

Madagascar

October 2nd-30th, 2022

Introduction and Logistics:

This was a general natural history trip with equal focus on birds, mammals, chameleons and all of the evolutionary oddities of Madagascar, and a very successful trip with approximately 40 species of mammals (depending on future taxonomic updates) and 100 new bird species seen.

All in-country logistics organized by the indefatigable and extremely well-organized Brilland Andriamirindra (or Bryan) at Madacartour, email: brillandmada@gmail.com or +261 34 10 294 94 on WhatsApp. Brilland has a few drivers now to help cover all of the tours requested of him, but he did all the driving for us during our month-long trip. He is in high demand and guides for several companies, but is really solid, and I would highly recommend him. All of his local guide/contacts were excellent, and we did not have a single logistical problem the entire month.

If you are interested in only going to the Masoala area for targets like Aye-aye, Red Ruffed Lemur and more, you could consider reaching out directly to Emile Rafaralahy at: emilesrafara@gmail.com or +261 32 42 185 72 or +261 34 23 557 74 on WhatsApp. Emile is an amazing spotter, he found several Brooks-type chameleons, many snakes, birds, leaf-tailed geckos, tenrecs and more species that were invisible to our untrained eyes.

Our itinerary was as follows:

- 1) Fly to Maroantsetra from Tana for a week in the north (flights from Tana are only once a week still unless a private charter is organized). Four full days at Masoala National Park, two full days at Farankaraina Reserve, return to Tana.
- 2) Drive to Andasibe area with time in Mantadia National Park, Analamazoatra Special Reserve, V.O.I. M.M.A Community Reserve, and Vohimana Experimental Reserve. Five full days in this area.
- 3) Flight to Toliara, with two full days in Ifaty Spiny Reserve and Reniala Reserve.
- 4) Drive from Toliara to Zombitse National Park (half day), Isalo National Park (full day), and the Anja Community Reserve (half day) on the way to Ranomafana National Park.
- 5) Three days at Ranomafana National Park, including visit to Kianjavato Field Station.
- 6) Drive to Kirindy Reserve, two full days at Kirindy, and then return to Tana for flight home.

Note: The Kianjavato Field Station's trail network was basically destroyed by the cyclone in early 2022. While the Sucker-footed Bat and Greater Bamboo Lemur were easy to observe here, the Black-and-white Lemur and aye-aye have shifted to extremely steep and challenging terrain. The hiking was very difficult here, and was the only place where conditions did not seem safe.

While Farankaraina Reserve has aye-aye, the lodge there is in a sad state of disrepair, with some holes in the flooring, bed frames that are broken, room doors and windows that do not lock (no

safe in rooms so your valuables at risk), disrepair on the plumbing and no electricity (despite having wiring to do so). Currently this is the only lodging option in this area.

All birding details can be found on [eBird here](#).

Mammal Species seen at each location:

- Red Ruffed Lemur – Seen numerous times at Masaola National Park
- Masaola Sportive Lemur – Seen on night walks at Masaola NP
- Lowland Streaked Tenrec – 10+ seen around village near Masaola NP
- Peter's Sheath-tailed Bat – Seen in the rooms at the lodge for Masaola NP
- Masaola Mouse Lemur sp. – Several seen on night walks in Masaola NP. It is unclear if these are Rufous Mouse Lemurs or an undescribed species. They did not look similar to the Rufous Mouse Lemur seen in Ranomafana.
- Greater Dwarf Lemur - Several seen on night walks in Masaola NP, as well as VOI MMA Reserve in Andasibe, and Ranomafana.
- White-fronted Brown Lemur – Seen at Masaola NP and Nosy Mangabe Island
- Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur – Seen at Nosy Mangabe Island, Mantadia NP and to Kianjavato Field Station
- Madagascar Flying Fox – Seen from boat on small island south of Nosy Mangabe Island
- Aye-aye – One individual seen well at Farankaraina Reserve
- Indri – Seen well at VOI MMA reserve, Mantadia NP, and Analamazoatra
- Black-fronted Brown Lemur - Seen well at VOI MMA reserve and near lodging at Andasibe
- Red-bellied Lemur – Seen at Mantadia NP
- Eastern Wolly Lemur - Seen well at VOI MMA reserve
- Goodman's Mouse Lemur – Two seen at night along road in Andasibe area
- Diademed Sifaka - Seen well at Analamazoatra
- Gray Bamboo Lemur – Seen well at Analamazoatra
- Ring-tailed Vontsira – Seen very well for a few seconds as it ran right past us at Vohimana Experimental Reserve
- Malagasy Mouse-eared Bat - Seen at Vohimana Experimental Reserve
- Tanala Tufted-tail Rat – Seen on night walk at VOI MMA reserve
- Gray-brown Mouse Lemur – Seen at Ifaty Spiny Forest entrance area
- Hubbard's (?) or Petter's (?) Sportive Lemur - Seen at Ifaty Spiny Forest – This species does not seem to have its taxonomy resolved. Looks more similar to Petter's in the Garbutt Guidebook. But range-maps and information are not clear as to what species is here. They are common and easy to see at dusk.
- Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec – Two seen at Ifaty Spiny Forest
- Ring-tailed Lemur – Seen at Reniala Reserve, Isalo NP, and Anja Community Reserve (abundant and tame).
- Verreaux's Sifaka – Seen at Zombitse NP, Isalo NP and Kirindy Forest
- Manavi Long-fingerd Bat – Seen at cave near Ranomafana (across road from waterfall overlook)
- Golden Bamboo Lemur - Seen very well at Ranomafana

- Greater Bamboo Lemur – One seen at Ranomafana National Park, more at Kianjavato Field Station
- White-rumped Sifaka – Seen well at Ranomafana
- Red-fronted Brown Lemur – Seen well at Ranomafana
- Rufous Nesomys (Red Forest Rat) – Seen well at Ranomafana
- Rufous Mouse Lemur – Seen well at Ranomafana
- Sucker-footed Bat – Seen very well at Kianjavato Field Station
- Fossa – Two individuals seen very well at Kirindy Camp
- Gray Mouse Lemur – Seen well at Kirindy Forest
- Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur – Seen well at Kirindy Forest
- Pale Fork-marked Lemur – Seen well at Kirindy Forest
- Red-tailed Sportive Lemur – Seen well at Kirindy Forest
- Western Tufted-tail Rat – Seen well at Kirindy Forest
- Narrow-striped Mongoose – Seen well at Kirindy Forest

Ifaty Spiny Forest Sportive Lemur – Thoughts on identification welcome...

