

Madagascar 19/10 – 22/11/2011

Introduction

This report is based on a 5 weeks trip to Madagascar on which I was accompanied by my wife Erma. We generally found that there are a lot of good reports about Madagascar already available and that there is no real need to add one more. But as often in the past we were unable to find a report from individual birders using public transport and arranging the whole trip from within the country itself like we do. Therefore we thought it might be useful to share our experiences.

Birding in Madagascar is generally good and easy. In all the places we visited we found accomodation, very good guides and an excellent system of trails.

Climate

During the time we visited the country, the weather was generally fine, dry and not extremely hot. But in Isalo and along the west coast (around Toliara/Ifaty) the temperatures rise to up to 38 C. And by 9:00am it's already fairly hot. Afternoons in Isalo were too windy and dusty to enjoy walking around much.

Visa

A stay of up to 30 days would have been free of costs for us (Visa at arrival), but as we stayed a bit longer we had to purchase our visa in advance from the Embassy of Madagascar. The cost was 65 Euro p.p. and it took about 2 weeks to come. Easy!

How to get there

Most (possibly all?) flights from Europe leave from Paris. We flew with Air France from Strasbourg (70 km from our home) to Paris and then directly to Antananarivo (Tana). We paid 1150 Euro each. The flights were on time and the planes were quite modern although the meals could have been better. Surprisingly they did not serve dinner (only a snack) before landing in Tana at 11:00 pm which left everybody on board hungry! A handfull of other airlines also fly to Tana.

Getting around

To save money and for the fun of it, we used public transport as we always prefer to do and did not arrange anything in advance from home apart the first night in Tana.

We found travelling around Madagascar fairly easy and cheap as long you don't intend to travel to remote areas.

We used several modes of transport including crowded minibuses called Taxi-Brousses, "normal" long distance taxis (they take up to 10 people!!!), private cars (very comfortable) or when no public transport was available we occasionally hired a car. Usually we just went to the Bus/Taxi Brousse Terminal but also just waited at the roadside.

For small distances eg to and from park entrances/trails we occasionally hitched. We felt totally safe using this kind of transport and people were generally very honest. Be aware that when hiring a car it is customary to bargain!

Money

Since 2003 Madagascar's currency has been the Ariary. At the time we were in the country the exchange rate was about 2100A for 1 US-Dollar and 2800A for 1 Euro. In rural areas prices are often still quoted in the old currency, the French Malagache (FMG). 1 Ariary is equal to 5 FMG.

Safety

Before we left we were a bit worried by reports of rising criminality in Tana and other bigger cities including hold ups of buses and private cars. Our fears were unfounded as we always felt safe, even in Tana where we walked narrow streets and markets and used local transport. Having said that we strongly advise that you don't leave anything valuable unlocked in your Hotel room, the same applies in National Parks. Whilst in Ankarafantsika our "neighbour's" bungalow was robbed (shoes, money, bins etc) while we were together on a night excursion. Like everywhere in the world you should always use common sense and hide your valuables.

Language

Madagascar used to be a French Colony so French is widely spoken. In remoter places or in the countryside many people only speak their language, Malagasy, which is of Indonesian origin. Wherever there are many tourists a lot of people tend to speak English. Most of our Guides did.

People

Generally people in Madagascar were extremely friendly and helpful, despite being rather poor. Most people were also honest. Sometimes they make you pay a bit more (in Taxis, buses, markets) but we did not witness severe cheating. Malagasy people seem to me very relaxed and easy going. I was once told that "we Westerners have got watches, but they have got the time!!!"

Food

Food was generally good and especially so if you like seafood, you can enjoy a wide variety of dishes along the coast. Zebu, tastier than beef, is very popular, as is chicken. Another common dish is Riz Cantonese and all touristy places serve Spaghetti. In bigger cities you can also find Indian, Chinese or Thai restaurants. An interesting local food is Ravitutu, made from Cassava leaves. Noodle soups are available at all restaurants and at many Food Stalls. If you are looking for early breakfast and coffee or just for the experience, check out the small Food Stalls called Hotely, they often open as early as 5:00am and are ten times cheaper than restaurants or Hotels.

Our favourite restaurant was Chez Freddy in Mangily !

Accommodation

At most of the sites we visited there was a wide variety of accommodation available. All the places we stayed in were friendly and clean and most were quiet too. We did not book accommodation in advance. Except from Andasibe, finding a room was no problem at all. We spent between 30000A and 100000A (10-35 Euro) for a double room.

Books/Reports

We used Bradt's travel guide Madagascar as well as Bradt's Madagascar Wildlife guide. Both are very good!

As a field guide we had Olivier Langrand's Guide to the Birds of Madagascar (1990), heavy but detailed. Note that Cryptic Warbler and Red-shouldered Vanga are excluded as they weren't described until after 1990.

Reports we used were from Keith Valentine, Rockjumper (2009), Tim Earl, Travelling Naturalist and Oscar Cambell, Birdtours, all were found at www.travellingbirder.com.

Acknowledgement

Thanks a lot to Nick Carter from Midgley, Halifax for putting much work into editing this report.

Park Entrance Fees

The cost of permits to visit the National Parks varies, according to the number of days you spend there. The price for 4 days or more in Andasibe/Mantadia, Ranomafana, Isalo and Ankarafantsika was 50000A per person. In Zombitse we paid 15000A for 2 days. The entrance fee for Parc Mosa (Spiny Forest) was 30000A p.p. incl. guiding for bird watching.

Our Guides

Andasibe/Mantatia	<p>Spent most of the time with Maurice, an excellent, passionate bird guide. We can strongly recommend him and paid between 40000A and 80000A per half day/day. He also organised a 4x4 to visit Mantadia for which we paid 80000A.</p> <p>Maurice was not available for two mornings so we birded with Desire, a nice young man who also did a good job and is trained by Maurice.</p> <p>Contact: Ratsisakanana Besoa Maurice, Andasibe, Perinet, C.P.:514 rbesoamaurice@yahoo.fr phone: 261(0)330292353</p> <p>Rakotonandrasana Rivoarison Desire rivoarisondesire@gmail.com Phone: 261(0)342904279</p>
Ranomafana	<p>Mostly birded with Lorret (phone 0341999768 or 0330758940), the top birder here. He was very good and knowledgeable but made use of his recorder too often for my taste, we also had to pay him 90000A for half a day!! Because we did not see very much he gave us one more morning for 40000A and really tried hard for the Brown Mesite.</p> <p>We also had one morning with Dauphin (60000A), a nice guy but no bird specialist, he has a very good eye for insects and frogs though!</p> <p>We also took a guide from the park entrance for 2 hours in an afternoon to see Lemurs (15000A).</p>
Isalo	<p>Spent two long mornings with Jose Emilson, a nice English speaking guide from the park office. He had a good general knowledge and we were very happy with him. 50000A/60000A. Contact: 0324618212</p>
Zombitse	<p>Birded all 3 trails near the NP entrance. This was the only time we were not satisfied with our guides (a boy and a young woman). Cost 40000A for a morning.</p>
Reniala Forest	<p>Birded with 3 guides on 3 occasions. All very nice chaps! One of them, the son of Mosa, was very good. Orlando and a boy who was getting trained had less knowledge but were eager to spot birds for us. Showed us many other animals such as scorpions and spiders. Paid them 70000A in total.</p>
Toliara	<p>Spent an hour or two with Mosa, the owner of Parc Mosa. He showed us Red-shouldered Vanga, which we failed to find on our own. He did not ask to be paid, but asked for 70000A for his taxi driver, a bit strange!!!</p>

Ankarafantsika Birded the whole time with Gerrard. The Park office has fixed prices (mainly between 20000A and 40000A) for various activities or trails.

Itinerary

- 19/10/2011 Airport-Taxi at 4:30am from our home to the Airport in Strasbourg. 7:25am flight to Paris. 10:30 flight to Antananarivo (Tana). Arrival at Tana at 11:00 pm. 2 hours for customs, money exchange and baggage claim. Taxi (15000A) to Hotel Raphia (51000A incl. breakfast, nice, friendly, quiet, Indian Restaurant) near the Airport.
- 20/10/2011 After breakfast, because we were still very tired, took a taxi to Andasibe (85 Euro, 4.5 h incl. lunchbreak). Found a room at Hotel Feon`ny` Ala (but had to change rooms twice). Nice bungalow overlooking stream and forest costs 67000A, simpler rooms 55000A. Beautiful setting of Hotel and its good restaurant, but very busy with tourists. Arrange guides and visit to the National Park.
- 21/10/2011 Birding 6:30am with Guide Desire inside the Park and on the road. First good birds, Lemurs and Indris. Lunch at good food stall in front of Park entrance. Afternoon birding around our Hotel and along the road to the Park entrance.
- 22/10/2011 5:30am with Desire birding the trail behind entrance (Red-breasted Coua) and inside Park.
1:30pm with Maurice to VOI MMA Private Reserve. Rather quiet for birds. Stayed until dark. Excellent night walk. We saw 5 species of Chameleons.
- 23/10/2011 At 5:45am Maurice and a retired Frenchman with his 4x4 (80000A for the day) pick us up to visit Mantadia NP. Stay until afternoon. The Park closes at 4pm. Stopover at some wetland on the way back for Mad. Rail.
- 24/10/2011 5:30 with Maurice inside Andasibe NP. Lazy afternoon at our Lodge.
- 25/10/2011 At 6:00am we stop a Taxi-Brousse on the road. 1h to Moromanga (2000A) where we change into Taxi-B. to Tana (2.5h, 5000A). Taxi to the southern Taxi-B. Station (30min, 15000A). From there we take another Taxi-Brousse until Andasibe (2hr until the Taxi-B. is full and ready to leave, 4hr drive, 15000A). Pousse-Pousse (2500A) to Green Park Hotel (41000A, OK, quiet, lovely garden).
- 26/10/2011 Have to spend 2hr at Bank BNI to cash our Travellers Cheques. Don't reach the Taxi-B. Station until 11:00am and discover there is no more transport going south until the afternoon. We negotiate with our Taxi driver Mamy, who took us from our Hotel, 50 Euros to Ranomafana. A very nice guy, very informative on the journey. We reach Ranomafana after dark at around 7:00pm. Check-in Hotel Chez Gaspard (small Bungalow, 42000A, very friendly and helpful, very quiet, nice garden). Arrange guide for tomorrow.
- 27/10/2011 At 6:30am Mamy, who stayed overnight, drives us together with our guide Dauphin 5km to the Park entrance to buy tickets and then onwards 7km uphill to Vohiparara where we bird until noon. Get a lift back in a 50 year old truck! In the afternoon we meet with guide Lorret to discuss and plan the following days.
- 28/10/2011 5:00 am coffee at the market in Ranomafana. Then with Lorret in Taxi-B. to Vohiparara. Birding until 11:00 am. Rather quiet for birds.
Afternoon Taxi-B. on our own to the Park entrance. With guide from the office 2hr birding and looking for Lemurs. We find Golden Bamboo Lemur. Walk the 5 km to Ranomafana at dusk.

- 29/10/2011 5:00 am coffee followed by an empty bus journey from Setam-Lodge to the Park entrance. Finally manage to see Brown Mesite!!! and Greater Bamboo Lemur.
Night walk (40000A for guide plus car for 2hr). Too busy with tourists, but rewarded with some interesting Chameleons and Brown Mouse Lemur in our flashlights.
- 30/10/2011 At 5:30am we leave for our pre-booked Taxi-Brousse to Fianar (2hr, 7000A p.p.). There we pay 20000A p.p. for transport to Ranohira and wait for the Taxi-B. to fill up. Suddenly one of the boys who works there calls us to hurry up for a private car. We are surprised but travel comfortably with a decent business-man in his Nissan Patrol all the way down south to Ranohira (5hr) for the same price. Hotel Orchidee (35000A, room OK, good restaurant).
Organisation of 2 tours into Isalo NP at the Park Office in Ranohira.
- 31/10/2011 5:00 we start with our guide Jose (60000A) and our driver (60000A) to a parking area 45min away. From there we walk into the canyons de Rats and de Maki. Maybe the most scenic part of our whole trip. Some good birds too.
- 01/11/2011 5:00am again with Jose (50000A) and driver (40000A) travel 4km to a car parking place near the picine naturelle. We don't walk there but hike uphill and do a nice crest walk for about 3 hours. By the time we get down to a beautiful and refreshing natural swimming pool it is already very hot, about 38 C. Rest for about 1 hr before continuing a further 1hr to a camp to observe Ring-tailed Lemurs. Very tired on return to our Hotel at 1:00pm.
- 02/11/2011 Breakfast in a Hotely and pre-reserved transport to Sakaraha at 7:00am. It's not a "normal" Taxi-B. but a small car in which they squeeze 9 people plus the driver !! Have to change transport at Ilhakaka (1hr, more comfortable). In total we pay 13000A p.p. incl. extra charge for the reservation. Minimum 10 Police Check Points before we reach Sakaraha. Hotel La Palace (35000A, room just OK but smelly, staff friendly, restaurant). We meet Bob and Les who have their own transport and who invite us to go birding with them.
- 03/11/2011 5:30 with Bob and Les to the entrance of Zombitse NP (17km from Sakahara) where they have already pre-arranged a bird guide. We spend the morning birding with him. Afterwards all of us change accomodation. Move to the pleasant but simple Eco-Lodge between Sakaraha and the Park. The owner has studied in Germany and is fluent in this language. He is replanting the grounds with native plants and trees. The room rate is 20 Euro. They serve excellent but pricey meals. Dinner with soup and salad was 10 Euro.
Evening roadside birding near the Park.
- 04/11/2011 At 5:00 we start birding in Zombitse NP. This time we have a different guide, a young woman who is not very good. Find Banded Kestrel. Early afternoon myself and Erma wait on the road opposite the Lodge for transport. Bob and Les stay another night. Travel for the double price (40000A) down to Toliara. Hotel Manatane (35000A with balcony, friendly, good). Arrange a driver to visit La Table through our Hotel.
- 05/11/2011 4:45am car to La Table (12km, 40000A until 9:30am). Cannot find Red-shouldered Vanga. Day in Toliara. Indian Restaurant Etoile de Mer. Not bad, very quiet and pleasant.
- 06/11/2011 Breakfast at Hotely. 9:00am speedboat to Anakao (50000A p.p. one way, 1hr for 55km). Simple but clean bungalow in a beautiful garden setting for 55000A. Nice beachfront restaurant (not cheap). Dinner at Anakao village, excellent and much cheaper.

- 07/11/2011 6:00am by Pirogue (hotel organised it) to Nosy Ve. It takes 45min to sail to this Island and we paid 15000A each for half day incl. fresh lunch (Octopus). Fantastic views of the Tropicbirds. Went snorkelling twice, but not too much to see in a rather destroyed reef. Afternoon on the beach/at our Hotel.
- 08/11/2011 Morning birding in the hotel grounds. 9:45am speedboat back to Toliara and the Hotel Manatane to collect our luggage. Money from Bank BNI and then by taxi to Mangily via Lac Belalande. Taxi (30000A, old Renault 5) breaks down halfway and our driver cannot repair it. We wait 1hr, then a Frenchman takes us by 4x4 to Mangily. You better go by truck or 4x4, the road is terrible!! Hotel Chez Daniel (30000A, common bathroom). Arrange birdguide for tomorrow. Dinner in the popular and excellent Restaurant Chez Freddy!
- 09/11/2011 At 5:00am we walk to Parc Mosa with our 3 guides (30000A p.p. half day). Spend morning there staying until 9:30, (any later and it's too hot). This is a wonderful and very special Baobab/Spiny Forest. We see all the goodies apart from Lafresnaye's Vanga. Later we move to the more comfortable Hotel Princess du Lagoon (40000A). In the afternoon and at no extra cost we go to the forest again to find Lafresnaye's Vanga which we spot after 2hr intensive searching. Dinner Chez Freddy.
- 10/11/2011 Meet our guides again at 7:00am They have organised a so-called Malagasy 4x4, a Zebu cart ! We take this slow mode of transport to a dry plain near Ifaty for Madagascar Plover. Good fun!! We pay 10000A for the cart and give the 3 guides 70000A all together. They did not ask for a price but left it to us to pay them whatever we liked. Afternoon lazy at the beach. Dinner Chez Freddy of course!! Best restaurant of the trip. The cocktails are tasty too, try Punch Coco!
- 11/11/2011 Get up 4:30am to catch the pre-arranged Taxi-B (through hotel) to Toliara at 5:15. It takes 2hr and we pay 3000A each. Hotel Manatane. At 2:45 we meet Mosa, the owner of Parc Mosa, who offered to lead us to the Red-shouldered Vanga site and is already waiting for us in a Taxi. We drive to a spot near La Table, walk 10min and find the Vanga easily after Mosa whistled its call. He told me that we don't have to pay him but should pay the driver 70000A! Strange! Indirect payment I suppose.
- 12/11/2011 Taxi (30000A) to the airport 8:40am. Flight with Air Madagascar via Tana to Mahajanga (285 Euro p.p.) departing at 10:25am. Change of aircraft, our Small Bombardier 1000 was supposed to leave at 1:20pm but is delayed for an hour and a half. In Mahajanga we find that our luggage is missing. The very helpful staff locate it in Tana and promise to send it tomorrow morning with the next flight to Mahajanga. They give us 120000A immediately to buy some clothes and toiletries. We are impressed! Taxi (30000A) to Hotel Anjari (60000A, good, clean, quiet, air con). Dinner at an Indian restaurant called Kismet (tasty goat curry).
- 13/11/2011 Walk around the interesting part of town. Breakfast, then back to hotel. Only minutes later our luggage arrives and we feel very much relieved. Taxi (3000A) to where the regional Taxi-B. leave. After 1hr waiting we drive to the entrance of Ankarafantsika National Park (2.5h, 8000A). We organise a 5 night stay and a bird guide. As all bungalows are occupied we stay in a small and basic room with common bathroom for 35000A. Walk along main road to watch birds on Lake Ravelobe. We see our first Madag. Pond Heron. Nice dinner at the Park's restaurant which is a good place to watch Sifakas and some birds.
- 14/11/2011 5:00am we start birding with our guide Gerrard. We target Schlegel's Asity and White-breasted Mesite which we locate quite easily on Circuit Retendrika.

- After breakfast we move to a big and comfortable bungalow (100000A !! a bit overpriced, lake view terrace). Boat trip (30000A or 40000A) on Lake Ravelobe at 4:00pm. We spot Fish-Eagles far away.
- 15/11/2011 5:30 am start when we walk into the forest to look for Van Dam`s Vanga, but cannot find it. We then walk 4.5 km to a very beautiful Canyon (Ankarokaroka) with bizarre rock formations. Sooty Falcon on the way! We spend some time at the bottom of this Canyon before we start walking back in the heat of the day.
We take it easy in the afternoon and only observe birds from the watchtower near our bungalow. After dusk we do a night walk where we see nothing apart from Golden-Brown Mouse Lemur. When we return our neighbours find that their bungalow has been totally robbed (bins, money, boots, books, snorkel and mask...).
- 16/11/2011 In the morning we try again to find Van Dam`s Vanga. With us are two other birdwatchers, Ilka and Ken. We hear it once or twice, but that`s it. In the afternoon we walk to some old Baobab trees. No interesting birds.
- 17/11/2011 A 4:40am start walking to Gerrard`s village where we pick up someone who reckons he knows of a nest of Crested Ibis hopefully enabling us to observe it easily. Unfortunately when we reach the nest after 1hr walking we find that it`s an old one. Gerrard feels really bad because he relied on his contact and did not check the nest himself before guiding us there. Our moods are down too. Unfortunately we also have to change accommodation one more time, back to the basic room. Because Gerrard felt guilty he organised a Van Dam`s specialist, his uncle Justin, to show us this bird, he asked us to be ready for 2:00pm as this would be the perfect time for Van Dam`s. And really, after 15min in the forest we hear Van Dam`s Vanga, Justin calls it in and the bird lands on a branch nearby. We are able to watch it for at least 10 min. That`s birding!!!
Later in the afternoon we walk around Lake Ravelobe. Nice little hike. We have fantastic views of Mad. Fish Eagle and White-throated Rail.
- 18/11/2011 6:30 breakfast at the roadside restaurant (Riz Cantonese). At 8:30 we are ready for the pre-arranged Taxi-Brousse to take us back to Tana. It`s 2 hours late, but at least a fast Mercedes Sprinter. The journey is 450km, takes 8hrs and costs 30000A p.p.. We get down at Talatamaty (a suburb), near the airport and our hotel. Taxi (6000A) to Hotel Raphia. Nice and quiet room with two beds for 61000A incl. breakfast. Good Indian food in the attached Restaurant "Le Basmati".
- 19/11/2011 Breakfast at 7:00am followed by minibus from main road (100m from Hotel) to Tana city (1hr, 400A). At a place called "67" we change transport (minibus Nr. 015) to the Zoo (20min, 300A). Visit the Zoo for 2 hours. Quite interesting and green, lots of Herons, but not like European Zoos. It`s all a bit depressing seeing the animals in those small, dirty and simple cages. Lunch at a nearby Indonesian restaurant "Sarimanok". OK, but not particularly authentic.
Taxi to Lake Anosy, where we stroll around before we visit Isoraka, the "Quartier Latin" of Tana. Quite nice but don`t expect too much. We continue walking for another two or three hours through various streets and markets until we reach the train station. Taxi back to a street where Minibuses depart back to Talatamaty. Back at our hotel we find that a small amount of money is missing and tell the lady who owns the place and she finds out later that the housekeeper has stolen it. Thefts of this nature appear to be a growing concern in Madagascar.

- 20/11/2011 Minibus to the Tourist Market “Antsampanana” where we buy excellent quality Vanilla and Pepper for a fair price after long bargaining. Dinner in the new Thai Restaurant “Tamrap Thai”. OK.
- 21/11/2011 Lazy day. We pack and pay our bill. In the afternoon it starts to rain heavily. Time to leave! At 10:00pm a Taxi (20000A) drives us to the Airport.
- 22/11/2011 At 1:30 we depart on time on our flight back to Paris, where we have to change Airports. We take a shuttle bus from Charles de Gaulle to Orly (45min, 19 Euro p.p.). 16:50 with Britair to Strasbourg, where a taxi awaits us to take us home.

Andasibe-Mantadia National Park 20/11 – 24/10/2011

1: Andasibe NP 2: Mantadia NP 3: VOI MMA Private Reserve 4: Road to NP
5: Feon`ny` ala Lodge

Beautiful mid-altitude rainforest reserves between 800m and 1260m. Good and fairly easy trails lead through Andasibe National Park. To get to Mantadia NP you need a 4x4. We spent a full day at Mantadia, which holds some species that do not occur in Andasibe. A small lake holds Mellers Duck and Madag. Little Grebe, as well as Madag. Swamp-Warbler. On the way back we stopped at some wetland for Madagascar Rail.

We also birded the road from our Hotel to the entrance of Andasibe NP several times and spent an afternoon at VOI MMA Private Reserve. Also did a very rewarding night walk there.



Collared Nightjar

- 1 Madagascar Little Grebe 2**
- Cattle Egret
- 1 Purple Heron 2
- 2 Meller`s Duck 2**
- 3 Madagascar Buzzard 1 2 5**
- 1 Frances`s Sparrowhawk 4**
- 1 Madagascar Sparrowhawk 4**
- 3 Madagascar Kestrel 4 5**
- 2 White-throated Rail 1**
- 2 Madagascar Flufftail 2 4**
- 3 Madagascar Rail 2**
- 2 Madagascar Green Pigeon 3**
- 5 Madagascar Blue Pigeon 1 4**

fc	Madagascar Turtle Dove
2	Greater Vasa Parrot ²
3	Lesser Vasa Parrot 1
2	Madagascar Coucal 3 4
5	Blue Coua 1 4
2	Red-breasted Coua 1
2	Red-fronted Coua 1
	Rainforest Scops Owl 5 heard
4	Madagascar Nightjar 5
2	Collared Nightjar 2
f	Madagascar Spine-tailed Swift 2 5
3	Madagascar Kingfisher 2 3
5	Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher 1 2
f	Broad-billed Roller 1
f	Madagascar Bee-Eater 2
1	Short-legged Ground Roller 2
2	Pitta-like Ground Roller 1 2
1	Rufous-headed Ground Roller 1
2	Cuckoo Roller 1
1	Velvet Asity 1
1	Common Sunbird Asity 2
2	Sand Martin 2
2	Mascarene Martin 2 4
fc	Madagascar Wagtail
4	Madagascar Cuckoo-shrike 2 4
c	Madagascar Bulbul
c	Madagascar Magpie-Robin
f	Stonechat
1	Forest Rock Thrush 1
1	Madagascar Swamp-Warbler 2
c	Madagascar Brush-Warbler
f	Rand's Warbler 1 4
fc	Common Newtonia
2	Dark Newtonia 2
8	Long-billed Bernieria 1
4	Spectacled Tetraka 1
3	White-throated Oxylabes 1
fc	Common Jery
3	Green Jery 4 5
1	Stripe-throated Jery 4
4	Wedge-tailed Jery 2
fc	Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher
c	Souimanga Sunbird
2	Long-billed Green Sunbird 3 4
fc	Madagascar White-eye
fc	Ward's Flycatcher
3	White-headed Vanga 3 5
2	Hook-billed Vanga 1
f	Red-tailed Vanga 3 4
3	Nuthatch Vanga 3 5
fc	Chabert's Vanga

4 **Blue Vanga** 4 5
3 **Tylas Vanga** 2
c **Crested Drongo**
8 **Madagascar Starling** 3
fc **Nelicourvi Weaver**
2 **Madagascar Red Fody** 3
7 **Forest Fody** 1 2
2 **Madagascar Mannikin** 2 3





Ralf together with Lorret at Ranomafana

Ranomafana NP 26/10 – 29/10/2011

1: Forest Main Entrance 2 : Vohiparara

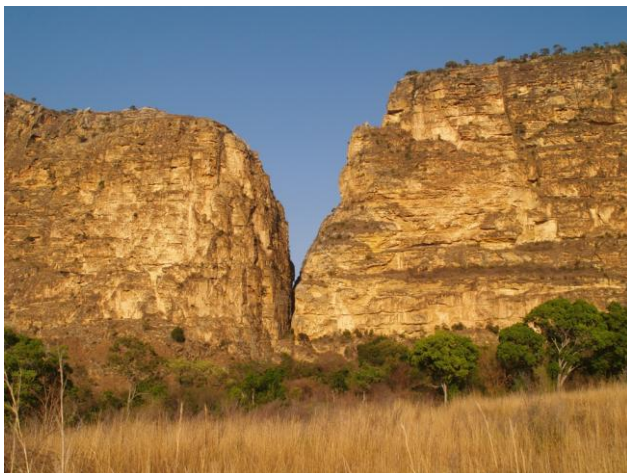
Another magnificent montane rainforest reserve between 600m and 1400m. Visited the National Park through the main gate as well as the higher Vohiparara several times. Brown Mesite was the most difficult to find bird of our trip. Other specialities were Brown Emutail, Pollen's Vanga and Cryptic Warbler.

fc	Cattle Egret
2	Madagascar Buzzard 1 2
2	Brown Mesite 1
1	Madagascar Woodrail 2
f	Madagascar Blue Pigeon 1
f	Madagascar Turtle Dove 1 2
2	Greater Vasa Parrot 1
4	Lesser Vasa Parrot 1 2
5	Blue Coua 1 2
1	Red-fronted Coua 2
1	Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo 2
f	Madagascar Spine-tailed Swift
f	Malagasy Black Swift 1
f	African Palm Swift
f	Madagascar Bee-eater
2	Short-legged Ground Roller 2
2	Pitta-like Ground Roller 1
1	Rufous-headed Ground Roller 2
1	Cuckoo Roller 1
6	Velvet Asity 1 2
1	Common Sunbird Asity 2
f	Madagascar Lark road to Ranamofana
f	Mascarene Martin
	Madagascar Wagtail
f	Madagascar Cuckoo-shrike 1 2

fc Madagascar Bulbul
 Madagascar Magpie-Robin
 f Stonechat 2
 Forest Rock Thrush 2 heard
1 Brown Emutail 2
 c Madagascar Brush-Warbler
2 Cryptic Warbler 2
 c Common Newtonia
 Dark Newtonia 2 heard
 fc Long-billed Bernieria
 f Spectacled Tetraka
 2 White-throated Oxylabes 1
 f Common Jery
 1 Green Jery 1
 1 Stripe-throated Jery 2
 2 Wedge-tailed Jery 1
 fc Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher
 c Souimanga Sunbird
 1 Long-billed Green Sunbird 1
 c Madagascar White-eye
 2 White-headed Vanga 1
 f Chabert`s Vanga 1
 4 Blue Vanga 1
1 Pollen`s Vanga 2
 f Tylas Vanga 1 2
 Rufous Vanga 2 heard
 f Crested Drongo 1 2
 f Pied Crow
 Common Myna
 2 Madagascar Starling 1
 Forest Fody 2 heard
 f Nelicourvi Weaver 1

Isalo NP 30/10 – 01/11/2011

1: Canyons Maki and Rats 2: Crest Circle, Picine Naturelle, Camp



A huge National Park (81500ha) consisting of remarkable landscape of eroded sandstone outcrops and beautiful canyon with wooded areas in and around those gorges. Not a must for birdwatchers, but very scenic and excellent for hiking. Benson`s Rock Thrush is the special bird of Isalo NP. Hot and dry !! Start walking as early as possible. The starting point to visit this Park is Ranohira or one of the lodges that are scattered around the Park.

2	Madagascar Buzzard
fc	Yellow-billed Kite
c	Madagascar Kestrel
c	Helmeted Guineafowl
3	Madagascar Buttonquail 1
	Madagascar Turtle Dove
3	Gray-headed Lovebird 1
1	Crested Coua 1
3	Madagascar Coucal 1 2
fc	Madagascar Black Swift 1
f	Madagascar Spine-tailed Swift
2	Madagascar Kingfisher 1
f	Madagascar Bee-eater
f	Broad-billed Roller 1 2
1	Cuckoo Roller 1
f	Madagascar Lark
f	Mascarene Martin 1
	Madagascar Wagtail
	Madagascar Bulbul
	Madagascar Magpie-Robin
fc	Benson`s Rock Thrush 1 2
2	Madagascar Brush-Warbler
f	Common Jery 1
4	Madagascar Cisticola 1
c	Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher
	Madagascar White-eye
	Pied Crow
	Common Myna
2	Madagascar Red Fody



a Ring-tailed Lemur at Isalo NP

Zombitse NP 02/11 – 04/11/2011

On the way from Isalo/Ranohira to Toliara. Zombitse is the last remaining transition forest between western and southern regions. It is home of a very range restricted endemic, Appert's Greenbul. Other specialities are Giant Coua, Coquerel's Coua, Banded Kestrel and Archbold's Newtonia. Try to stay at least one full day. Two mornings would do the place justice. There are 3 easy trails starting from the Park office/entrance. You can find accommodation in Sakaraha or stay in an Eco-Lodge 10km from the Park entrance.



Totoroka Scops Owl

- 1 Little Grebe
- Madagascar Buzzard
- Yellow-billed Kite
- 1 Frances Sparrowhawk
- 1 Banded Kestrel**
- Helmeted Guineafowl
- 6 Madagascar Buttonquail
- f Greater Vasa Parrot
- fc Lesser Vasa Parrot
- 2 Crested Coua
- 3 Giant Coua**
- 4 Coquerel's Coua**
- 1 Totoroka Scops Owl**
- 2 Madagascar Nightjar
- fc Madagascar Bee-eater
- fc Broad-billed Roller
- f Cuckoo Roller
- f Madagascar Hoopoe**
- Madagascar Magpie-Robin
- f Common Newtonia
- 2 Archbold's Newtonia**
- 10 Appert's Tetraka**
- f Long-billed Bernieria
- Common Jery
- Madagascar Cisticola

fc Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher
 Madagascar White-eye
 f Blue Vanga
2 **Sickle-billed Vanga**
 Pied Crow
 Common Myna

La Table 05/11 and 11/11/2011

We spent one morning near La Table. We started to walk from a parking lot at the foot of La Table towards a white Madonna on a hill. Good habitat, but not the place for Red-shouldered Vanga. One week later we went again for a short visit together with Mosa who knew the place to see the Vanga. Easy to find if you are at the right spot.

2 **Madagascar Partridge**
 f Namaqua Dove
 2 Madagascar Coucal
3 **Verraux Coua**
c **Subdesert Brush-Warbler**
 Madagascar Cisticola
 f Blue Vanga
1 **Red-shouldered Vanga**
f **Sakalava Weaver**
 f Madagascar Red Fody

Anakao 06/11 – 08/11/2011

We spent 2 nights at the beautiful beach of Anakao village. Pleasant, laid back Resort. Littoral Rock Thrush in the Hotel grounds. And the starting point for Nosy Ve. To get there take a speed boat from Toliara (1 hour).



our lodge at Anakao

2 Madagascar Buttonquail
 f Common Sandpiper
 c Namaqua Dove
fc **Littoral Rock-Thrush**
 fc Subdesert Brush-Warbler
 c Madagascar Red Fody

fc Sakalava Weaver

Nosy Ve 07/11/2011

Our Hotel organised a Piroge to the Island. The crossing took about 40 minutes. Walked around the Island and observed several Tropicbirds on their nests or flying over. They breed hidden in bushes. Beautiful birds!! Had lunch before we returned to our Resort. Our two boatmen prepared fresh octopus for us.



Red-tailed Tropicbird

10-15 Red-tailed Tropicbird

f Dimorphic Egret
2 Gray Heron
2 Crab Plover
f Whimbrel
f Black-bellied Plover
fc Killitz Plover
 Ruddy Turnstone
 Namaqua Dove
f Subdesert Brush-Warbler
 Madagascar Cisticola



Littoral Rock-Thrush

Lac Belalande 08/11/2011

Visited this site only for half an hour and at mid-day. Did not find Greater Painted Snipe as we had hoped for.

- f Red-billed Teal
- f Hottentot Teal
- fc Black-winged Stilt
- fc Curlew Sandpiper
- fc Killitz Plover
- f Black-tailed Godwit
- fc Common Ringed Plover
- f Black-bellied Plover
- f Ruddy Turnstone

Spiny Forest, Mangily, Ifaty 09/11/2011 – 11/11/2011

One of the highlights! Fantastic and very unique Baobab Forest and Spiny Bush inside the private Parc Mosa. Saw all the specialities on 2 visits. The Reserve was not more than 15 min on foot away from our Hotel. Also did a Zebu-Cart trip to a dry plain near Ifaty to find Madagascar Plover among many White-fronted Plovers.



- f Madagascar Buzzard
- Yellow-billed Kite
- f Madagascar Kestrel
- 1 Subdesert Mesite**
- 3 Madagascar Plover**
- c Killitz Plover
- f White-fronted Plover
- Madagascar Turtle-Dove
- c Namaqua Dove
- Lesser Vasa Parrot
- f Grey-headed Lovebird
- f Madagascar Coucal
- 2 Crested Coua

- 4 **Running Coua**
- 2 **Red (Green)-capped Coua**
- 1 Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo
- 1 Madagascar Nightjar
- Madagascar Black Swift
- Madagascar Spine-tailed Swift
- Madagascar Bee-eater
- 4 **Long-tailed Ground Roller**
- Madagascar Hoopoe
- Madagascar Lark
- Madagascar Bulbul
- Madagascar Magpie-Robin
- Stonechat
- Subdesert Brush-Warbler
- 1 **Thamnornis Warbler**
- 3 Archbold's Newtonia
- Common Jery
- f Stripe-throated Jery
- Madagascar Cisticola
- Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher



my wife Erma together with guides on our Zebu cart trip

- Souimanga Sunbird
- 2 Red-tailed Vanga
- f Chabert's Vanga

- 2 **Lafresnaye`s Vanga**
- 3 Sickle-billed Vanga
- Crested Drongo
- Pied Crow
- Common Myna
- Madagascar Red Fody
- Sakalava Weaver
- f Madagascar Mannikin

Ankarafantsika NP 13/11 – 18/11/2011



Ralf and Erma at Ankarakaroka Canyon

Our last birding destination in Madagascar. Easy to reach from Mahajunga. We spent 6 days in Ankarafantsika NP and stayed in accommodation the Park offers. There are also 2 restaurants near the Park Offices. One is frequently visited by Sifakas.

We walked different trails. Circuit Retendrika for Asity and Mesite. Around the Lake for Madag. Fish Eagle and a few times Circuit Coquereli for Vangas and Couas. One time we continued to the scenic Ankarakaroka Canyon (Sooty Falcon on the way). We did a 1 hr boat trip on Lake Ravelobe and birded the Lake from hides, from the trail to the Baobabs or from the road several times. Specialities were Humblot`s Heron, Madag. Pond Heron, Madag. Jacana and Madag. Fish Eagle.

Ankarafantsika is also a fantastic place to see snakes. Don't think I have ever seen so many snakes in a day.



Lake Ravelobe

3	African Darter
4	Little Bittern
f	Green-backed Heron
c	Cattle Egret
fc	Squacco Heron
2	Madagascar Pond Heron
2	Black Heron
1	Grey Heron
2	Humblot's Heron
fc	Purple Heron
f	Great Egret
f	Dimorphic Egret
2	Hamerkop ???
c	Glossy Ibis
c	White-faced Whistling Duck
2	Madagascar Fish Eagle
	Yellow-billed Kite
f	Madagascar Buzzard
2	Frances's Sparrowhawk
1	Peregrine

2 Sooty Falcon
 6 Madagascar Kestrel
 1 Madagascar Buttonquail
4 White-breasted Mesite
 fc Allens Gallinule
4 Madagascar Jacana
 6 Madagascar Green Pigeon
 c Madagascar Turtle-Dove
 f Namaqua Dove
 2 Grey-headed Lovebird
 fc Greater Vasa Parrot
 fc Lesser Vasa Parrot
 f Madagascar Coucal
 3 Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo
 2 Crested Coua
8 Red-capped Coua
 2 Coquerel's Coua
 1 Madagascar Nightjar
 f African Palm Swift
 1 Madagascar Kingfisher
 1 Pygmy Kingfisher
 c Broad-billed Roller
 c Madagascar Bee-eater
 1 Cuckoo Roller
 fc Madagascar Hoopoe
4 Schlegel's Asity
 Madagascar Lark
 f Mascarene Martin
 f Ashy Cuckoo-Shrike
 Madagascar Bulbul
 Madagascar Magpie-Robin
 Common Newtonia
 3 Long-billed Bernieria
 Common Jery
 Madagascar Cisticola
 Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher



Coquerel's Sifaka

4 White-headed Vanga
 4 Chabert's Vanga
 6 Sickie-billed Vanga
 3 **Rufous Vanga**
 1 **Van Dam's Vanga**
 3 Hook-billed Vanga
 c Crested Drongo
 f Pied Crow
 Common Myna
 f Sakalava Weaver

Antananarivo (Zoo) 19/11 – 22/11/2011

c Cattle Egret
 f Black-crowned Night-Heron
 f Green-backed Heron
 Great Egret

Birdlist

Madagascar Little Grebe a single bird seen at a small lake at Mantadia
Little Grebe seen between Sakahara and Zombitse NP
Red-tailed Tropicbird between 10 to 15 birds seen nesting or flying on Nosy Ve Island
African Darter 3 on Lake Ravelobe
Little Bittern 4 on Lake Ravelobe from the bridge on the mainroad 5 min the headquarter
Green-backed Heron few Lake Ravelobe, Tana Zoo
Black-crowned Night-Heron few birds Tana Zoo
Cattle Egret common
Squacco Heron common Lake Ravelobe
Malagasy Pond Heron 2 individuals on Lake Ravelobe
Gray Heron seen Lake Ravelobe, Nosy Ve
Humboldt's Heron 2 on Lake Ravelobe were the only one's of our trip. Absent from N. Ve
Purple Heron fairly common Lake Ravelobe, 1 Mantadia
Great Egret fairly common throughout
Dimorphic Egret seen Lake Ravelobe and Nosy Ve
Black Heron beautiful observations on Lake Ravelobe of 2 birds "shading"
Hamerkop Lake Ravelobe
Glossy Ibis common Lake Ravelobe. Some on route to Ranohira
White-faced Whistling Duck fairly common Lake Ravelobe
Meller's Duck 2 birds observed on a lake at Mantadia
Red-billed Teal seen Lac Belalande
Hottentot Teal Lac Belalande
Madagascar Fish-Eagle beautiful observations of a pair on Lake Ravelobe
Yellow-billed Kite small numbers throughout
Madagascar Buzzard singles seen Ankarafantsika, Parc Mosa, Andasibe, Zombitse, Isalo, Ranomafana

Frances's Sparrowhawk 2 birds at Ankarafantsika, 1 at Andasibe on the road from Feon'ny'Ala to the Park entrance and 1 at Zombitse
Madagascar Sparrowhawk a single bird on the road to the Park entrance at Andasibe
Banded Kestrel 1 bird in a tree at Zombitse NP
Madagascar Kestrel singles in various sites
Sooty Falcon 2 birds in Ankarafantsika in dry grassland on the way to the canyon
Peregrine 1 individual seen flying in the canyon at Ankarafantsika
Helmeted Guineafowl seen at Zombitse and Isalo
Madagascar Partridge 2 seen for a moment at La Table
Madagascar Buttonquail quite common and easy to see at Isalo, Zombitse, Anakao and Ankarafantsika
White-breasted Mesite 4 birds seen at Ankarafantsika. Not shy.
Brown Mesite The most difficult bird of the trip. A pair finally seen passing a track on our last visit to Ranomafana. Extremely secretive and not very vocal.
Subdesert Mesite a splendid observation at Parc Mosa
Madagascar Wood-Rail 1 bird seen at Vohiparara crossing a path. Heard one more time
White-throated Rail 2 birds at Andasibe, 1 at Ankarafantsika on the Lakeside trail.
Madagascar Rail 3 at a marsh on the way Mantadia
Madagascar Flufftail 1 from close range through my bins at Mantadia, 1 crossing the road to the Park entrance at Andasibe
Common Coot
Purple Swampphen ???
Allen's Gallinule fairly common Lake Ravelobe
Madagascar Jacana 4 birds seen from Boat on Lake Ravelobe
Crab Plover 2 at the shore on Nosy Ve
Black-tailed Godwit a dozen at Lac Belalande
Whimbrel quite common at Toliara, few Nosy Ve
Black-winged Stilt two dozen at Lac Belalande
Black-bellied Plover seen Lac Belalande, Nosy Ve, Toliara
Ruddy Turnstone Lac Belalande, Nosy Ve
Common Ringed Plover Lac Belalande
Killitz's Plover seen around Ifaty, Mangily, Anakao, Nosy Ve, Lac Belalande
White-fronted Plover few birds around Ifaty at the Madag. Plover site and Nosy Ve
Madagascar Plover 3 birds found on a dry plain near Ifaty. A pair with one chick. Not shy.
Greenshank few Lac Belalande
Curlew Sandpiper many at Lac Belalande, Anakao
Common Sandpiper seen at Anakao
Madagascar Green Pigeon few seen at Ankarafantsika, 2 Andasibe
Madagascar Blue Pigeon seen at Andasibe and Ranomafana
Madagascar Turtle Dove fairly common at suitable habitat
Namaqua Dove common in the drier parts of the country
Gray-headed Lovebird 2 at Ankarafantsika, few at Parc Mosa, 3 at Isalo
Greater Vasa Parrot found at most forest sites
Lesser Vasa Parrot found at most forest sites. Usually more common than Greater Vasa.
Madagascar Coucal some observed at Ankarafantsika, Parc Mosa, La Table, Isalo, Andasibe
Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo 3 seen at Ankarafantsika, 1 Ranomafana, 1 at Parc Mosa. Many more heard.
Blue Coua 5 found at Andasibe, 5 at Ranomafana
Crested Coua 2 seen at Ankarafantsika, 2 at Parc Mosa, 2 at Zombitse, 1 at Isalo
Verreaux's Coua 3 seen near La Table

Running Coua 4 at Parc Mosa
Giant Coua 3 of this superb Coua`s seen at Zombitse. Had great views!
Red-capped Coua 8 seen easily at Ankarafantsika
Green-capped Coua 2 at Parc Mosa, one of them on the nest
Coquerel`s Coua 2 individuals found at Ankarafantsika, 4 at Zombitse
Red-breasted Coua 2 at Andasibe on a track behind the Park entrance towards Andasibe village. Nice observation !
Red-fronted Coua 2 seen nicely at Andasibe, 1 at Ranomafana
Torotorokaka Scops Owl 1 in day roost low in a tree at Zombitse
Rainforest Scops Owl heard few times from our Hotel at Andasibe
Madagascar Nightjar some at Feon`ny`Ala Lodge and 1 at Parc Mosa, 1 Ankarafantsika and 2 at Zombitse
Collared Nightjar Maurice showed us 2 of these beauties at its day roost at Mantadia
Malagasy Black Swift seen at Isalo, Parc Mosa, Ranomafana
Madagascar Spinetail small numbers at Andasibe, Parc Mosa, Isalo, Ranomafana
African Palm Swift seen at Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana
Malagasy Kingfisher 1 at Ankarafantsika, 2 Isalo, 3 at Andasibe/Mantadia
Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher one of the most beautiful birds of the trip! Splendid observations at Ankarafantsika, 3 at Mantadia/Private Reserve
Madagascar (Olive) Bee-eater seen at most sites
Broad-billed Roller common at Ankarafantsika and Zombitse. Few Isalo and Andasibe
Short-legged Ground Roller 1 fantastic observation at Mantadia, 2 at Vohiparara
Pitta-like Ground Roller first seen at Andasibe/Mantadia, then 2 birds at Ranomafana. A gem!!!
Long-tailed Ground Roller 4 ind. of this Mega-Species beautifully observed at Parc Mosa. one of the most fascinating birds of our trip !
Rufous-headed Ground Roller a single bird at Vohiparara flying into a little cave and hiding there. Nesting ? 1 at Andasibe
Cuckoo Roller some seen at Zombitse, 1 at Isalo and 1 at Ankarafantsika,.1 Ranomafana, 2 at Andasibe. More often heard.
Madagascar Hoopoe fairly common at Zombitse, Ankarafantsika, Parc Mosa
Velvet Asity 1 female at Andasibe and 6 birds at Ranomafana/Vohiparara.
Schlegel`s Asity 4 of this localised species observed at Ankarafantsika at Circuit Retendrika
Common Sunbird Asity 1 bird seen by surprise at Mantadia while watching Short-legged Ground Roller. Another one, a female, at Vohiparara
Madagascar Bush Lark small numbers in drier habitat
Sand Martin 2 on the way to Mantadia
Mascarene Martin found at Ankarafantsika, Isalo, Ranomafana and Andasibe/Mantadia
Madagascar Wagtail found at many places
Madagascar (Ashy) Cuckoo-Shrike fairly common at most sites
Madagascar Bulbul common
Madagascar Magpie-Robin common
Common Stonechat seen at Parc Mosa, around Ifaty, Vohiparara and Andasibe
Benson`s Rock Thrush fairly common at Isalo NP, esp. around the canyons de Maki and Rats
Forest Rock Thrush only a single bird at Andasibe. Heard Vohiparara
Littoral Rock Thrush fairly common around Anakao. Even seen on the grounds of our hotel
Brown Emutail one of those creeping, mouse like creatures at Vohiparara. Difficult. Seen only with the help of Lorret`s tape recorder.
Madagascar Brush Warbler extremely common Andasibe/Mantadia and Ranomafana, 2 Isalo

Subdesert Brush Warbler common Anakao, La Table. Few Nosy Ve
Madagascar Swamp Warbler 1 watched at the Lake (Meller's Duck place) at Mantadia
Rand's Warbler few at Andasibe
Cryptic Warbler 2 of this recently discovered species at Vohiparara
Thamnornis Warbler only seen at Parc Mosa. An early morning bird singing from top of a tree.
Common Newtonia found at most places
Dark Newtonia 2 birds at Mantadia. Heard Vohiparara
Archbold's Newtonia 2 birds of this species seen at Zombitse, 3 at Parc Mosa
Appert's Tetraka about 10 birds of this range restricted species found on two walks at Zombitse NP
Spectacled Tetraka 4 observed at Andasibe and some at Ranomafana
Long-billed Bernieria 3 at Ankarafantsika, few at Zombitse, fairly common Ranomafana. 8 birds at Andasibe
White-throated Oxylabes 3 individuals at Andasibe and 2 at Ranomafana
Common Jery seen at Andasibe, Ranomafana, Ankarafantsika, P. Mosa, Zombitse, Isalo
Stripe-throated Jery small numbers at P. Mosa, 1 at Vohiparara, 1 at Andasibe
Green Jery first 4 birds at Andasibe. Then 1 at Ranomafana
Wedge-tailed Jery 4 birds at Mantadia, 2 at Ranomafana
Madagascar Cisticola seen Ankarafantsika, P. Mosa, La Table, Nosy Ve and Zombitse, Isalo
Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher common
Souimanga Sunbird common
Long-billed Green Sunbird 2 seen at Andasibe and 1 at Ranomafana
Madagascar White-eye seen at Zombitse, Isalo, Ranomafana and Andasibe.
Ward's Flycatcher fairly common at Andasibe. Seen from our Bungalow/Balcony
White-headed Vanga 4 at Ankarafantsika, 2 at Ranomafana and 3 at Andasibe
Red-tailed Vanga some birds seen at Andasibe, 2 at Parc Mosa
Red-shouldered Vanga we first searched on our own at the wrong place. Before we flew to Mahajunga, Mosa showed us a superb individual on a rather quick visit to a spot near La Table. Watched this vocal bird from 4m distance for at least 10 min !!!
Nuthatch Vanga 3 at Andasibe, even one from our Bungalow
Chabert's Vanga 4 at Ankarafantsika, few P. Mosa, Ranomafana, quite common Andasibe
Blue Vanga few near La Table, Zombitse, Andasibe and Ranomafana
Lafresnaye's Vanga missed on our first morning at Parc Mosa. Found the next day in the Afternoon but our three guides had to work hard to spot 2 birds.
Van Dam's Vanga very difficult to find. Not vocal, did not respond well. 1 male finally seen not far from the headquarters on our 4th and last try. Observed well!
Pollen's Vanga a single bird at Vohiparara
Tylas Vanga 3 at Andasibe and few Ranomafana
Sickle-billed Vanga 6 beautiful observations at Ankarafantsika, 3 at P. Mosa, 2 Zombitse
Hook-billed Vanga 3 birds found at Ankarafantsika and 2 at Andasibe
Rufous Vanga only seen at Ankarafantsika – 3 birds. Heard at Vohiparara
Crested Drongo fairly common to common at many sites
Madagascar Starling 8 at Andasibe (private reserve) and 2 at Ranomafana
Common Myna frequently seen in smaller numbers
Pied Crow seen at most sites in small numbers
Madagascar Red Fody Parc Mosa, Anakao, La Table, Isalo and Andasibe
Forest Fody 7 found at Andasibe/Mantadia. Heard Vohiparara
Sakalava Weaver some birds at Ankarafantsika, P. Mosa, La Table and Anakao
Nelicourvi Weaver fairly common Ranomafana and Andasibe/Mantadia

Madagascar Mannikin seen at Andasibe/Mantadia, Mangily, Parc Mosa,

Tenrecidae

Lowland Streaked Tenrec – Hemicentetes semispinosus good looks at 1 at Andasibe

Lemuridae

Grey Mouse Lemur - Microcebus murinus	Parc Mosa
Brown Mouse Lemur – Microcebus rufous	1 at night walk Ranomafana
Golden-brown Mouse Lemur – Microcebus ravelobensis	1 of those beautys at Ankarafantsika at night
Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur – Cheirogaleus crossleyi	1 at Andasibe, Private Reserve
Milne Edward`s Sportive Lemur – Lepilemur edwardsi	2 at Ankarafantsika
Hubbard`s Sportive Lemur – Lepilemur hubbardi	few at Zombitse
Small-toothed Sportive Lemur – Lepilemur microdon	1 at VOI MMA private reserve, Andasibe
Estern Gray Bamboo Lemur – Hapalemur griseus	5 at Andasibe
Golden Bamboo Lemur – Hapalemur aureus	2 at Ranomafana
Greater Bamboo Lemur – Hapalemur simus	2 at Ranomafana
Ring-tailed Lemur – Lemur katta	15 Isalo
Mongoose Lemur – Eulemur mongoz	2 at Ankarafantsika
Red-bellied Lemur – Eulemur rubiventer	1 at Mantadia
Common Brown Lemur – Eulemur fulvus	fc Andasibe/Mantadia, Ankarafantsika and Ranomafana
Red-fronted Brown Lemur – Eulemur rufus	8 seen at Ranomafana, few Isalo

Indriidae

Indri – Indri indri	6 at Andasibe. Heard day and night
Diademed Sifaka – Propithecus diadema	5 at Andasibe, incl. our Lodge
Verreaux`s Sifaka – Propithecus verreauxii	3 at Isalo (before canyon de Rats), few at Zombitse
Coquerel`s Sifaka – Propithecus coquereli	Some at Ankarafantsika. Even visited the park`s restaurant !

Rhinolophoidae

Commerson`s Leaf-nosed Bat – Hipposideros commersoni 2 at Ankarafantsika

Cricotidae

Eastern Forest Rat – Nesomys rufus	fairly common Andasibe/Mantadia and Ranomafana
Western Tufted Rat – Eliurus myoxinus	

Viverridae

Ring-tailed Mongoose – Galidia elegans	2 at Vohiparara
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Crocodylidae

Nile Crocodile – Crocodylus niloticus	5 or 6 at Lake Ravelobe
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Chamaeleonidae

Short-horned Chameleon – <i>Calumna brevicornis</i>	1 at nightwalk VOI MMA private reserve, Andasibe
Nose-horned Chameleon – <i>Calumna nasuta</i>	1 nightwalk VOI MMA, Andasibe
Band-bellied Chameleon – <i>Calumna gastrotaenia</i>	2 nightwalk VOI MMA, Andasibe
O`Shaughnessy`s Chameleon – <i>Calumna oshaughnessyi</i>	1 at Ranomafana, near the river
Blue-legged Chameleon – <i>Calumna crypticum</i>	2 at Ranomafana night walk
Glaw`s Flap-necked Chameleon – <i>Calumna glawis</i>	1 at Ranomafana night walk
<i>Calumna palcetus</i>	1 at Ranomafana night walk
Parson`s Chameleon -	4 at Andasibe/Mantadia during day
Oustalet`s Chameleon – <i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	few at Zombitse
Will`s Chameleon – <i>Furcifer willsii</i>	1 at Ranomafana night walk
Greater Stump-tailed Chameleon – <i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>	1 at the night walk at VOI MMA private reserve, Andasibe

Gekkonidae

Madagascar Day Gecko – <i>Phelsuma madagascariensis</i>	
Lineated Day Gecko – <i>Phelsuma lineata</i>	fc Andasibe. Often at/in houses
Standing`s Day Gecko – <i>Phelsuma standingi</i>	some Zombitse and Parc Mosa
Peacock Day Gecko – <i>Phelsuma quadricellata</i>	Ranomafana
Mercator Tropical House Gecko – <i>Hemidactylus mercatorius</i>	
Sakalava Gecko – <i>Homopholis sakalava</i>	
Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko – <i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>	1 on road from our lodge to Andasibe village. Extremely difficult to spot due to perfect camouflage !!!
Gunther`s Dwarf Gecko – <i>Lygodactylus miops</i>	Antsirabe
Grandidier`s Dwarf Gecko – <i>Lygodactylus tolampyae</i>	Zombitse

Iguanidae

Three-eyed Lizard – <i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i>	Isalo
Cuvier`s Iguanid – <i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>	Ankarafantsika
Double-banded Iguanid – <i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>	Parc Mosa and Ankarafantsika
Four-striped Iguanid – <i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>	Isalo

Cordylidae

Plated Lizard – <i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>	common Andasibe
White-tailed Plated Lizard – <i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>	common Ankarafantsika

Boidae

Madagascar Tree Boa - <i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>	1 at Andasibe. Could even touch it.
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Colubridae

Blonde Hognose Snake - <i>Leioheterodon modestus</i>	1 Ankarafantsika
Giant Hognose Snake – <i>Leioheterodon madagascariensis</i>	some Ankarafantsika
Perinet Night Snake – <i>Ithycyphus perineti</i>	1 at Andasibe entrance road
Fondrefiala – <i>Ithycyphus miniatus</i>	2 at Ankarafantsika
<i>Mimophis mahfalensis</i>	
<i>Mimophis bibimora</i>	Ankarafantsika
Brown Brook Snake – <i>Pseudoxyrhynopus microps</i>	1 in the garden of Manja Hotel
Ranamofana	
<i>Compsophis laphystius</i>	1 at Mantadia
Blood Red Snake	1 at Ankarafantsika

Mantellinae

Baron's Painted Mantella – *Mantella baroni*

Ranomafana ??

Blue-legged Mantella – *Mantella expectata*

1 at Isalo

Malagasy Painted Mantella – *M. madagascariensis*

1 at Vohiparara

Madagascar Tree Frog – *Boophys madagascariensis*

Andasibe and Ranomafana

Boophys viridis

Andasibe

Mantidactylus pulcher

Andasibe

Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis

Ranomafana

Other

Jewel Beetle

Vohiparara

Shield Bug

Ranomafana

Flatid Leaf Bug

Isalo

Hissing Cockroach

seen Parc Mosa and Zombitse

Giraffe-necked Weevil – *Trachelophorus giraffa*

Andasibe and Ranomafana

Giant Millipede

Andasibe and Ankarafantsika

Pill Millipede

Andasibe

Stick Insect

Ranomafana, Isalo

Mossy Stick Insect

Vohiparara

Black Scorpion – *Grosphus palpator*

1 at Isalo Crest walk, Zombitse

Thorn Spider

Orb-web Spider

Atrophaneura anterior

Zombitse

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