

MADAGASCAR
October 7 – 24, 2004

Leader: Adam Riley

Annotated Checklists of Birds, Mammals and “Herps”

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Clements (2005) *Birds of the World*; A Checklist Garbutt, N. (1999) *Mammals of Madagascar*, and Glaw, F. & Vences, M. (1994) *A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Madagascar*.

Key to abbreviations:

ENDEMISM

E: an endemic species

NE: a near-endemic species (i.e. occurring in the Malagasy region only)

BE: a breeding endemic species

I: an introduced species

CONSERVATION STATUS

C: critical

En: endangered

V: vulnerable

NT: near-threatened

Little Grebe (Dabchick)

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Fairly common on a pond outside of Tulear where we estimated fifty individuals.

Madagascar (Little) Grebe (E) (V)

Tachybaptus pelzelinii

A pair were seen extremely well on a forest lake in Mantadia.

Tropicbirds

Phaethontidae

Red-tailed Tropicbird

Phaethon rubricauda

We enjoyed intimate encounters with these most elegant birds, including sightings of about thirty birds incubating eggs or fledglings, on Nosy Ve Island.

Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns

Ardeidae

Gray Heron

Ardea cinerea firsasa

Mainly in western wetlands, where seen nesting on cliffs near the Onilahy River mouth. Small numbers were also encountered at the wetlands around Ifaty.

Humblot's (Madagascar) Heron (E) (V) *Ardea humbloti*

Six birds of this globally threatened species were seen on the cliffs near the Onilahy River mouth. Sadly local youths were harvesting chicks with the use of long bamboo poles with nooses. We observed a chick being hauled off its cliff nest. One was also video'd by Jim at Ifaty.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Peak numbers recorded at Périnet where we saw two birds our first day and another single bird out last day at the reserve.

NOTE: The Cape Verde Islands A. p. bournei is sometimes split off as Cape Verde Purple Heron or Bourne's Heron. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements.

Great (White) Egret *Ardea alba melanorhynchos*

Small numbers at wetlands throughout, first seen at Lake Alarobia where we estimated over fifty birds present.

Black Heron (Egret) *Egretta ardesiaca*

First seen at Lake Alarobia with thirty birds recorded, but seen in small numbers throughout the tour. They were nesting at Lake Alarobia and we observed their unique umbrella feeding technique near Tulear.

Little (Dimorphic/Mascarene Reef) Egret (ne) *Egretta garzetta*

Widespread and common throughout Madagascar. First seen at Lake Alarobia where we estimated over eighty birds present. Both light and dark morph birds were observed.

NOTE: Clements lumps Little, Western Reef (E. gularis) and Madagascar's Dimorphic (E. dimorpha) Egret into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted.

(Common) Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Widespread and common in a variety of wetland habitats across the island, from rice paddies to tidal mudflats. Highest number was the estimated one hundred birds roosting and breeding at Lake Alarobia, including many in magnificent nuptial plumage.

Madagascar Pond-Heron (BE) (V) *Ardeola idae*

Smaller numbers of this scarce breeding endemic with five individuals recorded from Lake Alarobia. Some of these birds sported their superb breeding plumes.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Common throughout and recorded daily in open and semi-open habitats. Over fifty roosting and nesting at Lake Alarobia.

Striated (Green-backed) Heron *Butorides striatus*

Small numbers at most freshwater and marine wetlands, brackish marshes, and tidal mudflats.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Common in wetlands around Tana and up to fifty recorded during a visit to Lake Alarobia.

Storks

Ciconidae

African Openbill

Anastomus lamelligerus

A scarce bird in Madagascar, we recoded one bird at Lake Alarobia, way out of its usual range.

Ibises & Spoonbills

Threskiornithidae

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Seen briefly by Jean *en route* from Périnet to Tana.

Madagascar (-Crested/White-winged) Ibis (E) (NT)

Lophotibis cristata

We enjoyed magnificent views of two individuals in Périnet Special Reserve on two separate days in the reserve.

Ducks & Geese

Anatidae

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Large numbers were recorded at freshwater wetlands around Tana with an estimated one hundred birds at Lake Alarobia.

Comb (Knob-billed) Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

Twenty birds at Lake Alarobia and four more at Berenty.

Red-billed Duck (Teal)

Anas erythrorhyncha

Probably the commonest duck and widespread in freshwater wetlands across the island. Maximum numbers of fifty birds at Lake Alarobia and seen again on several occasions during the tour.

Hottentot Teal

Anas hottentota

Three birds were seen in the wetlands between Ifaty and Tulear.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites

Accipitridae

Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk (E)

Aviceda madagascariensis

A scarce endemic, we were very fortunate at Berenty to obtain superb scope views of two birds which were actively vocalizing.

Black (Yellow-billed) Kite

Milvus migrans

Common and conspicuous in open habitats, particularly in the west. Small numbers at the roadside on most road journeys.

NOTE: This species is usually lumped with Yellow-billed Kite.

Madagascar Harrier-Hawk (E)

Polyboroides radiatus

Two birds were encountered near our lodge outside of Ifaty, but our best view was at Berenty.

Frances' Goshawk (Sparrowhawk) (NE)*Accipiter francesii*

One seen in the Spiny Desert, and also enjoyed great views of several at Berenty where a male was seen chasing a Broad-billed Roller.

Henst's Goshawk (E) (NT)*Accipiter henstii*

A scarce endemic that occurs at low densities, we had one sighting at the Périnet Reserve.

Madagascar Buzzard (E)*Buteo brachypterus*

Common and widespread, with small numbers recorded from almost all wooded sites. First seen on the way to Périnet.

Falcons & Kestrels**Falconidae****Madagascar (Newton's) Kestrel (NE)***Falco newtoni*

Very common in open and semi-open habitats throughout. Recorded almost daily, regularly at the roadside and at most birding sites.

Sooty Falcon*Falco concolor*

A recently-arrived migrant to Madagascar, one bird seen briefly by part of the group in the Spiny Desert of Ifaty.

Guineafowl**Numididae****Helmeted Guineafowl (I)***Numida meleagris*

We encountered small flocks at Berenty.

Mesites**Mesitornithidae****Subdesert Mesite (E) (V)***Monias benschi*

Some trudging around enabled us to locate this elusive species in the Spiny Desert at Ifaty. We all enjoyed exceptional scope views of both a male & a female for extended periods. One of the trip Highlights.

Buttonquail**Turnicidae****Madagascar Buttonquail (E)***Turnix nigricollis*

A Widespread endemic, we recorded birds in the spiny desert south of Tulear and again at Berenty.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots**Rallidae****Madagascar Flufftail (E)***Sarothrura insularis*

A species which can often prove particularly elusive. However we were treated to awesome views of a stunning male at Mantadia.

Madagascar Wood Rail (E)*Canirallus kioloides*

We enjoyed outstanding views of this shy forest rallid at Périnet Special Reserve. This can be a devilishly hard bird to see well!

Madagascar Rail (E)*Rallus madagascariensis*

After extensive searching we were able to find one individual near Périnet in a small wetland, where we had very close views.

White-throated (Cuvier's) Rail ([N]E)*Dryolimnas cuvieri*

We were treated to superb views of two birds at Mantadia, this species was also heard calling throughout the trip at several locations.

NOTE: Some authorities consider the nominate Madagascar race of this bird as distinctive from the flightless Aldabra Island race, making this another endemic rallid to Madagascar.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

Small numbers were encountered at several sites. Highest numbers of six birds at Lake Alarobia. Three were also seen at Périnet.

Crab Plover*Dromadidae***Crab Plover***Dromas ardeola*

A flock of twelve birds was seen on Nosy Ve. We enjoyed superb scope views of these strange waders, so unusual in fact that they are placed in their own family *Dromadidae*.

Stilts & Avocets*Recurvirostridae***Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

Recorded in the wetlands between Tulear and Ifaty where we estimated twenty individuals.

Madagascar Pratincole (BE)*Glareola ocularis*

One bird was seen from the bridge on the Mangoro River *en route* to Périnet. Unfortunately it was in very high flight and disappeared all too soon.

Plovers & Lapwings*Charadriidae***Black-bellied (Gray) Plover***Pluvialis squatarola*

This species was fairly common on tidal flats around Tulear and Ifaty where up to twenty were seen.

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

Fairly common on tidal flats at Tulear and also seen at the wetlands between Tulear and Ifaty.

Madagascar Plover (E) (NT)*Charadrius thoracicus*

One individual of this scarce, localised endemic were observed at close quarters at a small salt pan in Ifaty.

Kittlitz's Plover*Charadrius pecuarius*

Six birds recorded at brackish lakes north of Tulear *en route* to Ifaty, two more sighted the following day.

Three-banded Plover*Charadrius tricollaris*

Recorded in small numbers at several sites on a daily basis at the wetlands north and south of Tulear and small numbers at the Ampatsimpotsy marsh.

White-fronted Plover*Charadrius marginatus*

Small numbers encountered during our day at Nosy Ve.

Lesser (Mongolian) Sandplover*Charadrius mongolus*

Two birds were seen on the tidal mudflats at Tulear. This species is a rarity in Madagascar.

Greater Sandplover*Charadrius leschenaultii*

Fairly common on tidal flats on the Tulear mudflats where up to thirty were recorded.

Sandpipers & Allies***Scolopacidae*****Bar-tailed Godwit***Limosa lapponica*

Two birds seen on the tidal mudflats approximately halfway between Tulear and Ifaty.

Whimbrel*Numenius phaeopus*

This species was also fairly common on tidal flats around Tulear and Ifaty and again on day to Nosy Ve.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

Another common wader, this species was regularly seen in the wetlands in the Tulear and Ifaty area and the Mandrare River at Berenty with up to thirty being counted.

Terek Sandpiper*Tringa cinerea*

Twelve birds were recorded on tidal flats around Tulear and Ifaty

Common Sandpiper*Tringa hypoleucos*

Small numbers in freshwater and brackish wetland habitats throughout the tour.

Ruddy Turnstone*Arenaria interpres*

Fairly common on tidal flats around Tulear and Ifaty, with forty in total.

Sanderling*Calidris alba*

Common on tidal flats around Tulear and Ifaty, with ten counted in total.

Little Stint*Calidris minuta*

Uncommon in Madagascar, with one bird sighted from the brackish lake north of Tulear.

Curlew Sandpiper*Calidris ferruginea*

The commonest Calidrid, with forty estimated from Tulear mudflats.

Skuas & Gulls

Laridae

Kelp Gull

Larus dominicanus

Six seen whilst exploring around Fort Dauphin.

*NOTE: Recent work suggests that the Kelp Gull complex *L. dominicanus* may be split into as many as four species, the form we saw would become Cape Gull *L. vetula* which breeds in South Africa.*

Terns

Sternidae

Lesser Crested-Tern

Sterna bengalensis

Five birds seen whilst sea-watching off Fort Dauphin and a high number of forty birds on a small sandbar near Nosy Ve.

Greater Crested- (Swift) Tern

Sterna bergii enigma

Two whilst sea-watching off Fort Dauphin and two near Nosy Ve.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

One bird on a sandbar near Nosy Ve.

Sandgrouse

Pterclidae

Madagascar Sandgrouse (E)

Pterocles personatus

Five birds were seen flying at Berenty, and fortunately land opposite us for a drink, allowing scope views. This can be one of Madagascar's toughest endemics.

Doves & Pigeons

Columbidae

Rock (Feral) Pigeon (I)

Columba livia

Widespread in urban areas.

Madagascar Turtle-Dove (NE)

Columba picturata

First seen at Périnet with numerous subsequent sightings at almost all sites. Particularly tame and conspicuous at Berenty.

Namaqua (Long-tailed) Dove

Oena capensis aliena

Widespread and common in drier areas, with highest totals of twenty birds a single day between Ifaty & Tulear.

Madagascar Green-Pigeon (NE)

Treron australis

Four birds seen on the day to Nosy Ve and another single bird at Berenty.

Madagascar Blue-Pigeon (E)

Alectroenas madagascariensis

This beautiful bird is fairly common in eastern rainforest, we had superb scope views throughout the area of Périnet and Mantadia.

Parrots

Psittacidae

Gray-headed Lovebird (E)

Agapornis canus

This attractive parrot was seen daily in the Ifaty, Tulear and Berenty areas with a high of fifty birds recorded in the Spiny Desert near Ifaty.

(Greater) Vasa Parrot (E)

Coracopsis vasa

Seen daily in small numbers throughout Périnet and Mantadia

Black (Lesser Vasa) Parrot (NE)

Coracopsis nigra

A widespread and fairly common bird and exceedingly vocal. Particularly common in the Périnet region.

Cuckoos

Cuculidae

Madagascar (Lesser) Cuckoo (BE)

Cuculus rochii

Very common and one of the dominant sounds in wooded and semi-wooded habitats throughout. First seen in Mantadia NP.

Giant Coua (E)

Coua gigas

Common at Berenty where we watched up to four birds daily while they were feeding, calling and strolling about at close quarters.

Red-fronted Coua (E)

Coua reynaudii

We had brief sightings of this sometimes very elusive bird at Périnet Special Reserve.

Red- (Green-) capped Coua (E)

Coua ruficeps

We enjoyed great views birds near La Table and in the Spiny Desert near Ifaty. One bird was even observed on the nest

NOTE: This southern, khaki-capped form of Red-capped Coua is considered to be a full species in Sinclair I. and

Langrande O. *Birds of the Indian Ocean Islands* however many other authorities consider this form to be a subspecies of Red-capped Coua.

Running Coua (E)

Coua cursor

One seen at close quarters in the Spiny Desert near Ifaty.

Crested Coua (E)

Coua cristata

This southern subspecies, with a rufous vent, was seen in the Spiny Desert at Ifaty where we saw three birds and again at Berenty during our stay there.

Verreaux's Coua (E) (NT)

Coua verreauxi

We enjoyed superb views of this rare and localised species in coral rag scrub on La Table. The most localised member of this endemic sub-family.

Blue Coua (E)*Coua caerulea*

Fairly common in the eastern forests, where we encountered it both at Mantadia and again at Périnet Special Reserve.

Madagascar Coucal (NEe)*Centropus toulou toulou*

Common, widespread and recorded in small numbers virtually daily during our tour. The first sighting being at Lake Alaronia, and recorded from deciduous forest, reedbeds, secondary growth, primary rainforest and spiny desert and all habitats in between!

Barn & Grass Owls*Tytonidae***Barn Owl***Tyto alba*

We had views of one bird outside of Mantadia National Park, albeit briefly!

Typical Owls*Strigidae***Malagasy (Rainforest) Scops-Owl (NEe)***Otus rutilus rutilus*

This recently split form of the Madagascar Scops Owl was regularly heard in the eastern rainforests, and we obtained great views of two birds at a day roosts at Périnet.

Torotoroka Scops-Owl (E)*Otus madagascariensis*

This new species of Scops Owl (pronounced “Toorotoorook”, an onomatopoeic name) was seen at Berenty, where we had exceptional views of birds on a day roost .

NOTE: These Scops Owls have recently been split, based on morphological and vocal differences and habitat preferences.

White-browed (Madagascar Hawk) Owl (E)*Ninox superciliaris*

Our best views were of four birds in Berenty, again we had superb views of this attractive owl at day roosts.

Madagascar Long-eared Owl (E)*Asio madagascariensis*

We saw a bird exiting it'd nesting area four evenings in a row at Périnet Special Reserve.

Nightjars & Allies*Caprimulgidae***Madagascar Nightjar (NEe)***Caprimulgus madagascariensis*

The common nightjar on Madagascar. We also enjoyed numerous encounters throughout the tour. Our best view was of a roosting bird at very close quarters at Ifaty.

Collared Nightjar (E)*Caprimulgus enarratus*

We had great scope views of a pair in Mantadia NP. A rare endemic restricted to the eastern forests. They blended in perfectly with the leaf litter, an amazing find by our local guide Patrice.

Swifts*Apodidae***Malagasy Spinetail (NEe)***Zoonavena grandidieri*

Birds seen in the Mantadia NP and at Périnet Special Reserve above the forested areas.

African Palm-Swift*Cypsiurus parvus*

Common in suitable palm habitat and seen in several locations during the trip.

Alpine Swift*Tachymarptis melba*

One seen at Périnet Special Reserve.

Madagascar (Black) Swift (NE)*Apus balstoni*

Fairly common throughout. Peak numbers of six were seen flying over wetlands between Tulear and Ifaty.

NOTE: These Malagasy birds are usually considered a species distinct from the African Black Swift (*A. barbatus*), however no dedicated research has been done. There seems to be two distinct sizes of all black swifts in Madagascar, and these may represent two or more species.

Kingfishers*Alcedinidae***Malagasy (Diademed) Kingfisher (NE)** *Alcedo vintsioides*

Fairly common at freshwater and marine wetlands throughout. First recorded at Lake Alarobia with small numbers at roadside rice paddies and all wetland sites.

Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher (E)*Ispidina madagascariensis*

This attractive endemic was recorded in Périnet Special Reserve, we had superb scope views after a long search.

Bee-eaters*Meropidae***Madagascar (Olive) Bee-eater***Merops superciliosus*

Common, widespread in semi-open areas and recorded from almost all sites. Best views near Ifaty and at nesting colony at Berenty.

Rollers*Coraciidae***Broad-billed Roller***Eurystomus glaucurus*

Widespread and common breeding migrant from the African mainland. First recorded in Périnet.

Ground-Rollers*Brachypteraciidae***Short-legged Ground-Roller (E) (V)***Brachypteracias leptosomus*

The most difficult of the Ground-Rollers to find and we were extremely fortunate to have mind-blowing views of two at a nest in Mantadia. This was only possible after a considerable search, and expert guidance by Patrice.

Scaly Ground-Roller (E) (V)*Brachypteracias squamigera*

Another elusive and retiring species. It was only good fortune and superb expertise by Patrice that we managed to find this species, again in Mantadia!

Pitta-like Ground-Roller (E)*Atelornis pittoides*

A single bird was watched calling, in the scope and others heard in Mantadia NP. Despite being the commonest of the ground-rollers, this magnificent creature is justifiably one of the most sought-after birds on Madagascar.

Rufous-headed Ground-Roller (E) (NT)*Atelornis crossleyi*

A single bird of this spectacular species was seen at Périnet Special Reserve.

Long-tailed Ground-Roller (E) (V)*Uratelornis chimaera*

We enjoyed superb views of a single bird in the Spiny Desert at Ifaty with the help of local trackers.

Cuckoo-Roller*Leptosomatidae***(Madagascar) Cuckoo-Roller (NE)***Leptosomus discolor (discolor)*

This spectacular endemic was frequently seen at all forest sites. A surprisingly large bird with many vociferously displaying males performing their aerial acrobatics.

NOTE: some authorities such as Sinclair I. and Langrande O., consider the Comores form of this bird to be a separate species from that occurring in Madagascar.

Hoopoes*Upupidae***Madagascar Hoopoe (E)***Upupa marginalis*

Commonly recorded at all western sites, including daily sightings at the Spiny Desert at Ifaty and Berenty.

NOTE: This form is usually considered distinct from the African Hoopoe, based on vocal and morphological differences.

Asities or False Sunbirds*Philepittidae***Velvet Asity (E)***Philepitta castanea*

We enjoyed superb views of a female in Mantadia NP.

(Common) Sunbird Asity (E)*Neodrepanis coruscans*

We obtained views of one birds in Mantadia NP.

Larks & Sparrowlarks*Alaudidae***Madagascar (Hova) Lark (E)***Mirafra hova*

Very common in open habitats throughout, with high numbers from the extensive open grounds near Tulear

Swallows*Hirundinidae***Plain (Brown-throated) Martin***Riparia paludicola*

This high plateau wetland hirundine was observed just one day outside of Mantadia NP.

Mascarene Martin (NE) *Phedina borbonica*
Madagascar's commonest hirundine and a regional breeding endemic. Recorded at almost all sites, on most days, with our first record being twelve birds on the way to Périnet.

Wagtails, Pipits & Longclaws *Motacillidae*

Madagascar Wagtail (E) *Motacilla flaviventris*
Common in the east and highland plateau, where seen daily in small numbers.

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*

Ashy (Madagascar) Cuckoo-shrike (NE) *Coracina cinerea*
Seen once in Périnet and twice more in Mantadia NP.

Bubuls *Pycnonotidae*

Long-billed Greenbul (Ee) *Phyllastrephus madagascariensis*
Widespread in eastern forests of Madagascar. This form was first encountered in small numbers in the Périnet area two days in a row.

Spectacled Greenbul (Ee) *Phyllastrephus zosterops*
Restricted to eastern forests, where it is the commonest of the "small greenbuls". A total of eight seen and many heard in Mantadia NP and Périnet. We were treated to superb views of one that entered a nest almost in front of our noses.

Gray-crowned Greenbul (E) (NT) *Phyllastrephus cinereiceps*
Uncommon in eastern rainforest, seen once in Mantadia National Park.

Madagascar Bulbul (NEe) *Hypsipetes madagascariensis*
Common and ubiquitous, with daily sightings in a variety of wooded and semi-wooded habitats.

Thrushes *Turdidae*

Forest Rock-Thrush (E) *Pseudocossyphus sharpei*
This species was unfortunately heard only in the forest of Périnet.

Littoral Rock-Thrush (E) *Pseudocossyphus imerinus*
One male found in dune scrub behind Anakao. A most peculiar habitat for a Rock Thrush.

Cisticolas & Allies *Cisticolidae*

Madagascar Cisticola (NE) *Cisticola cherinus*
Common in open habitats throughout, including rice paddies and the man-altered plateau grasslands.

Old World Warblers

Sylviidae

Brown Emu-tail (E)

Dromaeocercus brunneus

This elusive species seen well in Périnet, where we taped one right to our feet

Gray Emu-tail (E)

Dromaeocercus seebohmi

One bird was called out of the marsh at Ampatsimpotsy, for very close views.

Madagascar Brush-Warbler (NEe)

Nesillas typica typica

Very common in dense cover of any kind in the east, where several recorded daily. First seen at Périnet Special Reserve.

Sub-desert Brush-Warbler (E)

Nesillas lantzii

Replaces Madagascar Brush Warbler in the south-west, where it is reasonably common. We found these birds two days in a row in the Spiny Desert area, skulking through the undergrowth.

Thamnornis (Warbler) (E)

Thamnornis chloropetoides

One seen in the Spiny Desert near Ifaty, one of which perched on a *Didiera* stem.

Madagascar Swamp-Warbler (E)

Acrocephalus newtoni

Fairly common in wetland habitat throughout, ranging from highland marshes in the east to mangroves in the west. Our best sighting was at Ampatsimpotsy.

Rand's Warbler (E)

Randia pseudozosterops

Fairly common denizen of eastern rainforest, with small numbers seen/heard daily in the Perinet and Mantadia areas. A bird vocalising from a typical treetop perch in Perinet was the first seen.

Dark Newtonia (E)

Newtonia amphichroa

Two birds seen in Mantadia NP, where we had superb views.

Common Newtonia (E)

Newtonia brunneicauda

Common and widespread in wooded and semi-wooded habitat throughout. The first seen were two at Mantadia NP.

Archbold's Newtonia (E)

Newtonia archboldi

Two seen at close quarters in the Spiny Desert near Ifaty.

Cryptic Warbler (E)

Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi

This recently described species is found higher altitude eastern forests. We saw one individual at Mantadia NP.

Old World Flycatchers

Muscicapidae

Madagascar Magpie-Robin (E)

Copsychus albospectularis

This widespread and common Magpie-Robin was recorded almost daily throughout the trip in a variety of habitats.

African Stonechat *Saxicola axillaries*
Common in open habitats of the eastern highlands, where several seen daily.

Wattle-eyes *Platysteiridae*

Ward's Flycatcher (E) *Pseudobias wardi*
Fairly common in the Perinet area, where several were found or heard daily.

Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*

Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher (NE) *Terpsiphone mutata*
Common and widespread in a variety of wooded and semi-wooded habitats including both rufous and white phases.

Babblers *Timalidae*

Common Jery (Ee) *Neomixis tenella*
Common and ubiquitous. “Tom and Jerry’s” were first seen at Périnet and recorded daily throughout the trip.

Green Jery (E) *Neomixis viridis*
Fairly common in eastern forests, where small numbers recorded daily. First seen at Perinet Special Reserve.

Stripe-throated Jery (Ee) *Neomixis striatigula*
This species scratchy call is a common background noise in the rain forests and Spiny Desert. It was seen in the Perinet area and Mantadia and the southern spiny desert race was seen at Ifaty.

Wedge-tailed Jery (E) (NT) *Hartertula flavoviridis*
An uncommon and elusive endemic of eastern forests. We obtained views both at Mantadia and at Périnet Special Reserve.

White-throated Oxylabes (E) *Oxylabes madagascariensis*
Fairly common endemic of the understory of eastern rainforest, although nearly always difficult to see. Four birds seen in Mantadia NP, we were treated to fabulous views of this attractive species.

Crossley's Babbler (E) *Mystacornis crossleyi*
A pair was seen at Périnet Special Reserve. A strikingly beautiful endemic with an equally beautiful song, we had very close, confiding views.

Sunbirds *Nectarinidae*

Souimanga Sunbird (NEne) *Nectarinia souimanga souimanga*
By far the more common of Madagascar’s sunbird species, occurring in a variety of wooded, semi-wooded, and desert habitats. We found this bird virtually every day of the tour.

Madagascar (Long-billed Green) Sunbird (NEe) *Nectarinia notata notata*

A very handsome and widespread but uncommon species. This species was seen in small numbers at Périnet Special Reserve.

White-eyes

Zosteropidae

Madagascar White-eye (NEne)

Zosterops maderaspatana

Common and widespread, though scarce in the south-west. Many were seen throughout the tour.

Vangas

Vangidae

Red-tailed Vanga (E)

Calicalicus madagascariensis

A fairly common and regularly encountered denizen of wooded and semi-wooded habitats, particularly once its “wolf-whistle” call is recognised. This species was seen or heard daily in the Périnet area and Mantadia NP, and the spiny desert race was seen at Ifaty.

Red-shouldered Vanga (E) (V)

Calicalicus rufocarpalis

We enjoyed a pair of this recently described and highly localised endemic, in “coral rag” scrub on La Table after extensive searching. This species can be particularly hard to find and we were very fortunate to get views, although it took us three attempts – our persistence paid off!

Hook-billed Vanga (Ee)

Vanga curvirostris

This often heard and infrequently observed species was seen only once at Berenty, where we had great views.

Lafresnaye's Vanga (E)

Xenopirostris xenopirostris

This species was seen very well in the Spiny Desert at Ifaty and small numbers during the subsequent days.

Sickle-billed Vanga (E)

Falcula palliata

One of Madagascar’s great birds and a regular in the dry west. Six birds seen well in the Spiny Desert near Ifaty.

White-headed Vanga (Ee)

Artamella viridis viridis

The more uncommon eastern forest subspecies of this attractive vanga was observed a few times at Périnet Special Reserve.

Chabert Vanga (Ee)

Leptopterus chabert

The commonest vanga, occurring in habitats ranging from pristine rainforest to degraded scrub. Regularly observed in the Périnet and Mantadia, and again near Ifaty and La Table. The southern race, seen at Ifaty is very distinct from the rain forest race and may be a different species.

(Madagascar) Blue Vanga ([N]E)

Cyanolanius madagascarinus

Another one of the world’s great “Blue Birds,” this bird was encountered daily in the eastern rainforest. At times we had superb and very close views of this flock-obligate species.

Tylas (Vanga) (Ee) *Tylas eduardi eduardi*

Several seen and many more heard in Mantadia NP and Périnet.

Coral-billed Nuthatch (Nuthatch Vanga) (E) *Hypositta corallirostris*

A peculiar and localised eastern rainforest endemic, we were fortunate to see this species several times in the rainforests of Périnet and Mantadia.

Drongos

Dicruridae

Crested Drongo (NEe) *Dicrurus forficatus forficatus*

Common and highly conspicuous in a variety of wooded habitats throughout. First seen at Périnet and almost daily in small numbers thereafter.

Crows & Ravens

Corvidae

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Common and widespread in open habitats. Highest numbers were recorded in the Berenty area with thirty estimated in one day.

Starlings

Sturnidae

Madagascar Starling (E) *Hartlaubius aurata*

This species was first seen at Mantadia with further sightings at Périnet Special Reserve.

Common Myna (I) *Acridotheres tristis tristis*

Common in open habitats throughout the island.

Weavers & Allies

Ploceidae

Nelicourvi Weaver (E) *Ploceus nelicourvi*

Fairly common in eastern rainforest areas, where small numbers were seen on most days. First seen in Périnet SR where a male was observed building a nest at the lodge.

Sakalava Weaver (E) *Ploceus sakalava minor*

Common in the dry south, where recorded in regular numbers in the Tulear and Ifaty region.

(Madagascar) Red Fody (E) *Foudia madagascariensis*

Common, ubiquitous and good numbers recorded almost daily. First recorded at roadside *en route* to Périnet and seen throughout the tour thereafter.

Forest Fody (E) *Foudia omissa*

Small numbers in eastern forests, where under threat from forest fragmentation and hybridisation with Madagascar Red Fody. Two recorded at Mantadia National Park.

Waxbills & Allies

Estrildidae

Madagascar Munia (Mannikin) (E)

Lonchura nana

Fairly common throughout. First recorded at Lake Alarobia and seen throughout the tour thereafter.

MAMMALS

ORDER: Chiroptera

Family Pteropodidae (Old World Fruit Bats)

Madagascar Flying Fox

Pteropus rufus

We enjoyed long scope studies of approximately 150 of these handsome but noisy animals at their day roost in the gallery woodland at Berenty.

ORDER: Rodentia

Family Muridae (Old World Rats and Mice)

Brown Rat

Rattus norvegicus

One of these introduced rodents was seen on the road at the Tulear mudflats.

ORDER: Primates

Family Cheirogaleidae (Mouse and Dwarf Lemurs)

Grey Mouse Lemur

Microcebus murinus

Two of these tiny lemurs were seen in the Spiny Forest at Berenty. We obtained superb views of these very cute diminutive primates.

White-footed Sportive Lemur

Lepilemur leucopus

Individuals were seen feeding at Berenty during our night walk and others seen on day roosts the following day.

Family Lemuridae ("True" Lemurs)

Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur

Haplemur griseus griseus

A total of five of these bamboo lemurs were seen in Mantadia and Périnet Special Reserve. We obtained superb views.

Ring-tailed Lemur

Lemur catta

The quintessential Malagasy mammal. We enjoyed prolonged encounters with numerous groups of these delightful animals, the most terrestrial of the lemurs, at Berenty. We estimated that we may have seen as many as one hundred at Berenty on one day.

Red-bellied Lemur

Eulemur rubriventer

A family consisting of a pair with youngsters were searched for and found in Mantadia National Park. A scarce species we were fortunate to find this attractive animal

Common Brown Lemur

Eulemur fulvus fulvus

Six of these lemurs were seen at Périnet Special Reserve.

Red-fronted Brown Lemur*Eulemur fulvus rufus*

A very common and conspicuous lemur at Berenty (where introduced), and over fifty seen.

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur*Varecia variegata variegata*

This, the most vocal of all lemurs, was heard bark-roaring at Mantadia.

Family Indriidae (Avahis, Sifakas and Indri)**Verreaux's Sifaka***Propithecus verreaux verreauxi*

This magnificent primate, with its soulful expressions and comical, bipedal locomotion, is undoubtedly one of the mammalian highlights of Madagascar. Common in Berenty, where up to thirty were seen.

Indri*Indri indri*

We had unsurpassable experiences with this incredible lemur. We watched a small family group consisting of four adults. The highlight was watching the family call in response to neighbouring groups issuing forth. The territorial calls of this lemur, often considered the largest extant species, is one of the world's great wildlife sounds.

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES**ORDER: Squamata (Scaled Reptiles)****Family Chamaeleonidae (Chameleons)****Short-horned Chameleon***Calumma brevicornis*

Usually the commonest chameleon at Perinet, and found regularly.

Nose-horned (Unicorn) Chameleon*Calumma nasuta*

The smallest representative of its genus. One found at Perinet.

Band-bellied Chameleon*Calumma gastrotaenia*

Two of these very attractive chameleons were found at Perinet.

Parson's Chameleon*Calumma parsonii*

One of these large chameleons was found in Mantadia, we were able to get some superb photographs of this beauty.

Warty Chameleon*Furcifer verrucosus*

Similar to Oustalet's but even more prehistoric-looking, with triangular occipital crest and dinosaur-like dorsal spines. One of these chameleons was found at Berenty.

Family Iguanidae (Iguanas)**Three-eyed Lizard***Chalarodon madagascariensis*

The commonest reptile around Ifaty, La Mangrove and Nosy Ve. This species has a central pineal eye that can detect light but about which little is known.

Family Gekkonidae (Geckos)**Lineated Day Gecko***Phelsuma lineata*

These luminescent green day gecko's were fairly common around Perinet.

Pale-bellied Day Gecko*Phelsuma leiogaster*

This species was found both near Ifaty and again in Berenty.

Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko*Uroplatus sikorae*

We had an incredible two of these amazing reptiles, one at Périnet and the other at Mantadia. One of the worlds most well camouflaged animals

Family Gerrhosauridae (Plated Lizards)**Gravenhorst's Skink***Mabuya gravenhorstii*

We had good views of several individuals in Périnet Special Reserve.

Elegant Skink*Mabuya elegans*

We enjoyed good views of one at Fort Dauphin.

Madagascar Plated Lizard*Zonosaurus madagascarensis*

Commonly encountered at forest edge at Périnet & Mantadia

Writhing Skink*Amphiglossies melanopleira*

This seldom observed fossorial species was seen at Périnet

Boutons Skink*Cryptoblepharus boutoni*

This rocky shore species was observed at Tulear Harbour.

Family Colubridae (Typical Snakes)**Giant Hog-nosed Snake***Leioheteridon madagascariensis*

We were fortunate to find one of these snakes *en route* in Berenty.

Mahafaly Sand Snake*Mimophis mahfalensis*

One individual observed at Berenty.

Madagascar Tree Boa*Sanzirio madagascarensis*

We had superb views of a pair sunning themselves in Périnet Special Reserve.

Family Ranidae ("True" Frogs)**Betsileo Reed Frog***Heterixalus betsileo*

Alice caught one of these attractive frogs near Mantadia.