

MADAGASCAR

NOVEMBER 1-21, 2008

DAVID BISHOP & DAVID HODDINOTT

**NORTHERN MADAGASCAR
EXTRAORDINARY HELMETBIRD EXTENSION!
NOVEMBER 20 – DECEMBER 1, 2008**

DAVID BISHOP & GLEN VALENTINE

Compiled by: David Bishop

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TX 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

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If you haven't visited Madagascar, then you really must do so. This was my first tour there since the early 1980s, and I couldn't believe the huge, positive changes that have subsequently taken place. The improvement in the roads was generally impressive; some of the lodges at which we stayed were arguably as good as any at which I have stayed anywhere in the world; and the font of knowledge, especially among our local guides, concerning where to find birds, mammals, and reptiles, coupled with several attractive and immensely useful field guides, greatly enhances any tour to this country. Undoubtedly, a VENT tour to Madagascar is one of the premier natural history experiences of our world.

This is truly a remarkable country with an assemblage of plants and wildlife that is nothing short of astonishing. While a report such as this tells something of what we saw and heard, it only tells part of the story and can never really convey the wonderful overall sights and sounds of Madagascar and its delightful people. Remarkably, we recorded 196 species of birds, 29 mammals, 38 reptiles, and more than six frogs. Some of the highlights included:

- Exceptional views of all five ground-rollers, including prolonged, point-blank views of a very confident Rufous-headed Ground-Roller;
- An impressive 21 species of lemurs, including fine studies of black-and-white and red-ruffed lemurs, the incomparable indri, and gorgeous diademed sifakas;
- After a protracted chase we all enjoyed memorable, close views of the spectacular Helmet Vanga. What a bird!
- Three sightings of the elusive Madagascar Crested Ibis, including a pair attending a nest;
- A spectacular convocation of Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asities at a favored flowering tree;
- Nine species of chameleons, many of them multiple times;

And last, but most certainly NOT least:

- An endearing lesser tenrec, which our wonderful guides at Ifaty tracked down and showed everyone, much to your leader's joy.

What a place!

It is always a privilege to explore a place as exciting and brimming with fascination as Madagascar, especially in the company of such a wonderful group. To return to the spectacular eighth continent with such a great group was sheer joy. Thank you one and all. Thanks, too, to all the people in Madagascar who helped make this trip so much fun and so successful. In particular I should like to pay special tribute to Fano, my remarkable colleague and in-country co-leader extraordinaire. I should also like to thank David Hoddinott and Glen Valentine for the opportunity to co-lead with them; what fine, friendly, and knowledgeable colleagues.

Thanks, too, to all our drivers, assistants, local guides, park rangers, and boatmen who helped make our tour such a success.

The following is a summary of our daily activities, as well as a list of what we heard and saw. Some of you may be surprised at just how many species we saw well AND were able to study through the scope!

Thank you,

David Bishop

ITINERARY:

3 November – After a welcome lunch we visited the private reserve of Lac Alarobia until dusk. Fine scope studies of nesting Madagascar Pond-Heron, in addition to large numbers of herons, egrets and ducks.

4 November – Departing after an elegant breakfast we made the long drive to Ranomafana, an interesting journey that included a variety of farmland, marshes and woodland. After stopping for lunch we continued south and eastwards through torrential rain and spectacular electric storm before descending through some fine looking rainforest to our lodge in the lowland forest. A stop at a very birdy patch of Upland Forest produced amazing views of Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk; point-blank views of a male France's Sparrowhawk and the handsome White-throated Rail.

5 November – A hike to remember but the birds we saw were well worth it as we toiled up and down steep slopes in the lower elevation wet-forests of Ranomafana. A welcome siesta followed by a relaxed, easy walk to an upland mire and forest-lined river near Vohiparara. Despite the sweat the morning produced several great birds including three Meller's Ducks in flight; a nesting pair of the gigantic Henst's Goshawk; our first views of the incomparable Pitta-like Ground-Roller; a pair of snoozing Golden Bamboo-Lemur and a very confiding pair of Wedge-tailed Jeries.

6 November – A delightful hike through Upland Forest at Vohiparara; late afternoon and early evening in the lower elevation forest at Ranomafana. Lots of birds and mammals including our only Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity; gorgeous Red-bellied Lemur; nesting Madagascar Buzzard and our first Blue Vanga – that blue just has to be seen to be believed!

7 November – A longish but easy and very charming drive from Ranomafana back up the escarpment before turning south again and then through increasingly dry, open country to our delightful lodging in Isalo National Park. Highlights today included the rare Madagascar Harrier; great views of Red-fronted Coua and some fine landscapes and concluded the day with a pair of nesting Benson's Rock-Thrushes above the door of the leader's room!

8 November – Early morning birding in Isalo National Park followed by a delicious breakfast and then a quick drive to Zombitse Forest for a hike through the dry deciduous forest before it became too hot. After lunch, we had a drive to Tulear. The very interesting and birdy Zombitse woodland produced nice views of the dapper Appert's Tetraka (Greenbul); a roosting Hubbard's Sportive Lemur and some amazing geckos.

9 November – After one of the world's more interesting means of boarding our speed boat (two wheeled ox-cart) we sped off to the tiny, coralline island of Nosy Ve. Birding and snorkeling before a delicious seafood luncheon on the nearby mainland and then an 'interesting' boat-ride back to Tulear. Fabulous close views of several nesting Red-tailed Tropicbirds and an equally confiding pair of nesting Littoral Rock-Thrush.

10 November – Pre-dawn in the Coral-Rag-Scrub before returning for breakfast and then by four-wheel-drive vehicle to Ifaty via some brackish marshes. From our very attractive lodgings we made our first venture out into the peculiar Spiny Forest. The very localized and increasingly rare Red-shouldered Vanga plus Verreaux's Coua and Lafresnaye's Vanga put on a good show before breakfast. Our first excursion into the peculiar and fascinating Spiny Forest replete with several species of Boababs produced our first Running Coua and great, close views of 'frozen' Sub-desert Mesite.

11 November – Pre-dawn to 09.30 hrs exploring the Spiny Forest; optional snorkeling after breakfast and then an afternoon visiting coastal marshes, grassland and mudflats; the day of the Lesser Tenrec plus nesting Long-tailed Ground-Roller and the elusive Banded Kestrel.

12 November – A last early morning in the Spiny Forest; breakfast; puddle-jumping to Tulear in time for lunch and our flight to Berenty where we over-nighted. A good chance for better or second views of several species plus several additional coastal wetland species.

13 November – 08.00 hrs departure for Berenty along the worst road in Madagascar! Lunch and then our first exploration of the reserve including a very productive night walk. It would be hard to go past the endearing Ring-tailed Lemurs and Verreaux's Sifaka but the late afternoon / early evening walk which produced Barn Owl, White-browed Owl, Grey-brown and Grey mouse lemurs, White-browed Sportive Lemur, and some super Chameleons was one of the highlight field sessions of the entire tour.

14 November – 05.00 hrs Berenty Forest walk; 08.00 hrs breakfast; further exploration of the forest until 11.00 hrs; lunch; late afternoon walked through a very attractive section of Spiny Forest. Everything is so wonderfully tame at this tiny but important reserve and the close views of nesting Madagascar Paradise-Flycatchers will be indelibly sketched on our memories. Add to this incredible photographic opportunities plus superb 'scope views of the Torotoroka Scops Owl and you have yet another superb day on this remarkable island.

15 November – Final morning of birding at Berenty before returning back along 'the' road; sea-watching off Fort Dauphin and then a much delayed flight back to Tana arriving at midnight. Fine views of Humpbacked Whales and Kelp Gull off Fort Dauphin.

16 November – An interesting drive through farmland, marshes and forest to Mantadia National Park and our attractive accommodations at Vakona Lodge. Afternoon very slow birding at Perinet. Great 'scope views of a pair of nesting Madagascar Pratincoles.

17 November – A superb morning's birding in Mantadia National Park followed by some good scrub and marsh birding in the afternoon. Exceptional views of two pairs of Nuthatch Vanga in addition to one of the world's most beautiful birds – Collared Nightjar not to mention fabulous studies of a troop of Diademed Sifaka.

18 November – Another fine morning's birding this time in Perinet. Lots of rain but nevertheless productive scrub and marsh birding in the afternoon. Who will ever forget the sight and sounds of our first Indris – the world's largest extant lemur in addition to unbelievable (I still have to pinch myself) views of Rufous-headed Ground-Roller and Madagascar Rail.

19 November – Yet another superb morning's birding in Mantadia followed by an equally superb afternoon in Perinet including a fabulous night-walk. What a day! A bit of hiking but what a result; simply sensational views of the very handsome Scaly Ground-Roller and a pair of amazingly obliging Short-legged Ground-Rollers and then just to round the morning off exceptional views of a troop of spectacular Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs.

20 November – Drive back to Tana with some birding along the way and an extraordinary dragonfly.

Post Tour Extension

21 November – Midday flight to Maroansetra and then an ‘interesting’ boat ride to our lodge on the Masoala Peninsula.

22 November – A very wet and slow day of birding in the lowland forest. Afternoon birding in nearby tall swamp forest. Good views of Red-breasted Coua but no Helmet Vanga!

23 November - Arguably one of the most lovely walks in Madagascar – along the beach and then up through spectacular primary forest. After much persistence great views of a pair of superb Helmet Vangas in addition to excellent views of Short-legged Ground-Roller and Red-ruffed Lemur.

24 November – A delightful boat ride back to Maroansetra and our eventual flight back to Tana. Lots of terns and a bulbous Tomato Frog!

25 November – Midday flight to Majunga and a ride accompanied by a spectacular storm to Ampijoroa.

26 November – A wonderful day of birding and natural history within Ampijoroa. That male Schlegel’s Asity is a knock-out and the White-breasted Mesites are not half bad but the generally birdiness of Ampijoroa was for me the highlight.

27 November – A final morning’s birding at Ampijoroa and after lunch a drive back to Majung. A very enjoyable hike concluding with fine views of Van Dam’s Vanga but including great kooks at two new couas, Great Hog-nosed Snake and several troops of the lovely Coquerel’s Sifaka.

28 November – A boat trip into the Betsiboka Estuary and a rare afternoon in which to relax and catch up on notes. Despite that we were unable to come up with the desired Bernier’s Teal we did have good looks at Madagascar Sacred Ibis and a vagrant African Spoonbill. Some nifty craft shopping *en route* back to our hotel concluded the day.

29 November – Midday flight back to Tana.

30 November – A day of shopping for some of Madagascar’s fine artifacts before our late evening flight to Paris.

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS

Non Passerines

1. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* – Approximately 55 on the brackish lake between Tulear and Ifaty and then *ca.* 40 another nearby lake.
2. Madagascar Little Grebe *Tachybaptus pelzelinii* – Two seen nicely on Lac Alarobia in Tana. Vulnerable.
3. Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* - Glorious views of this charismatic and spectacular bird as it flew low over our heads and of several nesting birds with well advanced chicks on Nosy Ve. Hard to really estimate numbers but we found at least six nesting pairs and saw at least 12 birds in the air at one time.
4. Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus* – Two at the river entrance to Maroansetra. Also known as Reed Cormorant.
5. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* – A total of six on the cliffs south of Tulear; one on a small marsh north of Tulear and one at the Mad. Plover site. Two at Ampijoroa and two in the Betsiboka Estuary.
6. Humblot's Heron *Ardea humbloti* - One pair with a well grown young on the cliffs south of Tulear and at least two other adults also on the same cliffs. One at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa. Endangered.
7. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* – Scattered ones and twos at several wetlands. A notably handsome species.
8. Great Egret *Ardea alba* - Common in rice paddies and at various wetland sites.

NOTE: Placed by some authorities in *Egretta* or *Casmerodius*.

9. Black Egret *Egretta ardesiaca* - At least 13 at Lac Alarobia in Tana, and 40+ near Ampijoroa. Also known as Black Heron.
10. Dimorphic Egret *Egretta dimorpha* – Widespread and fairly common, both along the coast and inland; good numbers nesting at Lac Alarobia.
NOTE: Treated by some authorities including the latest incarnation of Clements as a distinctive subspecies of Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*.
11. Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* - Abundant at the heronry at Lac Alarobia and just a few at Lac Ravelobe at Ampijoroa and also fairly common in the paddies around Tana. Many birds were in their delightful soft golden-brown breeding dress.
12. Madagascar Pond-Heron *Ardeola idea* - At least eight at Lac Alarobia in Tana on our first afternoon and a lovely pair nesting at Lac Ravelobe, Ampijoroa. Endangered.
13. Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* - Common in open areas throughout the tour.

NOTE: Until recently usually lumped with Eastern Cattle Egret *B. coromandus* and this is the line that Clements takes. However, there are several 'well informed' authorities that differ including yours truly!!!!!!

14. Little Heron *Butorides striatus* - Scattered sightings throughout the trip. This highly variable species is represented here by the subspecies *rutenbergi*.
15. Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* - Good numbers breeding at Lac Alarobia; ten at dusk above Vohipara and two at Lac Ravelobe, Ampijoroa.
16. Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* – One seen all too briefly by KDB at a small wetland near Tulear.
17. Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* – Fairly common in remanant wetlands within extensive areas of farmland; one pair attending a nest *en route* to Ranomafana and nine counted between Tana and Perinet.
18. Madagascar White Ibis *Threskiornis bernieri* – A total of 15 counted including some great views, on the trip onto the Betsiboka Estuary. Characterized by its pale iris and white on black wing tips, this taxon is treated as separate species by Birdlife International (BUT not Clements). Endangered.
19. Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* – Approximately 70 at Ampijoroa including several active nesting pairs.
20. Madagascar Crested Ibis *Lophotibis cristata* – Two birds seen superbly at Perinet thanks to Patrice who, to our utter astonishment, herded these fabulous birds in our direction one afternoon. We then saw a fine pair in the forest at Ampijoroa thanks to Lee-Ann’s keen eyes. And then on our last morning we were treated to superb ‘scope views of a pair on their well hidden nest. Near Threatened.
21. African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* – One well found by ‘Dirk’ in the Betsiboka Estuary. An uncommon visitor to Madagascar.
22. Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* – One and two on small lakes another between Ifaty and Tulear.
23. White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* - This attractive duck was abundant at Lac Alarobia, and a scatter elsewhere, especially at between Ranomafana and Ifaty; also Ampijoroa.
24. Comb Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus* - Two females at Lac Alarobia, and two nice seen males in the wetlands beyond Ampijoroa.
25. African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus* - Good views of this most handsome of ‘ducks’ in the wetlands both to the east and west of Ampijoroa.
26. Meller’s Duck *Anas melleri* – Good views of at least three birds in flight together with larger numbers of Red-billed Teal at a small river and associated grass-marsh on the edge of Ranamafana Nat. Pk.
27. Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* – 50 at Lac Alarobia, with a scatter elsewhere.
28. Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota* – Two on the lake between Tulear and Ifaty and *ca.* 20 in wetlands west of Ampijoroa.
29. Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda madagascariensis* - One was seen superbly in flight as it displayed around us at a very productive patch of forest *en route* to Ranomafana Nat. Pk. and two pairs attending nests at Berenty. This species mimics Madagascar Buzzard.
30. Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* - Widespread and seen throughout.

NOTE: This form is often lumped in Black Kite *M. migrans*.

31. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* – One or two seen well at Berenty.
32. Madagascar Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus vociferoides* - Great views of a pair at Lac Ravelobe, Ampijoroa. Critically Endangered.
33. Madagascar Harrier *Circus macrosceles* - A total of three seen over grasslands as we approached Isalo Massif. A surprisingly elusive and uncommon species. Vulnerable.

NOTE: Until very recently this species was lumped with Réunion Harrier *Circus maillardi* (and it still is by Clements). Madagascar Harrier is found on Madagascar and the Comoros.
34. Madagascar Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides radiatus* - Our first was seen superbly at Masoala as it was chased by Drongo along the beach and the second was seen in flight in the Betsiboka Estuary.
35. Frances's Sparrowhawk *Accipiter francesii* – Superb, close 'scope views of an adult male at a very productive patch of upland forest *en route* to Ranomafana Nat. Pk. and a second seen well but briefly in the woodland at Ampijoroa.
36. Madagascar Sparrowhawk *Accipiter madagascariensis* – One seen all too briefly at the edge of Perinet and a second seen well by just a couple of folks at our Masoala Lodging. Near Threatened.
37. Henst's Goshawk *Accipiter henstii* - One seen well at and near the nest on our first morning at Ranomafana. Near Threatened.
38. Madagascar Buzzard *Buteo brachypterus* - A good scatter of sighting of this vocal species including a nesting pair with young at Vohiparara and another nest at Ampijoroa.
39. Madagascar Kestrel *Falco newtoni* - A common and widespread species that was seen well almost every day including a pair nesting alongside our hotel in Tana.
40. Banded Kestrel *Falco zoniventris* – Excellent 'scope views of an adult on two mornings in the Spiny Forest near Ifaty. This is always a tricky and somewhat elusive species.
41. Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora* – One nicely spotted by David H. *en route* to Ranomafana Nat. Pk. and at least one flying around the airport at Tana.
42. Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor* – Fabulous 'scope views of one adult perched and several others in flight at the airport in Tana.
43. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* – Excellent views of a pair that mobbed a Yellow-billed Kite *en route* to Ampijoroa. Excellent spotting Bill.
44. Madagascar Partridge *Margaroperdix madagascarensis* - Two seen wellish near Isalo at the edge of dry scrub during the early morning and then a male flew across in front of our bus near Majunga and sat still long enough for everyone to find him and enjoy his dapper appearance.
45. Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* - Seen commonly at Berenty. This species is introduced in Madagascar.
46. Sub-desert Mesite *Monias benschi* - We enjoyed fine views of a 'treed' female twice at Ifaty thanks to some amazing tracking by our local guides. Vulnerable.

47. White-breasted Mesite *Mesitornis variegata* – A pair seen superbly well at Ampijoroa responding brilliantly to our tape; we saw another pair the following day and heard at least four others. Vulnerable.
 48. Brown Mesite *Mesitornis unicolor* – Sadly heard only. A pair well below us on a very steep slope at Ranomafana just would not come in. Vulnerable.
 49. Madagascar Buttonquail *Turnix nigricollis* - Seen well in the coral-rag scrub at dawn above Tulear and then in the Spiny Forest near Ifaty; a total of four were seen nicely at Berenty and a single male was seen at Ampijoroa. Probably the easiest buttonquail in the world to see!
 50. Madagascar Flufftail *Sarothrura insularis* – Fabulous looks at a pair at Perinet. Heard at several other sites.
 51. Madagascar Wood Rail *Canirallus kiolooides* – Seen briefly by KDB in the Ridge Forest at Perinet and then seen by a lucky couple of people on our very wet morning on the Masoala Peninsula.
 52. Madagascar Rail *Rallus madagascariensis* – Fabulous views of two individuals in marshland on the edge of Mantadia National Park.
 53. White-throated Rail *Dryolimnas cuvieri* - First seen superbly at a very bird-rich patch of upland rainforest *en route* to Ranomafana; one seen between Tana and Mantadia and another ran across the road in front of us at Ampijoroa. Several others heard throughout Madagascar.
 54. Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* – Heard *en route* to Ranomafana and one seen briefly by KDB between Tana and Perinet.
 55. Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni* – A total of seven at Lac Ravelobe, Ampijoroa.
 56. African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis* – Several heard on a small lake between Ifaty and Tulear.
 57. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* – Six at Lac Alarobia; one between Tana and Perinet and two at Lac Ravelobe, Ampijoroa.
- NOTE: Recent studies suggest that this widespread species comprises more than one species (the New World and Old World forms should almost certainly be split) so it is wise to note where you have seen moorhens!
58. Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* – Fifteen counted on a wetland just north of Tulear.
 59. Madagascar Jacana *Actophilornis albinucha* – Superb close views of five at Lac Ravelobe and in the wetlands surrounding Ampijoroa.
 60. Greater Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* – One male seen very nicely between Tana and Perinet thanks to some good work by David H.
 61. Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola* – Distant views of four on the mudflats at Tulear. This spectacular species is the only member of its family.
 62. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* – Daily totals of 25 and 30 on the small swamps around Tulear.

63. Madagascar Pratincole *Glareola ocularis* – Fabulous ‘scope views of a pair nesting along a river *en route* to Perinet and at least ten over our camp site at dusk and dawn on the Masoala Peninsula whilst several others roosted on nearby coastal rocks. Vulnerable.
64. Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* – Seen on four days along the coast near Tulear including a maxima of 50; six seen on the Betsiboka Estuary. Also known as Black-bellied Plover.
65. Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* - Small numbers seen nicely in the Tulear area and one on the Betsiboka Estuary.
66. Madagascar Plover *Charadrius thoracicus* – A pair seen superbly well near Ifaty. Vulnerable.
67. Kittlitz’s Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* - Common around Tulear and on Nosy Ve.
68. Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* – One *en route* to Ranomafana and three on a small marsh near Tulear.
69. White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus* – One pair on Nosy Ve and four on marshes north of Tulear.
70. Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* - Small numbers on the coast near Tulear and 30 counted on the Betsiboka Estuary.
71. Lesser Sand-Plover *Charadrius mongolus* – One ‘scoped’ well just south of Ifaty.
72. Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* - Five between Tulear and Ifaty.
73. Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* - The most common and widespread large wader in coastal areas with a maxima of 70 between Tulear and Ifaty and 10 on the Betsiboka Estuary.
74. Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquatus* – One seen briefly by the leaders as we entered the river at Maroanetra.
75. Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* – Four on the coast north of Tulear and as many as 15 on the Betsiboka Estuary.
76. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* – Widespread with low numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Madagascar.
77. Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* – Widespread and locally common with a daily maxima of 30 on the coastal mudflats between Tulear and Ifaty.
78. Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* – Low numbers on the coast between Tulear and Ifaty.
79. Sanderling *Calidris alba* - As many as ten on the coastal mudflats between Tulear and Ifaty.
80. Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* – A maxima of 20 on the coastal mudflats between Tulear and Ifaty.
81. Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* – Three seen very nicely off Fort Dauphin.
82. Common Noddy *Anous stolidus* – Three with a fishing flock off the Masoala Peninsula.

83. Saunders's Tern *Sterna saundersi* – A maxima of 20 on the coast south of Ifaty; also recorded on Nosy Ve.
84. Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* – One immature seen well in flight as we entered the river estuary at Maroansetra.
85. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* - One along the river near Maroansetra.
86. White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* – Two in basic plumage at the estuary of the river near Maroansetra.
87. Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* - Five on a sandbar near Nosy Ve and one immature flew right in front of our boat near Nosy Mangabe.
88. Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* – Sixty or more on the sand bars off Nosy Ve and 150 between Tulear and Ifaty.
89. Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* – Fifty or more on sandbars off Nosy Ve and 20 – 120 along the coast between Tulear and Ifaty; 50+ daily off the Masoala Peninsula.
90. Greater Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* – One off Fort Dauphin and 20+ off the Masoala Peninsula. Also known as Swift Tern.
91. Madagascar Sandgrouse *Pterocles personatus* – One seen very nicely in flight at the eleventh hour at Berenty.
92. Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* - Ubiquitous around towns and villages.
93. Madagascar Turtle Dove *Streptopelia picturata* - Widespread, but particularly tame and viewable at Berenty and Ampijoroa.
94. Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* – Widespread and generally common; this rather smart looking pigeon was common in the drier south and west of the country.
95. Madagascar Green Pigeon *Treron australis* – Two feeding at a Fig Tree at Berenty then a group of four feeding at fruiting roadside tree at the edge of Mantadia National Park and another four at Ampijoroa.
96. Madagascar Blue Pigeon *Alectroenas madagascariensis* – This distinctive and handsome pigeon was seen rather well on a number of occasions at Ranamofana and Mantadia.
97. Grey-headed Lovebird *Agapornis cana* – A pair seen well in the Spiny Forests around Ifaty and then commonly at Berenty and Ampijoroa.
98. Greater Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis vasa* – Five seen well at Vohiparara and one at little further along the road; low numbers in the Coral Rag Scrub and Spiny Forest near Tulear and Ifaty scattered ones and twos including a single bird at Tana airport.
99. Lesser Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis nigra* – More widespread and common than the previous species and characterized by some very un-parrot-like whistled calls. First seen at Ranamafana and there after a good scatter of sites.

100. Madagascar Cuckoo *Cuculus rochii* - Heard almost daily but thanks to Bill's enthusiasm we also got to several individuals exceptionally well especially at Ranomafana and in the Spiny Forest near Ifaty. The calls of this summer visitor from mainland Africa is one of the most characteristic sounds of Madagascar.

The couas are often recognized as an endemic subfamily (Couinae) and are sometimes placed in their own family.

101. Giant Coua *Coua gigas* - Seen well for the first time at Zombitse and then several tame and very impressive birds at Berenty.

102. Coquerel's Coua *Coua coquereli* - Seen briefly at Zombitse and then several seen nicely at Ampijoroa.

103. Red-breasted Coua *Coua serriana* - Seen superbly at Masoala, where we had prolonged views of several individuals.

104. Red-fronted Coua *Coua reynaudii* - Great views of one very responsive individual in the Upland Forest above Ranomafana.

105. Red-capped Coua *Coua ruficeps* - Common and fairly easy to see at Ampijoroa.

106. Running Coua *Coua cursor* - One seen superbly at Ifaty as it scurried along in front of the group and then another spotted by Sally on our last morning in the Spiny Forest.

107. Crested Coua *Coua cristata* - Several of this attractive species were seen on all our visits to the Spiny Forest near Ifaty (subspecies *pyropyga*) also common at Berenty (*maxima*) and a pair on the Masoala Peninsula and again seen at Ampijoroa (*dumonti*).

108. Verreaux's Coua *Coua verreauxi* - One pair feeding young in the Coral Rag Scrub above Tulear. Near Threatened.

109. Blue Coua *Coua caerulea* - Wow what a stunner. We enjoyed excellent views of this rather Turaco-like coua at Ranomafana, Mantadia, Perinet and Masoala Peninsula.

110. Madagascar Coucal *Centropus toulou* - Widespread and common, present in almost any habitat.

111. Barn Owl *Tyto alba* - Excellent views of a bird at its daytime roost at Berenty and another in flight near Vakona Lodge, Mantadia.

112. Rainforest Scops Owl *Otus rutilus* - One seen exceptionally well and exceptionally easily at Perinet at dusk. Also known as Malagasy Scops Owl.

113. Torotoroka Scops Owl *Otus madagascariensis* - One seen briefly on our first evening in Berenty and then a very handsome individual 'scoped' during the daytime for superb views, also at Berenty.

NOTE: These two scops owls were, until recently, lumped as 'Malagasy Scops Owl *O. rutilus*', but differ markedly in coloration, patterning and vocalizations.

114. White-browed Owl *Ninox superciliaris* - Seen exceptionally well at Berenty including a total of five during the daytime.

115. Madagascar Long-eared Owl *Asio madagascariensis* – Fantastic views of this fabulous and rarely seen species at its roost in Perinet.
116. Madagascar Nightjar *Caprimulgus madagascariensis* - Great views of two in flight at the edge of Upland Forest above Ranomafana; one studied at length and at very close quarters in the grounds of lovely hotel at Iftay; two seen well at Berenty; two around the Vakona Lodge and one at Ampijoroa. Several others heard.
117. Collared Nightjar *Caprimulgus enarratus* - A stunningly lovely creature that permitted us amazingly close and prolonged views permitting everyone time to drink in all the delicate beauty of this incredible and very poorly known species. How in heavens name our guides found such a bird in the dense forest interior of Mantadia National Park I cannot imagine. Thank you Patrice.
118. Madagascar Spinetail *Zoonavena grandidieri* – One over the woodland at Zombitse and a maxima of four at Perinet and at least ten hunting low over the lodge on the Masoala Peninsula.
119. African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* - Small numbers in the lightly wooded farmland of central southern Madagascar and almost from thereon to Ifaty; several in and around Ampijoroa.
120. Alpine Swift *Apus melba* - Two seen rather distantly on the drive to Ampijoroa.
121. Madagascar Black Swift *Apus balstoni* – Groups of six and ten at Ranomafana, two at Zombitse and 20 *en route* to Berenty.

NOTE: Sometimes lumped with African Black Swift.

122. Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis vintsioides* - Scattered ones and twos at edge of wetlands throughout the tour.
123. Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina madagascariensis* – Undoubtedly one of THE highlights of the entire tour! This spectacular little gem gave us amazing views during our night walk at Perinet.
124. Madagascar Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* – Widespread and moderately common in small numbers throughout Madagascar except in the wet rainforests of the eastern slopes. Several pairs seen nesting along the roadside.
125. Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* - These noisy and attractive birds are migrants from Africa and were conspicuous at Isalo, Zombitse, Berenty, Mantadia, Masoala and especially Ampijoroa.

PASSERINES

126. Short-legged Ground-Roller *Brachypteracias leptosomus* – After an impressive hike in the interior of Mantadia Nat. Pk. we finally found one ‘stuck’ to his branch where he permitted prolonged study from every angle Then just as we were departing he was joined by his mate. Amazingly easy though on the Masoala Peninsula where we saw at least two very confiding individuals. Vulnerable.
127. Scaly Ground-Roller *Brachypteracias squamiger* – After a long wait we finally enjoyed superb ‘scope views of one adult carrying food to a nest at Mantadia Nat. Pk. Amazing views of this stunning ground-roller. Vulnerable.

128. Pitta-like Ground-Roller *Atelornis pittoides* – Sensational views of a pair each day at Ranomafana where they were surprisingly easy to see. Another pair seen less well in Mantadia and a single at Perinet.
129. Rufous-headed Ground-Roller *Atelornis crossleyi* – Arguably bird of the trip! Simply unbelievable views of an extraordinarily confiding individual that came in and wandered around less than three feet in front of us at Perinet. What a bird!
130. Long-tailed Ground-Roller *Uratelornis chimaera* - Great views of one on the first morning at Ifaty, with a second seen there almost within touching distance. Vulnerable.
131. Cuckoo-Roller *Leptosomus discolor* – A group of three permitted superb scope views at Ranomafana and then another pair at Zombitse put on a great performance and a final pair at Perinet were the best permitting long lingering views in good light. This species produces one of the most evocative sounds of the Madagascar forest. A truly impressive bird and in its own family.
132. Madagascar Hoopoe *Upupa marginata* – Our first was seen at Isalo we then saw one or two on two days in the Spiny Forest at Ifaty; three at Berenty including a pair carrying food and three at Ampijoroa.
133. Velvet Asity *Philepitta castanea* – One male seen at Vohiparara.
134. Schlegel's Asity *Philepitta schlegeli* - Great scope views of a male at Ampijoroa, the incredible wattle of the male has to be seen to be believed! Near Threatened.
135. Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity *Neodrepanis hypoxantha* – Surely one of THE highlights of the tour. The convocation of five males and females at their flowering trees at Vohiparara was so exciting, especially at such close quarters. Vulnerable.
136. Madagascar Bush Lark *Mirafraga hova* - Very common in open country.
137. Mascarene Martin *Phedina borbonica* - Fairly common and widespread except in the dry habitat of the south.
138. Brown-throated Sand Martin *Riparia puludicola* – Twenty *en route* to Ranomafana; two *en route* to Isalo; two on the drive to Perinet and one near Mantadia.
139. Madagascar Wagtail *Motacilla flaviventris* – Locally common on the high plateau and at the edge of the wet forests of the eastern escarpment and one at Ampijoroa.
140. Ashy Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina cinerea* - A widespread, though never common, member of mixed species flocks; two at Ranomafana; one at Mantadia; two on the Masoala Peninsula and two at Ampijoroa.
141. Long-billed Tetraka (Greenbul) *Phyllastrephus madagascariensis* - Several good views on the Masoala Peninsula and at Ampijoroa. It is indeed long-billed.

Note that in 2006, Jønsson & Fjeldså reviewed 99 genetic studies to construct a tentative 'supertree' of relationships amongst all passerine birds. In the new arrangement the oscines passerines (order Passeriformes, suborder Passeri) are divided into the Parvorders 'Basal' and 'Crown' Corvida and the Passerida. The Passerida is then divided into three superfamilies, Muscicapoidea, Passeroidea and Sylviodea. This arrangement is well supported and there appears to be consensus on all these major branches. In the new model none of the four species of Malagasy 'greenbul' are treated as bulbuls and they are not thought to be related to the African greenbul. Hence my preference for calling them

'Tetrakas'. This new study strongly suggests they belong to an assemblage of Malagasy 'warblers' that includes Wedge-tailed Jery, Cryptic Warbler, White-throated Oxylabes, Thamnornis Warbler and Madagascar Yellowbrow that are placed together as 'clade 11' in the Parvorder Sylvioidea and are probably best treated as an endemic Malagasy family (perhaps to be called 'Bernieriidae'?).

142. Spectacled Tetraka (Greenbul) *Phyllastrephus Zosterops* - Small numbers at Ranomafana, Mantadia, Perinet and the Masoala Peninsula.
143. Appert's Tetraka (Greenbul) *Phyllastrephus apperti* - Great views of a pair of these charming birds at Zombitse Forest. Vulnerable.
144. Madagascar Bulbul *Hypsipetes madagascariensis* - One of the commonest and most ubiquitous of Madagascar's endemics.
145. Forest Rock Thrush *Pseudocossyphus sharpie* - The lovely song of this species was heard at Ranomafana.
146. Benson's Rock Thrush *Pseudocossyphus bensoni* - Amazing views of both male and female as they attended an active nest over the doorway of the leader's room. A total of at least four other individuals seen in the Isalo area. Although this species is lumped by some authors with Forest Rock Thrush, its preference for a very different, this species' paler plumage and distinctively different song suggest that it is best to keep it as a separate species. Near Threatened.
147. Littoral Rock Thrush *Pseudocossyphus imerinus* - Great views of this very localized endemic including a pair attending young in a nest right alongside our lovely luncheon site.
148. Madagascar Cisticola *Cisticola cherina* - Widespread and common in open country.
149. Brown Emutail *Dromaeocercus brunneus* - Heard at Vohiparara.
150. Grey Emutail *Dromaeocercus seebohmi* - Good views of a very responsive bird or two *en route* from Perinet to Tana.
151. Madagascar Brush Warbler *Nesillas typica* - Widespread and commonly heard scolding in the undergrowth of the wet forests. We managed to get many good views, especially at Lac Alarobia, Ranomafana and Perinet.
152. Sub-desert Brush Warbler *Nesillas lantzii* - Seen very nicely in the grounds of our luncheon spot opposite Nosy Vey; also in Coral Rag Scrub and Spiny Forest.
153. Thamnornis Warbler *Thamnornis chloropetoides* - Several singing birds seen well in the Spiny Forest near Ifaty. See the comment under Long-billed Greenbul.
154. Madagascar Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus newtoni* - Seen well in roadside marshes *en route* Ranomafana and near Ifaty and Perinet.
155. Rand's Warbler *Randia pseudozosterops* - Good scope views of this rather drab warbler at Ranomafana.
156. Dark Newtonia *Newtonia amphichroa* - A pair seen nicely at Mantadia.
157. Common Newtonia *Newtonia brunneicauda* - A familiar sound in all forests. Seen especially well at Vohiparara. This species has recently been shown to be a Vanga.

158. Archbold's Newtonia *Newtonia archboldi* - Several in the Spiny Forest near Ifaty, showing their lovely vinous eye-ring.
159. Cryptic Warbler *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi* - Good views of singing birds in the tree-tops at Vohiparara. See the comment under Long-billed Tetraka (Greenbul).
160. Madagascar Magpie-Robin *Copsychus albospecularis* - Widespread and common with birds being seen most days including pairs attending nests.
161. African Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* - A few in open country but not in the dry south-west.
- NOTE: Clements has now re-lumped the stonechats as one species.
162. Ward's Flycatcher *Pseudobias wardi* – Several around the Vakona Lodge and then a pair seen superb in Mantadia National Park. This species has recently been shown to be a Vanga.
163. Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone mutata* - Common and amazingly confiding in all forests. Many wonderful views including several pairs attending nests.
164. Common Jery *Neomixis tenella* - Indeed common, its buzzy calls being heard on a near daily basis.
165. Green Jery *Neomixis viridis* - Seen at Vohiparara, Mantadia and Perinet. This tree-top species is very common, but hard to see from forest trails.
166. Stripe-throated Jery *Neomixis striatigula* – This species strident song was a familiar sound in both the evergreen forests and the spiny forest, and we saw several at Ranomafana, Ifaty and Perinet.
167. Wedge-tailed Jery *Hartertula flavoviridis* – A pair of this usually skulking understorey species was seen well at Ranomafana and Mantadia. Near Threatened. See the comment under Long-billed Tetraka (Greenbul).
168. White-throated Oxylabes *Oxylabes madagascariensis* - We had great views at Ranomafana, Mantadia and Perinet of this attractive understorey species. See the comment under Long-billed Greenbul.
169. Yellow-browed Oxylabes *Crossleyia xanthophrys* – Heard only at Vohiparara. Near Threatened. See the comment under Long-billed Tetraka (Greenbul).
170. Crossley's Babbler *Mystacornis crossleyi* – Excellent views of a very confiding pair at Ranomafana and a pair feeding young at Mantadia. This species has recently been shown to be a Vanga.
171. Souimanga Sunbird *Nectarinia souimanga* – Widespread and common almost everywhere. The various vocalizations of this sunbird were one of the familiar sounds of Madagascar bush.
172. Long-billed Green Sunbird *Nectarinia notata* – Much the scarcer of the two endemic sunbirds we enjoyed fine views of pairs in and around Vohiparara.
173. Madagascar White-eye *Zosterops maderaspatana* - Common and widespread.
174. Red-tailed Vanga *Calicalius madagascariensis* – Widespread and fairly common although heard more often than seen. Nice views of this smart looking species at Zombitse and on the Masoala Peninsula.

Note that the vangas are placed in 'clade 7' of the 'Crown Corvida' (see notes under Long-billed Tetraka [Greenbu]), together with the butcherbirds, woodswallows, helmetsrikes, bushshrikes, batises and puffback. Also note that Common Newtonia (and presumably the other newtonias), Ward's Flycatcher and Crossley's Babbler have recently been shown to be vangas.

175. Red-shouldered Vanga *Calicalius rufocarpalis* – Fabulous close views of a pair of this relatively recently discovered species near to Tulear where it is an endemic inhabitant of the Coral Rag Scrub Vulnerable.
176. Rufous Vanga *Schetba rufa* - Seen commonly very well at Masoala and Ampijoroa where it was seen on the nest.
177. Hook-billed Vanga *Vanga curvirostris* - Seen very well at Berenty, Masoala and Ampijoroa.
178. Lafresnaye's Vanga *Xenopirostris xenopirostris* – Fabulous views of one in Coral Rag Scrub above Tulear and a second in Spiny Forest near Berenty.
179. Van Dam's Vanga *Xenopirostris damii* – One seen very nicely after a long but very interesting hike at Ampijoroa. Endangered.
180. Pollen's Vanga *Xenopirostris polleni* – One seen and several heard at Vohiparara. Endangered.
181. Sickle-billed Vanga *Falculea palliata* - Several great sightings of this striking Vanga at Ifaty and Ampijoroa where it was nesting.
182. White-headed Vanga *Leptopterus viridis* - Seen poorly at Ranomafana but much better at Mantadia and Masoala.
183. Chabert's Vanga *Leptopterus chabert* - Common and widespread in open areas and forest edge. A notably handsome species.
184. Blue Vanga *Cyanolanius madagascarinus* – Superb views of this electric coloured Vanga in the eastern rainforests.
185. Helmet Vanga *Euryceros prevostii* – For me THE bird of the trip although seeing it was a close run thing. Thanks to some luck and good work by Bill we all ended up with superb, close prolonged views of this extraordinary species on the Masoala Peninsula. Vulnerable.
186. Nuthatch-Vanga *Hypositta corallirostris* - A very confiding pair at Mantadia on our first morning and then a second an incredibly confiding pair as we headed home later that day.
187. Tylas Vanga *Tylas eduardi* - Seen well at Ranomafana and Mantadia where it was building a nest.
188. Madagascar Mannikin *Lonchura nana* - Seen nicely in the gardens of our lovely hotel near Ifaty also at Ranomafana, Berenty and Ampijoroa.
189. Nelicourvi Weaver *Ploceus nelicourvi* – Fine views of this forest dwelling weaver at Ranomafana, and nesting at Perinet.
190. Sakalava Weaver *Ploceus sakalava* – Very common in the drier habitats of the south.
191. Madagascar Red Fody *Foudia madagascariensis* – Widespread and common; seen almost daily.

192. Forest Fody *Foudia omissa* – A handsome male seen superbly at the edge of Mantadia National Park.
193. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* – Widespread and common. Introduced.
194. Madagascar Starling *Hartlaubius auratus* - Seen nicely at Ranomafana and Mantadia.
195. Crested Drongo *Dicrurus forficatus* - Common but remarkably striking and for a drongo.
196. Pied Crow *Corvus albus* – Widespread and common, especially within farmland and open country.

MAMMALS

NB Please note that the sequence and the English names have been adjusted to reflect the usage in Nick Garbutt's excellent Guide to the *Mammals of Madagascar* (2007).

1. Lesser Tenrec *Echinops telfari* – One of these endearing creatures found by our remarkably local guides in the Spiny Forest near Ifaty.
2. Lowland Streaked Tenrec *Hemicentetes semispinosus* – Seen by a lucky few on the Masoala Peninsula.
3. Madagascar Flying Fox *Pteropus rufus* - Around 150 observed at their roost at Berenty.
4. Mauritian Tomb Bat *Taphozous mauritanus* - Several adults carrying dependant young roosting on tree-trunks at Ampijoroa.
5. Grey Mouse Lemur *Microcebus murinus* - One in the gallery forest on the second night at Berenty, and also seen at Ampijoroa.
6. Brown Mouse-Lemur *Microcebus rufus* - Superb views at dusk at the 'Nocturne Point' at Ranomafana.
7. Grey-brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus griseorufus* - Two on the first night walk in the spiny forest at Berenty.
8. Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus crossleyi* – Several seen very nicely feeding at a fruiting fig at night at Perinet.
9. Milne-Edward's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur edwardsi* – Several during the daytime at Ampijoroa.
10. Hubbard's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur hubbardi* - One roosting in a tree hole at Zombitse and also seen in the spiny forest at Ifaty.
11. White-footed Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur leucopus* - Great views at Berenty at a daytime roost and several others spotlighted at night there.
12. Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur (Grey Bamboo Lemur) *Hapalemur griseus* – Great views at Mantadia and also Ranomafana.
13. Golden Bamboo Lemur *Hapalemur aureus* – Two snoozing in bamboo at Ranomafana.
14. Ring-tailed Lemur *Lemur catta* – Common at Berenty, where it would be hard to miss.

15. Mongoose Lemur *Eulemur mongoz* - Several of this uncommon species seen nicely at Ampijoroa.
16. Red-bellied Lemur *Eulemur rubriventer* - Good views Vohiparara.
17. Common Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus* - Seen well at Perinet.
18. White-fronted Brown Lemur *Eulemur albifrons* - Several rather shy groups at Masoala.
19. Red-fronted Brown Lemur *Eulemur rufus* - Seen at Ranomafana, and at Berenty, where it is introduced, common and tame.
20. Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur *Varecia variagata* – Troops of this very rare and difficult to see species seen on two days at Mantadia.
21. Red Ruffed Lemur *Varecia rubra* - Great views of these superb lemurs at Masoala.
22. Verreaux's Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi* - Common and tame at Berenty, where it was great to see them prancing along on the ground and the springing into the trees. Amazing stuff.
23. Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus diadema* – Several troops seen daily at Mantadia.
24. Coquerel's Sifaka *Propithecus coquereli* - Great views of this beautiful and easy to see lemur at Ampijoroa.
25. Indri *Indri indri* - Seen and heard, at Perinet and Mantadia. Truly a fantastic mammal.
26. Easter Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus* - Two at Mantadia and one at Masoala.
27. Ring-tailed Mongoose *Galidia elegans* – Seen at Vohiparara by Steve and at Vokona Lodge by Richard.
28. Small Indian Civet *Viverricula indica* - (Introduced) Berenty.
29. Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* - Six off Fort Dauphin.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

CROCODILES

1. Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus* - A one medium-sized individual hauled out on a small pool at Ampijoroa.

CHAMELEONS

2. *Brookesia therezieni* – One found quite brilliantly by Patrick in Mantadia.
3. Short-horned Chameleon *Calumma brevicornis* - Several at Mantadia and Perinet.
4. Nose-horned Chameleon *Calumma nasutum* – One during the first evening at Ramanofana.
5. Band-bellied Chameleon *Calumma gastrotaenia* – One at Perinet.
6. Panther Chameleon *Furcifer paradalis* – One on the Masoala Peninsula.

7. Oustalet's Chameleon *Furcifer oustaleti* - The huge chameleon swimming through the pool en route to Isalo; again at Zombitse, and then a total of 15 in and around Ampijoroa.
8. Warty Chameleon *Furcifer verrucosus* – Common in the forest at Berenty.
9. *Furcifer rhoniceratus* – Two on the night walk at Ampijoroa.
10. *Furcifer balteatus* – One at midday at Ranomafana.

IGUANID LIZARDS

11. *Oplurus cuvieri* – Common in the camp grounds at Ampijoroa.
12. *Oplurus quadrimaculatus* – Several *en route* to and within Isalo National Park.
13. Three-eyed Lizard *Chalarodon madagascariensis* - Common at Zombitse, Nosy Ve and Ifaty.
14. *Zonosaurus laticaudatus* - Several at Ampijoroa.
15. *Zonosaurus madagascariensis* - Seen in the forest Ranomafana, Berenty and Masoala.
16. *Tracheloptychus madagascariensis* – Several at Berenty.
17. *Tracheloptychus petersi* – Spiny Forest, Ifaty.
18. *Trachylepis (Mabuya) elegans* – Ranomafana.
19. *Trachylepis gravenhorstii* – Berenty.
20. *Trachylepis (Mabuya) aeropunctata* – One in a baobab near Ifaty.

GECKOS

21. *Blaesodactylus antongilensis* – In the leaders' room at Amijoroa.
22. *Uroplatus guentheri* – One seen well on our night walk at Ampijoroa.
23. Southern Bark Gecko *Lygodactylus tuberosus* – Three at Berenty.
24. *Phelsuma madagacariensis* - The big green geckos in the forest at Ampijoroa.
25. *Phelsuma standingi* – One at Zombitse. As David H. said 'Outstanding!'
26. *Phelsuma modesta* -
27. *Phelsuma mutabilis* – Two on two days at Berenty.
28. *Phelsuma lineata* – Ranomafana, Mantadia, Perinet.
29. *Phelsuma quadriocellata* - Common at Ranomafana.
30. *Masoala Day Gecko sp*

SNAKES

31. *Sanzania madagascariensis* - The boa basking on the roadside gabions at Ranomafana.
32. *Acrantophis madagascariensis* - The huge boa lying across the path at Ampijoroa.
33. *Madagascarophis colubrinus occidentalis* - One in Sally's room at Ampijoroa.
34. Giant Hog-nosed Snake *Leioheterodon madagascariensis* - Ampijoroa.
35. *Leohetrodon modesta* Modest Hog-nosed Snake – Seen *en route* to Berenty and at very close quarters at Ampijoroa.
36. *Liophidium torquatum* – Zombitse.
37. Black-and-white striped Snake *Bibilava lateralis* – Ampijoroa.
38. Very small snake at Berenty

FROGS

39. Madagascar Tree Frog *Boophis madagascariensis*
40. Pandanus Leaf Frog *Mantidactylus liber*
41. Horned Leaf Frog *Mantidactylus asper*
42. Little Pandanus Leaf Frog *Mantidactylus pulchra*
43. *Mantella baroni*
44. Tomato Frog *Dryscophus antongili*