

Notes on a trip to Madagascar October 2007

We had already been to Madagascar in 1994 on an group tour organised by Reef & Rainforest, and led by Hilary Bradt. As the 1994 trip concentrated on the North of the Island – Masoala, Ankarana, Nosy Be and Perinet - we have always wanted to go back and have a look at the South and West as well as revisiting Perinet. .

We managed to achieve that this year with a month long trip from October 13th to November 10th. It was all arranged for us by Judith de Witt at Rainbow Tours, who use Za Tours as their local ground agents (I think the two companies may be financially related). The main focus of the trip was bird-watching, but of course we were also keen to see as many species of lemur as possible.

It was a very successful trip – we saw almost all the birds that we could have seen and we saw an excellent variety of lemurs. The birdwatching was hard work especially in the rainforest where the overall bird density seemed very low – the birds had to be searched for and needed expert knowledge and often tapes to get good views. The birds were easier, and indeed more frequent, in the Spiny Forest and at Ankarafantiska.

Our itinerary was:

Oct 14th – 17th Flight and leisure at **Isle St Marie** (Masoandro Lodge)
Oct 18th Transfer to **Perinet**
Oct 19th – 22nd In **Perinet and Mantadia** (Vakona Lodge and Eulophiella Lodge)
Oct 23rd Perinet then transfer to **Antsirabe** (Residence Camelia)
Oct 24th - 27th At **Ranomafana** (Centrest Sejour)
Oct 28th Ranomafana then drive to **Fianarantsoa** (Tsara Guest House)
Oct 29th **Anjaha** Community Conservation Site then **Isalo** (Relais de a Reine)
Oct 30th Early start for **Zombitse** then on to Tulear then **Ifaty** (Le Paradisier)
Oct 31st – Nov 1st **Ifaty** (Le Paradisier) Spiny forest and La Table area
Nov 2nd Arboretum d'Antsokay (Paille en Queue)
Nov 3rd – 4th At **Anakao** (Anakao Club Resort) including trip to Nozy Ve
Nov 5th Back to Tulear, flight to **Tana** (La Varangue)
Nov 6th Fly to Mahajanga, drive **Ankaranafantsika** (Bungalow)
Nov 7th – 8th At **Ankaranafantsika**
Nov 9th Ankarafantsika then **Mahajanga** (Sunny Hotel)
Nov 10th **Betsiboka** Delta boat trip, then fly **Tana**, fly home.

We were transported in a Mitsubishi 4x4, with an excellent driver who had very good local contacts, and a birdwatching guide. At each site we had other local guides – there were often more guides than Royles, which is fine but of course the tips do mount up. The roads were good, the organisation faultless, accommodation very good and food often excellent - is this Madagascar we asked ourselves?? Yes – it would seem that some things have definitely changed since 1994! Some things had not changed so much – our 3 Air Mad internal flights were rescheduled the day before to run 2 hours later than originally scheduled. But at least on two occasions they let us know via hotel reception.(quite how this worked we never found out – via Za Tours??)

We thoroughly enjoyed the trip, though the improved infrastructure and organisation made for slightly fewer “adventures” than our previous one!

As always we were left with a variety of puzzling and truly Malagasy images – gangs of 150 men hand digging a ditch alongside the N7 to take the national fibre optic cable link, the zebu cart transport through the harbour water to the high-powered modern motor boat at Tulear, smartly dressed modern families gathering for a “turning of the bones” and perhaps one of the world’s oddest birds – the Cuckoo Roller – and cuddliest animals – Coquerel’s Sifakhs.

BIRDING NOTES

Our main “dips” were Brown Mesite (poor weather and the birds were not calling) and Bernier’s Teal (none to be seen on the Betsiboka Delta trip – this was considered unusual). We also failed to pick up two owls – Madagascar Long-Eared and Marsh – and some water birds such as Madagascar Snipe and Slender-billed Flufftail. Also we never ran across a Madagascar Sparrowhawk, though we saw both Henst’s and Frances’s Goshawks. We did

manage to find a number of quite difficult species such as Red-shouldered Vanga, Verraux's Coua, Littoral, Benson's and Forest Rock Thrushes, Madagascar Plover (which seemed to be paired with a Kittlitz's Plover), Madagascar Sandgrouse, Schegel's and Yellow-bellied Sunbird Asity, all the possible Vangas and Couas, Madagascar Fish Eagle, Humblot's Heron etc etc. Of the non-endemics we were very pleased to catch up with Red-tailed Tropicbird on Nozy Ve – a species that has been eluding us for years.

We prepared for the trip by doing a lot of web research and by drawing up a list of the key species to be seen in each location. This was helpful in focussing the mind but in practice all the local guides knew which birds you would be looking for! This list is included below.

We birded (and sometimes relaxed!) in the following locations:

Perinet and Mantadia – 4 days
Ranomafana including Vohipara – 4 days
Anjaha Community Conservation Site – for Ring-tailed Lemurs but also quite good for birds (1/2 day)
Isalo – about 2 very productive hours in the evening
Zombitse – 1/2 day
Ifaty spiny forest – 2 days
La Table area for Red-shouldered Vanga – 1/2 day
Tulear area (sandgrouse and plover) 2 hours
Arboretum d'Antsokay (Paille en Queue) – 1/2 day
Anakao and Nozy Ve – 2 days
Ankaranafantsika (Ampirijoa) – 2 1/2 days
Betsiboka Delta boat trip – 1/2 day

Note that we were due to go to St Augustin Bay near Tulear to find Red-shouldered Vanga etc but were told there was a much nearer place only just off the main road. We went there (is it called La Table? Or Rianala?) and we saw all the hoped for species in what seemed like a completely birdless environment with the aid of a pretty good guide.

RANDOM NOTES:

Za Tours Guides: For the main part of the trip our guide was Alain, who I understand was a last minute stand-in for another person. We were very happy with Alain – he was quiet and a little diffident but he was pretty good on the birds and had all the calls on an MP3 player. He was also punctilious in letting us know about starting times, how to order dinner, etc and organised “overnight breakfast” for us on a number of occasions (This involves the hotel delivering breakfast to the room the previous night – the coffee/chocolate is usually cold by the morning and the bread stale but we can't manage till lunchtime without something to eat when we have got up at 4:00 am!)

Our guide at Mahajanga and Ankarafantsika - Stefan - was not of the same quality. He was not really a bird guide, but that didn't matter – he fell down on the basics like not letting us know that we had to check out of our cabin by 12:00 (he had arranged with us to leave at 2:00 pm), he didn't show us any of the sights of Mahajanga till we asked, and the Betsiboka delta boat trip would have been only 3 hours long (not enough) if it hadn't been queried and we arranged to leave earlier.

Parks Guides: These were all good and knew their stuff:. Perhaps the best was Florian at Perinet, because he was more outgoing than the others but he did work us very hard and we had little free time!. Stefan at Ranomafana, Nono at Ankarafantsika and Dobbyay at Rianala were all good.

Madagascar Visa: I understand these can be obtained at the airport on arrival, but as we had a tight connection to Isle St Marie we decided to get them in advance. We emailed the Madagascar Embassy for instructions, as it suggests on the website, and these instructions were clear and comprehensive. We obtained the visas by post, using Special Delivery envelopes (Note that you need to press really hard on the label so that the underneath copy, which is the one used for delivering the package, is clear). The turnaround was very quick – less than a week. A good service.

Flight check-in for return flight: Our Za Tours rep told us the check-in opened at 18:30 for the 22:30 flight (4 hours in advance) – at 17:30 a queue was already developing! By 20:00 Air Mad were already making announcements about the flight being “fully booked” and encouraging people to take their un-missable offers for the next flight (2 days time). Moral – get there even earlier than you think you could possibly need to!

Our Za Tours reps re-confirmed all the flights at every possible opportunity.

Walking: The amount of walking we did was quite tiring – at Perinet we pounded the trails for about 6 hours each morning then again in the afternoon. Searching for ground-rollers at Mantadia involved scrambling up and down steep pathless slopes and clambering over huge dead logs etc – even my husband who is quite fit found it hard going. So beware - if you describe yourself as a birdwatcher and you have birdwatching guides, you will be expected to be on your feet virtually all day in pursuit of the target species.

Weather: We had a lot of wet weather at Ranomafana so I was pleased we had built some extra days into the schedule. We did go out in the rain but the birds apparently do not, so it was very unproductive. We never did find Brown Mesite.

Antsokay Arboretum (near Tulear): This was a very worth while visit – the plants were very interesting and for some reason the place is hopping with birds which seem quite unconcerned by humans. It was a very good place for bird photography especially of couas. The restaurant was also good and the swimming pool looked very inviting.

Birdwatching ethics: It was clear that the guides are geared up to show as many difficult and skulking birds to clients in a short a time as possible. This means there is much reliance on using taped (or rather MP3) calls to either attract the birds towards the clients, or to locate the birds and then “herd” them towards the clients. This sort of thing is frowned upon in most countries these days but I can see that it is the only option where time is short as many of the birds are really hard to see. (A typical visit to the spiny forest will just be for one shortish morning and there is a long list of endemics to see) But the taping does not always work – birds become “taped out”. However, I think that the guides like to use tapes as they feel that they are obviously “doing something” for their fee!. We found it much more rewarding to just “happen” across the birds, and given enough time on the trails this is possible for many (but not all) species and is a much more rewarding experience. (Occasionally they whistle the birds in, rather than use tapes, and this is somehow feels more natural)

Food: We enjoyed the food, though it could be a little repetitive. The food at **Vakona Lodge** was very good but I became ill there and I met another person who had the same experience. The Zebu at **Centrest Sejour** was first class. The food at **La Varangue** in Tana was extremely elaborate and expensive, and there seemed to be no cheaper option.

At many of the places we stayed it was necessary to order the food in advance but our guides were good at making sure we were aware of this.

Vakona Forest Lodge: There is a 5km trail in the grounds and we used to hear Indri calling from the forest across the pool in the mornings - we wished we had had more time here to explore on our own. Vakona is ideally situated for early morning starts (4:00 am) in Mantadia when hunting for ground rollers.

Guides at Perinet: ANGAP guides will only guide you in the National Parks or in their own special spots. We had our guides pre-booked and this essentially meant that we could not go to Torotorofotsy or Mitsinjo which are outside the park without re-negotiation, so we did not bother, though we would have liked to go to Mitsinjo. Very few people seem to go there though there was advertising in the hotel.

Eulophiella: I was disappointed with the Eulophiella, mainly because the cabins are surrounded by acres of grass whereas I had imagined acres of rainforest! There is a rainforest trail but you need a guide and there is not always one available. I did walk the rainforest trail one morning, as I still felt queasy from my Vakona Lodge upset and did not go to Mantadia with Peter. However, the lack of much English at Eulophiella meant that I eventually finished up with the young waiter as my guide, as he was the only one with a smattering of English! He didn't know much about the wildlife, though in fact by chance we saw 4 types of lemur including Diademmed Sifakh and a very grey-looking Indri.

Hotel Buffet de la Gare: Seems to be completely shut at the moment, but may have been bought by a South African company for redevelopment. Its replacement is the garish bright pink "Mikado" restaurant just down the road. I hope they don't convert it into a big hotel – I don't think Perinet can stand many more visitors. The trails are often quite busy and there is absolutely no "wilderness experience".

Relais de la Reine, Isalo: We arrived here at 4:30 pm and immediately fell in love with it. We had no idea that it would be set so beautifully in amongst the rocks – we had vaguely expected a large roadside hotel! There were birds everywhere and after we had dropped our bags in our (wonderful) room we had one of most delightful hours of birdwatching I can recall anywhere. We walked through the beautifully kept orchard and found Madagascar Partridge, then went to the lake and saw Madagascar Little Grebe and many other things, whilst the Bensons Rock Thrushes warbled from the roof tops. All framed by scenic rockscapes lit by the setting sun. As it got dark I sat outside my room looking at the scenery and drinking a rum and coke (from our "supplies") listening to nightjars. And after dark we called up a White Browed Owl.

Ankaranfantsika: We stayed in a lakeside cabin, and despite the very hot weather, the irregular water supply, the very creaky bed and the rather hot and airless rooms (not properly designed for a through draft) this was by far our favourite place as there was always something to watch. It was full of good birds, whether you were watching from the cabin verandah, the restaurant or from the viewing tower, and there were also loads of iguanas, snakes, tenrecs and lemurs (we had a sportive lemur in a hole just in front of our cabin). We had a big thunderstorm the first night we were there and I think that got all the wildlife very excited, thinking that the rainy season must be just around the corner.

The restaurant still appeared to be run by local girls - it was cheap (main meals 10,000, breakfast 3,000) and the food was perfectly acceptable – the breakfast was better than in many hotels – and you could birdwatch while eating. Sometimes the restaurant area did get a smell from the sewers though. Mangos were in season while we were there – if you ordered "fruit" for dessert you got a plate of small peeled mangos and a big bowl of water to wash your hands!

Masoandro Lodge: We made the decision to stay on Isle St Marie for several days to recover from the long flight but we found ourselves at a bit of a loose end with not enough to do. Partly because there are hardly any birds on Isle St Marie – I would definitely not recommend it to a birdwatcher.

One problem here was the price of food and drink (in Malagasy terms) – much more expensive than we found elsewhere and more expensive than suggested in the guide book.

Nozy Ve and Anakao: We had a successful trip to Nozy Ve and had good views of the Red Tailed Tropicbirds, but due to the state of the tide (high) there were very few terns and waders to be seen. This did not really affect us but if we had been expecting Crab Plovers we would have been disappointed.

There is absolutely no shade on Nozy Ve and we would have fried if we stayed for more than a few hours. As it happened, we were the only clients from the Club Resort Anakao and we had the freedom to choose to leave after about 3 hours - enough for a walk round the island and a snorkel.

We felt the island was being abused by the day trips – several boatmen had set up makeshift camps where they cooked lunch and they were a bit of a mess. Sometimes they were right next to nesting tropicbirds. There is also a litter problem beginning to appear.

We found we had time on our hands at Anakao, having found the Littoral Rock Thrush within half an hour of arriving! There was little to do or see and we're not very good at doing nothing!.

The transfer to Anakao Club Resort was on a very fast motorboat but you still had to get out to the boat in Tulear harbour on a zebu cart which we very much enjoyed. And when we came back there was a posse of zebu carts waiting up to their haunches in water, as the boat

was quite full. I suppose one day they might build a jetty but then the zebu carters would lose their business!

Berenty: We were very happy with our decision not to go to Berenty. One or two birds which we feared we might miss by not going to Berenty, we found with ease elsewhere – e.g. the White Browed Owl, which we saw at Relais de la Reine (on the satellite dish!) and at Zombitse. We also saw Verraux's Sifakh at Zombitse and of course Ring Tailed Lemurs at and the rocky landscape is very scenic. .

Ranomafana: The park seemed fine, and the guides were good but the village was a mess. It was untidy, all the signs were faded, there was no sign of the museum, there were no souvenir shops, the area in front of the Station Thermal was very scruffy – it was almost as if there was not a National Park just up the road and the village was not benefiting in any way from its existence.

The “night feeding” still happens but you can no longer use flash on cameras. The feeding station is a surprisingly long way from the entrance. (apparently it used to be a camp site which is why the animals got used to going there).

Vohipara has steep trails which go up quite high in order to find the Yellow Bellied Sunbird Asity. There are some camp shelters about 1 km into the forest. (Would be a fantastic place to camp). About 2km along the main trail is a sign for a 14km walk.

We stayed at the **Centrest Sejour** – we had a very well equipped modern room with rather slippy tile floors. The staff were friendly and the food was both excellent and reasonably priced – the Zebu Brochette was to die for and the pancakes wonderful. However it was some distance from the park entrance and was not surrounded by forest as the Setam Lodge and Domaine Nature are. Being on the edge of village we had the “benefit” of the sound system from a big party on the Saturday night which did not close down till about 4:00 in the morning just as we were getting up!

Leeches: These were quite bad at Ranomafana due to the rain but a combination of plenty of insect repellent and just pulling them off worked fine.

Betsiboka Delta trip: This is a boat trip which goes to the Betsiboka Delta to search for Madagascar White Ibis and Bernier's Teal, both of which cannot really be seen anywhere else. It takes about 4 hours and is organised from the Chez Karon restaurant in Mahajanga. There is a fixed price for up to 6 people. The boat goes from the open beach and transfers to and from the boat are made somewhat perilously in a small aluminium dingy pushed and pulled by local helpers!

Coffee: We were pleasantly surprised at the standard of the coffee which we drank in various places, several of which had “Taf” espresso machines.

Money: We expected to be able to use our First Direct Debit Cards in ATM machines. We never did try however, as there was no sign of the Maestro or Cirrus logo on the machines and I am sure they wouldn't have worked. The only Debit Card logo was Visa Electron.

We changed about 700 Euros at the airport and then had the problem of what to put it in – the pile of Ariary was about the size of a brick. We finished up using an ice cream tub which we had used for packing various medications during the flight and which we now used for the money, passports and tickets. The only snag was that every time we tried to put this in a safe in a hotel, they wanted to put it in the fridge, assuming it was ice cream! It did actually spend 2 days in a fridge at Eulophiella - not the most secure location for all our worldly goods! We only twigged what had happened when the box was presented to us not by the receptionist but by the barman, very cold, covered in condensation and smelling of fish!

Fianar “cards”: As described in the Bradt guidebook we were indeed approached by children wanting to sell us cards to raise money for a school “copybook”. But they need not have gone through all the copybook spiel – the cards were usually very attractive and we were quite happy to buy them and use them instead of postcards. They were never pushy and once you had bought all the cards you wanted you simply showed them to any new potential sellers and they laughed and walked away!

BIRD LIST

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| LITTLE GREBE | tachybaptus | ruficollis |
| MADAGASCAR LITTLE GREBE | tachybaptus | pelzelinii |
| RED TAILED TROPICBIRD | phaethon | rubricauda |
| LONG TAILED CORMORANT | halietor | africanus |
| SQUACCO HERON | ardeola | ralloides |
| MADAGASCAR POND HERON | ardeola | idea |
| CATTLE EGRET | bubulcus | ibis |
| GREEN BACKED HERON | butorides | striatus |
| BLACK EGRET | egretta | ardesiaca |
| GREAT EGRET | egretta | alba |
| PURPLE HERON | ardea | purpurea |
| GREY HERON | ardea | cinerea |
| MADAGASCAR HERON | ardea | humbloti |
| DIMORPHIC EGRET | egretta | dimorpha |
| HAMMERKOP | scopus | umbretta |
| AFRICAN OPENBILL STORK | anastomous | lamelligerus |
| GLOSSY IBIS | plegadis | falcinellus |
| MADAGASCAR CRESTED IBIS | lophotibis | cristata |
| MADAGASCAR WHITE IBIS | threskiornis | bernieri |
| GREATER FLAMINGO | phoenicopterus | ruber |
| WHITE FACED WHISTLING DUCK | dendrocygna | viduata |
| RED BILLED TEAL | anas | erythrorhyncos |
| HOTTENTOT TEAL | anas | hottentota |
| MADAGASCAR FISH EAGLE | haliaeetus | vociferoides |
| MADAGASCAR HARRIER HAWK | polyboroides | radiatus |
| HENST'S GOSHAWK | accipiter | henstii |
| FRANCES'S SPARROWHAWK | accipiter | francesii |
| MADAGASCAR BUZZARD | buteo | brachypterus |
| REUNION HARRIER | circus | macroscelus |
| YELLOW BILLED KITE | milvus | aegyptius |
| MADAGASCAR KESTREL | falco | newtoni |
| SOOTY FALCON | falco | concolor |
| MADAGASCAR PARTRIDGE | margaroperdix | madagascariensis |
| HARLEQUIN QUAIL | coturnix | delegorguei |
| HELMETED GUINEAFOWL | numida | meleagris |
| WHITE BREASTED MESITE | mesitornus | variegata |
| SUB DESERT MESITE | monias | benchi |
| MADAGASCAR BUTTONQUAIL | turnix | nigricollis |
| MADAGASCAR WOOD RAIL | canirallus | kioloides |
| MADAGASCAR RAIL | rallus | madagascariensis |
| MADAGASCAR FLUFFTAIL | sarothrura | insularis |
| MOORHEN | gallinula | chloropus |
| WHITE THROATED RAIL | dryolimnas | cuvieri |
| MADAGASCAR JACANA | actophilornis | albinucha |
| PAINTED SNIPE | rostratula | benghalensis |
| BLACK WINGED STILT | himantopus | himantopus |
| MADAGASCAR PRATINCOLE | glareola | ocularis |
| GREY PLOVER | pluvialis | squatarola |
| RINGED PLOVER | charadrius | hiaticula |
| MADAGASCAR PLOVER | charadrius | thoracicus |
| KITTLITZ'S PLOVER | charadrius | pecuaris |
| THREE BANDED PLOVER | charadrius | tricoloris |
| WHITE FRONTED PLOVER | charadrius | marginatus |
| GREATER SAND PLOVER | charadrius | leschenaultii |

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| WHIMBREL | numenius | phaeopus |
| GREENSHANK | tringa | nebularia |
| WOOD SANDPIPER | tringa | glareola |
| TEREK SANDPIPER | xenus | cinereus |
| COMMON SANDPIPER | actitis | hypoleucus |
| TURNSTONE | arenaria | interpres |
| SANDERLING | calidris | alba |
| LITTLE STINT | calidris | minuta |
| CURLEW SANDPIPER | calidris | ferruginea |
| WHISKERED TERN | chlidonias | hybrida |
| CRESTED TERN | thalasseus | bergii |
| MADAGASCAR SANDGROUSE | pteroles | personatus |
| MADAGASCAR TURTLE DOVE | streptopelia | picturata |
| NAMAQUA DOVE | oena | capensis |
| MADAGASCAR GREEN PIGEON | treron | australis |
| MADAGASCAR BLUE PIGEON | alectroenas | madagascariensis |
| GREATER VASA PARROT | coracopsis | vasa |
| LESSER VASA PARROT | coracopsis | nigra |
| GREY HEADED LOVEBIRD | agapornis | canus |
| GIANT COUA | coua | gigas |
| COQUEREL'S COUA | coua | coquereli |
| RED FRONTED COUA | coua | reynaudii |
| RUNNING COUA | coua | cursor |
| RED CAPPED COUA | coua | ruficeps |
| CRESTED COUA | coua | cristata |
| VERREAUX'S COUA | coua | verreauxii |
| BLUE COUA | coua | caerulea |
| MADAGASCAR COUCAL | centropus | toulou |
| GREEN CAPPED COUA | coua | olivaeiceps |
| MADAGASCAR CUCKOO | cuculus | rochii |
| BARN OWL | tyto | alba |
| MADAGASCAR SCOPS OWL | otus | rutilus |
| WHITE BROWED OWL | ninox | superciliaris |
| TOROTOROKA SCOPS OWL | otus | madagascariensis |
| MADAGASCAR NIGHTJAR | caprimulgus | madagascariensis |
| COLLARED NIGHTJAR | caprimulgus | enarratus |
| MADAGASCAR SPINETAILED SWIFT | zoonavena | grandidieri |
| AFRICAN PALM SWIFT | cypsiurus | parvus |
| ALPINE SWIFT | apus | melba |
| MADAGASCAR BLACK SWIFT | apus | balstoni |
| MADAGASCAR PYGMY KINGFISHER | ispidina | madagascariensis |
| MALAGASY KINGFISHER | alcedo | vintsioides |
| MADAGASCAR BEE EATER | merops | superciliosus |
| BROAD BILLED ROLLER | eurystomus | glaucurus |
| SHORT LEGGED GROUND ROLLER | brachypteracias | leptosomus |
| SCALY GROUND ROLLER | brachypteracias | squamigera |
| PITTA LIKE GROUND ROLLER | atelornis | pittoides |
| RUFIOUS HEADED GROUND ROLLER | atelornis | crossleyii |
| LONG TAILED GROUND ROLLER | uratelornis | chimaera |
| CUCKOO ROLLER | leptosomus | discolor |
| MADAGASCAR HOOPOE | upupa | marginata |
| VELVET ASITY | philepitta | castanea |
| SHLEGELS ASITY | philepitta | shlegeli |
| YELLOW BELLIED SUNBIRD ASITY | neodrepanis | hypoxanthus |
| MADAGASCAR BUSH LARK | miraфра | hova |
| PLAIN MARTIN | riparia | paludicola |
| MASCARENE MARTIN | phedina | borbonica |
| MADAGASCAR WAGTAIL | motacilla | flaviventris |

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| MADAGASCAR CUCKOO SHRIKE | coracina | cinerea |
| LONG BILLED GREENBUL | phyllostrephus | madagascariensis |
| SPECTACLED GREENBUL | phyllostrephus | zosterops |
| APPERT'S GREENBUL | phyllostrephus | apperti |
| MADAGASCAR BLACK BULBUL | hypsipetes | madagascariensis |
| TYLAS VANGA | tylas | edwardi |
| GREY CROWNED GREENBUL | phyllostrephus | cinereiceps |
| RED TAILED VANGA | calicalicus | madagascariensis |
| RUFIOUS VANGA | schetba | rufa |
| HOOK BILLED VANGA | vanga | curvirostris |
| LAFRESNAYE'S VANGA | zenopirostris | zenopirostris |
| VAN DAM'S VANGA | xenopirostris | damii |
| POLLEN'S VANGA | xenopirostris | polleni |
| SICKLE BILLED VANGA | falcula | palliata |
| WHITE HEADED VANGA | artamella | viridis |
| CHABERT'S VANGA | leptopterus | chabert |
| BLUE VANGA | leptopterus | madagascarinus |
| RED SHOULDERED VANGA | calicalicus | rufocarpalis |
| NUTHATCH VANGA | hypositta | corallirostris |
| MADAGASCAR MAGPIE ROBIN | copysyphus | albospecularis |
| LITTORAL ROCK THRUSH | pseudocossyphus | imerinus |
| BENSON'S ROCK THRUSH | pseudocossyphus | bensoni |
| FOREST ROCK THRUSH | pseudocossyphus | sharpei |
| AFRICAN STONECHAT | saxicola | torquata |
| COMMON JERY | neomixis | tenella |
| GREEN JERY | neomixis | viridis |
| STRIPE THROATED JERY | neomixis | striatigula |
| WHITE THROATED OXYLABES | oxylabes | madagascariensis |
| YELLOW BROWED OXYLABES | crossleyia | xanthophrys |
| CROSSLEYS BABBLER | mystacornis | crossleyi |
| MADAGASCAR SWAMP WARBLER | acrocephalus | newtoni |
| MADAGASCAR BRUSH WARBLER | nesillas | typica |
| THAMNORNIS WARBLER | thamnornis | chloroplectoides |
| MADAGASCAR CISTICOLA | cisticola | cherinus |
| BROWN EMUTAIL | dromaeocercus | brunneus |
| GREY EMUTAIL | dromaeocercus | seebohmi |
| RANDS WARBLER | randia | pseudozosterops |
| CRYPTIC WARBLER | cryptosilvicola | randriansoloi |
| SUB DESERT BRUSH WARBLER | nesillas | lantzii |
| DARK NEWTONIA | newtonia | amphichroa |
| COMMON NEWTONIA | newtonia | brunneicauda |
| ARCHBOLD'S NEWTONIA | newtonia | archboldi |
| WARD'S FLYCATCHER | pseudobias | wardi |
| MADAGASCAR PARADISE FLYCATCHER | terpsiphone | mutata |
| SOUIMANGA SUNBIRD | nectarinia | souimanga |
| LONG BILLED GREEN SUNBIRD | nectarinia | notata |
| MADAGASCAR WHITE-EYE | zosterops | maderaspatana |
| MADAGASCAR MUNIA | lonchura | nana |
| NELICOURVI WEAVER | ploceus | nelicourvi |
| MADAGASCAR FODY | foudia | madagascariensis |
| MADAGASCAR FOREST FODY | foudia | omissa |
| SAKALAVA WEAVER | foudia | sakalava |
| MADAGASCAR STARLING | saroglossa | aurata |
| COMMON MYNA | acridotheres | tristis |
| CRESTED DRONGO | dicrurus | forficatus |
| PIED CROW | corvus | alba |

PREPARATION NOTES – KEY BIRDS AT EACH SITE

Zombitse

Appert`s Greenbul
Giant Coua
Madagascar Sandgrouse
Madagascar Partridge (and Isalo area)
Benson`s Rock Thrush (Isalo area)
Coquerel`s Coua
Green capped Coua
Lesser Vasa Parrot
Madagascar Hoopoe
Thamnornis Warbler
Common Newtonia
Common Jery
Long-billed Green Sunbird
Souimanga Sunbird
Sakalava Weaver

Perinet (Analamazaotra/Andasibe) itself

Red-fronted Coua
Rand`s Warbler
Coral-billed Nuthatch Vanga
Tylas Vanga
Madagascar Wood-rail
Madagascar Flufftail
Collared Nightjar
Madagascar Sparrowhawk
Madagascar Long-eared Owl
Madagascar Brush Warbler
Rand`s Warbler
Dark Newtonia
Green Jery

Mantadia National Park:

Pitta-like Ground Roller
Short Legged Ground Roller
Scaly Ground Roller
Rufous Headed Ground Roller
Crossley`s Babbler
White-throated Oxylabes
Yellow-browed Oxylabes
Velvet Asity
Common Sunbird Asity
Yellow Belied Sunbird Asity
Forest Rock-thrush
Brown Emutail
Helmet Vanga is now known to occur there too.

Torotorofotsy and Ampasipotsy:

Meller`s Duck
Madagascar Snipe
Madagascar Rail
White Throated Rail
Grey Emutail
Madagascar Swamp Warbler
Slender-billed Flufftail

Ranomafana National Park

Brown Mesite

Henst` s Goshawk
Madagascar Long-eared Owl
Madagascar Wood Rail
Pitta-like Ground Roller
Short Legged Ground Roller
Scaly Ground Roller
Rufous Headed Ground Roller
Velvet Asity
Common Sunbird Asity
Crossley`s Babbler
White-throated Oxylabes
Yellow-browed Oxylabes
Grey-crowned Greenbul
Forest Rock-thrush
Pollen`s Vanga
Tylas Vanga
Madagascar Brush Warbler
Rand`s Warbler
Dark Newtonia
Green Jery
Wedge Tailed Jery

Up on the high ridges

Yellow-bellied Sunbird Asity
Brown Emutail
Cryptic Warbler

Vohiparara marsh

Madagascar Rail
Madagascar Flufftail
Grey Emutail
Slender-billed Flufftail
Madagascar Snipe

Spiny Bush - Ifaty Beach

Sub-Desert Mesite
Long-tailed Ground-roller
LaFresnaye`s Vanga
Archbold`s Newtonia
Running Coua
Green Capped Coua
Sub-desert Brush-warbler
Banded Kestrel
White-browed Hawk Owl
Madagascar Nightjar
Madagascar Buttonquail
Madagascar Hoopoe
Thamnornis
Sickle Billed Vanga

Spiny Bush - St Augustin Bay/La Table

Verreaux` Coua
Littoral Rock-thrush
Red-shouldered Vanga
Madagascar Plover
Madagascar Sandgrouse

Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest - Ampijoroa Forest Station

White-breasted Mesite
Coquerel`s Coua
Red-capped Coua
Van Dam`s Vanga

Schlegel`s Asity
Sicklebill, Rufous, Hook-billed, White Headed, Blue and Chabert`s Vangas
Madagascar Fish Eagle
Madagascar Gymnogene
Madagascar Buzzard
Madagascar Sparrowhawk
Frances`s Sparrowhawk
Madagascar Crested Ibis
White-throated Rail
Greater Vasa Parrot
Madagascar Green Pigeon
Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher
Humblot`s Heron
Madagascar White Ibis
Madagascar Jacana
Madagascar Pratincole
Madagascar (Bernier`s) Teal
Allen`s Gallinule
Madagascar Hoopoe

Birds to look out for anywhere:

Madagascar Little Grebe
Madagascar Pond Heron
Madagascar Cuckoo Hawk
Madagascar Harrier
Frances`s Goshawk
Madagascar Sparrowhawk
Grey Headed Lovebird
Lesser Vasa Parrot
Madagascar Cuckoo
Marsh Owl
Madagascar Swift
Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher (Forest)
Cuckoo Roller
Madagascar Cisticola
White Headed Vanga
Madagascar Munia