

Madagascar: 8th Continent!

Species List | November 4-18, 2025

with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide David Jaffe with local guide Dalton Gibbs. Our clients included James, Brenda, Donald, Donna, Jeannie, Janet, David, Kathryn and Dallas.

Madagascar is often dubbed the "eighth continent" for its staggering biodiversity and long geographic isolation. Many would refer to it as a naturalist's dream. Over 90% of its wildlife is found nowhere else on Earth, making it one of the planet's premier destinations for bird watching and natural history exploration. During this extraordinary journey, we ventured deep into some of Madagascar's most iconic national parks—Andasibe-Mantadia, Ranomafana, and Zombitse—each home to a dazzling array of endemic species. From the haunting call of the Indri echoing through Andasibe's misty forests to the colorful vangas and elusive ground rollers of Ranomafana, the island's avifauna is as rich as it is unique. Zombitse ecosystem is transitional dry forest ecosystem and it offered us yet another opportunity to encounter rare birds and lemurs found nowhere else on Earth.

Beyond its natural marvels, Madagascar also offered us a window into a vibrant and layered cultural history shaped by African, Asian, and Arab influences. As we traveled through the island's diverse landscapes, we encountered the traditions, music, and daily life of the Malagasy people, whose strong connection to the land and ancestors added depth to every experience. Whether walking through rainforest on time tested trails, listening to the stories of our local guides or visiting a highland village and vanilla plantation, this trip was a profound immersion into one of the most biologically rich and culturally unique places on the planet.

BIRDS 127 species were recorded of which 55 were endemic to Madagascar, 27 were Regionally Endemic, meaning found only on Madagascar and nearby islands and 3 were introduced. The eBird link below details the 127 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! | November 4-18, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

MAMMALS (14):

MOUSE AND DWARF LEMURS: Cheirogaleidae

Rufous Mouse-Lemur *Microcebus rufus*—We saw two on our night-time walk along the road in Ranomafana National Park. After this sighting, we voted this lemur to be a '10' on the cuteness scale and set the standard for what is the cutest thing...possibly ever!

SPORTIVE LEMURS: Lepilemuridae

Hubbard's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur hubbardorum*—This is one of two Sportive Lemurs we observed during our morning walk in Zhombitse-Vohibasia NP. This species is endemic to Zhombitse-Vohibasia National Park. There is nowhere else in the wild we would be able to observe this creature!

White-footed Sportive Lemur – *Lepilemur leucopus*—This is the second Sportive Lemur we observed during our morning walk in Zhombitse-Vohibasia NP

TRUE LEMURS: Lemuridae

Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur griseus*—We saw a small family of this species at the very end of our walk in Andasibe National Park. They were coming down the tree to drink water in a small cavity in the tree. They were not shy and were no more than about 2 meters from our group. Amazing!

Ring-tailed Lemur *Lemur catta*— After lunch at the covered picnic table at the Anja Private Reserve, we took a walk in the forest and encountered a large troupe with numerous young. They were not shy and quite photogenic.

Common Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus*—A couple sightings of these true lemurs: One was in Andasibe National Park, the other was one lemur darting across the road between vans number 2 and 3 on our drive to Vakona Lodge.

Red-bellied Lemur *Eulemur rubriventer*—We saw this one on the day we went to the higher elevation in Ranomafana National Park.

Red-fronted Brown Lemur *Eulemur rufifrons*— We saw this one on our first morning walk in Ranomafana National Park.

SIFAKAS AND INDRI: Indriidae

Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus diadema*—We all got some good looks at this one from the trail in Andasibe National Park.

Verreaux's Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi*—We saw this on the uphill side of the road during our exploration of Zhombitse-Vohibasia National Park.

Indri *Indri indri*—We heard the ethereal calls of the Indri when first walking the road in Andasibe National Park. We got some really great looks of several individuals from the trail a couple of hours later.

MALAGASY CARNIVORES: Eupleridae

Malagasy Ring-tailed Vontsira *Galidia elegans*—We all know this is NOT a mongoose. Even though the great looks we got of this animal on the stairs at Ranomafana National Park would lead one to think otherwise...

TENRECS: Tenrecidae

Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec *Echinops telfairi*—The first time we observed two mating in a hollow of a thin branch at the Arboretum D'Antosoky near Ifaty. The next we saw on our night walk in the Spiny Forest Reserve, also near Ifaty.

LEAF-NOSED BATS: Phyllostomidae

Insect eating bat *sp.?*—Observed on our first night of the tour from the dining room of the San Christobal Hotel.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (24):

CHAMELEONS: Chamaeleonidae

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

Spiny/Warty Chameleon *Furcifer verrucosus*— We saw one on morning we hike along the plateau of limestone near the Bay of Augustin.

Short-horned Chameleon (aka Elephant Eared) *Calumma brevicorne*—This was the chameleon Mike saw while we were driving out of Mantadia National Park. We all piled out of the vans to have a look and wonder how in the world he spotted this animal from the car while driving!

Cryptic Chameleon/Blue Legged *Calumma crypticum*— This was the second or third chameleon that we saw on our Ranomafana night walk, right after we encountered the Rufous Mouse Lemur.

Nose-horned Chameleon *Calumma nasutum*—This was the teeny-tiny 2 ½ inch chameleon we saw on our night walk at Ranomafana night walk. I think it was the first chameleon we spotted that evening.

O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon *Calumma oshaughnessyi*—This was probably the largest of the chameleons we saw on our night walk at Ranomafana. Some of us arrived early enough to see the chameleon's skin change color.

Parson's Chameleon *Calumma parsonii*—The first place we saw this beautiful chameleon was at the vanilla plantation.

We then saw a subspecies called ‘Christopher’s’ at the very end of our walk in Andasibe National Park

TYPICAL GECKOS: Gekkonidae

Grandidier’s Dwarf Gecko *Lygodactylus tolampyae*—We saw this little gray-brown lizard on a stump during our first outing at Lac Alarobia, outside of Tana.

Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus phantasticus*—This was the incredibly camouflaged gecko we were shown at Ranomafana National Park. Its head was pointing down and the leaf-tail was pointing towards the sky.

Thick-tailed Gecko *Phelsuma mutabilis*—We saw this one on the island of Nosy Ve.

Striped Day Gecko *Phelsuma lineata*—Multiple sightings at the hotel we stayed at in the Ranomafana area.

Peacock Day Gecko *Phelsuma quadriocellata*—Observed during our exploring Mantadia National Park.

Modest Day Gecko *Phelsuma modesta*—This was another ‘hotel’ gecko seen mostly scurrying to and from the paintings at Les Dunes D’Ifaty

MALAGASY IGUANAS: Opluridae

Dumeril’s Madagascar Swift *Oplurus quadrimaculatus*—This was the large lizard many of us spotted at the Relais de la Reine Hotel (the place with the amazing rock work). Many of us got close up views of two hanging on the wall of a building at the start of our afternoon walk into the sandstone.

PLATED LIZARDS: Gerrhosauridae

Madagascar Girdled Lizard *Zonosaurus madagascariensis*—One of several species Dalton toiled over before coming to a definitive identification. This one was spotted in Mantadia National Park.

Madagascar Keel Plated Lizard *Tracheloptychus madagascariensis*—Observed on our sunset walk in the Spiny Forest near Ifaty.

LAMPROPHIID SNAKES: Lamprophiidae

Giant Madagascar Hognose Snake *Leioheterodon madagascariensis*—Jim may have been the only one to get a good look at this large ‘upper arm thick’ black and yellow snake as it slithered into the forest at Andasibe National Park.

Mahafaly Sand Snake *Mimophis mahfalensis* —This small snake was seen during our evening walk in the Spiny Forest.

Perinet Night Snake *Ithycyphus perineti*—This was one of the snakes we saw in the forest at Andasibe National Park

Collared Bright Snake *Liophidium toquatam*—Dalton caught this snake to snap some photos before putting it back on a tree from which it tried to climb up, but just couldn’t quite make the reach.

TORTOISES: Testudinidae

Radiated Tortoise *Astrochelys radiata*—The resident tortoise at Relais de la Reine Hotel.

GRASSLAND FROGS: Ptychadenidae

Mascarene Ridged Frog *Ptychadena mascareniensis*—This was the frog of the day at Zombhitse-Vohibasia National Park.

MANTELLAS: Mantellidae

Baron’s Mantella *Mantella baroni*—The tiny little frog with the striking patterns of black and green. We saw this on the way out of Ranomafana National Park.

Madagascar Fringed Frog *Spinomantis sp.*—This was the frog we played the ‘find me’ game. Many of us approached the tree and were told,“There is a frog somewhere on this tree, can you find it?”. Incredibly camouflaged!

BUTTERFLIES, MOTHS, AND OTHERS

Royal Blue Pansy *Junonia rhadama*— Seen on our first outing of the trip at Lac Alarobia.

Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*—We observed the green and yellow caterpillar on a thin stem as we were walking out to look for Ring-tailed lemurs at the Anja Private Reserve. This animal is also known as the African Monarch, which we saw as the adult at several locations on the trip: Lac Alarobia, Nosy Ve, and Zonbhitse-Vohibasia National Park.

Giraffe-necked Weevil *Trachelophorus giraffa*—We observed these weevils right near the bridge over the large river on the way in and out of Ranomafana National Park.

Flatid Leaf Bug *Flatida rosea*—We observed about a dozen of these elegant pink bugs on our walk at the Anja Private Reserve.

Citrus Swallowtail *Papilio demodocus*—Seen at Lac Alarobia and again at Ranomafana National Park

African Clouded *Colias Electo*—This was the orange/yellow butterfly seen on our first outing of the trip at Lac Alarobia.

Madagascar Sunset moth (possible) *Chrysidia rhipheus*— Seen on our first outing of the trip at Lac Alarobia.

Banded Blue Swallowtail *Papilio oribozus*—Several of us observed this butterfly frequenting some water across the street from the hotel we stayed at in Ranomafana.

Madagascar Jungle Skimmer *Thermorthemis madagascariensis*—Seen on our first outing of the trip at Lac Alarobia.

Rainbow Milkweed Locust *Phymateus saxosus* —These were the two large grasshopper-like insects colored black and orange Dalton brought onto the bus just before leaving the Isalo Visitor Center.

Madagascar Black-eye *Leptmyrina phidias*—Observed amongst the vanilla plants at the vanilla plantation.

Red-legged Golden Orb-weaver Spider *Trichonephila inaurata*—We started out just seeing one or two of these at Lac Alarobia. Then we saw the complex of about 30 in a huge spider web matrix.

Madagascar Giant Pill Bug *Zoosphaerium neptunus*—We saw these on a couple of days: Andasibe National Park and Mantadia National Park. A few locations had *large* congregations.

Madagascar fire-millipede *Aphistogoniulus hova*— We saw at least two millipedes, one each day, at Andasibe National Park and Mantadia National Park.

Dragonfly *sp.*—Large blue and black dragonfly on the lily pads as we crossed the bridge on our way out of Andasibe National Park.

Madagascar Emperor Dragonfly *Anax tumorifer*—This was another large blue dragonfly observed at Mantadia National Park. In fact, it is one of the largest in the world!

Damselfly *spp.*—We saw a couple of Damselflies that were not identified to species. One was at Andasibe National Park and the other was the one that shined blue and green when the sun hit the wings just right (at Mantadia National Park). This one may have been the Blue Sprite in a group known at the “Sprite Damselflies”, which are part of the genus *Pseudagrion*. The Blue Sprite is *Pseudagrion microcephalum*.