

Sandwich Bird Tours

MADAGASCAR June 2014



Group participants:

Neil Macleod Tour leader from Safariwise, Namibia

John van der Dol from Sandwich Bird Tours

Mike Byrne from Clocktower Images, Canada

John Razafindrakoto (Local Madagasy guide)

Carol Alexander, Monica Boeckx, Roger Bird, Miles Daniels, Brian Summerfield (SBT)

Cedi Rosterg, David and Mary Tasker (SWN)

Wendy Allen, Brenda Byrne, Karen Towne, (CTI)



Tour report by Neil and John

Saturday, 7 June

Most of the group met at the Antananarivo airport from where we transferred to our hotel, the Pallisandre Hotel and Spa which is situated in the middle town and has a great view over a large area of the city plains. A few birds seen along the road and in the gardens of the hotel included Madagascar Bulbul, Madagascar Red Fody, Dimorphic Egret, Cattle Egret and Common Myna. We settled into our rooms and met for dinner at 19:00.

The rest of our group arrived much later with Air France.

Temperature: 12 minimum and 24 maximum

Sunday, 8 June Tana to Antsirabe

Breakfast was served at 08:00 on the deck outside as the temperature was conveniently warm. The deck, overlooking the city delivered good views of Madagascar Bulbul and Madagascar Red Fody in the garden below. We departed the hotel just before 09:00 and did a wonderful walk in the "upper" city to view the Queen's palace and some local architecture before we left Tana and drove



south towards Antsirabe. A splendid and panoramic drive through the mountains, rice paddies afforded us a good look into the rural lives of the Malagasy people. We did several photo stops along the road but did not see too much wildlife. The drive to Antsirabe took most of the day and we arrived at our lodge at 16:00, meeting again at 18:00 for those wishing to do the checklist and dinner at 19:00. The air

was thin and rather chilly on our arrival.

Birds seen along the route included: Malagasy Kingfisher, Glossy Ibis, Hamerkop, Madagascar Kestrel, Pied Crow, Common Myna, Madagascar Mannikin, Green Sunbird, Madagascar Buzzard, Madagascar Red Fody, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Dimorphic Egret.

Temperature: 14 minimum and 28 maximum

170kms travelled

Monday, 9 June Antsirabe to Ranomafana

Wake up call at 06:00 for the group and we met for breakfast at 07:00 and departed our lodge around 08:00 and headed towards our next stop at Ranomafana. We did several stops along the road and had plenty of very good photographic opportunities and saw several new bird species. Just before lunch we had a lovely stroll through the town of Behenjy seeing Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Madagascar White-eye and Common Jery as well as taking some wonderful pictures of the local shops along the road. We arrived at Setam lodge just before 17:30 and checked into our rooms before some of us met at 18:30 to do the checklist and the rest of the party joined us for dinner at 19:00. A splendid day that was rather chilly at times.

Birds seen: Madagascar Partridge, Common and Stripe-throated Jery, Madagascar Buzzard, Madagascar Bulbul, Pied Crow, Yellow billed Kite, Green Sunbird, Madagascar Kingfisher, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Dimorphic Egret, Mascarene Martin, Madagascar Red Fody, Madagascar Wagtail,
Temperature: 12 minimum and 20 maximum
190 kms travelled

Tuesday, 10 June Ranomafana

We met for breakfast at 07:00 and departed to Ranomafana National Park to meet our guide Edmond at 08:00. Before leaving the lodge we saw Madagascar Buzzard, Nelicourvi Weaver, Madagascar White-eye, Madagascar Bulbul, Madagascar Crested Drongo, and Common Jery. We arrived at the park entrance and started our walk at 08:20. We have great views of Golden Bamboo Lemurs, Black- and- white ruffed Lemurs, Milne-Edward's Sifaka, Red-fronted Brown Lemur and Red- bellied Lemur. We also saw Madagascar Kingfisher, Velvet Asity and Madagascar Bulbul.



Red-bellied Brown Lemur

We had lunch in the village of Ranomafana and returned to the lodge for a short siesta before we met again at 17:00 to depart for our night walk with Edmond. We saw four different chameleon species as well as Brown Mouse Lemurs in the hour that we were out with Edmond and John. The evening air was cold. We returned to our lodge at 18:30 to do our checklist and have dinner.

Temperature: 11 minimum and 24 maximum

Wednesday, 11 June:

We met for breakfast at 07:00 and departed our lodge at 08:00. We collected Edmond at the park entrance before we continued and parked the bus at Vohiparara, an area within the park. There was dense fog this morning and we spent a bit of time photographing spider webs that were soaked with fog as well as a giraffe weevil (*Trachelophorus giraffe*) before we started our walk into the rain forest. We saw Red- fronted Brown Lemurs and several bird species that included: Blue Coua, Blue Vanga, Red- tailed Vanga, Chabert's Vanga, Long- billed Tetraka, Spectacled Tetraka, Common Jery, Common Newtonia, Nelicourvi Weaver, Madagascar Coucal, Madagascar Bulbul, Madagascar Wagtail, Cuckoo Roller and Madagascar Cuckooshrike.

We had a splendid lunch in the village of Ranomafana and some people opted to go looking for more lemurs whilst some took time to relax and we met again at 17:00 to depart on our evening walk. The intrepid group saw Great Bamboo Lemur as well the much sought after Pitta-like Ground-roller before joining the rest of the group for the evening walk.

Thursday, 12 June Ranomafana to Ranohira

Breakfast was served at 06:30, and with our bags packed, we departed the lodge just before 07:30. We did several photo stops along the road and eventually stopped in the town of Ambalavao. After lunch we briefly visited Anja Park and saw our first Ring-

tailed Lemurs. Birds seen included: Pied Crow, Cattle Egret, Madagascar Bulbul, Madagascar Stonechat, Great Egret, Madagascar Wagtail and Madagascar Kingfisher. Our journey took us through some amazing landscapes with rolling grass hills and some large granite outcrops.

We arrived at our lodge at 18:40 and met for the list and dinner at 19:30. Not much seen today as we had a travelling day and not too much time for stops.

290 kms

Friday, 13 June Ranohira (Isalo NP)

Some people met at 06:30 and did a sunrise photo shoot with Mike whilst others did a short nature walk and saw Madagascar Hoopoe, Madagascar Bulbul, Forest Rock-thrush, Madagascar Crested Drongo, Madagascar Coucal, Stripe-throated Jery, Yellow-billed Kite, Pied Crow and Souimanga Sunbird. We departed the lodge at 08:00 and drove to Isalo National Park where we did a very nice walk into the riverine/canyon forest along the waterway. We have excellent views of Ring-tailed Lemurs and spent several hours at the campsite watching and photographing them. The group split up and some people did a hike with our local guide down the canyon and returned to the campsite two hours later. We all saw Verreaux's Sifaka and Red-fronted Brown Lemurs come into camp looking for berries and other foods.



We all had great views of Madagascar Bulbul and Hoopoe, Madagascar Paradise-flycatcher, Madagascar Magpie Robin, Grey headed Lovebird, Madagascar Crested Drongo, Common and Stripe-throated Jery and Madagascar Cuckoo-shrike. We returned to our lodge for lunch at 14:00. A short siesta and we were all out on a walk at 16:00 with either a birding or photographic group. We saw Madagascar Pond Heron, Purple Heron, Madagascar Cisticola, Madagascar Mannikin, Madagascar Button Quail, Sioumanga Sunbird, Striated Heron, Madagascar Kestrel and Pied Crow. We returned to the lodge at sunset, which was at 17:30 and met again to do our checklist and had dinner at 18:30.

A great meal with a great menu, served with great enthusiasm by the local crew!

Saturday, 14 June Ranohira to Tulear to Ifaty

We had breakfast with our bags packed at 06:30 and departed the lodge at 07:20 and headed southwest down to Tulear. We stopped at Zombitse forest just before 9 where we did a very pleasant walk into the forest and added Hubbard's Sportive Lemur to the ever growing Lemur list as well as more Verreaux's Sifakas. Birds seen included: Madagascar Cuckoo-roller, Appert's Tetraka, Coquerel's Coua, Madagascar Buzzard, Madagascar Kestrel, Common Newtonia, Madagascar Bulbul, Madagascar Cisticola, Madagascar Lark, Madagascar Mannikin, and Lesser and Greater Vasa Parrot. We left the forest just before 11:00 and got to Tulear for lunch at the local Italian for pizza at 13:30. After lunch we were delayed for 40 minutes as Neil needed to sort out some money matters but this gave some people an opportunity for shopping and we then drove on to our lodge, Le Parradisier close to Ifaty village. It was wonderful to smell the ocean air. En route we saw Sakalava Weaver, Madagascar Kingfisher, Madagascar Crested Drongo, Striated Heron, Namaqua Dove, Black winged Stilt and Kittlitz's Plover. We arrived at our lodge just after 17:00 and proceeded to check in, ordered our meal and had a clean up before we met again at 18:30 to do our checklist and dinner.
280 kms

Sunday, 15 June Ifaty

Early morning coffee and tea at 05:30 and we departed at 06:00 arriving at Reniala Spiny Forest just after 6:20 where we started our walk into the forests. We had excellent views and managed to photograph both the Long-tailed Ground-roller and the Sub-desert Mesite. During the following three hours we also saw: Sickle-billed Vanga, Chabert's Vanga, White-headed and Lafresnaye's Vanga, Madagascar Harrier Hawk, Madagascar Turtle Dove, Namaqua Dove, Souimanga Sunbird, Sakalava Weaver, Common Newtonia, Archbold's Newtonia, Common and Stripe-throated Jery, Madagascar Hoopoe, Madagascar Kestrel and Green Sunbird.



We returned to the lodge for a late breakfast at around 10:20. We all dispersed after breakfast and met again at 14:00 for our lunch. After a relaxing afternoon we all departed by bus and headed for the local village and salt pans for some birding and photo opportunities. The photographic group had a great time in the local village and boasted many good pictures of the local people on their return. The birders

managed to see Kittlitz's Plover, White-fronted Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Sanderling, Turnstone, Madagascar Lark, Madagascar Nightjar before

returning to the lodge just after 18:00. We ordered our meals before we all went to freshen up for dinner and our checklist at 19:00. We had quite a few mosquitoes at this lodge and in the general area.

Temperature: Minimum 19 and maximum 29

Monday, 16 June Ifaty to Tulear to Anakao

Breakfast started at 06:30 with bags packed and we departed at 07:30. The drive back to Tulear was very dusty and bumpy but we managed to see Madagascar Kingfisher, Madagascar Bulbul, Common Whimbrel, Dimorphic Egret, Sakalava Weaver, Common Myna, Madagascar Lark, Madagascar Cisticola, Black winged Stilt and Kittlitz's Plover. We arrive at the harbour where our transfer boat was waiting for us. We departed Tulear harbour at 09:20 for our one hour boat trip to our lodge, Anakao. We booked in and settled before we met again for lunch at 12:30. Absolutely stunning seafood was served and we enjoyed our siesta until 16:00. A photo shoot and bird walk on the beach produced some excellent photos and while seeing Grey Heron, Greater Flamingo, Madagascar Plover (our target species in this area), Dimorphic Egret and White-fronted Plover.

Other birds at the lodge included, Grey Heron, Dimorphic Egret, Pied Crow, Souimanga Sunbird, Common Myna, Chabert's Vanga, Madagascar Bee-eater, Madagascar Coucal, Hook billed Vanga, Madagascar Crested Drongo, Common and Stripe-throated Jery, Madagascar Kestrel, Madagascar Lark and Sakalava Weaver.

We met at 18:30 to do the checklist and had a great seafood dinner.



Tuesday, 17 June Anakao

We had a "late" breakfast starting at 07:00 and departed by boat to Nose Ve Island just after 08:00 together with some snorkelling gear, cameras and binoculars. Our three and a half hour excursion to Nosy Ve produced excellent photographic opportunities of the Red-tailed Tropicbird, Madagascar Gull, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Dimorphic Egret, Humblot's Heron and a party of nine Crab Plovers. This was one of the highlights of the tour as this uninhabited island is just the jewel in the cobalt blue ocean and with the clear blue skies, it was just a stunning experience.

We returned to the lodge after a very fast snorkel, which proved very difficult due to a strong current. Lunch was at 12:30 and we met again for an afternoon bird walk at 16:00.

Other birds seen: White-fronted Plover, Littoral Rock-thrush, Pied Crow, Madagascar Crested Drongo, Madagascar Cisticola, Sioumanga Sunbird, Madagascar Bee-eaters, Madagascar Lark, Sakalava Weaver and Common Jery.

We met for dinner and the checklist at 18:30.

Nice warm day but very windy in the late afternoon. Average temperature was 28 degrees Celsius.

Wednesday, 18 June Anakao to Berenty

Early breakfast at 05:00 and we departed the lodge by boat at 05:35 and headed back to Tulear for our flight to Fort Dauphin which was supposed to depart at 08:15. "hurry up and wait". We eventually left at 09:25. The flight to Fort Dauphin took about 40 minutes. We were met by our bus and staff from Berenty Lodge and immediately stopped in town at the first service station to buy some food for the road. We travelled until 13:00 and stopped for a picnic lunch by the side of the road. After lunch we still had to drive for another hour and a half before reaching Berenty at around 15:00. We were welcomed by Ring-tailed Lemurs and "dancing" Verraux's Sifakas. All in all about a four hour drive to Berenty from the airport. Our guide at Berenty was Olivier. We all checked in and met again at the restaurant at 16:00 to do a short walk through the gallery forest. We returned to our rooms at 17:20 and met again at the restaurant at 18:00 to order our dinner and then leave on our night walk. Birds seen include: Humblot's Heron, Great Egret, Dimorphic Egret, Cattle Egret, Yellow-billed Kite, Pied Crow, Madagascar Buzzard, Madagascar Kestrel, Madagascar Bulbul, Madagascar Bee-eater, Madagascar Red Fody, Madagascar Coucal, Madagascar Turtle Dove. We also saw and photographed Verraux's Sifaka, Ring-tailed Lemur and Red-fronted Brown Lemurs. Madagascar Cuckoo-roller called as we approached our rooms and White-browed Owl took over the calling just after dusk. It sat just outside one of the rooms and close approach was possible and flash photographs were taken. Madagascar Nightjars were flying about all over the place near our rooms soon after dusk and great views were possible in the artificial lights. We managed to see White-footed Sportive Lemur as well as Grey Brown Mouse Lemur on our night walk. Madagascar Flying Foxes were noted too. We had dinner and did our checklist on our return from the night-walk.

There were many mosquitoes at Berenty.

Temperature: Minimum 19 Maximum 29



Crested Coua

Thursday, 19 June Berenty
Coffee and tea was served at 06:00 and we departed on our morning excursion at 06:30 with the photographers going to the spiny forest section and the birders to the airstrip to find the Madagascar Sandgrouse of which great views were obtained. Madagascar Bee-eater, Madagascar Bulbul,

Helmeted Guineafowl, Sakalava Weaver, Madagascar Red Fody, Crested Coua, Madagascar Kestrel, Madagascar Cisticola, Namaqua Dove and Madagascar Turtle Dove. We all returned to the camp for breakfast at 08:30 and met again to do a walk at 09:45. There were Ring-tailed Lemurs all around the camp and David found the group a roosting White-browed Owl. Our two and a half hour walk produced White-headed

Vanga, Crested Coua, Giant Coua, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Common Jery, Madagascar Bulbul, Madagascar Button Quail as well as Ring tailed, Red- fronted Brown, and White- footed Sportive Lemur and Verraux's Sifaka. We returned to our lodge for lunch at 12:30.

After lunch we had a short siesta and met again at 15:00 to drive to a patch of spiny forest. Here we saw: Lesser Vasa Parrot, Madagascar Bulbul, Madagascar Bee-eater, Madagascar Coucal, Madagascar Kestrel, etc.

Some people went on the night walk into the gallery forest at 18:00 but did not see a great deal different.

We had dinner and did our checklist.



Friday, 20 June Berenty to Andasibe

We had early morning coffee etc at 05:00 and departed Berenty at 05:30, driving the very bumpy road back to Fort Dauphin where we had breakfast at a hotel before going to the airport for our flight to Antananarivo which was supposed to fly via Tuleur! The flight eventually arrived but we were informed that the plane was now flying to Antananarivo via Morondava. We arrived in Tana at 14:50 and set off from the airport at 15:30. This was several hours later than was originally expected. New birds added to our list today: Red- billed Teal and Madagascar Black Swift. We arrived at our accommodation, Vakona and after settling into our rooms we had dinner just after 20:35. A very long travelling day!

Saturday, 21 June Andasibe

Breakfast was served at 07:00 and we decided to take it easy around the lodge as it started raining during the evening. We sat the rain out at the lodge and saw: Madagascar Wagtail,

Madagascar White-eye, Common Jery, Blue Coua. We had lunch overlooking the lake and met again at 15:30 to do a walk to the Lemur island, despite the rain. The visit to Lemur island allows for good interaction with several lemur species and we also saw Chabert's Vanga, Red- billed Teal, Madagascar Spine- tailed Swift, Striated Heron, Madagascar Crested Drongo and Madagascar Brush Warbler. We left the lodge and drove to Perinet and met up with Zack and Flora, our two guides for this area and we did a night-walk for an hour and a half, even though it was still drizzling a little. Three new chameleon species as well as Goodman's Mouse-lemur were added to our list. We returned to the lodge at 19:40 and had dinner and did the checklist at 20:00.

Sunday, 22 June Andasibe

Breakfast, overlooking the lake started at 07:00 and we departed the lodge at 08:00 to drove back to Perinet and the national park where we met our guides for our walk into

the rainforest which started at 08:30. We headed into the secondary rain forest and within an hour's walk, we saw our first Indri and spent quite some time with them. Their call it is an amazing sound and undescriptive. Maybe eery if anything and certainly ear-piercingly loud.. We had great photographic opportunities and eventually moved on to a sighting of three sleeping Eastern Woolly Lemurs followed by Common Brown Lemurs and Diademed Sifakas before returning to our bus. We headed back to the lodge for lunch at 13:50. Birds seen included Madagascar Coucal, Blue Coua, Madagascar White-eye, Greater Vasa Parrot, Madagascar Wood Rail, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Common Jery, Dark Newtonia, Madagascar Long-eared Owl and Blue Pigeon.

After lunch we all went in different directions and had the afternoon at leisure. Some people opted to go back to Lemur Island for more photo opportunities and we met again at 18:00 to do another night walk which was a little disappointing with only Short-nosed Chameleon and a couple of Tree Frogs seen. We did however find a Voalavoanala which is a small species of rat and new for our mammal list.



Madagascar Hoopoe

Monday, 23 June Andasibe to Tana
Breakfast with our bags packed at 07:00 before departing Vakona Lodge before 08:00. There was rain in the rainforest this morning, so a good time for us to move along to our next destination. The drive to Antananarivo is through the mountains and is very picturesque and we stopped several times to take photos. It rained for most of the way to

Antananarivo and we arrived in the city for lunch in a restaurant. After lunch we visited the craft market before going to our hotel, the Palisandre Hotel and Spa. We arrived at the hotel just after 17:00 and met again for dinner at 19:00. Some good food, good South African wine and good company before we had a look at Mike's great presentation that he put together using five photos from each participant. We retired to our rooms just before 22:00.

Birds seen: Madagascar Kingfisher, Madagascar Bulbul, Madagascar White-eye, Madagascar Kestrel, Madagascar Buzzard, Dimorphic Egret, Great Egret, Black Heron, Common Myna, Madagascar Bee-eater, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher.

Tuesday, 24 June Tana to departure

We all left at different times in order to catch our planes to different destinations round the globe. We said our good-byes and hope that some of us will meet again one sunny day! Some of us finally caught up with Malagasy Pond Heron on the way to the airport.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

By John

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* Seen only on Nosy ve Island where they are nesting. Consequently we had stunning views and almost fully grown chicks were still sitting on the nest mostly under bushes

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Seen only in the Anakao area in just small numbers

Humblot's Heron (E) *Ardea humbloti* Two or three seen in Anakao and on Nosy ve Island and one along the road to Berenty

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* A single at Ranhira (Jardin du Roy)

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Seen in most wetland areas

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Seen in wetland areas surrounding Antananarivo (Tana)

Madagascar Pond Heron (E) *Ardeola idea* Two or three seen on wet rice paddies on the outskirts of Tana on three occasions. Not a common bird at this time of year. A couple were seen on the lake at Jardin du Roy

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Very common in wetland areas

Dimorphic Egret *Egretta dimorpha* Seen regularly in small numbers

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Ones and twos in suitable habitat

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Single bird seen at Anakao

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* Commonly found

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* One or two large flocks seen in the distance from Anakao

Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor* A single flock at Anakao

Red-billed Duck *Anas erythrorhyncha* Two and four on two dates

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Seen on a regular basis

Madagascar Harrier-Hawk (E) *Polyboroides radiatus* A single in the Berenty Spine Forest gave great views

Madagascar Buzzard (E) *Buteo brachypterus* Commonly seen throughout

Madagascar Kestrel (E) *Falco newtoni* Common throughout

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Single seen from the bus

Madagascar Partridge (E) *Margaroperdix madagascarensis* A female seen by the side of the road gave excellent views and another a couple of days later

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* Recorded on three dates

Subdesert Mesite (E) *Monias benschi* A single on the nest in the Spiny Forest at Berenty

Madagascar Buttonquail (E) *Turnix nigricollis* Three singles gave good views

Madagascar Wood-Rail (E) *Canirallus kiolooides* About five birds seen well in Andasibe

Greater Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* A pair were seen in a rice paddy on our way to Ranomafana

Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola* A party of eight were discovered on the Nosy ve Island

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Seen on two dates

Madagascar Plover (E) *Charadrius thoracicus* A pair gave great views on the beach at Anakao

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* Found in good numbers in all suitable areas

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* A pair in seen in some rice paddies south of the capital

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus* Between one and 25 on three dates
Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* One and four on two dates along the coast
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* A single on some wetland areas near Berenty
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* A single in the place above and small numbers on Nosy ve Island
Sanderling *Calidris alba* Also a single near Berenty and small numbers on the beach on Nosy ve Island
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* A few near Berenty
Madagascar Gull (E) *Larus mellisandae* A single adult on the beach on Nosy ve Island
Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* A single seen offshore
Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* A party of six seen on Nosy ve Island
Madagascar Sandgrouse (E) *Pterocles personatus* Four were seen near the Berenty Spiny Forest
Rock Dove *Columba livia* Forever present. Some may even have been “real”
Madagascar Turtle Dove *Streptopelia picturata* Found in small numbers throughout but especially in the south
Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* Small numbers seen often along the road
Madagascar Blue-Pigeon (E) *Alectroenas madagascariensis* Five seen in Andasibe
Grey-headed Lovebird (E) *Agapornis canus* Small numbers throughout
Greater Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis vasa* A single in Zombitse forest en route to Ifaty and another two at Andasibe
Lesser Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis nigra* Three singles seen
Giant Coua (E) *Coua gigas* Two seen in the gallery forest at Berenty
Coquerel’s Coua (E) *Coua coquerell* Two seen in Zombitse Forest
(Red-breasted Coua (E) *Coua serriana* Heard only in Andasibe)
Green-capped Coua (E) *Coua olivaceiceps* Single in the Reniala Private Reserve near Ifaty
Running Coua (E) *Coua cursor* Singles seen on two occasions
Crested Coua (E) *Coua cristata* One or two on four dates.
Blue Coua (E) *Coua caerulea* Two on two dates
Madagascar Coucal *Centropus toulou* one or two on most days
Barn Owl *Tyto alba* A single seen on two dates at Berenty
Madagascar Scops Owl (E) *Otus rutilus* A single in the Spiny Forest at Berenty
White-browed Owl (E) *Ninox superciliaris* Up to three on three dates at Berenty
Madagascar Long-eared Owl (E) *Asio madagascariensis* A single at Andasibe
Madagascar Nightjar *Caprimulgus madagascariensis* Up to three or four on seven dates in the south
Madagascar Spinetailed Swift (E) *Zooavena grandidieri* Between one and four on five dates
African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* ones and twos mostly in the Tana area
Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* One or two on three dates
Madagascar Swift *Apus balstoni* Two seen from the bus somewhere in the south
Madagascar Kingfisher *Alcedo vintsiodes* one or two on most dates
Madagascar Bee-eater *Merops supercilliosus* Seen on most days in small numbers
Pitta-like Ground-Roller (E) *Atelornis pittoides* Two seen in Ranomafana
Long-tailed Ground-Roller (E) *Uratelornis chimaera* A single seen in Reniala Private Reserve near Ifaty



Madagascar Cuckoo-Roller *Leptosomus discolor* Ones and twos seen in forest areas though mostly fly-overs

Madagascar Hoopoe (E) *Upupa marginata* One or two on six dates

Velvet Asity (E) *Philepitta castanea* A non-breeding male in Ranomafana and three females in Andasibe

Madagascar Lark (E) *Mirafra hova* Good numbers seen on the roads in dry areas

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola* Small numbers on two dates

Mascarene Martin *Phedina borbonica* Small numbers on three dates

Madagascar Wagtail (E) *Motacilla flaviventris* Common round the Ranomafana area and small numbers elsewhere

Madagascar Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina cinerea* One or two at Ranomafana

Long-billed Tetraka (E) *Bernieria madagascariensis* Seen in Ranomafana and Andasibe Forests

Spectacled Tetraka (E) *Xanthomixis zosterops* Small numbers in Ranomafana and Andasibe

Appert's Tetraka (E) *Xanthomixis apperti* Three seen Zombitse Forest

Grey-crowned Tetraka (E) *Xanthomixis cinereiceps* A single in Ranomafana

Madagascar Bulbul *Hypsipetes madagascariensis* Common

Forest Rock-Thrush (E) *Pseudocossyphus sharpie* Seen in Jardin de Roi Lodge grounds and Isalo NP

Littoral Rock-Thrush (E) *Pseudocossyphus imerinus* Two seen on two dates at Anakao

Madagascar Cisticola *Cisticola cherinus* Small numbers seen in suitable habitat

Madagascar Brush Warbler (E) *Nesillas typica* One or two in Ranomafana and up three in Andasibe

Subdesert Brush Warbler (E) *Nesillas lantzii* Seen on three dates with a maximum of eight at Anakao

Dark Newtonia (E) *Newtonia amphichroa* Singles seen in Ranomafana and Andasibe

Common Newtonia (E) *Newtonia brunneicauda* Small numbers in forested areas

Archbold's Newtonia (E) *Newtonia archboldi* Two in the Reniala Private Reserve near Ifaty

Madagascar Magpie Robin (E) *Copsychus albospectularis* Small numbers throughout Malagasy Stonechat *Saxicola sibilla* Three singles seen

Ward's Vanga (E) *Pseudobias wardii* A single seen in Andasibe

Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone mutata* small numbers seen in all forested areas including the stunning white morph males

Common Jery (E) *Neomixis tenella* The commonest small passerine seen in all areas

Stripe-throated Jery (E) *Neomixis stiatigula* Small numbers often in Common Jery parties

Souimanga Sunbird *Cinnyris souimanga* Common throughout

Madagascar Green Sunbird *Cinnyris notatus* Four singles seen

Madagascar White-eye *Zosterops maderaspatanus* Seen in small or sometimes quite large parties in gallery rain forest

Red-tailed Vanga (E) *Calicalicus madagascariensis* Ones and twos in the forested areas

Hook-billed Vanga (E) *Vanga curvirostris* A single at Anakao and another heard

Lafresnaye's Vanga (E) *Xenopirostris xenopirostris* Two seen in the Reniala Private Reserve near Ifaty

Sickle-billed Vanga (E) *Falcoelea palliata* A pair seen well in the Reniala Private Reserve near Ifaty

White-headed Vanga (E) *Artamella viridis* Three singles seen in forested areas

Chabert's Vanga (E) *Leptopterus chabert* Ones and twos in forest areas

Madagascar Blue Vanga *Cyanolanius madagascarinus* A single in Ranomafana as part of a feeding party

Tylas (E) *Tylas eduardi* A single in Ranomafana

Madagascar Crested Drongo *Dicrurus forficatus* Commonly seen in forests

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Common in open areas

Common Myna *Acridotherus tristis* A common introduced species of open and urban areas

Nelicourvi Weaver (E) *Ploceus nelicourvi* Three singles seen in forested areas

Sakalava Weaver (E) *Ploceus sakalava* A bird of rural areas and commonly noted

Madagascar Red Fody (E) *Foudia madagascariensis* A few out-of-plumage birds seen in rural areas and in Tana

Madagascar Manikin (E) *Lonchura nana* Small parties seen in rural areas

No of species 112+ 1 heard only

Endemics 57

Not a huge number of birds but this was very much a general tour looking mostly for Lemurs and doing a lot of photography. Birdwatching was almost secondary at times. However the quality made up for the lack of quantity. This also is out of breeding season and birds were very quiet and did not respond to tapes making forest watching quite difficult. It was also surprising how empty the general countryside is of birds emphasising the lack of endemic habitat left after 80% of de-forestation.

MAMMALS

Brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus rufus*--- Ranomafana
Grey Brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus griseorufus*--- Berenty
Goodman's Mouse Lemur *Microcebus lehilhytsara*--- Andasibe
White-footed sportive Lemur *Lepilemur leucopus*--- Berenty
Hubbard's sportive Lemur *Lepilemur hubbardi*--- Zombitse Forest
Golden Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur aureus*--- Ranomafana
Greater Bamboo Lemur *Prolemur simus*--- Ranomafana
Ring-tailed Lemur *Lemur catta*--- Anja Park, Berenty,
Red-bellied Lemur *Eulemur rubriventer*--- Ranomafana
Common Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus*--- Andasibe
Red-fronted Brown Lemur *Eulemur rufus*--- Ranomafana, Anja Park, Berenty
Black-and-white ruffed Lemur *Verecia variegata*--- Ranomafana
Eastern Woolly Lemur *Avahi laniger*--- Andasibe
Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus diadema*--- Andasibe
Milne-Edward's Sifaka *Propithecus edwardsi*--- Ranomafana
Verreaux's Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi*, Anja Park, Zombitse Forest, Berenty,
Indri *Indri indri*--- Andasibe
Eastern Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus*--- Ranomafana
Voalavoanala *Gymnuromys roberti*--- Andasibe
Tuft-tailed Rat sp *Eliurus sp*--- Ranomafana
Madagascar Flying Fox *Pteropus rufus* --- Berenty



REPTILES

Madagascar Ground Boa *Acrantophis madagascariensis*
Madagascar Burrowing (Common Big-eyed) Snake *Mimophis mahfelensis*
Short-horned Chameleon *Calumma boettgeri*
Blue-legged Chameleon *Calumma cryticum*
Side-striped Chameleon *Calumma gastrotaenia*
Nose-horned Chameleon *Calumma nasuta*
O'shaughnessy's Chameleon *Calumma oshaughnessyi*
Parson's Chameleon *Calumma parsonii*
Oustalet's Chameleon *Furcifer oustaleti*
Warty (Curvier) Chameleon *Furcifer verucucosus*
Sakalava Giant Gecko *Blaesodactylus sakalava*
Lined Day Gecko *Phelsuma lineate*
Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus phantasticus*
Madagascar Iguana *Chalarodon madagascariensis*
Dumeril's Madagascar Swift Lizard *Oplurus quadrimaculatus*
Gravenhorst's Mabuya *Trachelepis gravehorstii*
Madagascar Spider Tortoise *Pyxis arachnoides*
Radiated Tortoise *Geochelone radiate*

In conclusion, this was a wonderful tour with so many unusual birds and mammals. We managed to see a great deal of central and southern Madagascar in the company of a great group of people from different parts of the world with diverse and yet similar interests.

I would like to thank Neil of Safariwise, Namibia, and his office back-up staff for organising such a fantastic tour and Malagasy John for dealing with the day to day issues.

Thanks are also due to all the participants without whom there would be no tour and it was a great pleasure to travel with you all. I hope we will meet again somewhere some time may be in Northern Madagascar in search of new species of Lemur.

John
August 2014





Short-horned Chameleon



Side-striped Chameleon



Blue-legged Chameleon



O'shaughnessy Chameleon

MADAGASCAR



JUNE 2014