

# Madagascar 2016

## Odonata of the 'Eighth Continent'

Led by Phil Benstead and KD Dijkstra.

Participants: Mike Averill, Allan Brandon, Susan Masta, Erland Refling Nielsen, Dennis Paulson, Ron & Sheila Pera, Michael Post, Dave & Sue Smallshire, Netta Smith, Pam Taylor and Jay Withgott.

### Daily diary

#### 7/1 **air travel and late arrival in Tana**

The majority of the team assembled from various points on the globe as planned in Paris, some having over-nighted there or in Amsterdam, others taking the risky gambit of a short transfer time in CDG. The flight passed tolerably and we got great views of the Nile and the Ethiopian Rift Valley as we flew. The late arrival was made slightly more punishing by the trial of negotiating the immigration hurdles involved in visa purchase but we survived intact.

Erland with the shortest connection time in Paris was unlucky though, his bag not arriving on the flight. It would be many long days before he was reunited with his gear. Eventually we got all the formalities for the loss and retrieval sorted, changed some money and took the short shuttle run to the hotel. Nice place this but we were not to see much of it. We were in our rooms by 0130...

#### 8/1 **Tana to Le Relais via Toliara**

A six o'clock rendezvous for the bus ride back to the airport was painful but necessary. We checked in successfully at the airport although Air Mad insisted on a 20kg hold bag here, which involved a lot of inevitable luggage re-distribution... Phil grabbed some pastries and we got airside for a much needed cup of coffee. The flight left on time and took us south to Toliara and we gazed down hungrily on to the large rivers and marshes we could occasionally see below us. Toliara was green, a novelty for Phil and KD – a strong El Niño this season had brought a huge amount of rain over the last couple of months to this normally dry part of the island. Landing at this tiny airport we were soon bagged up and out to meet the team who would be looking after us for the next 12 days. We headed straight for a supermarket to buy Erland a toothbrush and stow some water on the bus then it was off to a nearby restaurant for a much-needed early lunch. Here we also got our field gear together and our cameras assembled and by midday were ready to roll up the road towards Zombitse.

No chance to stop at Zombitse today but we would be back instead we made an inspired choice, stopping at small stream where we enjoyed an all too fleeting hour in a nice sunny spell of weather. Here from the bridge we spotted *Trithemis kirbyii* and this was quickly joined by a lovely purple *Trithemis selika*. Walking down to the streamside KD got to business and searching the marginal vegetation we found some of our first *Pseudagrions* (three species the chrome yellow-marked *punctum*, the red-faced *malgassicum* and the stunning blue *seyrigi*) and we also had great views of *Zygonoides lachesis* (including an ovipositing female), *Anax tumorifera* and our first *Palpopleura vestita*. The highlight of this short but productive stop though came back at the bus when KD tentatively identified a female *Crocothemis striata* – a species only known from the type locality and when it was described in 1981 (!) and unrecorded and unphotographed in the wild since. Having got us onto the female KD moved a short distance and found a stunning male. Rich plush 'Rhodothemis' red with black pterostigmas and legs – a very striking beast. A good start to the tour and hopefully just a precursor of many more interesting observations to come.

We tried one more river but this proved to be a seasonal one and was not that attractive to Odonates. Phil plucked up a large snake here though (*Leioheterodon modestus*) for photographs. Cruising through the oasis that is the Zombitse forest, a block of dry woodland sadly bisected by the main road, provided some great drive-by birding with lesser vasa parrot, broad-billed roller and Madagascar spinetail being nice. No time to stop though, as we left the forest behind our first rain fell and this continued until we got to our splendid hotel and here we finally hooked up with the rest of our team who had been enjoying great

success on a seven day pre-tour trip that had taken in the spiny forest of the south-west as well as Zombitse and Isalo. The list of Odonates they had recorded and the associated images made us drool with anticipation and we all hoped for a sunny start to our day in Isalo in the morning.

Dinner was good and was followed by a short night walk that produced some new Odonates with *Orthetrum icteromelas* and *Lestes ochraceus* falling to the spotlight! These were easily eclipsed though by a stunning mint-condition oleander hawk-moth (*Daphnis nerii*). Frogs appeared in small numbers but try as he might Phil could not find an Oustalet's chameleon. Eventually fatigue and the hissing cockroaches sent us scuttling back to bed to grab some sleep before a pre-breakfast birding session in the morning. The stars shone overhead perhaps promising blue skies in the morning for the start of our day in the park.

#### **9/1 Namaza valley (Isalo NP), Isalo Ranch and the marsh en route home**

A pre-breakfast walk failed to produce the hoped-for Madagascar partridge but we saw a few good things and had a very close encounter with a Malagasy kingfisher. After breakfast we drove to nearby Ranohira to pick up a local guide and get some permits and then we were bumping along the track to the trail-head of a lovely short trail along a fantastic stream to a picnic spot infested with ring-tail lemurs. En route we spent much time enjoying our first good looks at small skimmer (*Orthetrum abbotti*), *Orthetrum azureum*, our first giant *Thermothemis*, and track-side rock scarlets (*Crocothemis divisa*).

At the picnic area we finally gained access to the stream and set to work working out field characters for the two rather similar *Trithemis* species that were common here (*persephone* and *selika*). Examination of males in the hand eventually led to a working set of features by the end of the day. We worked hard here checking the stream for *Pseudagrions* and having a nice encounter with an easy *Zygonyx elizabethae*, before moving upstream to look for *Nesolestes* species and gomphids. In this we were successful enjoying the first of many *Calophlebia karschi* and finally getting to grips with the common *Nesolestes* here (*to be identified*). Climbing higher we found our first *Malgassophlebia*, and finally found some gomphids with *Paragomphus fritillarius* being the better of the two species encountered (we also saw *madegassus*). Erland photographed put first *Hemicordulia* here too. A tree boa (*Sanzinia madagascariensis*) was a nice find here in one of the buildings around the camp site and was passed around before being put back in its hiding place. Exhausted we staggered back to the picnic area for lunch with the lemurs, getting visitations from ring-tailed lemur, a single Verreaux's sifaka and some red-fronted brown lemurs.

Walking the short distance back to the bus produced another gomphid – a female *Onychogomphus aequistylus*. Driving on we quickly checked a small stream before dropping off our guide and heading for Isalo Ranch. Dennis *et al.* had been staying here prior to our arrival and reported that in the afternoon the trees around the compound were festooned with exciting species riding out the heat of the day. Sure enough we quickly started finding some great species hanging in the trees around the car park. This was very enjoyable stuff with plenty of low *Phyllomacromia bifasciata* being an obvious target, the *Nesocordulia malgassica* here were fantastic and we all caught up with stationary *Hemicordulia* too. Sometimes we found these three species perched up within feet of each other! Superb. Also in the garden our first *Rhyothemis semihyalina*, *Urothemis assignata* and an endemic lynx-spider (*Peuceitia madagascariensis*).

Our last stop of the day was a quick look at a marsh that looked very good and did indeed produce a few new species for the trip, including *Diplacodes lefebvrii*, the undescribed *Acisoma* and *Ceriagrion glabrum*. That concluded proceedings and we headed gratefully to the hotel after a very enjoyable day in the field.

#### **10/1 Zombitse and Le Relais de la Reine**

With many of the team having already visited Zombitse on a pre-tour extension it was natural that some people chose to stay back at the hotel and work the grounds with KD today whilst the rest of us headed out on our scheduled trip to search optimistically for *Viridithemis*.

The Le Relais team enjoyed an interesting day interrupted midday by a heavy rain shower. An early morning walk by the lake produced a pair of Madagascar partridges for KD. A

morning look for Odonates after breakfast back at the lake produced both *Tramea* species, *Trithemis hecate*, *Orthetrum trinacria* and a fine black emperor. The swampy forest stream back at the hotel finally produced something good in the form of *Archaeophlebia martini*, a stunning little libellulid. After the rainstorm went through some of the team found themselves at a nice marshy open part of the stream and finding our first wisps (*exilis* and *gratiosa*) and Allan found a lovely little endemic, *Diplacodes exilis*.

The Zombitse team drove an hour-and-a-half back down the road through the Wild West sapphire-rush town and hooked up with some guides for a three-hour walk that netted them some great birds and mammals but not a sniff of *Viridithemis* in the forest. Phil walked the dry roadside ditches near the park entrance picking up the first of a small number of *Orthetrum lemur*. Afterwards Phil took some local guides and the bus to try any waterbodies close to the park. We were sadly unable to access the tracks down to the river in our bus and had to settle for two ponds near the forest edge. The first was rather eutrophic, choked with water hyacinth, and produced a mass of silver widows and other more commonplace libellulids and a few *Ceriagrion glabrum*.

The next pond was some distance from the road and was a bit of a slog in the hot sun. But on arrival it proved to be a much better spot (although obviously not for *Viridithemis*). Here Phil dashed about quickly picking up *Orthetrum trinacria*, our only *Lestes simulator* and a black emperor before heading back for lunch with the team. A big snake here (*Leioheterodon madagascariensis*) was a treat and we all watched a female Oustalet's chameleon excavating an egg chamber. After lunch we suffered the heat walking along road but in the end I think only Erland connected with *lemur* and we failed to find *Viridithemis*. Driving back we attacked the hotel grounds, finding the *Archeophlebia* independently but not hearing about the other species until dusk we headed out instead to the lake. Birds featured here with some duck at last and even a purple heron and we enjoyed photographing *Orthetrum* and *Lestes* species.

#### **11/1 Le Relais de la Reine to Ranomafana**

A pre-breakfast look at the *Agriocnemis* marsh paid dividends for those that turned up. *Agriocnemis exilis* was tiny and abundant (*gratiosa* not so) and, just before we had to leave and as the sun hit the marsh, Pam found us a lovely little *Diplacodes exilis*.

After breakfast we headed off on a day that mostly involved driving and taking in the incredible scenic transition to granite geology. We did stop at lunch-time at Anja and rented a shady picnic table to eat our packed lunches. KD nipped down to the lake to check it quickly but it contained no Odonates of interest and after enjoying some nearby ring-tailed lemurs we moved on.

After another four hours driving we hit the boundary of the forest and almost immediately after appreciating the change to a real forested habitat Soulou had to hit the brakes to avoid a large Parson's chameleon crossing the road in the forest. A short while later a stop at the Vohiparara trail-head allowed us to stretch our legs, light rain fell and we crossed our fingers for the morning.

#### **12/1 Ranomafana NP**

Today dawned fine but cloud built as we climbed uphill in the bus and in the end we elected to send the majority of the team on the lemur walk with Emile (our local guide) whilst a small team went for a dragonfly reconnoitre up around Vohiparara village.

The lemur team had a great morning by all accounts, getting 2-5 species of lemur depending on fitness-levels. Those that peeled off halfway did sterling work finding a lovely little shaded rocky stream stuffed with great Odonates. This small stream produced a lovely wine-dark *Tatocnemis*, a small lime-green *Pseudagrion (approximata?)* and a new *Neodythemis (arnoulti)*.

The recce team headed uphill and checked the side-road at Vohiparara village. Here we looked at the margins of fallow and active rice paddies and dug out our first *Proplatycnemis sanguinipes* and *Pseudagrion dispar*. Walking the nearby trail to a marshy area was a great idea for birds as we got views of both grey emutail and Madagascar snipe. Wading about in the marsh started to produce other dividends too when we connected with an interesting little

libellulid that may well turn out to be a new species of *Diplacodes* for science. It got away before we could catch it for a better look though... With time ticking ever onwards though we headed back to the bus and our rendezvous with the lemur team.

We took lunch in a small restaurant by the Talakately trailhead and listened to descriptions of the mouthwatering series of finds on the nearby small stream. After lunch many of us therefore reconvened and chased stuff about in the gloom. The *Tatocnemis* were very good and seemingly abundant. It was much harder to find the *Pseudagrion approximata* but whilst looking some of us bumped into our first *Protolestes* (a *kerckhoffae* female?). The river proper held a nice *Onychogomphus* species and then we had to dash back up to the nearby car park before the rain arrived.

The heavy rain that greeted us at the car park did not stop us enjoying a nearby leaf-tailed gecko (*Uroplatus sikorae*) before we debunked to the hotel and a siesta. We had hoped to go for a chameleon safari in the evening but the rain persisted and we called it off in the end.

### 13/1 Vohiparara and below the hotel

This morning we were greeted with a thin layer of high cloud that quickly burnt off and left us with blue sky with occasional scattered cloud and no rain! We made the most of it up at Vohiparara but generally Odonates were present in low numbers and we had to work hard to collect the target species we were desperate to see. It was not just dragonflies and damselflies though. Phil spotted a superb pitta-like ground-roller that a few people managed to connect with. Early on one sub-set of the team used the services of the trackers when they reported the nearby presence of red-bellied lemurs. Whilst this was going on the rest of the team managed a nice asity double – with a great immature male common sunbird-asity and a stunning male velvet asity viewed easily in the same area. By the stream we failed to find any Odonates curiously but a nearby sleepy small-toothed sportive lemur was some compensation. Susan excelled herself by finding two fluffy scops-owl chicks perched above the trail.

We took lunch at the trail-head and afterwards checked out the marsh and river nearby which produced our first looks at *Lestes silvaticus*. Moving uphill we checked out the river for gomphids unsuccessfully and then enjoyed a wander around some likely-looking fish ponds. Here we found *Ischnura senegalensis*, *Africallagma rubristigma* and more *Agriocnemis exilis*.

With rain still not falling we asked Emile for suggestions and he informed us of a likely pond much lower down and just below our hotel. We headed there straight away and were pleased to find that *Rhyothemis cognata* was common at the site. Also here more *Diplacodes exilis* and a stunning encounter with our first *Isomma* (a female). Back at the hotel Pam found our first *Phaon*, which was waiting for us on the steps in the garden and which posed nicely for a series of photographs. No time to waste though as we were off to look for chameleons and lemurs along the road at dusk.

Baiting up the usual trees for the mouse-lemur we stepped back to wait for them to come in but dusk came and went without a sighting. Unusual. We quickly got over the disappointment though as Emile starting calling different amphibians and reptiles from nearby and we gave chase abandoning the possibility of the lemur in favour of stuff that was showing. We dug out a calling *Mantidactylus betsileanus*, valiantly guarding his eggs in a mossy hollow on a wet bank. Nearby a snake (*Compsophis infralineatus*) hunted frogs... Emile showed us five species of chameleon before we called it a night exhausted.

### 14/1 Vohiparara area and Talakately

With the good weather holding, we had time to take some of the team up to the marsh to look for new 'Diplacodes' species. The remainder elected to stay on the road and look for birds and dragonflies along the river. As usual Odonates were hard to find in the marsh but an hour of wading about started to produce some great species. First up was a local concentration of the endemic *Ischnura filosa*. Then KD finally located the new 'Diplacodes' and we waded over for a view. Nearby Njaka found us a small node of perhaps 4-5 *Ceriagrion nigrolineatum* – a stunning electric green Coenagrionid. Reptiles included the aquatic snake *Liopholidophis sexlineata* and the plated lizard *Zonosaurus ornatus*. Grey emutails called from the swamp and the Madagascar snipe gave us a few good flybys again. Fidson trumped all

this though whilst we were busy, by getting views of the near-mythical slender-billed flufftail.

Meeting up with the road team again we found that they had got views of red-capped coua and Madagascar flufftail. Before lunch we walked along the road, at the first stop by the impressive cascade we got great looks at a patrolling *Zygonyx viridescens* (bagging the first photos of this unknown species). Walking further we were surprised by the lack of odonates on the wet rock faces and roadside runnels we encountered.

We took lunch at the park restaurant again and then headed down into forest at the Talakatelybridge. Here the *Onychogomphus* perched for photographs and were briefly joined by an *Isomma*. Walking in on a mission we checked out a delightful forest stream finding another *Tatocnemis* species and more *Nesolestes* before heading on up to the Belle Vue, via a spiky phasmid and a delightful lowland streaked tenrec. Here we waited for dusk (Jay spotting the blue pigeon and blue vanga) before joining our tracking team who were baiting an area for fanaloka. As dusk approached they shepherded us into viewing positions and we waited. The trackers had built a small fire and were charring sardines on it, which created a delightful mouth-watering aroma and soon had a fanaloka on site and before we knew it it was right in front of us! We were treated to amazing views as the animal came to small chunks of sardine. Susan was within a few feet at one point. Mammal of the trip? We walked out in the dark on a high, what an end to a great day in the field.

#### **15/1 to Antsirabe via the 'snipe' marsh at Ankazomivady**

Today was mostly a travel day but we had two hours en route late morning and into lunch at the snipe marsh at Ankazomivady. Here we found plenty of attractive chameleons (*Furcifer lateralis*) and some more water snakes (*Liopholidophis sexlineata*) supported by a reasonable cast of Odonates that included second-chance views of *Ischnura filosa* and *senegalensis*. The frequent flybys by Madagascar snipe satisfied all that had yet to see this species on the tour.

After lunch we headed on driving through Madagascar making a river stop when we needed a stretch that provided views of the commonplace Malagasy odonates that we were starting to become very familiar with. Eventually we pulled in to the hotel grounds and found our rooms. KD went for a productive bird walk whilst we all settled in finding the partridge closeby!

#### **16/1 Antsirabe to Andasibe**

A pre-breakfast walk for the partridge failed but we did see a common quail and a few scuttling Mad buttonquails. At the end KD showed a few of us a nightjar. Odonates in the dew included good looks at *Orthetrum stemmale* and *Lestes ochraceus*. After breakfast by popular demand we headed to an embroidery shop in town to pick up some tablecloths and other textile stuff.

Driving on we are eventually stopped for lunch by an explosive blowout of one of our rear tyres. It did not take our team long to change the tyre and whilst we waited we munched our 'Dutch' sandwiches or rice and vegetables. Later, just outside 'Tana we stop for an ice cream. Driving on the weather closes in just as we get near good habitat and it is overcast and rainy by the time we reach the Mandraka valley. We search for new Odonates to no avail.

Driving on we finally reach the edge of the forest and our well-situated hotel. It is raining though and all we can do is settle in and look forward to tomorrow.

#### **17/1 Mantadia NP**

Finally perhaps the most eagerly anticipated day of the tour arrived and it was a rather cloudy, overcast one! Would we see Odonates? KD was slightly downcast! Would the most promising site of the tour fail to produce?

After faffing about getting entry tickets at the office – where a fine male short-horned chameleon was the easy highlight – we headed into the village to buy water. Whilst Phil did the shopping the team wasted no time in finding and photographing a roadside furbelly (*Archeophlebia martini*).

Our first stop along the bumpy track was at a swampy pool set in the forest and here we saw our first black-splashed elf (*Tetrathemis polleni*) and hova featherlegs (*Proplatycnemis hova*). *Thermostemis* were commonplace and searching the swampy forest produced the first of many fineliners (*Teinobasis allaudi*). Along the road a few bright *Zygonyx ranavalonae* were obvious and also new for our list.

Taking to the vehicles again and bumping along the track we eventually reached the trail-head for a small forest-edge pond. Here we connected with Madagascar grebe and waded through some common Odonate species. Meller's duck sadly eluding us at this normally reliable spot. The overcast conditions created very oppressive and rather steamy conditions but Odonates were flying. We took an early lunch at the bridge and here it became apparent that the lack of sunshine was not seriously affecting invertebrate activity. Our first *Pseudagrion alcorne* and *Proplatycnemis pseudalatipes* were well received and KD quickly added a fine male *Isomma hieroglyphicum* to the mix with the net.

Lunch done we walked along the loop trail taking in some amazing wetland habitats that slowly gave up an incredible array of species. KD searched high-and-low picking up our first huge *Nesolestes ranavalonae* in root plate ponds in swampy forest. A shallow seep stream produced more *Protolestes (kerckhoffae?)* females and a simply stunning red and certainly undescribed *Nesocordulia* that was the undoubted odo of the trip for many of us. Another surprise was the violet-blue *Pseudagrion ampolomitae* that we encountered egg-laying underwater where we also found a few *Malgassophlebia mediodentata* along the small sandy streams. Exciting stuff and in the most beautiful habitat you could imagine. Dragging ourselves away we headed for a rocky stream for the last half hour of park opening time... Here we quickly discovered a surprise *Protolestes leonora* and KD came up trumps with another *Nesocordulia* – this one a stunning green and yellow confection and later identified as *mascarenica*. What a day!

#### **18/1 MMA, Mitsinjo and Vakona Lodge area**

Today in search of Odonates and birds we elected to visit the MMA private reserve, which offered excellent *Gynacantha* habitat along the river. The weather was rather overcast and this too suited *Gynacantha* (a genus conspicuously absent from our trip list to date) but unfortunately no-one had told the *Gynacantha* and we failed to find any. The morning was not without excitement though despite the challenging conditions. A *Lestes* photographed by some here proved to be a new species (to science!) but we only realised after the fact. Could we find it in the park tomorrow? The birders chased ibises madly until they finally connected but it was generally quiet for birds again. KD found us a new *Pseudagrion (lucidum)* that proved to be present at various points along the large river during the day.

After a restaurant lunch we headed back out. A bird team headed into another private reserve (Mitsinjo) looking for vangas but did better after the guided walk had finished by walking along the road. The Odo-team investigated some habitats along the river along the Vakona Lodge road. Here they searched successfully for a perched *Isomma hieroglyphicum* – bagging a nice male – and had exciting views of two hunting Eleonora's falcons that appeared to be eating dragonflies...

#### **19/1 Analmaozaotra (Andasibe NP)**

The last day dawned wet and sadly stayed that way for most of the morning session inside the national park. We split into three teams. One stayed close to the hotel and walked the road. Another stayed low and concentrated on searching out Odonates and the other climbed the ridge in search of collared nightjar. Sadly the bird team were unsuccessful in their search for the nightjar but eventually saw some great birds including red-breasted coua and the ibis.

The low and wet team did well for birds bagging several views of the crested ibis and a fleeting look at a Madagascar flufftail. Odonates in the rain in the forest included great looks at our last *Tatocnemis malgassica*. KD had earmarked two marshes on the way in and we checked them on the way out, at the first we spooked the *Lestes* we were searching for and it quickly made itself scarce. A shy species! The next marsh came up trumps but again we could only bag a few photographs before the two individuals melted away again. Our fifth and final new species to science bagged on the tour!

That just left lunch, goodbyes to Fidson and the journey to 'Tana. We broke the journey again at Mandraka but failed once again to find the *Pseudagrion* that Phil had seen there on previous visits. It was a great place to get flight shots of *Zygonyx elizabethae* though and say goodbye to some of the Odonates we had become familiar with over the fortnight.

That just left the final drive into 'Tana where we first said goodbye to Njaka and then the rest of the team when they dropped us at the hotel. Our final dinner was a little chaotic, communication with the kitchen failing epically. It ate up the wait time before our transfer to the airport though! We travelled through the night and on into the next day to get home reflecting on a superb trip that netted over 90 species of Odonate, including five species new to science, and all with a great group of people. I am looking forward to the next one already!

## Odonata recorded in Madagascar between 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016

<b>Shy spreadwing</b>	<i>Lestes</i> n. sp.	This new species gave us the runaround at enclosed marshes at MMA and Andasibe but I think most eventually saw it. It was incredibly shy, moving into the trees as soon as it was disturbed. Presumably an endemic species.
<b>Ochre spreadwing</b>	<i>Lestes ochraceus</i>	Le Relais de la Reine, Antsirabe.
<b>Forest spreadwing</b>	<i>Lestes silvaticus</i>	Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP) and Mantadia NP. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Powdered spreadwing</b>	<i>Lestes simulator</i>	Phil had a few on a pond whilst searching for <i>Viridithemis</i> outside Zombitse. Endemic to Madagascar.
	<i>Nesolestes radama</i>	The dominant <i>Nesolestes</i> of the tour, but ones from Ranomafana (Vohiparara and Talatakely), Mantadia and Analamazaotra SR differ slightly. Endemic to Madagascar.
	<i>Nesolestes cf robustus</i>	Isalo NP, close to <i>robustus</i> but not the same... Endemic to Madagascar.
	<i>Nesolestes ranavalona</i>	Mantadia and Andasibe. Endemic to Madagascar.
	<i>Nesolestes</i> n. sp. 1	pruinose species from Talakately (Ranomafana NP) with hooked paraprocts. Endemic to Madagascar.
	<i>Nesolestes</i> n. sp. 2	Seen at Mantadia and near <i>radama</i> , but with black spot on metepimeron. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Rusty-tipped proto</b>	<i>Protolestes kerckhoffae</i>	Ranomafana NP and Mantadia NP. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>a proto</b>	<i>Protolestes leonora</i>	Mantadia NP – two individuals on the last-minute mad dash up the rocky stream at the end of the day were nearest this species. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>a rockstar</b>	<i>Tatocnemis malgassica</i>	Ranomafana and Andasibe NPs. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>a rockstar</b>	<i>Tatocnemis micromalgassica</i>	The second rockstar species on the stream below Belle Vue (Talakately, Ranomafana NP) was nearest this but may be distinct. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Madagascar demoiselle</b>	<i>Phaon rasoherinae</i>	One at 'Christo' (Ranomafana). More later at the MMA private reserve (Andasibe). Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Booted featherleg</b>	<i>Proplatycnemis alatipes</i>	Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP) and Mantadia NP. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Pied featherleg</b>	<i>Proplatycnemis hova</i>	Mantadia and Andasibe NPs. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Malagasy featherleg</b>	<i>Proplatycnemis malgassica</i>	widespread. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Blue-faced featherleg</b>	<i>Proplatycnemis</i>	Mantadia NP. Endemic to Madagascar.

<b>Blood-red featherleg</b>	<i>pseudalatipes</i> <i>Proplatycnemis sanguinipes</i>	Ranomafana, Andasibe and Mantadia NPs. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Red-spotted bluet</b>	<i>Africallagma rubristigma</i>	Ranomafana NP and the Ankazovimady marsh. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Little wisp</b>	<i>Agriocnemis exilis</i>	Le Relais de la Reine and the fishponds above Vohiparara.
<b>Gracious wisp</b> <b>Malagasy bluet</b>	<i>Agriocnemis gratiosa</i> <i>Azuragrion kauderni</i>	A few at Le Relais de la Reine. widespread, the default small damsel in the areas we visited. Indian Ocean island endemic.
<b>Lime citril</b>	<i>Ceriagrion auritum</i>	Le Relais de la Reine and the Ranomafana area. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Common citril</b> <b>Black-lined citril</b>	<i>Ceriagrion glabrum</i> <i>Ceriagrion nigrolineatum</i>	Scattered records. Small numbers at the Vohiparara 'haunted house' marsh and a few presumed females at Mantadia NP. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Madagascar bluetail</b>	<i>Ischnura filosa</i>	Small numbers at the 'haunted house' marsh at Vohiparara (Ranomafana) and the Ankazomivady marsh en route to Antsirabe. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Tropical bluetail</b>	<i>Ischnura senegalensis</i>	Occasional individuals at Anja, the fishponds above Vohiparara and flying together with <i>filosa</i> at the Ankazomivady marsh en route to Antsirabe.
<b>Bright sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion (B) punctum</i>	en route to Isalo on the first day and on the river near Vakona Lodge (Andasibe). Indian Ocean island endemic.
<b>Elk-horn sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion (M) alcornae</i>	Mantadia and Andasibe NP. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Violet sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion (M) anpolomitae</i>	The violet species at Mantadia. Memorably watched egg-laying underwater. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>a sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion (M) approximatum</i>	Talakately (Ramanofana NP). Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Eyeshadow sprite</b> <b>a sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion (M) dispar</i> <i>Pseudagrion (M) divaricatum</i>	widespread. Endemic to Madagascar. Small numbers along shaded streams at Isalo NP. The salmon-coloured species photographed by Phil on the unshaded main river here may represent another new species. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Hook-tailed sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion (M) hamulus</i>	Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP) and Mantadia NP. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>a sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion (M) lucidum</i>	Along large rivers in the Andasibe area. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Ruddy-legged sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion (M) malgassicum</i>	widespread. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Blue-nosed sprite</b> <b>Caerulean sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion renaudi</i> <i>Pseudagrion seyrigi</i>	Isalo NP. Endemic to Madagascar. A single male on the first stream on the first day. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Indian Ocean fineliner</b> <b>[Mandraka emperor]</b>	<i>Teinobasis alluaudi</i> <i>Anax mandrakae</i>	Vohiparara, Mantadia and Andasibe NPs. A single aeshnid tentatively identified by Phil as this unknown species on arrival at the last hotel (Andasibe). Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Black emperor</b>	<i>Anax tristis</i>	Two at Zombitse and one at Crocodile Lake (Le Relais de la Reine).
<b>Mad emperor</b>	<i>Anax tumorifer</i>	widespread and big enough to spot from the bus. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>[a duskhawker]</b>	<i>Gynacantha radama</i>	Single buzzing around the entrance to the Andasibe NP on the last day was probably this large species but sadly remained unphotographed/captured. Endemic to

	<i>Isomma elouardi</i>	Madagascar. A female photographed at the <i>cognata</i> swamp below Christo. Endemic to Madagascar.
	<i>Isomma hieroglyphicum</i>	A male caught at Mantadia NP and another photographed near the Vakona Lodge (Andasibe). Endemic to Madagascar.
	<i>Onychogomphus aequistylus</i>	Isalo NP and Talakately (Ranomafana NP) – identified ‘by default’. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Spotted hooktail</b>	<i>Paragomphus fritillarius</i>	A few at Isalo NP. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Madagascar hooktail</b>	<i>Paragomphus madegassus</i>	Isalo area. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Madagascar emerald</b>	<i>Hemicordulia similis</i>	widespread. An Indian Ocean islands endemic.
<b>a knifetail</b>	<i>Nesocordulia malgassica</i>	Isalo NP and the Isalo Ranch. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>a knifetail</b>	<i>Nesocordulia mascarenica</i>	One male netted at Mantadia NP. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>a knifetail</b>	<i>Nesocordulia</i> n. sp.	A superb new species found by KD during a memorable day at Mantadia NP. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Madagascan rivercruiser</b>	<i>Phyllomacromia trifasciata</i>	Isalo Ranch was the best spot for photographing this species. Small numbers throughout. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>the undescribed Madagascan pintail Furbelly</b>	<i>Acisoma cf panorpoides</i>	Scattered records. Endemic to Madagascar.
	<i>Archaeophlebia martini</i>	A few along the swampy stream at Le Relais de la Reine and more at Andasibe. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Southern banded groundling</b>	<i>Brachythemis leucosticta</i>	Noted daily in the Isalo area.
<b>Jewel elf</b>	<i>Calophlebia karschi</i>	Isalo NP, Le Relais de la Reine and Mantadia. Interestingly photos from the tour proved that <i>interposita</i> is just a clear-winged form of this species. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Rock scarlet</b>	<i>Crocothemis divisa</i>	Isalo NP.
<b>Broad scarlet</b>	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	widespread.
<b>Black-legged scarlet</b>	<i>Crocothemis striata</i>	Male and female at the first place we stopped on day 1 – re-discovered, the first sighting since it was described in 1981 and the first female ever recorded. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Madagascar percher</b>	<i>Diplacodes exilis</i>	Small numbers noted at Le Relais de la Reine and the <i>cognata</i> swamp below Christo (Ranomafana). Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Black percher</b>	<i>Diplacodes lefebvrui</i>	A few males at the marsh at the end of the day at Isalo. Females/immatures away from water at Zombitse.
<b>Striped percher</b>	<i>Diplacodes</i> n. sp.	Our first new species to science was this small <i>Diplacodes</i> -like libellulid found at the ‘haunted house’ marsh at Vohiparara (Ramanofana). Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>[Coastal pennant]</b>	<i>Macrodiplax cora</i>	Dennis <i>et al.</i> had this species along the coast before we arrived.
<b>a leaftipper</b>	<i>Malgassophlebia mayanga</i>	A few individuals noted at Isalo NP with very pale thoraxes may be <i>mayanga</i> or equally an undescribed species. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Eastern leaftipper</b>	<i>Malgassophlebia mediodentata</i>	Mantadia NP. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Striped junglewatcher</b>	<i>Neodythemis hildebrandti</i>	widespread. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>a junglewatcher</b>	<i>Neodythemis trinervulata</i>	Daily at Ranomafana NP. KD cannot

<b>Moustached skimmer</b>	<i>Orthetrum malgassicum</i>	separate this species from <i>arnoulti</i> and <i>pauliani</i> using the existing descriptions, so our sightings are gathered here under the oldest name. Endemic to Madagascar. Formerly a subspecies of <i>abbotti</i> – widespread and common. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Broad skimmer</b>	<i>Orthetrum azureum</i>	A widespread Indian Ocean islands endemic species.
<b>Spectacled skimmer</b>	<i>Orthetrum icteromelas</i>	Le Relais de la Reine and Ranomafana.
<b>Lemur skimmer</b>	<i>Orthetrum lemur</i>	A few photographed along the road at Zombitse by Phil and Erland only. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Bold skimmer</b>	<i>Orthetrum stemmale</i>	Small numbers at Le Relais de la Reine, the <i>cognata</i> swamp (Ranomafana) and Antsirabe.
<b>Long skimmer</b>	<i>Orthetrum trinacria</i>	Scattered records. Good numbers at ponds and lakes around Zombitse and Isalo.
<b>Silver widow</b>	<i>Palpopleura vestita</i>	widespread. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Globe skimmer</b>	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	widespread.
<b>Madagascar flutterer</b>	<i>Rhyothemis cognata</i>	Good numbers at the swamp below Christo (Ranomafana). Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Phantom flutterer</b>	<i>Rhyothemis semihyalina</i>	Le Relais de la Reine, Mantadia.
<b>Black-splashed elf</b>	<i>Tetrathemis polleni</i>	Mantadia and Andasibe NPs.
<b>Madagascar jungleskimmer</b>	<i>Thermothemis madagascarensis</i>	widespread. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Keyhole glider</b>	<i>Tramea basilaris</i>	Isalo Ranch (2).
<b>Ferruginous glider</b>	<i>Tramea limbata</i>	Le Relais de la Reine and Mantadia NP.
<b>Silhouette dropwing</b>	<i>Trithemis hecate</i>	Le Relais de la Reine, Ranomafana and the Ankazomivady marsh.
<b>Orange-winged dropwing</b>	<i>Trithemis kirbyi</i>	dry country species, found in the SW and at Le Relais de la Reine.
<b>Magenta dropwing</b>	<i>Trithemis persephone</i>	Isalo NP. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Crimson dropwing</b>	<i>Trithemis selika</i>	widespread. Indian Ocean islands endemic.
<b>Red basker</b>	<i>Urothemis assignata</i>	A few noted in the dry SW (Zombitse and Isalo area).
<b>Madagascar riverking</b>	<i>Zygonoides lachesis</i>	Noted on the first day at the <i>Crocothemis striata</i> river. Also at Vohiparara and Christo (Ranomafana). Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>a cascader</b>	<i>Zygonyx elizabethae</i>	widespread. Endemic to Madagascar. Maybe synonymous with <i>natalensis</i> of mainland Africa.
<b>Mealy cascader</b>	<i>Zygonyx ranavalonae</i>	Mantadia NP. Endemic to Madagascar.
<b>Dark cascader</b>	<i>Zygonyx viridescens</i>	Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP) and Mantadia NP. Endemic to Madagascar.

### Birds recorded in Madagascar between 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Nomenclature and sequence does not follow Sinclair and Langrand (2013) *Birds of the Indian Ocean Islands*.

<b>Helmeted guineafowl</b>	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	Introduced species. Two en route to Antsirabe.
<b>Madagascar partridge</b>	<i>Margaroperdix madagascarensis</i>	Pair around the lake at La Relais de la Reine on two occasions. Another pair from the bus en route to Antsirabe. Finally KD had a pair the same afternoon at Antsirabe.
<b>Common quail</b>	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Several heard singing at Antsirabe, one seen poorly in flight by a few of us.
<b>White-faced whistling duck</b>	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	One on the lake at La Relais de la Reine and frequently seen over the river at Ranomafana.
<b>Red-billed teal</b>	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	La Relais de la Reine. Large flock at Ankazomivady marsh en route to

<b>Madagascar grebe</b>	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelinii</i>	Antsirabe. Family group on the forest pond at Mantadia NP.
<b>Madagascar crested ibis</b>	<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>	Multiple sightings at MMA and Andasibe NP over a two-day period.
<b>Black-crowned night-heron</b>	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	A few in the heronry at Ambositra en route to Antsirabe. A few on the last day around 'Tana.
<b>Striated heron</b>	<i>Butorides striata</i>	Scattered records.
<b>Squacco heron</b>	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	A few from the bus in the wetlands around 'Tana.
<b>Western cattle egret</b>	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	widespread.
<b>Purple heron</b>	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	La Relais de la Reine (1) and Andasibe.
<b>Great egret</b>	<i>Ardea alba</i>	A few in the heronry en route to Antsirabe. Scattered records elsewhere.
<b>Black heron</b>	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	Two in rice paddies en route to Andasibe.
<b>Dimorphic egret</b>	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	widespread.
<b>Hamerkop</b>	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	Frequently encountered in the rice paddies later on in the trip.
<b>Yellow-billed kite</b>	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	Small numbers daily mostly in or around 'built-up' areas.
<b>Malagasy harrier</b>	<i>Circus macroscelus</i>	Single male en route to Ranomafana at a well-known site.
<b>Madagascar harrier-hawk</b>	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>	Single at Zombitse.
<b>Frances' sparrowhawk</b>	<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>	Single at Zombitse. At least one reported at Andasibe.
<b>Madagascar sparrowhawk</b>	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>	Single at Ranomafana. Several in the Andasibe-Mantadia area.
<b>Madagascar buzzard</b>	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>	widespread in small numbers.
<b>Malagasy kestrel</b>	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	widespread.
<b>Eleonora's falcon</b>	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Two hunting near Vakona Lodge (Andasibe).
<b>Madagascar flufftail</b>	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>	Frequently heard. Birds seen at Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP) and Andasibe NP.
<b>Slender-billed flufftail</b>	<i>Sarothrura watersi</i>	The holy grail rail! Fidson gripped us all by seeing this species at the 'haunted house' marsh at Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP) whilst we were busy looking out dragonflies.
<b>Madagascar wood rail</b>	<i>Canirallus kioloides</i>	Birds seen well at Mantadia and Andasibe NP, including a few youngsters.
<b>White-throated rail</b>	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>	Le Relais de la Reine and Ranomafana.
<b>Common moorhen</b>	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	KD had one at Anja. One on the forest pool at Mantadia NP.
<b>Madagascar buttonquail</b>	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>	Two at Isalo NP. Four at Antsirabe.
<b>Three-banded plover</b>	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	One at Ankazomivady marsh en route to Antsirabe.
<b>Madagascar snipe</b>	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>	Seen at both the 'snipe marshes' we checked for dragonflies.
<b>Common sandpiper</b>	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Scattered records along rivers and streams.
<b>Feral pigeon</b>	<i>Columbia livia</i>	Frequently encountered in towns.
<b>Malagasy turtle dove</b>	<i>Nesoenas picturata</i>	widespread but seldom seen well on this trip.
<b>Namaqua dove</b>	<i>Oena capensis</i>	Very common dry country bird in the SW.
<b>Madagascar green pigeon</b>	<i>Treron australis</i>	In the hotel garden at Ranomafana and a few at Andasibe.
<b>Madagascar blue pigeon</b>	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>	Small numbers at Ranomafana. Three seen well at Mantadia NP.
<b>Grey-headed lovebird</b>	<i>Agapornis canus</i>	widespread.
<b>Greater vasa parrot</b>	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>	One female at La Relais de la Reine. Heard at Mantadia.

<b>Lesser vasa parrot</b>	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>	Small numbers daily at Zombitse, Le Relais de la Reine, Ranomafana, Mantadia and Andasibe.
<b>Malagasy coucal</b>	<i>Centropus toulou</i>	widespread and common.
<b>Blue coua</b>	<i>Coua caerulea</i>	A few at Ranomafana NP. Finally seen well at Mantadia and Andasibe NPs.
<b>Red-fronted coua</b>	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>	Single bird at Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP).
<b>[Coquerel's coua]</b>	<i>Coua coquereli</i>	Heard only at Zombitse.
<b>Giant coua</b>	<i>Coua gigas</i>	Two tracked down at Zombitse.
<b>Red-breasted coua</b>	<i>Coua serriana</i>	One at Andasibe NP.
<b>Madagascar cuckoo</b>	<i>Cuculus rochi</i>	Frequently heard away from the coast, a few seen.
<b>Western barn owl</b>	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Heard in Ivato on first night. One en route to Ranomafana and two said goodbye to us as we boarded the bus to the airport at Au Bois Vert.
<b>Madagascar scops owl</b>	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>	Three at Le Relais de la Reine. Two youngsters at Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP).
<b>White-browed hawk owl</b>	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>	One roosting bird at Zombitse. Heard at Le Relais de la Reine.
<b>Madagascar nightjar</b>	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>	No singing heard! One flushed at Antsirabe and birds hunting at Ivato on the last night.
<b>Madagascar spinetail</b>	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>	A few around Zombitse and the forest pool at Mantadia NP.
<b>African palm swift</b>	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	Frequently encountered after Zombitse.
<b>Malagasy black swift</b>	<i>Apus balstoni</i>	First recorded en route to Zombitse and small numbers thereafter.
<b>Cuckoo roller</b>	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>	Great views of a few individuals at Zombitse. Heard at Ranomafana and Andasibe and glimpsed at Mantadia.
<b>Broad-billed roller</b>	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	Scattered records.
<b>Pitta-like ground roller</b>	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>	One at Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP).
<b>Malagasy kingfisher</b>	<i>Corythornis vintsoides</i>	en route to Zombitse on first day, La Relais de la Reine, Ranomafana and common and often seen from the bus thereafter.
<b>Olive bee-eater</b>	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	widespread in open country.
<b>Madagascar hoopoe</b>	<i>Upupa marginata</i>	A few in the dry west.
<b>Velvet asity</b>	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>	A single immature seen well by some of us at Talakately and another male on the Vohiparara trail (Ranomafana NP).
<b>Common sunbird-asity</b>	<i>Neodrepanus coruscans</i>	A few seen at Ranomafana.
<b>Red-tailed vanga</b>	<i>Calicalicus madagascarensis</i>	One seen at Andasibe.
<b>Hook-billed vanga</b>	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>	Small numbers at Isalo and Zombitse.
<b>White-headed vanga</b>	<i>Artamella viridis</i>	Mitsinjo (Andasibe).
<b>Chabert's vanga</b>	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>	Scattered records.
<b>Blue vanga</b>	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>	At least one bird at Ranomafana from the Belle Vue viewpoint.
<b>Rufous vanga</b>	<i>Schetba rufa</i>	One at Ranomafana.
<b>Tylas vanga</b>	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>	Mantadia and Andasibe.
<b>Common newtonia</b>	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>	Zombitse.
<b>Ward's flycatcher</b>	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>	Frequently encountered in the hotel grounds at Andasibe.
<b>Madagascar cuckooshrike</b>	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>	Zombitse and Andasibe. Two seen distantly in flight at Ranomafana.
<b>Crested drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>	widespread.
<b>Malagasy paradise flycatcher</b>	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>	Scattered records, mostly heard.
<b>Pied crow</b>	<i>Corvus alba</i>	widespread.
<b>Madagascar lark</b>	<i>Mirafra hova</i>	Frequently encountered in suitable habitat.
<b>Malagasy bulbul</b>	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	widespread and frequently encountered.

<b>Mascarene martin</b>	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	widespread.
<b>Brown-throated martin</b>	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	A few on travel days.
<b>Malagasy brush-warbler</b>	<i>Nesillas typica</i>	Observed in the garden at Antsirabe. Also at Andasibe and Mantadia.
<b>Madagascar swamp warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>	Recorded at both 'snipe marshes' and at Mantadia.
<b>Grey emutail</b>	<i>Amphilais seebohmi</i>	A few on both visits to the 'haunted house' marsh at Vohiparara.
<b>Long-billed bernieri</b>	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>	Heard at Zombitse and seen well at Ranomafana and Andasibe.
<b>Spectacled tetraka</b>	<i>Xanthomixis zosterops</i>	Ranomafana – both days. Also at Mantadia and Andasibe.
<b>Appert's tetraka</b>	<i>Xanthomixis apperti</i>	Three birds at Zombitse, the only site for this endemic bird.
<b>Rand's warbler</b>	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>	A few at Ranomafana NP and several at Andasibe.
<b>Common jery</b>	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>	widespread.
<b>Green jery</b>	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>	Recorded by the group at Ranomafana and Mantadia.
<b>Madagascar cisticola</b>	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>	widespread.
<b>Malagasy white-eye</b>	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>	Ivato, Ranomafana
<b>Common myna</b>	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	widespread, common and introduced.
<b>Madagascar starling</b>	<i>Hartlaubius auratus</i>	Single at Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP).
<b>Madagascar magpie-robin</b>	<i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>	widespread.
<b>Madagascar stonechat</b>	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>	The first one seen en route to Ranomafana. Small numbers thereafter.
<b>Forest rock thrush</b>	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>	A few daily at Le Relais de la Reine and the nearby Isalo NP.
<b>Souimanga sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris souimanga</i>	widespread and common.
<b>Malagasy green sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris notatus</i>	Scattered records.
<b>Nelicourvi weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>	Ranomafana (a few).
<b>Sakalava weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>	At the base of the scarp by the police checkpoint en route to Zombitse on the first day.
<b>Red fody</b>	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	widespread.
<b>Forest fody</b>	<i>Foudia omissa</i>	Ranomafana (1) and Mantadia NP (2).
<b>Madagascar mannikin</b>	<i>Lemuresthes nana</i>	widespread.
<b>Madagascar wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	Common away from the dry south-west.

### **Mammals recorded in Madagascar between 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Nomenclature and sequence follows Garbutt (2007).

<b>Lowland streaked tenrec</b>	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>	Singles at Talakately (Ranomafana NP) and MMA reserve (Andasibe).
<b>Hairy-eared dwarf lemur</b>	<i>Allocebus trichotis</i>	Single hyperactive individual at night at Andasibe.
<b>Hubbard's sportive lemur</b>	<i>Lepilemur hubbardi</i>	Two roosting in separate locations at Zombitse.
<b>Small-toothed sportive lemur</b>	<i>Lepilemur microdon</i>	One at roosting individual Vohiparara.
<b>Eastern grey bamboo lemur</b>	<i>Haplemur griseus</i>	At least two at Ranomafana on the first day. Two more on the last day at Andasibe. Different sub-species involved.
<b>Greater bamboo lemur</b>	<i>Prolemur simus</i>	One individual at Ranomafana on the first day there.
<b>Ring-tailed lemur</b>	<i>Lemur catta</i>	A good-sized group on the walk along the river at Isalo National Park. More over lunch at the brief stop at Anja en route to Ranomafana.
<b>[Black-and-white ruffed lemur]</b>	<i>Varecia variegata</i>	Heard at Ranomafana.

<b>Red-bellied lemur</b>	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>	A family group at Vohiparara (Ranomafana).
<b>Red-fronted brown lemur</b>	<i>Eulemur rufus</i>	A small group at Isalo NP. More at Ranomafana.
<b>Eastern avahi</b>	<i>Avahi laniger</i>	Two at night at Andasibe.
<b>Diademed sifaka</b>	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>	Two groups seen very well at Mantadia NP.
<b>Milne-Edwards' sifaka</b>	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>	A group well at Ranomafana on the lemur trek.
<b>Verreaux's sifaka</b>	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>	Groups encountered at Zombitse. A lone individual with the ring-tails at Isalo NP.
<b>Indri</b>	<i>Indri indri</i>	Seen poorly at Mantadia. Single male seen very well at MMA reserve (Andasibe).
<b>Fanaloka</b>	<i>Fossa fossana</i>	We had a glorious encounter with this beauty at the regular feeding spot near Belle Vue (Ranomafana NP) thanks to Emile and the trackers.
<b>Eastern red forest rat</b>	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>	Ranomafana (1).

### Reptiles recorded in Madagascar between 8th and 19th January 2016

Nomenclature and sequence follows Glaw & Vences (2007). Species in square brackets were recorded by sign or found dead on road (DOR).

<b>[Radiated tortoise]</b>	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	Captive herds at some of the places we stayed. Very rare in the wild as they are rather tasty.
<b>a stump-tailed chameleon</b>	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>	One at the MMA reserve (Andasibe).
<b>Short-horned chameleon</b>	<i>Calumma brevicorne</i>	One at the ticket office area at Andasibe. Another tiddler at the marsh on the last day.
<b>Blue-legged chameleon</b>	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>	A few on the nightwalk at Ranomafana.
<b>O'Shaughnessy's chameleon</b>	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>	A few on the nightwalk at Ranomafana.
<b>Parson's chameleon</b>	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>	One on the way in to Ranomafana NP and another at MMA (Andasibe). A rare species and difficult to find in the eastern rainforest.
<b>Nose-horned chameleon</b>	<i>Calumma nasutum</i>	A few on the nightwalk at Ranomafana (all hatchlings).
<b>Jewel chameleon</b>	<i>Furcifer lateralis</i>	A few at the Ankazomivady marsh en route to Antsirabe.
<b>Oustalet's chameleon</b>	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	Excellent encounters with this big species at Zombitse, Isalo NP and Le Relais de la Reine.
<b>an iguanid</b>	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>	One on the lemur walk at Isalo NP.
<b>Dumeril's Madagascar swift</b>	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>	Le Relais de la Reine and the 'snipe' marsh near Ranomafana.
<b>Three-eyed lizard</b>	<i>Chalarodon madagascariensis</i>	Toliara and Zombitse and points in between.
<b>Ornate girdled-lizard</b>	<i>Zonosaurus ornatus</i>	At the 'haunted house' marsh at Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP).
<b>Elegant skink</b>	<i>Zonosaurus aeneus</i>	Talakately (Ranomafana NP).
<b>Gravenhorst's skink</b>	<i>Trachylepis elegans</i>	Isalo NP (1).
	<i>Trachylepis gravenhorstii</i>	Isalo NP and Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP).
	<i>Amphiglossus splendidus</i>	Sue found us this poorly-known species on the last early morning walk at Le Relais de la Reine. Easily the most attractive reptile we saw on the tour.
<b>Gray's leaf-toed gecko</b>	<i>Hemidactylus mercatorius</i>	Le Relais de la Reine.
<b>a slender gecko</b>	<i>Ebenavia inunguis</i>	A few at the hotel at Ranomafana.
<b>a leaf-tailed gecko</b>	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>	One roosting near the restaurant at

<b>a dwarf gecko</b>	<i>Lygodactylus pictus</i>	Talakately (Ranomafana NP).
<b>Standing's day gecko</b>	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>	Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP).
<b>Peacock day gecko</b>	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>	On the park buildings at Zombitse.
<b>Madagascar tree boa</b>	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>	Common at Ranomafana.
		Two of the <i>volontany</i> subspecies at Isalo NP.
		Also seen a few spots in the Ranomafana area – these records relating to the nominate subspecies sometimes considered a separate species.
<b>a snake</b>	<i>Leioheterodon madagascariensis</i>	Single large individual at Zombitse.
<b>a snake</b>	<i>Leioheterodon modestus</i>	A few in the dry SW.
<b>a snake</b>	<i>Compsophis infralineatus</i>	One on the nightwalk at Ranomafana NP.
<b>a snake</b>	<i>Liopholidophis sexlineatus</i>	The water snake at the 'haunted house' marsh (Ranomafana NP) and Ankazomivady marsh.

### Amphibians recorded in Madagascar between 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Nomenclature and sequence follows Glaw & Vences (2007).

<b>Malagasy rocket frog</b>	<i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i>	widespread.
	<i>Heterixalus alboguttatus</i>	Common at Christo (Ranomafana).
	<i>Plethodontohyla mihanika</i>	Talakately (Ranomafana NP).
	<i>Plethodontohyla inguinalis</i>	Talakately (Ranomafana NP).
	<i>Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis</i>	Were the 'golden' frogs at MMA (Andasibe) this species?
	<i>Blommersia</i> sp.	One at Le Relais de la Reine at night.
	<i>Mantella baroni</i>	Vohiparara (Ranomafana NP).
<b>a pandanus frog</b>	<i>Guibemantis</i> sp. aff. <i>albolineatus</i> "Andasibe"	The pandanus frog at the Andasibe reception area. Yet to be formally described?
	<i>Gephyromantis boulengeri</i>	MMA reserve (Andasibe).
	<i>Gephyromantis sculpturatus</i>	Talakately (Ranomafana NP).
	<i>Gephyromantis plicifer</i>	Talakately (Ranomafana NP).
	<i>Mantidactylus betsileanus</i>	A male guarding eggs on a mossy bank near the cascade at Ranomafana NP.
	<i>Mantidactylus majori</i>	Along streams at Ranomafana.
	<i>Mantidactylus melanopleura</i>	Talakately (Ranomafana NP) and Mantadia NP.