

# **WILDLIFE TRAVEL**

## **Madagascar 2015**



## **Madagascar species list and trip report, 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

### **Leaders**

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A gallery of some of Philip's photos from the holiday can be seen on Wildlife Travel's Flickr site, at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72157660541056228>

## Madagascar species list and trip report, 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015

#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	1 <sup>st</sup>	Arrival at Antananarivo
2	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Flight to Tulear via Fort Dauphin/Toliagnara Arboretum d'Antsokay for lunch. Drive north to Ifaty
3	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ifaty Spiny Forest. Afternoon wander round Ikotel. Night walk round hotel
4	4 <sup>th</sup>	Ikotel to Caliente Beach, Tulear. South to Sarodrano Caves. Night walk round hotel
5	5 <sup>th</sup>	Driving north east from Tulear along RN7, stopping on 'the table'. Zombitse National Park. RN7 onwards to Isalo
6	6 <sup>th</sup>	Isalo area: sandstone massifs, palm veld and tapia woodland
7	7 <sup>th</sup>	Isalo to Ranomafana, via Anja for lunch
8	8 <sup>th</sup>	Ranomafana National Park
9	9 <sup>th</sup>	Ranomafana: Vohiparafa area. Drive to Antsirabe, via Ambositra
10	10 <sup>th</sup>	Long day's driving: Antsirabe to Andasibe, via 'Tana
11	11 <sup>th</sup>	Mantadia. Nightwalk at Perinet
12	12 <sup>th</sup>	Andasibe. Back to 'Tana for our flights
13	13 <sup>th</sup>	Home

### Giving something back

Our accommodation for the night of 9<sup>th</sup> was at the Residence Madalief. As Remi explained to us, the hotel was set up to provide an income for the Dutch-Malagasy **Madalief** foundation and to provide employment for some of the kids they have been working with.

Madalief supports orphans and single mothers in Ambositra, as well as providing school meals for local primary school children.

Madalief accepts donations by Paypal at <http://www.madalief.nl/steun-stichting-madalief.aspx> or email Remi directly at [remi@madalief.nl](mailto:remi@madalief.nl)

**Madagasikara Voakajy** is a small Malagasy NGO currently focusing on the conservation of chameleons, geckos, frogs, bats and baobabs. They do amazing work on very small budgets, including producing the gecko/chameleon identification booklets that they sent us.

You can find out more about their work at [www.madagasikara-voakajy.org](http://www.madagasikara-voakajy.org)

Madagasikara Voakajy are currently looking for funding for a new project to protect the Golden Mantella Frog in a new protected area at Mangabe. You can make a donation to this work at [www.sizeofwales.org.uk/projects/new\\_protected\\_area.html](http://www.sizeofwales.org.uk/projects/new_protected_area.html)

This seems to be the easiest way of getting money to them: otherwise they only have a Madagascan bank account.

# Madagascar species list and trip report, 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015

## 1<sup>st</sup> November. Arrival in Madagascar

Our day of travelling saw us arrive a little behind schedule at Antananarivo airport, where the adventure of negotiating our way through passport control, immigration, baggage claim and customs began...

At (long, long) last we made it through to the other side, met up with Alistair and finally got to our hotel rooms at about 2am, with Madagascar Nightjar calling from the trees.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> November. To Tulear and Ifaty

After the briefest of nights, a quick shot of coffee and our first chameleons in the garden, and we were back at the airport, where the adventure of changing money and checking in to our domestic flights continued.

The dog leg journey took us down to the south coast, at Fort Dauphin, and then a hop across to the west coast, where we arrived in the midday heat of Tulear, with a Pied Crow flying over the car park as the bus was loaded up with all our luggage.

And at last (at long, long last) we were in the shade by the pool at the Arboretum d'Antsokay, on the edge of Tulear with the first substantial food of the holiday, the first beers, and a whole lot of other firsts: our first Madagascar Bee-eaters, catching bees over the pool; our first vanga, in the form of Chabert's Vanga, a smart black and white bird with bright blue bare skin around the eye; our first Sakalava Weavers coming down to drink; and our first skink, first spiny-tailed iguana and first day gecko.

With food and drink and a little rest inside us, we were guided by a local guide around the arboretum, a bewildering introduction to the bizarre flora of the 'spiny forests' of south west Madagascar, a world of spine and succulents, of swollen 'elephants foot' Pachypodiums, amazing Euphorbias, enormous Baobabs and the spiny 'octopus trees' Didieriaceae.

The sharp eyes of our local guide introduced us to some of the hidden surprises of the forest. A cryptic Madagascar Nightjar dozing the day away amongst the leaf litter; an almost endless stream of Warty Chameleons *Furcifer verrucosus*; not one but two Lesser Hedgehog Tenrecs (one firmly hidden in a hollowed branch, the other snuffling away into the undergrowth), looking for all the world like baby hedgehogs; and tucked up into the tangle of branches in the top of a bush, a ball of fluff that turned out to be a pair of Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs.

From Tulear we had 30km of bumpy sandy track to cover to get to our bed for the night, so we head off north along the coast, stopping to scan some of the pools where our local guides' sharp eyes picked up our main target for the afternoon, the rare and increasingly endangered Madagascar Plover, running about on the grass by the road alongside its un-banded common cousin, Kittlitz's Plover. Madagascar Plover is a bird with a very limited global distribution, only found on grassy coastal wetlands in this narrow strip of south and west Madagascar, a habitat increasingly under threat from disturbance by people, conversion into rice paddies or drainage.

We arrived at our Ifaty beachfront hotel just as the sun disappeared below the horizon, and ate dinner whilst entertained by the house geckos chasing insects around the lights.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Spiny Forest.

Just what the doctor ordered after two long travelling days: a dawn start! While the 5am breakfast may not have been all that welcome, our morning in the spiny forests just inland of Ifaty more than made up for it.

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We started with yet another Malagasy adventure in the form of a ride by ox cart out to the 'Bureau de Forets', where we met up with several local guides whose job it was to introduce us to the specialities of the area. And they were very, very good at their jobs.

One by one we started to come across some of the local endemics: a shy but subtly handsome Running Coua was encouraged out of the scrub, but preferred to hop up into a bush rather than cross the open track; a Sickie-billed Vanga chose the highest branch of the octopus tree to call from while a Madagascar Cuckoo sang from his perch on the other side of the track; two 'little brown jobs' put in appearances, an Archbold's Newtonia (actually a warbler-like vanga) and a Subdesert Tetraka (another warbler-like bird which has suffered a bit of an identity crisis, also being known as Thamnornis and Kiritika Warbler before finally being 'settled' within the endemic Bernieridae family); and Stripe-throated Jery, Souimanga Sunbird and Madagascar Magpie Robin sang from (almost) every available perch.

These forests are home to a suite of species found nowhere else, with two birds at the very top of the shopping list for visiting naturalists: next up for us was one of these. The guides directed us to a small clearing where we stood and waited while they disappeared into the scrub. And then out from the bushes appeared the bizarre Long-tailed Ground Roller, a mottled roadrunner-like bird with a long almost pheasant-like tail, black necklace, white moustache and sky blue wings, which he flashed on a couple of occasions as he crossed the open area in front of us.

Our next surprise was a little more laid back: a lovely sportive lemur, dozing the day away in a hollowed out octopus tree trunk. The sportive lemurs are a group 'in flux'. Once considered to be just a single, widespread lemur of forests is now recognised to be a genus of more than 20 species, each restricted to its own geographic area, with several more yet to be described: Ifaty seems to sit between the ranges of Petter's Sportive Lemur and Hubbard's Sportive Lemur, with the exact species present here most likely one of those 'yet to be described'.

Next up, a big nest of twigs, from the top of which stuck out the tail of a female Madagascar Sparrowhawk. She decided she wasn't that sure about our presence, so flew off to eye us up a little. Obviously content that we were just watching, she returned a little later, jumping back down into the nest and out of sight.

Back to the 'shopping list', and a chase through the forest finally got us all excellent views of Subdesert Mesite, a member of another of those Madagascar-only families of birds, and a species, much like the Long-tailed Ground Roller, restricted to this tiny strip of spiny forest. First was a bright female who didn't hang around for very long and then a speckled male who eye balled us with his fiery red eye for quite a while, before we got distracted by yet another local endemic, a calling male La Fresnaye's Vanga with a fearsome bill.

With the 'stars' of the forest safely under our belt, the local guides turned their eyes to other things, and a string of interesting reptiles followed: Standing's Day Gecko, a hog-nosed snake *Leioheterodon geayi*, a nose-horned Antimena Chameleon and a lovely little Spider Tortoise.

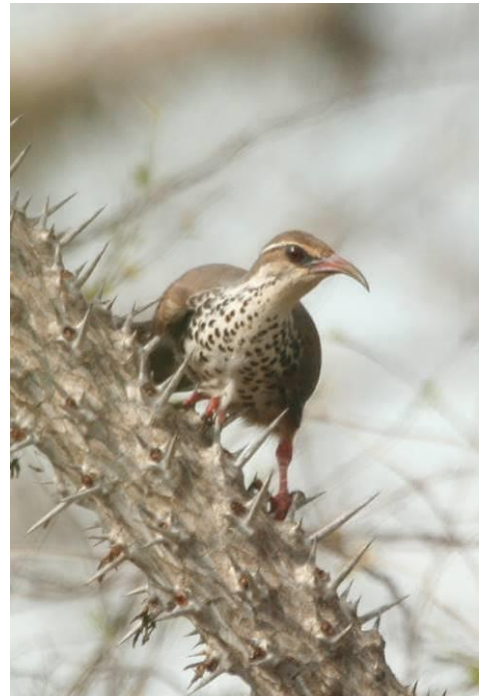
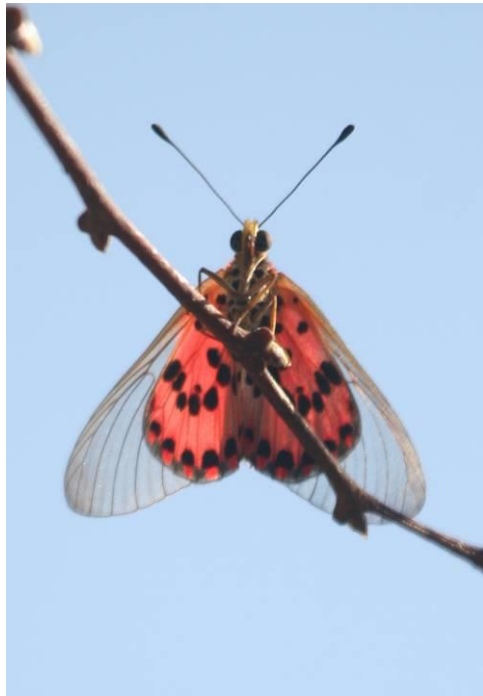
We finished our morning back at the entrance, where the local kids had found a big leopard gecko *Paroedura picta*.

After a well-earned siesta, we ventured out again, wandering along the entrance road and through some of the thorny scrub just inland of the hotel.

With black clouds developing out to sea, and lots of weather clearly on its way, the appearance in the sky of a party of 15 frigatebirds was something of a surprise! Two species occasionally wander to the coasts of Madagascar, but we came to conclusion that these were Great Frigatebirds, a bit of a bonus.



## South West Madagascar: Tulear and Ifaty



Top row, l to r: Long-tailed Ground Roller and Madagascar Plover  
Middle row, l to r: *Acraea ranavalona*, Sickle-billed Vanga, Subdesert Mesite  
Bottom row, l to r: Verreaux's Coua, Madagascar Nightjar

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In the rough grassland and scrubby area we found our first Madagascar Green Sunbird, Madagascar Cisticola and Madagascar Lark, with a Common Jery shouting from a bush and a lovely male Namaqua Dove.

Then, alas, the weather arrived and we returned to the hotel to watch the rain and lightning from the bar...

The rain abated over dinner and the wind fell, so in lieu of a night walk back in the forest, the hardy few ventured out again with torches to see what we could find around the grounds. Quite a lot, as it turns out. Four species of gecko, including our first *Phelsuma modesta* and another lovely *Parodeura picta*; the snub-nosed burrowing frog *Scaphiophryne brevis*; a Madagascan Giant Hissing Cockroach half way up a tree 'grazing' on algae; a night snake *Madagascarophis meridionalis* which did a pretty impressive job of climbing out of the gate; two bouncy Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs in a coconut palm; and a Madagascar Nightjar on his perch, wondering what all the fuss was about. Not bad for a night potter.

### 4<sup>th</sup> November. Ifaty to Tulear.

The day started with tens of Crested Terns flying past far out to sea, no doubt forced inshore by the same weather as the frigatebirds. Our pre-breakfast amble included fantastic views of a Madagascar Bee-eater feeding, a pair of noisy Subdesert Brush Warblers and a fly-past Barn Swallow.

After breakfast we packed up and left Ikotel and headed south again, making several roadside stops along the way. We started with a large flock of feeding Grey-headed Lovebirds; moved on to an area of salt pans and marshy grassland where White-fronted Plover, Ringed Plover, Kittlitz's Plover and one handsome Madagascar Plover were feeding; made a stop overlooking a sand bar with a small flock of White-faced Whistling Ducks, with the massive breakers rolling over the reef out beyond; and had a short walk through the 'dunes' to a shallow lagoon, passing courting Three-eyed Lizards and Plain Tiger butterflies along the way, to find a solitary Greater Flamingo surrounded by Little Grebes and a fly-by Common Tern.

We made it to Tulear and beyond, to Caliente Beach (yet another place with Radiated Tortoise and Spider Tortoise in rather barren enclosures) in time for lunch overlooking the sea.

In the afternoon we drove further south along the coast, into the 'coastal ragg scrub', a distinct vegetation type of Euphorbias and Morenge trees growing on the limestone. Here our main target was Verreaux's Coua, a lovely grey bird with bright blue skin around the eye, a pair of which showed amazingly well to everyone at the end of the drive. A Green-crowned Coua also put in an appearance here, although only fleetingly, while a large group of hirundines gathered overhead. Along with several Mascarene Martins and a couple of Barn Swallows, the majority (15+) were House Martins, their white underparts and white rumps making a unique (and for us, very familiar) combination. Rather surprisingly, 'the book' doesn't show House Martin as ever having occurred in Madagascar before! These rare vagrants were presumably pushed across by the same weather system that affected the frigatebirds.

Walking back northwards along the track, we had views out over the mangroves and the mudflats across the 'bay', where tens if not hundreds of Whimbrel could be seen feeding, with another solo Greater Flamingo and a flyby Grey Heron.

We finished the afternoon with sunset at the Sarodrano Cave, where Mascarene Martins and Sakalava Weavers were nesting.

After dinner back at the eccentric Caliente Beach, we had a quick nocturnal wander around the grounds and along the driveway. The bushes around the garden were alive with 'roosting' chameleons, with at least 6 Warty Chameleons followed by a single Antimena Chameleon along the driveway. And in the trees, a couple of Grey-Brown Mouse Lemurs showed very well in the torch light.

And so to bed.

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### 5<sup>th</sup> November. Zombitse and Isalo.

The now-traditional early morning walk gave us glimpses of our first Madagascar Kingfisher and Madagascar Green Pigeon, as well as Madagascar Turtle Dove that finally gave good views after a lot of chasing around.

In the car park, as the bags were being loaded onto the bus, two lizards posed for photos: the blue-tailed day gecko *Phelsuma mutabilis* and the lovely golden-spotted skink *Trachylepis aureopunctata*.

Today we had some miles to cover...

Two quick stops, first for the Tropic of Capricorn photo opportunity, and then to search (unsuccessfully) for the Red-shouldered Vanga, and then we were on our way east along the RN7 through some fairly bleak grassland and depauperate agricultural land, to the forests of Zombitse National Park. This park protects one of the last remaining blocks of this 'transitional' forest and is home to some special beasts, which we were looking forward to meeting...

With two local guides leading the way, and thankful for the relatively cool conditions, we headed into the forest and were soon up to our ears in new wildlife sightings.

We started with a family party of Verreaux's Sifaka, the amazing large silky white 'bouncing lemurs' familiar from so many David Attenborough programmes. The family of six included a one month old infant, and they seemed totally oblivious to our presence so close to them, happily feeding in the trees and bounding from branch to branch.

As the sifakas moved off, so did we. Next up, a large chameleon, identified by the local guides as Oustalet's Chameleon, followed by a treetop ball of fluff which was identified as a sleeping Zombitse (or Hubbard's) Sportive Lemur.

A pair of Madagascar Paradise Flycatchers were on their bowl nest, just at chest height in a tangle of vines.

Then the call of 'Appert's!' had us following the guides into another thicket, where eventually, with a fair bit of luck, we enjoyed amazingly close views of the star of this national park, a family party of at least 3 and maybe 5 Appert's Tetraka. Once thought to be a 'greenbul', and restricted to this one tiny corner of Madagascar: a very special bird.

Happy with our lot, we started to head back to the bus and our lunch... only the forest had other plans. A very elegant *Ithycyphus ousi* snake was busy searching for geckos under the bark of a tree, oblivious to our admiring presence. Once the snake had moved on, a second Zombitse Sportive Lemur was posing at his day roost, having a good scratch and a yawn while our cameras clicked away. Butterflies distracted us next, with some very accommodating Green-veined Charaxes posing nicely on exposed twigs, while swallowtails flew on past.

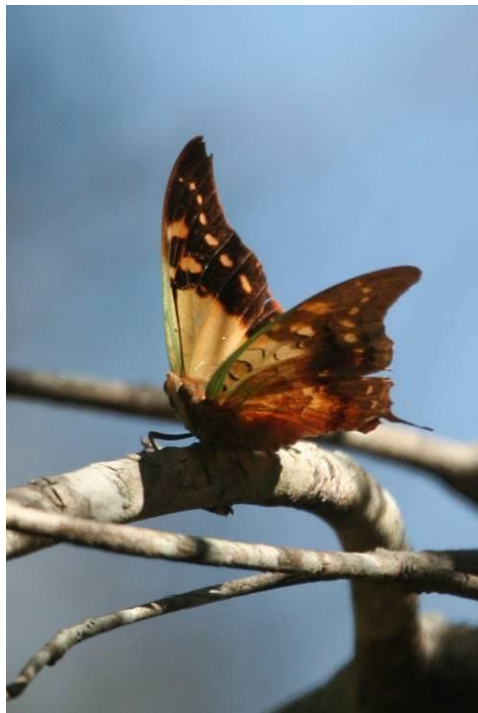
Around the corner, and another ball of fur in a tree turned out to be three Red-fronted Brown Lemurs huddled up together, with more in the trees behind. From lemurs to birds, and a couple of Giant Couas gave everyone great views, with one walking across the path in front of us and the second sat up on a branch having a preen while the paparazzi clicked away.

Back to the lemurs, and the Red-fronted Brown Lemur troop had found a fruiting Pandanus tree and were busy digging in to the large knobby fruit, occasionally growling in our direction but otherwise totally unphased by the watchers.

At last, we made it out of the forest and back to the bus, where lunch was waiting, along with two pairs of Madagascar Cuckoo-Rollers who displayed noisily overhead, swooping and shouting.



## South Madagascar: Zombitse and Isalo



Top row, l to r: Appert's Tetraka and *Leioheterodon madagascariensis*  
Middle row, l to r: *Charaxes antamboulou*, Broad-billed Roller, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher  
Bottom row, l to r: Oustalet's Chameleon and Benson's Rock Thrush

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Zombitse had more in store for us after lunch: a Giant Hognose Snake *Leioheterodon madagascariensis* was soaking up the sun next to the path, and a male Rufous Vanga sat patiently on his tiny cup nest, convinced that we couldn't see him.

Farewell to Zombitse, and onwards across the plateau to Isalo, where we arrived amongst the impressive sandstone cliffs and rocks to the equally impressive hotel, our home for the next two (count them!) nights.

### 6<sup>th</sup> November. Isalo.

We spent the morning exploring the surroundings of the hotel, walking a loop through the splendid scenery and along the small river, lined with Pandanus-filled swamp forest, and back to the hotel grounds.

Along the way we were entertained by a variety of butterflies and dragonflies, some tiny frogs, Broad-billed Rollers calling and putting on an aerial show, and a couple of very large Oustalet's Chameleons sunbathing and hunting along a fence line, one in particular giving a wonderful display as he shot his tongue out to pick off a spider.

In the afternoon we took a drive back along the road, stopping to admire the scenery and to explore some of the dry 'tapia' woodland, where we found signs of Bush Pig diggings, flushed a small covey of Helmeted Guineafowl and where Andy got a fantastic photo of a male Madagascar Partridge who wandered by, invisible to the rest of us.

Taking a walk across the grassland back to the hotel, we flushed a Marsh Owl, who flew past twice before returning each time to his roost on the ground.

The owl theme continued after dinner, with a (very) distant calling Torotoroka Scops Owl and a much closer White-browed Owl, which gave a fly past before being found perched on the edge of the forest, where it gave us some wonderful views: an excellent way to end the day.

### 7<sup>th</sup> November. Isalo to Ranomafana.

A travelling day, and a lot of travelling we did... Madagascar is a very big island, and we had a big chunk of it to cross today.

Along the way the landscape changed, from the sandstone escarpment of Isalo, across the rolling grassy plains to the granite boulders of the Andringitra mountain range. In the foothills here, we stopped for lunch at Anja, where after our picnic the local guides led us into the forest for our date with the Ring-tailed Lemurs. And a very successful date it was too, with two different family groups showing brilliantly for us, at point blank range. One large family, including a mother with young twins, was dozing the day away in the trees. After enjoying our fill of the, we moved around the corner, where a pair were wandering along the footpath, the male scent marking the trees along the way, before they both clambered onto the rocks and began eating fruit, filling many a memory card with photos.

A third family nearby gave some amazing haunting calls as we hurried past: with time not on our side, we had to head back to the bus for the rest of our mega-journey across the island. Although not before we'd stopped to admire the tiny *Brookesia brygooi* leaf chameleon and a pair of handsome Madagascar Kingfishers by the lake.

Onwards ever onwards. As we went the landscape became increasingly green, the hillsides terraced into rice paddies, before we finally hit the native rainforests of Ranomafana and descended down, past some amazing views and the roaring river, to our hotel for the night.

At dinner we were joined by a couple of spotty Whitebelly Reed Frogs and a giant Madagascar Emperor Moth.

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### 8<sup>th</sup> November. Ranomafana

Ranomafana National Park includes some of the finest rainforest left in Madagascar: we certainly made the most of our time here. An early breakfast, and then into the Park we went. The paths were sometimes steep, the going was sometimes rather tough, and the wildlife sometimes felt like it was rather hard to come by. But by the end of the day we'd had some pretty amazing sightings.

We were confounded by the cryptic camouflage of the *Uroplatus* gecko, curled up looking for all the world like a dried dead leaf. Less subtle for the herptile fans were several Peacock Day Geckos at our lunch spot, very brightly coloured creatures, bright apple green with red blotches down the back and four big black spots on the sides. Several frogs hopped our way during the day, with even more to come at night.

With fewer than 650 individuals of this species still surviving, we were very lucky to spend time with a pair of Golden Bamboo Lemurs. Initially dozing away in the tree tops, later on we found them moving about and chomping on bamboo. Less friendly were the sifakas, who had unfortunately moved on by the time we made it to their home ridge. We did well for rodents, though. Several Eastern Red Forest Rats were seen, hopping about on the floor, and we also found one Lowland Red Forest Rat (the last rat of the afternoon, with a white throat and chest).

The birding in forests can often be frustrating, with much more heard than seen. Today was no exception, with 'big' birds going unseen including Madagascar Crested Ibis, Rand's Tetraka and Blue Coua. Small birds passing by and at least pausing to give us a glimpse included three species of tetraka, a female Velvet Asity and a noisy White-browed Oxylabes, as well as a singing Forest Fody as we left the forest. Pitta-like Ground Roller hopped up onto the path in front of us a couple of times, but never stayed around long, bounding off into the undergrowth. A pair of Pollen's Vanga had a nest on another ridge, and we were lucky enough to see both adults spending time sitting on the large chick(s).

But probably the star bird of the day came in the afternoon, when our wonderful local guides whistled up a pair of Brown Mesites and then, after positioning us on a seemingly impossibly steep forest slope, proceeded to walk the birds right to our feet. An amazing experience, and a tick for Alastair!

Finally leaving the park, we paused to puzzle over the *Uroplatus* again, and to photograph some showy Giraffe-necked Weevils, one of the star beetles of the trip!

Our break from Ranomafana was a short one. After an hour's rest, we were back out again, this time to the road above the entrance to the park, where we spent a fantastic hour 'night-walking'. Brown Mouse Lemurs were coming to feeding sites at two points along the roadside, along with a brush-tailed rat. A tiny Madagascar Pygmy Shrew scurried past on the road verge, and a Greater Dwarf Lemur put in a brief appearance, albeit little more than a reflecting eye-shine and a ball of fluff in the canopy. Frogs were definitely in evidence, along with four species of chameleon, including another tiny Brookesia, and a frog-hunting snake. All in all, a pretty exciting nocturnal excursion to end a pretty good day.

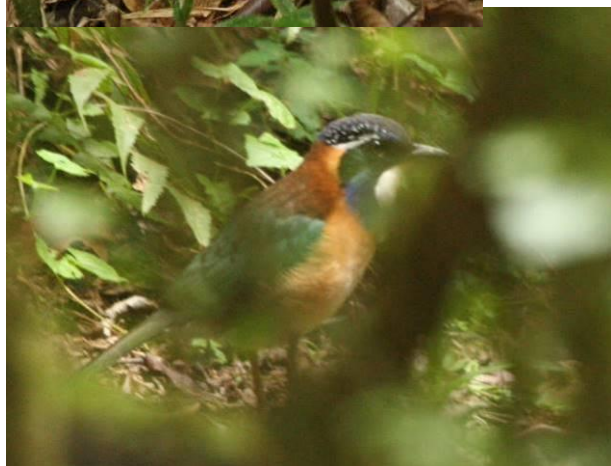
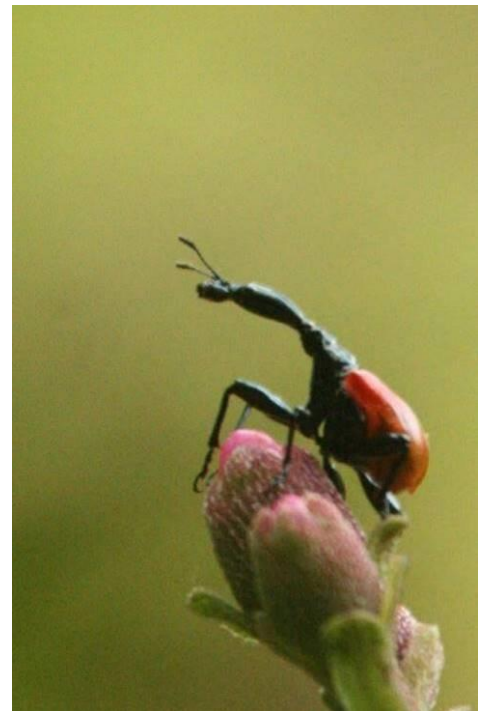
### 9<sup>th</sup> November. Ranomafana, and the highlands

After packing up and checking out, we headed back into Ranomafana village, picked up Theo and Chantal and headed up to the higher reaches of the national park, to the trails at Vohiparafa. Here our couple of hours' walk along level trails turned into a four hour walk up hill and down dale. The forests proved hard work for us yesterday, and the same was true of this morning. One or two good birds did put in appearances: a juvenile Common Sunbird-Asity feeding on mistletoe flowers, Tylas and White-headed Vanga passed through the canopy, a couple of Madagascar Blue Pigeons clattered about in the tree tops, a singing Rand's Warbler showed well (albeit very high up) and a Pitta-like Ground Roller briefly hopped out near the camp site, where a Ring-tailed Mongoose sped across the track in front of us. But it somehow felt like the forests were hiding most of their secrets today.

Theo led us back down to the swamp forest area, where we picked up some nice extra frogs to make up for the hard work higher up the trails. And then a sudden shout of 'Sifaka!'.



## Eastern Madagascar: Ranomafana



Top row, l to r: Madagascar Magpie Robin and *Phelsuma quadriocellata*

Middle row, l to r: Brown Mesite, group, Giraffe-necked Weevil

Bottom row, l to r: Pitta-like Ground Roller and Blue-legged Chameleon



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Tired legs were soon forgotten, as we watched a pair of beautiful black and white Milne-Edward's Sifakas feeding quietly in the trees, along with their youngster. Initially a little hard to see in the swampiest part of the forest, a couple of quick bounds and they were alongside us at eye level next to the path. A brilliant conclusion to our stay in Ranomafana, that made all the walking worth while.

Alas, the rest of the day was spent on the road, heading north, via a stop at Ambositra for pharmacy supplies and a little local colour, finishing up at the wonderfully restful Residence Madalief just outside Antsirabe.

### **10<sup>th</sup> November. Antsirabe to Andasibe.**

Today we drove. And drove, and drove... arriving at Andasibe with enough time to relax and settle in to the hotel before dinner. A long day on the road.

### **11<sup>th</sup> November. Mantadia**

Today was our day for Mantadia. Up early, we were greeted after dinner by our stylish ride into the park, a local taxi brusse, the only one willing and able to brave the Mantadia road.

An hour and a half later, and we'd made it, all in one piece. Just.

Mantadia protects some of the best pristine rainforest left in the east of Madagascar, and into the forest we went. As with all Malagasy rainforests (so it seems), it seemed hard going at times, with patches of the day when the forests seemed pretty silent. But in between, we did have some lucky spells.

Chief amongst those lucky spells was the time spent with a family of Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs, one of the most charismatic of the lemurs and not an easy animal to find, restricted as it is to large chunks of pristine rainforest where it spends most of its time high in the canopy.

At times we were serenaded by the haunting hoots of three different family groups of Indri, one of the greatest wildlife choruses, making their presence known from the forests around us but alas we couldn't track them down.

Lunch was overlooking an idyllic little lake (actually a flooded former graphite mine), where a pair of Madagascar Little Grebes were nesting, a very shy pair of Meller's Ducks slipped around the corner and out of sight, a Madagascar Kingfisher fished, a couple of Madagascar Swamp Warblers were singing, a big bumbling Blue Coua finally put in an appearance, and a Madagascar Starling stop in the top of a tall dead tree, which it shared with a Lesser Vasa Parrot and both Madagascar Bee-eater and Broad-billed Roller while a Madagascar Buzzard soared over, being harassed by a Madagascar Kestrel. A busy spot.

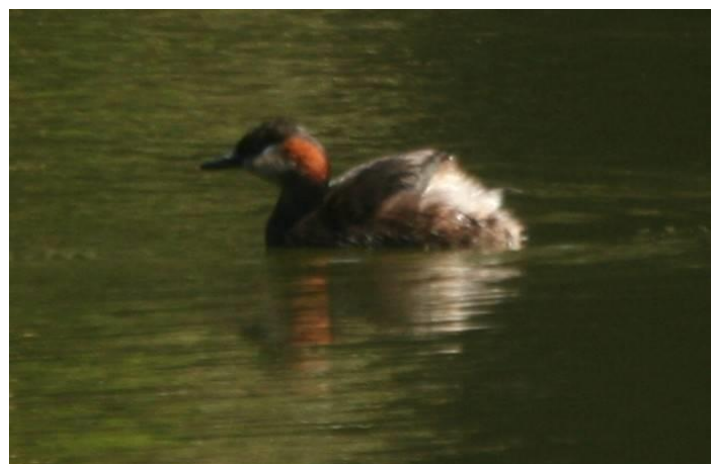
Down at the water's edge, dragonflies and damselflies of various reds, blues and blacks zipped back and forth, testing the photographic skills of some of us.

Back into the forest after lunch, and we bumped into an Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur, initially right next to the path, who then bounced slowly up the hill and away through the trees, pausing to eye up the intruders into his patch.

Of the bouncy ride back out of the forest and the rest of the afternoon, the least said the better.

After the briefest of brief rests, it was time to get back onto the bus, heading down to the famous old "Perinet" railway station where we met Fitson and Jean-Remy and had our night walk, wandering along the road out of the village and alongside the national park. And another eventful night walk we had: we went from Crossley's Dwarf Lemur right by the roadside to the amazing leaf-tailed gecko *Uroplatus sikorae* sat along a twig, in hunting mode. Tonight's chameleon was *Calluma brevicorne*, tonight's tree frog was *Boophis viridis* and tonight's mouse-lemur was Goodman's Mouse Lemur.

## Eastern Madagascar: Mantadia and Andasibe



Top row, l to r: Madagascar Mannikin and *Calluma brevicorne*  
Middle row, l to r: Collared Nightjar, *Boophis viridis* and *Ithycyphus perineti*  
Bottom row, l to r: *Aterica rabena* and Madagascar Little Grebe

## Madagascar species list and trip report, 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### 12<sup>th</sup> November. Andasibe

The day dawned to the sound of Indri calling in the distance: what better way to begin our last day in Madagascar?

After breakfast, we were back on our oh-so-comfortable bus and back to the park entrance at Andasibe for one last morning in Madagascar's rainforests, where almost immediately we walked into a roving 'bird party' with plenty of vangas: White-headed, Chabert's, Blue and Nuthatch Vanga all feeding in the trees around us.

From here, Jean-Remy led us up to the ridge where he disappeared into the undergrowth: 'you wait here, I just check'. And this time, his checks were successful. Beckoning us to follow him down the slope a little, we were faced with the task of spotting what he wanted us to see: not an easy task when the target is one of Madagascar's most cryptic birds. There, right in front of us, at its roost in the cup of a bird's nest fern was a beautiful Collared Nightjar, so confident that his camouflage was working that he didn't even bat an eyelid at the admiring crowd only a couple of metres away.

With the sound of Indris in the air, it was time to focus on the lemurs, and we quickly came upon the first of our big targets: a group of Diademed Sifakas, feeding high in the trees at the end of the ridge. Beautiful creamy orange, grey and black animals, the second largest lemurs, the family of six gave us great views as they munched on fruit and leaves up in the canopy. A small group of Common Brown Lemurs came through at the same time, but our attention was definitely on their larger, more charismatic cousins.

Better was yet to come when they decided to move off, coming much lower, down to eye level, and bouncing through the trees right over our heads, using the trunks like trampolines as they bounced past us. Amazing.

Having had our fill of sifakas, we moved on too. Although we could still hear the chorus of singing Indri from further afield, none of the nearby resident troops had been tracked down yet today, despite there being quite a few guides and spotters out in the forests, including Jean-Remy who had disappeared on the hunt as we were enjoying the sifakas. And Jean-Remy it was who finally tracked them down: a whistled conversation between him and Fitson had us heading down slope, and suddenly we could hear the hoots and wails as they finally roused themselves for the day.

Rounding a corner, and there was Jean-Remy, and with him in the trees two large black and white lumps: a pair of Indri. Actually, make that three lumps, as the female was carrying a 6 month old baby, all peering eyes and reaching hands. We were lucky to have some time with the family all to ourselves before a few other people arrived. As with the sifakas, the Indri were initially quite high in the trees, but soon bounced down much lower, apparently just as inquisitive about us as we were about them. As with the sifakas, a couple of Common Brown Lemurs who passed by didn't get a look in when it came to our attention: all eyes were on the big kings of the forest. And as with the sifakas, they eventually decided the time had come to leave, and the family leapt from tree to tree, rapidly disappearing down slope.

We followed, and did find them again feeding in the valley, but as more groups of admirers arrived to view the Indri we took our leave of the family, and headed back to the park entrance/exit, stopping along the way for a roosting Rainforest Scops Owl tucked away in a dense tangle of vines right next to the path.

And then, alas, our time was up.

A fishing Madagascar Kingfisher and some buzzing Mascarene Martins back at the hotel entertained us before lunch. And then that really was it: Peter and Kate were whisked off to their next lodge, and the rest of us boarded the Danny Bus for one last big journey, back up to Tana.

The streets of the city were full of people, while various herons and egrets flew over from one rice paddy to the next. We sought refuge at a calm hotel, where we rested for a few hours before the airport beckoned, and our flight back to Paris and on to home.

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**E** = endemic to Madagascar

**E** = near endemic (also found in other Indian Ocean islands)

**e** = endemic sub-species

**I** = introduced

**H** = heard

**S** = signs/tracks

**C** = captive

**D** = dead

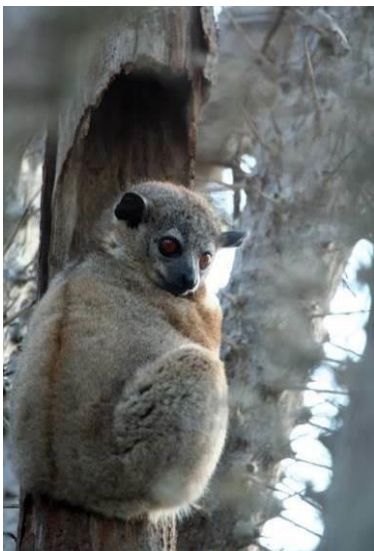
MAMMALS															
	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME		2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>
	<b>Family Tenrecidae (Tenrecs)</b>		<b>E</b>												
	Common Tenrec	<i>Tenrec ecaudatus</i>	<b>E</b>										D		
	Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>	<b>E</b>	X											
	<b>Family Soricidae (Shrews)</b>														
	Madagascar Pygmy Musk Shrew	<i>Suncus madagascariensis</i>								X					
	<b>Family Cheirogaleidae (Mouse and Dwarf Lemurs)</b>		<b>E</b>												
	Grey-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>	<b>E</b>	X	X	X									
	Goodman's Mouse Lemur VULNERABLE: only known from Andasibe and nearby forests	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>	<b>E</b>										X		
	Brown (or Rufous) Mouse Lemur VULNERABLE	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>	<b>E</b>							X					
	Crossley's (or Furry-eared) Dwarf Lemur DATA DEFICIENT	<i>Cheirogaleus crossleyi</i>	<b>E</b>										X		
	Greater or (Geoffroy's) Dwarf Lemur DATA DEFICIENT	<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>	<b>E</b>							X					
	<b>Family Lepilemuridae (Sportive Lemurs)</b>		<b>E</b>												
	Zombitse or Hubbard's Sportive Lemur ENDANGERED: only known from the Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park	<i>Lepilemur hubbardorum</i>	<b>E</b>				X								
	'Ifaty' Sportive Lemur The sportive lemur at Ifaty was called 'white-footed' by the guides, but Ifaty is well outside the range of that species. The closest species would be <i>Lepilemur petteri</i> , although the northern limit for that species is thought to be the Onilahy River that runs through Tulear.	<i>Lepilemur sp.</i>	<b>E</b>		X										
	<b>Family Lemuridae (True Lemurs)</b>		<b>E</b>												
	Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur VULNERABLE	<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>	<b>E</b>										X		
	Golden Bamboo Lemur CRITICALLY ENDANGERED: only known from Ranomafana and Andringitra National Parks. The total population is estimated to be fewer than 630 individuals.	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>	<b>E</b>							X					
	Ring-tailed Lemur VULNERABLE	<i>Lemur catta</i>	<b>E</b>						X						
	Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>	<b>E</b>											X	
	Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufus</i>	<b>E</b>				X								
	Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur CRITICALLY ENDANGERED: very fragmented range in the eastern rainforests.	<i>Varecia variegata</i>	<b>E</b>										X		
	<b>Family Indridae (Avahis, Sifakas and Indri)</b>		<b>E</b>												
	Diademed Sifaka CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>	<b>E</b>											X	
	Milne-Edwards's Sifaka ENDANGERED	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>	<b>E</b>							X					
	Verreaux's Sifaka ENDANGERED	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>	<b>E</b>				X								
	Indri CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	<i>Indri indri</i>	<b>E</b>										H	X	



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Family Eupleridae (Malagasy Carnivores)		E
Ring-tailed Vontsira (Mongoose)	<i>Galidia elegans</i>	One ran across the road near the campsite, Ranomafana
Family Muridae (Rats and Mice)		
Eastern Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>	The red-brown rat on the forest floor, Ranomafana
Lowland Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys audeberti</i>	The last forest rat of the day at Ranomafana, larger than Eastern with a white throat and chest.
a Tuft-tailed Rat	<i>Eliurus sp</i>	A dead male being eaten by a Pied Crow at Isalo, and one coming to the banana twig during the Ranomafana night walk
Family Suidae (Pigs)		
Bush Pig	<i>Potamochoerus larvatus</i>	Diggings under the Tapia trees at Isalo and near the sifakas at Ranomafana

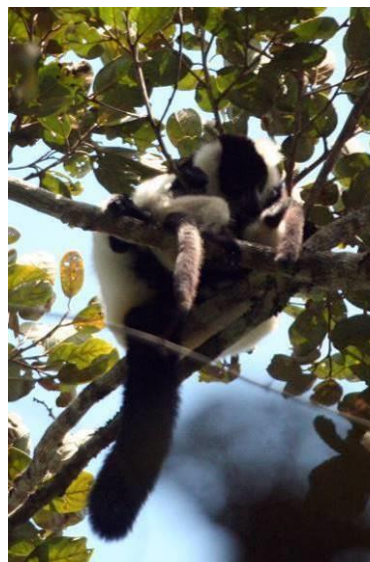
## LEMURS: the little nocturnal ones



Top, l to r: Grey-brown Mouse Lemur, Brown Mouse Lemur and Goodman's Mouse Lemur (photo Alastair Kilpin)  
Bottom, l to r: "Ifaty" Sportive Lemur, Hubbard's Sportive Lemur and Crossley's Dwarf Lemur (photo Alastair Kilpin).  
(We also saw Greater Dwarf Lemur)



## LEMURS: the big daytime ones



Top, l to r: Verreaux's Sifaka, Milne-Edwards's Sifaka and Diademed Sifaka  
Middle, l to r: Red-fronted Brown Lemur, Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur and Golden Bamboo Lemur  
Bottom, l to r: Ring-tailed Lemur, Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur and Indri  
(We also saw Common Brown Lemur)

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BIRDS															
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Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)															
	Madagascar Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelni</i>	E										X		
	VULNERABLE. Total world population <2500 individuals		A pair nest building on the flooded graphite mine, Mantadia, with an immature bird also present.												
	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				X									
Family Fregatidae (Frigatebirds)															
	Greater Frigatebird				X										
Family Ardeidae (Heron)															
	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		X		X						X		X	
	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>												X	
	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus rutenbergi</i>	e			X	X			X	X	X		X	
	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea madagascariensis</i>	e					X							
	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea firsas</i>	e			X									
	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba melanorhynchos</i>				X			X			X		X	
	Black Egret	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>												X	
	Dimorphic Egret	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>							X			X		X	
	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bulbulcus ibis</i>		X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Family Scopidae (Hamerkop)															
	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>							X		X	X			
Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)															
	Madagascar Crested Ibis	<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>	E							H	S				
Family Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)															
	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopeterus ruber</i>				X									
Family Anatidae (Wildfowl)															
	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>				X									
	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>							X	X					
	Meller's Duck	<i>Anas melleri</i>	E										X		
	ENDANGERED. Total world population <3500 individuals		A pair present on the flooded graphite mine, Mantadia, slipped away round the corner as soon as we arrived.												
Family Accipiteridae (Hawks and Eagles)															
	Madagascar Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>	E										X	X	
	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
	Madagascar Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>	E		X										
	Frances's Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>	E									X	X	X	
Family Falconidae (Falcons)															
	Madagascar Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Phasianidae (Partridges and Quails)															
	Madagascar Partridge	<i>Margaroperdix madagascariensis</i>	E					X	X						
Family Numidae (Guineafowl)															
	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	I					X							
Family Turnicidae (Buttonquails)															
	Madagascar Buttonquail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>	E	X				X				X			
Family Mesitornithidae (Mesites)															
	Brown Mesite	<i>Mesitornis unicolor</i>	E							X					
	VULNERABLE. Total world population <15000 individuals		A pair tracked down by Theo and walked up to us, Ranomafana: showed very well.												
	Subdesert Mesite	<i>Monias benschi</i>	E		X										
	VULNERABLE		A female and a male tracked down by the local guides in the spiny forest, Ifaty: showed very well												
Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)															
	Madagascar Flufftail	<i>Sarothura insularis</i>	E										H		
	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>										X	X		

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Family Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)															
	Madagascar Pratincole	Glareola ocularis	E									X			
VULNERABLE. Total world population <10,000 individuals			Two on rocks from the road bridge, Mangoro River												
Family Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)															
	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus		X		X									
Family Charadriidae (Plovers)															
	Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola			X										
	Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula				X									
	Madagascar Plover	Charadrius thoracicus	E	X		X									
VULNERABLE. Total world population <3,100 individuals and declining			One adult bird seen on two occasions at roadside pools and wet grassland, near Ifaty												
	Kittlitz's Plover	Charadrius pecuarius		X		X									
	White-fronted Plover	Charadrius marginatus tenellus	e			X									
	Madagascar Three-banded Plover	Charadrius bifrontatus	E	X			X					X			
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Snipe)															
	Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres		X		X									
	Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea				X									
	Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus			X	X	X								
	Greenshank	Tringa nebularia		X		X	X								
	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos				X	X					X			
Family Sternidae (Terns)															
	Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia			X										
	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo				X									
	Greater Crested Tern	Thalasseus bergii				X									
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)															
	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	Columba livia	I	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Namaqua Dove	Oena capensis aliena	e	X	X	X	X	X							
	Madagascar Blue Pigeon	Alectroenas madagascariensis	E								X		X		
	Madagascar Green Pigeon	Treron australis	E				X								
	Madagascar Turtle Dove	Nesoenas picturatus	E	X	X	X	X		X		X			X	
Family Psittacidae (Parrots)															
	Grey-headed Lovebird	Agapornis cana	E		X	X		X	X						
	Greater Vasa Parrot	Coracopsis vasa	E					X					X	X	
	Lesser Vasa Parrot	Coracopsis nigra	E					X		X	X	X	X	X	
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos and Couas [E])															
	Madagascar Coucal	Centropus toulou	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H	X	H	
	Madagascar Cuckoo	Cuculus rochii	E	H	X			X	X	X	H	H	H	H	
	Green-capped Coua	Coua olivaceiceps	E			X									
	Running Coua	Coua cursor	E		X										
	Giant Coua	Goua gigas	E				X								
	Coquerel's Coua	Coua coquereli	E				H								
	Red-fronted Coua	Coua reynaudii	E								H				
	Blue Coua	Coua caerulea	E							H	H		X	H	
	Crested Coua	Coua cristata	E		X										
	Verreaux's Coua	Coua verreauxi	E			X	X								
Family Strigidae (Owls)															
	Marsh Owl	Asio capensis hova	e					X							
	White-browed Owl	Athene (was Ninox) supercilialis	E					X							
	Torotoroka Scops Owl	Otus (rutilus) madagascariensis	E					H							
	Rainforest Scops Owl	Otus (rutilus) rutilus	E										H	X	
The grey, dry-forest birds from the west/south and the rufous, rainforest birds from the east are sometimes considered as colour morphs of one species, Madagascar Scops Owl															
Family Caprimulgidae (Nightjars)															
	Collared Nightjar	Gactornis enarratus	E											X	
	Madagascar Nightjar	Caprimulgus madagasacariensis	E	X	X	X	X	X			H			H	



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Family Apodidae (Swifts)															
	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>									X				
	Madagascar Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni balstoni</i>	E								X				
	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>												X	
	Madagascar Spine-tailed Swift	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri grandidieri</i>	E		X		X					X	X		
	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus gracilis</i>	e				X	X	X	X	X	X			
Family Leptosomidae (Cuckoo-Rollers)															
	Madagascar Cuckoo-Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>	E				X			X	X	X	X	H	
Family Upupidae (Hoopoes)															
	Madagascar Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>	E				X	X							
Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)															
	Olive (Madagascar) Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H	X	X	H	
Family Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)															
	Madagascar Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>	E				X		X			X	X	X	
Family Coraciidae (Rollers)															
	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus glaucurus</i>	e				X	X	X	X	X		X	H	
Family Brachypteraciidae (Ground Rollers)															
	Short-legged Ground-Roller	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>	E										H		
VULNERABLE. Total world population <7,000 individuals															
	Pitta-like Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>	E							X	X				
	Rufous-headed Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis crossleyi</i>	E								H				
	Long-tailed Ground-Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>	E		X										
VULNERABLE. Total world population c30,000 individuals															
One heard in Mantadia															
Family Philepittidae (Asities)															
	Velvet Asity	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>	E							X	X		X		
	Common Sunbird-Asity	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>	E								X				
Recent studies have suggested that the Asities are members of the Broadbill family, Eurylaimidae															
Family Alaudidae (Larks)															
	Madagascar Lark	<i>Mirafraga hova</i>	E		X	X	X	X	X			X			
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)															
	Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	E	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Plain (Brown-throated) Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola cowani</i>	e									X	X		
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			X	X									
	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>				X									
A group of 10-15 birds feeding in the shelter of the hillside when we were watching Verreaux's Coua, south of Tulear: apparently the first record for Madagascar!															
Family Campephagidae (Cuckoo-Shrikes)															
	Madagascar Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>	E								X		X	X	
Family Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)															
	Madagascar Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Motacillidae (Wagtails)															
	Madagascar Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	E	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Muscicapidae (Chats and Flycatchers)															
	Madagascar Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>	E	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
	Benson's Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei bensoni</i>	E					X	X						
	Forest Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola s. sharpei</i>	E								H				
Benson's (rocky areas in the west) and Forest (rainforests in the east) are now usually considered to be two forms of the same species															
	Madagascar Stonechat	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>	E								X	X	X	X	
Family Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)															
	Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>	E	X	X		X			X	X		X	X	
Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers)															
	Madagascar Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>	E	X						X		X	H	H	
	Subdesert Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>	E			X	X								
	Madagascar Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>	E										X		

# Madagascar species list and trip report, 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME		2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Family Locustellidae (Grass Warblers)</b>															
	Brown Emutail	<i>Bradypterus (Dromaeocercus) brunneus</i>	<b>E</b>								H				
<b>Family Bernieridae (Malagasy Warblers)</b>															
	Appert's Tetraka (was Greenbul)	<i>Xanthomixys (was Bernieria) apperti</i>	<b>E</b>				X								
	VULNERABLE. Total world population c1,500 individuals, known from just 3 sites.		A small flock seen well at Zombitse												
	Grey-crowned Tetraka (was Greenbul)	<i>Xanthomixys (was Bernieria) cinereiceps</i>	<b>E</b>							X					
	Spectacled Tetraka (was Greenbul)	<i>Xanthomixys (was Bernieria) zosterops</i>	<b>E</b>							X	X		X		
	Long-billed Bernieria (was Greenbul)	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>	<b>E</b>							X	X				
	White-throated Oxylabes	<i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>	<b>E</b>							X					
	Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>	<b>E</b>							H	X		X		
	Subdesert Tetraka/ Thamnornis	<i>Thamnornis chlorpetoides</i>	<b>E</b>		X										
<b>Family Cisticolidae (Cisticolas)</b>															
	Madagascar Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>	<b>E</b>	H	X	X	X	X	X			X			
	Green Jery	<i>Neomixis viris</i>	<b>E</b>								X				
	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>	<b>E</b>	X	X	X	X	X					X		
	Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>	<b>E</b>		X										
<b>Family Zosteropidae (White-eyes)</b>															
	Madagascar White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>	<b>E</b>	X			X			X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Nectariniidae (Sunbirds)</b>															
	Madagascar Green Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia notata</i>	<b>E</b>		X					X	X	X			
	Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia souimanga</i>	<b>E</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Vangidae (Vangas)</b>															
	Archbold's Newtonia	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>	<b>E</b>		X										
	Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>	<b>E</b>				X			X	X		X	X	
	Dark Newtonia	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>	<b>E</b>								X		X		
	Ward's Vanga	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>	<b>E</b>											X	
	Tylas Vanga	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>	<b>E</b>								X		X		
	Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>	<b>E</b>				X			H			X	H	
	Nuthatch Vanga	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>	<b>E</b>										X	X	
	Chabert's Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>	<b>E</b>	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	
	Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>	<b>E</b>				X						X	X	
	White-headed Vanga	<i>Leptopterus viridis</i>	<b>E</b>								X		X	X	
	Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falcula palliata</i>	<b>E</b>		X										
	Rufous Vanga	<i>Schetba rufa</i>	<b>E</b>				X								
	La Fresnaye's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>	<b>E</b>		X										
	Pollen's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris pollen</i>	<b>E</b>							X	H				
	Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>	<b>E</b>		X							X			
<b>Family Sturnidae (Starlings)</b>															
	Madagascar Starling	<i>Hartlaubius auratus</i>	<b>E</b>										X		
	Common Mynah	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	<b>I</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Dicruridae (Drongos)</b>															
	Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>	<b>E</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Corvidae (Crows)</b>															
	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Ploceidae (Weavers)</b>															
	Madagascar Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	<b>E</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
	Forest Fody	<i>Foudia omissa</i>	<b>E</b>							X					
	Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>	<b>E</b>	X	X	X	X								
	Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>	<b>E</b>								S	X	X	X	
<b>Family Estrildidae (Waxbills)</b>															
	Madagascar Mannikin	<i>Lepidopygia (=Lonchura) nana</i>	<b>E</b>	X					X		X	X	X	X	

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REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS														
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Family Chamaeleonidae (Chameleons)														
<i>Furcifer antimena</i> VULNERABLE. Restricted to the lowland dry forests between Tulear and Morombe	Antimena Chameleon	E		X	X									
The large nose-horned chameleon, Tulear and Ifaty														
<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	Oustalet's Chameleon	E				X	X	X						
The large chameleon in the dry forests: Zombitse and Isalo														
<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>	Warty Chameleon	E	X		X									
The large chameleon at the arboretum and in the hotel gardens, Tulear														
<i>Calumma brevicorne</i>	Short-horned Chameleon	E										X		
2 during the night walk, Andasibe														
<i>Calumma crypticum</i>	Cryptic or Blue-legged Chameleon	E						X						
2 large individuals, Ranomafana night walk														
<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>	Short-nosed Chameleon	E						X						
2 leaf-green chameleons, Ranomafana night walk														
<i>Calumma nasutum</i>	Nose-horned Chameleon	E						X						
The tiny nose-horned chameleon, Ranomafana night walk														
<i>Brookesia brygooi</i>	Brygoo's Leaf Chameleon	E						X						
The tiny 'leaf chameleon' at Anja														
<i>Palleon (was Brookesia) nasus</i> VULNERABLE	Elongate Leaf Chameleon	E						X						
The 'leaf chameleon' Ranomafana nightwalk														
Family Gekkonidae (Geckos)														
<i>Blaesodactylus sakalava</i>		E		X										
The large gecko in a tree hole, Ifaty, 3 <sup>rd</sup>														
<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	Common House Gecko	I	X		X			X	X	X				
The gecko around lights in most of the hotels														
<i>Hemidactylus mercatorius</i>				X										
In a hollow tree, Tulear, 4 <sup>th</sup> . Covered in tiny bumps.														
<i>Lygodactylus aff pictus</i>						X								
The mottled gecko on a tree trunk, Isalo, 6 <sup>th</sup>														
<i>Lygodactylus miops</i>													X	
The mottled gecko on a tree trunk, Andasibe														
<i>Parodeura picta</i>			X											
The 'leopard gecko' found by the villagers, Ifaty and at night in the hotel grounds. 3 <sup>rd</sup>														
<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>	Lined Day Gecko										X	X	X	
Andasibe: with a black line down the side														
<i>Phelsuma modesta</i>			X	X										
In the hotel grounds, Ifaty														
<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>	Thick-tail Day Gecko		X	X		X								
Common in the south west: mottled grey with a powder blue tail.														
<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>	Peacock Day Gecko							X						
Brightly coloured with a black spot by each leg, Ranomafana														
<i>Phelsuma standingi</i> VULNERABLE. Restricted to the lowland dry forests between Tulear and Zombitse	Standing's Day Gecko		X											
The giant day gecko on a baobab trunk, Ifaty, 3 <sup>rd</sup>														
<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>	Fantastic Flat-tail Gecko							X						
The 'leaf gecko' by the bridge, Ranomafana														
<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>												X		
The 'leaf gecko' during the Andasibe nightwalk														

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<b>Family Opluridae (Oplurid Iguanas)</b>		<b>E</b>												
<i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i>	Three-eyed Lizard	<b>E</b>	X	X	X		X							
<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>		<b>E</b>	X											
		The spiny-tailed 'iguana' in the arboretum, Tulear												
<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>		<b>E</b>			X	X	X	X						
		The large 'iguana' on rocks, from Tulear to Anja												
<b>Family Gerrhosauridae (Plated Lizards)</b>														
<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>	Madagascar Girdled Lizard	<b>E</b>						X		X		X	X	
<i>Zonosaurus ornatus</i>	Ornate Girdled Lizard	<b>E</b>									X			
		Striped Zonosaurus at the morning 'bush stop'												
<i>Tracheloptychus madagascariensis</i>		<b>E</b>	X		X									
<i>Tracheloptychus petersi</i>		<b>E</b>		X										
	VULNERABLE. Restricted to the lowland dry forests between Tulear and Morombe	One female in the spiny forest near Ifaty												
<b>Family Scincidae (Skinks)</b>														
<i>Trachylepis (=Mabuya) gravenhorstii</i>	Gravenhorst's Mabuya		X									X		
		At lunch in the arboretum, and at Mantadia												
<i>Trachylepis elegans</i>	Elegant Mabuya			X			X							
		Stripy skink with an orange spot on the neck sides												
<i>Trachylepis aureopunctata</i>	Gold-spotted Mabuya					X								
		Black head with golden spots: in the carpark, Tulear												
<i>Trachylepis boettgeri</i>	Boettger's Mabuya										X			
		Stripy skink in the hotel gardens, Andasibe												
<b>Snakes</b>														
<i>Ithyocyphus oursi</i>		<b>E</b>				X								
		The elegant gecko-hunting snake, Zombitse												
<i>Ithyocyphus perineti</i>		<b>E</b>										X		
		The gecko-hunting snake in Mantadia												
<i>Mimophis mahfalensis</i>		<b>E</b>		X										
		The slender snake, Ifaty spiny forest												
<i>Dromicodryas bernieri</i>		<b>E</b>		X										
		The long, slender snake near the hotel, Ifaty												
<i>Leioheterodon madagascariensis</i>	Madagascar Hognose Snake	<b>E</b>				X	S							
		The very large black-and-white snake, Zombitse. A skin found at Isalo (6 <sup>th</sup> ) was this or <i>L. geayi</i> .												
<i>Leioheterodon geayi</i>		<b>E</b>		X										
		The large, beige speckled snake, Ifaty spiny forest												
<i>Madagascarophis meridionalis</i>		<b>E</b>		X										
		The night snake in the hotel grounds, Ifaty												
<i>Compsophis laphystius</i>		<b>E</b>						X						
		The frog-hunting snake, Ranomafana night walk												
<b>Family Testudinidae (Tortoises)</b>														
<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	Radiated Tortoise	<b>E</b>	C		C		C							
	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED. At current rates of collection (for the international pet trade, for the Asian trade in tortoise livers, and for food by locals) the species is predicted to be extinct in the wild within 45 years	Large tortoise, kept in enclosures from Tulear to Isalo												
<i>Pyxis arachnoides</i>	Spider Tortoise	<b>E</b>	C	X	C									
	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED. Threatened by habitat loss and collection for the international pet trade, for the Asian trade in tortoise livers, and for food by locals.	One in the Ifaty spiny forest. Frequently kept in enclosures at hotels and restaurants in the south west												
<b>Frogs</b>														
<i>Heterixalus alboguttatus</i>	Whitebelly Reed Frog	<b>E</b>						X						
	HYPEROLIIDAE	The spotty 'reed frog' at the hotel, Ranomafana, 7 <sup>th</sup>												
<i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>	Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog	<b>E</b>							X					
	MANTELLIDAE	The singing tree frog, Ranomafana night walk												
<i>Boophis reticulatus</i>	Reticulate Bright-eyed Frog	<b>E</b>							X					
	MANTELLIDAE	The last frog seen on the Ranomafana night walk												
<i>Boophis viridis</i>	Green Bright-eyed Frog	<b>E</b>										X		
	MANTELLIDAE	The green tree frog, Andasibe night walk												



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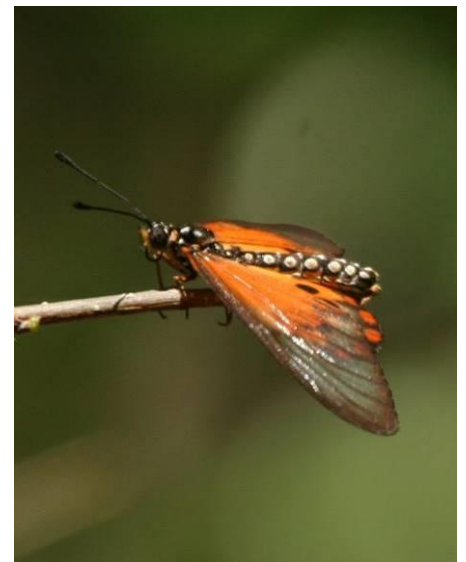
	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME		2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Gephyromantis sculpturatus</i> MANTELLIDAE	Sculpted Madagascar Frog	E							X					
			The pale brown frog, Ranomafana daytime												
	<i>Guibemantis pulcher</i> MANTELLIDAE	Tsarafidy Madagascar Frog	E								X				
			The small green 'pandanus tree frog', Ranomafana												
	<i>Mantella baroni</i> MANTELLIDAE	Baron's Mantella	E								X				
			Tiny brightly-coloured frog, Ranomafana												
	<i>Mantidactylus betsileanus</i> MANTELLIDAE	Betsileo Madagascar Frog	E							X					
			The small frog caught on the night walk, Ranomafana												
	<i>Mantidactylus majori</i> MANTELLIDAE	Ivohimanita Madagascar Frog	E								X				
			Larger frog, in the stream, Ranomafana												
	<i>Mantidactylus melanopleura</i> MANTELLIDAE	Black-sided Madagascar Frog	E							X					
			The elegant frog with dark sides, Ranomafana, daytime, 8 <sup>th</sup>												
	<i>Plethodontohyla inguinalis</i> MICROHYLIDAE	Boulenger's Digging Frog	E							X					
			The large frog by the bamboo lemurs, Ranomafana												
	<i>Scaphiophryne brevis</i> MICROHYLIDAE	Brown Rain Frog	E	X	X										
			The small 'burrowing frog', Ifaty												
	<i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i> PTYCHADENIDAE	Mascarene Grass Frog						X							
			The tiny froglets in the puddle, Isalo												



Top, l to r: *Gephyromantis sculpturatus*, *Plethodontohyla inguinalis* and *Mantidactylus melanopleura*  
 Middle, l to r: *Mantidactylus betsileanus*, *Guibemantis pulcher* and *Mantella baroni*  
 Bottom, l to r: *Ptychadena mascariensis*, *Scaphiophryne brevis* and *Boophis reticulatus*

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INVERTEBRATES			
Butterflies			
		<i>Atrophaneura anterior</i>	The enormous swallowtail, black with white spots. eg Ifaty, Tulear, Zombitse
		<i>Papilio epiphorbas</i>	<i>E</i> Black and green swallowtail: Zombitse and Anja. Restricted to Madagascar and Comoros.
		<i>Papilio dardanus</i>	Creamy-white swallowtail, Zombitse.
		<i>Papilio delalandei</i>	<i>E</i> Black and white swallowtail, Isalo
	Green-veined Charaxes	<i>Charaxes antamboulou</i>	<i>E</i> Common at Zombitse
	Plain Tiger or African Monarch	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Commonly seen in the west and south
	Diadem	<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i>	Excellent Plain Tiger mimic, Isalo
		<i>Aterica rabena</i>	<i>E</i> Big orange and black 'nymphalid', eastern rainforests
	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Tulear
	Brilliant Blue	<i>Junonia rhadama</i>	<i>E</i> The big blue butterfly in the garden at Antsirabe
	Yellow Pansy	<i>Junonia hierta</i>	Zombitse
	Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone</i>	Isalo
		<i>Saribia tepahi</i>	<i>E</i> Metalmark with long tails, sat along many of the trails in the eastern rainforests
		<i>Leptotes rabenaber</i>	The blue fluttering around muddy puddles, Mantadia
		<i>Acraea ranavalona</i>	<i>E</i> The butterfly with transparent fore-wings and bright red hind-wings at Ifaty. Restricted to Madagascar and Comoros.
		<i>Acraea lia</i>	<i>E</i> The orange 'Acraea' at Zombitse. Restricted to Madagascar and Comoros
Moths			
	Madagascan Emperor Moth	<i>Bunaea aslauga</i>	The big emperor moth on the plastic flowers at dinner, Ranomafana, 7 <sup>th</sup>
		<i>Batocnema cocquerelii</i>	<i>E</i> Large colourful hawkmoth at reception, Isalo
		<i>Panogena jasmine</i>	<i>E</i> Large hawkmoth at the hotel, Ranomafana.
Miscellaneous			
	Rainbow Milkweed Locust	<i>Phymateus saxosus</i>	The big bright locust at Ifaty, 3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Flatid Bug	<i>Phromnia rosea</i>	White feathery nymphs (eg Ifaty, 3 <sup>rd</sup> ), and pink petal-like adults (eg Zombitse and Anja).
	Giant Hissing Cockroach	<i>Gromphadorina sp.</i>	On the night potter, Ifaty, 3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Isalo and Mantadia
	Globe Skimmer	<i>Pantala flaves cens</i>	Eg Isalo and Mantadia



l to r: *Saribia tepahi*, *Papilio delalandei* and *Acraea lia*