

## The Mammal List

### BATS

*Pteropus rufus* ..... Madagascar Flying Fox

### TENRECS

*Tenrec ecaudatus* ..... Common Tenrec

### RODENTS

*Microgale spp.* ..... Shrew Tenrec species

*Nesomys rufus* ..... Eastern Red Forest Rat

### LEMURS

*Indri indri* ..... Indri

*Eulemur fulvus fulvus* ..... Common Brown Lemur

*Eulemur rubriventer* ..... Red-bellied Lemur

*Hapalemur griseus griseus* ..... Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur

*Lepilemur microdon* ..... Small-toothed Sportive Lemur

*Avahi laniger* ..... Eastern Avahi

*Cheirogaleus major* ..... Greater Dwarf Lemur

*Microcebus rufus* ..... Brown Mouse-lemur

*Hapalemur aureus* ..... Golden Bamboo Lemur

*Hapalemur simus* ..... Greater Bamboo Lemur

*Eulemur fulvus rufus* ..... Red-fronted Brown Lemur

*Cheirogaleus medius* ..... Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur

*Microcebus murinus* ..... Grey Mouse Lemur

*Eulemur mongoz* ..... Mongoose Lemur

*Avahi occidentalis* ..... Western Avahi

*Lepilemur edwardsi* ..... Milne-Edward's Sportive Lem.

*Microcebus ravelobensis* ..... Golden-brown Mouse Lemur

*Propithecus diadema diadem.* ..... Diademed Sifaka

*Propithecus diadema edward.* ..... Milne-Edward's Sifaka

*Propithecus verreauxi verreauxi* ..... Verreaux's Sifaka

*Propithecus verreauxi coquereli* ..... Coquerel's Sifaka

## A Birding Trip Report

# Madagascar

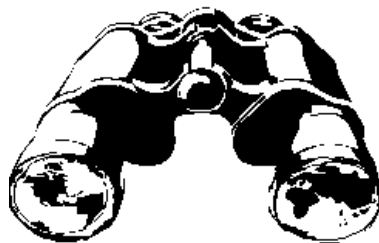
## October 2-25, 1999

Led by Guy Eldridge

Turaco Tours

Written and Published by Mark Elwonger for Ornifolks

Printed on Wednesday, March 15, 2000 in Victoria, Texas



**ORNIFOLKS... networking birders with destinations**

**Policy Regarding Trip Leaders**

The goal of our organization is to enable birders to visit difficult areas at less expense than with a professional group. If any Ornifolks member can set up trips for a fraction of the cost of a professional tour, find other members willing to participate, and go for less or at no cost, we see no ethical problem. Many participants don't have the time, expertise, or inclination to do the necessary research or make the preparations, but instead are willing to assist the leaders by defraying their expenses, and few potential organizers will step forward to lead a trip for nothing.

**Mike Flieg**  
**6803 Nashville**  
**St Louis MO 63139**  
**Home (314) 645-3356**  
**Fax (314) 645-3366**  
**e-mail GMFlieg@aol.com**

**Mark Elwonger**  
**405 W Brazos**  
**Victoria TX 77901**  
**Home (361) 573-5666**  
**Office (361) 548-5135**  
**e-mail greenowl@vicec.org**

**Turaco Tours**

**Guy Eldridge**

**Welsh Myers Farm**

**Skeffington,**

**Leics, LE7 9YE UK**

**0116 259 8226**

e-mail: Turacoped@Aol.com

Fax: 0116 259 8226

**Participants:**

Louise Augustine, Ken Cole, Hugh Currie, Mark Elwonger, Mike Flieg, Paul Keller, Travis MacClendon, and Al MacTavish.

Besides serving as a bulletin board and providing its members with safe and economical ways to visit foreign birding destinations, *Ornifolks* offers members:

- ◆ Custom international birding
- ◆ a library of trip reports
- ◆ contacts with ground agents and local guides

Visit our website at

<http://home.viptx.net/~greenowl/>

**Ornifolks in Madagascar**

14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	24-Oct	25-Oct
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

***Sylviidae***

												<i>Dromaeocercus brunneus</i>
X	X	FC	X	X		2	6	X	X	2	2	<i>Nesillas typica</i>
		X					1					<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>
			H									<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>
												<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>
												<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>
		X	X		FC	FC	X	X	X	X	X	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>
									1	1		<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>
		H	15+H	X								<i>Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi</i>
	2		H									<i>Amphilais seebohmi</i>
							X	X	X	X		<i>Neomixis tenella</i>
		X	X	X	X	X						<i>Neomixis viridis</i>
		H										<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>
		2	1									<i>Neomixis flavoviridis</i>
		2	L									<i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>
		1	H									<i>Crossleyia xanthophrys</i>
												<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>

***Alaudidae***

					C	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	<i>Mirafra hova</i>
--	--	--	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---------------------

***Nectariniidae***

		C	1	X	2	X	C	C	C	C	C	C	<i>Nectarinia sovimanga</i>
													<i>Nectarinia notata</i>

***Passeridae***

		6	ON	X	X	X	X						<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>
				1									<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>
							30	40	X	FC	X	X	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>
		4	4	X	X	X	X	1	X		1		<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>
		4	4	X	20	X	X						<i>Foudia omissa</i>
													<i>Lemuresthes nana</i>

Ornifolks in Madagascar

3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct	13-Oct
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	--------	--------	--------	--------

Old World Warblers and Allies

Brown Emu-Tail		H 2								
Madagascar Brush-Warbler	X	H	X	6	6					FC
Thamnornis Warbler										
Madagascar Swamp-Warbler	4									4
Rand's Warbler	6	H	1	X	X					
Dark Newtonia	3		H	FC 2	FC 2					FC 1
Common Newtonia	X	X	X	FC 2	FC 2	2	FC	C	FC H	FC 1
Archbold's Newtonia										
Cryptic Warbler		H		H						
Gray Emu-Tail										2
Common Jery			2			1	2			
Green Jery	X	X	X	FC	FC					H
Stripe-throated Jery	1		1	2	36194					H
Wedge-tailed Jery										
White-throated Oxylabes	2			H	1				1	1
Yellow-browed Oxylabes									1	
Crossley's Babbler		H	H	H						

Larks

Madagascar Lark					2	4				FC
-----------------	--	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--	----

Sunbirds and Allies

Souimanga Sunbird	X	X	1	FC	FC	FC	1	4	2	FC	H	C	1	C	
Long-billed Green Sunbird	X	2	X	1	FC	FC	FC	1	4	2	FC	H	C	1	C

Sparrows and Allies

Madagascar Wagtail		10	6				X	X					FC	FC
Nelicourvi Weaver		6		2 NB 2										
Sakalava Weaver									1	2				
Madagascar Red Fody	L	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					FC	FC
Forest Fody	L	H	X	X	X	X	X	X					FC	FC
Madagascar Munia	C		FC	X	FC	FC	FC	X			1		FC	FC

Ornifolks in Madagascar

Itinerary

- 2 Oct..... International arrivals, drive to Perinét.
- 3 Oct..... Perinét
- 4 Oct..... AM Perinét; PM Mantadia NP
- 5,6 Oct..... Mantadia NP
- 7 Oct..... AM Mantadia; PM Return to Tana
- 8 Oct..... Fly to Mahajanga, drive to Bonamary
- 9 Oct..... Drive to Ampijoroa via Lac Amboromalandy
- 10-11 Oct..... Ampijoroa
- 12 Oct..... Full day's drive back to Tana
- 13 Oct..... Full day's drive to Ranomafana
- 14-17 Oct..... Ranomafana NP
- 18 Oct..... Drive to Isalo area, camp at oasis in Ranohire
- 19 Oct..... AM Ranohire; PM Drive to Zombitsy NP
- 20 Oct..... AM Zombitsy NP; PM drive to Tulear
- 21 Oct..... Onilany Delta, Nosy Ve, Anakoe, St. Augustine Road.
- 22 Oct..... St. Augustine Road, drive to Ifaty via Tulear
- 23 Oct..... Ifaty
- 24 Oct..... Fly to Tana
- 25 Oct..... International departures



Ornifolks in Madagascar

	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct	13-Oct
Sickle-billed Vanga								15	10		
White-headed Vanga		2NB									
Chabert's Vanga	6	5	X	20	20		2	4	4	FC	
Blue Vanga	1		3	2	3						
Tylas Vanga	4	1	1	LH	FC						
Nuthatch Vanga			2	2	2						

Old World Flycatchers and Allies

Forest Rock-Thrush											
Benson's Rock-Thrush											
Littoral Rock-Thrush											
Madagascar Magpie-Robin	2	2	1	2	2		1	3	8		
Common Stonechat	8	4	3			1					

Starlings and Allies

Madagascar Starling	4				X	30					
Common Myna	6				X		4			X	X

Swallows and Allies

Plain Martin					20		2				
Mascarene Martin	10	2	2	2	1		6	L			

Bulbuls

Long-billed Greenbul	4		2					1	4	10	
Spectacled Greenbul	4			1	2			1			
Appert's Greenbul					1						
Gray-crowned Greenbul											
Madagascar Bulbul	X	X	X	FC	FC		6	FC	FC		

African Warblers

Madagascar Cisticola	X	X	2	H			10				FC
----------------------	---	---	---	---	--	--	----	--	--	--	----

White-eyes

-Malagasy White-eye	X	X	X	FC	FC			1	1		
---------------------	---	---	---	----	----	--	--	---	---	--	--

Ornifolks in Madagascar



## Local Guides

"Charlie"  
Mr. R. Charles  
Guide Ecot  
Ampijoroa  
Andronofasika  
C.P. 403  
Madagascar  
Tel : 261-20-222-6215 (office 8-12 and  
14-18 hours)  
Tel : 261-20-223-3637 (evening)

"Maurice"  
Mr. Ratsisakanana Besoa Maurice  
Andasibe, Perinét  
C.P. 514  
Madagascar

"Fidi"  
Rafidison Jean Emilien  
Guide Eco-Touristique  
Parc National de Ranamafana  
C.P. 312  
Fianarantsoa  
Madagascar

For birdwatchers and naturalists, Madagascar is significant not just for its unique birdlife but also for its singular mammal, insect and plant species. The Ornifolks trip was greatly enriched by the viewing of 21 lemur species along with other mammals, a fabulous moth, and time in the threatened dry forests of Ifaty.

14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	24-Oct	25-Oct	
												<b>Scopidae</b>
												<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
												<b>Phoenicopteridae</b>
												<i>Phoenicopus ruber 'roseus'</i>
												<b>Threskiornithidae</b>
												<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
												<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>
												<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus bernieri</i>
												<b>Ciconiidae</b>
												<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
												<b>Philepittidae</b>
1		1	2S									<i>Philepitta castanea</i>
												<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>
1S,2H		2										<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>
2												<i>Neodrepanis hypoxantha</i>
												<b>Corvidae</b>
		H		C	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	<i>Corvus albus</i>
2	2		2	2								<i>Coracina cinerea</i>
X	X	2	X	X	1	1	X	X	X	X		<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>
2	2	1	X	4	FC	FC		X	2	2		<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>
	4	2	X		1							<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>
H	H	H	2+H		4H	H						<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>
						H						<i>Schetba rufa</i>
										H		<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>
								1 ON	2	H		<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>
												<i>Xenopirostris damii</i>
LH	LH	3	H									<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>



**5,6 Oct..... Mantadia NP**

The next two days were spent working on ground-rollers and vangas. All three targeted ground rollers- Short-legged, Pitta-like and Scaly- were seen (with some help from Maurice's brother Patrice) in a span of about 45 minutes!

A Henst's Goshawk was heard in the distance from camp, and distant fly-by views were achieved by some. The evening owl prowl turned up the only White-browed Hawk-Owl of the trip. Just as we were falling asleep a Red Owl was heard screaming over the camp. This forest *Tyto* is a target bird for many tour groups- being rarely reported and almost never seen well in this part of Madagascar. Previous owl prowls had failed to turn one up, but there were recent reports for the area.

Our bush-camp was primitive but the staff made it very comfortable. A nearby stream with hard sand bottom was a comfortable place to bathe during the hot part of the day.

**7 Oct ..... AM Mantadia; PM Return to Tana**

We spent the best hours of the day walking an especially productive section of forest along the main road. Nuthatch Vanga eluded us until a mixed species flock offered good views of a male. Long looks at a cruising Madagascar Harrier-Hawk completed the morning's birding. Striking camp, we left for Tana, arriving at the Hotel Farihy well before dark. Guy and the staff would drive north all night for Mahajanga to make arrangements for a boat trip the following day and to meet us at the airport at mid-day.

**8 Oct ..... Fly to Mahajanga, drive to Bonamary**

Washed and refreshed from our overnight at Hotel Farihy, we flew to Mahajanga and met Charles, Guy and the rest of the staff who drove us to Bonamary where we met the boatman for our afternoon tour of the Labetsiboka Estuary. Ideally, the trip would be scheduled for an outgoing tide when the feeding possibilities for Bernier's Teal would pull them from the dense mangroves. In reality, tide tables were lacking and the boatman cajoled us into thinking the birding would be good in the afternoon. Well, Bernier's Teal was a long shot to begin with, but the rising tide did not help matters. We managed to see a few exclusive trip birds, including the Madagascar race of Sacred ibis, which will certainly be split.

Our evening was spent entertaining the village kids and commissioning the brand-new long-drop outhouse- after convincing the village elder to turn over the key. After dinner the western form of the Malagasy Scops-Owl made itself heard (and seen by some).

**9 Oct ..... Drive to Ampijoroa via Lac Amboromalandy**

Arriving at a village near the lake, we parked and walked the lake's edge to a point where a number of wading birds were present. As temperatures soared to 100°F, this spot provided exclusive sightings for several species- including Painted Snipe. After lunch we continued to Ampijoroa and met R. Charles, who showed us the first of several Red-capped Couas in the dry deciduous forest (elevation 80-200 meters). The camp at Ampijoroa was very comfortable with thatched shade/rain shelters and a nice shower-toilet (ablution) facility. This national park and facility are a legacy to the work of British naturalist Gerald Durrell.

14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	24-Oct	25-Oct	
			1									<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>
				1								<i>Accipiter francesii</i>
			2									<i>Accipiter henstii</i>
2	2	1	3		1	1						<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>
<b>Falconidae</b>												
	4			20	4	4	3	2	2	1	X	<i>Falco newtoni</i>
					1				2			<i>Falco zoniventris</i>
				1 KC								<i>Falco concolor</i>
							1					<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
<b>Podicipedidae</b>												
												<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
												<i>Tachybaptus pelzelinii</i>
<b>Phaethontidae</b>												
							15NEY					<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>
<b>Phalacrocoracidae</b>												
												<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>
<b>Ardeidae</b>												
				1								<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
				X								<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>
								ON				<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
						2						<i>Ardea humbloti</i>
	1			C	2							<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
						1	X	X				<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
					X	X		X			X	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
												<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
												<i>Ardeola idae</i>
				X		H	2	10	X		1	<i>Butorides striatus</i>
											1	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>

Ornifolks in Madagascar

	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct	13-Oct
--	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	--------	--------	--------	--------

Madagascar Harrier-Hawk					1				1		
Frances's Goshawk											
Henst's Goshawk	LH			LH							
Madagascar Buzzard	2	1	1	1	1			3	3		

Falcons

Madagascar Kestrel	2				4	1					
Banded Kestrel								1	1		
Sooty Falcon											
Peregrine Falcon		1									

Grebes

Little Grebe							2				
Madagascar Grebe	2	2	1								

Tropicbirds

Red-tailed Tropicbird											
-----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Cormorants

Long-tailed Cormorant						2	2				
-----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--	--

Hérons

Black Heron							50	2	3		
Dimorphic Egret	6						8	1			
Gray Heron											
Humblot's Heron						4	1		1		
Purple Heron	X 1	1	1	1	1	2	1				
Great Egret	X			1	1	4	5	2	3		
Cattle Egret	X				X	X	100	5	4		
Squacco Heron	2							2	2		
Madagascar Pond-Heron				1	X			1	2		
Striated Heron	1				1	8	12	2	2		
Black-crowned Night-Heron						3					

Ornifolks in Madagascar

10-11 Oct .....*Ampijoroa*

R. Charles was very happy to lead us almost immediately to Schlegel's Asity. Eventually we had great looks at two pairs. The rest of the morning was also very productive with great looks at Madagascar Buttonquail, White-breasted Mesite (our first mesite of the trip), and Banded Kestrel. Before the day was done, eight endemics had been seen well by all. Monday was spent probing the dry forest for the elusive ibis and accipiter, getting better looks at couas and vangas in the meantime. The fish eagles eventually were detected on their high canopy perches on the far side of the lake. Our after-dinner nocturnal yielded four species of lemurs, including the local endemic mouse lemur *Ravelobebisis*. Madagascar Nightjar was seen on the nest, and the Western Scops-Owl was heard.

12 Oct .....*Full day's drive back to Tana*

An early start put us at the Manakazu River for lunch, where a distant fly-by accipiter could only have been a Frances's Goshawk. The countryside was devoid of trees at elevations above 1200 m, the exception being deep canyons with gallery forest. Ground cover consisted of tall, ungrazed grasses. We saw no fences or barbed wire, and all grazing animals were attended. We arrived back at the Farihy for a restaurant meal and a bed.

13 Oct .....*Full day's drive to Ranomafana*

Most of the day was spent on the National Highway, with a short detour to a Meller's Duck spot at km 392 for lunch. We dipped on the duck (the stakeout pond was dry) but got the only Marsh Owl of the trip. Our campsite at the Ranomafana Forest Station was reached shortly after dusk. It was very comfortable with thatched shelters, running water, and a shower and flush toilet.

14 Oct .....*Ranomafana NP*

We were awakened at 2AM with yet another calling Madagascar Owl. For the next four days, Fidi and his wife Sabine would help us locate the remaining eastern rain-forest endemics we had managed to miss at Perinét. First on the list was the Yellow-browed Oxylobes- which proved to be a tough terrestrial skulker. One was eventually herded towards us by Fidi and Sabine. We made the first of three visits to a stake-out for Henst's Goshawk. The trails at Ranomafana were a bit steeper than at Perinét- but still well maintained and between 800- 1000m in elevation. Birding for the rest of the day was curtailed by rain.

15 Oct .....*Ranomafana NP*

We drove about 30 km to a potential site for Slender-billed Flufftail. The morning was spent thrashing the marshes and ponds for Madagascar Snipe, the Madagascar form of Reunion Harrier, and Madagascar Partridge. No Meller's Duck or Slender-billed Flufftail, though.

Ornifolks in Madagascar

In the afternoon we hiked to a spot near Vohiparara where Fidi had earlier noted nesting activities of a pair of Yellow-bellied Asities, which we saw well. Later we birded the road, and checked a productive spot for Brown Emu-Tail.

**16 Oct..... Ranomafana NP**

Failing once more to see the Madagascar Owl after hearing it before dawn, we did manage good looks at the shy and elusive Brown Mesite (near the Henst site) and Crossley's Babbler. Pollen's Vanga eventually appeared after extended trolling.

**17 Oct..... Ranomafana NP**

Our hit list had been whittled down to a few critical species- Forest Rock-Thrush, Cryptic Warbler, Gray-crowned Greenbul and Henst Goshawk. We twitched the rock-thrush from the road, but thrashed an area of guava forest unsuccessfully for the understory-dwelling greenbul. A cooperative Cryptic Warbler performed well for us in response to tape. Our third try for the Goshawk paid off with close looks at a perched bird. Finally, some were able to glimpse the Greenbul on the return hike.

**18 Oct..... Drive to Isalo area, camp at oasis in Ranohire**

Striking camp early, we set off for the Isalo area and arrived at a scenic escarpment and desert oasis, complete with a small patch of Euopacah trees and Pandanus.

**19 Oct..... AM Ranohire; PM Drive to Zombitsy NP**

We explored the side canyons below the oasis, eventually locating a pair of Benson's Rock-Thrush. Later in the morning, our skirmish lines were unsuccessful at detecting additional Madagascar Partridge; we did, however, flush a covey of Helmeted Guineafowl.

Continuing southwest, we reached the town of Sararaha, secured a guide and permission to camp in the Zombitsy National Park, and backtracked to a campsite near a stream and gallery forest near the village of Vohibitsia.

Our first foray into the gallery forest near camp turned up no Appert's Greenbuls or Giant Couas, only a pair of Madagascar Partridge for Hugh's birthday. So we tried a patch of remnant forest immediately west of the village of Vohibitsia. Here we latched onto a Giant Coua, which we watched for about 20 minutes.

At dinner we were entertained by an evening flight of Madagascar flying foxes, after we treated some uninvited biting horseflies. Three species of owls were heard that night from camp.

**20 Oct..... AM Zombitsy NP; PM drive to Tulear**

Striking camp, we returned to the national highway and stopped to bird a patch of remnant forest between km 776 and 777. It took us about an hour before we ran into a few foraging Appert's Greenbuls. We encountered two more groups a short while later. Signs of White-winged Ibis were evident (feathers), but we could not locate any.

Ornifolks in Madagascar

14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	24-Oct	25-Oct	
							3	1	1		3	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>
	1						50	1		X	X	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
							20		2	X		<i>Calidris alba</i>
									7			<i>Calidris minuta</i>
									5	X	X	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
												<b>Rostratulidae</b>
	1											<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
												<b>Jacaniidae</b>
												<i>Actophilornis albinucha</i>
												<b>Charadriidae</b>
								5			1	<i>Himantopus himantopus himantopus</i>
							60	X	5		1	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
									8	4	2	<i>Charadrius thoracicus</i>
							6	3	2	1		<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
	1							2				<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
							12		2	3		<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>
									2	2		<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
												<b>Glareolidae</b>
	7											<i>Glareola ocularis</i>
												<b>Laridae</b>
												<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>
												<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>
							25					<i>Sterna bergii</i>
												<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
												<b>Accipitridae</b>
												<i>Aviceda madagascariensis</i>
	2		15	X	X	6		X	X	2	1	<i>Milvus migrans 'parasitus'</i>
												<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>
	2											<i>Circus maillardi 'macroscelus'</i>

Ornifolks in Madagascar

	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct	13-Oct
--	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	--------	--------	--------	--------

Common Sandpiper						25	8	1	3		
Ruddy Turnstone											
Sanderling											
Little Stint											
Curlew Sandpiper						25	6				

Paintedsnipe

Greater Painted-snipe							6				
-----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--

Jacanas

Madagascar Jacana							12				
-------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	----	--	--	--	--

Plovers and Allies

-Black-winged Stilt						20	1	6			
Gray Plover											
Black-banded Plover											
Kittlitz's Plover							4				
Three-banded Plover								2S&2H	7	1	5
White-fronted Plover											
Greater Sand Plover											

Pratincoles and Allies

Madagascar Pratincole					2						
-----------------------	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

Gulls and Allies

Gray-headed Gull								1			
Lesser Crested-Tern											
Great Crested-Tern											
White-winged Tern							1				

Hawks and Allies

Madagascar Baza		2									
...'Yellow-billed' Kite						20	100	10	5		
Madagascar Fish-Eagle								2	2		
...'Madagascar' Marsh-Harrier											

Ornifolks in Madagascar

The rest of the day was spent getting situated at the Hotel La Mangrove east of Tulear, and getting acquainted with Subdesert Brush-Warbler, recently split from the Madagascar Brush-Warbler. Travis celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday with a plate of octopus spaghetti.

21 Oct .....Onilany Delta, Nosy-Ve, Anakoe, St. Augustine Road.

Again guessing at the tide with the boat operator, we were able to start earlier than originally thought and made our way up a side channel through the mangroves of the Onilany Estuary, finally grounding the boat at a point across the river from the village of St. Augustine by about 8AM. Knowing that the sandgrouse had been seen at points about 2 km upriver from the village, between 8:30 and 9AM, we left the boat and waded upstream on the hard sand bottom. After walking for about a half-hour, sandgrouse were sighted between us and the boat. As we returned we were offered better views of flying and calling birds. Our next port of call was the coral island of Nosy-Ve, and we made landfall on the lee side. We were able to find nesting Red-tailed Tropicbirds in short order, but our search for Crab Plover, Bridled Terns and frigatebirds was for naught. Finally, we made our way back to the mainland and the town of Anakoa, where we found the Littoral Rock-Thrush amongst the scrub behind the village's coke stands. The village children serenaded our departure as they swam in the clear water of the Mozambique Channel. A late afternoon walk gave us looks at Verreaux's Coua.

22 Oct .....St. Augustine Road, drive to Ifaty via Tulear

We worked the karst hills between the hotel and St Augustine, hoping to hear or see the reported and newly-described Red-shouldered Vanga. Although we visited at a different time of year from published reports, we were not expecting difficulty locating these birds. Some of us got looks at a possible Green-capped Coua, which may eventually be split from Red-capped. Scope looks were provided of a LaFresnay's Vanga on the nest. A late morning departure for Tulear put us in town for shopping (where Louise's sharp bartering skills pushed a street vendor past the brink of nervous collapse) and we were on the road to Ifaty by about 2 PM. The 23 km sandy road to Ifaty took four hours to negotiate with our 2WD vans, but eventually we all arrived to the Hotel Lakana Vezo at dusk- traveling by various means (zebu-cart, on foot and by the hotel manager's 4WD) as the staff battled the sandy road.

23 Oct .....Ifaty

Moussa and his father Masindrake lived up to their reputations. Starting at sunrise, they corralled Archbold's Newtonia, Running Coua, and gave us long looks at Long-tailed Ground-roller, and the Subdesert Mesite (scope views of a treed specimen). We had six of the locally-targeted endemics by 9AM, and were left with having to look only for the sparrowhawk. We returned for breakfast and a relaxing period of shorebirding and serious napping. Moussa took us out again for a few hours; this gave us more time to enjoy the microphyllus spiny forest woodland with its unique alaudia and baobab, as well as get some more looks at the birds.

**24 Oct..... Fly to Tana**

We left the Lakana Vezo at 5AM as a full moon set over the Mozambique channel. The return 23-km trek took only an hour and a half, so we had plenty of time for shopping in Tulear and for cokes and lunch at a local resort.

Our flight being delayed by a few hours, we said *adieu* to Charles, Harry, Guy, Zaza, and Roger.

**25 Oct..... International departures**

We slept late the next morning at the Farihy before leaving for the airport and our international departure to Johannesburg and on to Capetown.

**OTHER TRIP REPORTS AVAILABLE**

- Australia
- Belize
- Bhutan '88
- Bhutan
- SE Brazil
- Caribbean (Yucatan, Cozumel, Grand Cayman, Jamaica)
- Caribbean (Lesser Antilles)
- Colombia: Santa Marta
- Ecuador & Galapagos
- Cuba & the Dominican
- Guatemala (Atitlán)
- Ethiopia\*
- Hong Kong
- Indonesia:North Sulawesi, Halmahera, Batanta, Salawati, Vogelkop, and Biak
- Kenya
- Kenya and Uganda

- Malaysia
- Mexico (Colima)
- Mexico (Tamaulipas CBC's)
- Mexico (Tamaulipas, SL Potosi, Coahuila)
- Mexico (Baja & Oaxaca)
- New Zealand
- Panama (Canal Zone & Darien)
- Peru: Manu
- Peru: Maranhão
- Russia: Primorye
- Sabah
- Spain
- South Africa\*
- Scotland
- Thailand
- Trinidad-Tobago
- Turkey
- Venezuela (NW)

\*Available in PDF format via e-mail

14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	24-Oct	25-Oct	
	2			1	1		H	FC	4H	H	H	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>
												<i>Caprimulgus enarratus</i>
<b>Caprimulgidae</b>												
	8		1	4	4	2					2	<i>Columba livia</i>
												<i>Columba picturata</i>
						X	X	X	X	X	X	<i>Oena capensis</i>
												<i>Treron australis</i>
1	1		3			X	X	6	2	4		<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>
<b>Columbidae</b>												
H	H&S	H	H	H								<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>
			H									<i>Canirallus kiolooides</i>
												<i>Rallus madagascariensis</i>
							H					<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>
												<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
												<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
<b>Rallidae</b>												
												<i>Mesitornis variegata</i>
	3											<i>Mesitornis unicolor</i>
									1			<i>Monias benschi</i>
<b>Mesitornithidae</b>												
								14				<i>Pterocles personatus</i>
<b>Pteroclididae</b>												
	8											<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>
						H 2	H FC	X	X	X	X	<i>Numenius phaeopus phaeopus</i>
								X	X	X	X	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
								X	X	X	X	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
												<i>Tringa cinerea</i>



Ornifolks in Madagascar

**Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher**

*Ispidina madagascariensis*

Heard and seen on several occasions at Perinét and Mantadia, and once at Ranomafana. There was a pair nesting in a roadside bank at Mantadia. Most memorable was the up-close looks Maurice got for us in the spotlight shortly after our arrival at Perinét.

**Giant Coua**

*Coua gigas*

Our guide at Isalo NP took us through 2 patches of woods one near camp, another near the village of Yohibitsa, where we were eventually able to entice an individual bird to approach us. An individual was heard the next morning in a patch of forest along the main highway (km 776-777).

**Coquerel's Coua**

*Coua coquereli*

R. Charles showed us several birds during our stay at Ampijoroa

**Red-breasted Coua**

*Coua serriana*

Recorded at Perinét and Mantadia.

**Red-fronted Coua**

*Coua reynaudii*

Seen on several occasions at Perinét, Mantadia and Ranomafana.

**Running Coua**

*Coua cursor*

At Ifaty, Moussa and Masindrake showed us a perched individual on both days.

**Red-capped Coua**

*Coua ruficeps*

According to Moussa, the *olivaceiceps* subspecies is found in the southwest but only above 150m elevation. The individuals we saw at Ifaty (below 40m elev.) all had rufous caps. I have no information to suggest that Sibley & Monroe are considering a split of *olivaceiceps* from the nominate species. The nominate species was recorded daily at Ampijoroa.

**Verreaux's Coua**

*Coua verreauxi*

Seen along St Augustine Road.

**Vasa Parrot**

*Coracopsis vasa*

We had careful scope looks at Mantadia, at the forest behind Yohibitsa, and at Ifaty. The guides could separate this species from the Black (Lesser Vasa) Parrot by call, but separation by sight was difficult even in the scope!

**Madagascar Red Owl**

*Tyto soumagnei*

We were pulled from our tents about 10 PM when a single shriek of this species was heard. Earlier efforts owling along the road had been in vain. Playing the tape, we may have had a fly-over by the owl (or a large bat) but in the moonless night it was not possible to confirm this.

**-Madagascar Scops-Owl**

*Otus*

*rutilus rutilus*

Scops owls were heard often from the campsite and trails after dark at Perinét, Mantadia and Ranomafana. Maurice took us to a daytime roost near the main road. The western race has a much different call (refer to the tape)

Madagascar Red Owl *Tyto soumagnei* is known with certainty only from a circumscribed region of humid forest (elevations of recorded sites being 900--1,200 m: Langrand 1990) in eastern-central Madagascar, where, with habitat loss continuing, it has been seen only once (in 1973) in the wild since 1934 (Collar and Stuart 1985), although a captive live specimen was discovered in August 1993 at Andapa, in Anjanaharibe Sud Special Reserve, some 300 km to the north of its known range (Scott 1994, O. Langrand in litt. 1994, Halleux and Goodman in press).

Ornifolks in Madagascar

14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	24-Oct	25-Oct
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

**Meropidae**

ü	✓			4	FC	FC		✓	✓	✓	✓	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>
---	---	--	--	---	----	----	--	---	---	---	---	-----------------------------

**Cuculidae**

H	H	H	H	H	H	H			H	2H		<i>Cuculus rochii</i>
					1	H						<i>Coua gigas</i>
												<i>Coua coquereli</i>
												<i>Coua serriana</i>
1	H	H	2									<i>Coua reynaudii</i>
									1	1		<i>Coua cursor</i>
								1	1	1		<i>Coua ruficeps</i>
					2	4	1			1		<i>Coua cristata</i>
							2	4				<i>Coua verreauxi</i>
1	1	H	2+H									<i>Coua caerulea</i>

**Centropidae**

X	X	X	H	FC	X	X	FC	H	H	H	H	<i>Centropus toulou</i>
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	----	---	---	---	---	-------------------------

**Psittacidae**

						1			2			<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>
		4		1	X	X	1	X	X	2		<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>
					H							<i>Agapornis canus</i>

**Apodidae**

												<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>
				6	X	X			X			<i>Cypsiurus parvus gracilis</i>
			3		2		6		X			<i>Apus balstoni</i>

**Tytonidae**

												<i>Tyto soumagnei</i>
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-----------------------

**Strigidae**

H	H				H	H	H					<i>Otus rutilus rutilus</i>
					H							<i>Ninox superciliiaris</i>
H		H	H		H	H						<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>
												<i>Asio capensis</i>

Ornifolks in Madagascar

	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct	13-Oct
<b>Bee-eaters</b>											
Madagascar Bee-eater	6	2		1	3	10	20	10	X		
<b>Old World Cuckoos</b>											
Madagascar Cuckoo	✓	✓	H	1 S	1 S	1					
Giant Coua											
Coquerel's Coua							H	5	2		
Red-breasted Coua			2		L H H						
Red-fronted Coua	1										
Running Coua				L H			1	3	7		
Red-capped Coua											
Crested Coua								2	4		
Verreaux's Coua											
Blue Coua	1	2	1								
<b>Coucals</b>											
Madagascar Coucal	10	✓	4	✓	3		2	3	4		
<b>Parrots</b>											
Vasa Parrot											
Black Parrot	2		15	10	10			10	6		
Gray-headed Lovebird						50		X	20		
<b>Typical Swifts</b>											
Malagasy Spinetail	2	X	X	X	X						
-Madagascar Palm-Swift						4	10	100	X	6	20
Madagascar Swift											
<b>Barn and Grass Owls</b>											
Madagascar Red Owl				H							
<b>Typical Owls</b>											
-Madagascar Scops-Owl	H	H&S	H	X	X	2	H				
White-browed Hawk-Owl				1							
Madagascar Owl		H	H								
Marsh Owl											1

Ornifolks in Madagascar

but we were not able to get good looks at one. As far as I know, a split of the SW race from *O. r. rutilus* has not been proposed.

**White-browed Hawk-Owl**

*Ninox superciliaris*

One was spotted by Guy during an evening owl prowl, despite the lack of eyeshine. Scope looks were had by all.

**Madagascar Owl**

*Asio madagascariensis*

The yelping calls of this owl were heard from camps at Perinét, Ranomafana and Isalo. Apparently the owl calls only when in flight and this made it difficult to locate. Known daytime roost sites were frequently checked to no avail. The yelping calls reminded me of the vocalizations of the invading martians in the sci-fi spoof "Mars Attacks".

**Collared Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus enarratus*

The only individual seen was spotlighted by Maurice on the first evening of the trip.

**Kioloides Rail**

*Canirallus kioloides*

The "Madagascar Wood Rail" was pursued and eventually seen at Perinét. It was also heard at Ranomafana.

**Madagascar Rail**

*Rallus madagascariensis*

Maurice took us to a spot east of Perinét where we were able to coax this skulker out of a small freshwater marsh, using tape.

**White-throated Rail**

*Dryolimnas cuvieri*

We had to work at several sites at Perinét for this species before we coaxed one out of thick cover for a brief but close fly-by.

**White-breasted Mesite**

*Mesitornis variegata*

R. Charles led us to one (herding it towards our group) at Ampijoroa Botanical Trail B, for close and prolonged looks.

**Brown Mesite**

*Mesitornis unicolor*

Fidi and his wife were able to herd one towards the group at Ranomafana, from a group of 3 near the Henst Goshawk site.

**Subdesert Mesite**

*Monias benschi*

Moussa and Masindrake herded one until it perched in a tree, then they called us for prolonged scope views at close range.

**Madagascar Sandgrouse**

*Pterocles personatus*

Our boatman brought us to a point above the village of St. Augustine, using a deeper side-channel through the mangroves, on the estuary of the Onilany River. We walked about 1.5 km upriver from this point, but this was not really necessary as the birds began to appear near the boat as they flew to and from drinking sites

Slender-billed Flufftail *Sarothrura watersi*, a tiny marsh-dwelling rail, has been reliably recorded from only four well-separated areas in eastern Madagascar (Wilmé and Langrand 1990). If 1970--1971 records from the Antananarivo district are discounted as erroneous, the remaining sites (south-east Betsileo in 1875, Analamazaotra in 1928, Andapa in 1930 and Ranomafana, now a national park, since 1987) suggest a distribution coincident with that of the much-pressurized eastern rainforest, the particular micro-habitat---presumably itself increasingly rare---being elevated wetlands (at 950--1,800 m) with adjacent dense grassy terrain near rainforest (Collar and Stuart 1985, Langrand 1990).

Ornifolks in Madagascar

between 8:30 and 9:00 AM.

**Madagascar Snipe**

*Gallinago macrodactyla*

Fidi took us to a known site above Ranomafana where several birds were flushed as we thrashed the marsh.

**Greater Painted-snipe**

*Rostratula benghalensis*

Although not an endemic, this bird is infrequently encountered in Africa and it is worth mentioning that we flushed several as we thrashed a wetland near Lac Amboromalandy. It was also flushed at the snipe site above Ranomanfana

**Madagascar Jacana**

*Actophilornis albinucha*

A dozen or so were noted exclusively at Lac Amboromalandy.

**Madagascar Pratincole**

*Glareola ocularis*

Two were noted flying over the river Mangoro at the national highway bridge, another 7 were noted later perched on river sandbars at Ranomafana.

**Madagascar Baza**

*Aviceda madagascariensis*

Close fly-bys of two birds were seen only on one day at Mantadia.

**Madagascar Fish-Eagle** *Haliaeetus vociferoides*

Careful scoping of the forest adjacent to the lake at Ampijoroa paid off when two individuals were spotted perched in the canopy.

**'Madagascar' Marsh-Harrier** *Circus maillardi 'macroscelus'*

The taxonomic status of Reunion Harrier is unclear; it might be split into three separate species, pending further review by the Peregrine Trust. Scope views of a perched bird were obtained at the snipe site above Ranomafana.

**Madagascar Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides radiatus*

Lone birds were sighted at Mantadia, Ampijoroa, and Ranomafana.

**Frances's Goshawk** *Accipiter francesii*

A distant fly-by as we lunched at the Manarazu River was the only encounter with this supposedly common and widespread species.

**Henst's Goshawk**

*Accipiter henstii*

This noisy accipiter was heard at Mantadia and eventually located for perched views at a stake-out at Ranomafana.

**Banded Kestrel**

*Falco zoniventris*

We encountered Banded Kestrels on three occasions, at Ampijoroa, Isalo (Yohibitsa), and Ifaty.

Ornifolks in Madagascar

	14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	24-Oct	25-Oct	
													<b>Phasianidae</b>
		3				2	2						<i>Margaroperdix madagarensis</i>
	1					1			1				<i>Coturnix coturnix africana</i>
													<b>Numididae</b>
						4							<i>Numida meleagris</i>
													<b>Dendrocygnidae</b>
								100					<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
													<b>Anatidae</b>
								25					<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos</i>
								25					<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
								40					<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
													<i>Anas hottentota</i>
													<b>Turnicidae</b>
													<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>
													<b>Upupidae</b>
						1	H	1	1	H	3		<i>Upupa africana 'marginata'</i>
													<b>Coraciidae</b>
						1		H	1				<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
													<b>Brachypteraciidae</b>
								H					<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>
													<i>Brachypteracias squamigera</i>
H&S			H	1									<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>
													<i>Atelornis crossleyi</i>
										2			<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>
													<b>Leptosomidae</b>
H	1	4	H			1	H			H			<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>
													<b>Alcedinidae</b>
	2							6	1			1	<i>Alcedo vintsioides</i>
H													<i>Ispidina madagascariensis</i>

Madagascar Fish-eagle *Haliaeetus vociferoides* survives in extremely low numbers on the lakes, rivers, rocky shorelines and mangroves (including offshore islands) on the west coast of Madagascar north of Morondava, direct persecution and habitat alteration (loss of both nesting and foraging habitat) being identified as the likely problems (Collar and Stuart 1985, Langrand 1990). These threats were confirmed in fieldwork, 1982--1986, during which 48 occupied sites were recorded, populated by 96 birds including 40 pairs and 10 adults (Langrand 1987, Langrand and Meyburg 1989). Work is now under way in the Antsalova region, focused on the lakes Befotaka, Soamalipo and

Ornifolks in Madagascar

	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct	13-Oct
<b>Grouse and Allies</b>											
Madagascar Partridge											
-African Quail											
<b>Guineafowls</b>											
Helmeted Guineafowl											
<b>Whistling-Ducks</b>											
White-faced Whistling-Duck						12	80	50	150		
<b>Ducks and Allies</b>											
-African Comb-Duck											
African Pygmy-goose							2				
Red-billed Duck						2					
Hottentot Teal							6				
<b>Buttonquails</b>											
Madagascar Buttonquail								1 F	3		
<b>Hoopoes</b>											
'...Madagascar' Hoopoe								1	2		
<b>Typical Rollers</b>											
Broad-billed Roller					I			2	2		
<b>Ground-Rollers</b>											
Short-legged Ground-Roller				1	1						
Scaly Ground-Roller				1	1						
Pitta-like Ground-Roller	I			1							
Rufous-headed Ground-Roller		1									
Long-tailed Ground-Roller											
<b>Cuckoo-Rollers</b>											
Cuckoo Roller	2	I	I	2	2		I	2	4		
<b>Alcedinid Kingfishers</b>											
Madagascar Kingfisher	10	1	2			2	3	2	3	3	
Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher	1			2	I		1				

Ornifolks in Madagascar

**Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus*  
 While not an endemic, seeing these birds up close and on the nest (with eggs and young) at Nosy Ve was one of the highlights of the trip.

**White-winged Ibis** *Lophotibis cristata*  
 This reclusive and shy forest ibis proved difficult at Perinét, where two encounters left some of us wanting better views. At Ampijoroa, Charles made a special effort to locate it with no success. Evidence of it (feathers) were present at Km 777 at Ifaty but again we failed to encounter it.

**-Madagascar Ibis**  
 A flock was flushed on the boat ride through the Labetsiboka River Delta. This is an incipient species, possibly to be split from the nominate African species.

**Schlegel's Asity**  
 R. Charles was able to find us several birds in the early morning walk along Botanical Trail B at Ampijoroa. Prolonged scope views were possible, and both male and female were seen from as close as six feet.

**Sunbird Asity**  
 The smaller asities presented location and identification problems. Our guides knew the sites, but the high-pitched calls were very ventriloquial and the birds never sat still. Nevertheless, we eventually got good looks of Sunbird Asity on several occasions thanks to the perseverance of Maurice and Fidi.

**Yellow-bellied Asity** *Neodrepanis hypoxantha*  
 Fidi had stumbled upon a territory near Vohiparara, and he took us there. Eventually we were able to locate this species after considerable effort, as it zoomed around in response to the tape.

**LaFresnaye's Vanga** *Xenopirostris xenopirostris*  
 Recorded daily at Ifaty, including a nest site.

**Van Dam's Vanga** *Xenopirostris damii*  
 R. Charles helped us locate and study this vanga along trails at Ampijoroa.

**Pollen's Vanga** *Xenopirostris polleni*  
 Being heard more easily than seen, Fidi eventually called one in over our heads at Ranomafana.

**Nuthatch Vanga** *Hypositta corallirostris*  
 We had to wait until a mixed flock at Mantadia presented satisfying looks.

**Forest Rock-Thrush**  
 At Ranomafana, this bird proved more difficult than expected, taking some time and effort to finally see along the main road. Apparently they were not very responsive to tape while we were on site.

Information in text boxes comes from **Birds to Watch 2**: (The World List of Threatened Birds) NJ Collar, MJ Crosby and AJ Stattersfield (1994) BirdLife, Cambridge.

*Threskiornis aethiopicus bernieri*

*Philepitta schlegeli*

*Neodrepanis coruscans*

Yellow-bellied Asity *Neodrepanis hypoxanthus*, endemic to the central part of the humid forest belt of eastern Madagascar but difficult to distinguish from its only congener, is known from 13 specimens collected before 1933 and recent sightings from the higher parts of the Central Floristic Domain (Marojejy, Ranomafana and Andringitra), these latter suggesting a localized distribution in montane forest relicts (under serious threat from clearance) near the top of the eastern escarpment and outlying massifs rising from the eastern lowlands

*Pseudocossyphus sharpei*

**Benson's Rock-Thrush**

*Pseudocossyphus bensoni*

We found a pair a few hundred yards behind the oasis (up a side canyon to the left) and this time there was good response to the tape.

**Littoral Rock-Thrush**

*Pseudocossyphus imerinus*

A beach landing at the village of Anakoe, followed by a prowl of the scrub behind the coke stands, produced results in short order of this unshy *Monticola*.

**Gray-crowned Greenbul**

*Phyllastrephus cinereiceps*

Few of us were able to glimpse this drab forest floor denizen as we returned to camp from the Henst Goshawk site at Ranomafana.

**Brown Emu-Tail**

*Dromaeocercus brunneus*

We found one after trolling a mountain top (Moromizaha) and were eventually able to tape it to the edge of thick cover.

**Madagascar Brush-Warbler**

*Nesillas typica*

Fairly common and widespread. Subdesert Brush-Warbler *Nesillas Lantzii*, the southwest form seen at St Augustine Road and Ifaty, is treated as a separate species by Schulenberg, et. al. (1993), a view supported by Morris/Hawkins and Sinclair/Langrand.

**Thamnornis Warbler**

*Thamnornis chloropetoides*

The Thamnornis was seen well at St Augustine Road and at Ifaty.

**Archbold's Newtonia**

*Newtonia archboldi*

Being vocal and responding well to tape, these presented great looks with Moussa at Ifaty.

**Cryptic Warbler**

*Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi*

First described in 1996, this species was heard at both Perinét (Moromizaha) and Ranomafana, where Fide eventually located one that would respond well to tape.

**Gray Emu-Tail**

*Amphilais seebohmi*

Fidi had a good site where one was drawn to us using the tape. It was also heard later at Vohiparara.

**Wedge-tailed Jery**

*Neomixis flavoviridis*

Reported only from Ranomafana.

**Yellow-browed Oxylobes**

*Crossleyia xanthophrys*

Another difficult skulker, Fidi and his wife were able to herd one past us at Ranomafana.

**Crossley's Babbler**

*Mystacornis crossleyi*

Often heard but seldom seen. We made numerous attempts at Perinét but succeeded only when we entered the forest to pursue one calling voluntarily near the trail at Ranomafana.

**Forest Fody**

*Foudia omissa*

A small group was encountered foraging in deep woods at Ranomafana.

# The Bird List

## Codes used in the Trip List

L .....Leader Only  
 H..... Heard Only  
 FC..... Fairly Common  
 C ..... Common  
 S ..... Seen

Breeding Evidence:

ON ..... On nest  
 NY ..... Nest with Young  
 NE..... Nest with Egg(s)

NB: If a taxon was seen by only one observer, the observer's initials are indicated.

Recorded from October 3 to 25, 1999; visiting Perinet, Ampijoroa, Mantadia, Ranomafana, Isalo, Zombitsy, Tuléar and Ifaty

**BIRD VOCALIZATIONS OF MADAGASCAR**



**Buttonquail to Vangas**

- ...'Madagascar' Hoopoe, *Upupa africana marginata*: 11sec
- Short-legged Ground-Roller, *Brachypteracias leptosomus*: 25.4sec
- Scaly Ground-Roller, *Brachypteracias squamigera*: 126.1sec
- Pitta-like Ground-Roller, *Atelornis pittoides*: 54.8sec
- Rufous-headed Ground-Roller, *Atelornis crossleyi*: 90.9sec
- Cuckoo Roller, *Leptosomus discolor*: 35.4sec
- Madagascar Cuckoo, *Cuculus rochii*: 36.8sec
- Giant Coua, *Coua gigas*: 80.6sec
- Coquerel's Coua, *Coua coquereli*: 42.1sec
- Red-breasted Coua, *Coua serriana*: 39.6sec
- Red-capped Coua, *Coua ruficeps*: 33.2sec
- Crested Coua, *Coua cristata*: 50.7sec
- Verreaux's Coua, *Coua verreauxi*: 56.4sec
- Blue Coua, *Coua caerulea*: 42.3sec
- Vasa Parrot, *Coracopsis vasa*: 8.7sec
- Black Parrot, *Coracopsis nigra*: 26.2sec
- Madagascar Scops-Owl, *Otus rutilus rutilus*: 48.1sec
- Madagascar Owl, *Asio madagascariensis*: 19.1sec



**Vangas to Fodies**

- Hook-billed Vanga, *Vanga curvirostris*: 29.7sec
- LaFresnaye's Vanga, *Xenopirostris xenopirostris*: 91.9sec
- Pollen's Vanga, *Xenopirostris polleni*: 33.7sec
- Sickle-billed Vanga, *Falcula palliata*: 31.1sec
- White-headed Vanga, *Artamella viridis*: 45.2sec
- Tylas Vanga, *Tylas eduardi*: 74.5sec
- Benson's Rock-Thrush, *Pseudocossyphus bensoni*: 81sec
- Littoral Rock-Thrush, *Pseudocossyphus imerinus*: 20 sec
- Madagascar Magpie-Robin, *Copsychus albospecularis*: 32.5sec
- Mascarene Martin, *Phedina borbonica*: 37.5sec
- Long-billed Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus madagascariensis*: 44.1sec
- Apert's Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus aperti*: 78.3sec
- Madagascar Bulbul, *Hypsipetes madagascariensis*: 20.7sec



**Buttonquail to Vangas**

- Madagascar Flufftail, *Sarothrura insularis*: 132.8sec
- Kiolooides Rail, *Canirallus kiolooides*: 120sec
- White-throated Rail, *Dryolimnas cuvieri*: 71sec
- White-breasted Mesite, *Mesitornis variegata*: 80.6sec
- Brown Mesite, *Mesitornis unicolor*: 56.5sec
- Madagascar Snipe, *Gallinago macrodactyla*: 8.9sec
- Henst's Goshawk, *Accipiter henstii*: 63.6sec
- Madagascar Buzzard, *Buteo brachypterus*: 20.5sec
- Sunbird Asity, *Neodrepanis coruscans*: 45.1sec
- Crested Drongo, *Dicrurus forficatus*: 47.3sec
- Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone mutata*: 14.6sec
- Ward's Shrike-flycatcher, *Pseudobias wardi*: 27.7sec
- Red-tailed Vanga, *Calicalicus madagascariensis*: 86sec
- Rufous Vanga, *Schetba rufa*: 194.1sec

**Vangas to Fodies**

- Brown Emu-Tail, *Dromaeocercus brunneus*: 61.1sec
- Madagascar Brush-Warbler, *Nesillas typica*: 100 sec
- Thamnornis Warbler, *Thamnornis chloropetoides*: 34.1sec
- Rand's Warbler, *Randia pseudozosterops*: 34.9sec
- Dark Newtonia, *Newtonia amphichroa*: 22.9sec
- Common Newtonia, *Newtonia brunneicauda*: 99.4sec
- Archbold's Newtonia, *Newtonia archboldi*: 78.9sec
- Cryptic Warbler, *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi*: 73.6sec
- Gray Emu-Tail, *Amphilais seebohmii*: 29.5sec
- Common Jery, *Neomixis tenella*: 65sec
- Green Jery, *Neomixis viridis*: 36.8sec
- Stripe-throated Jery, *Neomixis striatigula*: 7.7sec
- White-throated Oxylabes, *Oxylabes madagascariensis*: 68.8sec
- Yellow-browed Oxylabes, *Crossleyia xanthophrys*: 14.2sec
- Crossley's Babbler, *Mystacornis crossleyi*: 93.9sec
- Madagascar Lark *Mirafra hova*
- Souimanga Sunbird, *Nectarinia sovimanga*: 8.4sec
- Long-billed Green Sunbird, *Nectarinia notata*: 29.6sec
- Madagascar Wagtail, *Motacilla flaviventris*: 23.6sec
- Sakalava Weaver, *Ploceus sakalava*: 8.8sec
- Madagascar Red Fody, *Foudia madagascariensis*: 20.6sec
- Forest Fody, *Foudia omissa*: 24.8sec

60-Min cassette now available

Thanks to Guy Eldridge and to our local guides (Maurice, R. Charles, Fidi, and Moussa) for making this tape possible.

Tape produced by Mark Elwonger for ORNIFOLKS

**Statistics**

- Number of days in Madagascar..... 23
- Number of full birding days..... 18
- Estimate of kilometers traveled.... 2500
- Number of species listed..... 178
- Species heard only..... 2
- Number of full endemics listed..... 97
- Number of near-endemics listed..... 22

**Summary of Families:**

- Ground-Rollers:..... We listed five of a possible five.
- Old World Cuckoos: ..... ten of eleven
- Rails: ..... six of eleven
- Mesites: ..... three of three
- Asities: ..... four of four
- Old World Flycatchers and Allies:.... five of five
- Old World Warblers and Allies:..... 17 of 18

**Endemics we missed:**

- Meller's Duck
- Bernier's Teal
- Madagascar Pochard<sup>1</sup>
- Slender-billed Flufftail
- Sakalava Rail
- Madagascar Serpent-Eagle<sup>2</sup>

- Madagascar Sparrowhawk
- Alaotra Grebe<sup>1</sup>
- Red-shouldered Vanga
- Bernier's Vanga<sup>2</sup>
- Helmet Vanga<sup>2</sup>
- Short-toed Nuthatch Vanga<sup>3</sup>
- Dusky Greenbul<sup>2</sup>
- Red-tailed Newtonia
- Amber Mountain Rock-Thrush<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Possibly extinct  
<sup>2</sup> Out-of-range for our itinerary  
<sup>3</sup> No information on this taxon

Source:

<http://www.wcmc.org.uk>

For detailed descriptions of codes, please refer to this website.

**CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR)** A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as defined by any of the criteria A to E.

**ENDANGERED (EN)** A taxon is Endangered when it is not Critically Endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as defined by any of the criteria A to E.

**VULNERABLE (VU)** A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as defined by any of the criteria A to E.

**LOWER RISK (LR)** A taxon is Lower Risk when it has been evaluated, but does not satisfy the criteria for any of the categories Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable. Taxa included in the Lower Risk category can be separated into three subcategories:

1. Conservation Dependent (cd). Taxa which are the focus of a continuing taxon-specific or habitat-specific conservation programme targeted towards the taxon in question, the cessation of which would result in the taxon qualifying for one of the threatened categories above within a period of five years.
2. Near Threatened (nt). Taxa which do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
3. Least Concern (lc). Taxa which do not qualify for Conservation Dependent or Near Threatened.

## Red List Scorecard

Red List Data:

**CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR)**

One Species

*Haliaeetus vociferoides*

**ENDANGERED (EN)**

Two species

*Anas bernieri*

*Sarothrura watersi*

*Tyto soumagnei*

*Neodrepanis hypoxanthus*

**VULNERABLE (VU)**

Sixteen species

*Tachybaptus pelzelinii*

*Ardea humbloti*

*Mesitornis unicolor*

*Mesitornis variegata*

*Monias benschi*

*Charadrius thoracicus*

*Atelornis crossleyi*

*Brachypteracias leptosomus*

*Brachypteracias squamigera*

*Uratelornis chimaera*

*Phyllastrephus apperti*

*Phyllastrephus cinereiceps*

*Oriolia bernieri*

*Xenopirostris damii*

*Xenopirostris polleni*

*Crossleyia xanthophrys*

*Newtonia fanovanae*

*Pseudocossyphus bensoni*

**NEAR THREATENED**

Twelve species

*Pseudobias wardi*

*Ardeola idae*

*Lophotibis cristata*

*Accipiter henstii*

*Circus maillardi*

*Coua verreauxi*

*Atelornis pittoides*

*Philepitta schlegeli*

*Dromaeocercus brunneus*

*Neomixis flavoviridis*

*Pseudocossyphus sharpei*

*Randia pseudozosterops*

Information in these text boxes comes from Birds to Watch 2: (The World List of Threatened Birds) NJ Collar, MJ Crosby and AJ Stattersfield (1994) BirdLife, Cambridge.