

got to see one of the females working a tree trunk for food. We also heard at least one on our roadside stop on the way out of Ranomafana on our final morning there. [E]

LAFRESNAYE'S VANGA (*Xenopirostris xenopirostris*) – Pronounced "Lay-frennay's". We had this range-restricted vanga in the spiny forest at Parc Mosa. It was actually one of our first birds of the morning there, as the local guides showed us one sitting right in a nest. We encountered another one later on in the morning, but since it wasn't tied down to a nest, it was much more difficult to pin down, and only some saw it. [E]

VAN DAM'S VANGA (*Xenopirostris damii*) – Considered the rarest and most threatened of all the vangas, this species is only known from two locales, and it's no picnic to track down even at those two sites. Luckily, after a couple of hours in the forest above the lodge at Ankarafantsika, and despite the deafening cicada noise and complete lack of vocalization from these birds, Ndrema went off trail on his own and tracked down a wonderfully obliging pair for us. These two Van Dam's Vangas stuck around long enough for us to ogle at point blank range for several minutes before they finally evaporated back into the dry forest. [E]

Campephagidae (Cuckooshrikes)

ASHY CUCKOOSHRIKE (*Coracina cinerea*) – Reasonably common around Ranomafana, and we encountered it in at least four birding locations there. We continued to see it here and there throughout the tour in both dry (Parc Mosa) and wet (Andasibe) forested habitats. [E]

Dicruridae (Drongos)

CRESTED DRONGO (*Dicrurus forficatus*) – Our first ones were at Ranomafana, where we got to watch the species engage in some really entertaining aerial flycatching. We then continued to encounter them throughout the tour, including various individuals chasing the Madagascar Sparrowhawk, and also being chased by other smaller birds that felt endangered by them. We also saw several of these on nests in our travels, including at the Mangoro River and at Ankarafantsika. [E]

Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)

MADAGASCAR PARADISE-FLYCATCHER (*Terpsiphone mutata*) – A pair of these came across in front of us as we were making an attempt for Yellow-browed Oxylobes on our second day at Ranomafana. One of them perched right out in the open virtually over our heads, giving everyone a pleasantly surprising consolation prize (made all the better since we would eventually see the oxylobes really well). The big highlight with regards to this species, however, are the white morph males. Undoubtedly one of the most elegant-looking birds in all of Madagascar, we got to see a whole bunch of these, starting with a pile of them at Berenty, and then with several at Mantadia, Andasibe, and Ankarafantsika. Their active nature and beauty often diverted many people's attention from the quests for rarer species, and justifiably so. [E]

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

PIED CROW (*Corvus albus*) – A very smart-looking crow, with a very raven-like flight style. It was fairly widespread in the open country around Madagascar, mostly during our drives. Despite the frequency of our sightings, the most we saw at any one time was 12-15.

Alaudidae (Larks)

MADAGASCAR LARK (*Eremopterix hova*) – Widespread in Madagascar, but mostly seen from various vehicles during our drives. They are actually a very distinctive looking lark, with their front-heavy appearance and exceptionally short tails (the latter contributing to the former, of course). [E]

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

PLAIN MARTIN (MADAGASCAR) (*Riparia paludicola cowani*) – At our very first birding stop (the snipe spot) outside Tana, this was the first species we scoped. It is widespread through Madagascar, but its distribution is patchy, and we don't see too many. The 15+ individuals were very cooperative, doing lots of perching in the sparse reeds, and there were constantly one or two flying around at close range.

BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*) – A big-time rarity in Madagascar, we had two small swallows fly over while we were at the sandgrouse spot on the road to St. Augustin, one of which was definitely this species. We only had time to seriously scrutinize and photograph that one before they disappeared to the south, but they both looked to be the same, so it's likely there were two Bank Swallows present! This is perhaps only the 3rd ever record of Bank Swallow for Madagascar.

MASCARENE MARTIN (*Phedina borbonica madagascariensis*) – The widespread and common swallow in Madagascar, we got our fair share starting at the Tamboho in Tana, and continuing on to Ranomafana (where some even saw a nest with eggs in cavity in the wall alongside the road), and all the way to the very end of the tour.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – A surprise flyover of a group of three in the spiny forest at Parc Mosa was a nice pickup. We then had one later that same morning at the salt pannes, while looking at Madagascar Plover.

Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)

MADAGASCAR BULBUL (*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*) – Common and widespread in forested areas (even dry ones) throughout, it is actually a really nice looking bird, with its deep blue-gray coloration and bright orange bill. [E]

Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers and Allies)

MADAGASCAR BRUSH-WARBLER (*Nesillas typica*) – A commonly encountered chattering throughout our travels away from the dry country, where it is replaced by the following species. We got looks at them on a couple of occasions, including at the Baillon's Crake marsh, and during the morning that we departed from Ranomafana. [E]

SUBDESERT BRUSH-WARBLER (*Nesillas lantzii*) – We picked these up easily at La Table, and we even got to see them perching out in the open quite well and from very close range. [E]

MADAGASCAR SWAMP-WARBLER (*Acrocephalus newtoni*) – We started out by seeing these at the Tamboho, and the only other place we saw these was also in Tana, at Lac Alarobia. [E]

Bernieridae (Malagasy Warblers)

WHITE-THROATED OXYLABES (*Oxylobes madagascariensis*) – We had two very loud and close birds on our second full day at Ranomafana, though they stayed hidden quite well. A couple of the most well-positioned and eagle-eyed in the group got some reasonable looks at at least one of them, as well. [E]

LONG-BILLED BERNIERIA (*Bernieria madagascariensis madagascariensis*) – Known by most authorities as Long-billed Tetraka at this point, this was a fairly common sight in the primary forests of Ranomafana and Ankarafantsika. [E]

CRYPTIC WARBLER (*Cryptosylvicola randrianasoloi*) – We got one of these foraging in the treetops during our second morning at Ranomafana NP. [E]

WEDGE-TAILED JERY (*Hartertula flavoviridis*) – On our first morning at Ranomafana, we lucked into this fairly sparsely distributed Tetraka, and obtained good looks for all. [E]

THAMNORNIS (*Thamnornis chloropetoides*) – A great bird of the spiny forest, this was the first of the spiny forest specialty species we saw on our first morning at Parc Mosa. Thamnornis is in its own eponymous monotypic genus, and we were fortunate enough to have a really good experience with this often shy and retiring bird. Everybody got unobstructed views, and in addition we got to hear its distinctive chatter loudly and repeatedly. [E]

YELLOW-BROWED OXYLABES (*Crossleyia xanthophrys*) – Whoa! Great looks at this exceptionally secretive species on our second day at Ranomafana. We were actually on our way back to the trailhead for lunch, and the forest had quieted down a lot, when Jean-Chris spotted this tiny bird shoot across the trail in front of us. We were then able to track it down and watch it at close range as it foraged on or very near the ground in fairly open understory. A great pickup of an always-challenging species. [E]

SPECTACLED TETRAKA (*Xanthomixis zosterops*) – We encountered this widespread forest tetraka briefly a couple of times at Ranomafana, but our best views by far were of a really close bird on a nest at Andasibe on our final evening there. [E]

APPERT'S TETRAKA (*Xanthomixis apperti*) – This one of the rarest birds in Madagascar, inhabiting just two patches of transitional forest between the central plateau and the arid west. The easiest place to see it is at Zombitse, and our guides did a great job finding a couple, and then managing to maneuver everything and everyone into position. They ensured that everybody got more than satisfactory views of these shy and skulking birds, as they foraged on and near the ground just off the edges of a trail. There are around 1,000 Appert's Tetrakas in the entire world, according to IUCN population estimates, so anybody who sees one is a member of a fairly exclusive club. [E]

GRAY-CROWNED TETRAKA (*Xanthomixis cinereiceps*) – This species typically works their way along tree trunks and are stealthy and difficult to track down, even where they occur. Only a few folks got on this one on our morning and afternoon jaunts along the trail towards Vohiparara. [E]

RAND'S WARBLER (*Randia pseudozosterops*) – A couple were singing and perching up conspicuously as soon as we arrived at Ranomafana on our first visit, and we continued to see, and especially hear, them throughout our birding there, and then again at Andasibe. [E]

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)

COMMON JERY (*Neomixis tenella*) – Heard at Ranomafana, and seen by a few. It became more common after that, and everybody eventually caught up with this species in several places. [E]

GREEN JERY (*Neomixis viridis*) – Heard at Ranomafana, and seen briefly by some. We got really excellent looks at a couple of them at Andasibe on our very productive final afternoon there. [E]

STRIPE-THROATED JERY (*Neomixis striatigula*) – This taxon was seen (though much more often heard) mainly at Andasibe and Mantadia. [E]

STRIPE-THROATED JERY (*Neomixis striatigula pallidior*) – We saw this taxon of Stripe-throated Jery at Parc Mosa, La Table, and Berenty, and it was actually quite common at some of those places. Our best views were at Parc Mosa and La Table. [E]

MADAGASCAR CISTICOLA (*Cisticola cherina*) – We got started on these by seeing them at a couple of stops on the way from Tana down to Ranomafana at the beginning of the tour. We saw them in several other places scattered through the trip, but the real motherlode came in the Tulear area. We got a lifetime's supply of these tiny charismatic songsters performing display flights all over the place at the sandgrouse spot along the road to St. Augustin. [E]

Zosteropidae (White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies)

MADAGASCAR WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops maderaspatanus*) – Abundant and widespread throughout all of our forest birding with the exception of the dry country in the southwest. [E]

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

MADAGASCAR MAGPIE-ROBIN (WHITE-BELLIED) (*Copsychus albospectularis inexpectatus*) – We saw this black-tailed, white-bellied taxon fairly commonly at Andasibe and Mantadia. The best studies were along the beginning of the road into Mantadia. [E]

MADAGASCAR MAGPIE-ROBIN (WHITE-WINGED) (*Copsychus albospectularis pica*) – Just a couple of these seen at Ranomafana, but we were serenaded by their song at the hotel in the pre-dawn hours starting around 4:00 AM every morning. After that we encountered these commonly throughout our birding expeditions within this taxon's range, with the highest concentration being at Parc Mosa. [E]

FOREST ROCK-THRUSH (FOREST) (*Monticola sharpei sharpei*) – Some saw a male nicely in the fading light of our second evening at Ranomafana, and all heard it very well. The very next morning we went to the same spot and everybody got scope views of a very cooperative male as it sat motionless in a tree for several minutes. It was sitting so still that we almost had to assure everyone that the local guides didn't put a stuffed one up there.

FOREST ROCK-THRUSH (BENSON'S) (*Monticola sharpei bensoni*) – It took a while, but we finally connected with this species that is native to the rocky regions around Isalo. On our final stop before we would have to leave the area, Gerard the magician managed to extract one from the rocky landscape and it showed well for all (on top of a flagpole of all places) before it disappeared back into the landscape. [E]

AFRICAN STONECHAT (MADAGASCAR) (*Saxicola torquatus sibilla*) – We saw these in only a few places, with the best looks coming early on in our morning visit to Mantadia, around the entrance gate to the park. [E]

Sturnidae (Starlings)

COMMON MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*) – Very widespread, unfortunately. An introduced bird to the country, thankfully one of few. The densities aren't huge in most places, with the highest concentration being a couple of dozen around the lake at the Tamboho. We speculated that their ascendance in the Isalo region could be why Benson's Rock-Thrush has all of a sudden become much more scarce than it was just a few years ago, as they could be getting outcompeted for nesting cavities. Mynas do seem to be expanding into and multiplying within the Isalo area concurrent with the decrease in rock-thrushes. [I]

MADAGASCAR STARLING (*Hartlaubius auratus*) – We had a couple of brief views upon our arrival at the parking lot Ranomafana, but then the next morning we had an excellent couple of birds in the road and then perched in trees right next to the bus as the very first birds of the day! [E]

Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)

SOUIMANGA SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris sovimanga*) – Common in all forested areas. The males are especially striking if you get one that sits still long enough for you to get a look at. In part because of the constant companionship we experienced from the species, this was one of Ray's top three birds of the tour. [E]

MADAGASCAR SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris notatus*) – A male was one of the first things we saw when we started birding at the small patch of native forest on the way to Ambositre. [E]

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

MADAGASCAR WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flaviventris*) – Scattered liberally throughout our route, with the exception of the dry forest sites in the southwest and south (though a few were seen by some folks on the long and unforgettable drive to Berenty). There was a pair or two at our hotel in Ranomafana, and these were our most obliging birds of the tour. [E]

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) – We saw a few in Majunga, which is where they have been well known to be for several years now. However, this year we also encountered them at a couple of places in between Andasibe and the east coast, including both the towns with Pratincoles (including Brickaville). They seem to be expanding in Madagascar, so there is a certain sense of foreboding with regards to this species. [I]

Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)

NELICOURVI WEAVER (*Ploceus nelicourvi*) – In addition to some great examples of nests in the forests at Ranomafana, we also had views on at least three different occasions here. We got a second chance at the species in the Andasibe region, and everybody came away with good views of them from there as well. [E]

SAKALAVA WEAVER (*Ploceus sakalava*) – Abundant in the spiny forest at Parc Mosa, and also seen at La Table and south of Tulear. We really got to enjoy watching their active nesting colony at the entrance to Parc Mosa. [E]

RED FODY (*Foudia madagascariensis*) – Widespread through the tour, especially in human-influenced areas. They were particularly abundant around the hotel in Tana, where we got to watch them foraging on flower nectar of jacaranda trees by removing an entire flower, holding it against the branch it was perched on, and then just munching right down on the base of the flower. Most males are stunningly red, while the females strongly resemble female House Sparrows, whose niche they somewhat fill in the cities, in terms of being the common weaver finch. [E]

FOREST FODY (*Foudia omissa*) – Brief views of a male that then got chased away by bulbuls at our final morning stop at Ranomafana, and then another one briefly seen by Gerard and few other folks along the road into Mantadia. [E]

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)

MADAGASCAR MUNIA (*Lonchura nana*) – Encountered here and there in disturbed second growth habitats and near human habitation. Also known by the much more evocative name of "Madagascar Bibfinch", and moved into a genus away from *Lonchura* by many authorities. [E]

MAMMALS

MADAGASCAR FRUIT BAT (*Pteropus rufus*) – A large pteropus, we saw a colony of these at the end of our morning jaunt around the riparian forest at Berenty.

GRAY MOUSE LEMUR (*Microcebus murinus*) – "Cute" is definitely the word for this one!! We got a great show from this adorable critter at the Bamboo Club in Ifaty, where we recorded them all three days that we spent there. They were most reliable in the evenings, but we also connected with them in the morning at least once. We got to see them coming down for banana slices right behind the dinner table, but their forays into the open were usually exceptionally quick, as these are fairly shy. We also saw them in the trees around the bungalows several times.

BROWN MOUSE LEMUR (*Microcebus rufus*) – This was our very first mouse lemur of the tour, as Jean-Chris showed us a very skittish one of these along the road at Ranomafana during our evening excursion there.

REDDISH-GRAY MOUSE LEMUR (*Microcebus griseorufus*) – Actually called Gray-Brown Mouse Lemur by most authorities, these were the ones we had during our beautiful night walk at Berenty.

GOLDEN-BROWN MOUSE LEMUR (*Microcebus ravelobensis*) – This was the mouse lemur that was seen briefly a couple of times by a few folks during our night walk at Ankarafantsika, but they weren't very confiding.

FAT-TAILED DWARF LEMUR (*Cheirogaleus medius*) – One of these came down to the tree near the dining area at the Bamboo Club, and then we saw it exceptionally well at Ankarafantsika, in all of its lovable wide-eyed glory.

COMMON BROWN LEMUR (*Eulemur fulvus*) – We had a troop of these one afternoon at Andasibe, and then we had them scattered around the lodge grounds at Ankarafantsika, including mixed in with the Mongoose Lemurs.

RED-FRONTED BROWN LEMUR (*Eulemur rufifrons*) – We had these at Ranomafana very well. They were part of our initial lemur experience, as an extremely curious and confiding troop came through while we were looking at the Golden Bamboo Lemur. We also saw them at Berenty, where they are introduced, though neither Doug nor Phil could fathom why.

MONGOOSE LEMUR (*Eulemur mongoz*) – Thanks to Sid and Randy, we were able to divert from the beginning of our afternoon excursion at Ankarafantsika to see these richly brown-faced lemurs intermixing with their Brown Lemur cousins over the bungalows.

RING-TAILED LEMUR (*Lemur catta*) – Perhaps Madagascar's most recognizable animal internationally (especially since the release of the movie "Madagascar") is the Ring-tailed Lemur. With their striped black and white tails and dark goggles they bear a resemblance to the Coati and the Raccoon, but beyond those superficial similarities it is really a beast alone in the world. They're an absolute must-see, and not only did we see these, but we saw them in perhaps the best place in the world to experience them in the wild. Our morning at Berenty was characterized by encounters with this species, including many mothers with young. Some even came over to try and eat breakfast and lunch with us, though they were usually chased off by the water bottle toting staff before they could make any real inroads on our food. Watching these confiding animals interact with each other, and watching their adorable babies, was a big highlight for everyone in the group. Randy even selected them as one of her two favorite mammals of the trip.

GRAY BAMBOO LEMUR (*Haplemur griseus*) – Nestor conjured one of these up out of thin air (and thin bamboo) shortly after our arrival at Andasibe PN. There were three other groups and their native guides in close proximity, but none of them had found this guy- a great example of why we love our long-time local guides like Nestor. Another indescribably cute one, it was formerly known as Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur, but most authorities now refer to it as Gray Bamboo Lemur.

GOLDEN BAMBOO LEMUR (*Haplemur aureus*) – Our first lemur was this very range restricted animal. This species was the impetus behind making Ranomafana a National Park, and we connected with one fairly atypically low and out in the open on our very first morning there.

GREATER BAMBOO LEMUR (*Prolemur simus*) – An exceptionally rare lemur, and there are only two known individuals left in the publicly accessible area of Ranomafana. We were lucky to be within striking distance when one of the roving Ranomafana guides found one.

BLACK-AND-WHITE RUFFED LEMUR (*Varecia variegata*) – We heard this species' distinctive grunting up at Mantadia (probably multiple troops). We saw it a couple of days later at the Palmarium, but the species was introduced there.

WHITE-FOOTED SPORTIVE LEMUR (*Lepilemur leucopus*) – This was the sportive lemur at Berenty, and we saw them really well at night, and then again tucked up inside a dense vine tangle during the day.

PETTER'S SPORTIVE LEMUR (*Lepilemur petteri*) – A specialty to the wondrous spiny forest of the southwest, this species has yet to be formally described, but is still recognized by many authorities as its own species. Mosa and company found this one for us on our final morning walk around Parc Mosa.

HUBBARD'S SPORTIVE LEMUR (*Lepilemur hubbardorum*) – This is called Zombitse Sportive Lemur by most, because it is restricted just to the small remnant of transitional forest in this region. Our guides here did a fantastic job of finding one of these in a day roost very close to where we saw our Appert's Tetrakas.

EASTERN WOOLLY LEMUR (*Avahi laniger*) – In addition to all of his other entertaining antics, Rico's pronunciation of "woolly lemur" was particularly memorable. Not only that, but this was the only lemur species during our afternoon walk at the Palmarium that wasn't introduced to the area by man.

PEYRIERAS' WOOLLY LEMUR (*Avahi peyrierasi*) – Our first woolly lemurs of the tour, and probably our most memorable encounter with them. Baku found this family group roosting in a tight bunch in a fairly low tree, and adorable can't even begin to convey just how heartwarming seeing them was. This species is basically restricted to Ranomafana and the surrounding areas, but Ranomafana is the only place anybody sees it.

VERREAUX'S SIFAKA (*Propithecus verreauxi*) – A bunch of these were scattered around Zombitse forest, and they included a very inquisitive 4-month old that seemed to have tired out all of the attending adults with its curiosity and playfulness. We, however, were not worn out one bit by watching it explore the world. However just when you thought that experience would be hard to top, along came the sifakas at Berenty. The dancing sifakas alone would probably be worth the six-hour round-trip drive to Berenty. Gerard pointed out the first ones as we were eating breakfast, and the dining area cleared out in seconds. The breakfast table didn't see us again until 40 minutes later, when we had had our fill of their nightclub-worthy dance moves (though I'm not sure you could ever have enough of the absurd antics of these guys).

COQUEREL'S SIFAKA (*Propithecus coquereli*) – A really sharp-looking sifaka, they were numerous around the lodge at Ankarafantsika, where we got to watch their amazing agility swinging around limbs and making tremendous leaps from tree to tree. Before we got to Ankarafantsika, we first encountered a small troop at the hotel in Majunga, but these are the free-roaming pets of someone living nearby. A few of us did get to feel just how soft the pads of their hands are (spoiler alert: VERY soft), courtesy of these habituated ones.

MILNE-EDWARDS' SIFAKA (*Propithecus edwardsi*) – Really great experiences with these along the trail which we took on our second full day in Ranomafana. We got to watch them eat, bicker with Red-fronted Lemurs, vocalize, interact with each other, and more, and all at point blank range!

INDRI (*Indri indri*) – Favorites are always subjective, but Indri indri is just about as close to an objective favorite among the animals of Madagascar as you can get. Their voices are one of the most hauntingly evocative jungle noises anywhere in the world. Hearing "The Song of the Forest," as it is justifiably known by the Malagasy people, is a highlight for anyone lucky enough to experience it. We had the great fortune to be serenaded by this primeval jungle sound on multiple occasions, and on top of that we got to observe them (including some with adorable young ones) cavorting and leaping through the forest at close range at Feon'ny ala.

AYE-AYE (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*) – Aye-Aye is one of the strangest and most mysterious of all the primates, and very few visitors to Madagascar get to see it. We devoted an entire segment of the tour to seeing this poorly known animal, and it was one of the big highlights for several people, including Randy, Ketki, and Kiran. Part of the reason it was so memorable was because of just how good of an experience we had with these beasts at point-blank range, watching them excavate and devour some coconuts with the help of their bizarre extended middle finger.

RED FOREST RAT (*Nesomys rufus*) – We saw a few in the woods at Ranomafana.

FOSSA (*Cryptoprocta ferox*) – Brief views for only a couple of folks at Mantadia. This endemic but really difficult-to-see carnivore was up in a tree being mobbed by Blue Couas and the like, and one of our drivers actually drew attention to it, but in the commotion of getting people over to see it, it scampered down the tree, through the undergrowth, and eventually across a nearby river, and even the tireless Nestor couldn't run it down.

Herps

LINED DAY GECKO (*Phelsuma lineata*) – Encountered by some around the hotel at Ranomafana a couple of times.

PEACOCK DAY GECKO (*Phelsuma quadriocellata*) – The first of our day gecko encounters, Randy spotted this one just after our first lunch at Ranomafana, right outside the restaurant. We encountered it once more in Ranomafana NP, but this first encounter was the most satisfying.

STANDING'S DAY GECKO (*Phelsuma standingi*) – This good looking large *Phelsuma* was in the arid regions towards the southwest and we were subjected to some exhibitionist X-rated behavior by a pair of them at the Bamboo Club.

KOCH'S DAY GECKO (*Phelsuma kochi*)

MODEST DAY GECKO (*Phelsuma modesta*) – We had a few of these around the restaurant at the Bamboo Club.

OUSTALET'S CHAMELEON (*Furcifer oustaleti*) – This large chameleon is known by most as Oustalet's Chameleon, we saw several of these over the course of the trip, and this species was the best example of the changeable nature of chameleons. We saw them in blacks, whites, greens, and reds, and even got to see one of them change color when it retreated from sunlight into a dark bush.

RHINOCEROS CHAMELEON (*Furcifer rhinocerotus*)

WARTY CHAMELEON (*Furcifer verrucosus*)

SHORT-HORNED CHAMELEON (*Calumma brevicorne*) – Nestor spotted one of these for us on our second afternoon at Andasibe, and we got to see this funky lizard make a slow motion "leap" from one limb of its tree to another.

O'SHAUGNESSY'S CHAMELEON (*Calumma oshaugnessyi*) – We saw one of these excellent lizards along the trail on our second full day of birding at Ranomafana. The "nose" isn't really a nose, but a horn.

BLUE-LEGGED CHAMELEON (*Calumma crypticum*) – Two of these graced us with their crepuscular presence on our dusk mouse-lemur walk along the road at Ranomafana. The camouflage is strong with these.

PARSON'S GIANT CHAMELEON (*Calumma parsonii*) – Our first chameleon of the tour, someone found one of these on the hotel grounds on our first afternoon at Ranomafana, and then we got to see a display of its insect-devouring ability, and its completely insane tongue. Rico showed us another one of these during our day walk around the Palmarium as well.

SATANIC LEAF-TAIL GECKO (*Uroplatus phantasticus*) – An amazing find by Baku, one of our local guides at Ranomafana. I have no idea how she possibly found it, but we were all exceptionally grateful that she did. This is one of the most difficult-to-spot of the *Uroplatus* genus, and this one looked very much like the curled up dead leaf that it was resting in- so much so that most of us were having a hard time figuring out what part of it was where!

AFRICAN HOUSE GECKO (*Hemidactylus mercatorius*) – All over the restaurant walls at the hotel in Ranomafana, where they observed our dinner proceedings every night. We also saw them at various other of our establishments, often in the dining areas, but they were also sometimes our roommates.

MADAGASCAR GROUND GECKO (*Paroedura picta*) – Sid and Randy had what was likely this boldly patterned species at the Bamboo Club, and then Kiran and Ketki had one on the window of their bungalow at Ankarafantsika that several folks twitched from the dining chamber. It's a really snappy looking little gecko.

MADAGASCAR GROUND BOA (*Boa manditra*) – A very cool find in a pool of water that had formed inside a buttress of a tree along the trail at Ankarafantsika. It was coiled up, but luckily the head was visible just at the surface of the water.

MALAGASY GIANT HOGNOSE SNAKE (*Leioheterodon madagascariensis*) – One of these was sprawled across the trail during our late morning walk at Ankarafantsika, and it only grudgingly moved off to the side as we passed. Though we were all impressed by its size, it was actually only about half as big as the largest individuals of this species.

MADAGASCAR NIGHT SNAKE (*Madagascarophis colubrinus*) – A few folks had one of these in the pre-dawn gloaming on the way to breakfast on the final morning at Ankarafantsika. It is a nocturnal, and very aggressive snake, so there was some consternation when a local worker tried to grab it with the good intention of allowing us a better look. It ended up being fine, with no bites (though one of the draws of herping in Madagascar is that there are zero Malagasy snakes that are venomous to humans, so even if bitten, you won't be in dire straits). This is also known as the Madagascar (or Malagasy) Cat-eyed Snake.

MAHAFALY SAND SNAKE (*Mimophis mahfalensis*) – We saw several of these slim snakes along the trails at Parc Mosa. The species has quite a range of variation: some were a subdued brown pattern, while others were much more contrasty and black, brown, and white.

COLLARED IGUANA (*Oplurus cuvieri*) – We ran into this large and widespread lizard of the arid country at La Table, the Palmarium, and at Ankarafantsika.

MADAGASCAR ZONOSAUR (*Zonosaurus madagascariensis*) – This was the skink-like lizard around the lunch area at the Palmarium. A very distinctive reptile, and it was also very obliging.

BROAD-TAILED ZONOSAUR (*Zonosaurus laticaudatus*) – We encountered a big ol' specimen of one of these skink relatives during our late morning walk at Ankarafantsika.

THREE-EYED LIZARD (*Chalarodon madagascariensis*) – Great looks at some of these distinctive lizards with a third "eye" in the center of the top of the head during our afternoon at La Table.

MADAGASCAR BRIGHT-EYED FROG (*Boophis madagascariensis*) – On our evening roadside walk at Ranomafana, we saw one of these absurd-looking big-eyed anurans perched on the mist-covered muddy wall above the road.

BARON'S MANTELLA (*Mantella baroni*) – Jean-Chris and Baku disappeared into a marsh along the road to Vohiparara in Ranomafana, and they came back having tracked down one of these gorgeous neon frogs, and we got some really good looks. The best way to differentiate between this and the very similar *Mantella madagascariensis* is the pattern on the underside of the animal, which we were lucky enough to see briefly, locking in the identification as this taxon.

WHITE FOLOHY MADAGASCAR FROG (*Gephyromantis luteus*) – Completely strange frogs unlike any that we had ever seen, these truly live up to their moniker, as they are essentially color of the white sandy/rocky beaches along the coast. We saw two of these in very disparate locations during our afternoon walk around the Palmarium, and it was one of the big non-bird highlights for several people!

MADAGASCAR JUMPING FROG (*Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis*) – We saw this striking pale frog with noticeable ear spots while we were on the circuit two trail on our second full day at Ranomafana.

MARSH TERRAPIN (*Pelomedusa subrufa*) – We lucked into one of these scarcely seen turtles out in the wet field where the Madagascar Sandgrouse had just visited to drink.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

As would be expected in such a unique location, there were many other creatures of interest encountered that aren't listed above. We can't generate a complete list of all of them, and indeed we may not even be sure what class at least one animal was, let alone the orders or families of many more.

Here is a list of some of the ones we could pin down. Butterflies account for most of these, as there are reasonable references available to aid in their identification.

Giraffe-necked Weevil (*Trachelophorus giraffa*)- We had our first at Ranomafana, and then saw a couple of more through the tour, including at Mantadia.

Flatid Leaf Insect (*Phromnia rosea*)- We ran into the nymphs of these in two or three places along the way. They are truly bizarre creatures.

We had a Scorpion in Parc Mosa that was apparently in the genus *Opisthacanthus*.

The worm-like thing that the local guides tentatively identified as a leech was actually a Terrestrial Flatworm of the family *Geoplanidae*. The genus might be *Bipalium*.

We had many Giant Pill Millipedes in several places.

Identified butterflies (and one moth) were as follows:

Madagascar Commodore (*Precis andremaija*)

Madagascar Swordtail (*Graphium Evombar*)

Citrus Swallowtail (*Papilio demodocus*)

Banded Blue Swallowtail (*Papilio oribazus*)

Madagascar Giant Swallowtail (*Pharmacophagus antenor*)

Green Lady (*Graphium Cynus*)

Madagascar Orange Tip (*Colotis evanthe*)

Madagascar Dotted Border (*Mylothris phileris*)

Polka Dot (*pardopsos punctatissima*)

Yellow Pansy (*Junonia hierta (paris)*)

African Monarch (*Danaus chrysippis*)

Acraea turna (this one at Ifaty)

Clouded Mother of Pearl (*Protogoniomorphi anacardii duprei*)

Madagascar Brown Pansy (*Junonia gaudotii*)

Many skippers (*Hesperiidae*)

Many Satyrs, likely of several species.

Madagascar Sunset Moth (*Chrysidia rhipheus*)

Totals for the tour: 178 bird taxa and 26 mammal taxa