

Madagascar – birds & mammals,

Including chameleons, frogs & snakes

13–30 October 2023. Trip report compiled by Tomas Carlberg.



Front cover

Short-legged Ground Roller (TC).

Photos

© Tomas Carlberg (TC), Jan Wendeby (JW), Karin Lundquist (KL).

Participants

Tomas Carlberg (Tour leader; dendroica95@gmail.com), Håkan Pohlstrand, Sonja Pohlstrand, Inger Marie Jaavall, Torun Haakaas Jaavall, Jan Wendeby, Karin Lundquist, Lena Krogh, Karin Zakrisson, Karin Hellkvist, Elisabeth Nyström. Fidsen "Fidy" Albert Alberto (guide), Maurice (driver) and several local guides including Fenodavy Gildas (Ankarafantsika), Diamondra (Ranomafana) and Cris & Agati (Andasibe).

Tour organizer

Serge "Zina" Raheeritsiferana (Zina-Go Travel).

Itinerary

13.10 Flight Oslo/Stockholm to Antananarivo (Tana)
14.10 Arrival in Tana
15.10 Tana to Ankarafantsika NP
16.10 Ankarafantsika NP
17.10 Ankarafantsika NP
18.10 Bombetaka Bay/Betsiboka Delta
19.10 Ankarafantsika to Tana
20.10 Tana to Ranomafana NP
21.10 Ranomafana NP
22.10 Ranomafana NP
23.10 Ranomafana to Tana
24.10 Tana to Andasibe/Mantadia NP
25.10 Mantadia NP
26.10 Iharoka
27.10 Andasibe NP
28.10 Andasibe NP to Tana
29.10 Tsarasaotra, afternoon flight
30.10 Arrival Stockholm/Oslo



Iharoka forest (TC)

Daily log

October 13th

Evening flight with Ethiopian Airlines from Oslo and Stockholm.

October 14th

Arrival in Addis Abeba early morning and later flight to Antananarivo, where we landed early afternoon. Once through after visa and passport control we met Zina and Fidy at the airport. We stayed at Hotel Le Pavillon de l'Émyrne.

October 15th

Early breakfast and then heading north towards Ankarafantsika NP. Long trip; left 05:40 and arrived at Asity Lodge 20:40 (15 h!). Stop for birding in Ankazobe area 08:00-08:30 (Malagasy Harrier) and at bridge crossing Betsiboka river 16:30-17:00 (Madagascar Pratincole). Warm day with +35 °C.

October 16th

Ankarafantsika NP. Breakfast 06:30, departure at 07:00. Temp +33 °C. Met our local guide Fenodavy Gildas. Morning birding until lunch successfully searching for Van Dam's Vanga and White-breasted Mesite. Back for lunch at the lodge, siesta. Birding and watching Coquerel's Sifakas around headquarter (HQ) in Ankarafantsika in the afternoon. We split into two groups and did boat tours at Lake Ravelobe; stunning views of Madagascar Jacana and the rare Madagascar Fish Eagle. Night walk 18:15-19:30 with lots of good species.

October 17th

Ankarafantsika NP. Morning birding 06:15-08:45 successfully searching for Schlegel's Asity. Went north one hour by bus to a lake, but habitat mostly destroyed by local farmers and fishermen. Afternoon 15:30-18:00 birded Baobab trail and near Lake Ravelobe. Night walk 18:15-19:15.

October 18th

We were served coffee and tea and left early at 04:15 towards Mahajanga and the Bombetaka Bay/Betsiboka Delta, bus trip took 3 hrs and 50 minutes. Boat tour in the delta 08:30-14:30, had some problems with low tide on the way back. Late lunch in Mahajanga and then back to Asity Lodge where we arrived at 19:30.

October 19th

Long transport today. Left Asity Lodge at 04:00, arrival in Tana at 18:30, hotel Le Chalet des Roses.

October 20th

Long transport day again, too long ... Started at 05:00 from Tana, arrived to Hotel Cristo in Ranomafana at 22:00 (17 hours!). We were not aware of that this road has been much worse during the pandemic ... We stopped for a nice breakfast and also for lunch and to (successfully) look for Madagascar Snipe.

October 21st

Today we were rewarded with a fantastic full day in Ranomafana NP, (almost) without rain! Breakfast at 06:00, met our local guide Diamondra and his two skilled coworkers. Spent the day in the park walking in wonderful forest until 16:00. Night walk 18:15-19:30. Among several highlights was the close views of a Brown Mesite, and a pair of Pollen's Vanga with a juvenile. Other highlights were Red-bellied Lemurs and Golden Bamboo Lemurs (a species that was discovered as late as in 1985).

October 22nd

Another full and fantastic day in Ranomafana NP. Among several highlights were Blue Coua, Pitta-like Ground Roller, Rufous-headed Ground Roller, the odd insect Giraffe-necked Weevil, Lowland Streaked Tenrec, and Small-toothed Sportive Lemur. Fidy was lucky to see a Fanaloka crossing the trail.

October 23rd

Wake up at 03:30, left Hotel Cristo 04:10. Despite packed breakfast and lunch the bus trip back to Tana took us 15 h. Stayed at Hotel Les Trois Metis.

October 24th

Tana to Andasibe, started at 07:00, arrived at Grace Lodge in Andasibe at 12:00. Lunch 13:30. Met our local guides Cris and Agati for a nature walk in the very nice V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve 14:30-17:45. Highlights were a Madagascar Flufftail at close distance, a sleepy Rainforest Scops Owl, stunning views of a family (2 adults and 2 juveniles) Nuthatch Vanga, Madagascar Starlings, and our first 6 Indris.

October 25th

Woke up at 04:45. Transport in four 4-wheel drive jeeps to Mantadia NP. Wonderful day in the forest. Among several highlights: Madagascar Harrier-Hawk, Madagascar Rail, Short-legged Ground Roller, Scaly Ground Roller, Tylas Vanga, White-throated Oxylabes, Gray Bamboo Lemur, and the Critically Endangered Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur.

October 26th

Breakfast at 04:30, transport in our 4WD's to Iharoka forest (unfortunately only 5 of 11 in the group joined the long walk today). Spent a full day – 12 h – in the field. As during the whole trip we were pleased with good weather. Despite visiting a nest we were disappointed to dip the Helmet Vanga, but were compensated with stunning views of a pair of the rare Bernier's Vanga and Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk, as well as Common Sunbird-Asity and Forest Rock Thrush.

October 27th

Breakfast at 06:00, departure 06:45 to Analamazoatra Reserve, Andasibe NP. Had a pleasant pizza lunch at a restaurant in Andasibe. Highlights: Madagascar Ibis, Red-breasted Coua, Collared Nightjar (a very odd species; song unknown), Eastern Woolly Lemur, Indri, and Diademed Sifaka.

October 28th

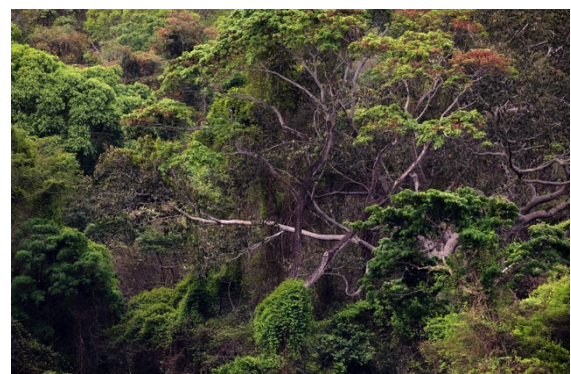
Breakfast at 06:00, visited V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve 07:00-10:15. Had a last lunch at Grace Lodge and then heading towards Tana, where we stayed at hotel Le Chalets des Roses. Highlights: Madagascar Sparrowhawk, Henst's Goshawk.

October 29th

Breakfast at 05:15. Birding in Tsarasaotra Park, Tana 06:30-09:00. Had lunch at a restaurant and then transport to the airport. Flight to Addis at 14:35, and again at 23:50 towards Europe. Highlights: Malagasy Pond Heron.

October 30th

Arrival in Stockholm and Oslo.



Primary forest at Lake Ravelobe (TC).

List of birds

We recorded 137 species of birds 14-29th October.
rd = along road.

Taxonomy: Gill, F., Donsker, D. & Rasmussen, P. (Eds). 2023. IOC World Bird List (v13.2).

The subspecies are in most cases assigned based on the above list rather than by morphological characters noted in the field.

Ducks, Geese & Swans *Anatidae*

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*
Up to 50 in Ankarafantsika 16–17.10, 30 Betsiboka Delta 18.10, 3 rd 24.10, and c. 200 Tsarasaotra 29.10.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*
2 Tsarasaotra 29.10.

Blue-billed Teal *Spatula hottentota*
10 Tsarasaotra 29.10.

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhynchos*
2 rd 15.10, and c. 200 Tsarasaotra 29.10.

Guineafowl *Numididae*

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*
Up to 10 in Ankarafantsika 16–17.10.
Note: Introduced species.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies *Phasianidae*

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei delegorguei*
2 en route to Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Grebes *Podicipedidae*

Madagascar Grebe *Tachybaptus pelzelni* (VU)
Endemic
1 Lake Ravelobe 16.10 (not seen by all).

Flamingos *Phoenicopteridae*

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*
c. 50 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Ibises, Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

Malagasy Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis bernieri bernieri*
6–8 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.
Note: ssp. *abbotti* occur at Aldabra I, Seychelles.

Madagascar Ibis *Lophotibis cristata cristata* (NT)
Endemic
1 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10.
Note: Decreasing population trend, currently 6,700 mature individuals, according to IUCN.



Madagascar Ibis (TC)

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus podiceps*
1 Mantadia 25.10.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*
2 rd 19.10, 5 rd 20.10, and c. 20 Tsarasaotra 29.10.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata rutenbergi*
5 rd 15.10, and 1+1 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*
Up to 30 Ankarafantsika (Lake Ravelobe) 15–17.10, 4 rd 20.10, 2 rd 24.10, and c. 50 Tsarasaotra 29.10.

Malagasy Pond Heron *Ardeola idea* (EN) Endemic
4 Tsarasaotra 29.10.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Common to fairly common, noted on most days.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea firsas*
1 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Humboldt's Heron *Ardea humbloti* (EN) Endemic
11 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*
1 near Tana 14.10 (HP only).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea madagascariensis*
Up to 2 Ankarafantsika (Lake Ravelobe) 16–17.10,
1 Betsiboka Delta 18.10, and 1 rd 20.10 and 23.10.

Great Egret *Ardea alba melanorhynchos*
Common to fairly common, noted on most days,
often *en route*.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*
Up to 10 noted on 6 days, often *en route*; c. 10
Tsarasaotra 29.10.

Dimorphic Egret *Egretta dimorpha*
Common rd 14.10, noted in Betsiboka Delta 18.10,
rd 24.10, and c. 50 Tsarasaotra 29.10.

Hamerkop *Scopidae*

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta umbretta*
2 rd 20.10, and 1 rd 24.10.



Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk (TC)

Kites, Hawks & Eagles *Accipitridae*

Madagascar Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides radiatus*
Endemic
1 Lake Ravelobe 16.10, 1 Betsiboka Delta 18.10, 1
rd 19.10 (c. 133 km from Tana), and 2 Mantadia
25.10.

Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda*
madagascariensis Endemic
1 Iharoka 26.10.

Madagascar Sparrowhawk *Accipiter*
madagascariensis (NT) Endemic
2 seen perched at close distance, Andasibe 28.10.

Henst's Goshawk *Accipiter henstii* (NT) Endemic
1 heard Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10, and 1 seen
briefly 28.10.

Malagasy Harrier *Circus macrosceles* (VU) Endemic
2 males c. 16 km S Ankazobe 15.10, and 1+1 male
seen *en route* 19.10.

Note: Endemic to Madagascar & Comores

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius parasitus*
Up to 10 seen daily 15–20.10, and 1 29.10.

Madagascar Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga vociferoides*
(CR) Endemic
1 Lake Ravelobe 16.10.
Note: Earlier in genus *Haliaeetus*.

Madagascar Buzzard *Buteo brachypterus* Endemic
Totally 10 noted during 6 days: 1 15.10, 2 16.10, 2
17.10, 1 22.10, 3 23.10, and 1 25.10.

Mesites *Mesitornithidae*

White-breasted Mesite *Mesitornis variegatus* (VU)
Endemic
2 seen + 1 heard Ankarafantsika 16–17.10.

Brown Mesite *Mesitornis unicolor* (VU) Endemic
Superb views of 1 in Ranomafana 21.10.



Brown Mesite (TC)

Flufftails *Sarothruridae*

Madagascar Forest Rail *Mentocrex kioloides*
kioloides Endemic
3 Ranomafana 21.10, and 1 Analamazoatra
Reserve 27.10.
Note: English and genus name changed from
Madagascan Wood Rail *Canirallus kioloides*.

Madagascar Flufftail *Sarothrura insularis* Endemic
 Superb views of 1 (+ 1 heard) at V.O.I.M.M.A.
 Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10.
 Note: Too close, down to 1 m, and too fast to take
 photos!

Rails, Crakes & Coots *Rallidae*

Madagascar Rail *Rallus madagascariensis* (VU)
 Endemic
 Short but good views of 2 in Mantadia NP 25.10.

White-throated Rail *Dryolimnas cuvieri cuvieri*
 1 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10, and 1 at
 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve 28.10.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
pyrrhorhoa
 c. 10 Tsarasaotra 29.10.

Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
 2 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
tundra
 1 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia*
scythicus
 10 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Jacanas *Jacanidae*

Madagascar Jacana *Actophilornis albinucha*
 Superb views of 1 at Lake Ravelobe 16.10.



Madagascar Jacana (TC)

Sandpipers and Allies *Scolopacidae*

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
 10 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
 c. 50 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*
 5 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
 1 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Madagascar Snipe *Gallinago macrodactyla* (VU)
 Endemic
 1 at a roadside wetland close to Reserve Villageois
 d'Ankazomivady 20.10.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
 5 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
 10 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Pratincoles and Coursers *Glareolidae*

Madagascar Pratincole *Glareola ocularis*
 10 Betsiboka River 15.10, and 3 at the same place
 19.10.
 Note: Breeds only in Madagascar, migrating to E
 Africa during austral winter.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers *Laridae*

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*
bengalensis
 c. 30 Betsiboka Delta 18.10.

Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae*

Rock Dove *Columba livia*
 Noted in towns, e.g. 15.10 and 17.10.

Malagasy Turtle Dove *Nesoenas picturatus*
picturatus
 Totally 12 noted during 7 days: 3+3 Ankarafantsika
 16–17.10, 2 rd 20.10, and in Andasibe/Mantadia 1
 24.10, 1 25.10, 1 27.10, and 1 28.10.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis aliena*
 1–2 seen daily 15–19.10, often along the road.

Madagascar Green Pigeon *Treron australis xenius*
Endemic
3+1 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10.

Madagascar Blue Pigeon *Alectroenas
madagascariensis* Endemic
2+2 Ranomafana 21–22.10.

Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

Malagasy Coucal *Centropus toulou toulou*
Totally 27 noted during 10 days (1 to 6 daily). First
4+6 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10, also seen in
Ranomafana NP and Andasibe/Mantadia.
Note: Endemic to Madagascar and Aldabra.

Crested Coua *Coua cristata dumonti* Endemic
2 Ankarafantsika 16.10.

Blue Coua *Coua caerulea* Endemic
2 Ranomafana 22.10, 1 Analamazoatra Reserve
27.10, and 2 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve,
Andasibe NP 28.11.



Blue Coua (TC)

Red-capped Coua *Coua ruficeps ruficeps* Endemic
1 ad with 1 juv Ankarafantsika 16.10.

Red-fronted Coua *Coua reynaudii* Endemic
1 Ranomafana 21.10.

Coquerel's Coua *Coua coquereli* Endemic
1 Ankarafantsika 16.10.

Red-breasted Coua *Coua serriana* Endemic
1 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10.

Madagascar Cuckoo *Cuculis rochii*
Most often heard, but some seen. First heard
16.10. Noted as common almost daily 20–28.10.

Barn-Owls *Tytonidae*

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba hypermetra*
1 seen at Grace Lodge, Andasibe 26.10. (JW, KL).

Owls *Strigidae*

Rainforest Scops Owl *Otus rutilus* Endemic
1 at V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe
NP 24.10.

Nightjars and Allies *Caprimulgidae*

Collared Nightjar *Gactornis enarratus* Endemic
1 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10.



Collared Nightjar (TC)

Madagascar Nightjar *Caprimulgus
madagascariensis madagascariensis*
Noted on six days, often heard but also seen: 1
17.10, 1 18.10, 1 19.10, 2 25.10, 2 26.10, and 2
27.10.

Note: Endemic to Madagascar and Aldabra.

Swifts *Apodidae*

Madagascar Spinetail *Zonavena grandidieri grandidieri*

1 Mantadia NP 25.10 (TC).

Note: Endemic to Madagascar and Comoros.

Malagasy Palm Swift *Cypsiurus gracilis*

Totally 102 noted during 13 days 15–28.10 (normally 5–10 per day).

Note: A recent (2019) split from African Palm Swift *C. parvus*. This taxon is endemic to Madagascar and Comoros.

Malagasy Black Swift *Apus affinis affinis*

5 in Tana 14.10.

Note: Endemic to Madagascar and Comoros.

Cuckoo-Roller *Leptosomidae*

Cuckoo Roller *Leptosomus discolor discolor*

3+2 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10, 1 Ranomafana 21.10, and 1 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Rollers *Coraciidae*

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus glaucurus*

2+8 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10, and 2+2+2 Andasibe/Mantadia NP 24–26.10.

Ground Rollers *Brachypteraciidae*

Short-legged Ground Roller *Brachypteracias leptosomus* (VU) Endemic

1 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Scaly Ground Roller *Geobiastes squamiger* (VU) Endemic

1 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Pitta-like Ground Roller *Atelornis pittoides* Endemic

2 Ranomafana 22.10.

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

1 Ranomafana 22.10.



Scaly Ground Roller (TC)



Rufous-headed Ground Roller (TC)

Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher *Corythornis madagascariensis madagascariensis* Endemic

1+1 seen during nightlightning in Ankarafantsika 16–17.10, 1 Ranomafana 21.10, and 1 at V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10.



Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher (TC)

Malagasy Kingfisher *Corythornis vintsioides vintsioides*

2 rd 15.10, 1+1 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10, 1 Analamazoatra 27.10, and 2 Tsarasaotra 29.10.
Note: Endemic to Madagascar and Comoros.

Bee-eaters *Meropidae*

Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus superciliosus*
10 rd 15.10, 1 Ankarafantsika 17.10, 1 rd 19.10, 5 rd 23.10, 3 24.10, and 3 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Hoopoes *Upupidae*

Madagascar Hoopoe *Upupa marginata* Endemic
2+1 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10 and 1 rd 18.10.

Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae*

Malagasy Kestrel *Falco newtoni newtoni*
24 noted during 7 days. First 2 rd 14.10 and 10 15.10, 2 19.10, 5 20.10, 2 21.10, 2 22.10, and 1 28.10.
Note: Endemic to Madagascar and Aldabra.

Old World Parrots *Psittaculidae*

Greater Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis vasa drouhardi*
1 Betsiboka River 15.10, and 3 Ankarafantsika 17.10.
Note: endemic to Madagascar and Comoros.

Lesser Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis nigra libis* Endemic
6+2 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10, 1+1 Ranomafana 21–22.10, 1 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10, 4 Iharoka 26.10, and 1 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 28.10.

Grey-headed Lovebird *Agapornis canus canus*
Endemic
10 rd 15.10, and 7 at Lake Ravelobe 17.10.

Broadbills *Eurylaimidae*

Velvet Asity *Philepitta castanea* Endemic
1 male and 3 females Ranomafana 21.10, and 1 male Iharoka 26.10..

Schlegel's Asity *Philepitta schlegeli* (NT) Endemic
Stunning views of a pair in Ankarafantsika 17.10.

Common Sunbird-Asity *Neodrepanis coruscans*
Endemic
2 males Iharoka 26.10.



Schlegel's Asity (TC)

Vangas *Vangidae*

Red-tailed Vanga *Calicalicus madagascariensis*
Endemic
1 Ranomafana 21.10.

Hook-billed Vanga *Vanga curvirostris curvirostris*
Endemic
2 Ankarafantsika 17.10.

Bernier's Vanga *Oriolia bernieri* (EN) Endemic
Stunning views of a pair at Iharoka 26.10.

Van Dam's Vanga *Xenopirostris damii* (EN)
Endemic
2 males and 1 female Ankarafantsika 16.10.

Pollen's Vanga *Xenopirostris polleni* (NT) Endemic
Male and female with a juvenile Ranomafana 21.10.

Sickle-billed Vanga *Falculea palliata* Endemic
4+1 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10.

White-headed Vanga *Artamella viridis viridis*
Endemic
1 heard V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 28.10.

Chabert Vanga *Leptopterus chabert chabert*
Endemic
2 Ankarafantsika 17.10, 1 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10, and 3 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Madagascar Blue Vanga *Cyanolanius madagascarinus* Endemic
2 Ankarafantsika 16.10, and 1 Iharoka 26.10.

Note: New English name after split from Comoros Blue Vanga *C. comorensis*.

Rufous Vanga *Schetba rufa* Endemic

4+2 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10, and 2 Ranomafana 21.10; ssp. *occidentalis* W Madagascar, nominate N & E Madagascar.

Tylas Vanga *Tylas eduardi eduardi* Endemic

2 Ranomafana 21.10, and 1 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Nuthatch Vanga *Hypositta corallirostris* Endemic

Stunning views of male and female with 2 juveniles at V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10, and 3 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Dark Newtonia *Newtonia amphichroa* Endemic

1 Iharoka 26.10.

Common Newtonia *Newtonia brunneicauda brunneicauda* Endemic

Often heard, several seen, common to fairly common in forests (Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana, and Andasibe/Mantadia NP).

Crossley's Vanga *Mystacornis crossleyi* Endemic

1 Ranomafana 21.10.



Bernier's Vanga, male (TC)



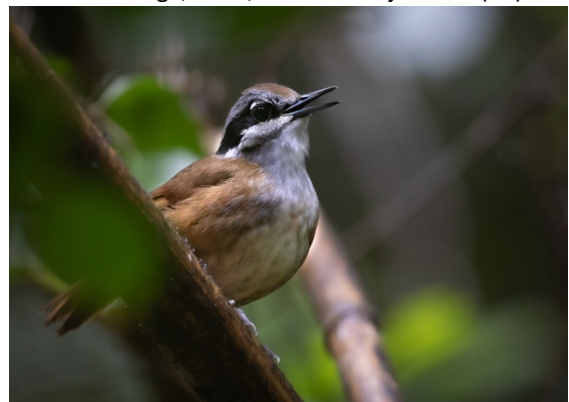
Van Dam's Vanga, male (TC)



Pollen's Vanga, male (TC)



Nuthatch Vanga; male, female and juvenile (TC)



Crossley's Vanga, female (TC)

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*

Madagascar Cuckooshrike *Cebilepyris cinereal* Endemic

2 Ankarafantsika 16.10, 4+4 Ranomafana 21–22.10, and 1 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10; nominate in N & E Madagascar, ssp. *pallidus* W, C, SW Madagascar.

Drongos *Dicruridae*

Crested Drongo *Dicrurus forficatus forficatus*
c. 40 noted during 8 days: 10+10 Ankarafantsika
16–17.10, 5 Betsiboka Delta 18.10, 2+5
Ranomafana 21–22.10, 1 24.10, and 4+2
Andasibe/Mantadia NP 27–28.10.
Note: Endemic to Madagascar and Comoros.

Monarchs *Monarchidae*

Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone mutata mutata*
10+2 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10, 2+2 Ranomafana
21–22.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10, 2 Iharoka 26.10,
and 1 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10.
Note: Endemic to Madagascar and Comoros.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae*

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*
Locally fairly common, often along roads.

Larks *Alaudidae*

Madagascar Lark *Eremopterix hova* Endemic
c. 20 rd 15.10, c. 10 rd 18.10, and 5 rd 20.10.



Madagascar Lark (TC)

Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*

Malagasy Bulbul *Hypsipetes madagascariensis madagascariensis*
Common and noted during 11 days; 1 14.10, 10+10
Ankarafantsika 16–17.10, 5+10 Ranomafana 21–
22.10, common 24–28.10, noted 29.10.
Note: Endemic to Madagascar, Comoros, Aldabra.

Swallows *Hirundinidae*

Mascarene Martin *Phedina borbonica madagascariensis*
Locally fairly common, e.g. 14–15.10, 5–30 seen
almost daily 19–29.10.
Note: Endemic to Madagascar and Mascarenes.

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola cowani*
1 rd 23.10, and 2 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community
Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10.
Note: Madagascar Plain Martin *Riparia cowani* is a
proposed split from *R. paludicola*.

Reed warblers and allies *Acrocephalidae*

Malagasy Brush Warbler *Nesillas typica typica*
2 Tana 14–15.10, 2+2 Ranomafana 21–22.10, and 6
Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10.
Note: Endemic to Madagascar and Comoros.

Tetrakas & Allies *Bernieridae*

White-throated Oxylobes *Oxylobes madagascariensis* Endemic
2 Mantadia NP 25.10, and 2 Iharoka 26.10.

Long-billed Bernieria *Bernieria madagascariensis madagascariensis* Endemic
3 Ankarafantsika 16.10, 1 Ranomafana 22.10, and 2
Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10.
Note: Nominate in e, ssp. *incelebris* in n, w.

Cryptic Warbler *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi*
Endemic. 1 Iharoka 26.10.

Wedge-tailed Jery *Hartertula flavoviridis* (NT)
Endemic
1 Mantadia NP 25.10.



Wedge-tailed Jery (TC)

Spectacled Tetraka *Xanthomixis zosterops zosterops* Endemic

1 Ranomafana 21.10, 3 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10, 2 Mantadia NP 25.10, 10 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10, and 2 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 28.10.

Rand's Warbler *Randia pseudozosterops* Endemic
2 Ranomafana 21.10, 2 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10, and 2 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 28.10.

Cisticolas and allies *Cisticolidae*

Common Jery *Neomixis tenella* Endemic
8+5 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10, and 2 Ranomafana 21.10. Four subspecies occur: *tenella* (N Madagascar), *decaryi* (W part of C), *orientalis* (EC & SE) and *debilis* (S); we probably saw ssp. *decaryi* and *orientalis*.

Stripe-throated Jery *Neomixis striatigula* Endemic
1 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10, 8 Analamazoatra 27.10, and heard 28.10. Note: HBW/Birdlife split this taxon into Stripe-throated Jery *Neomixis striatigula* and Subdesert Jery *N. pallidior* (in SW Madagascar).

Madagascar Cisticola *Cisticola cherina*
6 rd 15.10, 1 rd 19.10, 1 rd 20.10, and 2 rd 23.10. 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*
3 Ankarafantsika 17.10, and totally 32 noted on 8 days 21–28.10 (2–10 daily).

Starlings *Sturnidae*

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis tristis*
Fairly common and noted during 14 days, first noted as 'common' *en route* 14.10.

Madagascar Starling *Hartlaubius auratus* Endemic
2 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

Madagascar Magpie-Robin *Copsychus albospecularis* Endemic
c. 23 noted during 8 days: 8+4 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10, 1 Ranomafana 22.10, and 1+5+1+2+1 Andasibe/Mantadia NP 24–28.10. Three subspecies recognised: *pica* (west), *albospecularis* (NE), and *inexpectatus* (SE).

Forest Rock Thrush *Monticola sharpei* Endemic
1 heard at a roadside stop 23.10, and 1 seen at Iharoka 26.10.



Forest Rock Thrush (TC)

Madagascar Stonechat *Saxicola sibilla* Endemic
Totally 13 noted during 5 days: 5 rd 15.10, 2 rd 20.10, 2 rd 23.10, 2 Iharoka 25.10, and 2 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10.
Note: Three subspecies: nominate Madagascar except n, c; *ankaratrae* c, and *tsaratananae* n.

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*

Souimanga Sunbird *Cinnyris sovimanga sovimanga*
Fairly common to common almost every day (11 days). Most often heard only, but several seen. Note: Endemic to Madagascar and some islands north of Madagascar, e.g. Aldabra is. Five subspecies recognized.

Malagasy Green Sunbird *Cinnyris notatus notatus*
2 Ankarafantsika 17.10, 2 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10, 1 Mantadia NP 25.10, 1 Analamazoatra 27.10, and 1 rd 28.10. 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*

c. 20 Mahajanga 18.10, and 1 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Weavers, Widowbirds *Ploceidae*

Nelicourvi Weaver *Ploceus nelicourvi* Endemic

1 female Mantadia NP 25.10, and 1 female Analamazoatra 27.10.

Sakalava Weaver *Ploceus sakalava sakalava*

Endemic

4+20 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10.

Red Fody *Foudia madagascariensis*

Common in Tana 14.10, 2 15.10, 10 Ankarafantsika 17.10, 1 24.10, 2 27.10, 1 28.10, and 10 29.10.

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

1 female Mantadia NP 25.10, 2 Iharoka 26.10, 1 heard Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10.

Waxbills, Munias and allies *Estrildidae*

Madagascar Mannikin *Lepidopygia nana* Endemic

1 Asity lodge 16.10, and 5–20 daily Andasibe/Mantadia NP 24–28.10.

Wagtails, Pipits *Motacillidae*

Madagascar Wagtail *Motacilla flaviventris*

Endemic

Totally 62 noted during 10 days 19–28.10, with maximum 20 24.10.



Madagascar Wagtail (TC)

List of mammals

We noted 24 species of mammals.

Taxonomy: HMW (Handbook of the Mammals of the World).

Tenrecs and Shrew *Tenrecidae*

Lowland Streaked Tenrec *Hemicentetes*

semispinosus Endemic

1 Ranomafana 22.10, 1 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10, 2 Iharoka 26.10, and 1 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 28.10.

Greater Hedgehog Tenrec *Setifer setosus* Endemic

1 crossed the road at 19:30 in Ankarafantsika 18.10 (TC, JW, KL only).

Bamboo, True and Ruffed Lemurs *Lemuridae*

Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus* (NT) Endemic

3 Ankarafantsika 16.10, 6 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10, 3 Mantadia NP 25.10, 10 Iharoka 26.10, and 6 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10.

Red-bellied Lemur *Eulemur rubriventer* (VU)

Endemic

3 adults + juvenile Ranomafana 21.10, and 6 adults + 2 juveniles 22.10.



Red-bellied Lemur (TC)

Red-fronted Brown Lemur *Eulemur rufifrons* (NT)

Endemic

8+8 Ranomafana 21–22.10.

Golden Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur aureus* (EN)

Endemic

4 Ranomafana 21.10.



Golden Bamboo Lemur (TC)

Gray Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur griseus griseus* (VU) Endemic
1 Mantadia NP 25.10, 5 Iharoka 26.10, and 6 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10.

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur *Varecia variegata* (CR) Endemic
6 Mantadia NP 25.10.

Sportive Lemurs *Lepilemuridae*

Milne-Edwards's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur edwardsi* (VU) Endemic
1 Ankarafantsika NP 16.10.



Milne-Edwards's Sportive Lemur (TC)

Small-toothed Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur microdon* (EN) Endemic
1 Ranomafana NP 22.10.

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

Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus medius* Endemic
1 Ankarafantsika 16.10.

Gray Mouse Lemur *Microcebus murinus* Endemic
5 Ankarafantsika 17.10.

Golden-brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus ravelobensis* (EN) Endemic
4+1 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10.

Rufous Mouse Lemur *Microcebus rufus* Endemic
3 Ranomafana 21.10.

Woolly Lemurs, Sifakas and Indri *Indriidae*

Eastern Woolly Lemur *Avahi laniger* (VU) Endemic
3 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10.

Western Woolly Lemur *Avahi occidentalis* (EN) Endemic
3 Ankarafantsika 16.10.

Indri *Indri indri* (EN) Endemic
6 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10, 5 seen + heard Mantadia NP 25.10, 4 Iharoka 26.10, 6 + heard Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10, and 4 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 28.10.

Coquerel's Sifaka *Propithecus coquereli* (EN) Endemic
2 Ankarafantsika 16.10.

Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus diadema* (EN) Endemic
2 Analamazoatra Reserve 27.10.



Indri (TC)



Coquerel's Sifaka (TC)



Diademed Sifaka (TC)

Mice and Rats *Muridae*

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*

1 Tana 29.10.

Pouched Rats, Climbing Mice and Fat Mice *Nesomyidae*

Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus* Endemic

1 Mantadia NP 25.10



Red Forest Rat (TC)

Malagasy Carnivores *Eupleridae*

Spotted Fanaloka *Fossa fossana* (VU) Endemic

1 Ranomafana 22.10 (only seen by Fidson!)

Ring-tailed Vontsira *Galidia elegans* Endemic

2 Ranomafana 21.10.

Sheath-tailed Bats *Emballonuridae*

Mauritian Tomb Bat *Taphozous mauritanus*

2 Asity Lodge, Ankarafantsika 16–17.10.



Mauritian Tomb Bat (TC)



Gray Bamboo Lemur (TC)



Golden-brown Mouse Lemur (JW)

List of Reptiles & others

None of us are herpetologists ... but we tried our best to look for them...

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

Chameleons *Chamaeleonidae*

Oustalet's Chameleon *Furcifer oustaleti* Endemic
1 rd 15.10, and 4+2 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10.



Oustalet's Chameleon (TC)

Rhinoceros Chameleon *Furcifer rhinoceratus* (VU)
Endemic
2+5 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10.



Rhinoceros Chameleon (TC)

Parson's Chameleon *Calumma parsonii* (NT)
Endemic
1 male + juvenile V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10.



Parson's Chameleon, male (TC)

O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon *Calumma oshaughnessyi* (VU) Endemic
2+1 Ranomafana 21–22.10.



O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon (TC)

Perinet Chameleon *Calumma gastrotaenia*
Endemic
1 Iharoka 26.10.

Big Nose Chameleon *Calumma nasutum* Endemic
1 Iharoka 26.10.

Short-horned Chameleon *Calumma brevicorne*
Endemic
1 Iharoka 26.10, and 2 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 28.10.

Note: This is the one that is called “Elephant-eared Chameleon”.

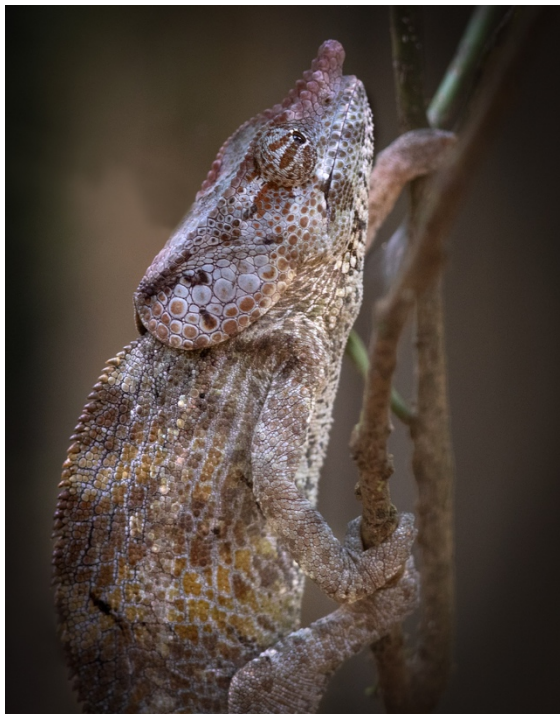
Brown Leaf Chameleon *Brookesia superciliaris*

Endemic

2+2 Ranomafana 21–22.10, and 1 Iharoka 26.10.



Perinet Chameleon, male (TC)



Short-horned Chameleon (TC)



Brown Leaf Chameleon (TC)

Madagascan Iguanas *Opluridae*

Cuvier's Madagascar Collared Iguana *Oplurus cuvieri*

2 rd 15.10, and 2+4 Ankarafantsika 16–17.10.

Note: Endemic to the Malagasy region.



Cuvier's Madagascar Collared Iguana (TC)

Lizards

Western Plated Lizard *Zonosaurus laticaudatus*

Endemic

3 rd 15.10, and 2 Iharoka 16.10.

Skink sp. *Amphiglossus* sp. Endemic

Possibly Diving Skink *Amphiglossus astrolabi*.

1 eaten by a Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10.

Geckos *Gekkonidae*

Common Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus fimbriatus*

Endemic

1+1 Ranomafana 21–22.10, and 1 Iharoka 26.10.

Peacock Day Gecko *Phelsuma quadriocellata*

Endemic

1 Ranomafana 21.10.

Koch's Day Gecko *Phelsuma kochi* Endemic
1 Ankarafantsika 17.10.

Lined Day Gecko *Phelsuma lineata* Endemic
5 V.O.I.M.M.A. Community Reserve, Andasibe NP
24.10, seen at Grace Lodge, Andasibe e.g. 28.10.

Common House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*
Ankarafantsika 16–17.10.

Madagascar Dwarf Gecko *Lygodactylus*
madagascariensis
1 Ankarafantsika 16.10.



Possibly Diving Skink *Amphiglossus astrolabe* eaten
by a Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, V.O.I.M.M.A.
Community Reserve, Andasibe NP 24.10. (TC)



Koch's Day Gecko (TC)



Lined day Gecko (TC)



Common Leaf-tailed Gecko (TC)



Madagascar Dwarf Gecko (TC)

Snakes *Serpentes*

Madagascar Tree Boa *Sanzinia madagascariensis*
Endemic. 1 Analamazotra Reserve 28.10.

Giant Hognose Snake *Leioheterodon*
madagascariensis Endemic
1+1 Ankarafantsika NP 16–17.10.

Blonde Hognose Snake *Leioheterodon modestus*
Endemic
1+1 Ankarafantsika NP 16–17.10.



Blonde Hognose Snake (TC)



Madagascar Cat-eyed Snake (TC)

Madagascar Cat-eyed Snake *Madagascarophis*
colubrinus Endemic
2 Ankarafantsika NP 17.10.

Phisalixella arctifasciatus Endemic
1 Ankarafantsika NP 16.10.

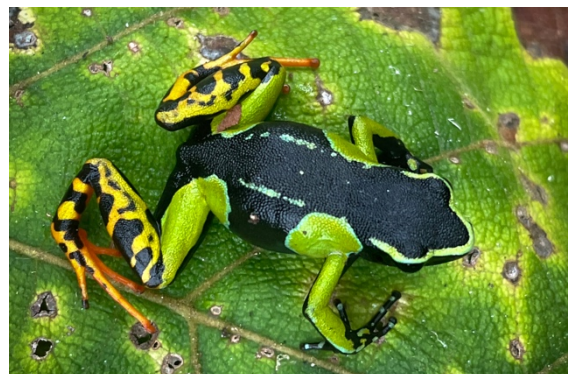
Ithycyphus miniatus Endemic
1 Ankarafantsika NP 16.10.



Phisalixella arctifasciatus eaten by *Ithycyphus miniatus* (TC)

Amphibians *Anura*

Baron's Mantella *Mantella baroni* Endemic
3 Ranomafana 22.10, and 1 Iharoka 26.10.



Baron's Mantella (TC)

Mascarene Ridged Frog *Ptychadena*
mascareniensis
1 Ankarafantsika 17.10.



Mascarene Ridged Frog (TC)

Warty Madagascar Frog *Mantidactylus ulcerosus*
Endemic
1 Ankarafantsika.



Warty Madagascar Frog (JW)

Guibemantis pulcher Endemic
5 Ranomafana 22.10.



Guibemantis pulcher (TC)

Anodonthyla boulengeri Endemic
1 Ranomafana 21.10.

Blommersia wittei Endemic
1 Ankarafantsika.



Blommersia wittei (JW)

White-whiskered Madagascar Frog *Mantidactylus melanopleura* Endemic
1 Mantadia NP 25.10.



White-whiskered Madagascar Frog (JW)

Madagascar jumping frog *Aglyptodactylus securifer* Endemic
1 Ankarafantsika 16.10.



Aglyptodactylus securifer (JW)

Others (insects, spiders, land snails)

Golden orb-web spiders *Nephila* spp.
Several seen.

Flatid Leaf Insect *Phromnia rosea*
Seen in Ankarafantsika.

Giraffe-necked Weevil *Trachelophorus giraffa*
10 Ranomafana 22.10, 1 27.10.

African Monarch *Danaus chrysippus*
Several seen.

Giant African Land Snail *Achatina fulica*
10+10 Ranomafana 16–17.10.
Note: Introduced. We saw both shells and living specimens.





Green Grouse Locust *Holocerus taurus*. Ranomafana 21.10 (KL)



Flatid Leaf Insect *Phromnia rosea* (TC)