

Madagascar: Eighth Continent | Species List

November 4 – 18, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



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Summary: Our two-week tour began in Tulear, located in the SW corner of Madagascar, where we visited Nosy Ve and the Spiny Forest. We spent time at Zombitse and Isalo while traveling east en route to Ranomafana and Andasibe. We had great weather, only a bit of sprinkling rain a couple of times. Highlights were all five Ground-Rollers and every Vanga on the checklist plus lots of Lemurs including the gorgeous Diademed Sifaka and serenading Indris.

We tallied 152 bird species, 14 Lemur species and lots of chameleons, geckos, reptiles, and insects.

(#) in Family Line – total number species seen in family (#) in species line – number of days of the trip, out of 14 total.

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae — (4)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* — (3) Several hundred on both days at Lac Alarobia, and we found a flock circling as we traveled from Ifaty.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* — (2) A female was present at Lac Alarobia for both of our visits.

Blue-billed Teal *Spatula hottentota* — (1) We scoped a pair that were swimming around the edge of the island at Lac Alarobia.

Red-billed Duck *Anas erythrorhyncha* — (2) Not as numerous as the whistling-ducks, but still huge numbers at Lac Alarobia on both days.

GUINEAFOWL: Numididae — (1)

Helmeted Guineafowl (1) *Numida meleagris* — (1) A small group of this introduced species ran up the hillside during our drive from Ifaty to Isalo.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae — (1)

Madagascar Partridge (E) *Margaroperdix madagarensis* — (1) A pair was foraging along the roadside in Isalo National Park just before we arrived at our lodge in Isalo. They fed in the open for several minutes giving us all good looks.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae — (5)

Rock Pigeon (I) *Columba livia* — (10) Seen most days around villages or cities.

Malagasy Turtle-Dove (RE) *Streptopelia picturata* — (6) Fairly common, we saw these on many occasions with the best looks in the gardens at the hotel in Ifaty.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* — (5) Common in the arid southwest of Madagascar where we saw them daily.

Madagascar Green-Pigeon (RE) *Treron australis* — (1) Our target on our last day of birding. Luckily our guides at Andasibe knew where to look for them! We found a pair in a tree just off the road near the entrance to the national park.

Madagascar Blue-Pigeon (E) *Alectroenas madagascariensis* — (2) Good looks at this endemic pigeon at both Ramanofana and Andasibe. We had great views of the red face and red tail through the scope.

MESITES: Mesitornithidae — (1)

Subdesert Mesite (E) *Monias benschi* — (1) What a great bird! We had two sightings in the Ifaty Spiny Forest. On both occasions the birds froze on a branch allowing for unlimited photos and viewing. This is how you are supposed to get a lifer, with “soul-satisfying views!”

SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae — (1)

Madagascar Sandgrouse (E) *Pterocles personatus* — (1) We took a 30-minute walk into a valley to look for these guys and were rewarded with a flock of 30+ birds flying up and down the valley near us.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae — (11)

Crested Coua (E) *Coua cristata* — (1) Two separate birds found in the Ifaty Spiny Forest on our first morning.

Verreaux’s Coua (E) *Coua verreauxi* — (1) Found on the table mountain above Tulear. One was barely visible on a nest; the other was seen in the top of a distant tree on the horizon.

Blue Coua (E) *Coua caerulea* — (3) Good looks at this species at Ranomafana and at Andasibe National Park. Nice to have a Coua up where we could see him, plus being all blue is always nice!

Red-capped Coua (E) *Coua ruficeps* — (2) Our first Coua of the trip. We had terrific looks at the arboretum in Tulear, and we saw a second in the Spiny Forest in Ifaty. Both sightings were of the “Gree-capped” subspecies.

Red-fronted Coua (E) *Coua reynaudii* — (1) Brief views of one at Ranomafana NP on our hike in the upper portion of the park.

Coquerel’s Coua (E) *Coua coquereli* — (1) One zipping around at Zombitse National Park. We saw it several times as it ran across the trail, but if you blinked you missed it!

Running Coua (E) *Coua cursor* — (1) Good looks at this one at Ifaty Spiny Forest.

Giant Coua (E) *Coua gigas* — (1) Two at Zombitse were relatively cooperative as they moved through the understory.

Red-breasted Coua (E) *Coua serriana* — (1) Good looks by about half the group on the upper part of Mantadia NP. It was going up the trail in front of us and unfortunately not everybody was able to see it before it disappeared into the brush.

Malagasy Coucal (RE) *Centropus toulou* — (6) Common, heard or seen on about half the days. There was a pair that hung out in front of the rooms near the pond at Vakona Lodge.

Madagascar Cuckoo *Cuculus rochii* — (5) Common, seen several days and heard almost everywhere. We all learned this call by the end of the tour!

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae — (2)

Collared Nightjar (E) *Gactornis enarratus* — (1) One was seen on a nest in Andasibe NP, so camouflaged that it was difficult to see even from just a few feet away.

Madagascar Nightjar (RE) *Caprimulgus madagascariensis* — (2) Roosting just off the trail at Ifaty Spiny Forest. We saw it first on our night walk, then again on the following morning at the same spot.

SWIFTS: Apodidae — (4)

Madagascar Spinetail (RE) *Zoonavena grandidieri* — (1) Several were seen flying during our picnic lunch at Mantadia NP.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* — (1) One was mixed in with a flock of Malagasy Swifts but was only seen by a couple in the group before the flock moved on, best distinguished by its white belly.

Malagasy Swift (RE) *Apus balstoni* — (3) First seen in flight around a marshy area on the way to Ifaty. Later we had good numbers at Madalief Hotel.

Malagasy Palm-Swift (RE) *Cypsiurus parvus* — (8) The most common swift of the tour, recorded nearly every day.

FLUFFTAILS: Sarothruridae — (2)

Madagascar Wood-Rail (E) *Mentocrex kioloides* — (1) Brief but good looks at this rail at the Rufous-headed Ground-Roller site at Ranomafana NP. It came in very close, and part of the group was able to view it in the understory, then it

walked across the trail and most were able to see it well.

Madagascar Flufftail (E) *Sarothrura insularis* — (4) We had several looks at this hard-to-see species, including an incredible sighting when one walked across the paved road at Andasibe.

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae — (3)

Madagascar Rail (E) *Rallus madagascariensis* — (1) Our guides had cleared a small area in the middle of the marsh and the rail came right out into it for us a couple of times at Mantadia.

White-throated Rail (RE) *Dryolimnas cuvieri* — (2) We had ok looks at Lac Alarobia on our first day, but much better looks near the small river behind our lodge at Isalo. We were even able to get it in the scope as the adult and two juveniles were preening.

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* — (2) A few were seen at Lac Alarobia on our first day, then a few more at the lake near our picnic area at Mantadia.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae — (1)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* — (2) Best looks were at the Balalanda Wetlands where we found a flock of 12. There were also a few seen at the salt pans near Ifaty.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae — (5)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* — (3) Several were viewed on the white sandy beaches of Nosy Ve Island and a few others around the salt pans near Ifaty.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* — (3) Fairly common on the salt pans and wetlands the first few days of the trip near Tulear.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* — (1) Dalton picked one out as we drove past some mangroves near Ifaty. On our return trip we drove slowly past the mangroves and relocated it in the same place.

Madagascar Plover (E) *Charadrius thoracicus* — (1) Our local guide knew exactly where to stop near Ifaty to see this rare plover. We watched it feeding in the grass near the salt pans.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* — (2) First seen in a marshy area along the road to Ifaty where a pair may have been nesting. Later we found a pair in the rice fields during our snipe hunt.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae — (7)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* — (3) Commonly seen along the coast, there was a large flock as we were boarding the boat to Nosy Ve.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* — (1) A distant flock was scoped when we were birding in the salt pans at Ifaty. We could just make out the bill through the scope.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* — (2) A small flock on Nosy Ve and a couple more in the Ifaty Salt Pans.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* — (2) A few of these long-distance migrants were in the Balalanda Wetlands and a few more very distant at the Salt Pans.

Madagascar Snipe (E) *Gallinago macrodactyla* — (1) Quite the experience for our snipe hunt! The whole village was involved with about 50 kids running up and down the marshes and rice fields until they flushed a snipe for us to see!

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* — (1) Our last new bird of the trip – we saw one from the bridge when we stopped to look for Pratincoles (without luck) on our drive back to Tana.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* — (1) Very distant scope views of a few birds in the salt pans at Ifaty.

BUTTONQUAILS: Turnicidae — (1)

Madagascar Buttonquail (RE) *Turnix nigricollis* — (1) We watched two males and a female for several minutes as they foraged very close to us at the Arboretum on our first evening in Tulear.

CRAB-PLOVER: Dromadidae — (1)

Crab-Plover *Dromas ardeola* — (1) Bryan spotted a flock of 13 while they were still tiny dots on Nosy Ve Island. It was fun to see and learn about this unique species!

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae — (2)

Great Crested-Tern *Thalasseus bergii* — (1) A few were seen in flight and roosting on the beach at Nosy Ve.

Lesser Crested-Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis* — (1) One was roosting on the beach with Great Crested-Terns – it was nice to see the size comparison.

TROPICBIRDS: Phaethontidae — (1)

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* — (1) Several in flight around Nosy Ve, and we saw one on a nest under a bush that we could photograph and watch from just a few feet away.

HAMMERKOP: Scopidae — (1)

Hammerkop *Scopus umbretta* — (3) Another monotypic family, we had several sightings in rice fields or marshy areas during our drives. There was also an active nest on the property at Madalief.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae — (9)

Humblot's Heron (RE) *Ardea humbloti* — (1) Our afternoon outing to look for this species was a great success when we spotted one only a few minutes from the hotel in Ifaty. Endemic and generally not easy to see, we were quite fortunate to have such an “easy” sighting.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* — (7) Common anywhere there was water, we saw this species most days.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* — (6) Common, with hundreds nesting on the island our first morning at Lac Alarobia. We also saw the black “dimorphic” form at several locations.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* — (2) Some were nesting on the island at Lac Alarobia. We witness its unique hunting style, using its wings to make a shadow for fish.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* — (4) Not as common as Little Egrets during the tour, but frequently seen throughout the tour. Cattle Egret was recently split into two species: Eastern and Western Cattle Egret.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* — (2) Seen at Lac Alarobia on our first day, where many were nesting and roosting on the island.

Malagasy Pond-Heron *Ardeola idae* — (2) Seen both days at Lac Alarobia, first on the pretour outing, and then we returned with the full group and found one in the exact same place the next day!

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* — (3) A few were seen at Lac Alarobia at the start of the trip. We also saw one at Andasibe, and another when we stopped to repair a flat tire on our return to Tana.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* — (1) Dozens were seen at Lac Alarobia.

Ibis and Spoonbills: Threskiornithidae — (1)

Madagascar Ibis (E) *Lophotibis cristata* — (1) Our last new bird of the trip. We had hoped to find it nesting at Andasibe, but it wasn't home, so we spent the next hour searching the forest. Eventually our guide found it up the road a little bit, and after a mad dash we were thrilled to have wonderful looks as it perched on a tree that had fallen over the river.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae — (8)

Madagascar Harrier-Hawk (E) *Polyboroides radiatus* — (1) First seen soaring at Mantadia and then at a nest along the road.

Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk (E) *Aviceda madagascariensis* — (1) One was soaring above us during our snipe hunt. There was also a buzzard soaring that provided a nice size comparison.

Malagasy Harrier (RE) *Circus macrosceltes* — (1) Dalton spotted this rare raptor flying down a river as we drove to Zombitse. Brief straight away views were not “soul-satisfying” for most, though some had better looks.

Frances's Sparrowhawk (RE) *Accipiter francesiae* — (1) A perched bird allowing for scope looks at Zombitse, we watched

as it chased away a Madagascar Sparrowhawk.

Madagascar Sparrowhawk (E) *Accipiter madagascariensis* — (1) Seen along with the France's Sparrowhawk.

Henst's Goshawk (E) *Accipiter henstii* — (1) Only some of us opted to make the arduous hike to the nest, but later we were fortunate to see one soaring over us while the rest of the group was watching lemurs.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* — (10) Very common and seen almost daily.

Madagascar Buzzard (E) *Buteo brachypterus* — (3) After the kite, this was the most common hawk, and we were able to view several in the scope and soaring.

BARN OWLS: Tytonidae — (1)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* — (1) One in the pines at Madaleif. It was very jumpy and wouldn't let us get close, so we only had flight views. A lifer for some of the group!

OWLS: Strigidae — (3)

Madagascar Scops-Owl (E) *Otus rutilus* — (2) We saw both subspecies during the day on roosts: the "Totoroka" subspecies at Zombitse, and the "Rainforest" subspecies at Andasibe. These will likely be recognized as separate species in the future.

White-browed Owl (E) *Athene supercilialis* — (1) Roosting in a hole in a large tree in Zombitse. We made several visits before it finally came out.

Madagascar Owl (E) *Asio madagascariensis* — (1) Hard to claim that we saw this one. It was a blob in my scope and if you looked closely, you could just make out feathers where it perched in the pines just above the road at Andasibe.

CUCKOO-ROLLER: Leptosomidae — (1)

Cuckoo-Roller (RE) *Leptosomus discolor* — (3) Quite a unique species, sometimes referred to as a "living fossil," we observed them performing display flights high above the forest at Zombitse, and even found one perching.

HOOPOES: Upupidae — (1)

Madagascar Hoopoe (E) *Upupa marginata* — (5) We saw quite a few during the trip, and they were particularly common at the lodge at Isalo NP where we saw up to six on the grass at one time.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae — (2)

Malagasy Kingfisher (RE) *Corythornis vintsioides* — (3) Seen at Lac Alorobia on our first day, and later at Andasibe and another on our last day while we changed the flat tire.

Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher (E) *Corythornis madagascariensis* — (1) One of the favorite birds of the trip, seen along the small river after our morning hike in Andasibe.

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae — (1)

Madagascar Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* — (8) Seen most days singly or in pairs.

ROLLERS: Coraciidae — (1)

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* — (4) Found at Zombitse NP along the road, and several at Andasibe NP.

GROUND-ROLLERS: Brachypteraciidae — (5 – the whole family!)

Short-legged Ground-Roller (E) *Brachypteracias leptosomus* — (1) Unlike other ground-rollers, this species often perches high in the trees, which is where we found it. It was calling and our guides slowly led us in to where we could all see it in Mantadia.

Scaly Ground-Roller (E) *Brachypteracias squamiger* — (1) We had to work for this one. It was calling as it moved through the forest, but eventually it flew in and landed right next to us giving us all amazing looks from just a few feet away.

Pitta-like Ground-Roller (E) *Atelornis pittoides* — (1) A bit of a hike up and down the hills at Ranomafana, but well worth it as we had two separate views of this beautiful bird.

Rufous-headed Ground-Roller (E) *Atelornis crossleyi* — (1) Seen at upper part of Ranomafana by about half the group, it took an hour or so to relocate it to ensure that everybody had seen it.

Long-tailed Ground-Roller (E) *Uratelornis chimaera* — (1) One of the first birds we saw at the Ifaty Spiny Forest. We were standing around a burrow talking about it and suddenly it came running out of the hole! What an amazing bird!

FALCONS: Falconidae — (4)

Malagasy Kestrel (RE) *Falco newtoni* — (11) Common and seen nearly every day. Our best sighting was near a nest at the Arboretum in Tulear.

Banded Kestrel (E) *Falco zoniventris* — (1) Only one was found during the trip, perched up so we could view it through the scope at Zombitse.

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor* — (1) Two were seen in flight, hunting with kites around the burning grass fields during one of our long drives along Rt. 7.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* — (2) One was seen by a few before it disappeared behind a mountain at Isalo. Another flew past in the evening at Madalief, again only seen by a few.

PARROTS: Psittaculidae — (3)

Greater Vasa Parrot (RE) *Coracopsis vasa* — (2) Several were seen flying around the Ifaty Spiny Forest and at Zombitse.

Lesser Vasa Parrot (RE) *Coracopsis nigra* — (4) Mostly fly-bys, but we had views of perched birds at Ifaty.

Gray-headed Lovebird (E) *Agapornis canus* — (4) A few were seen in flight around the spiny forest, but most of us had better looks a couple of days later at the hotel in Isalo where they were on the grass and in the trees in the gardens by our rooms.

ASITIES: Philepittidae — (2)

Velvet Asity (E) *Philepitta castanea* — (2) Males and females were seen on both days at Ranomafana, though they were always moving around so fast that it was difficult to photograph them.

Common Sunbird-Asity (E) *Neodrepanis coruscans* — (1) great views of this gorgeous bird at Ranomafana NP.

CUCKOOSHRIKES: Campephagidae — (1)

Madagascar Cuckooshrike *Coracina cinerea* — (4) We saw this species in three different locations: Ifaty Spiny Forest, Ranomafana, and Andasibe.

VANGAS: VANGIDAE — (17)

Archbold's Newtonia (E) *Newtonia archboldi* — (2) Nice looks on our first day at Ifaty Spiny Forest.

Common Newtonia (E) *Newtonia brunneicauda* — (3) Aptly named, the most common of the newtonias.

Dark Newtonia (E) *Newtonia amphichroa* — (1) Seen once at Ranomafana, very similar to Common Newtonia, so I was grateful to have our local guides help with this one!

Tylas Vanga (E) *Tylas eduardi* — (1) Seen both days at Ranomafana.

Red-tailed Vanga (E) *Calicalicus madagascariensis* — (4) One of the more common vangas of the trip. Our best sighting was on our last day at Andasibe where we saw them up close.

Red-shouldered Vanga (E) *Calicalicus rufocarpalis* — (1) one of our main targets the morning we went into the hills above Tulear, the species was first described in the 1990s.

Nuthatch-Vanga (E) *Hypositta corallirostris* — (1) Awesome views for about half of the group at Andasibe where it was seen in a mixed flock going up the trunk of a tree, just like a nuthatch!

Chabert Vanga (E) *Leptopterus chabert* — (4) First seen in the hills above Tulear and at the Spiny Forest. Later we found some at Vakona Lodge.

Crossley's Vanga (E) *Mystacornis crossleyi* — (3) Very brief views of one at Ranomafana as it flew across an opening, but

later we experienced “soul satisfying” views as it stood calling only a few feet away at Mantadia.

Madagascar Blue Vanga (RE) *Cyanolanius madagascarinus* — (3) We had our best looks at Zombitse where one posed in good light and not too high up.

Hook-billed Vanga (E) *Vanga curvirostris* — (1) We could barely see one on a nest at Zombitse, but luckily it had its bill pointed up and we could see a big hook on the end!

Ward’s Flycatcher (E) *Pseudobias wardi* — (2) One was seen on our hike at Ranomafana and another on our last morning at Vakona Lodge was eating moths from the moth sheet.

Rufous Vanga (E) *Schetba rufa* — (1) One was on a nest only a foot or two from the trail at Zombitse NP.

Sickle-billed Vanga (E) *Falcolea palliata* — (2) One was found in Ifaty in the Spiny Forest, and pair werenesting at Zombitse NP.

White-headed Vanga (E) *Artamella viridis* — (1) Two were seen at Ranomafana on our hike in the upper section of the park.

Pollen’s Vanga (E) *Xenopirostris polleni* — (1) We found a few of this large vanga at Ranomafana quite high in the trees but perched on exposed branches so we all got good looks at them.

Lafresnaye’s Vanga (E) *Xenopirostris xenopirostris* — (1) We worked to find this species on the plateau above Tulear because it is no longer reliable at the Spiny Forest, but then we did see them there the next day as well. The weird bill was easily seen even in flight.

DRONGOS: Dicruridae — (1)

Crested Drongo (RE) *Dicrurus forficatus* — (11) A very striking bird, recorded almost daily.

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae — (1)

Malagasy Paradise-Flycatcher (RE) *Terpsiphone mutata* — (6) Once we left the dry habitats of the west, we saw this species nearly daily. Most were females, but we did see a few long-tailed males including both the black-and-white and rufous types.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae — (1)

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* — (9) A common but quite striking crow, seen on most days.

LARKS: Alaudidae — (1)

Madagascar Lark (E) *Eremopterix hova* — (6) Seen daily for the first half of the trip while in the drier southwest.

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae — (4)

Common Jery (E) *Neomixis tenella* — (6) Fairly common and seen on most days.

Green Jery (E) *Neomixis viridis* — (3) Three separate sightings at Ranomafana NP.

Stripe-throated Jery (E) *Neomixis striatigula* — (4) Recorded in a variety of habitats from the Spiny Forest to Andasibe.

Madagascar Cisticola (RE) *Cisticola cherina* — (2) First seen on Nosy Ve Island, and later recorded at Balanda Wetlands.

REED-WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae — (3)

Madagascar Brush-Warbler (RE) *Nesillas typica* — (4) We saw our first of these nondescript warblers on our first morning in the bushes at Lake Alarobia. Later there were several more found at Andasibe.

Subdesert Brush-Warbler (E) *Nesillas lantzii* — (3) Found mainly in the arid SW and we saw it there at the Spiny Forest and on the plateau above Tulear.

Madagascar Swamp Warbler (E) *Acrocephalus newtoni* — (2) Two were singing near the lake at our lunch stop on one of our travel days, and another was found where we parked the bus on our last day to check the river for pratincoles.

GRASSBIRDS AND ALLIES: Locustellidae — (1)

Brown Emu-tail (E) *Bradypterus brunneus* — (1) Seen by some while we were waiting for a ground-roller at Ranomafana.

MALAGASY WARBLERS: Bernieridae — (9)

Long-billed Bernieria (E) *Bernieria madagascariensis* — (3) We had several good looks at this species, including one that posed nicely for photos at Zombitse.

Cryptic Warbler (E) *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi* — (1) We missed this species on our hikes at Ranomafana but were fortunate to find one along the road on the morning we were leaving the area.

Wedge-tailed Jery (E) *Hartertula flavoviridis* — (4) We found this skulker on each of our days at Ranomafana and once at Andasibe.

Thamnornis (E) *Thamnornis chloropetoides* — (1) Typical of this species, we found it in the Spiny Forest where it perched on top of a spiny bush and sang.

Yellow-browed Oxylabes (E) *Crossleyia xanthophrys* — (1) A beautiful bird, and definitely a skulker, we called it in while waiting for a ground-roller at Ranomafana. It came to within a few feet of us, but it was still difficult to see in the thick understory.

Spectacled Tetraka (E) *Xanthomixis zosterops* — (3) Our first and best looks were of the bird in the nest about a foot away from us while we were waiting for the Rufous-headed Ground-Roller.

Appert's Tetraka (E) *Xanthomixis apperti* — (1) Restricted to Zombitse NP, this species can be difficult to find so we were excited when a pair showed well soon after we started on the trail.

Gray-crowned Tetraka (E) *Xanthomixis cinereiceps* — (1) Two of these drab warblers were seen in a mixed flock in the upper part of Ranomafana.

Rand's Warbler (E) *Randia pseudozosterops* — (3) Seen at each of the national parks on the second half of the trip.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae — (2)

Madagascar Martin Phedina cowani — (3) Less common on our tour than following species. Split from Plain Martin

Mascarene Martin Phedina borbonica — (6) Very common around Vakona Lodge where they were roosting under the eaves of our cabins.

BULBULS: Pycnonotidae — (1)

Malagasy Bulbul (RE) *Hypsipetes madagascariensis* — (11) One of the most common birds of the trip, we recorded low numbers daily.

WHITE-EYES: Zosteropidae — (1)

Malagasy White-eye (RE) *Zosterops maderaspatanus* — (5) We found several on our first morning at Lac Alarobia and saw them several times in mixed flocks in Ranomafana and Andasibe.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae — (2)

Common Myna (I) *Acridotheres tristis* — (11) Abundant in towns. The only times we didn't see them were the days we were deep in the forest!

Madagascar Starling (E) *Hartlaubius auratus* — (1) Seen by one guest in Andasibe and Bryan photographed them at Vakona Lodge in front of his cabin during a break, but we were unable to relocate them.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae — (4)

Madagascar Magpie-Robin (E) *Copsychus albospecularis* — (9) Common and seen most days. Striking black and white plumage and a nice song.

Forest Rock-Thrush (E) *Monticola sharpei* — (2) Formally considered two species, we saw the "Bensen's" subspecies at the Isalo NP Visitors Center, and the "Forest" subspecies near the road at Ranomafana.

Littoral Rock-Thrush (E) *Monticola imerina* — (1) One found in the dry scrub behind the resort when we were taking a break after hiking at Nosy Ve Island. Looks like a drab version of Forest Rock-Thrush.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* — (2) First seen on our walk at Madalief Lodge where we had good looks at both male and female.

SUNBIRDS: Nectariniidae — (2)

Souimanga Sunbird (RE) *Cinnyris sovimanga* — (8) Fairly common in all habitats from dry forest to rainforest.

Madagascar Sunbird (RE) *Cinnyris notatus* — (6) Also quite common, first seen on our walk at the hotel in Isalo NP.

WEAVERS: Ploceidae — (4)

Nelicourvi Weaver (E) *Ploceus nelicourvi* — (3) We found low numbers in a few locations in the eastern part of Madagascar.

Sakalava Weaver (E) *Ploceus sakalava* — (3) There were about 30 nesting in a tree at the Arboretum near Tulear.

Red Fody (RE) *Foudia madagascariensis* — (5) Fairly common in parks, gardens and disturbed habitat.

Forest Fody (E) *Foudia omissa* — (4) First seen at Ranomafana NP and later again at Antsirabe.

WAXBILLS: Estrildidae — (1)

Madagascar Munia (E) *Lepidopygia nana* — (2) Some people saw a few near the hotel our first morning in Tana, and later seen near the cabins at Vakona Lodge on our last full day there.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae — (1)

Madagascar Wagtail (E) *Motacilla flaviventris* — (5) A striking wagtail! Seen best at Antsirabe near the Visitors Center.

MOUSE AND DWARF LEMURS: Cheirogaleidae — (2)

Gray Mouse-Lemur *Microcebus murinus* — (1) The guide saw two run across a cabin and jump into a tree at our lodge in Ifaty just before our dinner, but we were unable to relocate them.

Rufous Mouse-Lemur *Microcebus rufus* — (1). Came to feeding spot along the road on a night tour at Ranomafana.

SPORTIVE LEMURS: Lepilemuridae — (2)

Hubbard's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur hubbardorum* — (1) Sitting in a hollow tree stump in Zombitse NP.

White-footed Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur leucopus* — (1) Seen in the Ifaty Spiny Forest during our night walk.

TRUE LEMURS: Lemuridae — (6)

Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur griseus* — (1) One just a few feet off the trail at Andasibe chomping on bamboo. We were able to observe it at close range for 30+ minutes.

Golden Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur aureus* — (1) Only seen briefly by a few of our group at Ranomafana in the bamboo along the river.

Ring-tailed Lemur *Lemur catta* — (1) Amazing views of this species at the community preserve in Anja.

Common Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus* — (2). Seen on both days at Andasibe/Mantadia where we had exceptionally close views along with Lesser Bamboo Lemur.

Red-fronted Brown Lemur *Eulemur rufifrons* — (1) A small group was seen moving along the ridgetop in Ranomafana.

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur *Varecia variegata* — (1) Gorgeous! One was hanging out with a few Common Brown Lemurs in the upper portion of Mantadia NP.

SIFAKAS AND INDRI: Indriidae — (4)

Gmelin's Woolly Lemur *Avahi laniger* — (2) Eating flowers in the palms around Vakona Lodge after dark.

Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus diadema* — (2) A small group located in Adasibe NP.

Verreaux's Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi* — (1) Several moved through the trees and crossed over the trail in front of us in Zombitse NP.

Indri *Indri indri* — (2) Heard several and had brief views in the upper part of Andasibe/Mantadia NP, but the following day we had better views of several in the trees just above us. Amazing how loud they are! Possibly the most memorable experience of the trip.

OLD WORLD RATS AND MICE: Muridae — (1)

Eastern Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus* — (1) One was sneaking around the understory near us while we were waiting for a ground-roller to appear at Ranomafana.

TENRECS: Tenrecidae — (1)

Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec *Echinops telfairi* — (1) One seen well at Zombitse on our first evening there. A highlight for at least one member of the group!

CHAMELEONS: Chamaeleonidae — (8)

Oustalet's Giant Chameleon *Furcifer oustaleti* — (2)

Spiny Chameleon *Furcifer verrucosus* — (2)

Cryptic Chameleon *Calumma crypticum* — (1) (blue-legged)

Perinet Chameleon *Calumma gastrotaenia* — (1) (side-striped)

Nose-horned Chameleon *Calumma nasutum* — (1)

O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon *Calumma oshaughnessyi* — (1)

Parson's Chameleon *Calumma parsonii* — (1)

Anja Reserve Stub-tailed Chameleon *Brookesia brunoi* — (1)

TYPICAL GECKOS: Gekkonidae — (5)

Madagascar Ground Gecko *Paroedura picta* — (1)

Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus sikorae* — (1)

Thick-tailed Gecko *Phelsuma mutabilis* — (1)

Peacock Day Gecko *Phelsuma quadriocellata* — (1)

Dwarf Day Gecko *Lygodactylus blanche* — (1)

MALAGASY IGUANAS: Opluridae — (3)

Madagascar Iguana *Chalarodon madagascariensis* — (3)

Merrem's Madagascar Swift *Oplurus cyclurus* — (1)

Dumeril's Madagascar Swift *Oplurus quadrimaculatus* — (1)

PLATED LIZARDS: Gerrhosauridae — (1)

Madagascar Girdled Lizard *Zonosaurus madagascariensis* — (1)

SKINKS: Scincidae — (1)

Gold-spotted Mabuya *Trachylepis aureopunctata* — (1)

BOAS: Boidae — (1)

Madagascar Ground Boa *Sanzinia madagascariensis* — (1)

LAMPROPHIID SNAKES: Lamprophiidae — (2)

Gold-Collared (Red-Bellied) Snake *Liophidium Rhodogaster* — (1)

Karimbola Cat-eyed Snake *Madagascarophis meridionalis* — (1)

TORTOISES: Testudinidae — (1)

Radiated Tortoise *Astrochelys radiata* — (2)

GRASSLAND FROGS: Ptychadenidae — (1)

Mascarene Ridged Frog *Ptychadena mascareniensis* — (2)

MANTELLAS: Mantellidae — (4)

Baron's Mantella *Mantella baroni* — (1)

Green Bright-eyed Frog *Boophis viridis* — (1)

Boulenger's Digging Frog *Plethodontohyla inguinalis* — (1)

Boulenger's Giant Tree Frog *Platypelis frandis* — (1)

BUTTERFLIES, MOTHS, AND OTHERS: — (5)

Giraffe Weevil *Trachelophorus giraffa* — (1)

Madagascar Giant Swallowtail *Pharmacophagus antenor* — (1)

Madagascar Moon Moth (Comet Moth) *Argema mittrei* — (1)

Madagascar Hissing Cockroach *Gromphadorhina portentosa* — (1)

Giant Pill Millipede *Zoosphaerium sp* — (1)