

# Madagascar's Lemurs

Naturetrek Tour Report

30 September - 15 October 2010

---



Crested Coua



Dancing Verreaux's Sifaka at Berenty

Report compiled by Cathy Harlow

Images by kind courtesy of Gordon Harris



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour Leader: Cathy Harlow (Naturetrek Leader)  
Desire Rajery (Local Guide)

Participants: Mui Fellows  
Kevin Oakley  
Fiona Oakley  
Tony Flay  
Gordon Harris  
Jenny Harris  
June Oliver  
John Tarr  
Tony Norris  
Pat North  
Ann Phelan  
Peter Phelan

## Day 1

**Thursday 30th September**

Arriving on different flights from various parts of the UK, the group gathered for dinner at the Ibis Hotel at Paris CDG Airport in the evening. Most of the group had taken the option to check their bags through to Antananarivo, which meant just taking hand luggage to the Ibis, an arrangement that worked well.

## Day 2

**Friday 1st October**

### Paris to Antananarivo

We made our way back to the airport. Most had already got their boarding passes for Antananarivo at Heathrow, so it was simply a question of passing through security to the departures area, where we settled down to breakfast in a cafe. The flight left a little late but we made up some time en route, arriving slightly behind schedule. Immigration is always a slow business, even for those who already had visas, but finally all bags were off the belt and we passed through customs to meet our local guide Desi. After changing money, we were whisked off to the nearby Combava Hotel for the night.

## Day 3

**Saturday 2nd October**

### Tana to Fort Dauphin

At breakfast we met up with Tony Flay, the last member of our group, who had already been on tour in Madagascar for the previous two weeks. Tony had plenty of good advice for the new arrivals, as well as lots of stories. Cathy and Desi gave a tour briefing in the gardens of the hotel, before we set off to visit the Lemur Park, a private zoo just outside the capital. We skirted Antananarivo, a city of almost two million sprawled over a chain of hills. These rise from a patchwork of rice paddies, where Great Egret, Dimorphic Egret and Cattle Egret are readily observed.

Arriving at the lemur park, we were guided down to the wooded banks of a stream, where eight species of lemur roam freely: Coquerel's Sifaka, Crowned Sifaka, Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur, Common Brown and Red-fronted Brown Lemurs, Black and White Ruffed Lemur and Ring-tailed Lemur. The park also offered an introduction to some common birds: Madagascar Wagtail, Mascarene Martin, Madagascar Bee-eater, Stonechat, Hamerkop, Souimanga Sunbird, Madagascar White-eye, Madagascar Coucal, Common Myna, Madagascar Brush Warbler and Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher. Monarch and Swallowtail Butterflies were abundant and a Collared Iguanid was seen sunbathing on the rocks.

After lunch at the park, we continued to Tsarasaotra Reserve and Lake Alarobia but frustratingly we were unable to visit – the reserve was open, but not the ticket office, which on Saturdays takes an extended lunch break!! Peeking through the railings, we saw Squacco Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, White-faced Whistling Duck, Knob-billed Duck and Red-billed Teal, along with many Cattle, Dimorphic and Great Egrets. In Madagascar you get used to having a contingency plan up your sleeve and we opted for a quick trip to the Crocodile Farm instead. This proved to be more interesting than it sounded as they had a caged pair of Fosa, which are difficult to see in the wild. From here it was a short ride to the airport where we checked in for the flight to Fort Dauphin in the deep south of the island. Dinner and overnight were at the Dauphin Hotel.

## Day 4

Sunday 3rd October

### Fort Dauphin to Berenty

After a 7 o'clock breakfast we were keen to get going and with the luggage loaded we set off for the four-hour drive to Berenty. Though it's only 90km, the road is rutted and pot-holed in places, but the first part of the road has been patched up so we made good time, passing groves of lychee and mango trees and fields of sugar cane and sweet potato, among the many tropical crops grown in this fertile region. Women were bent over double planting out rice seedlings in the paddies. We passed numerous villages, stopping at one to buy bananas and honey at a fruit market. The people of this region are the Antanosy (people of the island), who live in small huts of roughly assembled planks and bamboo with thatched roofs.

Abruptly the lush vegetation thinned out, replaced by a transitional forest of triangular palm *Dyopsis decaryi* a species confined to this area and now protected within the Andohahela National Park. Stopping for a photo, we were excited to find several Collard Iguanids on a rocky cutting by the side of the road. Numerous Pied Crows and Yellow-billed Kites circled overhead, and Purple Heron and African Palm Swifts were observed in flight over the rice paddies.

Soon the palms gave way to spiny forest of *Didieraceae* and *Euphorbiaceae*, which stretched far into the distance. Here we saw the first of many Namaqua Doves and Madagascar Bulbuls and stopping for photographs, a flock of Common Jery foraging for insects among the sisal flowers. Here too we caught a glimpse of a Crested Coua, hopping from branch to branch in the thorny scrub, while Madagascar Sandgrouse, Crested Drongo and Chabert's Vanga were observed by others in the group. We were also drawn to a purple-flowering tree, whose heady scent and leaf shape were suggestive of jasmine. Arriving at Berenty we met our reserve guide Benoit and checked into the bungalows, had lunch and then a short rest to let the heat out of the day. Some of us had already encountered Berenty's signature Sifakas and Ring-tailed Lemurs – it's hard to miss them when several troops include the car park and bungalows in their territory.

Because of changes to the Air Madagascar domestic flight schedule, we'd lost a day at Berenty so everyone was keen to make the most of the time there. At 3.30 we made for the Ankoba area of the park, whose shady gallery forest lines the banks of the Mandrare River. The river was practically dry following a prolonged drought that has left the local people no option but to dig for water. Berenty's broad flat trails make for easy walking and as many of the deciduous trees are not yet in full leaf, there is plenty of light for spotting and photographing wildlife at this time of year. First up was one of Berenty's specialities, Giant Coua, a large terrestrial bird that is readily seen and often quite tame. With their bright blue eye patch, they are also very striking and rewarding to photograph as they go about foraging on the forest floor. Crested Coua were heard calling – they are often very vocal late in the afternoon.

In spite of the heat, several groups of Verreaux's Sifaka were on the move and gave us a good show of the curious 'dancing' steps they adopt to cross open ground on two legs. As with other vertically clinging lemurs, their forelegs are short which hinders quadrupedal movement. Even more abundant were Red-fronted Brown Lemurs, which Berenty's founders introduced into the reserve. Moving in large groups they appeared as confident in the trees as on the ground and like the Ring-tailed Lemurs many were carrying young babies.

One of the advantages of having a good local reserve guide is that they know the day-time roosts of owls and nocturnal lemurs and Benoit confidently led us to a Totoraka Scops Owl. Turtle Doves, Helmeted Guineafowl and a pair of Greater Vasa Parrots also showed. What we initially believed to be bats roosting in a disused shaft, turned out to be nesting Mascarene Martins. Benoit also introduced us to some of the interesting plants of the region: *Cyphostemma* sp whose bulbous water-storing trunk allows it survive drought and *Aloe vahombe*, a tall aloe with a woody trunk whose leaves are favoured by pregnant Ring-tailed Lemurs.

Just after nightfall, we grabbed our torches, heading for a tract of spiny forest, left intact by the De Heaulme family when they developed their sisal plantation. With its tall stands of spiny-barked *Alluaudia procera* and *Alluaudia ascendens* and dense crowns of *Euphorbia stenoclada*, this habitat is the best place to observe Berenty's nocturnal lemurs. In under an hour, we had picked out in our torch beams the eye-shine of five Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs and two Grey Mouse Lemurs. These diminutive lemurs weigh around 60 gm, bouncing with agility from bough to bough as well as running on all fours along the branches. By contrast, the much larger White-footed Sportive Lemurs leap vertically and are capable of huge leaps from one spiny branch to the next. On this first evening's night walk we were lucky to get good sightings of three of them.

To make the most of our limited time at Berenty some of the group opted to head back into the gallery forest for a second night walk, where the thick leaf-litter is the preferred habitat for another of Berenty's specialities, nocturnal Big-headed Geckos, of which we found six. After much probing into dead tree trunks we found a Hissing Cockroach carrying dozens of babies on its back but any excitement over this sighting was eclipsed by a spectacular Dumeril's Ground Boa.

## Day 5

Monday 4th October

### Berenty

All the group members were assembled at dawn to visit the gallery forest again. We soon notched up a number of local specialities, including a dozen Crested Couas, many actively combing the branches for grubs.

Giant Couas were also obliging, one crossing the path in front of us, while another hopped into the branches of a small tree, where some of the group were able to photograph it. Crested Drongos were also very active, with several pairs noted, often mimicking the calls of other birds. Madagascar Kestrels were also abundant engaging in mating behaviour several times. Ashy Cuckoo-shrike, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Madagascar White-eye, Common Newtonia, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Madagascar Mannikin, Madagascar Bulbul and Madagascar Magpie Robin were also readily observed during the walk. We were also very lucky to see and photograph three roosting White-browed Owls.

From a viewpoint overlooking the River Mandrare, we picked out large numbers of Greenshank, a flock of Helmeted Guineafowl, three Knob-billed Ducks, several flocks of Grey-headed Lovebirds and a Madagascar Bee-eater. Benoit pointed out the invasive *Cissus quadrangularis* rubber vine, which quickly spreads and chokes the indigenous trees. A delightfully scented shrub with white flowers was identified as a *Caparis* sp. We heard, but failed to find Hook-billed Vanga, though White-headed Vanga was glimpsed by Benoit. We ended this productive morning with a visit to the Madagascar Flying Fox colony, where several hundred roosting bats were suspended from the branches of a large tamarind tree. On our way to breakfast a Madagascar Cuckoo Hawk circled overhead, giving some of the group a good view of a raptor that is not often seen.

After breakfast we took the bus for the short drive to the spiny forest. Now we were treated to one of Madagascar's most iconic sights, Verreaux's Sifaka leaping from bough to bough, apparently avoiding with ease the inch-long spines covering the trunks and branches. It was interesting to see that they were also at times happy to follow the path on two legs, perhaps preferring this to the spines. Next we came across a pair of Hook-billed Vanga calling from a perch on a *Didieraecae* bough. Their thick beak is armed with a short hook, used for spearing chameleons and other prey. A Madagascar Nightjar flew across the path and landed nearby, allowing us to photograph it. Benoit led us to a Euphorbia tree where a White-footed Sportive Lemur was curled up in its roost, perhaps one of those we had seen in action last night. We spotted a Praying Mantis in the red-flowering *Fernandoa madagascariensis*. Green-capped Coua was heard calling but we failed to see this largely terrestrial species.

Heading for the restaurant, many Yellow-billed Kites could be seen in the trees above the kitchen. Over lunch, visiting scientist Alison Jolly gave us a short overview of the lemur research being conducted in the reserve, commenting on the differing theories to explain female dominance, which occurs in both Ring-tailed Lemur and Verreaux's Sifaka. Alison has dedicated much of her life to the study of Berenty's lemur populations.

We then set off by coach for the return journey to Fort Dauphin. During the hottest part of the day, many of our group took advantage of the opportunity for a nap, in spite of the constant lurching of the vehicle on this pot-holed road. Rumour has it the road will be repaired next year! We stopped to photograph a baobab *Adansonia za*, by the side of the road, where some of the group bought wood-carvings. The locals are allowed to harvest wood for this purpose in return for caretaking the forest, which is threatened by over-exploitation for charcoal.

## Day 6

Tuesday 5th October

### Fort Dauphin to Tulear

With the morning to spend in Fort Dauphin, we set off at 8.00 to drive out to the headland from where there's an uninterrupted view out to sea and a chance to see Humpback Whales. Within seconds, we spotted a blow about a mile and a half out offshore.

This was a mother and calf and over the next half hour we followed them as they performed a duet of fin and tail-slapping. A total of six, plus young, were noted, some clearly on the move, others perhaps enjoying a playful moment before the long migration south to their feeding grounds. Kelp Gull and Great Crested Tern flew over.

We then headed for Saaidi Gardens, a small pocket of forest owned by the De Heulme family just north of Fort Dauphin. Walking on the broad and shady trails we came across numerous small spiders, whose webs spanned the tree trunks. Caught in the threads of each web was a dead leaf, where the female laid her eggs. Because of the time of day, there were rather few birds about but we had a glimpse of Paradise Flycatcher, Drongo and Bulbul. Perched on a eucalyptus bough over the lake, Desi observed a juvenile Green-back Heron. There were some wonderful butterflies around, including the spectacular *Papilio epiphorba*. Having an experienced local guide like Desi is always an asset on walks as he effortlessly identified a *Ptychadena mascareniensis* frog in the swamp. Here too we found a cluster of insectivorous pitcher plants *Nepenthes madagascariensis*. We also saw a large orange wasp, electric-blue damselfly, several grasshoppers and an emerald day gecko *Phelsuma lineata*.

Back in Fort Dauphin there was time for a quick lunch before the transfer to the airport. Here we found our flight was delayed – that's Air Mad for you. Hoping for good views of the coast after take-off, we were disappointed to find the air hazy with smoke from the burning of grassland. Once at Tana, we transferred to the flight to Tulear and soon we were in the air again. We landed at nightfall and stopped to pick up bottled water before arriving at the Paille en Queue Hotel. After dinner, most were ready for bed.

## Day 7

Wednesday 6th October

### Tulear to Isalo

Some of the group were up for an early morning swim in the hotel's pool before breakfast. We drove into town for a quick visit to Tulear's mud flats, where we scanned for waders in the scope. The tide was out and there's so much human activity around here even early in the morning that most birds were well away. We saw a flock of around 25 Whimbrel, a Greenshank and large numbers of Greater Sand Plovers. Tulear is a regional capital and lies at the end of the RN. 7 highway, and driving past its Taxi Brousse Station, we could see dozens of over-laden minibuses getting ready to leave for the two-day drive to Tana and open-sided trucks that take the tortuous coast road north and south of here. Climbing from the coastal plain to the coral rag plateau, the vegetation turned to a thorny scrub, dotted with *Euphorbia*. It's hard to believe that anyone would choose to settle here, yet we passed several villages, where dried stalks of maize, stands of cassava and a few straggly papaya trees surrounded the simple straw and mud dwellings.

In time, the thorny scrub turned to open grassland, peppered with baobabs, on the approach to Sakaraha, the only town of any size in this sparsely populated region. Along the roadside were numerous tombs of the Mahafaly people. Mahafaly means 'those who make happy – or those who make taboos' and it is strictly taboo or 'fady' to photograph the tombs, which are often painted with scenes or objects of importance from the deceased person's life. There was a surprising variety of bird life and we passed a succession of Yellow-billed Kite, Crested Drongo, Madagascar Bush Lark, Namaqua Dove, Common Myna, Souimanga Sunbird and Madagascar Kestrel. Where there was surface water, rice could be grown and several Hamerkop and Dimorphic Egret were noted in the paddies. Just east of here we entered Zombitse National Park, a transitional forest with elements of both western dry deciduous forest and the spiny forest of the deep south.

After a picnic lunch by the park entrance, we set off on a short walk on its level trails, made possible by the dappled shade that brought some relief from the heat. Because it was the middle of the day, birds were scarce and we only briefly heard the local endemic Appert's Tetraka (Greenbul), but we did manage to find Giant Coua, Crested Coua and had a glimpse of Coquerel's Coua. Our guides focused on locating a Hubbard's Sportive Lemur, holed up in the fork of a tree. Reptiles can be good at Zombitse and some of the group had already been impressed by a large specimen of Standing's Emerald Day Gecko that had taken up residence in one of the toilets!

Continuing the drive through the forest, we were lucky to see a group of seven Ring-tailed Lemurs and four Verreaux's Sifaka from the road. Here too, we spotted France's Sparrowhawk, perched on a branch overlooking the road. Abruptly, the forest ends and its back to fire-scorched grassland, where a few defiant *Tapia* trees survive as their trunks are clad in a fire-resistant bark. Now we entered sapphire country. Appearing overnight from nowhere, the sapphire mining town of Ilakaka grew rapidly in the last decade but this 'sapphire rush' seems to be dying now as new mines spring up elsewhere.

Arriving at the boundary of Isalo National Park, the sandstone massif rises from the plateau like an impressive fortress. Jardin du Roy and its sister hotel Relais de la Reine have a marvellous location sympathetically built into the sandstone bluffs and outcrops. After checking into the beautifully appointed rooms, most of the group set off with Cathy to explore the hotel grounds and search out some of the birds and rare endemic plants. A small stream, bordered by thick stands of endemic pandanus and palm, attracts a variety of birds and here we observed Madagascar Coucal foraging silently in the foliage. Several Common Jerys were also noted along with numerous Madagascar Bee-eaters. African Palm Swifts, Madagascar Buzzard and the locally endemic Benson's Rock Thrush also showed well. White-throated Rail called but did not show. Crossing the stream by a small footbridge, some of the group climbed a rocky slope to stands of endemic *Aloe isaloensis*, *Pachypodium rosulatum gracilis* and *Kalanchoe*. The hotel's lovely swimming pool tempted several of the group to take a welcome dip before drinks at the bar and a chance to mull over the day's sightings.

## Day 8

Thursday 7th October

### Isalo National Park

The stalwarts were up for a dawn walk to the small lake by the hotel – except that the lake had all but dried up. Here we found a flock of ten Madagascar Partridge and Madagascar Cisticola along with several species already observed the previous day. Sunrise brought out the many nuances of pink and beige in the sandstone and the light was stunning for photography.

After an early breakfast we piled onto the coach for the hour long drive to the start of our morning's walk into the park. En route we picked up Charles, a very personable and chatty reserve guide, who explained that a recent fire in the park had burned out much of the area of Namaza that we would normally visit. This meant a longer drive to the alternative area of the Canyon des Makis. We stopped to photograph a prominent yellow-flowered tree *Acridocarpus exesus*, which is used to make a face mask that the local women use as a beauty treatment. Another attractive shrub was the pink-flowering *Pemphis madagascariensis*, a member of the Lythraceae family. At the end of the track, we crossed a small stream and walked through rice paddies towards the sandstone cliffs ahead, which took around 40 minutes. Along the way, local women invited us to join them in the laborious task of planting out rice seedlings. Not surprisingly no one took up the offer!

In any case we were distracted by two different snakes we found there. Charles and Desi identified them as Bernier's Striped Snake *Dromicodryas bernieri* and lateral lined snake *Bibilava lateralis* but it is also possible that one may have been a similarly patterned *Liophidium* sp known only from Isalo. Reaching the shade of the forest pocket at the foot of the cliff, we paused to regroup and rest, while Charles went off in search of lemurs. During the wait, we photographed an Oustalet's Chameleon and also observed a small gecko *Lygodactylus tolampya*. A beautiful Green Lynx Spider was picked out on a yellow-flowered *Crotolaria*. Charles regretfully came back empty-handed from his lemur hunt so we now focused on enjoying the birdlife in this small pocket of forest, which included Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher, Benson's Rock Thrush, Madagascar Magpie Robin, Brush Warbler and Madagascar Coucal. Descending to the stream, the spectacular narrow canyon walls opened ahead of us and we carefully picked our way among giant boulders to an idyllic pool, surrounded by endemic pandanus and palms. Several of the group elected to bathe and paddle in the refreshingly cool water, while others headed off to look for birds. A tiny inch-long frog was found on a pandanus leaf and identified by our guides as *Heterixalus luteostriatus* – the diagnostic feature being the vertical rhomboid pupil!

At the end of this relaxing morning we returned to the hotel for a late lunch. Fiona and Cathy set off on a two-hour guided horse ride, an optional extra that can be booked at the hotel. The horses were well-behaved but had plenty of spirit and were in good condition as well and the riding was thoroughly enjoyable. On our return we joined up with the rest of the group for a one-hour walk into the maze of ruiniform sandstone outcrops behind the hotel. By now it was late afternoon and the light was perfect for photography as we followed a path into the canyon behind the hotel. A pair of Lesser Vasa Parrots, Purple Heron, Madagascar Hoopoe and Coucal kept the birders engaged, while others enjoyed the botanical side, with some beautiful Madagascar Rosy Periwinkle *Catharanthus roseus* to photograph. Here we found large numbers of Plataspid bugs and nymphs *Libyaspis coccinelloides* clinging to the stems and trunks of several shrubs.

## Day 9

Friday 8th October

### Isalo to Ranomafana

Most of the group were up for a dawn walk in the hotel gardens, where we again tried to coax out the White-throated Rail we'd heard calling but it failed to show. Large flocks of Madagascar Fody and Mannikin were about, along with Crested Drongo, Souimanga Sunbird, a pair of Greater Vasa Parrots and several male Rock Thrush calling from their perches.

After breakfast it was time to get luggage loaded on the bus and begin the next stage of the trip, a long day's drive to Ranomafana. Driving across the barren Horombe Plateau, we scanned the horizon for Madagascar Harrier. A fierce wind had sprung up and so most birds were lying low though one of our group members was fairly confident of having seen one in flight. This aside, the best we could do was a handful of Madagascar Bush Larks and Pied Crows. Everywhere around us the charred grasslands were a reminder of the scale of destruction when the coarse old grass is burned off to promote new growth for the herds of zebu. This region of the island is the homeland of the cattle-herding Bara people, whose currency and bank are zebu! Itinerant drovers herd the cattle to market, over weeks, even months. Passing through the town of Ihosy, we turned northwards as the scenery became ever more spectacular. We paused at the foot of the impressive granite outcrop known as the Bishop's Hat. Desi explained how in 1870, the expanding Merina tribe laid siege to the retreating Betsileo people on the summit of the mountain. When the defenders ran out of food and water, they preferred suicide to submission, dancing blindfold until they fell over the cliff edge.



We skirted the rugged Andringitra Range, the second highest summit in Madagascar, passing many more impressive granite outcrops to reach the small community reserve of Anja sited at the foot of a rounded inselberg. Here a pocket of luxuriant gallery forest has been protected by the villagers and supports a population of several hundred Ring-tailed Lemurs. They have darker pelage than those we had seen at Berenty and they looked altogether healthier. Avoiding the midday heat, they were grouped under the canopy among the giant granite boulders and were rewarding to photograph and observe. As this forest is quite small, the Ring-tailed Lemurs territory often overlaps and it was interesting to observe a dispute between the alpha females of two of the groups. Many of the females had babies, some newborn still clinging to their mother's belly, while older offspring audaciously used their mother as a climbing frame and springboard to leap off into the trees. An Oustalet's Chameleon *Furcifer oustaleti* added to the interest of this welcome break in the journey, though we suspected that the locals had 'planted' it on a bush for our benefit!

A few miles down the road we arrived at the town of Ambalavao, where an important zebu market takes place each week. Here we visited the workshop where handmade paper is crafted from the pulp of the *Avoba* tree and cleverly impregnated with petals and leaves, following a tradition introduced by Arab settlers. We still had a long way to go but the ever-changing scenery meant the journey was never dull. We passed vineyards, where Madagascar's limited wine production is centred, and many herds of zebu, on a seven-week route march to the capital. The wind had dropped and we noted large numbers of Cattle and Dimorphic Egret, Pied Crow and Yellow-billed Kite, several Madagascar Kestrel and Hamerkop. Arriving in Fianarantsoa (the place of good learning), we filled up with fuel and a few of the group escaped to the coffee shop over the road at the Hotel Soafia. Just north of the city, Madagascar's second largest, we turned off for Ranomafana on the much improved road to the coast, the last rays of sun on yet another cloudless day prompting a photo stop along the way.

It was well after seven when we arrived at Domaine Nature, a Malagasy-run forest lodge and by now it had started to rain. It was quite a hike up to the K bungalows – almost 100 steep steps but on the positive side, the views were great. The frogs calling and sound of water rushing down the adjacent stream all added to the atmosphere of this rainforest lodging. Most agreed that the karaoke in the restaurant did not! Retiring to the bungalows after dinner, we spotted a bush laden with stick insects, while the outside lights around the doors were attracting large numbers of very beautiful moths.

## Day 10

Saturday 9th October

### Ranomafana

After an early breakfast we took the coach for the short ride up to the National Park entrance. The heavy rain we'd had during the night had eased and the morning's weather, though cloudy, looked promising. On the way Kevin spotted a Pygmy Kingfisher perched by the side of the road. This is a forest kingfisher and often a difficult species to find. Here we also added Long-billed Green Sunbird and Souimanga Sunbird, both males with brilliant iridescent plumage. While Desi was sorting out tickets for the reserve, Fidy and brother Jean-Chrys, two of Ranomafana's most experienced guides, were already busy on our behalf, pointing out a Rand's Warbler perched on a bare branch. We then plunged on a steep trail descending rapidly to the Namorona River, which we crossed by a footbridge. We spotted threads of Golden Orb Spider webs spanning the bridge, and soon located the enormous female and tiny male of this spectacular species. Splitting into two groups, we set off to search out the lemur species that make Ranomafana such a mammal hotspot. Our guides pointed out two beautiful epiphytic orchids: *Oenia oncidiflora* and *Angraecum sesquipedale*, both white-flowered and endemic to Madagascar.

Soon after, we were enclosed in thickets of bamboo, the habitat for the Golden Bamboo Lemur, a species only discovered in 1986. Madagascar's seven types of bamboo can contain up to 16% cyanide, yet are a preferred food for at least three lemur species – it is believed that they ingest earth to help deal with the toxins. Unlike Berenty's lemurs, almost all Ranomafana's lemur species are found in small family groups consisting of an adult pair and their offspring. While our spotters were sent ahead to locate the lemurs, the guides focused on some of the park's interesting bird life and soon had us peering into the foliage after endemic birds including Common Newtonia, Ashy Cuckoo Shrike, Pitta-like Ground Roller with its curious 'whoop' call and a Crossley's Vanga on the nest. Having found the group of Golden Bamboo Lemurs feeding in the canopy we quietly observed them until they moved out of view.

Continuing to the Belle Vue viewpoint, Fidy's group paused to look at the Emerald Day Geckos *Phelsuma quadriocellata* that scuttle up and down the wooden shelter. Deeper into the forest, our spotters had found the new family group of Milne-Edwards Sifaka feeding and resting in the canopy above us. Last year the male was on his own, as his female and their offspring had been poached out – it is good to see that he has successfully found a new mate. Next up was a pair of Grey Bamboo Lemur, the smallest and most widespread of the three species. Hearing the squabbling calls of Black and White Ruffed Lemur, it was tempting to go after them but knowing the speed they can move at and the hilly nature of the terrain we decided to forego this one. Jean-Chrys' group were more energetic and covered a wider area so did manage to see this 'difficult' species along with Red-bellied Lemurs – a good sighting until they moved off, tails swinging among the foliage and were obscured from view. They also encountered both Golden Bamboo Lemur and Grey Bamboo Lemur, along with the Milne-Edwards Sifakas. Jean-Chrys' group did rather well with the birds too, finding Blue Coua, Red-fronted Coua, Red-tailed Vanga, a pair of Velvet Asity, Spectacled Greenbul, White-throated Oxylables, Crossley's Vanga, Pitta-like Ground Roller, Common Newtonia, Dark Newtonia, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Common Jery. The park guides are always skilled at finding cryptic species and they pointed out several Satanic Leaf-tailed Geckos *Uroplatus phantasticus*, convincingly mimicking dead leaves, which were a highlight for some of the group. This species sports remarkable colour variation, which may account for the notion that we had seen more than one species.

After a late lunch at the Setam Lodge, we returned to our hotel for a short rest. Here we found, as hoped, two Madagascar Tree Boas *Sanzinia Madagascariensis* on the wall opposite Domaine Nature. This species hunts at night but sometimes appears in the open during the day, to warm up in the sunshine. In the afternoon, we made our way to the Vohiparara area of the National Park, where the terrain is easier going. Along the side of the road our guides found the brilliantly coloured frog *Mantella madagascariensis*. Here too we photographed a Giraffe-necked Weevil on its favoured *Melastoma* bush. Only the male has the long neck, which he uses to roll into a bundle for the eggs laid by the female. Blue Coua and Souimanga Sunbird showed well this afternoon and a tiny Nose-horned Chameleon added variety to the sightings. Lemurs are less easy to spot in this area of the park but we did manage a brief sighting of three Red-bellied Lemurs. The evening's entertainment was a definite improvement with a chance to listen to a traditional instrument, the Valiha, whose strings are stretched around a giant bamboo stem.

## Day 11

Sunday 10th October

### Ranomafana

It was another early start and we made our way straight after breakfast to the main entrance to the park, where again we split into 'faster' and 'slower' groups.

In the car park the birders had already picked out Madagascar Wagtail, Madagascar Mannikin, Madagascar White-eye, Souimanga Sunbird and Ashy Cuckoo-shrike, to which we added Nelicourvi Weaver and a Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher, spotted by Pat from the bridge at the river. Our lemur spotters had already been hard at work and located the group of Golden Bamboo Lemur, which Kevin managed to film successfully. As there were other people around this group of lemurs, we moved off so as not to crowd them out. We tried but failed to call out a Red-fronted Coua, though a pair of *Tylas* showed well. The star performance this morning for Fidy's group came from two Greater Bamboo Lemurs, an adult and juvenile offspring. After we had quietly observed them feeding, the adult moved down low to a bamboo clump straight in front of us, where it stripped off the coarse outer sheath to reach the preferred inner pith. It was a real privilege to be able to observe and photograph so close up.

Slowly making our way along Ranomafana's steep trails; we paused to look at the red and black seeds of a vine, *Abrus precatorius*. A native to South America, the toxic seeds are often used in strings of beads, giving rise to its common name 'Rosary Pea' – in Madagascar the seeds represent good and bad luck! Next we came across three female Red-fronted Brown Lemurs resting – no sign of the rest of the group but they were doubtless nearby. Next we came across a mixed feeding flock, yielding Blue Vanga, Nelicourvi Weaver, Crested Drongo and Red-tailed Vanga. Frustratingly the Blue Vanga yet again eluded Gordon, who was particularly keen to photograph it. By the bridge, we saw Mascarene Martins nesting on a ledge above the water. An impressive bush-cricket and two more Satanic Leaf-tailed Geckos completed the line-up for Fidy's group. Jean Chrys, with Fiona, Tony and John also enjoyed the same lemur sightings but added in some great birds among them Long-billed Greenbul, Brown Mesite, White-browed Oxylabes, Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo, Pygmy Kingfisher, and Blue Vanga.

After this productive morning we again had an excellent lunch at Setam Lodge, where our table overlooked the valley, with great views of the rainforest. A slightly shorter morning meant we had a longer afternoon rest before assembling again in the afternoon. The coach took us up to the Namorona Falls, where the river drops off the edge of the escarpment. The cliff face by the side of the road is festooned with beautiful *Cynorchis purpurescens* orchids and purple *Mimulus madagascariensis*. Camouflaged and wedged into crevices in the rock, we found several *Boophis madagascariensis* tree frogs and another species *Guibemantis pulcher* in the leaf axil of a Pandanus. These endemic trees are endangered because of their multiple uses for roofing and basket and hat weaving. At this idyllic spot our guides led us to a cave hidden in the undergrowth, where we found a large colony of roosting Eastern Sucker-footed Bats. Heading into the forest at Vohiparara, we hoped to call out Rufous-headed Ground Roller, a very difficult species to see outside the breeding season. We heard it call but it didn't show. However, we were treated to a wonderful view of the delightful Madagascar Flufftail, a small rail-like species.

As night fell, we made our way by coach back down the road to the place where night walks now take place outside the park boundary. Brown Mouse Lemurs are lured into view and once everyone had got a good view of them darting up and down the branches and trunk, we turned our attention to chameleons, with three species readily found on branches overhanging the road: Short-horned Chameleon, Nose-horned Chameleon and White-bellied Chameleon. Kevin spotted an impressive snake in the ditch, which our guides identified as *Mimophis mahfalensis*. A tree frog *Boophis madagascariensis* of the same species we'd seen earlier was also photographed.

## Day 12

Monday 11th October

Ranomafana to Antsirabe

With a long drive ahead of us it was another early start. Around the Domaine Nature, some of the group managed to fit in some good birding with Velvet Asity topping the list, along with Chabert's Vanga, Madagascar White-eye and the ubiquitous but always delightful Souimanga Sunbird. Along the road we were kept busy spotting several Madagascar Wagtails, a Magpie Robin, Hamerkop pair and the usual array of Madagascar Kestrel, Pied Crow, Common Myna and Egrets. Arriving at Ambohimahamasina, we paused to photograph a large fig tree covered with nesting Cattle Egrets, and pale and dark phase Dimorphic Egrets. We passed women selling crayfish and whole villages dedicated to charcoal production – mostly from eucalyptus plantations. A sack of charcoal fetches about 5000 Ariary, or just under £2 and would supply a family's cooking needs for about two weeks. A little further on we broke the journey by a marsh and rainforest pocket, where Swamp Warblers, Cuckoo Roller, Madagascar Buzzard, Brush Warbler, Magpie Robin and five Stonechats were seen.

Continuing the journey, a roller-coaster ride along the mountainous backbone of the island, we passed many roadside stalls, selling bush honey, woodcarvings and peanuts. For many Malagasy, roadside sales are the only way to earn hard cash. With much of the drive behind us we arrived at Ambositra for a late lunch. The portions were enormous and we struggled to do justice to the meal. This restaurant had local musicians and dancers performing, another chance to see the intriguing valiha being played. After lunch some of the group bought woodcarvings and raw silk scarves from local vendors but soon it was time to get back on the road for the last bit of the journey. We rolled into the city of Antsirabe, a centre for the dairy industry and home to the Star Brewery that produces the ubiquitous Three Horses Beer. The Arotel sports a fine 1970s décor with huge rooms and a good, if rather formal restaurant. Once we were checked in, some of the group opted for a short stroll around town.

## Day 13

Tuesday 12th October

### Antsirabe to Andasibe

The hotel's garden produced a Brush Warbler and several Common Mynas before breakfast. Soon we were back on the road for another scenic journey through Madagascar's central highlands, the homeland of the rice-growing Merina people, whose ancestors colonised Madagascar from Indonesia. Rice paddies were stacked up the sides of the valleys, every available patch of land carefully terraced and cultivated. While the men break up the hard soil with spades and teams of zebu cattle, the back-breaking task of planting out the rice seedlings falls to the women. Granite outcrops added interest to the landscape, along with the many villages of tall brick houses, all aligned in the same auspicious east-west direction, dictated by tradition. Several Hamerkop and numerous Cattle Egrets were foraging in the rice paddies and Madagascar Kestrel, Common Myna and Pied Crow were also typical of this entirely deforested habitat. Stopping by a river, we saw Madagascar Bush Lark, Madagascar Wagtail, Stonechat and a brief glimpse of Common Quail. A little further on, local families were selling beautiful raffia hats, bags and animals and while some of the group engaged in some shopping here, others enjoyed the view over a river and small cataract, where Madagascar Kingfisher, Common Sandpiper, Stonechat and Madagascar Magpie Robin were spotted.

Driving past the opulent white presidential palace, we reached the outskirts of the capital. As the ring road around the city is only partly completed, we had to drive through the centre and took advantage of a lunch stop at an Indonesian restaurant and a visit to Antananarivo's Tsimbazaza Zoo. We'd hoped to see the captive Aye-aye in the zoo's noctarium but apparently they were no longer there, which was disappointing. However, the lake and surrounding trees festooned with nest sites gave us a great show of Cattle Egret, Great White Egret, Dimorphic Egret, Squacco Heron, Green-backed Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron and White-faced Duck.

After lunch we continued the journey, now heading eastwards. The original forest has long gone, replaced by endless stands of eucalyptus, grown to make charcoal. The charcoal ovens could be seen as large smoking heaps rising from clearings in the forest. The air was also thick with smoke from burnt off grassland and slash and burn cultivation. We stopped briefly on the Mandraka Escarpment for a view over the plain below and here we saw Madagascar Fody and Madagascar Bulbul. At nightfall, we arrived at Vakona Lodge, whose attractive and very comfortable bungalows are clustered around a small lake, surrounded by woodland. After dinner, everyone was ready for an early night in anticipation of the next day's visit to the Indri reserve.

## Day 14

Wednesday 13th October

### Perinet Reserve

After an early breakfast we assembled in the car park, where a male Madagascar Fody and several White Eyes flitted among the blooms of a bottle brush. Arriving at the reserve entrance we met local guide Maurice and his assistant Lalaina. The forest floor was dry as there had been no rain for two weeks. Maurice pointed out a Madagascar Buzzard perched on a dead tree stump. Three Crested Drongos and a Nelicourvi Weaver were soon spotted near the river, which we crossed by a wooden footbridge. Unlike their dry forest counterpart the Sakalava Weaver, Nelicourvi Weavers do not nest colonially and we observed just a single nest overhanging the water. We saw a pair of Madagascar Starlings on the roof of a dilapidated building, which was part of the fish farm before it was destroyed by a cyclone.

We now split into two groups with John, Gordon, Fiona, Kevin and Tony heading off with Maurice and Cathy, while Desi accompanied Pat, Tony, Mui, June, Jenny, Peter and Ann. Maurice pointed out a tree where scratch marks showed that an Aye-aye had been probing the trunk for insects with their elongated finger. It was not long before we had our first sighting of Indri, a family group of four, which we now quietly observed as they fed on leaves, bounding in huge leaps from trunk to trunk. At one stage, three were on the same trunk, providing plenty of excitement for the photographers. After a while, a group of around ten Common Brown Lemurs moved into view. Unusually, two of the group paused for a while on a horizontal bough, allowing us to observe them scent marking.

Leaving the lemurs, Maurice led us to one of Madagascar's most cryptically camouflaged animals, a Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus sikorae*, whose sides blend in perfectly with the mossy trunk of a tree, where it hides during the day. Here too we noted a pink-flowered *Kalanchoe* spp in the fork of a tree. Down a steep slope Maurice led us to a Parson's Chameleon and nearby a pair of roosting Rainforest Scops Owls, hidden under the fronds of an *Asplenium*. Next our lemur spotter Lalaina located the group of Diademed Sifaka, which have been introduced into the reserve. After a bout of activity these large lemurs settled down for a grooming session with three of them perched on a branch. Nearby we found a weevil on the bark of a tree, where we paused to examine a *Melastoma* shrub, whose pink flowers emerged from its stem.

Making our way along the side of the lake we ran into a mixed feeding flock and enjoyed good sightings of Nelicourvi Weaver, Spectacled Greenbul, Paradise Flycatcher, Long-billed Greenbul and Red-tailed Vanga. The last two were pecking for insects on a huge funnel-shaped spider's web. A Velvet Asity female also showed briefly, along with Magpie Robin and Brush Warbler. By the idyllic Lac Vert, we saw a Common Moorhen and Madagascar Kestrel and Maurice then alerted us to the call of a Madagascar Harrier Hawk in flight overhead. In addition to good lemur sightings, Desi's group enjoyed an excellent view of White-headed Vanga and Giraffe-necked Weevil.

By midday, the heat was getting up and we made our way back to the bus and the comfort of a hearty lunch at Vakona Lodge, where some of the group tried local Malagasy specialities. Fiona, Kevin and Tony went back into the reserve in the afternoon, getting views of Common Brown and Grey Bamboo Lemur, while others opted for a well-earned rest, a swim or a visit to the Lemur Island for a close encounter with lemurs rescued from the pet trade. Very audacious Red-fronted Brown Lemurs climb all over their visitors, while the Black and White Ruffed, Common Brown and Grey Bamboo Lemurs are a little more reserved. Gordon chose to explore the surrounds of the hotel, venturing up towards the forest, where he found a Cuckoo Roller.

At nightfall, most of the group assembled for a night walk along the road bordering Analamazaotra Reserve, where we had excellent views of a Goodman's Mouse Lemur and a group of three Woolly Lemurs but a distant glimpse of the eyeshine of a Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur. A Short-horned Chameleon, and two tree frogs *Heterixalus betsileo* and *Boophis viridis* were also spotted. Maurice pointed out a roosting Crested Ibis about 20ft off the ground. This now rare forest species is getting harder to see so we counted ourselves lucky. Kevin and Fiona came across a large flat-worm near their bungalow.

## Day 15

Thursday 14th October

### Mantadia National Park

At 6.45 we set off for Mantadia National Park for a full morning in this very beautiful and less visited reserve. The dirt track there is rutted but driving slowly meant good opportunities to look for wildlife along the way. Madagascar Coucal, Magpie Robin, Stonechat and Bulbul were all seen, along with Forest Fody. With great excitement, we came across a group of four Diademed Sifakas in full view above the road. After a bout of feeding they moved off but everyone got a good view of this often shy and difficult species. Here too we noticed a number of dark green Pill Millipedes, which curl up into a ball when threatened. A little further down the dirt track we found a second group of Sifaka, who we were able to watch briefly until they too headed into the forest.

Arriving at the car park, Maurice pointed out the nesting site of a Scaly Ground-roller and soon everyone had a clear view of this elusive bird, which is difficult to see outside the breeding season. Splitting into two groups, we set off into Mantadia's primary rainforest, which has a high canopy along the valley floor, with numerous huge buttressed trunks festooned with epiphytic *Asplenium* and orchids. Giant stands of *Pandanus*, a tangle of lianas and many tree ferns lined the forest floor. We heard Indri calling three times during the morning but we did not see them. Desi was keen to show the slower group Black and White Ruffed Lemurs. We had heard them calling, quite unmistakable as it sounds like a pack of squabbling dogs. Actually locating this canopy-feeding species is more challenging and we failed on this occasion. Luckily, Maurice's assistant Lalaina had already located a roosting pair of Eastern Woolly Lemur, with a baby, carefully concealed beneath a huge *Asplenium* about 30ft off the ground, their white thighs visible. Everyone was delighted with Maurice's next offering – our first tenrec of the tour and a Lowland Streaked Tenrec. This is the time of year when tenrec come out of aestivation and become active. A busy group of 8-10 Common Brown Lemurs moved swiftly past us. Some of the group stopped to photograph a beautiful yellow-flowered *Bulbophyllum* sp. orchid.

Desi pointed out scratch marks on a tree trunk, clearly made by Aye-aye burrowing for insect prey with their elongated finger. The morning also brought us three female Paradise Flycatchers, Souimanga Sunbird, Rand's Warbler, Nelicourvi Weaver and Cuckoo Roller. Hook-billed Vanga and Pitta-like Ground Roller were heard but failed to show.

We had also hoped to see the two Sunbird Asity species but sightings of them appear to be getting rarer by the year. *Mantadia* means appropriately 'tough walking' and after three hours negotiating its trails, we were ready to meet up with the faster group, who added their sightings of a further Tenrec, Nuthatch Vanga, Crested Ibis, Lesser Vasa Parrot and a female Giraffe-necked Weevil. At this point we emerged from the forest close to the former graphite mine where a small pond is a refuge for a pair of Madagascar Little Grebe. Seven Broad-billed Rollers were spotted, their cackling calls a clue to their presence – these birds migrate from Africa to Madagascar to breed and this year they were surprisingly late arriving. After a very welcome slice of Pat's home-made cake we were off back to Vakona Lodge for a late lunch.

After lunch some went to the pool, others to Lemur Island. We assembled again at nightfall for a further night walk. John and June had spotted an impressive moth by their bungalow. Yesterday's walk had whetted our appetite and the group were keen to see more of the night life! Starting from the park entrance, we walked along the road towards the village. First up were a couple of Short-horned Chameleons on the fronds of a tree fern, where we also found a Stick Insect and a young Praying Mantis. Next up were three *Brookesia* Chameleons – there was some discussion as to the species but on reflection I conclude that they were all *Brookesia superciliaris*. This was followed by two beautiful tree frogs – *Boophis viridis* and *Boophis rappoides*, the first easily recognized by the blue around the eye and a Nose-horned Chameleon, one of the smaller species. On the lemur front we did exceptionally well with no fewer than five Goodman's Mouse Lemurs, three Woolly Lemurs and a Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur, spotted by various members of the group as well as by the guides. The birds were not to be left out tonight and we saw Madagascar Nightjar and briefly heard Long-eared Owl calling, in all a fantastic evening of wildlife viewing.

## Day 16

Friday 15th October

### Perinet Reserve & Antananarivo

The late evening flight meant we had time for a final visit to the reserve. We packed and loaded the bus so we could make an early start straight after breakfast. Along the road Desi found us a flock of six Blue Pigeons feeding in the crown of a tree – this was a species that so far had eluded us. Another we were keen to see was White-throated Rail but yet again we failed to find it, though we could hear its insistent whistle. White-headed Vanga showed well with three birds perched in a tree and it was exciting to find a Greater Vasa Parrot on its nest in a tree trunk. Crested Drongo, Tylas, Madagascar Buzzard, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Red-tailed Vanga, Nuthatch Vanga and Blue Vanga also put in an appearance. Gordon, keen to photograph the Blue Vanga was frustrated yet again – this species flits in and out of the foliage, searching out caterpillars but it can be hard to snap! We did well for reptiles with Parson's Chameleon, Short-horned Chameleon, a stunning Plated Lizard, an Elegant Skink and another amazing Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko, perfectly blending into a tree trunk. Maurice pointed out a beautiful *Oenia* orchid and a liana *Ocotea sp.*, which is favoured by Indri. On the lemur front, we found the Indri harder to track today but we ran into a group of eight Common Brown Lemurs and a single Grey Bamboo Lemur was spotted by the lake. After lunch and some last minute shopping at Feo Ny'ala Restaurant overlooking the rainforest, we set off for the drive back to the capital.

A few of the group were keen to shop in the craft market, so we made time for a stop there before arriving at the Orchid Hotel, where we had our last dinner and time to freshen up and repack before the transfer to the airport.

## Species Lists

### Lemurs

|    | Common name                   | Scientific name                        | October |     |    |   |   |   |    |   |     |     |    |    |     |    |   |
|----|-------------------------------|--|---------|-----|----|---|---|---|----|---|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|---|
|    |                               |  | 2       | 3   | 4  | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8  | 9 | 10  | 11  | 12 | 13 | 14  | 15 |   |
| 1  | Indri                         | <i>Indri indri</i>                     |         |     |    |   |   |   |    |   |     |     |    |    | 4   | H  | 4 |
| 2  | Diademed Sifaka               | <i>Propithecus diadema diadema</i>     |         |     |    |   |   |   |    |   |     |     |    |    | 3   | 7  |   |
| 3  | Milne-Edwards Diademed Sifaka | <i>Propithecus diadema edwardsi</i>    |         |     |    |   |   |   |    |   | 2+1 | 2+1 |    |    |     |    |   |
| 4  | Verreaux's Sifaka             | <i>Propithecus verreauxi verreauxi</i> |         | 50  | 20 |   | 6 |   |    |   |     |     |    |    |     |    |   |
| 5  | Coquerel's sifaka             | <i>Propithecus coquereli</i>           | 10      |     |    |   |   |   |    |   |     |     |    |    |     |    |   |
| 6  | Woolly Lemur (Avahi)          | <i>Avahi laniger</i>                   |         |     |    |   |   |   |    |   |     |     |    | 3  | 4+2 |    |   |
| 7  | Ring-tailed Lemur             | <i>Lemur catta</i>                     | 1       | 35  | 8  |   | 7 |   | 33 |   |     |     |    |    |     |    |   |
| 8  | Black and White Ruffed Lemur  | <i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>     | 3       |     |    |   |   |   |    |   | 3   |     |    |    |     | H  |   |
| 9  | Red-bellied Lemur             | <i>Eulemur rubiventer</i>              |         |     |    |   |   |   |    |   | 5   |     |    |    |     |    |   |
| 10 | Common Brown Lemur            | <i>Eulemur fulvus fulvus</i>           | 3       |     |    |   |   |   |    |   |     |     |    |    | 5   | 10 | 8 |
| 11 | Red-fronted Brown Lemur       | <i>Eulemur fulvus rufus</i>            | 1       | 100 | 20 |   |   |   |    |   | 2   | 9   |    |    |     |    |   |
| 12 | Crowned Lemur                 | <i>Eulemur coronatus</i>               | 1       |     |    |   |   |   |    |   |     |     |    |    |     |    |   |
| 13 | Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur     | <i>Hapalemur griseus griseus</i>       | 2       |     |    |   |   |   |    |   | 2   |     |    |    | 3   |    | 1 |
| 14 | Golden Bamboo Lemur           | <i>Hapalemur aureus</i>                |         |     |    |   |   |   |    |   | 4   | 4   |    |    |     |    |   |
| 15 | Greater Bamboo Lemur          | <i>Prolemur simus</i>                  |         |     |    |   |   |   |    |   |     | 2   |    |    |     |    |   |
| 16 | Grey Mouse Lemur              | <i>Microcebus murinus</i>              | 1       | 2   |    |   |   |   |    |   |     |     |    |    |     |    |   |
| 17 | Grey-brown Mouse Lemur        | <i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>          |         | 5   |    |   |   |   |    |   |     |     |    |    |     |    |   |
| 18 | Brown Mouse Lemur             | <i>Microcebus rufus</i>                |         |     |    |   |   |   |    |   |     | 1   |    |    |     |    |   |
| 19 | Goodman's Mouse Lemur         | <i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>        |         |     |    |   |   |   |    |   |     |     |    |    | 1   | 5  |   |
| 20 | Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur       | <i>Cheirogalus crossleyi</i>           |         |     |    |   |   |   |    |   |     |     |    |    | 1   | 1  |   |
| 21 | White-footed Sportive Lemur   | <i>Lepilemur leucopus</i>              |         |     | 1  |   |   |   |    |   |     |     |    |    |     |    |   |
| 22 | Hubbard's Sportive Lemur      | <i>Lepilemur hubbardi</i>              |         |     |    |   | 1 |   |    |   |     |     |    |    |     |    |   |

### Other Mammals

|   |                           |                        |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |     |  |  |  |   |  |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------|--|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1 | Eastern Sucker-footed Bat | <i>Myzopoda aurita</i> |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 40+ |  |  |  |   |  |
| 2 | Madagascar Flying Fox     | <i>Pteropus rufus</i>  |  | 250+ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |     |  |  |  |   |  |
| 3 | Webb's Tuft-tailed Rat    | <i>Eliurus webbi</i>   |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |     |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| 4 | Red Forest Rat            | <i>Nesomys rufus</i>   |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |     |  |  |  | 2 |  |



|   | Common name             | Scientific name                  | October |   |   |     |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|   |                         |                                  | 2       | 3 | 4 | 5   | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 5 | Lowland Streaked Tenrec | <i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i> |         |   |   |     |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    | 2  |    |
| 6 | Humpback Whale          | <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>    |         |   |   | 6+2 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |

## Reptiles

|    |                           |                                       |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1  | Brown Leaf Chameleon      | <i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>        |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |
| 2  | White-bellied Chameleon   | <i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>           |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3  | Short-horned Chameleon    | <i>Calumma brevicornis</i>            |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   | 5 |   |   | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 4  | Parson's Chameleon        | <i>Calumma parsonii</i>               |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |   | 1 |
| 5  | Nose-horned Chameleon     | <i>Calumma nasuta</i>                 |   |   |   |  |   |   |   | 1 | 3 | 2 |   |   |   | 1 |
| 6  | Oustalet's Chameleon      | <i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>             | 3 |   |   |  |   |   | 1 | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7  | Spiny-backed Chameleon    | <i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>            |   | 2 |   |  | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8  | Jewel (Carpet) Chameleon  | <i>Furcifer lateralis</i>             |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |
| 9  | Lined Day Gecko           | <i>Phelsuma lineata bifasciata</i>    |   | 1 |   |  |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |
| 10 | Peacock Day Gecko         | <i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>        |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   | 1 | 1 |   |   |   |   |
| 11 | Standing's Day Gecko      | <i>Phelsuma standingi</i>             |   |   |   |  | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 | Mossy leaf-tailed Gecko   | <i>Uroplatus sikoriae</i>             |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |   | 1 |
| 13 | Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko | <i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>         |   |   |   |  |   |   |   | 1 | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14 | Tree Gecko                | <i>Lygodactylus miops</i>             |   | 1 |   |  |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 | Tree Gecko                | <i>Lygodactylus tolampya</i>          |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 16 | Big-headed Gecko          | <i>Paroedura picta</i>                |   |   | 6 |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 17 | Madagascar House Gecko    | <i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>          |   | 2 |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |
| 18 | Collared Iguanid          | <i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>                | 4 |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 19 | Three-eyed Lizard         | <i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i>    |   |   | 4 |  | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 20 | Madagascar Plated Lizard  | <i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>    |   |   |   |  |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |
| 21 | Elegant Skink             | <i>Trachylepis elegans</i>            |   |   |   |  | 1 | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |
| 22 | Madagascar tree Boa       | <i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>      |   |   |   |  |   |   |   | 2 | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 23 | Dumeril's Ground Boa      | <i>Acrantophis dumerili</i>           |   |   | 1 |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 24 | Malagasy Hog-nosed Snake  | <i>Leioheterodon madagascariensis</i> | 1 |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 25 | Lined Snake               | <i>Liopholidophis lateralis</i>       |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 26 | Lateral Water Snake       | <i>Bibilava lateralis</i>             |   |   |   |  |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 27 | Bernier's Striped Snake   | <i>Dromicodryas bernieri</i>          |   |   |   |  |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 28 | Crocodile                 | <i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>           | C |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

|    | Common name       | Scientific name            | October |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|-------------------|----------------------------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |                   |                            | 2       | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 29 | Spider Tortoise   | <i>Pyxis arachnoids</i>    | 1       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 30 | Radiated Tortoise | <i>Astrochelys radiata</i> | 1       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |

## Amphibians

|   |                           |                                  |  |  |  |  |   |   |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |   |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| 1 | Madagascar Tree Frog      | <i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>  |  |  |  |  |   |   |  |  |   | 1 |  |  |  |   |
| 2 | Green Bright-eyed Frog    | <i>Boophis viridis</i>           |  |  |  |  |   |   |  |  |   |   |  |  |  | 2 |
| 3 | Central Bright-eyed Frog  | <i>Boophis rappoides</i>         |  |  |  |  |   |   |  |  |   |   |  |  |  | 1 |
| 4 | Mascarene Grass Frog      | <i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i> |  |  |  |  | 1 |   |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |   |
| 5 | Andranolava Reed Frog     | <i>Heterixalus luteostriatus</i> |  |  |  |  |   | 1 |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |   |
| 6 | Malagasy Painted Mantella | <i>Mantella madagascariensis</i> |  |  |  |  |   |   |  |  | 1 |   |  |  |  |   |
| 7 | Tsarafidy Madagascar Frog | <i>Guibemantis pulchewr</i>      |  |  |  |  |   |   |  |  |   | 1 |  |  |  |   |

## Birds

|    |                           |                                 |      |    |   |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |
|----|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|
| 1  | Madagascar Little Grebe   | <i>Tachybaptus pelzelinii</i>   |      |    |   |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |     |   |   | 2 |
| 2  | Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>    | 12   |    |   |   |    |    |    |   |   |   | 2   |   |   |   |
| 3  | Common Squacco Heron      | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>        | 25   |    |   |   |    |    |    |   |   |   | 25  |   |   |   |
| 4  | Cattle Egret              | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>            | 100+ | ✓  | ✓ |   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓   |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 5  | Green-backed Heron        | <i>Butorides striatus</i>       |      |    |   | 1 |    | 1  |    |   |   |   | 3   |   |   | 1 |
| 6  | Dimorphic Heron           | <i>Egretta dimorpha</i>         | 100+ | ✓  | ✓ |   | ✓  |    | ✓  |   |   | ✓ | ✓   |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7  | Great White Egret         | <i>Egretta alba</i>             | 10   |    |   |   |    | 2  |    |   |   | 3 | 5   |   | 2 | 2 |
| 8  | Purple Heron              | <i>Ardea purpurea</i>           |      | 1  |   |   |    | 1  |    |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |
| 9  | Hamerkop                  | <i>Scopus umbretta</i>          | 1    | 1  | 1 |   | 2  |    | 1  |   |   | 2 | 6   |   |   |   |
| 10 | Madagascar Crested Ibis   | <i>Lophotibis cristata</i>      |      |    |   |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |     | 1 | 1 |   |
| 11 | White-faced Duck          | <i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>      | 200+ |    |   |   |    |    |    |   |   |   | 110 |   |   |   |
| 12 | Knob-billed Duck          | <i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>   | 6    |    | 3 |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |
| 13 | Meller's Duck             | <i>Anas melleri</i>             |      |    |   |   |    |    |    |   | 1 |   |     |   |   |   |
| 14 | Red-billed Teal           | <i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>      | 100+ |    |   |   |    |    |    |   | 7 |   |     |   |   |   |
| 15 | Madagascar Cuckoo Hawk    | <i>Aviceda madagascariensis</i> |      |    | 1 |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |
| 16 | Yellow-billed Kite        | <i>Milvus aegyptus</i>          |      | 30 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 30 | 10 |   |   | 5 |     |   |   |   |
| 17 | Madagascar Harrier- Hawk  | <i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>    |      |    |   |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |     | 1 |   |   |
| 18 | Frances's Sparrowhawk     | <i>Accipiter francesiae</i>     |      |    |   |   | 1  |    |    |   |   |   |     |   | 1 |   |
| 19 | Madagascar Buzzard        | <i>Buteo brachypterus</i>       |      |    |   |   | 2  |    |    |   | 1 | 1 | 2   |   | 2 | 2 |

|    | Common name              | Scientific name                       | October |   |     |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|---|-----|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |                          |                                       | 2       | 3 | 4   | 5 | 6 | 7  | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 20 | Madagascar Kestrel       | <i>Falco newtoni</i>                  | 1       | 2 | 10  |   | 4 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 1  | 6  | 5  | 1  |    |    |
| 21 | Madagascar Partridge     | <i>Margaroperdix madagascariensis</i> |         |   |     |   |   | 10 |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 22 | Common Quail             | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>              |         |   |     |   |   |    |   |   |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |
| 23 | Helmeted Guineafowl      | <i>Numida meleagris</i>               |         | 8 | 20+ |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 24 | Brown Mesite             | <i>Mesitornis unicolor</i>            |         |   |     |   |   |    |   |   | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |
| 25 | Madagascar Flufftail     | <i>Sarothrura insularis</i>           |         |   |     |   |   |    |   |   | 1  |    |    | H  |    |    |
| 26 | Madagascar Wood Rail     | <i>Canirallus kiolooides</i>          |         |   |     |   |   |    |   |   | H  |    |    |    |    |    |
| 27 | White-throated Rail      | <i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>             |         |   |     |   | H | H  |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 28 | Common Moorhen           | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>            |         |   |     |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |
| 29 | Greater Sand Plover      | <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>       |         |   |     |   |   | 40 |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 30 | Whimbrel                 | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>              |         |   |     |   |   | 25 |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 31 | Greenshank               | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>               | 1       |   | 40+ |   | 1 |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 32 | Common Sandpiper         | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>             |         |   |     |   |   |    |   |   |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |
| 33 | Kelp Gull                | <i>Larus dominicanus</i>              |         |   |     | 1 |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 34 | Greater Crested Tern     | <i>Sterna bergii</i>                  |         |   |     | 1 |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 35 | Madagascar Sandgrouse    | <i>Pterocles personatus</i>           |         | 1 |     |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 36 | Feral Pigeon             | <i>Columbalivia</i>                   | ✓       | ✓ | ✓   | ✓ | ✓ |    |   | ✓ |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 37 | Madagascar Turtle Dove   | <i>Streptopelia picturata</i>         |         | 6 | 6   |   |   | H  |   | 1 |    |    | 4  |    |    |    |
| 38 | Namaqua Dove             | <i>Oena capensis</i>                  |         | 8 | 50  |   | 6 | 1  | 2 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 39 | Madagascar Blue Pigeon   | <i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>   |         |   |     |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    | 6  |
| 40 | Greater Vasa Parrot      | <i>Coracopsis vasa</i>                |         | 1 |     |   | 2 | 2  |   |   |    |    |    |    | 7  | 1  |
| 41 | Lesser Vasa Parrot       | <i>Coracopsis nigra</i>               |         |   | 1   |   |   |    | 2 | 6 | 1  | 6  |    |    |    |    |
| 42 | Grey-headed Lovebird     | <i>Agapornis canus</i>                |         |   | 70  |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 43 | Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus rochii</i>                 |         |   |     |   |   |    |   | 1 | 1  |    | H  | H  |    |    |
| 44 | Giant Coua               | <i>Coua gigas</i>                     |         | 1 | 3   |   | 1 |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 45 | Red-fronted Coua         | <i>Coua reynaudii</i>                 |         |   |     |   |   |    |   | 1 | H  |    | 2  |    |    |    |
| 46 | Green-capped Coua        | <i>Coua olivaceiceps</i>              |         |   | H   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 47 | Coquerel's Coua          | <i>Coua coquereli</i>                 |         |   |     |   | 1 |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 48 | Crested Coua             | <i>Coua cristata</i>                  |         | 2 | 15  |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 49 | Blue Coua                | <i>Coua caerulea</i>                  |         |   |     |   |   |    |   | 2 | H  |    |    | H  |    |    |
| 50 | Madagascar Coucal        | <i>Centropus toulou</i>               | 1       | H | 1   |   | H | 3  |   | 1 | 2  |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |
| 51 | Torotoroka Owl           | <i>Otus madagascariensis</i>          |         | 1 |     |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |

|    | Common name                    | Scientific name                     | October |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|---|----|---|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |                                |                                     | 2       | 3 | 4  | 5 | 6  | 7  | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |    |
| 52 | Rainforest Scops Owl           | <i>Otus rutilus</i>                 |         |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    |    |    | 2  |    |    |    |
| 53 | White-browed Owl               | <i>Ninox superciliaris</i>          |         | 1 | 3  |   |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 54 | Madagascar Long-eared Owl      | <i>Asio madagascariensis</i>        |         |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    | H  |    |
| 55 | Madagascar Nightjar            | <i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i> |         |   | 1  | 1 | 1  |    |   |   | H  |    |    | H  |    | 1  |    |
| 56 | Madagascar Spinetail           | <i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>        |         |   | 1  | 1 | 4  |    |   |   | 3  |    |    |    |    | 2  |    |
| 57 | African Palm Swift             | <i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>             |         |   |    | 2 | 4  | 20 |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 58 | Madagascar Kingfisher          | <i>Alcedo vintsioides</i>           | 2       |   |    | 1 |    | 1  | 1 |   | 1  |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |    |    |
| 59 | Little Swift                   | <i>Apus affinis</i>                 |         |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| 60 | Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher    | <i>Ceyx madagascariensis</i>        |         |   |    |   |    |    |   |   | 1  | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |
| 61 | Madagascar Bee-eater           | <i>Merops superciliosus</i>         | 1       |   | 3  |   | 4  | 6  | 4 |   |    |    |    | 4  |    |    |    |
| 62 | Broad-billed Roller            | <i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>         |         |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    | 7  |    |
| 63 | Scaly Ground Roller            | <i>Brachypteracias squamigera</i>   |         |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| 64 | Pitta-like Ground Roller       | <i>Atelornis pittoides</i>          |         |   |    |   |    |    |   |   | 3  |    |    |    |    | H  |    |
| 65 | Madagascar Cuckoo-Roller       | <i>Leptosomus discolor</i>          |         |   |    |   |    |    |   |   | 1  |    |    | 1  | 2  |    |    |
| 66 | Madagascar Hoopoe              | <i>Upupa marginata</i>              |         |   | 2  |   |    |    | 4 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 67 | Velvet Asity                   | <i>Philepitta castanea</i>          |         |   |    |   |    |    |   |   | 2  |    | 1  | 2  | 1  |    |    |
| 68 | Madagascar Bush Lark           | <i>Mirafrha hova</i>                |         |   |    |   | 30 |    | 2 |   |    |    | 2  |    |    |    |    |
| 69 | Mascarene Martin               | <i>Phedina borbonica</i>            | 20      |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    | 20 | 20 |    | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| 70 | Madagascar Wagtail             | <i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>       | 4       |   |    |   |    |    |   |   | 2  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 2  | 2  |
| 71 | Ashy Cuckoo-shrike             | <i>Coracina cinerea</i>             |         |   | 2  |   |    |    |   |   | 1  | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |
| 72 | Madagascar Bulbul              | <i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>  |         | 3 | 20 | 2 | 8  | 20 | 6 | 6 | 10 |    | 2  | 10 | 3  |    |    |
| 73 | Forest Rock Thrush             | <i>Monticola sharpei</i>            |         |   |    |   | 2  | 6  | 2 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 74 | Madagascar Magpie-robin        | <i>Copsychus albospecularis</i>     |         |   | 4  |   | 1  | 3  |   | 3 | 4  | 3  | 1  | 5  | 2  |    |    |
| 75 | Stonechat                      | <i>Saxicola torquata</i>            | 1       |   |    |   |    |    | 1 |   |    |    | 5  | 2  |    | 1  | 1  |
| 76 | Grey Emu-tail                  | <i>Amphilaus seebohmi</i>           |         |   |    |   |    |    |   |   | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 77 | Madagascar Brush Warbler       | <i>Nesillas typica</i>              | 1       |   |    |   |    |    | H |   | H  | 1  | 1  |    | 1  | 1  | 1  |
| 78 | Madagascar Swamp Warbler       | <i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>         |         |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    | 2  |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| 79 | Rand's Warbler                 | <i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>       |         |   |    |   |    |    |   | 1 | H  |    |    | H  | 1  |    |    |
| 80 | Common Newtonia                | <i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>        |         | H | 1  |   |    |    |   | 1 | H  |    |    | H  | 1  |    |    |
| 81 | Dark Newtonia                  | <i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>          |         |   |    |   |    |    |   | 1 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 82 | Madagascar Cisticola           | <i>Cisticola cherina</i>            |         |   |    |   |    | 10 |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 83 | Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher | <i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>           |         |   | 10 | 1 |    | 4  |   | 6 | 2  |    |    | 4  | 9  | 2  |    |

|     | Common name              | Scientific name                     | October |    |     |   |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|----|-----|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|     |                          |                                     | 2       | 3  | 4   | 5 | 6  | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 84  | Common Jery              | <i>Neomixis tenella</i>             |         | 15 | 5   |   | 2  | 1 |   |   | 4  | 1  |    |    |    |    |
| 85  | White-throated Oxylabes  | <i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>    |         |    |     |   |    |   |   |   | 1  | 1  |    |    |    |    |
| 86  | Crossley's Vanga         | <i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>        |         |    |     |   |    |   |   |   | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |
| 87  | Long-billed Greenbul     | <i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>   |         |    |     |   |    |   |   |   |    | 1  |    |    | 1  | 1  |
| 88  | Spectacled Greenbul      | <i>Bernieria zosterops</i>          |         |    |     |   |    |   |   |   | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |
| 89  | Appert's Tetraka         | <i>Xanthomixis apperti</i>          |         |    |     |   | H  |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 90  | Souimanga Sunbird        | <i>Nectarinia souimanga</i>         | 4       | 2  | 2   | 1 | 1  | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6  | 3  | 1  | 1  | 2  | 2  |
| 91  | Madagascar Green Sunbird | <i>Nectarinia notata</i>            |         |    |     |   |    |   |   | 2 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 92  | Madagascar White-eye     | <i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>     | 8       |    | 2   |   | 4  |   |   | 3 | 4  | 1  | 2  | 4  | 20 |    |
| 93  | Red-tailed Vanga         | <i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i> |         |    |     |   |    |   |   | 2 | 1  |    |    | 2  |    | 1  |
| 94  | Hook-billed Vanga        | <i>Vanga curvirostris</i>           |         |    | 2   |   |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |    | H  |    |
| 95  | White-headed Vanga       | <i>Artamella viridis</i>            |         |    | H   |   |    |   |   |   |    |    |    | 1  |    | 4  |
| 96  | Chabert's Vanga          | <i>Leptopterus chabert</i>          |         | 1  |     |   |    |   |   |   |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |
| 97  | Madagascar Blue Vanga    | <i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>   |         |    |     |   |    |   |   |   | 3  |    |    |    |    | 2  |
| 98  | Nuthatch Vanga           | <i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>     |         |    |     |   |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |    | 1  | 3  |
| 99  | Tylas                    | <i>Tylas eduardi</i>                |         |    |     |   |    |   |   |   | 2  |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 100 | Crested Drongo           | <i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>          |         | 1  | 20+ | 1 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2  |    |    | 6  | 1  | 2  |
| 101 | Pied Crow                | <i>Corvus albus</i>                 |         | ✓  | ✓   | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ |   |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |    |
| 102 | Common Myna              | <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>         | ✓       | ✓  | ✓   | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ |   |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |    |
| 103 | Madagascar Starling      | <i>Saroglossa aurata</i>            |         |    |     |   |    |   |   |   |    |    |    | 2  |    |    |
| 104 | Nelicourvi Weaver        | <i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>           |         |    |     |   |    |   |   |   | 2  |    |    | 3  | 3  |    |
| 105 | Sakalava Weaver          | <i>Ploceus sakalava</i>             |         | 1  | 4   |   |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 106 | Madagascar Fody          | <i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>      | 20+     |    | 1   |   |    |   |   | 1 | 4  |    | 1  | 1  | 1  |    |
| 107 | Forest Fody              | <i>Foudia eminentissima</i>         |         |    |     |   |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| 108 | Madagascar Mannikin      | <i>Lonchura nana</i>                |         |    | 1   |   |    |   | 6 | 3 | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |

## Other Taxa

|     |                           |                                  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
|-----|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| 179 | Giraffe-necked Weevil     | <i>Trachelophorus giraffa</i>    |  |  |  |  |   |  |  | 1 |   |  |  | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 180 | Flatid Leaf Bug           | <i>Phromnia rosea</i>            |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  |  |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| 181 | Hissing Cockroach         | <i>Elliptorhina coquereliana</i> |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| 182 | Pill Millipede            | <i>Sphaerotheriida</i>           |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |   |   |  |  |   | ✓ |   |
| 183 | Madagascar Fire Millipede | <i>Aphistogoniulus sp.</i>       |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |   | 1 |  |  |   |   |   |

|     | Common name        | Scientific name                  | October |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|     |                    |                                  | 2       | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 184 | Plataspid Bug      | <i>Libyaspis coccinelloides</i>  |         |   |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 185 | Green Lynx Spider  | <i>Peucetia madagascariensis</i> |         |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 186 | Golden Orb Spider  | <i>Nephila madagascariensis</i>  |         | ✓ |   |   |   |   |   | ✓ |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 187 | Kite Spider        | <i>Gasteracantha sp.</i>         |         |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |    |    |    | 2  |    |    |
| 188 | Stick Insect       | <i>Phasmatidae sp.</i>           |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2  |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 189 | Land Crab          |                                  |         |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 190 | Yellow-striped Bee |                                  |         |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 191 | Firefly            |                                  |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| 192 | Flatworm           |                                  |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |

## Butterflies

|   |                            |                            |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Citrus swallowtail         | <i>Papilio demodocus</i>   |
| 2 | Blue and Black Swallowtail | <i>Papilio oribazus</i>    |
| 3 | Blue and Black Swallowtail | <i>Papilio ephiphorbis</i> |
| 4 | African Monarch            | <i>Danaus sp.</i>          |

## Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk) to sign up.

## Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans. Setting up a personal profile at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!