ROYLE SAFARIS

Our first trip to Madagascar in November 2018 was a scouting trip for future tours we will run here – we have since sold two Madagascan Mammal Watching Itineraries and have many options for anyone interested.
This tour was focused around a handful of key species (1) Fossa (2) Madame Berthe's Mouse Lemur (3) Ring Tailed Lemur (4) Indri (5) Aye-aye. We got all of these species – albeit the aye-aye in the 'semi-wild' setting of the aye-aye island near Palmarium. However knowing the history of this island now I would say that constitute as wild a sighting as many in the world today (with micro and macro management of national parks, mountain gorillas having their own teams of vets, reintroductions, semi-captive breeding projects, fenced parks etc). I was told by the park rangers there that years ago a pair of aye-aye were found living in the forest there (being regarded quite negatively by the local people in Madagascar – as daemons and evil spirits etc) the local reserve management decided to cut off the part of the forest they lived at (to form an island), the island is separated from the rest of the mainland by a small body of water around 6ft wide and 4ft deep. Deep enough to deter aye-ayes and also assure the locals that they were not going to invade their villages, huts and do whatever it is that evil spirits may do. Over the years another 4 aye-ayes have been taken from the surrounding forests and put on the island reserve for protection. Over the years the aye-ayes have been fed (for monitoring and now for tourism), however they are fed 6-7 coconuts per night (when there are tourists) this is between a population of 7 aye-ayes now (one was born here successfully) and so that amount of food is not enough for them to become dependant on hand outs and the aye-ayes live 95% of their lives in the complete absence of humans. Only for around 30 mins when there are paying tourists do they come to the coconuts placed out for them. For me that is still pretty wild and as I mention today the line is blurred with what constitutes fully wild animals nowadays.
Below is our sighting log of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fishes. We arrived at the end of the dry season and so some of the hibernating lemurs were not awake in big numbers, the tenrecs were not as abundant as they are during the wet season and we started to get some very heavy rainfall. This was not a problem except for one night in Ranomafana when the rain storm was so bad that our plans to try for the falanoka was cancelled as we couldn't see 3ft in front of us and no animals were wandering around in that rain.
Other than the fanaloka there was not a species we expected to see and failed and we got plenty of surprise species. For anyone interested in what options we have or what tailored tours we can organise please contact me direct at info@royle-safaris.co.uk the only last note I want to state is that our time in Tsingy de Bemehara National Park was incredible however not for everyone. To fully explore that park and see the wealth of bats that we saw you will be required to do some quite intense rock climbing and caving. None of which required special skills or experience, but a very good level of fitness and harnesses (you are connected to cables in the caves and rock faces a lot) is required as you will be out and climbing and squeezing into caves for several hours of the 6-7 hour long trek. I myself found it the most physically demanding single day I have ever had looking for wildlife (and I am not a stranger to long, hard and arduous hikes). It was incredible and we were rewarded with many species including some very nice endemics (endemic to that particular tsingy formation) but I did have to really squeeze, I am 6ft 3inches (1.88cm) and 210lbs (95kg) and got stuck a couple of times where careful manoeuvring and repositioning got me through.
As you can see from the below species list that we had a very successful tour and we obtained pictures of many of these mammal species, I am not a photographer and taking pictures and videos is usually a secondary consideration for me, so I will post pictures and videos on my Facebook page (www.facebook.com/roylesafaris7/) in the coming days.

The below itinerary followed this route:

Day 1 – Antananarivo / **Days 2-3** – Kirindy Reserve / **Days 4-6** – Tsingy de Bemahara National Park / **Day 7** – Morondava / **Day 8** – Antisirabe / **Days 9-11** – Ranomafana National Park / **Day 12** – Anja Reserve / **Day 13** – Antananarivo / **Days 14-16** – Andasibe & Mantadia National Parks / **Days 17-19** - Palmarium **/ Day 20** - Antananarivo

Species List Madagascar Wildlife Adventure Nov 2018

Mammals (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name	November																			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Eastern avahi	*Avahi laniger*																3				
2	Grandidier's free-tailed bat	*Chaerephon leucogaster*			1																	
3	Furry-eared dwarf lemur	*Cheirogaleus crossleyi*											1			1	1	1				
4	Greater dwarf lemur	*Cheirogaleus major*									1	1	2			4	1	5	1			
5	Fat-tailed dwarf lemur	*Cheirogaleus medius*			1															1		
6	Fossa	*Cryptoprocta ferox*		3	1		*															
7	Aye-aye	*Daubentonia madagascariensis*																		3		
8	Madagascan straw-coloured fruit bat	*Eidolon dupreanum*			2																	
9	Tsingy tufted-tailed rat	*Eliurus antsingy*					1															
10	Western tuft-tailed rat	*Eliurus myoxinus*			4																	
11	Common brown lemur	*Eulemur fulvus*														7						
12	Red-bellied lemur	*Eulemur rubriventer*										5										
13	Red-fronted brown lemur	*Eulemur rufifrons*			~30		~20	1				1	7									
14	Ring-tailed vontsira	*Galidia elegans*					2						1									
15	Golden bamboo lemur	*Hapalemur aureus*										4										
16	Eastern lesser bamboo lemur	*Hapalemur griseus*														3			1		1	
17	Commerson's leaf-nosed bat	*Hipposideros commersoni*		1	6	1	6	1														
18	Malagasy giant rat	*Hypogeomys antimena*			2																	
19	Indri	*Indri indri*														4	3					*
20	Ring-tailed lemur	*Lemur catta*												~30								
21	Small-toothed sportive lemur	*Lepilemur microdon*									1											
22	Randrianasolo's sportive lemur	*Lepilemur randrianasoloi*					1															
23	Red-tailed sportive lemur	*Lepilemur ruficaudatus*		3	2																	
24	Madame Berthe's mouse lemur	*Microcebus berthae*			1																	
25	Goodman's mouse lemur	*Microcebus lehilahytsara*														4	1	3				
26	Grey mouse lemur	*Microcebus murinus*		4	12																	
27	Western rufous mouse lemur	*Microcebus myoxinus*			1		1															
28	Brown mouse lemur	*Microcebus rufus*									1	4	3									
29	Naked-nosed shrew tenrec	*Microgale gymnorhyncha*										1										

30	Major's long-fingered bat	*Miniopterus majori*									1									
31	Manavi Long-fingered Bat	*Miniopterus manavi*					~50													
32	Narrow-striped boky	*Mungotictis decemlineata*		1	2															
33	Eastern red forest rat	*Nesomys audeberti*									1									
34	Western red forest rat	*Nesomys lambertoni*					1													
35	Lowland red forest rat	*Nesomys rufus*									3									
36	Madagascar free-tailed bat	*Otomops madagascariensis*					4													
37	Western sheath-tailed bat	*Paremballonura tiavato*						~20												
38	Pale fork-marked lemur	*Phaner pallescens*		2	1															
39	Bushpig	*Potamochoerus larvatus*			1		*													
40	Greater bamboo lemur	*Prolemur simus*								5										
41	Decken's sifaka	*Propithecus deckenii*					10													
42	Diademed sifaka	*Propithecus diadema*													8					
43	Milne-Edward's sifaka	*Propithecus edwardsi*								3										
44	Verraux's sifaka	*Propithecus verreauxi*			5															
45	Madagascar flying fox	*Pteropus rufus*						*								4				
46	Brown rat	*Rattus norvegicus*			1															
47	Madagascan rousette	*Rousettus madagascariensis*		1			2									1				
48	Robust yellow bat	*Scotophilus robustus*						2												
49	Western yellow bat	*Scotophilus tandrefana*					7													
50	Greater hedgehog tenrec	*Setifer setosus*										2						1		
51	Mauritian tomb bat	*Taphozous mauritianus*			1															
52	Common tenrec	*Tenrec ecaudatus*															2			
53	Black-and-white ruffed lemur	*Varecia variegata*								1					1					

Note: *Most of the bats identified 100% at roosts or with good views. Others identified with spectrograms in combination with sightings (no spectrograms without visual confirmation are recorded as a sighting), behaviour and habitat – so not 100% but best educated guesses. For more information please email me.*

Birds (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name	November																			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Madagascan sparrowhawk	*Accipiter madagascariensis*			1																	
2	Common mynah	*Acridotheres tristis*			10	4	12			1	4	6	~23	19	14	2			4	1		12
3	Common sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*						3														
4	Grey-headed lovebird	*Agapornis canus*						4														
5	Red-billed teal	*Anas erythrorhyncha*							1													

6	African black swift	*Apus barbatus*			2	~50				~10											
7	Great egret	*Ardea alba*	3	4		2			2	3	~13				3						
8	Madagascar heron	*Ardea humbloti*							1												
9	Purple heron	*Ardea purpurea*																2			
10	Madagascar pond heron	*Ardeola idea*								1											
11	White-headed vanga	*Artamella viridis*		2																	
12	Pitta-like ground roller	*Atelornis pittoides*											2						1		
13	White-browed owl	*Athene superciliaris*			1																
14	Cattle egret	*Bubulcus ibis*		5		~55		4	~34	25	89			16	~103	4					6
15	Madagascar buzzard	*Buteo brachypterus*					1														
16	Red-tailed vanga	*Calicalicus madagascariensis*			1																
17	Madagascan nightjar	*Caprimulgus madagascariensis*		1																	
18	Madagascan coucal	*Centropus toulou*					2		2				2					3	1		
19	Grey-headed gull	*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*							2												
20	Souimanga sunbird	*Cinnyris sovimanga*										2		1					1		
21	Feral pigeon	*Columba livia*		~10		4			2	11	1			1	9	1			8		
22	Madagascan magpie robin	*Copsychus albospecularis*			2		4	1				2	2					3			
23	Madagascan cuckooshrike	*Coracina cinerea*		1								2						2			
24	Lesser vasa parrot	*Coracopsis nigra*					2	1								1					
25	Greater vasa parrot	*Coracopsis vasa*		3	13		8	14					1				1				
26	Pied crow	*Corvus albus*		12	2	11	3	5	~26	19	6			~25							
27	Madagascan pygmy kingfisher	*Corythornis madagascariensis*										1				2		2			2
28	Blue coua	*Coua caerulea*														*					
29	Coquerel's coua	*Coua coquereli*		*	1																
30	Crested coua	*Coua cristata*			2		1														
31	Giant coua	*Coua gigas*		1	1		2	*													
32	Red-fronted coua	*Coua reynaudii*																1			
33	Lesser cuckoo	*Cuculus poliocephalus*											1				1				
34	Madagascan cuckoo	*Cuculus rochii*			1							*	*								
35	Blue vanga	*Cyanolanius madagascarinus*					1					1									
36	African palm swift	*Cypsiurus parvus*										5	21					~20			
37	Fulvous-whistling duck	*Dendrocygna bicolor*							7												
38	White-faced whistling duck	*Dendrocygna viduata*							6												
39	Crested drongo	*Dicrurus forficatus*		1	10	2	3	4	3			3	3			1	4	3		1		2
40	Black heron	*Egretta ardesiaca*						3						2							
41	Little egret	*Egretta garzetta*		4		~10		~22	~20	5	11			4	17	21			1		17
42	Broadbill roller	*Eurystomus glaucurus*			1		1	*													
43	Madagascar kestrel	*Falco newtoni*		1			1	1	1	1			1						1		
44	Banded kestrel	*Falco zoniventris*		1																	

45	Madagascar fody	*Foudia madagascariensis*							1	~10											
46	Collared nightjar	*Gactornis enarratus*																		1	
47	Madagascan pranticole	*Glareola ocularis*				2		4													
48	Black-winged stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*				~40		7													
49	Madagascan bulbul	*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*			3		6	9				1	14				4	5			
50	Chabert vanga	*Leptopterus chabert*					1	1					8								
51	Cuckoo-roller	*Leptosomus discolor*			*		1	*													
52	Madagascar munia	*Lonchura nana*										3	3		2	1	3		~10		
53	Olive bee-eater	*Merops superciliosus*								2									1	2	
54	White-breasted mesite	*Mesitornis variegatus*		3																	
55	Black kite	*Milvis migrans*				9		4	23	21	1										1
56	Forest rock thrush	*Monticola sharpei*					1														
57	Madagascan wagtail	*Motacilla flaviventris*									1	4		3	1	1		3			
58	Common sunbird-asity	*Neodrepanis coruscans*			3								1								
59	Stripe-throated jery	*Neomixis striatigula*										2									
60	Common jery	*Neomixis tenella*			2		1														
61	Malagasay brush warbler	*Nesillas typica*					1														
62	Madagascar turtle dove	*Nesoenas picturata*		6	10	3	3		3								1	2			
63	Helmeted guineafowl	*Numida meleagris*				~30															
64	Namaqua dove	*Oena capensis*		9	1	11			4	7											
65	Sooty tern	*Onychoprion fuscatus*																	2		
66	Madagascan scops owl	*Otus rutilus*			2													*			
67	House sparrow	*Passer domesticus*		2							3										
68	Mascarene martin	*Phedina borbonica*	~10	~5			4	8		~10		3	~5		3	~20	~45	~40	~30		
69	Nelicourvi weaver	*Ploceus nelicourvi*															~14	2			
70	Madagascan harrier hawk	*Polyboroides radiatus*			2																
71	Knob-billed duck	*Sarkidiornis melanotos*						~25													
72	African stonechat	*Saxicola torquatus*						1		1		2			1	1		1			1
73	Rufous vanga	*Schetba rufa*		2																	
74	Hammerkop	*Scopus umbretta*													1	1					1
75	Madagascan paradise flycatcher	*Terpsiphone mutata*			3		12						2				1	1			
76	Madagascan green pigeon	*Treron australis*				~20	~20						1								
77	Madagascan buttonquail	*Turnix nigricollis*			7																
78	Tylas vanga	*Tylas eduardi*										2									
79	Madagascan hoopoe	*Upupa marginata*		1			1							1							
80	Hook-billed vanga	*Vanga curvirostris*			1			1													
81	Grey-crowned tetraka	*Xanthomixis cinereiceps*			3		3					1	1				5				
82	Spectacled tetraka	*Xanthomixis zosterops*															2				
83	Madagascar spinetail	*Zoonavena grandidieri*								3			1								

84	Madagascar white-eye	*Zosterops maderaspatanus*					~15					~15									

Reptiles (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name	November																			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Madagascar ground boa	*Acrantophis madagascariensis*																		1		
2	Brown leaf chameleon	*Brookesia superciliaris*															1					
3	Short-horned chameleon	*Calumma brevicorne*														1	1	1				
4	Blue-legged chameleon	*Calumma crypticum*										3	1									
5	Perinet chameleon	*Calumma gastrotaenia*																1				
6	Globe-horned chameleon	*Calumma globifer*											2									
7	Nose-horned chameleon	*Calumma nasutum*									1	~10					1					
8	O'Shaughnessy's chameleon	*Calumma oshaughnessyi*									3											
9	Parson's chameleon	*Calumma parsonii*											5			2	1	1				
10	Nile crocodile	*Crocodylus niloticus*						1	1													
11		*Dromicodryas bernieri*											2									
12	Malagasy giant chameleon	*Furcifer oustaleti*		2			12							3								
13	Common four-toed gecko	*Gehyra mutilata*					1	1														
14	Tropical house gecko	*Hemidactylus mabouia*					2		1													
15		*Liopidium apperti*											1									
16	Grandidier's dwarf gecko	*Lygodactylus tolampyae*						1														
17	Madagascar night snake	*Madagasarophis meridionalis*		1																		
18	Common Madagascar skink	*Madascincus melanopleura*															1			1		
19	Madagascar Collared oplurus	*Oplurus cuvieri*					2	3												2		
20	Merrem's Madagascar oplurus	*Oplurus cyclurus*					1	1														
21	Madagascar spotted spiny-tailed iguana	*Oplurus quadrimaculatus*												1								
22	Mocquard's Madagascar ground gecko	*Paroedura bastardi*			1																	
23	Madagascan lined day gcecko	*Phelsuma lineata*											1				1		1		1	
24	Madagascar day gecko	*Phelsuma madagascariensis*					3	1														
25	Madagascar tree boa	*Sanzinia madagascariensis*					1															
26	Green burrowing frog	*Scaphiophryne marmorata*															1					
27	Gravenhorst's Mabuya	*Trachylepis gravenhorstii*			1																	
28	Side-stiped chameleon	*Trioceros bitaeniatus*									1											
29	Mossy leaf-tailed gecko	*Uroplatus sikorae*															1					

30	Bronze girdled lizard	*Zonosaurus aeneus*													1			1			
31	Karsten's girdled lizard	*Zonosaurus karsteni*			3		1	4													
32	Western girdled lizard	*Zonosaurus laticaudatus*											2								

Amphibians (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name	November																			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Madagascan jumping frog	*Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis*			1												1	1				
2	Brook's treefrog	*Boophis laurenti*											1									
3	White-bellied reed frog	*Heterixalus alboguttatus*											1									
4		*Heterixalus punctatus*											1									
5	Variable reed frog	*Heterixalus variabilis*											1									
6		*Mantidactylus guttulatus*															1					
7	Green burrowing frog	*Scaphiophryne marmorata*															1					

Fishes (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name	November																			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Mozambique tilapia	*Oreochromis mossambicus*																8				
2	Crescent grunter	*Terapon jarbua*														100's						