

Madagascar: Special 2025

Ornis Birding Expeditions





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birding expeditions

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Tour led by Joshua Bergmark



*It's hard to pick favorites with such an immensely successful tour, but the unique Aye-aye and Helmet Vanga probably stand at the top!
(All images by Joshua Bergmark)*

It was difficult to pick a name which sums up this unique new itinerary, but Special certainly seems to do it justice. A plethora of mega birds like Madagascar Pochard and Red Owl, rare primates like Blue-eyed Black Lemur and Golden-fronted Sifaka, the famous carnivorous Fosa and poorly-known Falanouc. And yet amongst all that the definitive highlight was certainly our extended encounter with wild Aye-aye at a remote forest in the north of the country.

Madagascar was isolated from continental Africa and India over 80 million years ago, and intriguingly the ecosystem suffered worse than anywhere else in the world during the dinosaur-killing Cretaceous extinction event 65 million years ago. It is thought that the island lost nearly all terrestrial vertebrates in the aftermath, perhaps due to ecosystem bottlenecks, leaving a blank slate for millions of years. This turbulent past produced one utterly fascinating evolutionary laboratory indeed.

Then the ancestors of modern-day lemurs arrived around 40 million years. They radiated into over 100 species, evolving into nocturnal and diurnal forms, frugivores, folivores, and insectivores, filling almost every ecological role. Vangas came 30 million years ago, descended from a shrike-like ancestor, and from this single lineage explosively evolved into over 20 species with wildly divergent bill shapes and foraging strategies, mimicking familiar continental birds like babblers, nuthatches, flycatchers, and warblers. Malagasy carnivores then descended from a single ancestor arriving around 20 million years ago, undergoing a similar adaptive radiation. The turbulent past produced one utterly fascinating evolutionary laboratory, which we felt privileged to

Air Maybe of course got us off to a great start with a five-hour delay, but terminal birding resulted in Madagascar Stonechat, Mascarene Martin, and Madagascar Wagtail. Heading to Lake Alarobia for an introductory walk, a pair of Meller's



Critically Endangered Madagascar Pochard



Golden-crowned Sifaka



One of the many, many highlights of this tour, the legendary Fosa!



Blue-eyed Black Lemur, a very rare member of this extremely diverse super-family!



Scaly Ground Roller, the bird of the trip!



A striking Amber Mountain Chameleon!



A superb breeding plumage Malagasy Pond Heron!

Duck was seen quickly amongst hundreds of Red-billed Teal, and two beautiful Malagasy Pond Heron were flaunting their filamentous plumage against the more abundant Squacco Heron. Both Malagasy Kingfisher and White-throated Rail were spotted in the far pond, and we also saw some more widespread waterfowl like Fulvous Whistling Duck and Blue-billed Teal.

Eventually we landed in Antsiranana at the northern tip of the island. We had only two hours before sunset, necessitating a whirlwind visit to Amber Mountain National Park. Thankfully the great local guides here quickly found us a bunch of exciting reptiles! The striking endemic red-eared Amber Mountain Chameleon and Mount Amber Globe-horned Chameleon were juxtaposed by a tiny Mount d'Ambre Leaf Chameleon, this species now being the third smallest chameleon in the world (there's only a couple of millimetres in it). I won't say anything about the consistency of reptile names!

A troop of Sanford's Brown Lemur moved through, and we saw our first Cuckoo-roller along with Madagascar Blue Pigeon. The main target took longer, but at long last a male Amber Mountain Rock Thrush appeared by the side of the road! Satisfied with this success, we sped down the highway towards the lovely Black Lemur Lodge. Several sleeping chameleons were picked out by the roadside, including a very big and impressive Oustalet's Giant Chameleon.

At dawn we enjoyed common endemic birds from the balcony, like our first Chabert Vanga, Souimanga Sunbird, Malagasy Bulbul, and Malagasy Palm Swift. Heading into the thick dry forest, we were soon face-to-face with one of the rarest primates in the world. A family of all black Perrier's Sifaka were chowing down on pungent yellow fruits while a tiny baby practiced jumping from mum's back into vertical branches and back. It was a really magical experience!



Amber Mountain Rock Thrush



Look at this monster!! Oustalet's Giant Chameleon



On the other hand, the minute Mount d'Ambre Leaf Chameleon is one of the smallest reptiles on Earth!



Meller's Duck, and Endangered endemic



White-throated Rail



A displaying Cuckoo-Roller



Madagascar Bulbul



A family of Perrier's Sifaka, one of the rarest primates, was most appreciated!

Nearby, both Ankarana Sportive Lemur and a slightly smaller sportive lemur of unreconciled taxonomy were seen near their sleeping holes. In the thick forest, birds were hard to come by. We did see several Long-billed Bernieria, mixing with Madagascar Magpie Robin. Perhaps most exciting was a selection of herps like Giant Day Decko, Abbott's Day Gecko, and a Giant Hog-nosed Snake.

The afternoon saw us track down a pair of stunning Madagascar Blue Vanga, and nearby a striking Hook-billed Vanga. We waited for dark, enjoying Brown Mantella and Malagasy Cat-eyed Snake before the many Madagascar Nightjar started flying around. Several roosting Common Jery were spotted, and then a "Torotoroka" Madagascar Scops Owl. On the mammal front a cute Tavarata Mouse Lemur showed nicely, before a longer night walk found Petter's Chameleon, Mossy Leaf-tail Gecko and another unusually striped Leaf-



Madagascar Blue Vanga

tail Gecko which doesn't appear to match any existing photos online.

As we began our journey south in the morning, a short stop at Ankarana National Park produced some brief views of White-breasted Mesite, a lovely red and white Panther Chameleon, and a superbly camouflaged Shiny-eyed Leaf-tail Gecko. We made another stop to buy some local mango and lime hot sauce, also seeing our first Grey-headed Lovebird plus a few dozen Madagascar Munia drinking at a roadside waterhole. Pulling into Tattersal Camp at Daraina a family of Golden-crowned Sifaka were already on show, so we enjoyed an intimate photography session with our second Critically Endangered lemur in as many days. Also around were several pretty Crowned Lemur, completing our set of endemic large lemurs in the far north.



Madagascar Nightjar



White-breasted Mesite, a fabulous member of this endemic family!



A very cool Panther Chameleon



A spectacular Leaf-tail Gecko, an unusual striped variation which doesn't match other photos online



Golden-crowned Sifaka were observed at length!

As dusk approached, three uncharacteristically bold Madagascar Buttonquail chased each other around in the understory. Both Madagascar Buzzard and Malagasy Harrier Hawk came overhead, while Crested Drongo and Madagascar Coucal kept watch over the campsite where our team had set up excellent safari-style accommodation.

Then we received bad news. Despite our local spotters having tracked two Aye-aye all week and already locating the sleeping nest being used today, a Fosa had suddenly appeared and climbed the tree to get at it while the spotters watched on in horror. Thankfully for us the Aye-aye escaped, but despite searching all night it appeared that the frightened animal had moved away. We made the most of it though, and saw Daraina Sportive Lemur, the undescribed "Daraina Fork-marked Lemur", Giant Leaf-tail Gecko, and the much-wanted Spotted Fish-scaled Gecko (this species has the remarkable defence strategy



Madagascar Hoopoes



Sickle-billed Vanga, what a bird!

of completely shedding its scales off if grabbed by a predator).

In the morning we explored the dry forest and were delighted to find a very friendly pair of White-breasted Mesite who slowly circled us at point-blank range, often pausing and standing perfectly still together, watching warily. We saw Red-tailed Vanga with a bunch of Common Newtonia, and one big roving flock of impressive Sickle-billed Vanga also came through. Around the camp itself a male Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher was hanging around, Madagascar Hoopoe fed on the ground, a male Malagasy Sunbird perched up perfectly, and a flock of Sakalava Weaver popped by the kitchen later on.

During the hot middle of the day there was more Golden-crowned Sifaka action, including the same family as yesterday dancing across the campsite several times. Wonderful! The spotters had miraculously managed to refind the Aye-aye



A very bold Madagascar Buttonquail, running around our tents in the open!



Golden-crowned Sifaka again - what a beauty!

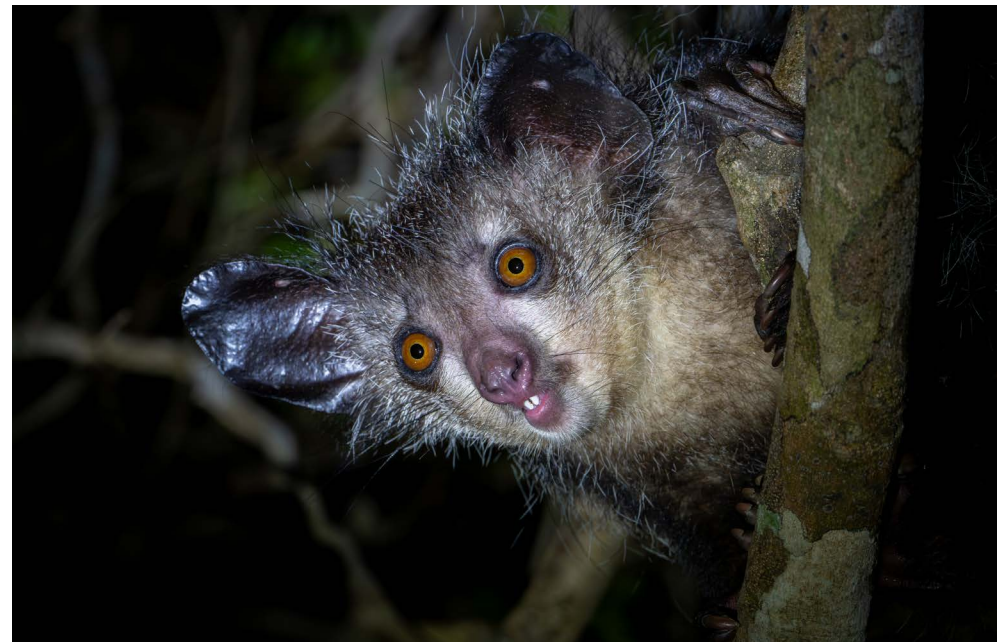
sleeping in a different nest and so in the late afternoon we apprehensively hiked up to the spot, seeing Madagascar Cuckooshrike along the way. A tense wait ensued, but as darkness fell the miraculous creature inside his tangled nest began to stir.

Slowly clambering out into full view, the incredible Aye-aye proceeded to drop our jaws as he meticulously groomed himself in preparation for the night, this trusting but completely wild animal paying our group of bystanders little attention. Following a satisfying nose-pick with that magical elongated finger, he slowly wandered off and jumped leisurely between trees. Some of us followed him for an hour, watching with dimmed light as he rapidly tapped up and down the boughs of large trees before gnawing through to the tasty grubs inside with those huge incisors and probing finger. Absolutely incredible!

The following day we took a long drive south to Antsohihy, making the most of a short stop where locals guided us to a curious group of Blue-eyed Black Lemur. After a filling dinner to prepare us, the subsequent day was spent traversing one of the most infamous drives on the global birding circuit. After Lesser Vasa Parrot and Madagascar Lark during breakfast, it took seven hours on a bad road and then eight hours on a very bad road before reaching our camp at Bemanevika which the logistics team had thankfully already set up with the beers on ice and generator running! The only bird of note for the afternoon was a rare yellow morph of Red Fody. We did have a few walks on the road after dark while the vehicles were navigating tricky bits, which allowed us to find many Guillaumet's Side-striped Chameleon and a few Malthe's Green-eared Chameleon, plus one Spearpoint Leaf-tail Gecko. A pair of "Rainforest" Madagascar Scops Owl sat nearby during dinner and were well-appreciated, but the Madagascar Cuckoo calling all night within camp less so!



The undescribed "Daraina" Fork-marked Lemur



Aye-aye, one of the strangest creatures out there!



Aye-aye again!



Malthe's Green-eared Chameleon



The rare Slender-billed Flufftail



Madagascar Flufftail



Guillaumet's Side-striped Chameleon

We awoke early, ready for our first of two full days in this remote area. Focusing first on Madagascar Flufftail, immediately both a male and female were crossing the path right in front of us! In the extensive grasslands our first Madagascar Martin and Madagascar Cisticola appeared, but a nice flock of Madagascar Starling stole the show and offered some rare close views. Next we walked down to one of the large crater lakes, where the Critically Endangered specialty of this area, Madagascar Pochard, was seen easily from both the viewing deck and with a short canoe ride for the photographers. Madagascar Grebe was common in the lake, while Madagascar Swamp Warbler plied the shores.

The nearby forest was excellent, with local guide Luckman easily showing us his roosting Red Owl in a nearby pandanus. Few words are needed to describe this beautiful enigmatic Tyto, certainly one of the world's best owls. The lone Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher being mobbed by a pair of Common Sunbird-Asity made it hard to choose where to point our binoculars, and a pair of Blue Coua bounded along through the mid-canopy. Flocks contained more new species like Tylas Vanga, Green Jery, Spectacled Tetraka, and Nelicourvi Weaver.

After a filling lunch of zebu balls and mango at camp (where we finally laid eyes on that Madagascar Cuckoo), it was out to another wetland. Here, a pair of Malagasy Harrier were quartering most of the afternoon while we employed various methods to see Slender-billed Flufftail. Eventually the traditional taping tactic was successful and we watched a pair of these very rare birds run back and forth across a small track through the vegetation.

There were several Madagascar Snipe seen well in flight, and a pair of Grey Emutail perched nicely out of the rush. After dinner, some diehards went for a spotlighting session which was initially very boring. That all changed when suddenly



Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, wow!



Madagascar Harrier, a much-declining endemic



The wonderful Blue Coua



Madagascar Lark



Malagasy Green Sunbird



Grey Emutail



Madagascar Cisticola

around the next corner a Red Owl was perched just a metre off the ground, hunting. We watched in the thermal until he was in a nice position, then got some wonderful views and photos of the very calm individual! Mega.

It was very cold in the morning, and we couldn't find any Madagascar Partridge around the camp or grasslands. It seems to be becoming quite rare here, but thankfully a pair was eventually flushed on an undisturbed hill. After breakfast a male Cuckoo-roller gave wonderful views as it displayed around the camp before we headed off on a trek into deeper forest. It took longer than expected, though we bumped into nice endemics like Red-fronted Coua, Nuthatch Vanga, Stripe-throated Jery, Rand's Warbler, and Dark Newtonia. The end goal was a newly-discovered Henst's Goshawk nest, which the female was thankfully attending when we arrived!

The afternoon was spent taking photos around camp or otherwise returning to the swamp where a Madagascar Rail was flushed at dusk before Madagascar Snipe started displaying loudly overhead. Some spotlighting with one of the visiting researchers allowed us to find more than twenty chameleons, including new ones like Gehring's Chameleon and Peltiers' Chameleon. There was also a chance encounter with Madagascar Owl on the way back, though lemur activity remained low due to the cold weather.

Navigating the complex, rutted, rocky, and dusty tracks all the way back to Antsohihy and onwards towards Antananarivo was slow, but not uneventful. First we were stuck behind a broken-down tractor for two hours, during which some birding in the forest produced France's Sparrowhawk and better views of Rand's Warbler. One rest stop after lunch produced Greater Vasa Parrot, and then the road became so bad that we didn't make it to our hotel until after midnight. Next morning a wetland near Ambrandomamy produced the much-wanted



A very cool Red-fronted Coua



Nuthatch Vanga- very much filling the niche of nuthatches and creepers!



The mega Red Owl delighted us at night, very unlike the traditional roosting views!



A fantastic Gehring's Chameleon!



Madagascar Pratincole



Olive-capped Coua

Humblot's Heron and Madagascar Jacana, both species providing great views in the scope once we moved around the lake shore to get a little closer. African Pygmy Goose was noted too, always a nice bird to see! Eventually as the day wore on another stop found us eyeballing several pretty Madagascar Pratincole, and everyone was happy to finally arrive back in Tana for an exquisite dinner near the airport, fuelling us for stage two.

Onwards to Morondava, we made a short stop at the famous Baobab Alley for photos as we drove north towards Kirindy Forest. Arriving at the wonderful new Marofandilla Lodge, we were quickly able to enjoy several Giant Coua and a single Olive-capped Coua slinking around the rooms. Nearby was a roosting pair of White-browed Owl, while Verreaux's Sifaka and Red-fronted Brown Lemur moved through the trees. An afternoon walk produced Madagascar Spinetail and Rufous Vanga, but the real highlight was our nocturnal wanderings.

Spotlighting produced a plethora of Grey Mouse Lemur (some of which were living in the walls of our rooms), with a handful Pale Fork-marked Lemur and Red-tailed Sportive Lemur. Some particularly impressive geckos included Madagascar Ground Gecko, Thick Tail Gecko, Dabara Forest Leaf-toed Gecko, and the astonishingly beautiful Kirindy Leaf-toed Gecko (the babies look most impressive). Those who continued after dinner saw a big Nosy Komba Boa, Coquerel's Giant Mouse Lemur, and then (at the eleventh hour, after close to a hundred Grey Mouse Lemur sightings) finally a Madame Berthe's Mouse Lemur! This is a very rarely observed species which is effectively endemic to Kirindy, and is the smallest primate in the world.

As the sun rose we tracked down Coquerel's Coua and resighted a few old friends, including a cooperative France's Sparrowhawk and Hook-billed Vanga. We moved to another hotel adjacent to the main entrance of Kirindy, which was to



White-browed Owl!



Giant Coua



The famous Baobab Avenue!



Nosy Komba Ground Boa



Rufous Vanga



Verreaux's Sifaka



The very rare Madame Berthe's Mouse Lemur, smallest primate in the world!

be our base for two more nights. After it cooled down a bit we spent the afternoon walking through forest, though didn't see much aside from a few Madagascar Hoopoe and some nice close Madagascar Turtle Dove. As the sun slowly dropped we staked out the burrow of a Madagascar Giant Jumping Rat, with a patient wait producing excellent views of this crazy wallaby-sized rodent as it emerged to feed. Also running around were a few Bastard Big-footed Mouse (yes, that is the real name) though no Fosa would appear today it seemed.

Undeterred we returned at dawn and a female Fosa was already up. We followed this beautiful animal around the camp for an hour as she scavenged by the mess hall and rehydrated at various water sources. A privilege to be so close to this elegant and highly-adapted carnivore, with such an impressively evolved long tail. Then a short walk in the forest allowed us to locate a foraging family of Narrow-striped Boky, and we watched as they disappeared down burrows in search of prey before coming back to the surface and continuing onwards, remarkable unafraid of our group standing on the trail. Our last stop of the morning was a waterhole where half a dozen Grey-headed Lovebird were drinking, but it was pretty hot so we retired for the middle of the day. An afternoon session looking for new species was unproductive, but spotlighting allowed us to enjoy a fabulous Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur, recently emerged from dry-season hibernation in preparation for the oncoming rains.

Next morning we drove around looking for the increasingly uncommon Banded Kestrel and successfully found one in nice morning light (but only after umpteen Malagasy Kestrel). We also saw several White-headed Vanga and Sickle-billed Vanga by the roadside which posed nicely for photos. Returning to Tana, after rooftop drinks with Malagasy Swift and a lovely dinner we took our smooth charter flight followed by short speedboat transfer to Chez Arol Ecolodge on the famed



Grey-headed Lovebird



White-headed Vanga



The most-wanted Fosa, largest predator on Madagascar!



A huge Madagascar Giant Jumping Rat, what a sight of this crazy wallaby-sized rodent!



The increasingly scarce Banded Kestrel



Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur



Helmet Vanga on a nest!



The rare Bernier's Vanga!

Masoala Peninsula. Few places on the world have beautiful primary forest stretching all the way down to the coast, and we knew our time here was going to be special.

A long afternoon walk wasn't the birdiest of events, but local guide Claudio did find our first Helmet Vanga, sitting on a nest! What a truly astonishing bird, certainly the best in Madagascar if you ask me. A pair of Madagascar Ibis sat in a dead tree above the dining room as the sun went down, and a trio of attractive White-fronted Brown Lemur hung around the forest edge. After dark was truly fun, as we quickly found Masoala Sportive Lemur, Masoala Woolly Lemur, Greater Dwarf Lemur, and the undescribed "Masoala Mouse Lemur". Those who stayed out longer also saw an adorable buzzing Lowland Streaked Tenrec in the garden, while some lovely frogs in a nearby river included the recently-described Masoala Bright-eyed Tree Frog, Blue-back Reed Frog, and Anamalozotra Madagascar Frog.

At dawn we headed to a low-lying patch of pandanus swamp forest. This is preferred habitat of the scarce Bernier's Vanga, of which we saw the distinctive female very nicely (though only after a five-hour search). Various flocks contained White-throated Oxylabes, and the northern black form of Madagascar Magpie Robin. The afternoon session brought us face-to-face with two huge Short-legged Ground Roller tail-pumping on a log, and a Collared Nightjar discovered roosting while stalking them! There was also a Red Forest Rat, while another Helmet Vanga was for the leader only. Spotlighting deeper in the forest tonight was a bit slower than yesterday, but persistence yielded another Malagasy carnivore, the fantastic Spotted Fanaloka, plus Webb's Tufted-tailed Rat and another Giant Leaf-tail Gecko.

Taking the long ridge trail behind our rooms up into primary forest today was really special. First up was Madagascar Forest Rail, not a rail at all but a giant flufftail! Then a pair of Brown



The most amazing Short-legged Ground Roller!



A wonderful Scaly Ground Roller!



Collared Nightjar, an absolutely stunning Caprimulgidae!



The absolutely unique and cute Lowland Streaked Tenrec!

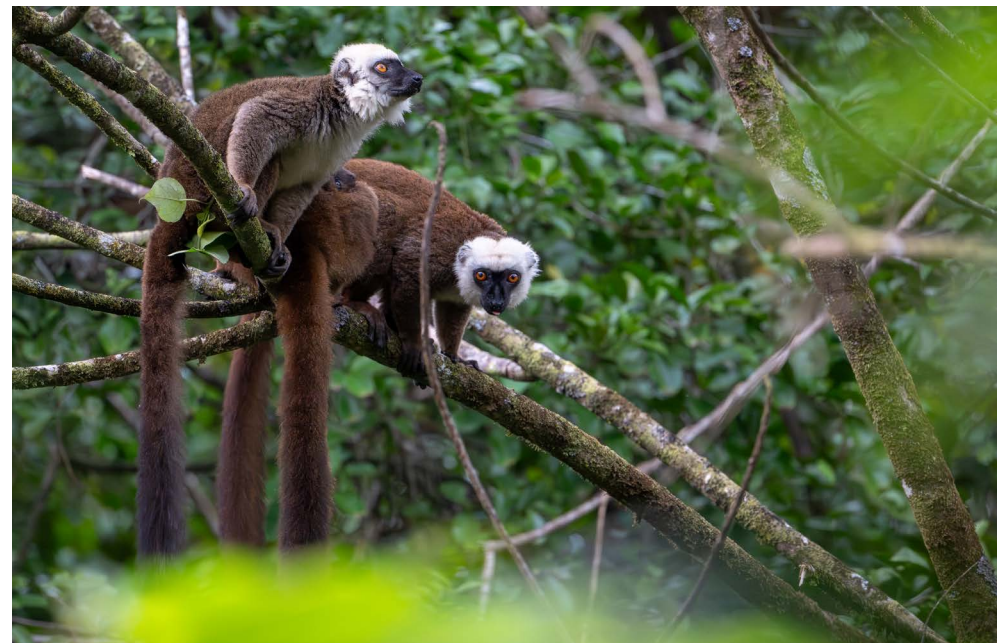
Mesite with their tiny chick in tow walked around us, and a Red-breasted Coua sat in the open calling loudly from a log. The highlight amongst all this was an otherworldly Scaly Ground Roller bouncing around on the track, was a truly stunning species that one is! We were also lucky enough to come across not only Ring-tailed Vontsira, but also the extremely rarely-observed Brown-tailed Vontsira which came inquisitively to check us out. The more common Red Ruffed Lemur finally gave some awesome views as a couple lounged about in a large fruiting tree, and we also found a tiny Peyrieras' Dwarf Leaf Chameleon.

Nobody thought the afternoon would be able to improve much on that, but when Armund ran up to us while we taped vangas in vain and said he had just seen a Falanouc, all bets were off. The leader left the group on the trail and dropped into the forest with Armund and Claudio, where we carefully searched until the rare long-snouted worm-eater was discovered resting under a small pandanus. We carefully got everyone off the trail and into position, resulting in a wonderful observation of this least-known Malagasy carnivore.

And there our luck ran out. At dinner news filtered through of approaching weather, and instead of enjoying another full day and night here we had to leave at 4am to get back for our retimed flight, lest we be stuck for a week! Oh well, we had seen all the key pleasures of Masoala (and more), so the sacrifice wasn't too sour. We added a final Ambatond'Radama Nosed Chameleon at the lodge and then the crazy Tomato Frog in a roadside ditch before boarding our plane and returning for some final rum in Tana!



Red-breasted Coua



White-fronted Brown Lemur



The mega Eastern Falanouc!



Red Ruffed Lemur



Grey Mouse Lemur



Masoala Mouse Lemur



Brown-tailed Vontsira



Narrow-striped Boki



Tomato Frog, wow!



Kirindi Leaf-toed Gecko



Peltier's Chameleon

BIRD OF THE TOUR:

- 1: Scaly Ground Roller
- 2: Helmet Vanga
- 3: Slender-billed Flufftail
- = 4: Red Owl
- = 4: Short-legged Ground Roller

MAMMAL OF THE TOUR:

- 1: Aye aye
- 2: Fosa
- 3: Golden-crowned Sifaka
- 4: Falanouc
- 5: Lowland Streaked Tenrec

REPTILE OF THE TOUR:

- 1: Kirindy Leaf-toed Gecko
- 2: Mount d'Ambre Leaf Chameleon
- 3: Gehring's Chameleon
- = 4: Peltier's Chameleon
- = 4: Amber Mountain Chameleon



Helmet Vanga again



Coquerel's Coua



Aye-aye - with such a long middle finger you can go search for insects deep inside the bark, or also other stuff deep in your nose!



Pale Fork-marked Lemur



Red-fronted Brown Lemur



Madagascar Giant Day Gecko

Species List

(Country endemic taxa marked with *)

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*
African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus*
Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*
Madagascar Pochard *Aythya innotata* *
Blue-billed Teal *Spatula hottentota*
Meller's Duck *Anas melleri* *
Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha*
Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris mitratus*
Madagascar Partridge *Margaroperdix madagarensis* *
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis*
Madagascar Grebe *Tachybaptus pelzelni* *
Crested Coua *Coua cristata* *
Blue Coua *Coua caerulea* *
Olive-capped Coua *Coua olivaceiceps* *
Red-fronted Coua *Coua reynaudii* *
Coquerel's Coua *Coua coquereli* *
Giant Coua *Coua gigas* *
Red-breasted Coua *Coua serriana* *
Malagasy Coucal *Centropus toulou toulou* *
Madagascar Cuckoo *Cuculus rochii*
White-breasted Mesite *Mesitornis variegatus* *
Brown Mesite *Mesitornis unicolor* *
Madagascar Sandgrouse *Pterocles personatus* *
Malagasy Turtle Dove *Nesoenas picturatus picturatus* *
Rock Dove *Columba livia var_domestica*
Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis aliena* *
Madagascar Green Pigeon *Treron australis* *
Madagascar Blue Pigeon *Alectroenas madagascariensis* *
Madagascar Forest Rail *Mentocrex kioloides* *
Madagascar Flufftail *Sarothrura insularis* *
Slender-billed Flufftail *Sarothrura watersi* *
Madagascar Rail *Rallus madagascariensis* *

White-throated Rail *Dryolimnas cuvieri cuvieri*
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus pyrrhorrhoa*
Madagascar Jacana *Actophilornis albinucha* *
Madagascar Snipe *Gallinago macrodactyla* *
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Madagascar Buttonquail *Turnix nigricollis*
Madagascar Pratincole *Glareola ocularis*
Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii thalassinus*
Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus pictilis* *
Madagascar Ibis *Lophotibis cristata* *
Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta dimorpha*
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*
Little Heron *Butorides atricapilla rutenbergi*
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*
Malagasy Pond Heron *Ardeola idae*
Great Egret *Ardea alba melanorhynchos*
Western Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*
Humblot's Heron *Ardea humbloti* *
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea madagascariensis* *
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea firasa*
Collared Nightjar *Gactornis enarratus* *
Madagascar Nightjar *Caprimulgus madagascariensis* *
Madagascar Spinetail *Zoonavena grandidieri grandidieri* *
Malagasy Palm Swift *Cypsiurus gracilis gracilis* *
Little Swift *Apus affinis affinis*
Malagasy Black Swift *Apus balstoni balstoni* *
Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
Red Owl *Tyto soumagnei* *
White-browed Owl *Athene superciliaris* *
Madagascar Scops Owl *Otus rutilus* *
Madagascar Owl *Asio madagascariensis* *
Madagascar Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides radiatus* *
Frances's Sparrowhawk *Tachyspiza francesiae francesiae* *
Henst's Goshawk *Astur henstii* *

Malagasy Harrier *Circus macrosceles*
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Madagascar Buzzard *Buteo brachypterus* *
Cuckoo-roller *Leptosomus discolor discolor*
Madagascar Hoopoe *Upupa marginata* *
Scaly Ground Roller *Geobiastes squamiger* *
Short-legged Ground Roller *Brachypteracias leptosomus* *
Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus superciliosus*
Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher *Corythornis madagascariensis* *
Malagasy Kingfisher *Corythornis vintsioides vintsioides* *
Banded Kestrel *Falco zoniventris* *
Malagasy Kestrel *Falco newtoni newtoni* *
Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*
Greater Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis vasa*
Lesser Vasa Parrot *Coracopsis nigra* *
Grey-headed Lovebird *Agapornis canus* *
Common Sunbird-Asity *Neodrepanis coruscans* *
Madagascar Cuckooshrike *Ceblepyris cinereus* *
Tylas Vanga *Tylas eduardi* *
Red-tailed Vanga *Calicalicus madagascariensis* *
Common Newtonia *Newtonia brunneicauda* *
Dark Newtonia *Newtonia amphichroa* *
Nuthatch Vanga *Hypositta corallirostris* *
Chabert Vanga *Leptopterus chabert* *
Crossley's Vanga *Mystacornis crossleyi* (HO) *
Madagascar Blue Vanga *Cyanolanius madagascarinus* *
Hook-billed Vanga *Vanga curvirostris* *
Helmet Vanga *Euryceros prevostii* *
Rufous Vanga *Schetba rufa* *
Bernier's Vanga *Oriolia bernieri* *
Sickle-billed Vanga *Falcolea palliata* *
White-headed Vanga *Artamella viridis* *
Crested Drongo *Dicrurus forficatus forficatus* *
Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone mutata mutata* *
Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Madagascar Lark *Eremopterix hova* *
Common Jery *Neomixis tenella* *
Green Jery *Neomixis viridis* *
Stripe-throated Jery *Neomixis striatigula* *
Madagascar Cisticola *Cisticola cherina*
Malagasy Brush Warbler *Nesillas typica*
Madagascar Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus newtoni* *
Spectacled Tetraka *Xanthomixis zosterops* *
Rand's Warbler *Randia pseudozosterops* *
White-throated Oxylabes *Oxylabes madagascariensis* *
Long-billed Bernieria *Bernieria madagascariensis* *
Grey Emutail *Bradypterus seebohmi* *
Mascarene Martin *Phedina borbonica madagascariensis*
Madagascar Martin *Riparia cowani* *
Malagasy Bulbul *Hypsipetes madagascariensis*
Malagasy White-eye *Zosterops maderaspatanus* *
Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis tristis*
Madagascar Starling *Hartlaubius auratus* *
Madagascar Magpie-Robin *Copsychus albospecularis* *
Amber Mountain Rock Thrush *Monticola erythronotus* *
African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*
Souimanga Sunbird *Cinnyris sovimanga*
Malagasy Green Sunbird *Cinnyris notatus notatus* *
Nelicourvi Weaver *Ploceus nelicourvi* *
Sakalava Weaver *Ploceus sakalava* *
Red Fody *Foudia madagascariensis* *
Madagascar Mannikin *Lepidopygia nana* *
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus domesticus*
Madagascar Wagtail *Motacilla flaviventris* *

MAMMALS

Lowland Streaked Tenrec *Hemicentetes semispinosus* *
Fosa *Cryptoprocta ferox* *
Falanouc *Eupleres goudotii* *
Spotted Fanaloka *Fossa fossana* *
Ring-tailed Vontsira *Galidia elegans* *
Narrow-striped Boky *Mungotictis decemlineata* *
Brown-tailed Vontsira *Salanoia concolor* *
Aye-aye *Daubentonia madagascariensis* *
Greater Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus major* *
Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus medius* *
Ankarana Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus shethi* *
Madame Berthe's Mouse Lemur *Microcebus berthae* *
Margot Marsh's Mouse Lemur *Microcebus margotmarshae* *
Grey Mouse Lemur *Microcebus murinus* *
Tavaratra Mouse Lemur *Microcebus tavaratra* *
Masoala Mouse Lemur *Microcebus sp. nov.* *
Coquerel's Giant Mouse Lemur *Mirza coquereli* *
Pale Fork-marked Lemur *Phaner pallescens* *
"Daraina" Fork-marked Lemur *Phaner sp. nov.* *
Ankarana Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur ankaranensis* *
Daraina Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur milanoii* *
Red-tailed Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur ruficaudatus* *
Masoala Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur scottorum* *
White-fronted Brown Lemur *Eulemur albifrons* *
Crowned Lemur *Eulemur coronatus* *
Blue-eyed Black Lemur *Eulemur flavifrons* *
Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus* *
Red-fronted Brown Lemur *Eulemur rufifrons* *
Sanford's Brown Lemur *Eulemur sanfordi* *
Red Ruffed Lemur *Varecia rubra* *
Masoala Woolly Lemur *Avahi mooreorum* *
Perrier's Sifaka *Propithecus perrieri* *
Golden-crowned Sifaka *Propithecus tattersalli* *

Verreaux's Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi* *
Webb's Tufted-tail Rat *Eliurus webbi* *
Giant Jumping Rat *Hypogeomys antimena* *
Bastard Big-footed Mouse *Macrotarsomys bastardi* *
White-bellied Nesomys *Nesomys audeberti* *
African Wildcat *Felis lybica*

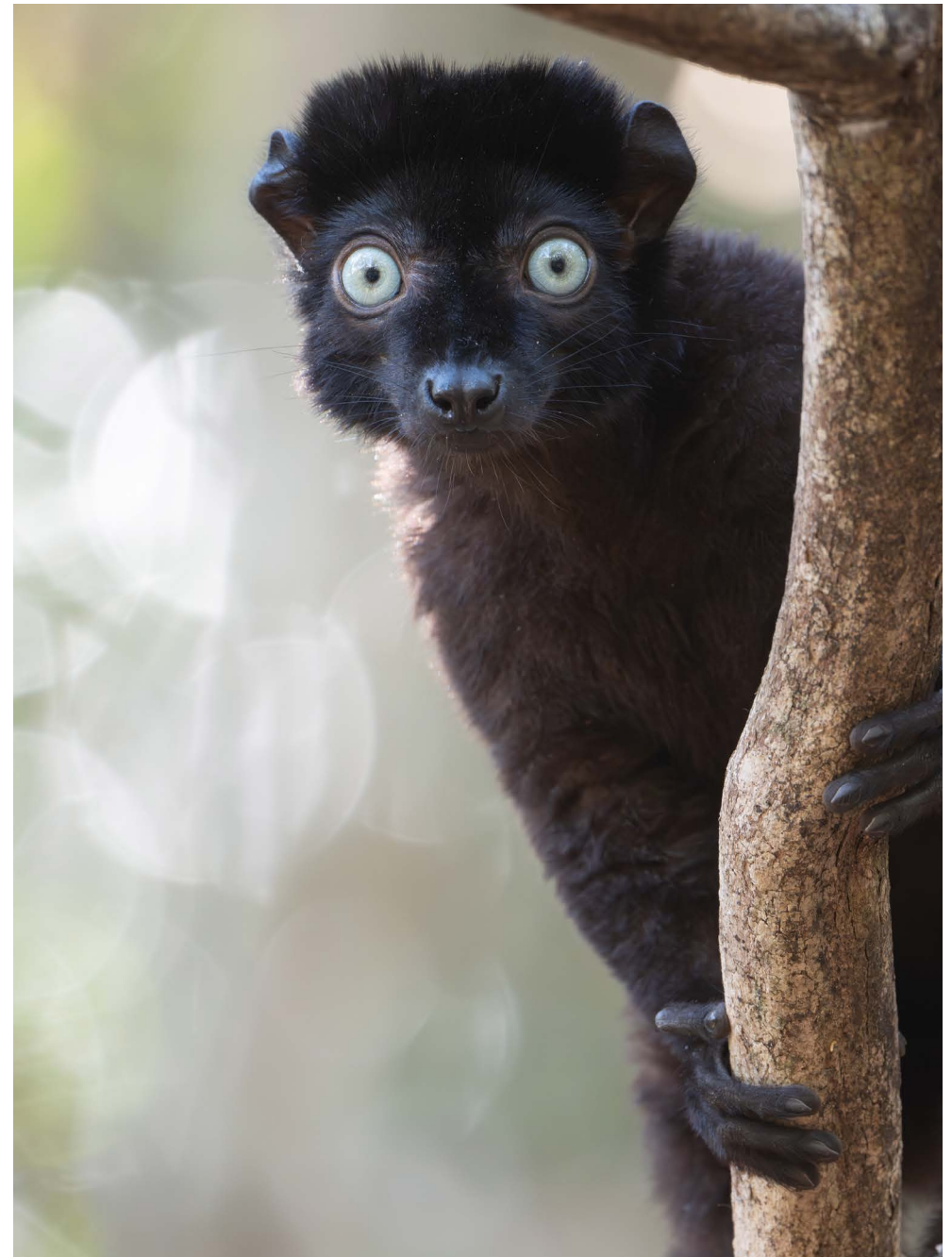
REPTILES

Peyrieras's Dwarf Leaf Chameleon *Brookesia peyrierasi* *
Mount d'Ambre Leaf Chameleon *Brookesia tuberculata* *
Amber Mountain Chameleon *Calumma amber* *
Mount Amber Globe-horned Chameleon *Calumma ambreense* *
Gehring's Chameleon *Calumma gehringi* *
Guillaumet's Side-striped Chameleon *Calumma guillaumeti* *
Yellow-green Chameleon *Calumma malthe* *
Peltier's Chameleon *Calumma peltierorum* *
Ambatond' Radama Nosed Chameleon *Calumma radamanus* *
Oustalet's Giant Chameleon *Furcifer oustaleti* *
Panther Chameleon *Furcifer pardalis* *
Petter's Chameleon *Furcifer petteri* *
Peters's Gecko *Geckolepis maculata* *
Panther Gecko *Paroedura picta* *
Kirindi Leaf-toed Gecko *Paroedura rennerae* *
Dabara Forest Leaf-toed Gecko *Paroedura vahiny* *
Aldabra Day Gecko *Phelsuma abbotti*
Madagascar Giant Day Gecko *Phelsuma grandis* *
Madagascar Day Gecko *Phelsuma madagascariensis* *
Thicktail Day Gecko *Phelsuma mutabilis* *
Tsaranana Day Gecko *Phelsuma punctulata* *
Spearpoint Leaf-tail Gecko *Uroplatus ebenai* *
Giant Leaf-tail Gecko *Uroplatus fimbriatus* *
Shiny-eyed Leaf-tail Gecko *Uroplatus garamaso* *
Mossy Leaf-tail Gecko *Uroplatus sikorae* *
Collared Iguana *Oplurus cuvieri* *

Four-striped Snake *Dromicodryas quadrilineatus* *
Light-banded Dwarf Snake *Heteroliodon occipitalis* *
Giant Hog-nosed Snake *Leioheterodon madagascariensis* *
Mount Ambre Water Snake *Liopholidophis dimorphus* *
Ampijoroa Tree Snake *Lycodryas pseudogranuliceps* *
Malagasy Cat-eyed Snake *Madagascarophis colubrinus* *
Nosy Komba Tree Boa *Sanzinia volontany* *

AMPHIBIANS

Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog *Boophis madagascariensis* *
Masoala Bright-eyed Frog *Boophis masoala* *
Tomato Frog *Dyscophus antongilii* *
Webb's Grainy Frog *Gephyromantis webbi* *
Tsingy de Bemahara Reed Frog *Heterixalus carbonei* *
Madagascar Reed Frog *Heterixalus madagascariensis* *
Betsileo Golden Frog *Mantella betsileo* *
Mascarene Grass Frog *Ptychadena mascareniensis*
Anamalozoatra Madagascar Frog *Spinomantis aglavei* *



Blue-eyed Black Lemur



Madagascar Grebe at very close range!



France's Sparrowhawk



Madagascar Harrier-Hawk



Lesser Vasa Parrot



Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher



Crested Drongo



Madagascar Spinetail



Long-billed Berniera



Female Amber Mountain Rock Thrush



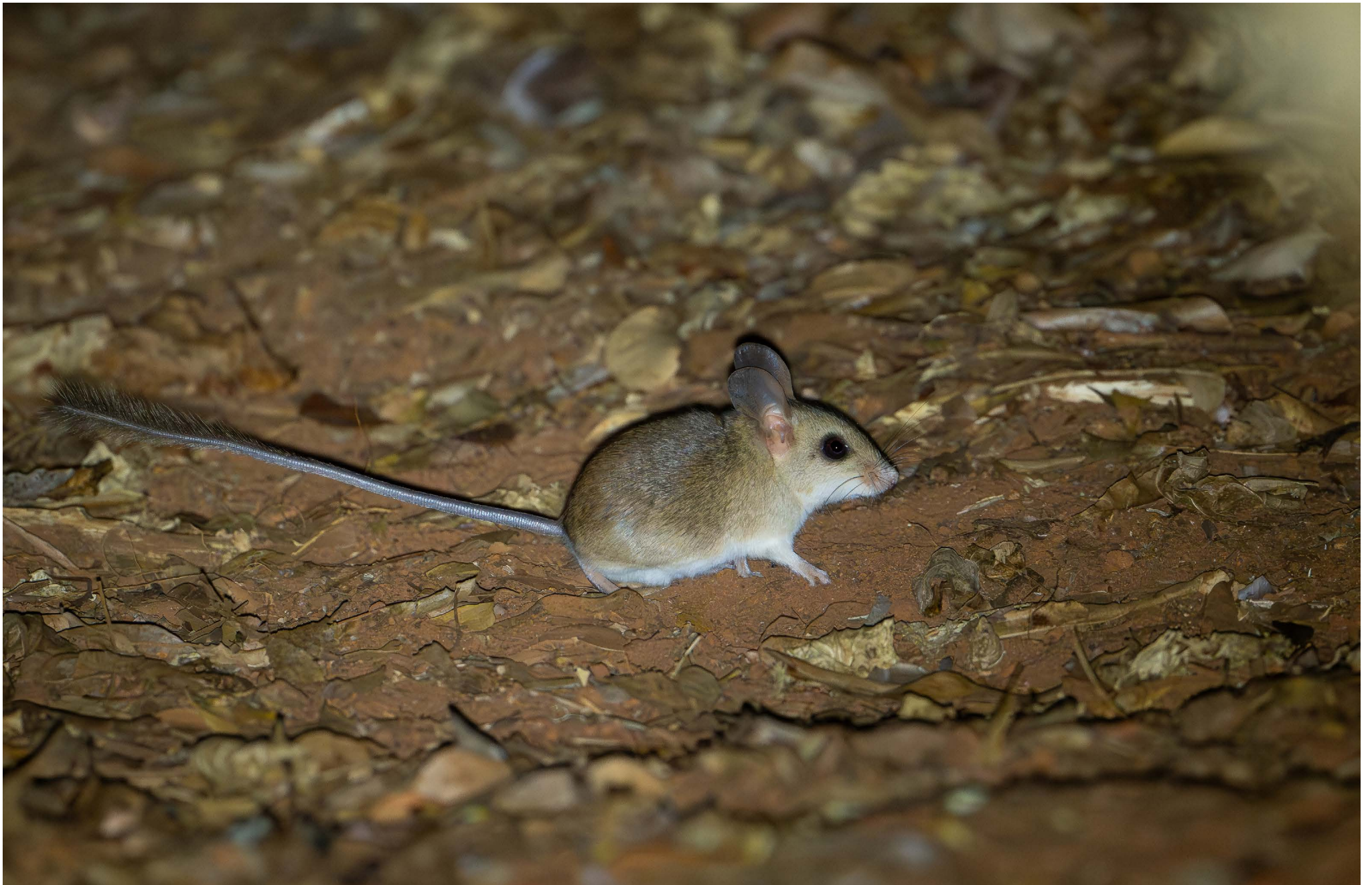
Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher



Lowland Streaked Tenrec again, what a wonderful creature!



Coquerel's Giant Mouse Lemur



Bastard Big-footed Mouse



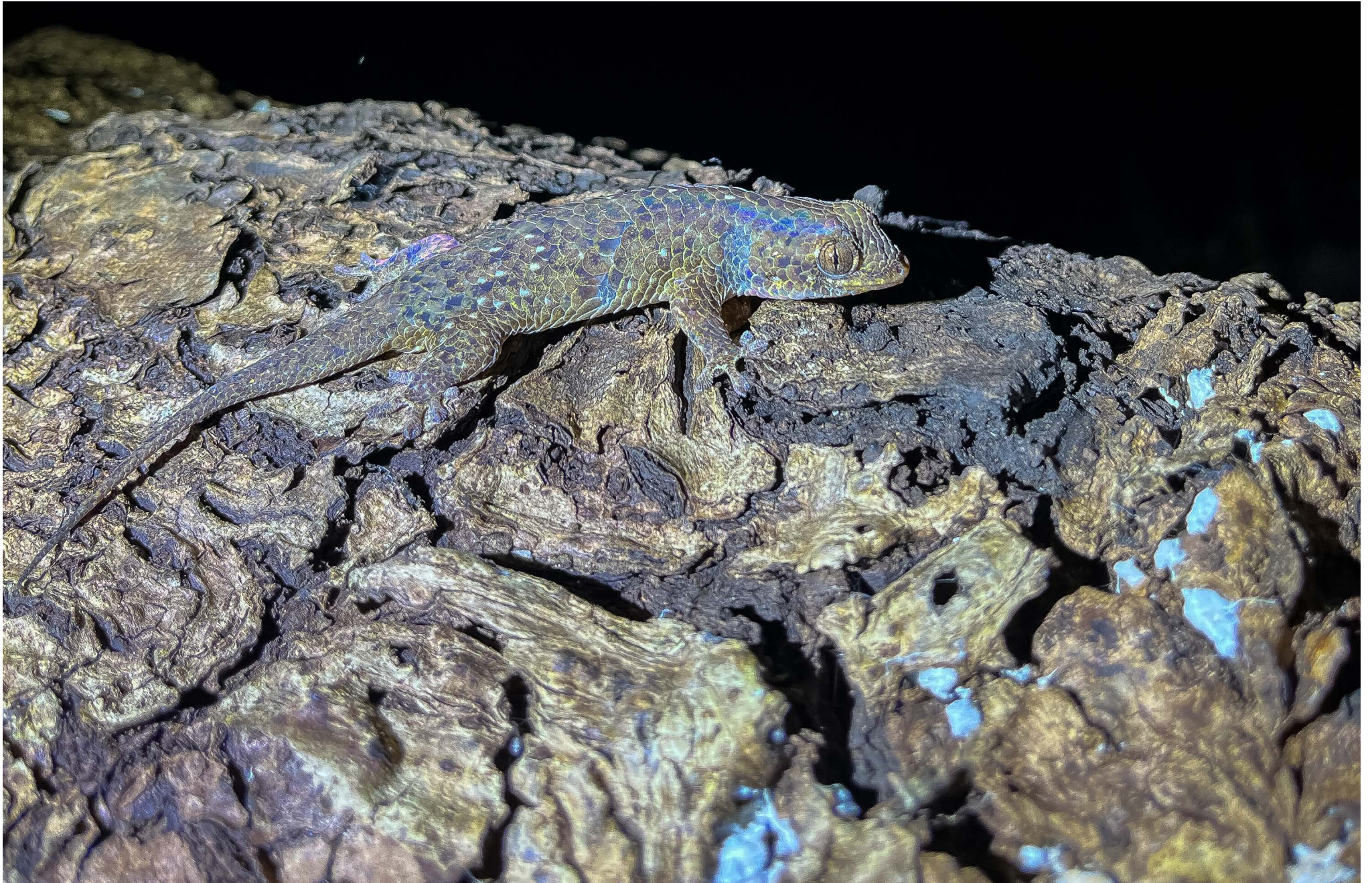
Ambatond' Radama Nosed Gecko



Mount Amber Globe-horned Chameleon



A superbly camouflaged Shiny-eyed Leaf-tail Gecko!



The very odd Spotted Fish-scaled Gecko



Madagascar Ground Gecko



Dabara Forest Leaf-toed Gecko



Abbott's Day Gecko



Mossy Leaf-tail Gecko



Masoala Bright-eyed Tree Frog



The magnificent Flufftail swamps in Northern Madagascar



Superb baobabs in dry forest



Banande flambée at camp!



One of our wonderful camps in the dry forest!



**Thanks to the whole group for your participation and enthusiasm !
See you next time !**

www.ornis-birding.com/tours/madagascar-special-aye-aye