



**BIRDING TOUR MADAGASCAR 2015: MAIN TRIP AND MASOALA
PRE-TRIP**

TRIP REPORT OCTOBER 2015

By Justin Nicolau



Crab Plover - *Dromas ardeola*, voted bird of the trip

Table 1. Itinerary

Date	Location	Overnight
11 October 2015	Antananarivo (Arrive)	Antananarivo
12 October 2015	Antananarivo	Antananarivo
13 October 2015	Masoala National Park	Masoala Peninsular
14 October 2015	Masoala National Park	Masoala Peninsular
15 October 2015	Masoala National Park	Masoala Peninsular
16 October 2015	Maroantsetra	Maroantsetra
17 October 2015	Antananarivo	Antananarivo
18 October 2015	Andasibe	Andasibe
19 October 2015	Andasibe	Andasibe
20 October 2015	Andasibe	Andasibe
21 October 2015	Antananarivo	Antsirabe
22 October 2015	Antsirabe	Ranomafana National Park
23 October 2015	Ranomafana National Park	Ranomafana National Park
24 October 2015	Ranomafana National Park	Ranomafana National Park
25 October 2015	Ranomafana National Park	Isalo
26 October 2015	Isalo, Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park	Ifaty
27 October 2015	Ifaty Spiny Forest	Ifaty
28 October 2015	Toliara, Le Table	Toliara
29 October 2015	Toliara, Nosy Ve, Anakao	Toliara
30 October 2015	Toliara	Antananarivo

Overview

Evolving in isolation since its breakaway from Africa, the island of Madagascar has formed a unique suite of fauna and flora, many of which are found nowhere else on earth. Vegetation changes from humid forests and pristine coastlines with sandy beaches and blue seas to extensive grasslands and dry, desert-adapted spiny forests in the south. We experienced all the various climates a tropical island can offer, and the birding was spectacular throughout them all. Although a birding tour by name, this trip had us also viewing 23 species of mammals; many again found nowhere else in the world. We enjoyed just as many species of endemic reptiles and amphibians, from colorful day geckos through to the largest chameleons on the planet. Not to go unnoticed, however, were the 162 species of birds found during the course of the trip (plus two heard only), the majority of which showed well to all and made for wonderful photographic opportunities. Of the 108 species endemic to Madagascar we found 92, and these included species from all five endemic families: asities, ground rollers, vangas, couas, and mesites. Although Madagascar can be logistically challenging, the trip ran smoothly, and we came away with a host of stories, pictures, and long-lasting memories.

Day 0: 11 October 2015

Initial meets and greats were undertaken at the airport upon our arrival, after which we were whisked away to our evening's accommodation. Having checked in, welcoming drinks out the way, and jet lag put aside, we took a brief afternoon walk around the hotel grounds. The diversity was low as one could expect in the capital city, but the likes of **Olive Bee-eater**, **Red Fody** (some of which were obtaining their red breeding colors), **Madagascan Wagtail**, **Madagascan Stonechat**, **Malagasy White-eye**, **Common Myna**, and **Malagasy Bulbul** all

showed well, while **Western Cattle Egret** and **Malagasy Pond Herons** headed towards their evening roosts just prior to us settling down for dinner and an early night's rest.



Malagasy Bulbul - *Hypsipetes madagascariensis*

Day 1: 12 October 2015

With a day to spare in the capital city, we headed out after breakfast to a local lake located not too far from the hotel. The drive to cover this distance was fairly lengthy, but upon our arrival we were welcomed by a large number of resident birds, which call this isolated body of water in the urban environment home. **Common Moorhen**, **White-faced Whistling Duck**, and **Red-billed Teal** were numerous, while **Hottentot Teal** and **Knob-billed Duck** were present, along with a variety of heron and egret species. **Dimorphic Egrets** were everywhere one looked, while **Western Cattle Egret**, **Black Heron**, **Squacco Heron**, **Malagasy Pond Heron**, **Great Egret**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, and a single **Humblot's Heron** all gave us nice comparative views. A **Yellow-billed Kite** visited overhead, followed shortly thereafter by a **Malagasy Kestrel**. **Common Myna** and **Rock Dove** were not unusual, while **Malagasy Coucal**, **Malagasy Kingfisher**, **Mascarene Martin**, and **Common Jery** attracted more of our attention.

Some dense scrub produced **Malagasy Brush Warbler**, while the reed beds yielded **Madagascan Swamp Warbler** and a very obliging **White-throated Rail**. While back at the hotel grounds after spending a bit of time perusing the local markets, we caught up with **Madagascan Stonechat**, **Madagascan Wagtail**, **Red Fody**, and **Madagascan Mannikin**, as well as with common house geckos around the accommodation.

MASOALA PRE-TOUR

Day 2: 13 October 2015

With packed breakfasts in hand we boarded our taxi in the moonlight to make it to the airport in time for our flight, which was due to leave at sunrise. After only spending an hour in the air, catching up on some sleep, we landed in the north-east of the island, immediately collected our luggage, and started our journey to Antongil Bay. Here we hopped on a boat and set across the bay to Masoala National Park, picking up **Greater Sand Plover, Black Heron, Whimbrel, Dimorphic Egret, White-fronted Plover, Squacco Heron, Great Egret, Common Tern**, and a few bait balls being assaulted by some game fish.

Arriving on the white beach in front of our lodge, we were greeted by our porters and Madagascar giant day geckos surveying the beach from the lodge's elevated perch. We opted to make the most of the weather and headed immediately for the ocean to enjoy some snorkeling, picking up a large variety of coral and fish species and nudibranchs, as well as a brief visit from a green turtle and a **Madagascan Pratincole**, which landed on some exposed rocks a few hundred meters into the bay, where we were snorkeling.

After lunch we headed into Madagascar's largest protected forest and immediately started picking up new species of avifauna. Around the lodge we located **Madagascan Buzzard** and **Malagasy Kestrel**, which were soon followed by **Malagasy Turtle Dove, Madagascan Green Pigeon, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Red-breasted Coua**, and both **Madagascan Spinetail** and **African Palm Swift**. A pair of **Broad-billed Rollers** displayed from a large dead tree, while along the denser forest trails we were lucky to locate the skulking **Scaly Ground Roller, Madagascan Cuckooshrike, Long-billed Bernieria, Spectacled Tetraka, Malagasy Bulbul, Common Newtonia, Madagascan Magpie-Robin, and Crested Drongo**. More exposed areas of forest yielded **Green Jery, Malagasy White-eye, Souimanga Sunbird, Chabert Vanga, Common Myna, Red Fody, and White-headed Vanga**.

It was hard to pick a sighting of the day, but the afternoon highlight had to go to a family of white-fronted lemurs, which came to feed on ripened figs next to the camp, one of the females carrying newly-born twins. Our second mammal of the day and the trip were a pair of red ruffed lemurs, a true Masoala specialty.



White-fronted lemur (female) - *Eulemur albifrons*



Red ruffed lemur - *Varecia rubra*

Day 3: 14 October 2015

Breakfast at dawn allowed for a quick and early start into the forest and a lucky find in the form of a pair of eastern bamboo lemurs, which were on their way back to the forest to roost after their nocturnal foraging spree; it was put to bed by the rising sun. Around the lodge we located a flock of **Madagascan Green Pigeons** and **Malagasy Bulbuls** feeding on a fruiting tree at the entrance to the forest. Not long after that we had our first bird party, which consisted of **Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher**, **Long-billed** and **Spectacled Tetraka**, **Green Jerry**, **Malagasy White-eye**, **Souimanga Sunbird**, **Crested Drongo**, and colorful **Nelicourvi Weaver**. A family of **Madagascan Wood Rail** entertained us on the forest trail for some time, while a pair of **Madagascan Blue Pigeons** sunned themselves on an exposed perch in the forest canopy. **Lesser Vasa Parrot** screeched over our heads, while **Malagasy Coucal** skulked in the undergrowth alongside a pair of very vocal yet agile **White-throated Oxylabes**.

Around the corner we had longer and clearer views of **Scaly Ground Roller**, a jewel of the forest undergrowth. **Madagascan Spinetail** and **Olive Bee-eater** fed above our heads, allowing for brief glimpses in the canopy openings. Returning for lunch and another quick snorkeling effort with reduced visibility due to the rains the previous evening meant that we would go for a longer walk in the afternoon to make use of the extra time. Venturing along the beach and entering a new patch of forest, we located a pair of diminutive and striking **Madagascan Pygmy Kingfishers**, as soon thereafter a pair of **Short-legged Ground Rollers** called non-stop even while we had them surrounded. Keeping to the path we now located **Red-tailed Vanga**, **Rufous Vanga**, **White-headed Vanga**, **Tylas Vanga**, **Blue Vanga**, and the cream of the crop in the form of **Helmet Vanga**, which we spent almost an hour with as we watched a pair hunt and make their way through the forest, a real highlight for all. Mammals are hard to come by up here, but we did enjoy red ruffed lemurs displaying and announcing their territories, as well as an eastern red forest rat feeding in the leaf litter.



Madagascan Green Pigeon - *Treron australis*



Helmet Vanga - *Euryceros prevostii*



Short-legged Ground Roller - *Brachypteracias leptosomus*

Day 4: 15 October 2015

Today was to be somewhat different, as we hopped onto a boat immediately after breakfast and a brief stop to view the pair of eastern bamboo lemurs once again, and then, once on the water, headed towards the tip of the peninsula. Along the way we stopped and scanned a local tern roost, picking up countless **Roseate Terns** in various stages of breeding plumage as well as a handful of **Greater Crested Terns**.

We touched ground in a small patch of mangrove forest and worked our way through the swampy vegetation and into some secondary forest. Here we enjoyed **Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher**, **Malagasy Bulbul**, **Green Jery**, **Souimanga Sunbird**, **Rufous Vanga** building a nest, **Crested Drongo**, **Red Fody**, and brief glimpses of our first **Blue Coua**. Arriving at our desired destination we immediately put our binoculars to work. **Western Cattle Egrets** fed around a trio of zebu, while a **Frances's Sparrowhawk** sunned itself on an exposed perch. **Malagasy Turtle Doves** bulleted through the forest clearings, while **Lesser Vasa Parrots** took a more labored approach over the canopy. **Madagascan Spinetail** and **African Palm Swift** kept the muscles in our necks working, while a pair of **Malagasy Kingfishers** and **Olive Bee-eaters** hunted dragonflies over the rice paddies. A **Cuckoo Roller** announced its presence just prior to a short display flight over the forest, while two pairs of **Rufous Vanga** and a **Madagascan Cuckooshrike** gave us prolonged views. A harsh, rasping call gave away the whereabouts of a single female **Bernier's Vanga**, quite possibly the most sought-after Vanga on the island. We watched her for a while, before shifting our attention to a small group of **Bernier's Vanga** feeding on the opposite patch of forest. A real highlight spending this much time with a species that most birders leave the island without seeing, even after concerted efforts!

As the skies opened, we rushed back to the boat and sent our drenched bodies in the direction of our lodge, picking up a single **Madagascan Pratincole** and **Madagascan Wagtail** along the way.

Back at the lodge we set off for one last snorkeling attempt, disturbing a lowland streaked tenrec along the way, surely being one of the island's most unique-looking mammals. After lunch and a deserved rest we had one last walk into the forest, where we found **Madagascan Wood Rail**, **Madagascan Blue Pigeon**, **Spectacled Tetraka**, and **Madagascan Magpie-Robin**, as well as a single **Hook-billed Vanga**, before returning back to camp.

Not too long after dinner we were treated with great views of a **White-browed Hawk-Owl** as well as another view of eastern woolly lemur, a great way to end a successful visit to the peninsula.



Bernier's Vanga - *Oriolia bernieri*

Day 5: 16 October 2015

Sipping our final cup of coffee in the Masoala National Park, we sent our bags in the direction of the beach to catch our boat ride across Antongil Bay and back to Maroantsetra. The ocean was as smooth and reflective as glass, and it sure was a great shame to leave such a remarkable place behind.

Arriving in town we booked into our new accommodation and set off for a walk through the village before hopping into another boat to bird the banks of the river during the course of low tide. The birding was rewarding, as we enjoyed **Red-billed Teal**, **Reed Cormorant**, **Purple Heron**, **Squacco Heron**, **Black Heron**, and **Striated Heron**, as well as **Great, Dimorphic**, and **Western Cattle Egrets** feeding along the mud banks. Waders were also actively probing for protein, and **Grey Plover**, **Greater Sand Plover**, **Common Ringed Plover**, **White-fronted Plover**, **Terek Sandpiper**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Common Greenshank**, **Whimbrel**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, and **Curlew Sandpiper**, as well as **Madagascan Pratincole**, all showed well. A host of common species such as **Rock Dove**, **Malagasy Kingfisher**, **Souimanga Sunbird**, **Pied Crow**, and **Mascarene Martin** kept us entertained, as well as a new addition in the form of **Madagascan Cisticola**. Returning for lunch after what was a successful few hours on the water was next on the agenda.

Having rested sufficiently, a short walk in the afternoon along the beach in some gusting winds did not produce much in the form of bird activity, but it was great to get out and have the warm Indian Ocean and sand beneath our toes, while watching a murder of **Pied Crows**. A pair of **Malagasy Kestrels** joined the afternoon's tally and dive-bombed the crows for some time before they either moved off or were blown away by the strong wind. Arriving back for dinner, we treated ourselves to some local rum and were treated to the localized and endemic tomato frog, a truly unique Madagascan amphibian.

Day 6: 17 October 2015

Today marked the end of the Masoala pre-trip as we boarded our plane first thing in the morning in Maroantsetra and headed back to Antananarivo to meet with the rest of the group for the main tour. A few **Yellow-billed Kites**, **Rock Doves**, **Western Cattle Egrets**, and **Pied Crows** were all that entertained us around the minute airport grounds.

Arriving in Antananarivo we joined up with the rest of the group at the hotel to share stories and get in some rest before embarking on the next adventure.

For those few that had arrived before mid afternoon from their various departure points a trip to the local botanical gardens was organized. These being situated in the heart of the capital, the birding was unlikely to be riveting, and it was not. Great views were had of common species, however, such as **Great Egret**, **Dimorphic Egret** (both color morphs), **Squacco Heron**, **Malagasy Turtle Dove**, **Malagasy Kestrel**, **Olive Bee-eater**, **Mascarene Martin**, **Malagasy Bulbul**, **Common Jery**, **Souimanga Sunbird**, **Common Myna**, **Red Fody**, and **Madagascan Mannikin**. The drive there produced **Malagasy Black Swift** and an interesting view of the city. Between the birding we made a quick walk around what in essence serves to be a small zoo. Although the conditions were somewhat poor, it was still fascinating to have up-close views of a variety of birds, mammals, and reptile species that we might never have the opportunity to see during the course of the trip.

MAIN TOUR

Day 7: 18 October 2015

Breakfast this morning had the entire group united for the first time, so the meets and greets were once again shared over the course of the buffet meal. An unusual sight put our meal to a brief stop for a few minutes as we all watched a pair of **Madagascan Nightjars** out in the open during the day as they defended a fledgling, which has strayed from the nest, from any passing hotel staff or visitors. Stomachs full soon thereafter, we hopped into our vehicles and headed east towards the town on Andasibe, our destination to be for a couple of days. The drive there was windy and had very little to offer in terms of birding, so we wasted very little time stopping along the way. A few species were briefly viewed from the bus, such as **Great Egret**, **Dimorphic Egret**, **Black Heron**, **Western Cattle Egret**, **Squacco Heron**, **Hamerkop**, **Rock Dove**, **Common Myna**, and **Mascarene Martin**.

Arriving in Andasibe, the lodge grounds yielded calling **Madagascan Flufftail**, while after lunch our first bird in the new forest habitat was a splendid pair of **Madagascan Wood Rail**. A flock of **Rock Doves** circled the reception building, while **Malagasy Turtle Doves** fed along the many leafy paths that bisected the forest floor. **Lesser Vasa Parrots** were as audible as ever, and a few were eventually seen roosting on exposed perches during the course of the afternoon. **Madagascan Cuckoo**, **Red-breasted Coua**, and **Malagasy Coucal** taunted us with their calls, while **Blue Coua**, **Brown-throated Martin**, **Mascarene Martin**, **Rainforest Scops Owl**, and a roosting **Madagascan Owl** all showed exceptionally well. The forests were littered with life, and we enjoyed close-ups of the island's largest lemur, the indri, as well as **Madagascan Cuckooshrike**, **Malagasy Brush Warbler**, **Madagascan**

Magpie-Robin, Malagasy White-eye, Red-tailed Vanga, Rufous Vanga, Hook-billed Vanga, White-headed Vanga, Crested Drongo, and Nelicourvi Weaver, while a night walk produced the localized Goodman's mouse lemur, furry-eared dwarf lemur, eastern woolly lemur, short-horned chameleon, elongate leaf chameleon, and a red-spotted tree frog.



Indri - *Indri indri*



Madagascan Owl - *Asio madagascariensis*

Day 8: 19 October 2015

A full day in Andasibe-Mantadia National Park was set aside for today, the primary forests found here always being one of the highlights of the trip. Flushing a **Madagascan Ibis** from the road, we had now officially kick-started our morning's birding session. **Madagascan Blue Pigeons** and **Greater Vasa Parrots** gathered in the morning rays on exposed branches,

while **White-throated Rail** skulked along the road below. The forest and surrounds themselves produced **Madagascan Cuckoo**, **Cuckoo Roller**, **Madagascan Spinetail**, **Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher**, **Olive Bee-eater**, **Broad-billed Roller**, **Velvet Asity**, **Spectacled Tetraka**, **Rand's Warbler**, **Wedge-tailed Jery**, **Green Jery**, **Souimanga Sunbird**, **Red-tailed**, **Chabert**, **Blue**, **Tylas**, and **Nuthatch Vangas**, and a pair of exceptionally well-camouflaged and outlandish **Collared Nightjars**. Ground rollers were not in short supply, and we had great views of **Short-legged**, **Scaly**, and **Pitta-like Ground Rollers** all within minutes of each other.

We settled for lunch at a small natural pond on the forest edge, where we enjoyed the tranquil setting as well as **Meller's Duck**, **Madagascan Grebe**, **Madagascan Swamp Warbler** building a nest, **Madagascan Stonechat**, **Broad-billed Roller**, **Olive Bee-eater**, **Green Jery**, **Stripe-throated Jery**, **Madagascan Buzzard**, **Common Moorhen**, **Madagascan Flufftail**, **Malagasy Kestrel**, **Forest Fody**, and a number of other common forest species. Mammals included black-and-white ruffed lemur, red-bellied lemur, and the splendid looking diademed sifaka.



Collared Nightjar - *Gactornis enarratus*



Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher - *Corythornis madagascariensis*

Day 9: 20 October 2015

Today was our last day in this area, and we worked the forests of Andasibe hard. A male **Frances's Sparrowhawk** was a great start to the morning, followed by **Madagascan Buzzard** and then brief but sufficient views of both **Madagascan Flufftail** and **Madagascan Rail**, two of the island's infamous skulkers. Next on the target list were two trip favorites, and with a little work we managed great views of both **Red-breasted** and **Red-fronted Couas**, while **Malagasy Coucal**, **Madagascan Cuckooshrike**, **Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher**, **Long-billed Bernieria**, **Spectacled Tetraka**, **Malagasy Bulbul**, **Common Newtonia**, **Souimanga** and **Malagasy Green Sunbirds**, a variety of vangas, and other common species served as by-catch. With a brief break for lunch we dragged our feet back up the forested paths to eventually connect with both **Crossley's Vanga** as well as the ever so sneaky **Madagascan Yellowbrow**, while a Madagascar tree boa sunning itself was a great way to end a successful trip to Andasibe, one of the island's many botanical Edens.

Day 10: 21 October 2015

Today served purely as a travel day as we embarked on our journey to the south of the island. Leaving Andasibe after breakfast we had our final views of the resorts garden birds such as **Malagasy Brush Warbler**, **Mascarene Martin**, **Malagasy Bulbul**, **Madagascan Mannikin**, **Madagascan Wagtail**, **Madagascan Stonechat**, and some really show-stopping views of an otherwise rather bland **Green Jerry**. Heading out of town we stopped for a pair of **Madagascan Blue Pigeons** before making our way to Antananarivo for lunch. A brief scouting over one of the large rivers along the way produced stunning views of a pair of **Madagascan Pratincole**.

Around the restaurant in Antananarivo we were entertained by **Malagasy Kestrel**, **Great Egret**, **Mascarene Martin**, **Brown-throated Martin**, **Malagasy Black Swift**, **Malagasy Brush Warbler**, **Malagasy White-eye**, **Madagascan Swamp Warbler**, **Madagascan Wagtail**, **Common Myna**, **Red Fody**, and great views of both male and female **Madagascan Green Sunbird** in great light, showing the male's iridescence off beautifully. We then left

for Antsirabe, where along the way some minor vehicle issues were encountered – a small blessing in disguise, as next to the road we added **Madagascan Lark** and **Madagascan Cisticola**, before arriving in time for dinner after a fairly long travel day.

Day 11: 22 October 2015

Today was yet another travel day, as we left Antsirabe after breakfast, after spending the morning at one of the local gem shops, absorbing some of the island's local culture. With that out of the way, we departed for Ranomafana National Park, the next stop on our journey across the island. Birding along the way was rather quiet, the rice paddies producing the usual candidates such as **Great Egret**, **Black Heron**, **Dimorphic Egret**, **Western Cattle Egret**, **Common Myna**, **Hamerkop**, and the occasional **Madagascan Stonechat**, while the skies yielded **Mascarene** and **Brown-throated Martins**, **Madagascan Buzzard**, **Yellow-billed Kite**, **Pied Crow**, and **Malagasy Kestrel**. Closer to Ranomafana National Park we had **Blue Coua**, **Malagasy Coucal**, **Malagasy Black Swift**, **Olive Bee-eater**, **Cuckoo Roller**, **Madagascan Starling**, and **Madagascan Wagtail**. With our bags checked in, we went for a brief night walk, which produced close-up views of rufous mouse lemur and short-horned, short-nosed, O'Shaughnessy's, brown leaf, and cryptic chameleons.



Rufous mouse lemur - *Microcebus rufus*



Velvet Asity - *Philepitta castanea*



O'Shaughnessy's chameleon - *Calumma oshaughnessyi*

Day 12: 23 October 2015

As dawn broke we set out to the primary forest, where we enjoyed **Malagasy Turtle Dove**, **Madagascan Cuckoo**, **Malagasy Black Swift**, **Velvet Asity**, **Madagascan Cuckooshrike**, **Mascarene Martin**, **Malagasy Bulbul**, **Malagasy Brush Warbler**, **Dark Newtonia**,

Cryptic Warbler, Forest Rock Thrush, all four species of jery, **Madagascan Yellowbrow, Malagasy White-eye, Red-tailed Vanga, Pollen's Vanga, Madagascan Starling**, and an absolute highlight in the form of a pair of the sought-after **Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity**, which were not to be outdone by a stunning **Rufous-headed Ground Roller**. Once out of the forest, a quick pre-lunch visit to a nearby marsh produced flybys by a small flock of **Meller's Duck, Yellow-billed Kite**, and the target of the visit, **Grey Emutail**. The rest of the afternoon was spent catching up with many of these species again on a second walk through the forest, where we also located Milne-Edward's sifaka, red-fronted brown lemur, and a Mascarene grass frog.

Day 13: 24 October 2015

Today was set aside for another patch of forest found within the reserve as well as a few local wetlands. We immediately set off for the high ground, which took some effort, but right on top we were rewarded with the most splendid views of a family of secretive **Brown Mesites**. More common species included **Malagasy Turtle Dove, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Madagascan Cuckoo, Malagasy Coucal, African Palm Swift, Cuckoo Roller, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Mascarene Martins, Grey-crowned Tetraka, Malagasy Bulbul, Madagascan Magpie-Robin, Madagascan Stonechat, Forest Rock Thrush, Malagasy White-eye, Pollen's Vanga**, and breathtaking views of a pair of **Pitta-like Ground Rollers** and **Crossley's Vanga**.

Ranomafana National Park is well known for its mammals, and we enjoyed golden and greater bamboo lemurs, black-and-white ruffed lemur, red-fronted brown lemur, Milne-Edward's sifaka, and eastern red forest rat, as well as reptiles in the form of the diminutive brown leaf chameleon, gold-collared snake, and lateral water snake.

Forest birding behind us, we headed off, and at the first wetland we connected with **Western Cattle Egret, Madagascan Buzzard, Malagasy Kestrel**, and key targets in the form of **Madagascan Partridge** and **Madagascan Snipe**. A quick visit to nearby rice-paddies produced views of **Greater Painted-snipe**, a pleasant addition to the trip list.

Day 14: 25 October 2015

We prepared ourselves at breakfast for what was to be another lengthy travel day. Heading south towards Isalo National Park through endless grasslands and plateaus, we found **Helmeted Guineafowl, Dimorphic Egret, Malagasy Pond Heron, Hamerkop, Malagasy Turtle Dove, Grey-headed Lovebird, Malagasy Coucal, Yellow-billed Kite, Madagascan Buzzard**, and **Malagasy Kestrel**. We stopped off along the way for a fantastic lunch, having just spent a good hour enjoying the company of Oustalet's chameleon and ring-tailed lemurs, the latter undoubtedly one of Madagascar's most iconic species. Stomachs full, we boarded the bus and continued our journey south.

A few hours later, and we had arrived at what must be one of the most beautiful lodge settings on the island, a hidden oasis. After checking in, a short walk in the lodge grounds produced **African Palm Swift, Madagascan Hoopoe, Broad-billed Roller, Olive Bee-eater, Pied Crow, Madagascan Lark, Malagasy Bulbul, Madagascan Cisticola, Madagascan Magpie-Robin, Madagascan Stonechat**, and great views of a pair of **Forest Rock Thrush** (this subspecies occasionally split as Benson's Rock Thrush). A quick venture to a nearby cultivated field produced a cracking pair of **Madagascan Partridge** in the road, and having watched them for a while we turned back to enjoy the swimming pool after a long but rewarding day on the road.

Day 15: 26 October 2015

Prior to breakfast we visited a small pond near the lodge, where we located **Red-billed Teal**, **Madagascan Cisticola**, **Purple Heron**, **Yellow-billed Kite**, **Malagasy Kestrel**, and flushed a beautiful male **Madagascan Partridge** before leaving for our next destination. Arriving at the dry and now already scorching Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park, we headed off along the sandy paths in search of a new set of targets. The maze of trails produced **Lesser Vasa Parrot**, **Coquerel's Coua**, and spectacular views of **Giant Coua**, which we again enjoyed during the course of our packed lunch later in the day. Owls fascinated many of the group participants, and Zombitse did not disappoint us in this regard, as we all stood silently taking in the view of a roosting **White-browed Hawk-Owl**. **Olive Bee-eater**, **Broad-billed Roller**, **Cuckoo Roller**, **Madagascan Hoopoe**, **Pied Crow**, **Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher**, and the localized **Appert's Tetraka** were all seen well within the park, as were **Common Newtonia**, **Madagascan Magpie-Robin**, **Souimanga Sunbird**, **Rufous Vanga**, **Hook-billed Vanga**, **Sickle-billed Vanga**, and **Blue Vanga**. Mammals included Hubbard's sportive lemur and Verreaux's sifaka, with reptilian additions such as three-eyed lizard, Standing's day gecko, and an impressive Madagascar leaf-nosed snake.

En route to our lodge in Ifaty we picked up **Kittlitz's Plover**, **White-fronted Plover**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Whimbrel**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Rock Dove**, **Namaqua Dove**, **Grey-headed Lovebird**, **African Palm Swift**, **Madagascan Lark**, **Malagasy Bulbul**, **Madagascan Cisticola**, and **Sakalava Weaver**. After a two-day journey down to the south, we had reached our final destination and had picked up an impressive list of birds and mammals along the way.

Day 16: 27 October 2015

Many people have heard of the spiny forests of southern Madagascar, and today was the day we had the privilege of exploring their unique fauna and flora. Up and ready well before the sun had risen, we made our way to Ifaty Spiny Forest, walking beneath giant baobabs while the sun slowly began to rise and the birds began to sing. **Grey-headed Lovebird**, **Greater and Lesser Vasa Parrots**, **Madagascan Cuckoo**, **Red-capped Coua**, **Running Coua**, **Malagasy Coucal**, and **Malagasy Spinetails** were all on the list before the sun had completely broken the horizon. With the light improving and the heat building, we notched up **Crested Coua**, **Olive Bee-eater**, **Madagascan Hoopoe**, and what felt like the world's longest views of **Long-tailed Ground Roller**, a truly unforgettable experience. **Subdesert Brush Warbler**, **Pied Crow**, **Malagasy Bulbul**, **Thamnornis**, **Archbold's Newtonia**, **Common Jery**, **Stripe-throated Jery**, **Red-tailed Vanga**, **Lafresnaye's Vanga**, **Sickle-billed Vanga**, **Chabert Vanga**, and **Crested Drongo** were all seen well before we ran into **Madagascan Harrier-Hawk**, **Madagascan Sparrowhawk**, **Banded Kestrel**, and a stunning pair of **Subdesert Mesites**, which may even have bullied the ground roller off the pedestal for sighting of the day. Having located all our targets for the morning, we headed off to some local wetland, where we enjoyed **Kittlitz's Plover**, **White-fronted Plover**, the endemic **Madagascan Plover**, **Whimbrel**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, and **Curlew Sandpiper** before retiring for the afternoon.



Subdesert Mesite - *Monias benschi*



Long-tailed Ground Roller - *Uratelornis chimaera*

Day 17: 28 October 2015

Leaving with all our targets in the bag, so to speak, we made our way to the thorny scrublands found outside of Toliara, picking up **Western Cattle Egret**, **Yellow-billed Kite**, **Malagasy Kestrel**, **Rock Dove**, **Namaqua Dove**, and **Malagasy Coucal** along the way. On site we quickly set to work, and along the various footpaths in the area we located **Red-**

capped Coua and, with a lot of effort, **Verreaux's Coua** as well. Our next target was somewhat of a challenge, but once we had it calling we could work our way through the thorns and spines to one spectacular view of the localized and fairly recently discovered **Red-shouldered Vanga**. We then departed for lunch and some down time at the lodge, before heading back out as it cooled off in the afternoon.

Working some flooded grasslands later in the area in search of Madagascar Sandgrouse, we flushed a pair of **Greater Painted-snipes** and enjoyed **Olive Bee-eater**, **Madagascan Hoopoe**, **Pied Crow**, **Madagascan Lark**, **Mascarene Martin**, **Madagascan Cisticola**, **Madagascan Magpie-Robin**, **Souimanga Sunbird**, and **Red Fody**. Unfortunately there was no sign of the sandgrouse, and we decided to call it quits and try in the morning.



Red-capped Coua - *Coua ruficeps olivaceiceps*

Day 18: 29 October 2015

Today was slightly different, in that first thing in the morning we headed down to the local harbor. Here we hopped aboard local ox-carts (much to everyone's amusement) and were transported to our boat, which then headed off in the direction of Nosy Ve. This small island off Madagascar is home to a small breeding population of **Red-tailed Tropicbirds**, which we spent a good portion of the morning watching as they circled overhead and came down to feed chicks, which had been hidden in surrounding vegetation. Other island species included **Dimorphic Egret**, **Grey Heron**, **Grey Plover**, **Greater Sand Plover**, **White-fronted Plover**, **Common Greenshank**, **Whimbrel**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Sanderling**, **Greater Crested Tern**, **Pied Crow**, and **Madagascan Cisticola**.

Having snorkeled and hiked, as well as hidden from the glaring sun, we moved off to another island, where we connected with a small flock of **Crab Plover**, a beautiful and unique species, which seemed to have the entire group star-struck. We then moved to the mainland for lunch, where we notched up a breeding pair of **Littoral Rock Thrush** and **Sakalava Weavers** in full breeding plumage, before leaving for Toliara again after a successful day out in the sun.



Red-tailed Tropicbird - *Phaethon rubricauda*

Day 19: 30 October 2015

Our trip had unfortunately now almost come to an end, and we had one last shot to bird around town in the morning before catching our return flights to the capital. We headed off early to the grasslands, which had now flooded even more with the previous evening's rains. Our hopes of finding the water-dependent sandgrouse had diminished somewhat. The usual suspects were present, such as **Western Cattle Egret**, **Pied Crow**, **Madagascan Lark**, **Grey-headed Lovebird**, **Yellow-billed Kite**, **Namaqua Dove**, and the resident pair of **Malagasy Kestrel**. We'd been on site for about half an hour, and with the airport departure looming we had given ourselves another 15 minutes to stare at the grassland, in hope that our target would arrive. It was mere minutes after that decision had been made that an unusual shape came through low over the vegetation in the direction of the largest body of water, a female **Madagascan Sandgrouse** – our final lifer of the trip, and a real special way to end a very successful tour around this superb island. Antananarivo-bound, for the last time!



MADAGASCAR OCTOBER 2015 BIRD LIST		
Bold = country endemic Status: NT = Near-threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered		
Common Name (IOC 5.4)	Scientific Name (IOC 5.4)	Trip
	ANSERIFORMES	
<u>Ducks, Geese and Swans</u>	<u>Anatidae</u>	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	1
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	1
Meller's Duck - EN	<i>Anas melleri</i>	1
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	1
Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>	1
	GALLIFORMES	
<u>Guineafowl</u>	<u>Numididae</u>	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	1
<u>Pheasants and allies</u>	<u>Phasianidae</u>	
Madagascan Partridge	<i>Margaroperdix madagarensis</i>	1
	PODICIPEDIFORMES	
<u>Grebes</u>	<u>Podicipedidae</u>	
Madagascan Grebe - VU	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelinii</i>	1
	PHAETONTIFORMES	
<u>Tropicbirds</u>	<u>Phaethontidae</u>	
Red-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	1
	PELECANIFORMES	
<u>Ibises, Spoonbills</u>	<u>Threskiornithidae</u>	
Madagascan Ibis - NT	<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>	1
<u>Hérons, Bitterns</u>	<u>Ardeidae</u>	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	1
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	1
Malagasy Pond Heron - EN	<i>Ardeola idae</i>	1
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	1
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1
Humblot's Heron - EN	<i>Ardea humbloti</i>	1
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	1
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	1
Dimorphic Egret	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	1
<u>Hamerkop</u>	<u>Scopidae</u>	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	1
	SULIFORMES	
<u>Cormorants, Shags</u>	<u>Phalacrocoracidae</u>	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	1

	ACCIPITRIFORMES	
<u>Kites, Hawks and Eagles</u>	<u>Accipitridae</u>	
Madagascan Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>	1
Frances's Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>	1
Madagascan Sparrowhawk - NT	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>	1
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	1
Madagascan Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>	1
	MESITORNITHIFORMES	
<u>Mesites</u>	<u>Mesitornithidae</u>	
Brown Mesite - VU	<i>Mesitornis unicolor</i>	1
Subdesert Mesite - VU	<i>Monias benschi</i>	1
	GRUIFORMES	
<u>Flufftails</u>	<u>Sarothruridae</u>	
Madagascan Wood Rail	<i>Canirallus kioloides</i>	1
Madagascan Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>	1
<u>Rails, Crakes and Coots</u>	<u>Rallidae</u>	
Madagascan Rail - VU	<i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>	1
White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>	1
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1
	CHARADRIIFORMES	
<u>Buttonquail</u>	<u>Turnicidae</u>	
Madagascan Buttonquail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>	1
<u>Crab-plover</u>	<u>Dromadidae</u>	
Crab-plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>	1
<u>Stilts, Avocets</u>	<u>Recurvirostridae</u>	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	1
<u>Plovers</u>	<u>Charadriidae</u>	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	1
Madagascan Plover - VU	<i>Charadrius thoracicus</i>	1
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	1
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>	1
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	1
<u>Painted-snipes</u>	<u>Rostratulidae</u>	
Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	1
<u>Sandpipers, Snipes</u>	<u>Scolopacidae</u>	
Madagascan Snipe - VU	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>	1
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	1
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	1

Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	1
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	1
<u>Courser, Pratincoles</u>	<u>Glareolidae</u>	
Madagascan Pratincole - VU	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>	1
<u>Gulls, Terns and Skimmers</u>	<u>Laridae</u>	
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	1
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	1
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1
	PTEROCLIFORMES	
<u>Sandgrouse</u>	<u>Pteroclididae</u>	
Madagascan Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles personatus</i>	1
	COLUMBIFORMES	
<u>Pigeons, Doves</u>	<u>Columbidae</u>	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	1
Malagasy Turtle Dove	<i>Nesoenas picturatus</i>	1
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	1
Madagascan Green Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>	1
Madagascan Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>	1
	CUCULIFORMES	
<u>Cuckoos</u>	<u>Cuculidae</u>	
Malagasy Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>	1
Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>	1
Verreaux's Coua - NT	<i>Coua verreauxi</i>	1
Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>	1
Red-capped Coua	<i>Coua ruficeps</i>	1
Red-fronted Coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>	1
Coquerel's Coua	<i>Coua coquereli</i>	1
Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>	1
Giant Coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>	1
Red-breasted Coua	<i>Coua serriana</i>	1
Madagascan Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	1
	STRIGIFORMES	
<u>Barn Owls</u>	<u>Tytonidae</u>	
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	H
<u>Owls</u>	<u>Strigidae</u>	
Rainforest Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>	1
White-browed Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>	1
Madagascan Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>	1
	CAPRIMULGIFORMES	
<u>Nightjars</u>	<u>Caprimulgidae</u>	
Collared Nightjar	<i>Gactornis enarratus</i>	1
Madagascan Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>	1

	APODIFORMES	
<u>Swifts</u>	<u>Apodidae</u>	
Madagascan Spinetail	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>	1
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	1
Malagasy Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni</i>	1
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	1
	LEPTOSOMIFORMES	
<u>Cuckoo Roller</u>	<u>Leptosomidae</u>	
Cuckoo Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>	1
	CORACIIFORMES	
<u>Rollers</u>	<u>Coraciidae</u>	
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	1
<u>Ground Rollers</u>	<u>Brachypteraciidae</u>	
Short-legged Ground Roller - VU	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>	1
Scaly Ground Roller - VU	<i>Geobiastes squamiger</i>	1
Pitta-like Ground Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>	1
Rufous-headed Ground Roller - NT	<i>Atelornis crossleyi</i>	1
Long-tailed Ground Roller - VU	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>	1
<u>Kingfishers</u>	<u>Alcedinidae</u>	
Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i>	1
Malagasy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>	1
<u>Bee-eaters</u>	<u>Meropidae</u>	
Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	1
	BUCEROTIFORMES	
<u>Hoopoes</u>	<u>Upupidae</u>	
Madagascan Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>	1
	FALCONIFORMES	
<u>Caracaras, Falcons</u>	<u>Falconidae</u>	
Malagasy Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	1
Banded Kestrel	<i>Falco zoniventris</i>	1
	PSITTACIFORMES	
<u>Old World Parrots</u>	<u>Psittaculidae</u>	
Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>	1
Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>	1
Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>	1
	PASSERIFORMES	
<u>Broadbills</u>	<u>Eurylaimidae</u>	
Velvet Asity	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>	1
Common Sunbird-Asity	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>	1
Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity - VU	<i>Neodrepanis hypoxantha</i>	1
<u>Vangas</u>	<u>Vangidae</u>	
Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>	1

Red-shouldered Vanga - VU	<i>Calicalicus rufocarpalis</i>	1
Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>	1
Bernier's Vanga - VU	<i>Oriolia bernieri</i>	1
Lafresnaye's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>	1
Pollen's Vanga - NT	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>	1
Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falculea palliata</i>	1
White-headed Vanga	<i>Artamella viridis</i>	1
Chabert Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>	1
Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>	1
Rufous Vanga	<i>Schetba rufa</i>	1
Helmet Vanga - VU	<i>Euryceros prevostii</i>	1
Tylas Vanga	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>	1
Nuthatch Vanga	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>	1
Dark Newtonia	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>	1
Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>	1
Archbold's Newtonia	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>	1
Ward's Flycatcher	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>	1
Crossley's Vanga	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>	1
<u>Cuckooshrikes</u>	<u>Campephagidae</u>	
Madagascan Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>	1
<u>Drongos</u>	<u>Dicruridae</u>	
Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>	1
<u>Monarchs</u>	<u>Monarchidae</u>	
Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>	1
<u>Crows, Jays</u>	<u>Corvidae</u>	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	1
<u>Larks</u>	<u>Alaudidae</u>	
Madagascan Lark	<i>Eremopterix hova</i>	1
<u>Bulbuls</u>	<u>Pycnonotidae</u>	
Malagasy Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	1
<u>Swallows, Martins</u>	<u>Hirundinidae</u>	
Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	1
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	1
<u>Reed Warblers and allies</u>	<u>Acrocephalidae</u>	
Malagasy Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>	1
Subdesert Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>	1
Madagascan Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>	1
<u>Grassbirds and allies</u>	<u>Locustellidae</u>	
Brown Emutail	<i>Bradypterus brunneus</i>	H
Grey Emutail	<i>Amphilaus seebohmi</i>	1
<u>Malagasy Warblers</u>	<u>Bernieridae</u>	
White-throated Oxylobes	<i>Oxylobes madagascariensis</i>	1

Long-billed Bernieria	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>	1
Cryptic Warbler	<i>Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi</i>	1
Wedge-tailed Jery - NT	<i>Hartertula flavoviridis</i>	1
Thamnornis	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>	1
Spectacled Tetraka	<i>Xanthomixis zosterops</i>	1
Appert's Tetraka - VU	<i>Xanthomixis apperti</i>	1
Grey-crowned Tetraka	<i>Xanthomixis cinereiceps</i>	1
Madagascan Yellowbrow - NT	<i>Crossleyia xanthophrys</i>	1
Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>	1
<u>Cisticolas and allies</u>	<u>Cisticolidae</u>	
Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>	1
Green Jery	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>	1
Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>	1
Madagascan Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>	1
<u>White-eyes</u>	<u>Zosteropidae</u>	
Malagasy White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>	1
<u>Starlings, Rhabdornis</u>	<u>Sturnidae</u>	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	1
Madagascan Starling	<i>Hartlaubius auratus</i>	1
<u>Chats, Old World Flycatchers</u>	<u>Muscicapidae</u>	
Madagascan Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>	1
Littoral Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola imerina</i>	1
Forest Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>	1
Madagascan Stonechat	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>	1
<u>Sunbirds</u>	<u>Nectariniidae</u>	
Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris sovimanga</i>	1
Malagasy Green Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris notatus</i>	1
<u>Weavers, Widowbirds</u>	<u>Ploceidae</u>	
Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>	1
Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>	1
Red Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	1
Forest Fody	<i>Foudia omissa</i>	1
<u>Waxbills, Munias and allies</u>	<u>Estrildidae</u>	
Madagascan Mannikin	<i>Lepidopygia nana</i>	1
<u>Wagtails, Pipits</u>	<u>Motacillidae</u>	
Madagascan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	1
TOTAL		162

MADAGASCAR OCTOBER 2015 WILDLIFE LISTS

Bold = country endemic
 Status: NT = Near-threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered, CE = Critically Endangered

MAMMALS		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Trip
	AFROSORICIDA	
	<u>Tenrecidae</u>	
Lowland streaked tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>	1
	PRIMATES	
	<u>Cheirogaleidae</u>	
Grey mouse lemur (guide only)	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>	1
Rufous mouse lemur - VU	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>	1
Goodman's mouse lemur - VU	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>	1
Furry-eared dwarf lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus crossleyi</i>	1
	<u>Lepilemuridae</u>	
Hubbard's sportive lemur - EN	<i>Lepilemur hubbardi</i>	1
	<u>Lemuridae</u>	
Eastern lesser bamboo lemur - VU	<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>	1
Golden bamboo lemur - CE	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>	1
Greater bamboo lemur - CE	<i>Prolemur simus</i>	1
Ring-tailed lemur - EN	<i>Lemur catta</i>	1
Red-bellied lemur - VU	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>	1
Brown lemur - NT	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>	1
White-fronted lemur - EN	<i>Eulemur albifrons</i>	1
Red-fronted brown lemur - NT	<i>Eulemur rufifrons</i>	1
Black-and-white ruffed lemur - CE	<i>Varecia variegata</i>	1
Red ruffed lemur - CE	<i>Varecia rubra</i>	1
	<u>Indriidae</u>	
Eastern woolly lemur - VU	<i>Avahi laniger</i>	1
Diademed sifaka - CE	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>	1
Milne-Edward's sifaka - EN	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>	1
Verreaux's sifaka - EN	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>	1
Indri - CE	<i>Indri indri</i>	1
	RODENTIA	
	<u>Nesomyidae</u>	
Eastern red forest rat	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>	1
	<u>Muridae</u>	
Brown rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	1
TOTAL		23
REPTILES		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Trip
	TESTUDINES	
	<u>Cheloniidae</u>	
Green turtle - EN	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	1
	SQUAMATA	

	<u>Chamaeleonidae</u>	
Elongate leaf chameleon - VU	<i>Palleon nasus</i>	1
Brown leaf chameleon	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>	1
Short-horned chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicorne</i>	1
Cryptic chameleon	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>	1
O'Shaughnessy's chameleon - VU	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>	1
Short-nosed chameleon	<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>	1
Glaw's chameleon - EN	<i>Calumma glawi</i>	1
Nose-horned chameleon	<i>Calumma nasutum</i>	1
Oustalet's chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	1
Panther chameleon	<i>Furcifer pardalis</i>	1
	<u>Opluridae</u>	
Merrem's Madagascar swift	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>	1
Three-eyed lizard	<i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i>	1
	<u>Gerrhosauridae</u>	
Madagascar girdled lizard	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>	1
	<u>Gekkonidae</u>	
Grandidier's velvet gecko	<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>	1
Common house gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	1
Madagascar giant day gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis grandis</i>	1
Standing's day gecko - VU	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>	1
Lined day gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>	1
	<u>Boidae</u>	
Madagascar tree boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>	1
	<u>Pseudoxyrhophiidae</u>	
Gold-collared snake	<i>Liophidium rhodogaster</i>	1
Madagascar leaf-nosed snake	<i>Langaha madagascariensis</i>	1
	<u>Lamprophiidae</u>	
Lateral water snake	<i>Thamnosophis lateralis</i>	1
	<u>Psammophiidae</u>	
Common big-eyed snake	<i>Mimophis mahfalensis</i>	1
TOTAL		24
AMPHIBIANS		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Trip
	ANURA	
	<u>Ptychadenidae</u>	
Mascarene grass frog	<i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i>	1
	<u>Microhylidae</u>	
Tomato frog - NT	<i>Dyscophus antongilii</i>	1
	<u>Mantellidae</u>	
Madagascar bright-eyed frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>	1
Red-spotted tree frog	<i>Boophis tasymena</i>	1

TOTAL

4
