).

Pouched Rats, Climbing Mice and Fat Mice *Nesomyidae*

Milne-Edwards's Tufted-tail Rat Eliurus myoxinus Endemic 2 Ankarafantsika (3/11).

Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus* Endemic 1 at the view point in Ranomafana (13/11).

Old World Leafnose Bats Hipposideridae

Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat Hipposideros commersoni Endemic 1 Arboretum (18/11).

Old World Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Madagascan Fruit Bat Eidolon dupreanum Endemic c. 350 in one flock seen en route 2/11.



Cuvier's Madagascar Collared Iguana, Betsiboka River.

List of Reptiles

None of us are herpetologists, and therefore we did not look especially for reptiles... but we tried our best to look for chameleons...

Taxonomy mainly follows Behrens & Barnes (Wildlife of Madagascar), except Opluridae.

Chameleons Chamaeleonidae

Oustalet's Chameleon Furcifer oustaleti Endemic Seen in several places, e.g. Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana, Anja Community Reserve.



Oustalet's Chameleon

Warty Chameleon Furcifer verrucosus Endemic 1 Anja Community Reserve (15/11).

Parson's Chameleon Calumma parsonii (NT) Endemic

2 Orchid Garden, Analamazoatra Reserve (11/11).

Perinet Chameleon *Calumma gastrotaenia* Endemic

1 Ranomafana (13/11).

Cryptic Chameleon *Calumma crypticum* Endemic 1 Ranomafana (13/11).



Warty Chameleon



Parson's Chameleon

Bruno's Leaf Chameleon *Brookesia brunoi* (NT) Endemic

1 Anja Community Reserve (15/11).

Note: A rare and recently described species. Info according to IUCN: This species, described in 2012, is reliably only known from a small (< 15 km2) area of semi-arid deciduous forests in the southerneastern highlands of Madagascar, although it is suspected to have a wider distribution (Crottini et al. 2012). It is possible that previous records of other *Brookesia* species in the southern highlands refer to *B. brunoi* and there is an unconfirmed

photographic *Brookesia* record from near Ambovombe (Hofmann 2012), ca. 375 km air distance from the type locality, that seems to refer to *B. brunoi* (Crottini et al. 2012). Further studies of existing museum collections and new field surveys are needed to determine the actual distribution of this new taxon.



Perinet Chameleon



Cryptic Chameleon



Bruno's Chameleon

Madagascan Iguanas Opluridae

Cuvier's Madagascar Collared Iguana *Oplurus cuvieri*

Seen in several places, e.g. Ankarafantsika and near bridge crossing Betsiboka River. Note: Endemic to the Malagasy region.

Dumeril's Madagascar Iguana *Oplurus quadrimaculatus* Endemic 1 Anja Community Reserve (15/11).



Cuvier's Madagascar Collared Iguana



Dumeril's Madagascar Iguana

Gerrhosauridae

Western Plated Lizard *Zonosaurus laticaudatus* Endemic Seen in Ankarafantsika.



Western Plated Lizard

Geckos Gekkonidae

Common Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus fimbriatus* Endemic

1 Mantadia (8/11).

Madagascar Ground Gecko *Paroedura picta* Endemic

1 Arboretum (18/11).

Lined Day Gecko *Phelsuma lineata* Endemic 1 Orchid Garden, Analamazoatra Reserve (11/11).



Lined Day Gecko

Snakes Serpentes

Madagascar Tree Boa *Sanzinia madagascariensis* Endemic

2+1 Analamazoatra Reserve (10-11/11).

Giant Hognose Snake Leioheterodon madagascariensis Endemic 1 Ankarafantsika (4/11) and 1 Amborondola Ponds (6/11).



Giant Hognose Snake

Mahafaly Sand Snake *Mimophis mahfalensis* Endemic

1 Reniala (19/11)

Forest Madagascar Garter Snake *Thamnosophis infrasignatus* Endemic

1 found dead on the road, Mantadia and 1 Ranomafana (13/11).

Note: Also called Forest Water Snake

Bernier's Striped Snake *Dromicodryas bernieri* Endemic

1 Anja Community Reserve (15/11).

List of Amphibians Anura

Baron's Mantella *Mantella baroni* Endemic 2 Iharoka (9/11).



Baron's Mantella

Central Bright-eyed Frog *Boophis rappiodes* Endemic

1 Orchid Garden, Analamazoatra Reserve (11/11).

Appendix

Anjozorobe add-on, 30 Oct – 1 Nov 2018

This draft 9 Jan 2019 © Jesper Hornskov

This pre-tour extension by Hans Harrestrup Andersen, Eric Schaumburg, Hans Wulffsberg & myself evolved from a desire to ensure, as far as possible, that we'd be in Tana, ready to roll, when the Swedish contingent arrived for the main trip. Alas, ticket availability meant it'd be two extra overnights instead of one, which became three once Air France rescheduled.

Our local organizer, Zina (sergemadatours@yahoo.fr), suggested it was feasible to visit Anjozorobe, a site warmly recommended by both A Kabbelgaard & E Krabbe, and so we did.

On arrival c01h00 on 30th we were picked up at Tana airport and taken to nearby I C Hotel. We had not been told in advance which hotel we'd be in; this would have been useful as we were grilled re this when going through Immigration. The next morning we met up with Zina at the hotel to sort some formalities, and by 08h25 were away in two 4WDs with our guide, Fidy. As traffic through Tana at that time of the day was desperate it became apparent that what we *should* have done in order to not squander the morning was be at Tsarasaotra Lake by 05h45, have a field breakfast there while leisuredly getting acquainted with a good selection of local birds (I saw 30 spp there in the morning of 22nd), and *then* head for Anjozorobe.

It was 14h05 by the time we arrived at the Saha Forest Camp P area; from here porters lugged our bags to the pretty lodge a few hundred meters further on, and we set out birdwatching pretty much directly we'd moved in.

We pretty much relied on Fidy and a local guide to find us the birds (and find the way along the crisscrossing forest trails!). On both mornings we went back to the lodge for breakfast although a field breakfast would have been preferable (and no doubt very easy to organize). On 31st – our only whole day there – we rested / birdwatched from the lodge veranda after lunch before heading out again.

A marsh by the now closed Mananara Lodge, which in the past held Slender-billed Flufftail *Sarothrura watersi* (see e g Bech *et al.* 2012), is apparently now defunct through burning so in the late afternoon of 31st we walked along paddy embankments to a small marshy area near Saha lodge instead. A nice enough outing but the time might have been better spent in the forest...

On 1st we departed from the P area 13h55, made no stops en route, took a couple of shortcuts once we entered Tana, and were back at I C Hotel 17h15.

...and on 2nd we set off on the main trip, the other five group members having arrived at c01h00 (and showing it).

Bird list:

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* 120 @ Tana paddies on 30th, and ten en route back on 1st.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Eight in total.

Western Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis 12 in total.

Great Egret *Ardea alba melanorhynchos* Ten in total.

Black Heron Egretta ardesiaca Two @ Tana paddies on 30th.

Dimorphic Egret *Egretta dimorpha* 28 in total.

Hamerkop Scopus umbretta umbretta

Four en route, and a pair seen daily at nest by the lodge - on 1st one was seen collecting straw from the paddy.

Madagascan Harrier-Hawk Polyboroides radiatus One adult hunting across from the lodge as we were about to depart on 1st: it perched on a major tree trunk, hopped from branch to branch, and poked a leg into a hollow – a wonderful encounter, and we even saw it again from the parking area, viciously mobbed by two drongos as it soared.

Madagascan Cuckoo-Hawk Aviceda madagascariensis
One briefly over the lodge on 1st.

Frances' Sparrowhawk Accipiter francesiae francesiae

One briefly on paddy embankment by lodge [ES].

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius parasitus* Singles near lodge on 30th & 1st.

Madagascan Buzzard *Buteo brachypterus*One in flight as we headed back to lodge on 31st.

Madagascan Flufftail Sarothrura insularis

One on 30th came in to tape, showing itself quite well & giving full song (which we recorded). One heard the next day was thought to be the same bird...

Madagascan Snipe Gallinago macrodactyla
One at 'swamp' on 31st was just what we'd gone
there hoping for: a large, dark-underwing snipe
seen repeatedly in flight, and heard giving 'checkcheck, check-check' call & churring.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 45 @ Tana paddies on 30th.

Malagasy Turtle Dove *Nesoenas picturatus picturatus*

Seven in total, incl one en route on 30th. One on 31st seen wing-stretching and walking up a thick branch.

Madagascan Blue Pigeon Alectroenas madagascariensis

Five on 31st – superb views of three clambering about courtshipping in the morning sun...

Malagasy Coucal Centropus toulou toulou Five in total – heard-only. One at paddies S of Fiearana got going in response to background on tape...

Blue Coua Coua caerulea

One along Ridge on 1st – taping brought it in from afar. It uttered an explosive 'squit'e', and purring.

Madagascan Cuckoo Cuculus rochii

13 in total, of which just one seen. Calling through the night at lodge – brainfever!

Western Barn Owl Tyto alba hypermetra One on 30th - heard only.

Rainforest Scops Owl Otus rutilus 2-3 heard nightly near lodge.

Madagascan Spinetail Zoonavena grandidieri grandidieri

One above Ridge on 1st.

Alpine Swift Tachymarptis melba willsi 8+ above Ridge on 1st.

Malagasy Black Swift Apus balstoni balstoni 45+ above lodge at lunchtime on 1st presumably included those seen earlier above Ridge.

Cuckoo Roller *Leptosomus discolor discolor*Four on 31st & seven on 1st. We were blown away by two in full display above forest across from lodge as we had breakfast on 31st – non-stop vocalizations, undulating flight with dives and glides on depressed wings.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus glaucurus* 1-2 daily.

Pitta-like Ground Roller Atelornis pittoides
A pair seen very well on 31st – our local guide knew which ravine they were in, and how to get them out! The way it played out we'd have been better off staying on the path than scrambling into the ravine to take up position.

Rufous-headed Ground Roller Atelornis crossleyi Three on 31st. We had to clamber down into a gully but were then rewarded with TINGALING! views at c4m.

Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus superciliosus* Three en route on 30th.

Malagasy Kestrel Falco newtoni newtoni
Five en route on 30th. Our first seen hovering, then on the ground in dry paddy, and finally flying away to perch out of view in paddy-side tree.

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*One high above Ridge on 1st, probably migr.

Lesser Vasa Parrot Coracopsis nigra
One flew by lodge (after being heard as we walked forest trails) on 31st.

Common Sunbird-Asity *Neodrepanis coruscans*One female on 31st.

Red-tailed Vanga *Calicalicus madagascariensis* 13 bird-days – noted daily.

Hook-billed Vanga Vanga curvirostris

One on 1st – seen feeding & visiting nest in tree fork c10m up in tree adjacent to path.

Blue Vanga *Cyanolanius m. madagascarinus* One on 30th.

Tylas Vanga Tylas eduardi

1-2 daily.

***Vocalizations incl a bulbul-ey song 'chet, chet, chou-we', and a vague, orioley 'kuid, kwid'.

Common Newtonia Newtonia brunneicauda

13+ in total.

***Our 1st was a silent bird carrying an insect; later we heard the measured 'choc-a, choc-a' rattling song (sometimes given in a faster version).

Crossley's Vanga Mystacornis crossleyi

Three on 1st - one heard from bridge in front of lodge, then taped into view once we'd climbed up: on the ground; belly-heavy, sleek, chestnut w/ black-and-white head pattern.

Crested Drongo *Dicrurus forficatus forficatus*Two on both 30th & 1st.

Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher Terpsiphone mutata mutata

One male seen on 30th (more were heard by our guides!).

Pied Crow Corvus albus

Three en route S of Anjozorobe town on 30th.

Madagascan Lark Eremopterix hova

One at paddies S of Fiearana en route on 30th.

Malagasy Bulbul *Hypsipetes m. madagascariensis* 29+ in total.

Mascarene Martin Phedina borbonica

madagas cariens is

26+ @ Tana & en route, and just one w/ swifts above lodge on 1st.

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola cowani* Eight near lodge as we walked back in evening of 31st.

Malagasy Brush Warbler Nesillas typica

27+ in total – main event 19+ (of which just two were seen) on evening walk on 31st.

***Our 1st encounter with this widespread species cost us some additional time as it was very hard to reconcile the actual bird with the field guide illustration of it...

Madagascan Swamp Warbler Acrocephalus newtoni

Two @ Tana paddies on 30th. BVD for some of us, things by the busy road being a bit hectic.

White-throated Oxylabes Oxylabes

madagascariensis

One on 1st.

Long-billed Bernieria *Bernieria madagascariensis*Seven bird-days – noted daily, but not seen until 1st: gleaning along trunk among lichen, and giving strong, chuttering call.

Cryptic Warbler Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi

One 'scoped as it sang on Ridge on 1st, sitting out motionless in a tree top. A hint of pale yellow chin was the most striking feature: no eyering or -brow...

***'This is a species that was first discovered by [Field Guides leaders] Bret Whitney & Jan Pierson who realised the call was something distinct': FG 2016.

Spectacled Tetraka *Xanthomixis zosterops*Five on 30th (incl three roosting) & one heard on 31st.

Madagascan Yellowbrow Crossleyia xanthophrys
One on 1st – on the ground in bamboo thicket,
seen only naked-eye. High-pitched, treepy song
recorded.

Rand's Warbler Randia pseudozosterops

20+ bird-days – noted daily, but just one actually seen!

***Bech et al. (2012) recorded neither this species nor Cryptic Warbler at Anjozorobe...

Common Jery Neomixis tenella

6+ bird-days. Undoubtedly our guides were hearing more.

Madagascan Cisticola *Cisticola cherina*One in flight at hillside near lodge on 31st.

Malagasy White-eye Zosterops m.maderaspatanus 6+-15 daily mostly near lodge, in addition to a few @ I C Hotel as day broke on 30th.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis tristis* 48 bird-days en route.

Madagascan Magpie-Robin Copsychus

albospecularis

Our guides heard a couple...

Forest Rock Thrush Monticola sharpii A pair seen well on 31st.

Madagascan Stonechat Saxicola sibilla
Six in total. Most were en route, but singles also
@ I C Hotel on 30th & near lodge on 31st.

Souimanga Sunbird *Cinnyris sovimanga* 30+ bird-days.

Malagasy Green Sunbird Cinnyris notatus notatus
One male seen well at I C Hotel on 30th.

Nelicourvi Weaver *Ploceus nelicourvi* Two w/ flock of tetrakas on 1st.

Red Fody *Foudia madagascariensis* 26+ bird-days, incl eight at edge of paddies near lodge on 31st.

Madagascan Mannikin Lepidopygia nana Six en route between Fiearana and Mananara R on $30^{\rm th}$.

Madagascan Wagtail *Motacilla flaviventris* 8+ bird-days, incl one along paddies near lodge on 31st.

Observations made by the Danish group 20th November, compiled by Eric Schaumburg.

Trip to the delta north of the small harbour from where the boat left for Nosy Ve.

Walk out the peer about 500 meters north of the main peer. This area is mudflads at low tide and just water with no flats at high tide. So the best time to visit is the time in between, though a bit closer to low tide so you have the water edge at the tip of the peer, is best. From here there was a tremendous amount of waders and herons at close distance. Best of all was of course the 4 Crabplovers that spent their time running back and forth between all other waders. A wonderful sighting.

Bird list:

Saunders's Tern Sternula saundersi 2 Purple Heron 2 Grey Heron 2 Striated Heron 20 Black-winged Stilt 35 Crab-plover 4 **Grey Plover 60 Greater Sand Plover 40** Common Ringed Plover 40 Lesser Sand Plover 4-6 Whimbrel 180 Eurasian Curlew 1 Green Sandpiper 150 Sanderling 20 Curlew Sandpiper 50-100 Little Stint 3

While the three of us explored the delta, Jesper went back to Lake Belanda and added Lesser Flamingo for the trip: Lesser Flamingo 4

At dusk we repeated the walk our Swedish friends had done. The Torotoroka Scops Owl was heard after intense work. And it was after this seen several times flying from tree to tree and only once also seen well while perched.



Hunters and terns, Nosy Ve. (TC)



Early morning at La Table (TC).

Additional photos

© All photos: Tomas Carlberg



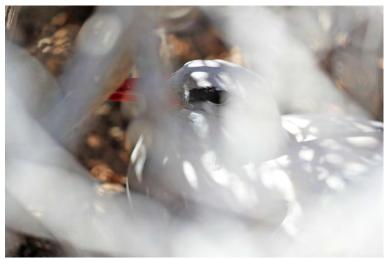


Meller's Duck

Madagascan Grebe



Bernier's Teal



Red-tailed Tropicbird



Black-crowned Night-Heron



Black-crowned Night-Heron





Madagascan Harrier-Hawk



Frances's Sparrowhawk



Madagascan Buzzard









Madagascan Buttonquail





Madagascan Plover

Madagascan Pratincole



Madagascan Pratincole



Madagascan Pratincole against cliffs at Betsiboka River.



Coquerel's Coua



Coquerel's Coua



Crested Coua ssp. pyropyga.



Giant Coua



Giant Coua



Crested Coua



Red-capped Coua



Red-capped Coua ssp. olivaceiceps ('Olive-capped Coua').



Running Coua



White-browed Hawk-Owl





White-browed Hawk-Owl

Rainforest Scops Owl



Collared Nightjar



Short-legged Ground Roller



Scaly Ground Roller



Ranomafana



Broad-billed Roller



Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher



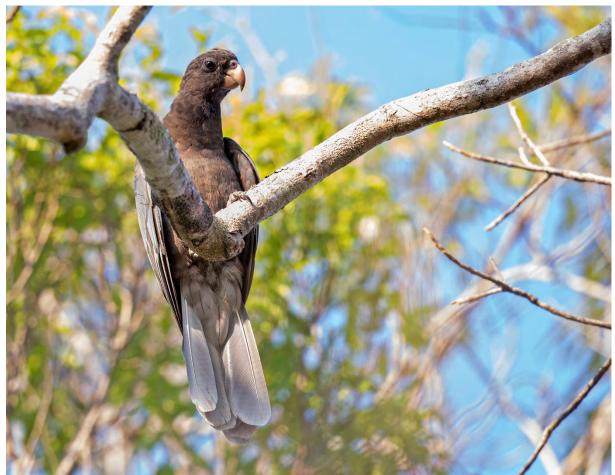
Malagasy Kestrels



Malagasy Kestrel



Malagasy Kestrel



Lesser Vasa Parrot



Schlegel's Asity, female with nesting material



Tylas Vanga



Van Dam's Vanga





Chabert Vanga Ward's Flycatcher



Olive Bee-eater



Nuthatch Vanga



Madagascan Paradise Flycatcher





Mascarene Martins



Madagascan Swamp Warbler

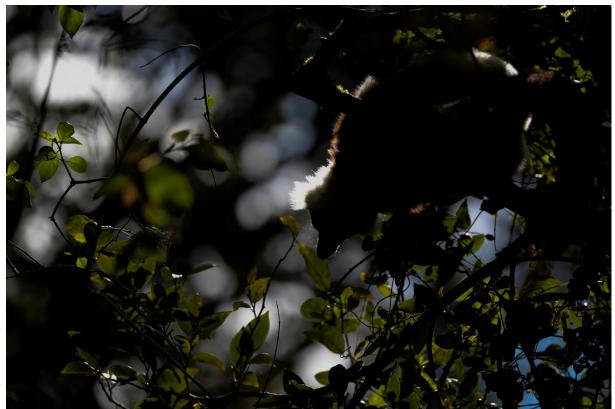


Madagascan Cisticola





Spectacled Tetraka



Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur



Brown Lemur



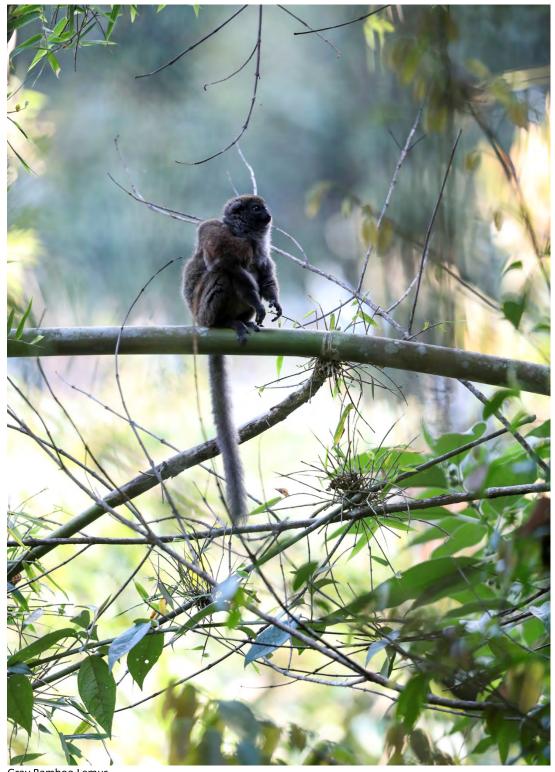
Coquerel's Sifaka



Coquerel's Sifaka



Diademed Sifaka



Gray Bamboo Lemur



Gray-brown Mouse Lemur



Indr



Rufous Mouse Lemur



Ring-tailed Lemur



Western Woolly Lemur



Parson's Chameleon



Uroplatus fimbriatus



Cuvier's Madagascar Collared Iguana