



Nov. 29 – Dec. 14, 2017

Madagascar Birding and Wildlife Tour Species List

With Carlos Sanchez, Dalton Gibbs, expert local guides, and 9 participants:
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Compiled by Carlos Sanchez

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(E)= Endemic to Madagascar

(RE)=Regionally endemic to the islands of the Indian Ocean

(BrE)=Endemic breeder to Madagascar but migrates to Africa

Summary: Isolated for nearly 80 million years, Madagascar boasts one of the most unique animals on Earth: lemurs, tenrecs, ground-rollers, mesites, asities and more are all endemic families to the island. Over the course of this tour, we sampled the southern two-thirds of the island from the otherworldly spiny forest at Ifaty to the lush montane forests of Ranomafana for lemurs, chameleons and endemic birds (we saw 80 endemic birds). We also learned about the island's many pressing and humanitarian issues. My recommendation is to visit as soon as you can to see many of these wonderfully unique yet endangered animals.

BIRDS (160 species recorded, of which 3 were heard only):

Anatidae: Ducks, Geese and Swans (5)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*—large numbers of these attractive ducks at Lac Alarobia, plus small numbers in the secluded pond at Le Relais de la Reine

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*—one of these large and unusual ducks at Lac Alarobia, associating with the large number of whistling-ducks

Meller's Duck *Anas melleri* (E)—an endemic duck that looks like a female Mallard but sporting a long gray bill. We saw two pairs at Lac Alarobia.

Red-billed Duck *Anas erythrorhyncha*—the most widespread and common waterfowl species on our route, recorded on four days. Good numbers at Lac Alarobia and le Relais de la Reine.

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*—we saw about a half-dozen at Lac Alarobia plus a single bird on route to Ifaty. This small duck bears a strong resemblance to South America's Silver Teal.

Phasianidae: Partridges, Pheasants and Allies (1)

Madagascar Partridge *Margaroperdix madagarensis* (E)—we were very fortunate to get such good views of both male and female en route to the Isalo National Park Visitor Center. We also had a second sighting, albeit more briefly, at the Guesthouse Madalief. Genetic studies show that this 'partridge' is actually more closely related to Old World Quail.

Podicipedidae: Grebes (1)

Madagascar Grebe *Tachybaptus pelzelni* (E)—our first one was at Lac Alarobia, floating inconspicuously among all the larger waterfowl. We saw a family group at a secluded pond at Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, as well.

Phoenicopteridae: Flamingos (1)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*—a solitary young bird in a roadside pond en route to Ifaty

Phaethontidae: Tropicbirds (1)

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda*—wonderful studies of these birds both in flight and sitting on nests at Nosy Ve

Scopidae: Hamerkop (1)

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*—singles observed on three days, always in rice paddies while traveling elsewhere. This relative of the herons is the only member of its family.

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (10)

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*—this widespread and familiar Old World heron was seemingly most numerous in coastal habitats in the southwest, where we saw it on four days. They were nesting on Nosy Ve.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*—a single distant flyby outside the town of Ambatovaky

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—this cosmopolitan species was present in small numbers throughout

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*—we had many sightings, including large and active rookeries and Lac Alarobia and Nosy Ve. The subspecies of Little Egret on the island is sometimes split as ‘Dimorphic Egret.’

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*—nice numbers at Lac Alarobia, where we got to see their famous ‘parasol’ hunting strategy on the edge of the lake

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—scattered sightings throughout the island, as well as studies of multiple birds at the Lac Alarobia rookery

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*—a couple hundred were nesting at Lac Alarobia, but we did not see them anywhere else

Madagascar Pond-Heron *Ardeola idae* (BrE)—a few crisp breeding plumage adults at Lac Alarobia offered our best views. This species migrates to eastern Africa outside the breeding season.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*—a few individuals on the expansive mudflats en route to Ifaty, and a couple at the pond at Le Relais de la Reine

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—several individuals at the Lac Alarobia rookery

Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (2)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*—seen in rice paddies outside of Ranomafana

Madagascar Ibis *Lophotibis cristata* (E)—we had beautiful views of this forest ibis at Perinet, sitting on a nest

Accipitridae: Hawks, Eagles and Kites (6)

Madagascar Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides radiatus* (E)—great views in the spiny forest at Ifaty, where we enjoyed seeing an individual perched out in the open. This is a striking and large raptor with expressive facial skin that changes color according to mood.

Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda madagascariensis* (E)—only one good sighting of this species, which interestingly mimics the Madagascar Buzzard in appearance – a case of Batesian mimicry

Frances's Goshawk *Accipiter francesiae* (RE)—a single one of these small *Accipiters* appeared miraculously on an unobstructed branch on our final morning. Amazing!

Madagascar Sparrowhawk *Accipiter madagascariensis* (E)—this medium-sized *Accipiter* performed well for us at Ifaty and Perinet.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*—the most common raptor on the island, regularly seen in all open habitats

Madagascar Buzzard *Buteo brachypterus* (E)—all of our sightings of this large hawk were in dense forest, such as Zombitse-Vohibasia, Ranomafana and Andasiba-Mantadia National Parks

Mesitornithidae: Mesites (2)

Brown Mesite *Mesitornis unicolor* (E)—after a lot of effort and patience, a few hardy souls managed to get crippling views one afternoon of a bird walking right by them. There is nothing in the world similar in appearance – perhaps a mix of rail and dove. What a bird!

Subdesert Mesite *Monias benschi* (E)—one perched in a low tree at length for the group in Ifaty. Unlike the previous species, this one has a decurved bill that gives it a vaguely babbler- or thrasher-like appearance.

Rallidae: Rails, Crakes and Coots (4)

Madagascar Rail *Rallus madagascariensis* (E) (HO)—we heard this species quite well in the boggy highland wetland at Ranomafana

White-throated Rail *Dryolimnas cuvieri* (RE)—we observed this colorful rail on three days, including one bird that decided to cross a busy road as we were returning to Antananarivo. Also seen at Andasibe-Mantadia and Relais de la Reine

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*—a few at Lac Alarobia and the pond at Andasibe-Mantadia

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*—more widespread and common in Africa, we saw one individual of this species at Lac Alarobia

Sarothruridae: Flufftails (2)

Madagascar Wood-Rail *Canirallus kioloides* (E)—we all got into position and waited quietly on the trail at Ranomafana, and we got rewarded with amazing views of a bird strutting about. The flufftails and some of the rails have recently been split off as a new family, the Sarothruridae.

Madagascar Flufftail *Sarothrura insularis* (E)—heard and seen all too briefly at Ranomafana

Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets (1)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*—a couple sightings in the vicinity of Ifaty, including nearly a dozen at an isolated salt pan with many other shorebirds

Charadriidae: Plovers and Lapwings (8)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*—a few on the beaches of Nosy Ve and near Ifaty

Lesser Sand-Plover *Charadrius mongolus*—the salt pans outside of Toliara hosted a large number of sand-plovers, including a few individuals of this species

Greater Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*—the most numerous plover in the salt pans outside of Toliara

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*—seemingly a common species in the southwest, where we saw it daily and sometimes not even close to water

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*—a score of these migratory plovers at the Toliara salt pans

Madagascar Plover *Charadrius thoracicus* (E)—a cooperative individual in highly degraded habitat just south of Ifaty – do not know how much longer this species can persist at this site due to human activity
Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*—one in a small wetland en route to Ifaty
White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*—the common resident plover of sandy beaches and mudflats, seen a few times in the southwest

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (9)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*—good numbers at Nosy Ve, Caliente Beach and near Ifaty
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*—a few of this familiar shorebird at Nosy Ve and near Ifaty
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*—large numbers of this Old World shorebird were apparently wintering in the salt pans near Toliara
Sanderling *Calidris alba*—one bird on the mudflats south of Ifaty
Madagascar Snipe *Gallinago macrodactyla* (E)—one flushed towards us at the high altitude wetland at Ranomafana. This cool shorebird is larger and darker than the more familiar migratory Wilson’s Snipe of North America.
Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*—two impressed us with their upturned bills near Ifaty
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*—singles on the coast at Ifaty and the Mangoro River. This shorebird is the Old World equivalent of Spotted Sandpiper.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*—a common shorebird in the southwest with sightings at Caliente Beach, Toliara and Ifaty
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*—although similar in appearance to a greenshank, this species is much more delicately built. We saw one in the mudflats south of Ifaty.

Turnicidae: Buttonquails (1)

Madagascar Buttonquail *Turnix nigricollis* (RE)—this tiny ground dweller could not have performed better for the group at the Arboretum d’Antsokay

Dromadidae: Crab-Plover (1)

Crab-Plover *Dromas ardeola*—we saw several of these really cool shorebirds south of Ifaty. They look like they have the body of an avocet but the bill of a giant Wilson’s Plover. Really cool!

Glareolidae: Coursers and Pratincoles (1)

Madagascar Pratincole *Glareola ocularis* (BrE)—a half-dozen of these beauties flew in while we were searching for them at the Mangoro River

Laridae: Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (1)

Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*—a few distant ones near Caliente Beach and Nosy Ve

Pteroclididae: Sandgrouse (1)

Madagascar Sandgrouse *Pterocles personatus* (E)—we had scope views of a male and a few females en route to Zombitse on someone’s land

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (5)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (I)—a few in larger towns and cities
Madagascar Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia picturata* (RE)—we saw this pretty and shy dove best at Ifaty, although we also had brief views and flybys elsewhere in the tour
Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*—this elegant little dove was delightfully common in the dry southwest

Madagascar Green-Pigeon *Treron australis* (RE)—a small flock of these fruit-eating doves on our last morning of the tour

Madagascar Blue-Pigeon *Alectroenas madagascariensis* (E)—we recorded this beautiful and unique fruit-eating pigeon daily in the rainforests of Ranomofana and Andasibe-Mantadia. The blue-pigeons of the Indian Ocean islands are most closely related to the Australian and Pacific Island fruit doves thousands of miles away!

Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Allies (11)

Crested Coua *Coua cristata* (E)—we saw this arboreal cuckoo only three times in the dry forests of Ifaty and Zombitse

Verreaux's Coua *Coua verreauxi* (E)—initially, we only got silhouette views of a distant bird at Le Table. However, Kim spotted a much closer bird on the eleventh hour that the whole group got to enjoy! This coua has an extremely limited distribution.

Blue Coua *Coua caerulea* (E)—this large, arboreal coua was not too uncommon in the rainforests of Ranomofana and Andasibe. This species resembles mainland Africa's colorful turacos.

Red-capped Coua *Coua ruficeps* (E)—we saw the 'Green-capped' subspecies of this coua at Ifaty and Arboretum d'Antsokay

Red-fronted Coua *Coua reynaudii* (E)—only a few participants were able to see this shy rainforest coua on our two chances at Ranomafana and Andasibe – it just kept slipping away!

Coquerel's Coua *Coua coquereli* (E)—a terrestrial coua of drier, semi-deciduous forests – the determined holdouts of our group managed to see it really well right before lunch at Zombitse

Running Coua *Coua cursor* (E)—the local guides at Ifaty herded one of these smaller couas to a small clearing where we got excellent views

Giant Coua *Coua gigas* (E)—the largest of all the couas and perhaps the most cooperative and tranquil; we observed a pair at close range at Zombitse on a couple occasions.

Red-breasted Coua *Coua serriana* (E) (HO)---we tried our best at Andasibe with a calling bird, but it somehow slipped away before anyone got to see it

Madagascar Coucal *Centropus toulou* (RE)—a very common cuckoo of secondary growth and disturbed areas throughout Madagascar from cities to dry forest to rainforest

Madagascar Cuckoo *Cuculus rochii* (BrE)—this is a common summer migrant to Madagascar, equally at home in both wet and dry forests. We had our best views of a perched bird at Ifaty.

Tytonidae: Barn Owl (1)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*—a very shy bird at Guesthouse Madalief

Strigidae: Owls (4)

Malagasy Scops-Owl *Otus rutilus* (E)—we followed the sound and movement of a flock of angry jerys to a roosting individual of this species

Torotoroka Scops-Owl *Otus madagascariensis* (E)—a few of our group opted for some optional owling at le Relais de la Reine, where we got excellent views of this small owl. Everyone caught up with it the following day at Zombitse.

Marsh Owl *Asio capensis*—one of these widespread African owls in a scrubby field outside of Guesthouse Madalief. Beautiful owl!

White-browed Owl *Ninox supercilii* (E)—Rhoda commanded one of these owls to perch on the branch of her choice at le Relais de la Reine. An alert roosting bird at Zombitse cooperated for those that opted out of the owling.

Caprimulgidae: Nightjars (2)

Collared Nightjar *Gactornis enarratus* (E)—an adult and two nearly full grown chicks at Andasibe-Mantadia looked like a piece of modern art amongst the leaf litter. No one knows what this species even sounds like, such are the gaps in our knowledge of Madagascar's fauna.

Madagascar Nightjar *Caprimulgus madagascariensis* (RE)—surprisingly common and tolerant of human disturbance, with sightings at Hotel Au Bois Vert, Ifaty and Guesthouse Madalief

Apodidae: Swifts (3)

Malagasy Spinetail *Zoonavena grandidieri* (RE)—one flitting over the pond at Andasibe-Mantadia

Madagascar Swift *Apus balstoni* (RE)—a large flock of swifts feeding over the pond at Relais de la Reine included several of these larger ones

African Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*—very common at Relais de la Reine, often in large flocks

Leptosomidae: Cuckoo-Roller (1)

Cuckoo-Roller *Leptosomus discolor* (RE)—one of the most common sounds in the forests of Madagascar. We saw this hawk-sized bird (yes, they are that big!) a few times at Zombitse and Perinet, including a patient female sitting outside of her nest cavity.

Upupidae: Hoopoes (1)

Madagascar Hoopoe *Upupa marginata* (E)—most common in the drier forests of the southwest, including Caliente Beach, Ifaty and Zombitse

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (2)

Malagasy Kingfisher *Corythornis vintsioides* (RE)—this colorful little kingfisher was fortunately quite common wherever there was freshwater on our route, so we got to enjoy it again and again

Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher *Corythornis madagascariensis* (E)—we heard this species a few times at Andasibe-Mantadia, but we never managed more than a quick view of a red dart shooting across the road

Meropidae: Bee-eaters (1)

Madagascar Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* (BrE)—present in small numbers in open areas throughout our route on the island, including a most cooperative bird hunting over the swimming pool near Ifaty

Coraciidae: Rollers (1)

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* (BrE)—we saw our first of these flying rainbows at Relais de la Reine, and it was also common at Andasibe-Mantadia. Who knew brown, blue and purple looked so great together?

Brachypteraciidae: Ground-Rollers (4)

Short-legged Ground-Roller *Brachypteracias leptosomus* (E)—observed this arboreal ground-roller at Andasibe-Mantadia, a species convergent with Neotropical puffbirds

Pitta-like Ground-Roller *Atelornis pittoides* (E)—not uncommon at Ranomafana, where we got to enjoy this jewel a handful of times on the forest trails. The coloration, calls and tail movements are reminiscent of Neotropical motmots.

Rufous-headed Ground-Roller *Atelornis crossleyi* (E)—after a lot of work on the part of our local guide, a few determined trip participants got to see this rare ground-roller at Ranomafana

Long-tailed Ground-Roller *Uratelornis chimaera* (E)—the local guides at Ifaty herded one of these spectacular birds into view at Ifaty. It does not look quite like anything else on Earth – understandable why many birders consider it one of the world’s most striking birds. **VOTED BIRD OF THE TRIP!**

Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (4)

Madagascar Kestrel *Falco newtoni* (RE)—common and widespread in all habitats across the island
Eleonora’s Falcon *Falco eleonora*—four birds feeding acrobatically en route to Andasibe-Mantadia were a special find. These birds breed on islands in the Mediterranean and winter in Madagascar.
Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*—a lucky sighting on our last afternoon at Hotel Au Bois Vert
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*—one seen briefly en route to Andasibe-Mantadia

Psittaculidae: Old World Parrots (3)

Greater Vasa-Parrot *Mascarinus vasa* (RE)—we had nice views of this bizarre parrot at Relais de la Reine, including a bare-headed female singing for her mate. We also had regular sightings of quick overhead flybys elsewhere on the island. Both of the Vasa-Parrots are most closely related to Pesquet’s Parrot of New Guinea, and this ancient lineage should perhaps be split off as a separate family.
Lesser Vasa-Parrot *Mascarinus niger* (RE)—although heard and briefly seen with regularity in the rainforests of the east, we only got reasonable scope views of a perched bird on our last morning
Gray-headed Lovebird *Agapornis canus* (E)—nice views of these cute little parrots at Caliente Beach, Ifaty and Relais de la Reine

Philepittidae: Asities (2)

Velvet Asity *Philepitta castanea* (E)—two males seen well at Ranomafana. A rotund, velvety black bird with a luminescent green eyebrow – stunning!
Sunbird Asity *Neodrepanis coruscans* (E)—a not-quite-adult male feeding actively along the Vohiparara Trail at Ranomafana. The resemblance to the more widespread sunbirds is uncanny.

Vangidae: Vangas and Allies (16)

Archbold’s Newtonia *Newtonia archboldi* (E)—we saw this small vanga at Ifaty, differentiated from the following species by the rufous forehead
Common Newtonia *Newtonia brunneicauda* (E)—this plain little bird was common in forests throughout
Dark Newtonia *Newtonia amphichroa* (E)—a rainforest newtonia, seen a couple times at Ranomafana
Tylas Vanga *Tylas eduardi* (E)—the part of the group that opted to continue onward to see Brown Mesite also saw this vanga in a mixed feeding flock
Red-tailed Vanga *Calicalicus madagascariensis* (E)—an attractive little vanga seen in forests throughout the island, often as the core members of mixed feeding flocks
Red-shouldered Vanga *Calicalicus rufocarpalis* (E)—we saw this very special bird at La Table. Described only in 1997, it was the last bird Phoebe Snetsinger saw before her death in 1999.
Chabert Vanga *Leptopterus chabert* (E)—the very first vanga we saw on the tour, with sightings at La Table, Ifaty and Andasibe-Mantadia. One of the more adaptable vangas
Crossley’s Vanga *Mystacornis crossleyi* (E) (HO)—frustratingly, only heard by nearly the entire group both at Ranomafana and Andasibe-Mantadia. Ornithologists once believed that this was actually a babbler.
Blue Vanga *Cyanolanius madagascarinus* (RE)—this vanga’s blue plumage almost glows! Seen at wetter forest types: Zombitse, Andasibe and Mantadia
Hook-billed Vanga *Vanga curvirostris* (E)—an adult observed at length at Ifaty, feeding a nest full of young and devouring a lizard right before our eyes

Ward's Flycatcher *Pseudobias wardi* (E)—a bird of mixed feeding flocks but always high in the forest canopy. We saw it at both Ranomafana and Andasibe. It's body shape and behavior once made scientists believe that it was a true flycatcher.

Rufous Vanga *Schetba rufa* (E)—we saw this large and striking vanga only at Zombitse

Sickle-billed Vanga *Falcolea palliata* (E)—large and spectacular vanga seen only once at Ifaty

White-headed Vanga *Artamella viridis* (E)—similar in plumage to the preceding species but lacking the long, decurved bill – we only saw one at Ifaty

Pollen's Vanga *Xenopirostris pollen* (E)—a scarce vanga of eastern rainforests, so we felt quite lucky to have seen one at Ranomafana one afternoon

Lafresnaye's Vanga *Xenopirostris xenopirostris* (E)—we saw one in the dry scrub of La Table, laying very still in a spiny bush. The hooked bill is laterally compressed.

Campephagidae: Cuckooshrikes (1)

Ashy Cuckooshrike *Coracina cinerea* (RE)—we saw this dapper bird at Ranomafana and Andasibe-Mantadia, always in mixed feeding flocks

Dicruridae: Drongos (1)

Crested Drongo *Dicrurus forficatus* (RE)—a common, boisterous black bird of open habitats throughout the island

Monarchidae: Monarch Flycatchers (1)

Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone mutata* (RE)—these stunning birds were reasonably common in Zombitse, Ranomafana and Andasibe-Mantadia, but our first encounter was of a pair nesting at one of the Arboretum d'Antsokay buildings

Corvidae: Crows and Jays (1)

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*—these strong flying African crows were very common on the west side of the island. In size and voice, they seem more like a raven than a crow.

Alaudidae: Larks (1)

Madagascar Lark *Eremopterix hova* (E)—really nice views in open, sandy areas near Caliente Beach at the entrance road to Arboretum d'Antsokay

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (2)

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*—these close relatives of Bank Swallow were present in small numbers at Guesthouse Madalief and Ranomafana

Mascarene Martin *Phedina borbonica*—the most common and widespread swallow on the island

Pycnonotidae: Bulbuls (1)

Madagascar Bulbul *Hypsipetes madagascariensis* (RE)—perhaps the most common native passerine on the island

Acrocephalidae: Reed-Warblers and Allies (3)

Madagascar Brush-Warbler *Nesillas typica* (RE)—seen really well at Hotel Au Bois Vert where a pair were nesting by the restaurant, with subsequent repeated views at wet rainforest sites such as Ranomafana and Andasibe

Subdesert Brush-Warbler *Nesillas lantzii* (E)—the dry scrub and forest equivalent of the preceding species, recorded at La Table and Ifaty

Madagascar Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus newtoni* (E)—our best views were of a single calling bird at Lac Alarobia

Locustellidae: Grassbirds and Allies (1)

Gray Emu-tail *Amphispalis seebohmi* (E)—seen not so well in the high altitude wetland of Ranomafana, where they just would not cooperate for good views

Bernieridae: Malagasy Warblers (9)

White-throated Oxylabes *Oxylabes madagascariensis* (E)—a couple sightings of this richly colored species on the Vohiparara Trail of Ranomafana, creeping low along branches and up tree trunks

Long-billed Bernieria *Bernieria madagascariensis* (E)—we saw this neat Malagasy warbler at Zombitse and Ranomafana, creeping along trunks and limbs much like the Neotropical foliage-gleaners

Cryptic Warbler *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi* (E)—a small, distant bird singing from the tree canopy on a mountain slope

Wedge-tailed Jery *Hartertula flavoviridis* (E)—fantastic views of this tetraka at Ranomafana, looking and behaving very much like some of the resident Neotropical warblers such as Golden-crowned or Citrine (Clements should change the common name of this bird to avoid confusion with the unrelated jerys). Convergent evolution in this family is so cool.

Thamnornis *Thamnornis chloropetoides* (E)—this is the large, rather bland warbler we saw in the spiny forest at Ifaty. Once we learned the call, we realized how common they were in high quality spiny forest.

Spectacled Tetraka *Xanthomixis zosterops* (E)—the most common flocking species at both major rainforest sites, often in small family groups. In behavior and appearance, this species was most like some of the Asiatic forest bulbuls.

Appert's Tetraka *Xanthomixis apperti* (E)—we were lucky to see this very range-restricted species on a nest at Zombitse. Known from only two locations.

Gray-crowned Tetraka *Xanthomixis cinereiceps* (E)—a flocking species of high altitude montane forest at Ranomafana, where the fast moving birds gave us a hard time

Rand's Warbler *Randia pseudozosterops* (E)—we saw this odd little bird at both Ranomafana and Andasibe-Mantadia, where it was always singing in the tree canopy in association with Stripe-throated Jery

Cisticolidae: Cisticolas (4)

Common Jery *Neomixis tenella* (E)—common around Ifaty, Toliara and Andasibe

Green Jery *Neomixis viridis* (E)—a few individuals seen in the wet rainforest sites of the east such as Ranomafana and Andasibe

Stripe-throated Jery *Neomixis striatigula* (E)—common around Ifaty, Toliara and Andasibe, often in association with Rand's Warbler in wetter forests

Madagascar Cisticola *Cisticola cherina* (RE)—this cisticola was abundant in open or disturbed habitats such as at Nosy Ve and Guesthouse Madalief

Zosteropidae: White-eyes (1)

Madagascar White-eye *Zosterops maderaspatanus* (RE)—common and sociable little songbird in the wetter east side of the island

Muscicapidae: Old World Flycatchers and Chats (4)

Madagascar Magpie-Robin *Copsychus albospectularis* (E)—a common garden bird in Madagascar
Forest Rock-Thrush *Monticola sharpei* (E)—we saw a pair of this pretty species around the Isalo Visitor Center one afternoon, here represented by the ‘Benson’s subspecies
Littoral Rock-Thrush *Monticola imerina* (E)—this very range-restricted species was nesting right outside the bar at Anakao on our way back from Nosy Ve
African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*—seen regularly in open areas of the wetter east side of the island

Sturnidae: Starlings and Mynas (2)

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* (I)—unfortunately, we saw this invasive and aggressive species at every conceivable site, including on the wing of a parked airplane
Madagascar Starling *Hartlaubius auratus* (E)—we saw this scarce forest starling in the tree canopy of Andasibe

Nectariniidae: Sunbirds (2)

Souimanga Sunbird *Cinnyris sovimanga* (RE)—a common nectar feeding bird at all sites
Madagascar Sunbird *Cinnyris notatus* (RE)—once we got to Ranomafana and Andasibe, we started seeing this iridescent green sunbird with regularity

Motacillidae: Pipits and Wagtails (1)

Madagascar Wagtail *Motacilla flaviventris* (E)—these dapper birds were a lot of fun to watch, usually around human habitation such as Hotel Au Bois Vert, Guesthouse Madalief and the hotel at Ranomafana

Ploceidae: Weavers (4)

Nelicourvi Weaver *Ploceus nelicourvi* (E)—small numbers seen almost daily in the rainforests of Ranomafana and Andasibe
Sakalava Weaver *Ploceus sakalava* (E)—abundant in the dry southwest, where we also got to see a large colony just outside the spiny forest at Ifaty
Red Fody *Foudia madagascariensis* (E)—this beautiful crimson weaver was common throughout the island, even in downtown Antananarivo
Forest Fody *Foudia omissa* (E)—our best view was of a striking adult male along the road at Ranomafana

Estrildidae: Waxbills and Munias (1)

Madagascar Munia *Lonchura nana* (E)—small flocks of these dainty little munias in open, grassy areas of Ifaty, le Relais de la Reine, Ranomafana and Andasibe

MAMMALS (18 species recorded):

Cheirogaleidae: Mouse and Dwarf Lemurs (3)

Golden-brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus ravelobensis*—observed while spotlighting at Andasibe
Gray-brown Mouse Lemur *Microcebus griseorufus*—a couple of sleeping puffballs at Arboretum d’Antsokay
Crossley’s Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus crossleyi*—we saw this cute little lemur while spotlighting at Andasibe

Lepilemuridae: Sportive Lemurs (1)

Zombitse Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur hubbardorum*—seen at Zombitse

Lemuridae: True Lemurs (6)

Greater Bamboo Lemur *Prolemur simus*—prolonged studies of a family group at Ranomafana was a big highlight for the group

Ring-tailed Lemur *Lemur catta*—when someone mentions the word lemur, this species is usually the one they think about. The experience of a large family group moving and feeding all around us at Anja was one of the highlights of the entire trip

Common Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus*—observed while spotlighting along the road at Andasibe

Red-bellied Lemur *Eulemur rubriventer*—seen once at Ranomafana

Red-fronted Brown Lemur *Eulemur rufifrons*—seen at Ranomafana

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur *Varecia variegata*—this strikingly marked and fluffy lemur was feeding with a group of Indri at Mantadia – wow!

Indriidae: Sifakas and Indri (5)

Eastern Woolly Lemur *Avahi laniger*—seen well scaling a tree one evening at Andasibe

Diademed Sifaka *Propithecus diadema*—we saw a troupe of these critically endangered lemurs in the Analamazaotra part of Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, where they are reintroduced.

Milne-Edwards's Sifaka *Propithecus edwardsi*—lovely views on two days at Ranomafana

Verreaux's Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi*—the famous 'dancing lemurs' so named for their habit of moving along the ground with an extraordinary 'dancing' motion. Seen well at Zombitse.

Indri *Indri indri*—we saw this one, the world's largest lemur, at Andasibe-Mantadia. It produces one of the world's great natural sounds, almost like the mournful drawn out notes of a singing whale.

Muridae: Old World Rats and Mice (1)

Eastern Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus*—seen on two dates at Ranomafana

Tenrecidae: Tenrecs (1)

Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec *Echinops telfairi*—we observed this unusual little animal at Ifaty. The resemblance to a hedgehog is uncanny, even though they are not close relatives.

Hipposideridae: Old World Leaf-nosed Bats (1)

Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat *Hipposideros commersoni*—one roosting inside a building at Arboretum d'Antsokay

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (32 species recorded):

Chamaeleonidae: Chameleons (12)

Antimena Chameleon *Furcifer antimena*

Jeweled Chameleon *Furcifer lateralis*—a most gorgeous chameleon, with the skin resembling a carpet from India or the Middle East, seen well at Guesthouse Madalief

Oustalet's Chameleon *Furcifer oustaleti*—we saw this large chameleon at several sites, including Arboretum d'Antsokay and a brilliant red adult near the parking lot at Relais de la Reine

Warty Chameleon *Furcifer verrucosus*

Anja Stub-tailed Chameleon *Brookesia brunoi*—we saw these tiniest of chameleons at Anja, where they were only recently described in 2012

Brown Leaf Chameleon *Brookesia superciliaris*

Cryptic Chameleon *Calumma crypticum*—seen while spotlighting along the road at Ranomafana

Short-nosed Chameleon *Calumma gastrotaenia*—seen while spotlighting along the road at Ranomafana

Deceptive Chameleon *Calumma fallax*

Nose-horned Chameleon *Calumma nasutum*

Parson's Chameleon *Calumma parsonii*—we saw these heaviest of chameleons at Andasibe (both male and female)

O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon *Calumma oshaughnessyi*—a couple individuals along the forest trails at Ranomafana

Gekkonidae: Geckos (6)

Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus phantasticus*—an incredibly disguised individual at Ranomafana delighted the group

Lined Day Gecko *Phelsuma lineata*—a common gecko at Andasibe-Mantadia

Modest Day Gecko *Phelsuma modesta*

Standing's Day Gecko *Phelsuma standingi*—seen at Zombitse

Peacock Day Gecko *Phelsuma quadriocellata*—these colorful day geckos loved to chase the green laser pointer! Very common at Ranomafana

Thick-tailed Gecko *Phelsuma mutabilis*—observed around Caliente Beach

Opluridae: Iguanid Lizards (3)

Three-eyed Lizard *Chalarodon madagascariensis*—usually seen running along on the red sand of Ifaty

Dumeril's Madagascar Swift *Oplurus quadrimaculatus*—many of these right outside the main building at Relais de la Reine

Merrem's Madagascar Swift *Oplurus cyclurus*

Gerrhosauridae: Plated Lizards (3)

Madagascar Girdled Lizard *Zonosaurus madagascariensis*—a common lizard at Andasibe-Mantadia

Four-striped Girdled Lizard *Zonosaurus quadrilineatus*

Madagascar Keeled Plated Lizard *Tracheloptychus madagascariensis*

Boidae: Boias (1)

Madagascar Tree Boa *Sanzinia madagascariensis*—we saw an ornery individual behind the hotel at Ranomafana. The Malagasy boas seem to be most closely related to

Colubridae: Colubrid Snakes (1)

Mahfaly Sand Snake *Mimophis mahfalensis*—not too uncommon in the spiny forest of Ifaty

Testudinidae: Tortoises (1)

Spider Tortoise *Pyxis arachnoides*—we saw a truly wild individual at Ifaty, where we got to admire its beautiful carapace

Mantellidae: Malagasy Frogs (3)

Botta's Skeleton Frog *Boophis bottae*

Baron's Mantella *Mantella baroni*—we saw this strikingly colorful frog at Andasibe-Mantadia

Pandanus Frog *Guibemantis pulcher*

Hyperoliidae: Malagasy Reed Frogs (1)

Betsileo Reed Frog *Heterixalus betsileo*

Ptychadenidae: Grassland Frogs (1)

Madagascar Ridged Frog *Ptychadena mascareniensis*

Notable Insects:

Giraffe-necked Weevil *Trachelophorus giraffe*—we found a few at Ranomafana

Madagascar Giant Swallowtail *Pharmacophagus antenor*—this spectacular butterfly was commonly seen fluttering along the tops of trees around Ifaty

Clouded Mother-of-Pearl *Protogoniomorpha anacardii*

Brilliant Blue *Junonia rhadama*

Blue Pansy *Junonia oenone*

Banded Commodore *Precis andremiaja*

Madagascar Sunset Moth *Chrysidia rhipheus*—we saw this electrically colorful moth at Andasibe-Mantadia