The Seychelles
Naturetrek Tour Report
23 September - 6 October 2018

Sooty Terns

View from Domain de l'Orangeraie, La Digue

Giant Tortoise & Bird Island

Fairy Terns

Report and images by Kerrie Porteous
Tour participants: Kerrie Porteous & Gemma Jesse with 12 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Sunday 23rd September

In flight

Day 2

Monday 24th September

Warm and sunny with the odd extremely heavy downpour!

Some of the group had already arrived by now and were settling into Seychelles life at the Coral Strand hotel in Beau Vallon. The rest of us had all met up at the gate for our flight from Dubai, only to be held up due to a “blip” with the refuelling software and subsequent absconding of the refuelling van itself. We arrived into Mahé a couple of hours behind schedule, but fortunately the arrival process and baggage reclaim were easily negotiated and soon we met our guide for the next two weeks, Gemma, and driver on Mahé, Nelson, in the Arrivals’ hall.

After a very late breakfast on arrival at the Coral Strand, we set off for an introduction to Mahé, some of its birds, and some delicious Creole cuisine that we could look forward to enjoying plenty more of over the next two weeks!

Almost immediately we were held up by a coming together of two cars at a junction in Victoria (the only town in Seychelles), and enjoyed watching the ensuing drama. Twenty minutes later, with the road suitably chalked and cars moved, we were on our way. We drove our way over the Misère Pass, the roads proving more mountainous and twisty than anyone had imagined! Our first stop was a stunning viewpoint looking towards the St Anne Marine National Park which we would be visiting on our return to Mahé, and our first endemic Seychelles Blue Pigeons plus White-tailed Tropicbirds soaring overhead, noisy Common Mynas, and bright red Madagascar Fodies.

We stopped for lunch at Cap Lazare on the south-west coast of Mahé, enjoying an amazing buffet lunch of creole delicacies in a beautiful beachside setting.

We returned to our hotel at around 4pm, giving those that had only arrived that morning the chance to check into their rooms and relax a little before meeting for dinner.

Day 3

Tuesday 25th September

Hot and sunny with a late afternoon downpour

This morning we went straight to check the mudflats around Victoria before the tide came all the way in. At our first stop we saw Whimbrel, Striated Heron, Terek Sandpiper, Cattle Egret (which is an endemic Seychelles subspecies) and plenty of Grey Plover ... but not our main target. We took our time to enjoy all the birds here before relocating to another site where we were rewarded with our prize – Crab-plover! These elegant birds are usually first to arrive and last to leave each winter, but hadn’t been spotted yet, so we were very happy to see them here! We also added Curlew Sandpiper to our growing list.
We stopped briefly at the port where we had views over to an island roost of Grey Herons and Cattle Egrets, and a female Great Frigatebird soared overhead. We then stopped back at the airport, where a pair of Seychelles Kestrel are known to be roosting. We watched some busy Seychelles Sunbirds while we waited, and were about to give up when we heard the shrill shriek from within the airport terminal itself! We were delighted as the Kestrel flew out and perched on a communications tower, then did another lap of the airport and this time settled on a nearby lamppost affording excellent views for all.

After a busy morning it was time for lunch, another Creole feast this time at the beautiful Jardin du Roi restaurant, positioned high on a hillside with beautiful views over the tree clad hills and down to the coast, and surrounded by a spice garden.

After lunch we drove a little further, in order to embark on a short botanical walk, where we enjoyed seeing endemic plants including Capacia (so named as the seed resembles a Capuchin Monkey) and Bois Rouge. The highlight, however, was the masses of endemic Seychelles Pitcher Plants about halfway round the route, and for some, the little Seychelles Day Gecko which was trying to scavenge for insects inside one of the pitchers!

After a brief stop at the Mission Lodge view point, our final stop of the day was to look for Seychelles White-eye. There is a small population of around five birds here which can sometimes be seen from a roadside point late in the afternoon. Walking to the appointed spot, the heavens opened, though it stopped almost as abruptly as it started, a few minutes later! Although there was a lot of activity from Madagascar Fodies and Seychelles Sunbirds, and Gemma did hear the White-eyes in the far distance, but we couldn’t see them; instead, the White-eye hunt rapidly turned into a Palm Spider photography session, with some of the females almost the size of a human hand!

With dusk approaching we set off back to Coral Strand and later met for our bird list, briefing and another excellent dinner.

**Day 4**

**Wednesday 26th September**

Hot and sunny with a brief afternoon downpour

There was no rush this morning to get underway, so we enjoyed a relaxed breakfast with everyone free to go for a swim in the sea, a local walk around Beau Vallon, or a bit of both.

At 12.30pm we boarded our bus for the short journey down to the Marie Antoinette restaurant where we enjoyed another fine Creole lunch. We then relocated a little further down the road to the botanical gardens, where we got to know the palms a little better and enjoyed good views of Blue Pigeon, Madagascar Fodies and a Yellow-bellied Mud Turtle which was hiding in a little pool of water (but possible to see when popping up for air!)

Soon it was time to head to the ferry port to check in for our crossing to Praslin. Boarding coincided with an unbelievably heavy rain shower, though it had stopped by the time the catamaran got underway and we enjoyed some birding off the back of the upper deck. It was hard to make out what was what, with the waves and fast-moving boat, but we spotted Lesser Noddies, and Tropical and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters swooping along above the waves, and Bob spotted a Lesser Black-backed Gull.
Arriving on Praslin we met our next driver, Alex, and it was just 20 minutes over the island, through the Vallee de Mai, to the lovely family run Hotel Britannia.

**Day 5**

**Thursday 27th September**

**Warm and sunny**

Today we had originally planned to visit Aride, but heavy rain over recent days had washed the sand away from the only landing beach on the island, so we changed plans and visited Cousin and Curieuse instead. Arriving at Cousin, the island’s own boat came to meet us and take us over as no other boats are allowed to land, to prevent invasive species (and rats in particular) arriving. Cousin is home to three Seychelles endemic birds, and it was no time at all before we saw the first two, Seychelles Warbler and Seychelles Fody. Our walk around the island also took us past hundreds of Lesser Noddies nesting in the trees, lots of fluffy White-tailed Tropicbird chicks in their nests at the foot of the trees, our first wild Aldabra Giant Tortoises and two new geckos - the Seychelles Bronze-eyed Gecko and the Giant Bronze-eyed Gecko. The third endemic was the Seychelles Magpie-Robin, of which we saw four, hopping around after a Giant Tortoise which was stirring up the earth to reveal insects underneath.

Our next stop was Curieuse, and a delicious BBQ lunch. Here, there were so many Giant Tortoises that they had to fence the restaurant area to keep them all out! After lunch we went for a walk through the mangroves, spending much time admiring the Fiddler Crabs, Giant Land Crabs and Mangrove Crabs, the Mangrove Whelks and - of course - the mangroves themselves.

Our final stop of the day was a sheltered bay close to Praslin, where most of the group went for a snorkel over the corals. There were plenty of fish to start getting to grips with, including lots of Damsel Fish, Threadfin Butterflyfish, Scissortail Sargent, Blotcheye Soldierfish, Oriental Sweetlips and a pair of Blunthead Parrotfish.

We returned to our hotel in time for a swim in the hotel pool, and those that jumped straight in were treated to a flyover by a Seychelles Black Parrot - our first sighting so far!

We finished the day celebrating Diane’s birthday with a glass of fizz, more delicious Creole food, and a bright pink birthday cake!

**Day 6**

**Friday 28th September**

**Warm and sunny**

Aride was unfortunately off the cards again today due to weather and beach conditions, so instead we set off for Sister island (Grand Soeur). We were lucky enough to time our visit with the release of 47 endemic Seychelles White-eyes, which had been brought over the previous day from Conception and North Island. We met Gerard Rocamora, the mastermind behind this project that had been years in the making, and he explained to us about relocation programme and all the efforts that had gone into making this happen which included spending two years eradicating all rats from the island. Whilst chatting, we heard our first White-eye singing, and soon had a glimpse of this busy little bird exploring its new home. Walking along the track, there were multiple territories,
and soon enough we’d all had a decent view, plus some more Giant Tortoises and a lot of noisy Seychelles Sunbirds.

Before lunch there was time for another snorkel straight from the beach, and in fact we barely needed to venture in as the Parrotfish, Spadefish and Wrasse could be seen from the beach! Other highlights this time included a bright Picasso Triggerfish, two more Threadfin Butterflyfish and, just as we were leaving, a white Geometric Moray which wove its way right past Jackie!

Our return trip to Praslin was pretty calm and we were back in plenty of time for more Black Parrot viewing from the pool.

We finished the day with a session of Fish Club, bird list and briefing, and another delicious cake this time to celebrate Jenny’s birthday.

**Day 7**

**Saturday 29th September**

**Warm and sunny**

We set off at 8.20am this morning for the jetty and catamaran ferry over to La Digue. On arrival we were met by a truck (or “balcony on wheels” as Jackie declared, much to the amusement of our driver) for the short journey to the island’s nature reserve. It was a short, flat walk through the forest to where we found a Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher nest, and after only a few minutes, a female appeared. She was followed a little later by a second female, and then a male with his beautiful long tail streamers. We enjoyed excellent views of all of them, and another younger male that was soon chased off by the first. It was a real privilege to see these beautiful birds so well.

Next, we made a quick stop at a nearby plantation where we saw some (introduced) Common Waxbills, before moving onto a coconut processing plantation. From here we also enjoyed the beautiful views across the beach, and saw a Seychelles Kestrel briefly outside the plantation house.

Our lunch stop today was Domain de l’Orangerie, with its stunning sea views. After a little time to potter round the island, we boarded the 3.30pm ferry back to Praslin and took the rather adventurous coastal road back to our hotel. We arrived in good time for the afternoon Black Parrot fly-over, and most of the group enjoyed further views of them and Seychelles Swiftlets from the hotel pool...plus plenty of Seychelles Sunbirds, Madagascar Fody and Zebra Doves which were all very busy in the surrounding trees.

**Day 8**

**Sunday 30th September**

**Warm and sunny**

We had been driving through the Vallée de Mai each day since arriving on Praslin, and this morning after breakfast we went straight there, and this time stopped for a proper visit. This part of the National Park has been restored to natural vegetation, and protects six species of endemic palm including the famous Coco de Mer. The gentle path from the visitor centre has fine examples of all six palms, and we were also lucky enough to see two Black Parrots - notoriously difficult here as the palms provide such a thick canopy and the parrots remain high in
the trees. We spent the next hour and a half enjoying the cool conditions underneath the amazing towering palms, marvelling at the huge trees and giant Coco de Mer seeds. These trees are mostly pollinated by geckos, and many of the flowering male inflorescences had a Sundburg’s Day Gecko attached. We also found both the Seychelles Ailuronyx (aka Bronze-eyed Gecko) and the Dwarf Ailuronyx - a new gecko for us here. Some of the group were also able to make out a tiny Seychelles Tree Frog high in one of the palm leaves, and we saw several Coco de Mer Snails.

Lunch today was at Domain de la Reserve, where our table was set up on a beautiful covered boardwalk stretching out over the water. Between courses, from our vantage point, we saw some beautiful fish including large male Parrotfish, Needlefish, plenty of Silver Moonies and both a Spotted Eagle Ray and a Feathertail Stingray.

We relocated to Anse Lazio for a post-lunch swim or snorkel, and going round the bay over the rocks, there was plenty to see, including Oriental Sweetlips, Checkerboard Wrasse, Powder-blue and Lined Surgeonfish and a great variety of Damselfish.

We were back at our hotel in good time for a final Black Parrot and Seychelles Swiftlet viewing from the pool, and to pack ahead of the next part of our journey tomorrow.

**Day 9**

**Monday 1st October**

Hot and sunny

We set off at 8am for Praslin’s small but smart airport terminal. We flew by twin otter from here back to Mahé (a 15-minute flight), then on from here to Bird Island - this time a 30-minute flight. Arriving at Bird Island, we got a sense of what to come when hundreds of Brown Noddies erupted up from the grass landing strip as our plane came in to land! Bird Island, which is just over 1.5 kilometres long and approximately 0.5 kilometres wide, is private island, lodge and nature reserve, all rolled into one. After settling into our individual chalets, we gathered for lunch, and later in the afternoon some of the group met for a snorkel at Passe Coco. We were pleased to see a Great Cormorant on one of the little moored boats, which was new for our bird list (this bird, which has been around since December, being only the second record for the Seychelles and the first for Bird Island), and then set off into the water. As it was low tide it was quite tricky getting into the water and deep enough to swim! But once we got out, there were some marvellous fish to see, including Blue-fin Trevally, both Circular and Long-finned Batfish, lots of Picasso Triggerfish and our firm favourite, the Checkerboard Wrasse!

Back on land, we were marvelling at the huge numbers of birds all over the island, with Brown Noddies and Ruddy Turnstones frequenting most chalet terraces, and almost every tree covered in nesting noddies above and White-tailed Tropicbirds at the base, with Fairy Terns whirling in between. Curlew Sandpiper scurry around on the grass outside the chalets, and Grey Plover, Whimbrel and both Greater and Lesser Sand Plover are easy to spot all over the island.

We met at 4.30pm once the air had begun to cool for a walk to the Sooty Tern colony at one end of the island. We saw plenty of Madagascar Fodies, Seychelles Sunbirds, and both Madagascar and Seychelles Turtle Doves along the way, plus the lady who runs the gift “shack” cooling off a Giant Tortoise with her hosepipe! The noise increased as we approached the colony, and then we took our time to slowly approach and watch the spectacle
of thousands of Sooty Terns and their chicks feeding, flying and nesting on the grass at the end of the island. It is estimated that 700,000 pairs nest here each year, and around half that number were still present now, though by the end of the month they will most likely all be gone. As well as the terns, both Great and Lesser Frigatebirds were soaring high overhead, and coming into the surrounding trees to roost. Then, a little later, two Red-footed Boobies appeared too!

Most of us enjoyed watching the sunset from the beach, and then it quickly fell dark and the clear night sky revealed huge numbers of stars, with the Milky Way clearly visible, and both Jupiter and Mars easy to spot.

**Day 10**

**Tuesday 2nd October**

**Hot and sunny**

Those that were keen met at 6.30 this morning for a return to the Sooty Tern colony and a further chance to see the frigatebirds and Red-footed Boobies before they left their roosts for the day.

After an excellent breakfast, we met again at 9.30am to walk the airstrip and continue along the nature trails around the centre of the island. Along the runway we saw Grey Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, both Greater and Lesser Sand Plover helpfully standing side by side so we could easily see the difference between them, plus Whimbrel and the ever-present nodies, Fairy Terns and White-tailed Tropicbirds. On the tracks around the farms we saw huge numbers of Seychelles Skinks where the grass had just been mown, scurrying back into the undergrowth, and a lovely bright-green Mahé Day Gecko. Finally, we took the path up to the observation platform above the Sooty Tern colony, for another look.

There was just time before lunch for a quick swim from the beach opposite our chalets. There wasn’t so much fish life on this side of the island, though we did see a couple of Blue-fin Trevally and the ever-present Picasso Triggerfish.

After lunch some of us ventured to Hirondelle Passe on the other side of the island for another snorkel. Here there was much more to see, including a Feather-tail Stingray, Ring-tail Surgeonfish, plenty of Convict Surgeonfish and many butterflyfish and damselfish in miniature - we decided this must be a sheltered spot for juveniles.

At 4.30pm we met for our afternoon bird walk. We took our time, making our way to the sandbank at the far end of the island, enjoying plenty of birds and photography opportunities in the beautiful evening light along the way. Whilst most of the group were photographing a baby Fairy Tern, still with many of its downy feathers, a little way back Siggi and Bob had spotted a Black-winged Pratincole. We walked back a little way and we pleased to find it for everyone else to have a good look too!

Reaching the sand bank at the tip of the island, we walked out slowly to where there was a gathering of Saunders’s Terns, edging slowly closer to get the best view possible before they flew away. We were also pleased to see a Little Stint running along the surf. We walked back along the beach, enjoying watching the Horned Ghost Crabs popping out of their burrows, creating mounds of sand and scuttling along the sand. Just as we were approaching the lodge the sun was beginning to set, so we paused to enjoy this before slowly wandering back to our chalets to get ready for dinner.
Day 11

Hot and sunny

Again, those that were keen met at 6.30 this morning and this time we wandered down the runway, around the beach at the bottom end of the island and back past the chalets for breakfast. We didn’t see anything new, but enjoyed the noddies, terns, White-tailed Tropicbirds, Great and Lesser Frigatebirds, a wonderfully posing Seychelles Blue Pigeon, Grey Plover, Greater Sand Plover, Whimbrel and many Ruddy Turnstones.

After breakfast, most of the group met for a snorkel from Passe Coco. High tide meant getting into the water was much easier this time! There were plenty of excellent fish to enjoy, including Threadfin Butterflyfish, Surge Wrasse, a Queen Coris, Two-tone Tang, Blackspotted Puffer, Lionfish, two Porcupine Rays, and, the highlight, three Green Turtles (one at the start, one in the middle, and one at the end of the snorkel!)

We had just two takers for an afternoon return to Passe Coco, but it was well worth going with all our usual favourite fish, plus a huge Humphead Parrotfish and an Octopus hiding among the rocks in the shallows.

We met at 4.30pm as usual for our late afternoon bird walk, and started off in amongst the trees opposite the chalets to admire the Brown and Lesser Noddies, noting the differences between them, plus Fairy Terns and nesting White-tailed Tropicbirds. On the beach we saw a beautiful bright Sanderling, dashing along the sand and then back onto the grass towards the chalets. Following, it just about paused long enough to allow a few photos! High up in the Whispering Pine trees, Bridled Terns had started to arrive, and both Greater and Lesser Frigatebirds were soaring high in the thermals overhead. We wandered through the village admiring the flocks of Madagascar Fodies and some particularly bright red males, and worked our way down to the Sooty Tern colony to admire this spectacle once more. It was busy as ever, with the Frigatebirds gradually descending into the nearby trees.

Sally and Chris had instead opted for a return trip to see the Saunders’s Terns, and had also seen five Black-winged Pratincoles on the north beach. As it became dark, John and Morag ventured to the end of the island to wait for the arrival of the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters which roost in the bushes beyond our chalets. Those staying down this end of the island had heard them the last couple of evenings, but as they arrive in the dark, we hadn’t seen them! It was worth the trip, as soon after it went dark, they started to arrive, whirling across the beach and into the undergrowth.

Day 12

Hot and sunny

We met at 6.30am for a final morning bird walk, which was very pleasant though nothing new to report! After breakfast we packed up and left our bags to be collected, then gradually gathered to sit in the cool bar area and potter around until our plane arrived to take us back to Mahé. However, Bird Island had a final treat in store for us, when Gemma appeared from the trees in a flurry of excitement, having found a Red-billed Tropicbird nesting nearby! Although Red-billed Tropicbirds have very occasionally been recorded flying over, a nesting bird was a first for the island, and we believe for the entirety of Seychelles too, so we all rushed over to admire this rarity and capture the moment on camera. What a wonderful ending to our stay on this fantastic island!
The plane coming to collect us arrived bang on time and we enjoyed the Bird Island “departure lounge” (standing in the shade of the trees beside the runway) while the new guests got off the plane and our luggage went on. Half an hour later we were back in Mahé, and were greeted off the tarmac by our always-smiling driver, Nelson, once again. Lunch today was back in Beau Vallon, at the Boathouse restaurant just a few minutes’ walk along the beach from our hotel, the Coral Strand.

After having the rest of the afternoon to relax, go for a swim, etc., we met at 5pm to visit a site where we had a chance of seeing Seychelles Scops Owl. This used to be a fairly easy bird to see, but has become trickier in recent years, particular as there is currently some building work going on near one of the best sites. On the way we stopped once again at the viewpoint over St Anne Marine Park to see the islands we would be visiting the next day, before carrying on to the Scops Owl site. It was just a couple of minutes’ walk along the path to the most likely spot, where we waited for darkness to fall whilst listening to the sounds of the forest, including noisy Seychelles Bulbuls, busy Seychelles Sunbirds and watching fruit bats flying overhead. As it became dark we played the call of the owl, and fairly soon we heard two owls calling not too far into the forest. Gradually the calls got closer, and soon they were right above us, but in the pitch black we couldn’t quite locate the little owls with the spotlight. Yvonne, perched slightly further back along the path, did see a silhouette flit across the trees, but that was sadly as close as we got to seeing anything this time.

**Day 13**

**Friday 5th October**

**Hot and sunny**

For our last day in the Seychelles we would be visiting the St Anne Marine Park, close to Mahé. Our boat today was Zephyr, a brand new “Looker” boat with a glass bottom for fish viewing. We set off for the marine park, and as we got close, we slowed right down over some of the rocks and corals and gathered round the glass bottom to see what was underneath us. There were a great many Scissortail Sargeants, Silver Moonies and the brightly coloured Parrotfish were easy to pick out too. Siggi seemed to have super vision, pointing out all manner of fish, with the rest of us desperately trying to keep up with her!

We anchored close to the island of Moyenne, so called as it is the middle island out of the marine park cluster. We took the zodiac ashore and landed on a pretty little beach. From there, we climbed some steps to a lookout area and tiny visitor centre which was filled with Giant Tortoises, Madagascars Turtle Doves and bright red Madagascar Fodies, plus some display tables covered with interesting items that have washed up on the beach over the years. This island had been bought by a Yorkshireman, Brendon Grimshaw, back in the early 1970’s, and he decided to restore it for nature and create a reserve. We enjoyed a gentle walk around the island, seeing Sally Lightfoot Crabs on the rocks, Mahé Day Geckos in the trees and plenty of Seychelles Skinks. It was lovely to be seeing the fruit bats again too, which we’d missed during our stay on Bird Island!

Back on Zephyr, we relocated slightly for a pre-lunch snorkel, though the site was a little deep and the wind made it a bit tricky to get the shallower reef area where most fish were. We decided to head for lunch and try again this afternoon.

Lunch today was on the beautiful little island of Cerf, also in the marine park, and reached using the zodiac once again. The island resort has a beautiful restaurant with views over the marine park and back to Mahé, and we enjoyed a long, leisurely lunch here. Then, once back on Zephyr, we found a much calmer, shallower reef to
enjoy an afternoon snorkel, with some really excellent fish including Moorish Idol, Trumpetfish, Bird Wrasse, Yellow Angelfish, Indian Sailfin Tang, and two bright yellow Rabbitfish. An excellent final snorkel!

From here it was just a few minutes speeding back to Mahé, using the hydrofoil to seemingly fly over the water. It was then half an hour back to the Coral Strand, where we had plenty of time before dinner to swim, pop, pop along the coast for shopping or indulge in one of the Boathouse’s delicious rum punches!

We met for our final bird list / fish club at 7.15pm, to find a party in full swing in the buffet restaurant! Gemma explained that today was Teachers’ Day in the Seychelles, and the local schools in the north of the island had hired out half of the restaurant area to throw a party for their teachers. The other half of the restaurant was still hosting the usual buffet dinner, so we enjoyed our final meal of the trip next to a full-swing disco and some very happy teachers...a rather surreal experience that we took in great spirit! Indeed, by the end of dinner at least two of the group had been lost to the conga line.

**Day 14**

Gemma and Nelson accompanied the first six of us to leave to the airport this morning and waved us off (the resident Seychelles Kestrel also called its goodbyes across the check-in hall!). Everyone else had a bit of extra time back at the Coral Strand to relax before taking their respective flights home later that evening or the following morning.

So, all that remains for me to say is a huge thank you to all the wonderful Seychellois we met over the last two weeks who made our holiday what it was with their friendly hospitality and great enthusiasm for their island home. Most notably, we must thank the wonderfully cheerful Nelson, our driver on Mahé, who always went above and beyond looking after us. And, of course, the brilliant Gemma, our guide, naturalist and chief organiser throughout the holiday. Gemma imparted her vast knowledge generously and enthusiastically throughout the holiday, and infected us with her love of her home, its wonderful natural history, culture, cuisine and immensely beautiful beaches, forests and mountains. And thank you to all of you, for your enthusiasm and good company throughout, which together made the holiday so enjoyable for everyone. I hope our paths cross again sometime soon!

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[Image: Seychelles pitcher plant *Nepenthes pervillei* and White-tailed Tropicbird & chick]
## Species Lists

### Birds

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<th>Common name</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
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<td><strong>20</strong> Eurasian Curlew</td>
<td>Numenius arquata</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21</strong> Common Greenshank</td>
<td>Tringa nebularia</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>22</strong> Terek Sandpiper</td>
<td>Xenus cinereus</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>23</strong> Ruddy Turnstone</td>
<td>Arenaria interpres</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>24</strong> Sanderling</td>
<td>Calidris alba</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>25</strong> Curlew Sandpiper</td>
<td>Calidris ferruginea</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>26</strong> Little Stint</td>
<td>Calidris minutula</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>27</strong> Black-winged Pratincole</td>
<td>Glareola nordmannii</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common name</td>
<td>Scientific name</td>
<td>September - October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Brown Noddy</td>
<td>Anous stolidus</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Lesser Noddy</td>
<td>Anous tenuirostris</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Lesser Black-backed Gull</td>
<td>Larus fuscus</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 White (Fairy) Tern</td>
<td>Gygis alba</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 Greater Crested Tern</td>
<td>Thalasseus bergii</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 Saunders’s Tern</td>
<td>Sternula saundersi</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 Bridled Tern</td>
<td>Onychoprion anaethetus</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 Sooty Tern</td>
<td>Onychoprion fuscatus</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 Malagasy Turtle Dove</td>
<td>Nesoenas picturata picturata</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seychelles Turtle Dove</td>
<td>Nesoenas picturata rostrata</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 Zebra Dove</td>
<td>Geopelia striata</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 Seychelles Blue Pigeon</td>
<td>Alectroenas pulcherrimus</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 Seychelles Scops Owl</td>
<td>Otus insularis</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Seychelles Swiftlet</td>
<td>Aerodramus elphrus</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 Seychelles Kestrel</td>
<td>Falco araeus</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 Seychelles Black Parrot</td>
<td>Coracopsis barklyi</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher</td>
<td>Terpsiphone corvina</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44 Seychelles Bulbul</td>
<td>Hypsipetes crassirostris</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 Seychelles Warbler</td>
<td>Acrocephalus sechellensis</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 Seychelles White-eye</td>
<td>Zosterops modestus</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47 Common Myna</td>
<td>Acridotheres tristis</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 Seychelles Magpie-robin</td>
<td>Copsychus sechellarum</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 Seychelles Sunbird</td>
<td>Cinyris dussumieri</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Red Fody</td>
<td>Foudia madagascariensis</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 Seychelles Fody</td>
<td>Foudia sechellarum</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52 Common Waxbill</td>
<td>Estrilda astrild</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mammals**

|   | Seychelles Fruit Bat | Pteropus seychellensis | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ |

**Reptiles & Amphibians**

|   | Aldabra Giant Tortoise | Aldabrachelys gigantea | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ |

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## Common name | Scientific name | September - October
--- | --- | ---
2 Green Turtle | *Chelonia mydas* | ✓
3 Seychelles Yellowbelly Mud Turtle | *Pelusios castanoides intergularis* | ✓
4 Seychelles Ailuronyx (Bronze-eyed Gecko) | *Ailuronyx seychellensis* | ✓√
5 Dwarf Ailuronyx | *Ailuronyx tachyscopaeus* | ✓
6 Common (Pacific) Four-clawed Gecko | *Gehyra mutilata* | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
7 Common House Gecko | *Hemidactylus frenatus* | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
8 Seychelles Day Gecko | *Phelsuma astriata* | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
9 Sundberg's Day Gecko | *Phelsuma sundbergi* | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
10 La Digue Gecko | *Phelsuma ladiguensis* | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
11 Mahe Day Gecko | *Phelsuma sundbergi longinsulae* | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
12 Seychelles Skink | *Trachylepis sechellensis* | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
13 Wright's Skink | *Trachylepis wrightii* | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
14 Seychelles Treefrog | *Tachycnemis sechellensis* | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓

## Others Taxa

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 African Land Snail | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
| 2 Coco de Mer Snail | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
| 3 Mangrove Whelk | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
| 4 Giant Land Crab | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
| 5 Mangrove Crab | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
| 6 Fiddler Crab | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
| 7 Hermit Crab | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
| 8 Horned Ghost Crab | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
| 9 Chunky Ghost Crab | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
| 10 Sally Lightfoot Crab | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
| 11 Centipede | ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓

## Fishy Highlights

### From Praslin and Sister

**Indian Redfin Butterflyfish**

**Threadfin Butterflyfish**

**Many-spined Angelfish**
The Seychelles

Tour Report

Humbug Dascylus
Indian Goldring Bristletooth
Picasso Triggerfish
Goldbar Wrasse
Steephead Parrotfish
Spotted Eagleray
Powder-blue Surgeonfish (Tang)

Chocolate-dip Chromis
Oriental Sweetlips
Longfin Batfish
Surge Wrasse
Redlip Parrotfish
Feathertail Stingray
Geometric Moray

Scissortail Sargeant
Trumpetfish
Circular Batfish
Checkboard Wrasse
Reef Needlefish
Silver Moony

Off Bird Island

Indian Redfin Butterflyfish
Blue-fin Trevally
Picasso Triggerfish
Feathertail Stingray
Convict Surgeonfish
Circular Batfish
Thumbprint Emperor
Octopus

Threadfin Butterflyfish
Cuttlefish
Surge Wrasse
Porcupine Ray
Gold-saddle Goatfish
Longfin Batfish
Queen Coris
Humphead Parrotfish

Black-saddled Toby
Black-spotted Pufferfish
Checkboard Wrasse
Ringtail Surgeonfish
Double-bar Goatfish
Moorish Idol
Lionfish

St. Anne Marine National Park

Rabbitfish
Cleaner Wrasse
Parrotfish
Silver Pompano
Bird Wrasse
Blackeye Thicklip

Scissortail Sargeantfish
Threadfin Butterflyfish
Indian Sailfin Tang
Blue-green Chromis
Moorish Idol
Six-bar Wrasse

Silver Moony
Longfin Batfish
Indian Redfin Butterflyfish
Network Pipefish
Yellow Angelfish

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