

Madagascar: 8th Continent!

Species List | 31 Oct – 14 Nov, 2024

with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Greg Smith with local guide Dalton Gibbs. Our clients included Kate & Fiona, Wendi, Karen, Sheila, Peter and Alan.

The eighth continent used to be a part of Africa 160 mya, but is not at all like that continent. No “Big Five” here, no herds of tens of thousands of ungulates, no big cats and no woodpeckers. But it does have five endemic bird families, and we saw one or more representatives of each! No great apes here on the fourth largest island in the world, but we did get long, fulfilling looks at seven of the island’s eight distinctive primate species – the lemurs!

Our route took us from birds ‘Tana with a flight to Toiliar where we explored the island of Nosy Ve (Madagascar Cisticola & Red-tailed Tropicbird) and the southeast coast with its Spiny Forest (Subdesert Mesite & Long-tailed Ground-Roller). Then it was up to Isalo for a couple of days to explore Zombitsie National Park (Coquerel’s Coua & Sickle-billed Vanga). Next up to the high country and the rainforest of Ranomafana where our best birds were (both Brown Mesite and Henst’s Goshawk on nests). We stayed in the high country only further to the north where we finished our tour Andisabe where we had Dark Newtonia & Madagascar Rail.

BIRDS: The eBird link below details the 143 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you’re new to eBird, be sure to click “Show All Details” on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Madagascar: 8th Continent! | 31 Oct – 14 Nov, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

Family

Species Common Name *Scientific Name*

MOUSE AND DWARF LEMURS: Cheirogaleidae (3)

Gray-brown Mouse-Lemur *Microcebus griseorufus* Found on our first night walk in the Spiny Forest of Lafity des Dunes

Goodman’s Mouse-Lemur *Microcebus lehilahytsara*— Gosh they are tiny, we saw two on our last night on the road at Andisabe

Rufous Mouse-Lemur *Microcebus rufus*— We saw two, possibly three on our night-time walk along the road in Ranomafana NP

SPORTIVE LEMURS: Lepilemuridae (1)

White-footed Sportive Lemur – *Lepilemur*. – We had just one individual (odd?) on our afternoon walk in the Spiny Forest

TRUE LEMURS: Lemuridae (6)

Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur *Hapalemur griseus*— We had this species on our first two days in the Andisabe high

country

Golden Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur aureus*— Only 400-500 of this species left in the world, and we got to three and a young up near the top of Ranomafana NP

Greater Bamboo Lemur *Prolemur simus*— This was the first lemur species of the day on our hike to the top of Ranomafana National Park,

Ring-tailed Lemur *Lemur catta*— A very large troupe with numerous young were hanging out in front of us at the Anja Private Reserve

Common Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus*—Found during our late-afternoon hike in Andisabe's high country

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur *Varecia variegata*— Heard these more than we saw them, but they were very good looks when we did find them

SIFAKAS AND INDRI: Indriidae (4)

Peyrieras's Woolly Lemur *Avahi peyrieras* – What a find! Two of these nocturnal females, each with a young one nestled on their back sleeping the day away

Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus diadema*— See on our final afternoon. Hike in the very high country of Andisabe

Verreaux's Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi*—A troupe of seven individuals with a very young one hung out with us for about five minutes before melting back into the Zombitsie National Park forest

Indri *Indri indri*— Hear from our lodge in Andisabe and seen in the forests that we hiked during the day

TENRECS: Tenrecidae (1)

Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec *Echinops telfairi*— Seen on our night walk in the Ifaty Spine Forest, the only one

CHAMELEONS: Chamaeleonidae (6)

Oustalet's Giant Chameleon *Furcifer oustaleti*— Seen on one of hikes at Isalo at Jardine de la Roy

Spiny Chameleon *Furcifer verrucosus*— We saw two on the same day on the plateau up above the spiny forest

Cryptic Chameleon/Blue-legged *Calumma crypticum*— The first chameleon that we saw on our Ranomafana night walk

O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon *Calumma oshaughnessyi*— Also seen on our night hike along the road at Ranomafana NP

Parson's Chameleon *Calumma parsonii*— We saw a few at the vanilla farm on the outskirts of Ranomafana

Flat-necked Chameleon. – Seen on our night hike in Ranomafana National Park

TYPICAL GECKOS: Gekkonidae (8)

Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*— Seen in most every hotel that we stayed in

Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus phantasticus*— Seen curled up on a leaf sleeping it off on our morning hike way up to the top in Ranomafana NP

Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus sikorae*—Great find by our Andisabe guide while driving down the road. Not sure how he was able to see this from a moving vehicle

Thick-tailed Gecko *Phelsuma mutabilis*—Seen our first day in the spiny forest around Ifaty des Dunes

Striped Day Gecko *Phelsuma lineata*—Seen on a tree at our lodge in Ansiraba

Flat-necked Gecko —Seen in the Ranomafana high country on our last night

Modest Day Gecko *Phelsuma modesta*—On the handrails of our hotel Lafity des Dunes

Banded Day Gecko *Phelsuma standingi*— Seen during our visit to Zombitsie National Park birding walk

MALAGASY IGUANAS: Opluridae (4)

Madagascar Iguana *Chalarodon madagascariensis*—Small and common Seen while finding the Littoral Rock-Thrush at Aorka. AKA as the three-eyed iguana

Merrem's Madagascar Swift *Oplurus cyclurus*— Seen during sand grouse hike on the road from Tuliara to Ifaty des Dunes

Dumeril's Madagascar Swift *Oplurus quadrimaculatus*— Very common on the rocks adjacent to the hotel at Isalo
Grandidier's Madagascar Swifty *Oplurus grandidieri*— Seen while finding and watching the Littoral Rock-Thrush at Aorka

SKINKS: Scincidae (1)

Gold-spotted Mabuya *Trachylepis aureopunctata*— Seen in the brush on our walkabout on the limestone plateau

BOAS: Boidae

Madagascar Ground Boa *Sanzinia madagascariensis*— Seen on our last night on the deck of the hotel in Isalo

LAMPROPHIID SNAKES: Lamprophiidae (1)

Pencil Snake *Mimophis mahfalensis*— Found a few km from our Isalo hotel when we stopped to look at a Marsh Owl

TORTOISES: Testudinidae (1)

Radiated Tortoise *Astrochelys radiata*— Seen while finding the Littoral Rock-Thrush at Aorka

AFRICAN REED FROGS: Hyperoliidae (1)

Starry-night Reed Frog *Heterixalus alboguttatus*— Seen in the women's restroom at our hotel in Ranomafana

MANTELLAS: Mantellidae (1)

Madagascar Jumping Frog *Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis*— A green color morph was along the side of "lower" trail at Ranomafana NP

BUTTERFLIES, MOTHS, AND OTHERS (7)

Kung Fu Cricket *Collosopus grandidieri* – Seen during sand grouse hike on the road from Tuliara to Ifaty

Royal Blue Pansy *Junonia rhadama*— Seen on our first outing of the trip at Lake Aliotra

Madagascan Mother-of-Pearl *Protogoniomorpha duprei*— Seen on the Zombitsie National Park birding walk

Madagascar Giant Swallowtail *Pharmacophagus antenor*— Also seen on the Zombitsie National Park birding walk

Citrus Swallowtail *Papilio demodocus*— Seen during sand grouse hike on the road from Tuliara to Ifaty des Dunes

Madagascar Moon Moth *Argema mittrei*— We found the comet moth on our first night in Ranomafana

Giraffe-necked Weevil *Trachelophorus giraffa*— We had 12-15 working some flowering shrubs on the "lower" trail at Ranomafana National Park