

Madagascar Harrier-hawk – *Polyboroides radiatus*

These birds of prey are 57–68 cm tall with a wingspan of 116–132 cm. They are brownish wash to mainly grey upperparts. Breeding is as early as Jul–Aug but most data suggest laying in Oct, seen adding sticks to nests in September. They feed on Insects (e.g. locusts, Orthoptera) and their larvae or small vertebrates. They inhabit forests and woodlands throughout Madagascar up to 2000 m, widespread below 1300 m.

Interesting fact...

Utters long shrill "pee-ee-ee-ee" or "weeee-eer" lasting 1–2 seconds...



Dead leaf mantis – *Deroplatys desiccata*



These insects have dark and light spots to mimic a dead leaf. On their back they have a huge shield (prothorax), making it look even more like a dead leaf. Females are about 9 cm long, the males are a bit smaller with their 7 or 8 cm. The ideal temperature is about 26 ° C, and this species likes a slightly higher humidity.

Interesting fact...

They can be easily ‘scared’, making them run away frantically or display a death feigning behaviour. The mantis will lie motionless on the floor, legs folded or stretched out. This is a deimatic display.

Madagascar Wagtail – *Motacilla flaviventris*

The bird is 19 cm with a narrow black breastband. Males have grey crown and nape, prominent narrow white supercilium, dark grey eyestripe and moustachial stripe. They live in open areas near water, whether fresh, brackish or salt; typically, by lakes and rivers, and in marshes. Diet is mainly small invertebrates, notably insects and spiders (Araneae).



Interesting fact...

Song, from ground or perch or in flight, a trisyllabic, slightly trilled melodious “tree treeoo”

Giraffe weevil – *Trachelophorus giraffa*



Female giraffe weevils use their smaller neck to roll a leaf tube nest into which a single egg is laid. They are one of the longest weevil species, male giraffe-necked weevils, as they're also known, grow to around 2.5cm in length. They are very distinct with their long neck and large size with bright red wing covers.

Interesting fact...

Their enormously long neck, which is 2-3 times longer in the males can be used to fight for the right to mate with a female.

Brown lemur – *Eulemur fulvus fulvus*

Common brown lemurs live in scattered forest fragments in the high plateaus of western Madagascar. They weigh around 2.6 kg with a body length of 50 cm, as is their tail length. Both males and females are brown to dark-grey with light beards and dark faces. This species is sexually dichromatic - its males and females have different fur patterns. Brown lemurs, like all true lemurs, have binocular vision and long furry tails.

Interesting fact...

They have a scent gland located at their wrist that is used in olfactory communication. This means they communicate their emotional states through changes in body odour.



(Bharti 2000)

Indri – *Indri indri*



(Gron 2010)

Indris weigh on average 6.8 kg. The species also possesses a toothcomb which it uses for grooming and feeding comprised of four teeth. Indris are among the most arboreal of the Malagasy lemurs and consume predominantly leaves (mostly young) but also fruits, seeds, and flowers. Indris are strictly diurnal with the daily activity period usually lasting between only 5-11 hours.

Interesting fact...

Indris are extremely hard to maintain in captivity and currently there are none in zoos worldwide. They have never successfully bred or survived in captivity.

Bamboo lemur – *Hapalemur griseus*

Bamboo lemurs are mostly grey. They are approximately the same size as smallish housecats and their tail is usually longer than the body. The head is lighter in colour than the rest of the body. The feeding ecology of bamboo lemurs is not completely known. As is implied by their name however, most of the genus specializes in the consumption of bamboo. Often difficult to observe as more shy than other lemurs.

Interesting fact...

Bamboo lemurs can consume far more bamboo than should be lethal to animals of their size due to its cyanide content, although the way they manage to avoid poisoning remains unclear.

(Gron 2010)



Red fronted coua – *Coua reynaudii*

(Payne 2017)



These birds are 38–40 cm with males weighing an average of 128 g and females 163 g. They are olive-green above, with a crown rufous, dark almost black face and long green tails with blue gloss and a dark tip. They live in dense vegetation in undisturbed rain forest and thick second growth. They feed on insects and also fruits and seeds. They moves slowly by walking on forest floor. Breeding season is between August and January.

Interesting fact...

These birds sometimes feed on lizards.

Madagascar tree boa – *Sanzinia madagascariensis*

Whilst known as a ‘tree boa’, this snake is less arboreal than other tree boas, using trees only when hunting. It is a nocturnal snake, feeding on small mammals and birds. Boas are not venomous but kill their prey through constriction by their powerful coils, which tighten as the prey struggles, restricting the blood flow to the heart.

Boas all give birth to live young – of around 12 offspring at a time.

Interesting fact...

Boas seek prey using the heat-sensitive pits around its mouth that enable it to hunt for warm-blooded prey in complete darkness



White-headed lemur (F) – *Eulemur albifrons*

The white-headed lemur is a medium-sized lemur and has a horizontal posture, which is suited to its way of movement. It has a long furry tail assisting it in maintaining its balance as it lands from leaping at a considerable distance. The cheeks and beards are white, bushy and pronounced in males, reddish-brown and less bushy in females. The white-headed lemur is arboreal and spends most of its time in the upper layers of the forest. It is only found in north-eastern Madagascar. Their diet varies and consists of fruits, seeds, bark, soil and insects. (Garbutt, 1999)

Interesting fact....

White-headed lemurs are known to live up to 30 years old. (Garbutt, 1999)

Eulemur albifrons is classified as endangered on the IUCN Red List in 2014.



Nosy Be Mouse lemur– *Microcebus mamiratra*



Nosy Be mouse lemur, is a newly described species of lemur from the genus of the mouse lemurs (*Microcebus*). It lives on the island Nosy Bé in the Antsiranana province of Madagascar, and on the mainland near the village of Manehoka, including Lokobe Reserve. This lemur can weigh up to 60 and has a total length of 26 to 28cm, including 15 to 17 cm of tail. They have a diverse diet including insect secretions, small insects and invertebrates as well as fruit and flowers.

This lemur is listed as critically endangered on the ICUN Red List 2014.

Interesting fact...

The species status of the Nosy Be mouse lemur has been recently challenged by a broad study of nuclear DNA and gene trees in. Results showed that although the mitochondrial DNA differed from that of the Sambirano mouse lemur, its nuclear DNA did not. The mitochondrial DNA, which is inherited from the mother, is likely to remain similar within a small area while nuclear DNA within a species is likely to be similar over a much larger area. For this reason, it was suggested that Claire's mouse lemur no longer be recognized as a distinct species. (Weisrock et al., 2010)

Yellow-streaked tenrec – *Hemicentetes semispinosus*

The lowland streaked tenrec is a medium-sized, slender tenrec, which closely resembles juvenile common tenrecs (*Tenrecs ecaudatus*). It is blackish-brown with yellowish stripes running the length of the body and a yellowish band running from the crown to the tip of the snout. It has detachable, barbed spines which are most numerous on the crown. The underside is chestnut-brown with soft hairs. When fully grown they measure 16-19cm and weigh 90-220g. Unusually for tenrecs, the lowland streaked tenrec is active both at night and during the day, and is the only species to form groups. It remains with its family, numbering up to 20 individuals in each burrow. They may forage together amongst the leaf litter for earthworms and other soft-bodied invertebrates using their long snouts to delve into small spaces. (Garbutt, 1999)

Interesting fact....

Mothers and young communicate by vibrating specialized quills on their mid-dorsal region creating a low-pitched noise. If threatened, this species will raise the spines around the neck and buck the head violently to attempt to lodge the barbed spines into the attacker. (Garbutt, 2005)



Red ruffed lemur – *Varecia rubra*



This lemur is endemic to Madagascar and found only in the rainforests of Masoala, in the northeast of the island. It is one of the largest primates of Madagascar with a body length of 53 cm, a tail length of 60 cm and a weight of 3.3–3.6 kg. Its soft, thick fur is red and black in colour and sports a buff or cream coloured spot at the nape. This primate typically lives in small, matriarchal groups of 2–16 individuals, but group sizes of up to 32 have been recorded. Its diet consists primarily of fruit, nectar, and pollen. Leaves and seeds may be eaten when fruit becomes scarce.

This lemur is listed as listed as critically endangered on the ICUN Red List 2014.

Interesting fact....

Ruffed lemurs are also the only primates with litters of young, the female may give birth to up to six, although two or three is more typical.

Helmet Vanga – *Euryceros prevostii*

Vangas are a family of birds restricted to Madagascar. The most striking feature of the helmet vanga is its large, deep and pale blue bill. This bird is largely black in colour, but the back, rump and central tail feathers are chestnut. Little is known of the life-history of this shy vanga¹. They frequently join mixed-species flocks with other large vangas and feed on a range of invertebrates including large insects, snails, spiders and crabs as well as lizards. Prey items are taken from branches and tree trunks and from the ground.

The Helmet vanga grows between 28-31cm. The Madagascan low-altitude forest favoured by this species is highly threatened by clearance for agricultural demands and timber extraction. The helmet vanga has a small range; its population is highly fragmented and suffering rapid decline.(BirdLife international, 2014)

This species is listed as listed as vulnerable on the ICUN Red List 2014.

Interesting fact...

Juvenile Helmet Vangas are brown with light brown beaks it is only when they are mature do their beaks turn blue.²(BirdLife international, 2014)



Leaf-tailed gecko – *Uroplatus fimbriatus*

Uroplatus fimbriatus (giant leaf-tailed gecko) is an endemic to Madagascar. It is found in eastern Madagascar and on the island Nosy Bohara and Nosy Mangabe. These geckos live in tropical rain forests. They reach a total length of 330 mm. This is a large nocturnal gecko that hunts for large insects. It has excellent camouflage which it uses as a defence against predators and if disturbed it can even 'scream'. (Glaw and Vences, 2007)

Although this gecko is listed as least concern on the IUCN Red List 2011.

Interesting fact...

This is a large nocturnal gecko because their eyes are extremely sensitive to light, 350 times more sensitive than the human eye, allowing this species to see even at night. (News.BBC.co.uk, 2017)

