

Birds Without Forests?

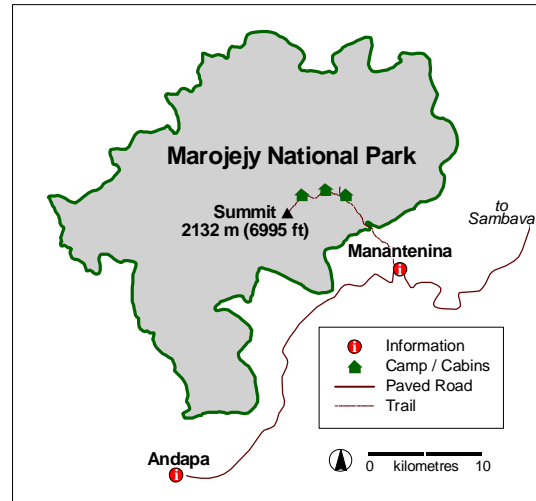
Marojejy National Park lies at the northern end of Madagascar's rainforest belt on the island's eastern escarpment. The park covers 60,050 ha (148,387 acres), and includes the entire Marojejy Massif, with elevations ranging from 75 m (250 ft) up to the summit of Marojejy itself at 2132 m (6995 ft). Ninety percent of the park is cloaked in dense humid forest. The combination of rugged topography, wide span of elevations, heavy rainfall, and extensive tropical forest cover results in a great variety of ecological habitats and a remarkably high biodiversity.

Marojejy hosts an unquestionably rich avifauna. In fact, more species of forest-dwelling birds are found here than in any other single mountain site in Madagascar. 118 bird species have been recorded in the park or on lands immediately adjacent to it. Of these 118 species, 96 (81%) are endemic to Madagascar and its neighboring islands, and 75 (64%) are forest-dependent (dependent on the forest for a portion of their life-cycle). Every one of these 75 forest species is endemic to the Madagascar region.

Clearly, preservation of Madagascar's forest habitats is critical to the survival of these birds. Yet habitat destruction in Madagascar is acute. Eighty percent of Madagascar's original forest cover has been destroyed since humans arrived on the island 2000 years ago. This has largely been due to slash-and-burn agricultural practices (*tavy*) and fuelwood gathering.

Over the past decade, the Malagasy government and many non governmental organizations have been working in the Marojejy region to curb forest destruction while allowing the local people to maintain a livelihood based on the forests. This has involved providing communities with alternative, sustainable agricultural techniques, conservation awareness programs, and improved education and health care. It is also hoped that limited, responsible ecotourism to the area will help create long-term economic alternatives to clearing the last remaining forests. Because without its forests, Marojejy will lose its exceptional biodiversity — including, of course, much of its very unique birdlife.

Access: Access into Marojejy National Park is via trail starting from the village of Manantenina, 60 km from Sambava along the road to Andapa. A permit and guide are required for entry; these are available at the Visitor Center in Manantenina or at the Park Headquarters office in Andapa.



Facilities: Three beautifully-sited and well-maintained camps are available at different elevations along the trail within the park. The camps all have cabins equipped with beds and bedding, as well as covered cooking and dining areas. Tent camping is also possible at several locations in the park.

Seasons: The park is open year-round, but the best times to visit are from April to May and September to December, when it is less rainy.

Surrounding Area: Northeastern Madagascar contains a number of other beautiful and biologically-interesting areas, including Masoala National Park, Nosy Mangabe and Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserves, and the Antalaha–Cap Est coastline.

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The Birds of Marojejy



Helmet Vanga

photo © Kurt Baumgartner

Marojejy National Park Madagascar



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Bird List: Marojejy National Park, Madagascar



Numbers in [brackets] correspond to numbers in Langrand, O., 1990. *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar*. Yale University Press, London.

..	1	[10]	Little Grebe	..	41	[154]	Red-breasted Coua	..	81	[209]	Madagascar Brush Warbler
..	2	[11]	Madagascar Little Grebe	..	42	[155]	Red-fronted Coua	..	82	[211]	Madagascar Cisticola
..	3	[19]	Darter	..	43	[158]	Crested Coua	..	83	[212]	Brown Emutail
..	4	[25]	Squacco Heron	..	44	[160]	Blue Coua	..	84	[214]	Rand's Warbler
..	5	[26]	Madagascar Pond Heron	..	45	[161]	Madagascar Coucal	..	85	[]	Cryptic Warbler
..	6	[27]	Cattle Egret	..	46	[164]	Malagasy Scops Owl	..	86	[215]	Dark Newtonia
..	7	[28]	Green-backed Heron	..	47	[165]	White-browed Owl	..	87	[216]	Common Newtonia
..	8	[30]	Dimorphic Egret	..	48	[166]	Madagascar Long-eared Owl	..	88	[218]	Red-tailed Newtonia
..	9	[31]	Great Egret	..	49	[168]	Madagascar Nightjar	..	89	[219]	Common Jery
..	10	[32]	Purple Heron	..	50	[169]	Collared Nightjar	..	90	[220]	Green Jery
..	11	[42]	Madagascar Crested Ibis	..	51	[171]	Madagascar Spine-tailed Swift	..	91	[221]	Stripe-throated Jery
..	12	[56]	Madagascar Cuckoo-Falcon	..	52	[172]	African Palm Swift	..	92	[222]	Wedge-tailed Jery
..	13	[58]	Black Kite	..	53	[173]	Alpine Swift	..	93	[223]	Ward's Flycatcher
..	14	[60]	Madagascar Serpent-Eagle	..	54	[174]	African Black Swift	..	94	[224]	Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher
..	15	[61]	Madagascar Harrier-Hawk	..	55	[175]	Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher	..	95	[225]	White-throated Oxylabes
..	16	[63]	Henst's Goshawk	..	56	[176]	Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher	..	96	[226]	Madagascar Yellowbrow
..	17	[64]	Madagascar Sparrowhawk	..	57	[177]	Madagascar Bee-Eater	..	97	[227]	Crossley's Babbler
..	18	[65]	Frances's Sparrowhawk	..	58	[178]	Broad-billed Roller	..	98	[228]	Souimanga Sunbird
..	19	[66]	Madagascar Buzzard	..	59	[179]	Short-legged Ground-Roller	..	99	[229]	Long-billed Green Sunbird
..	20	[67]	Madagascar Kestrel	..	60	[180]	Scaly Ground-Roller	..	100	[230]	Madagascar White-Eye
..	21	[68]	Banded Kestrel	..	61	[181]	Pitta-like Ground-Roller	..	101	[232]	Red-tailed Vanga
..	22	[69]	Eleonora's Falcon	..	62	[182]	Rufous-headed Ground-Roller	..	102	[233]	Rufous Vanga
..	23	[70]	Sooty Falcon	..	63	[184]	Cuckoo-Roller	..	103	[234]	Hook-billed Vanga
..	24	[71]	Peregrine Falcon	..	64	[186]	Velvet Asity	..	104	[237]	Pollen's Vanga
..	25	[72]	Madagascar Partridge	..	65	[188]	Common Sunbird-Asity	..	105	[239]	White-headed Vanga
..	26	[73]	Common Quail	..	66	[189]	Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity	..	106	[240]	Chabert's Vanga
..	27	[75]	Helmeted Guineafowl	..	67	[190]	Madagascar Bush Lark	..	107	[241]	Blue Vanga
..	28	[77]	Brown Mesite	..	68	[191]	Brown-throated Sand-Martin	..	108	[242]	Bernier's Vanga
..	29	[79]	Madagascar Buttonquail	..	69	[193]	Mascarene Martin	..	109	[243]	Helmet Vanga
..	30	[80]	Madagascar Rail	..	70	[195]	Madagascar Wagtail	..	110	[244]	Nuthatch Vanga
..	31	[81]	White-throated Rail	..	71	[196]	Ashy Cuckoo-Shrike	..	111	[245]	Tylas Vanga
..	32	[82]	Madagascar Wood Rail	..	72	[197]	Long-billed Greenbul	..	112	[246]	Crested Drongo
..	33	[85]	Madagascar Flufftail	..	73	[198]	Spectacled Greenbul	..	113	[247]	Pied Crow
..	34	[142]	Madagascar Turtledove	..	74	[200]	Dusky Greenbul	..	114	[248]	Madagascar Starling
..	35	[144]	Madagascar Green Pigeon	..	75	[201]	Gray-crowned Greenbul	..	115	[251]	Nelicourvi Weaver
..	36	[145]	Madagascar Blue Pigeon	..	76	[202]	Madagascar Bulbul	..	116	[253]	Madagascar Red Fody
..	37	[146]	Greater Vasa Parrot	..	77	[203]	Madagascar Magpie-Robin	..	117	[254]	Forest Fody
..	38	[147]	Lesser Vasa Parrot	..	78	[204]	Common Stonechat	..	118	[255]	Madagascar Mannikin
..	39	[148]	Gray-headed Lovebird	..	79	[205]	Forest Rock Thrush				
..	40	[150]	Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo	..	80	[208]	Madagascar Swamp-Warbler				