



Nov. 26 – Dec. 10, 2018

Madagascar Birding and Wildlife Tour Species List

With Carlos Sanchez, Marc Rabenandrasana, expert local guides, and 7 participants:
Cathy, Sandy, Jeff, Eileen, Diane, Suzanne and Robert

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 over 80 endemic birds, including the legendary Helmet Vanga!). Along the way, we laughed almost the entire time (it was an especially jovial group), made new friends and created incredible memories.

BIRDS (154 species recorded, of which 6 were heard only):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (4)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*—large numbers of these attractive ducks at Lac Alarobia, where they were associating with large numbers of smaller dabbling ducks

Hottentot Teal *Spatula hottentota*—we saw about a couple dozen of these little blue-billed ducks at Lac Alarobia plus a few more at the Belalanda Wetlands.

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

GUINEAFOWL: Numididae (1)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* (I)—a couple shy birds in the grasslands near Relais de la Reine. This species is thought to be an old introduction to Madagascar, brought to the island before the arrival of Europeans.

FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae (1)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopus roseus*—a few drab, immature birds at Belalanda Wetlands en route to Ifaty

GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*—seen only once, a couple at the Belalanda Wetlands. Widespread but generally uncommon on the island.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (5)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (I)—common feral bird in towns and cities

Madagascar Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia picturata* (RE)—we saw this pretty and shy dove well on the grounds of Relais de la Reine, walking along on the ground under a lone tree. Widespread and common elsewhere but very shy due to hunting.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*—this elegant and pretty little dove was common in the dry southwest

Madagascar Green-Pigeon *Treron australis* (RE)—several skittish birds feeding on figs near Ifaty one day

Madagascar Blue-Pigeon *Alectroenas madagascariensis* (E)—we recorded this beautiful and unique fruit-eating pigeon in the rainforests of Ranomofana and Andasibe-Mantadia, including a nice perched individual in full sun. Not as common or as numerous as the previous year. The blue-pigeons of the Indian Ocean islands are most closely related to the Australian and Pacific Island fruit doves thousands of miles away!

MESITES: Mesitornithidae (2)

Brown Mesite *Mesitornis unicolor* (E) (HO)—a pair calling in an overgrown ravine at Ranomafana was heard by all but not in a place where we could pursue it, unfortunately

Subdesert Mesite *Monias benschi* (E)—a male and then a female perched in a low tree at length for the group in Ifaty, allowing us to approach it to within a few feet. Really does not look like anything else!

SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae (1)

Madagascar Sandgrouse *Pterocles personatus* (E)—nice flyover flock plus several birds walking along briskly through short grass on the way from Toliara to Relais de la Reine

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae(11)

Crested Coua *Coua cristata* (E)—we saw a couple of these attractive, arboreal couas at Ifaty

Verreaux's Coua *Coua verreauxi* (E)—seen very well, albeit briefly, in the spiny forest of La Table. This coua has an extremely limited distribution in coastal southwest Madagascar.

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

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

Red-fronted Coua *Coua reynaudii* (E)—beautiful and lengthy views of a very responsive individual at Andasibe-Mantadia National Park. This rainforest coua is normally shy and difficult to observe!

Coquerel's Coua *Coua coquereli* (E)—a terrestrial coua of drier, semi-deciduous forests – brief views of a skittish individual at Zombitse National Park as it crossed the trail in front of us

Running Coua *Coua cursor* (E)—nice views of a pair feeding on a lizard at La Table, followed by excellent repeat views of another individual at Ifaty

Giant Coua *Coua gigas* (E)—the largest of all the couas and perhaps the most cooperative and tranquil; we observed one at close range at Zombitse National Park after a brief chase by an angry Appert's Tetraka!

Red-breasted Coua *Coua serriana* (E) (HO)—we tried our best at Andasibe with a calling bird, but it would just not move from its spot in dense rainforest undergrowth. This species is the hardest to see of all the couas.

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 Zombitse National Park.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (2)

Collared Nightjar *Gactornis enarratus* (E)—an adult and its nearly full grown offspring roosting in the leaf litter at Analamazaotra Reserve. 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 our hotel in Toliara and Arboretum d'Antsokay

SWIFTS: Apodidae (3)

Malagasy Spinetail *Zoonavena grandidieri* (RE)—singles seen feeding over forest at Ifaty and Zombitse National Park

Madagascar Swift *Apus balstoni* (RE)—our best views were at near the waterfall at Ranomafana National Park, where we saw about a dozen feeding over the valley

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

FLUFFTAILS: Sarothruridae (2)

Madagascar Wood-Rail *Canirallus kioloides* (E)—beautiful views of three birds on our last morning at the Anamalazaotra Reserve near Andasibe, foraging in the leaf litter quite far from water. The flufftails and some of the rails have recently been split off as a new family, the Sarothruridae.

Madagascar Flufftail *Sarothrura insularis* (E) (HO)—heard only on the Vohiparara Trail at Ranomafana and Anamalazaotra Reserve

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (4)

Madagascar Rail *Rallus madagascariensis* (E) (HO)—we heard this species quite well in the same boggy highland wetland where we flushed Madagascar Snipe

White-throated Rail *Dryolimnas cuvieri* (RE)—we observed this colorful rail on four days, including cooperative individuals at Relais de la Reine and Vakona Forest Lodge

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*—a few of these familiar birds at Lac Alarobia, very similar to the Common Gallinule found in the Americas

Baillon's Crake *Zapornia pusilla* (HO)—one heard well at the Belalanda Wetlands, a known site for this diminutive rail

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*—a couple dozen birds at the Belalanda Wetlands gave everyone great views

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (7)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*—rather common on the beaches at Nosy Ve, Toliara and Ifaty
Greater Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*—a few on the mudflats of the Toliara Harbor on a very windy late afternoon visit

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*—a common species in the arid southwest, filling a niche close to that of America's Killdeer. One of the most numerous birds at the Belalanda Wetlands!

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*—reasonably common boreal migrant, with sightings at Toliara, Ifaty and the Belalanda Wetlands. Most of these birds migrate all the way from the Scandinavian and Russian tundra to spend the winter in Africa and Madagascar.

Madagascar Plover *Charadrius thoracicus* (E)—a cooperative individual in highly degraded habitat just south of Ifaty, differentiated from Kittlitz's Plover by its black breast band. The IUCN classifies this species as Vulnerable due to habitat loss in southwest Madagascar.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*—one of these striking plovers at the Belalanda Wetlands, with two more at the roadside Madagascar Snipe spot

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*—our best views were on the sandy beach at Nosy Ve

PAINTED-SNIPES: Rostratulidae (1)

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*—a pair of these beautiful, chunky shorebirds seen well on the edge of a reedbed at Belalanda Wetlands. Nice!

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (7)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*—the most numerous shorebird by far on the mudflats of Toliara and Ifaty, with hundreds seen

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*—a small flock of this familiar shorebird at Nosy Ve

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*—nice views of a dozen or so individuals at the Belalanda Wetlands

Sanderling *Calidris alba*—a few at Nosy Ve, scurrying on the beach

Madagascar Snipe *Gallinago macrodactyla* (E)—one flushed at a roadside wetland gave good in-flight views. This cool shorebird is larger and darker than the more familiar migratory Wilson's Snipe of North America.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*—singles at the Belalanda Wetlands and the Mangoro River. This shorebird is the Old World equivalent of Spotted Sandpiper.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*—small numbers at Toliara, Ifaty and the Belalanda Wetlands

Laridae: Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (2)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*—a couple birds roosting together with the crested terns at Nosy Ve

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*—good numbers roosting on the beach at Nosy Ve before being flushed by wandering tourists

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*—several individuals observed in rice paddies on travel days. This relative of the herons is the only member of its family.

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (11)

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*—this widespread and familiar Old World heron was only a brief flyby at Nosy Ve, where there are a few nesting pairs

Humblot's Heron *Ardea humbloti*—one of these endemic herons at Lac Alarobia was a lucky find!

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*—a morning flyover at Relais de la Reine

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—this cosmopolitan species was present at Lac Alarobia and rice paddies in the central massif

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*—several at Lac Alarobia, although none were showing their famous 'parasol' hunting strategy this year

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, with a single bird seen at the Belalanda Wetlands in the late afternoon

Madagascar Pond-Heron *Ardeola idae* (BrE)—our best views were of an adult in crisp breeding plumage at the Belalanda Wetlands north of Toliara, although we also saw a few at the traditional site Lac Alarobia

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*—a couple individuals on the expansive mudflats at the Toliara Harbor were our only ones

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

Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (1)

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

Accipitridae: Hawks, Eagles and Kites (5)

Madagascar Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides radiatus* (E)—beautiful views at the spiny forest in Ifaty, as an individual made a serendipitous and low cruise right over the group. Amazing!

Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda madagascariensis* (E)—a pair calling and flying overhead at Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, which interestingly mimics the Madagascar Buzzard in appearance – a case of Batesian mimicry

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

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 wetter forest, such as Ranomafana and Andasiba-Mantadia National Parks, soaring overhead

Strigidae: Owls (4)

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 brief views of this small owl

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

Madagascar Owl *Asio madagascariensis* (E)—observed at a traditional roost near the Analamazaotra Reserve. This is Madagascar's largest species of owl.

White-browed Owl *Ninox supercilialis* (E)—a pair roosting at Zombitse offered beautiful views to the entire group

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 Ranomafana. We even saw a male perch nicely for the entire group at Zombitse while we were having lunch!

Upupidae: Hoopoes (1)

Madagascar Hoopoe *Upupa marginata* (E)—a pair seen briefly at Ifaty, with much more prolonged views in the gardens of Relais de la Reine where there was a resident pair

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (2)

Malagasy Kingfisher *Corythornis vintsioides* (RE)—we saw this colorful little kingfisher at Lac Alarobia and over a fish pond at the Analamazaotra Reserve

Madagascar Pygmy-Kingfisher *Corythornis madagascariensis* (E)—brief perched views for some at Andasibe-Mantadia National Park right by the road, but most 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 in drier areas of the island, particularly around Toliara, Ifaty and Zombitse

Coraciidae: Rollers (1)

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* (BrE)—we saw our first of these flying rainbows at Relais de la Reine, and we saw another at the Iaroka Forest. Unfortunately, there was a dead one on the lawn of Relais de la Reine one afternoon.

Brachypteraciidae: Ground-Rollers (5)

Short-legged Ground-Roller *Brachypteracias leptosomus* (E) (HO)—heard only at Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, where a bird was calling distantly up a steep hill

Scaly Ground-Roller *Brachypteracias squamiger* (E)—beautiful views of this large and exquisitely patterned ground-roller at Andasibe-Mantadia National Park – often times, the hardest of the ground-rollers to see

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, we got to see this rare ground-roller at Ranomafana really well

Long-tailed Ground-Roller *Uratelornis chimaera* (E)—the local guides at Ifaty herded one of these spectacular birds into view at Ifaty. We even got to see one of its nesting cavities – a simple hole in the ground.

Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (1)

Madagascar Kestrel *Falco newtoni* (RE)—common and widespread in all habitats across the island

Psittaculidae: Old World Parrots (3)

Greater Vasa-Parrot *Mascarinus vasa* (RE)—great views of a perched bird in the Iaroka Forest, seemingly unafraid of us. We also had distant views of a small family group at Ranomafana. 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)—one perched at length on a bare snag at Zombitse, allowing the group to study it well

Gray-headed Lovebird *Agapornis canus* (E)—nice views of these cute little parrots in the spiny forest at Ifaty, where they were feeding on a flowering tree

Philepittidae: Asities (2)

Velvet Asity *Philepitta castanea* (E)—a stunning male on the Vohiparara Trail at Ranomafana, as well as brief views of a demure female on the Iaroka Forest trail on the way to see the Helmet Vanga

Sunbird Asity *Neodrepanis coruscans* (E)—a female working quickly through the tree limbs above us on the Vohiparara Trail – incredible case of convergent evolution with sunbirds

Vangidae: Vangas and Allies (17)

Archbold's Newtonia *Newtonia archboldi* (E)—we saw a pair of these small vangas in the spiny forest of 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)—a pair in a mixed feeding flock of vangas in the Iaroka Forest – these guys look a little bit like Old World Orioles

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 much like chickadees back in the USA

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.

Nuthatch Vanga *Hypositta corallirostris* (E)—a pair by the road just outside the Analamazoatra Reserve on our last morning provided great views – they behave a lot like Black-and-white Warbler!

Chabert Vanga *Leptopterus chabert* (E)—a very adaptable and attractive vanga of forest edges and secondary growth, seen multiple times in spiny forest, montane forest and lowland rainforest throughout.

Crossley's Vanga *Mystacornis crossleyi* (E)—gorgeous views of a singing individual in the undergrowth of the Analamazoatra Reserve on our last morning. Formerly known as Crossley's Babbler.

Blue Vanga *Cyanolanius madagascarinus* (RE)—a vibrant blue vanga (even the bill and eyes are blue!), with pairs seen at both Zombitse and the Iaroka Forest

Ward's Flycatcher *Pseudobias wardi* (E)—a bird of mixed feeding flocks but always high in the forest canopy. They seemed to be quite common at Ranomafana, where one or two were seen moving together in most feeding flocks.

Helmet Vanga *Euryceros prevostii* (E)—after a long and memorable hike through pristine Madagascar rainforest, we reached a known nesting site for this species – absolutely spectacular and well worth the effort, deserving of its fame as one of the world's top birds. **VOTED BIRD OF THE TRIP!**

Rufous Vanga *Schetba rufa* (E)—we saw this large and striking vanga only at Zombitse, sitting on a nest

Sickle-billed Vanga *Falcula palliata* (E)—large and spectacular vanga seen a couple times at Ifaty (this is the largest species of vanga)

White-headed Vanga *Artamella viridis* (E)—similar in plumage to the preceding species but lacking the long, decurved bill – we saw one or two in a mixed feeding flock in the Iaroka Forest

Pollen's Vanga *Xenopirostris pollen* (E)—a scarce vanga of montane eastern rainforests, so we felt quite lucky to have seen a pair at Ranomafana in a mixed feeding flock

Lafresnaye's Vanga *Xenopirostris xenopirostris* (E)—we saw one in the dry scrub of La Table, perched and calling from a bare tree. Incredible bill on this species.

Campephagidae: Cuckooshrikes (1)

Ashy Cuckooshrike *Coracina cinerea* (RE)—we saw one at Zombitse and another on the Vohiparara Trail together with Pollen's Vanga. Cuckooshrikes are a big bird family in Australasia, but a few spillover into Africa and the Indian Ocean.

Dicruridae: Drongos (1)

Crested Drongo *Dicrurus forficatus* (RE)—a common, boisterous black bird of open habitats throughout the island. Their song often includes mimicry.

Monarchidae: Monarch Flycatchers (1)

Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone mutata* (RE)—these stunning birds were reasonably common in all forest types, but our first encounter was of a pair nesting near the gift shop of Arboretum d'Antsokay. Spectacular!

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 the wide open spaces near the Toliara Salt pans and the Belanda Wetlands

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (3)

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, even nesting in large numbers at Vakona Lodge right under the roof of the main building

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—a few of these migrant swallows at Ifaty in the spiny forest and along the coast

Pycnonotidae: Bulbuls (1)

Madagascar Bulbul *Hypsipetes madagascariensis* (RE)—perhaps the most common native passerine on the island, seen almost every day in any wooded habitat

Acrocephalidae: Reed-Warblers and Allies (3)

Madagascar Brush-Warbler *Nesillas typica* (RE)—quite common in the wetter forests of Ranomafana and Andasibe, as well as right around Antananarivo

Subdesert Brush-Warbler *Nesillas lantzii* (E)—the dry scrub and forest equivalent of the preceding species, with multiples seen throughout in the southwest corner of the island

Madagascar Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus newtoni* (E)—nice views of a pair at Lac Alarobia which perched up together on a reed, with subsequent views of almost half a dozen at the Belalanda Wetlands

Locustellidae: Grassbirds and Allies (1)

Brown Emu-tail *Bradypterus brunneus* (E)—glimpses of this shy, melodic songster in the undergrowth at Iaroka Forest

Bernieridae: Malagasy Warblers (10)

White-throated Oxylabes *Oxylabes madagascariensis* (E)—a very cooperative individual in a large mixed feeding flock of ‘Malagasy’ Warblers along the Telatekely Trail at Ranomafana, behaving a bit like one of the brushfinches of the American tropics

Long-billed Bernieria *Bernieria madagascariensis* (E)—best views were of a pair at Zombitse, where we got to observe their methodic way of probing the vegetation for food morsels like a foliage-gleaner

Cryptic Warbler *Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi* (E)—fantastic views of an individual mere feet above our heads along the Vohiparara Trail, associating with a flock of jerys

Wedge-tailed Jery *Hartertula flavoviridis* (E)—about a half-dozen moving in a mixed feeding flock of ‘Malagasy’ Warblers on the Telatekely Trail at Ranomafana. These behave a bit like American warblers!

Thamnornis *Thamnornis chloropetoides* (E)—a large and furtive warbler of the spiny undergrowth at Ifaty, where we even got to see the olive-green edging on the wing feathers

Yellow-browed Oxylabes *Crossleyia xanthophrys* (E)—nice views of a pair on the Vohiparara Trail at Ranomafana just moments after seeing our first Pitta-like Ground-Roller – a very cool and rare endemic that we missed last year

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. One angry bird even chased a Giant Coua away while we were watching!

Gray-crowned Tetraka *Xanthomixis cinereiceps* (E)—a flocking species of high altitude montane forest at Ranomafana, where we managed to see one reasonably well on the Telatekely Trail in a mixed feeding flock

Rand’s Warbler *Randia pseudozosterops* (E)—scope views of this bland little warbler at the entrance to the Telatekely Trail at Ranomafana, associating with a flock of Stripe-throated Jery

Cisticolidae: Cisticolas (4)

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

Green Jery *Neomixis viridis* (E)—seen only once, a vocal little group of three birds on the Iaroka Forest trail

Stripe-throated Jery *Neomixis striatigula* (E)—common in most native forest habitats, often singing in the canopy

Madagascar Cisticola *Cisticola cherina* (RE)—this cisticola was abundant in open or disturbed habitats such as at Nosy Ve and Guesthouse Madalief. We quickly learned its clicking ‘song’ and heard them in almost every field we visited

Zosteropidae: White-eyes (1)

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

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)—a juvenile and an adult of this very range-restricted species near Anakao on our way back from Nosy Ve

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*—a few saw the resident pair at the Green Palace in Antananarivo, but we saw many more of these great little birds in the scrubby fields near Guesthouse Madalief

Sturnidae: Starlings and Mynas (2)

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* (I)—unfortunately, we saw this invasive and aggressive species at every conceivable site, including the airport

Madagascar Starling *Hartlaubius auratus* (E)—we saw this scarce forest starling a couple times at Ranomafana in trees right by the road, giving everyone great views!

Nectariniidae: Sunbirds (2)

Souimanga Sunbird *Cinnyris sovimanga* (RE)—a common nectar feeding bird throughout

Madagascar Sunbird *Cinnyris notatus* (RE)—gorgeous and sizeable sunbird with fantastic iridescence, seen at Ifaty, Relais de la Reine and Ranomafana

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 Guesthouse Madalief and Hotel Thermal at Ranomafana

Ploceidae: Weavers (4)

Nelicourvi Weaver *Ploceus nelicourvi* (E)—singles seen almost daily in the rainforests of Ranomafana and Andasibe, usually associating with a mixed feeding flock of various tetrakas

Sakalava Weaver *Ploceus sakalava* (E)—abundant in the dry southwest

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 a side road at Ranomafana, but we also saw this species in the Iaroka Forest

Estrildidae: Waxbills and Munias (1)

Madagascar Munia *Lonchura nana* (E)—small flocks of these dainty little munias in open, grassy areas of Relais de la Reine, Guesthouse Madalief and Lac Alarobia

MAMMALS (18 species recorded):

Cheirogaleidae: Mouse and Dwarf Lemurs (3)

Gray Mouse-Lemur *Microcebus murinus*—one of these cute little guys seen on a night walk at Ifaty

Rufous Mouse-Lemur *Microcebus rufus*—seen by the side of the road at Ranomafana, taking bits of fruit when the larger dwarf lemur wasn't looking!

Furry-eared Dwarf Lemur *Cheirogaleus crossleyi*—great views by the side of the road at Ranomafana. Their primary diet consists of fruits and flowers

Lepilemuridae: Sportive Lemurs (1)

Hubbard's Sportive Lemur *Lepilemur hubbardorum*—one of these ghostly-eyed lemurs was peering out of his nest hollow at Zombitse

Lemuridae: True Lemurs (6)

Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur griseus*—we saw a small family group of these on a side road on our last morning at Ranomafana – a nice find!

Golden Bamboo Lemur *Haplemur aureus*—beautiful views on the Telatekely Trail at Ranomafana, where we quite literally got up close and personal with several of these critically endangered lemurs

Greater Bamboo Lemur *Prolemur simus*—two seen quite nicely on the Telatekely Trail at Ranomafana – the only two known individuals of this species in the national park

Ring-tailed Lemur *Lemur catta*—fantastic experience observing and enjoying these charismatic and emblematic lemurs at the Anja Community Reserve

Common Brown Lemur *Eulemur fulvus*—great photo opportunities on our last morning in the Analamazoatra Reserve!

Red-bellied Lemur *Eulemur rubriventer*—one seen briefly on the Vohiparara Trail at Ranomafana while we were watching a pair of Pitta-like Ground-Rollers

Indriidae: Sifakas and Indri (3)

Milne-Edwards's Sifaka *Propithecus edwardsi*—Suzanne and Robert saw one of these pretty lemurs as they were walking out of the Vohiparara Trail at Ranomafana

Verreaux's Sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi*—fantastic and prolonged views of a whole family group of these 'dancing lemurs' at Zombitse

Indri *Indri indri*—after hearing them quite often at the Iaroka Forest, we finally saw these largest of lemurs on our last afternoon and last morning at the Analamazoatra Reserve. They are very loud!

Muridae: Old World Rats and Mice (2)

Eastern Red Forest Rat *Nesomys rufus*—one seen briefly along the Vohiparara Trail at Ranomafana

Western Red Forest Rat *Nesomys lambertoni*—it took us a while to figure this one out, as we had only glimpses on the forest trails at Zombitse

Tenrecidae: Tenrecs (2)

Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec *Echinops telfairi*—one individual on the night walk at Ifaty

Common Tenrec *Tenrec ecaudatus*—Diane saw one of these special mammals as she was heading back on one of the trails at Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

Hipposideridae: Old World Leaf-nosed Bats (1)

Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat *Hipposideros commersoni*—a couple of these neat looking bats roosting at the gift shop at the Arboretum d'Antsokay

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (23 species recorded):

CHAMELEONS: Chamaeleonidae(8)

Oustalet's Giant Chameleon *Furcifer oustaleti*—a large and showy individual at the Anja Community Reserve

Spiny Chameleon *Furcifer verrucosus*—our first chameleon of the trip, seen in the spiny forest of Ifaty

Carpet Chameleon *Furcifer lateralis*—spectacularly colorful chameleon seen at our lunch stop, near the wetland where we flushed the snipe

Cryptic Chameleon *Calumma brevicorne*—seen on our night walk at Ranomafana

Perinet Chameleon *Calumma gastrotaenia*—seen on our night walk at Ranomafana

O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon *Calumma oshaughnessyi*—perhaps the most common chameleon seen on our night walk at Ranomafana

Parson's Chameleon *Calumma parsonii*—another chameleon species seen at night at Ranomafana

Anja Reserve Stub-tailed Chameleon *Brookesia brunoi*—a very cooperative individual at the Anja Community Reserve

GECKOS: Gekkonidae (7)

Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus (I)*—someone saw this ubiquitous little lizard during our stay at Ifaty Beach Club

Madagascar Ground Gecko *Paroedura picta*—one of these pretty and large geckos on our night walk at Ifaty

Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko *Uroplatus phantasticus*—an amazingly camouflaged individual on the Telatekely Trail at Ranomafana had to be seen to be believed!

Thick-tailed Gecko *Phelsuma mutabilis*—seen at the Arboretum d'Antsokay and Zombitse

Striped Day Gecko *Phelsuma lineata*—seen at Ranomafana near the start of the Telatekely Trail – very pretty and brightly colored lizard

Peacock Day Gecko *Phelsuma quadriocellata*—another one of the bright green Malagasy day geckos, seen around Ranomafana

Sakalava Madagascar Velvet Gecko *Blaesodactylus sakalava*—the local guides showed us one of these secretive, nocturnal geckos by tapping on a dead tree

MALAGASY IGUANAS: Opluridae (3)

Madagascar Iguana *Chalarodon madagascariensis*—these small 'iguanas' were relatively common in the drier southwest corner of the island from Ifaty to Zombitse

Merrem's Madagascar Swift *Oplurus cyclurus*—a splendid adult posed for us at Arboretum d'Antsokay

Dumeril's Madagascar Swift *Oplurus quadrimaculatus*—very common around the rocky areas of Relais de la Reine

PLATED LIZARDS: Gerrhosauridae (1)

Madagascar Girdled Lizard *Zonosaurus madagascariensis*—a large lizard seen at the Anja Community Reserve was this species

SKINKS: Scincidae (1)

Gold-spotted Mabuya *Trachylepis aureopunctata*—one around the rocks at Arboretum d'Antsokay

LAMPROPHIID SNAKES: Lamprophiidae (1)

Lateral Water Snake *Thamnosophis lateralis*—most of the group saw this black-and-yellow snake as it was slithering into the undergrowth at the Anja Community Reserve

MALAGASY FROGS: Mantellidae (2)

Baron's Mantella *Mantella baroni*—we saw several of these spectacularly colorful frogs at the Iaroka Forest

Malagasy Jumping Frog *Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis*—one of these large frogs as we were leaving the Vohiparara Trail at Ranomafana

NOTABLE INSECTS AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Giraffe-necked Weevil *Trachelophorus giraffe*—Jeff saw a few at Ranomafana

Flatid Leaf Insect *Flatida rosea*—amazing little insect, with lovely pink wings that make it look like an otherworldly moth or butterfly

Conehead Katydid *Colossopus grandidieri*—colloquially known as the 'Kung Fu Cricket', even though it is not a true cricket, seen nicely in the dry forest at Ifaty

Plain Tiger Butterfly *Danaus chrysippus*—also known as the African Monarch, seen daily in the dry southwest from Toliara to Relais de la Reine

Brilliant Blue *Junonia rhadama*—several of these pretty little butterflies at Lac Alarobia

Clouded Mother-of-Pearl *Protogoniomorpha anacardii*—one of these spectacular and large butterflies at Ranomafana on our last morning there

Madagascar Giant Swallowtail *Pharmacophagus antenor*—very common in the dry southwest of the country, especially around Toliara and Ifaty

Citrus Swallowtail *Papilio demodocus*—one feeding on Lantana in a sunny clearing at Zombitse

Spotted Blue Swallowtail *Papilio epiphorbas*

Yellow Pansy *Junonia hierta*

Madagascar Dotted Border *Mylothris phileris*