

# WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

IN

## SRI LANKA



**FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> – 16<sup>TH</sup> 2025**

## TRIP REPORT

## **Summary**

*I was joined by a small group of lovely people for another terrific Wingspan Tour of the fascinating Island Country of Sri Lanka. Our local Guide, Dhammi was at his usual best, he found all the 33 endemics for us as well as over 200 other species. The scenery, diversity of wildlife and the good nature of the Sri Lankan people made this a wonderful Tour. Thanks go to 'Little' Phil Naylor for the use of his photographs in this report, to 'Big' Phil Miles for his bird finding skills and help with getting everyone onto the birds and to the rest of the group for their contribution to the bird list and good-humoured banter especially Rick, John and Sally McCormack.*

## **PRE-TOUR DAY – SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> 2025**

### **TRANSFER OVERNIGHT FROM LONDON TO COLOMBO - AFTERNOON BIRDING THE GARDENS OF OUR HOTEL**

WEATHER: hot, dry and humid. 28C

It was great to be birding in T-shirt and shorts once again, especially after such a long, cold and wet spell back in the UK. The group assembled around 9am in the 'arrivals' section of Colombo Airport after arriving on several different flights, it was a little tricky, but we all met up without too much hassle. After changing currency and buying sim cards we boarded our bus and headed off to our hotel which was just a short drive from the airport.

Our first birding excursion was a short walk around the grounds after we had checked-in and had a short rest. It 10:30am when we started listing the common species around the extensive and well-manicured gardens. Lots of butterflies were on the wing in the warm sunshine but our attention was drawn to the many birds flitting about in the trees and shrubs.



**Spotted Dove or Spotted-necked Dove**

We found our first bird, the House Crow at the airport and a White-throated Kingfisher was seen during the journey to the hotel. In the grounds we quickly found Indian Pond Heron (even though there was no water around) also Yellow-billed Babbler and Purple-rumped Sunbird. A Red-vented Bulbul sat on the power lines with Common Myna in the trees beyond. Then we heard a commotion and located a Shikra perched in the shade of a palm tree.



Indian Pond Heron

Many birds called that we did not immediately locate, such as Black-hooded Oriole, Spotted-necked Dove, Brown-headed Barbet and Ring-necked Parakeet.

We broke for lunch and then took a siesta in the heat of the day, we re-convened at 3pm when we met our local guide Dhammi for the first time. The walk this time was much better with a local guide as our leader, we added a few more species to the list.





Shikra - taken by Phil Naylor

The Red-backed Flameback Woodpecker went down well with the group, what a stunning bird that one is! The same goes for the Oriental Magpie Robin and the **Sri Lanka Small Barbet**, all stunning birds, the latter is an endemic species.

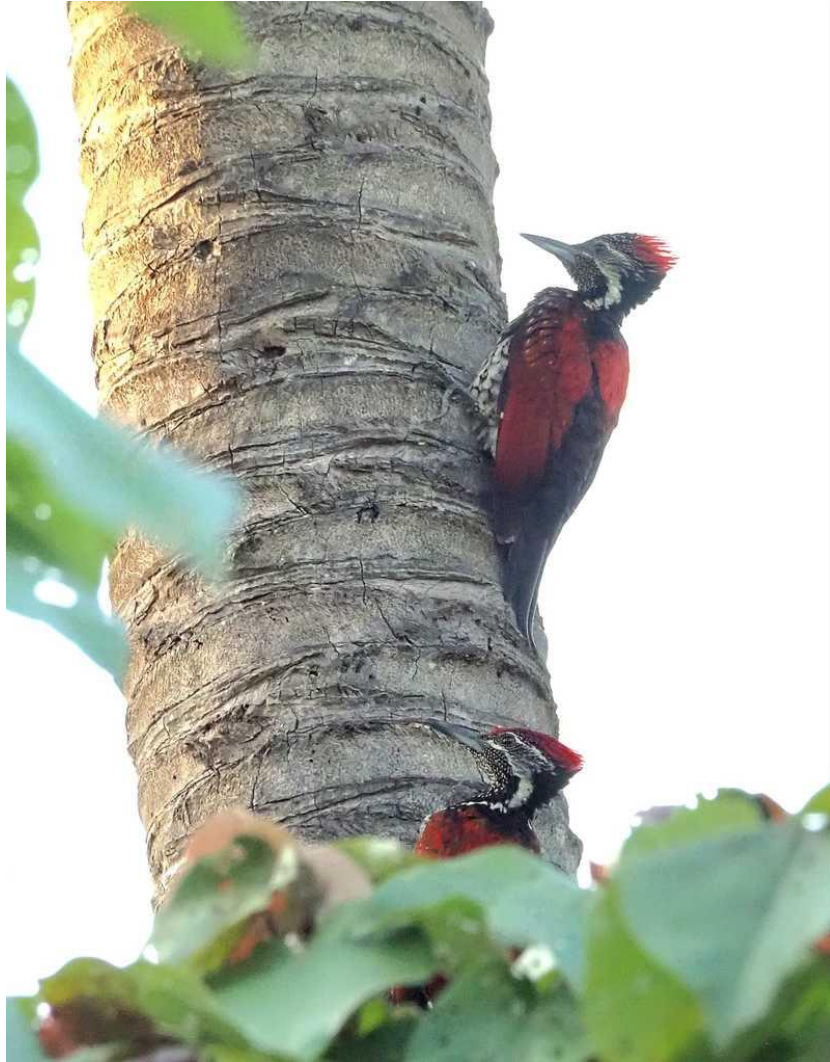


the 'endemic' Sri Lanka Small (Crimson-fronted) Barbet

Further into the garden we found a pair of White-bellied Drongos, they were putting the finishing touches to their new nest high up on the branch of a tree. We had much better views of a pair of Red-backed Flameback Woodpeckers as well as a couple of groups of Yellow-billed Babblers. We ended back in the



main car park where Dhammi tracked down a Brown-headed Barbet, we saw Brahminy Kite and Asian Open-billed Stork swirling on the thermals as well as good views of a couple of Shikra.



Red-backed Flameback - taken by Phil Naylor

Distant Palm Swifts dashed about and the ever-present House Crow reminded us of its presence with its loud raucous calls.

We called it a day around 5pm, some of the group drifted around the garden and added a couple of species to the list which included Little Phil's sighting of a Southern Coucal.

That concluded our birding of the pre-tour day. At dusk we did see a large number of Common Flying Foxes, also a few Palm Squirrels and several Common House Geckos.

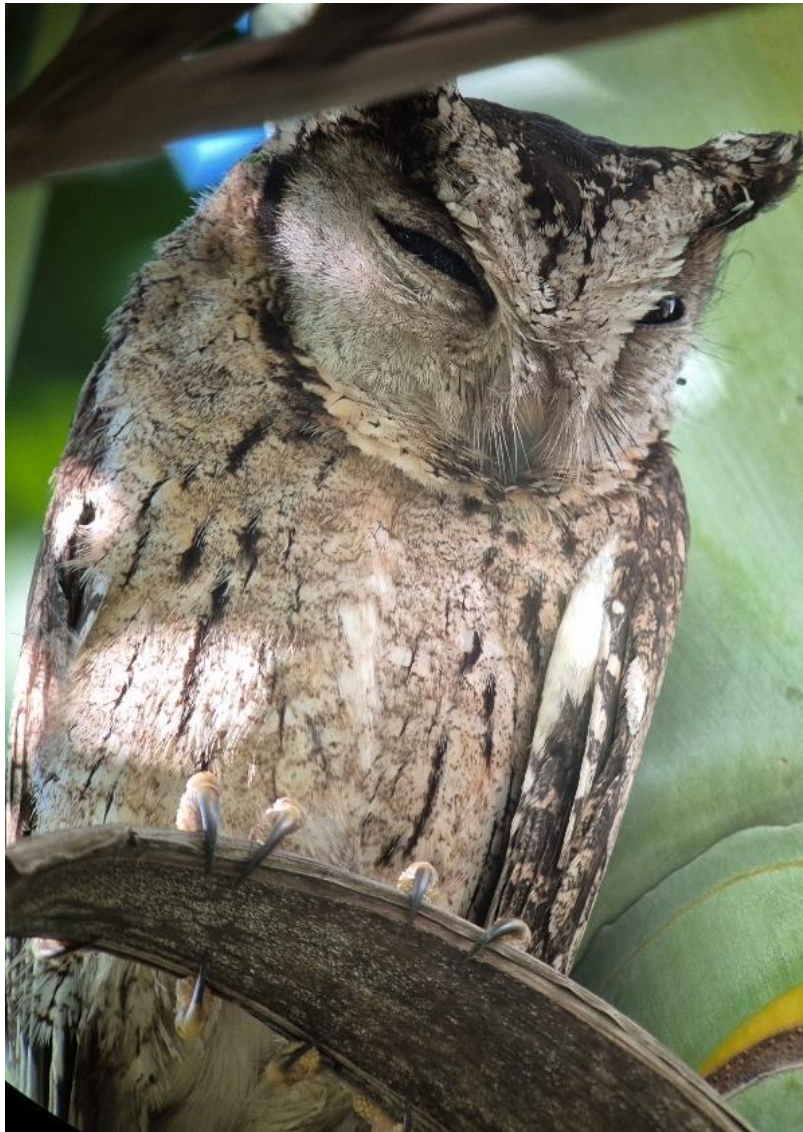
### **[TOUR DAY 1 – MONDAY FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025](#)**

**TRANSFER FROM TAMARIND TREE RESORT TO KITHULGALA REST HOUSE GARDENS WITH A STOP AT AROPOLA MARSHES – LOCAL BIRDING NEAR THE RIVER KOILLONI.**

WEATHER: quite cloudy but very hot and humid for most the day.

The official Tour started today at 8am after a good night's rest and our pre-tour day, yesterday. We all met for breakfast at 7am, we were all packed and ready to board the bus at 8am. A few birds had been noted in the grounds before breakfast, such as White-bellied Drongo, Yellow-billed Babbler, Common Myna, Spotted Dove, House Crow, a Black-headed Ibis flew over just as we entered the breakfast room. Little Phil Naylor had photographed a Taylor Bird that no-one else had seen yet.

Before we started our journey to Kithulgala we drove 1km down the main road and pulled into the car park of a neighbouring Hotel. In the car park, Dhammi our guide, showed us a roosting Collared Scops Owl, wowzah! What great bird to kick our tour with!



Collared Scops Owl - you can just make out the brown collar

It took about 3 hours to get to Kithulgala, but we made one birding stop near a town called Uropola, a huge area of marsh and rice fields spread out in front of us.





Intermediate Egret



Blue-tailed Bee-eater





a shot of the Brahminy Kite by Phil Naylor

Plain Prinias were seen, also Red-wattled Lapwing, Indian Pond Heron, Pintail Snipe, Great, Cattle and Intermediate Egrets, Purple Heron, Black-headed Ibis, Openbill Stork, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Sri Lanka Swallow, Little Cormorant, Brahminy Kite, Crested Serpent Eagle and several more.



Plain Prinia

A Shikra flew across the road in front of the bus, we had two or three sightings of Crested Serpent Eagles as we drove on, and during a stop to buy coconuts we saw a juvenile Black-winged Kite perched on top of a roadside tree.

It was nearly 11:30 when we arrived at our new hotel, where we will be staying for the next two nights, we explored the grounds a little bit before our 12:30 lunch.



The river view from the terraced gardens of our new Hotel

We added a few species to the list in the front gardens, a party of Orange Minivets was nice to see, so was a pair of Hanging Parrots, the Yellow-fronted Barbet outshone those. John then found a Common Iora and we had glimpses of an Oriental White-eye. The Oriental Magpie Robin was nesting in the hotel outbuildings and Palm Swifts flew high above us.





Oriental Magpie-Robin

We spent some of our time admiring the view of the River Koilloni from the terraced gardens (where part of the film “The Bridge over the River Kwai” was filmed), we added no new birds from there.



a couple of Hanging Parrots taken in the hotel garden





Alexandrine Parakeet

Our afternoon birding excursion was to a track near the Local Police Station, it began good, then it got better and we ended up having a great birding session. As we stepped down from the bus we heard a lot of noise coming from the nearest bushes, two groups of the endemic **Sri lanka Rufous Babblers** were squabbling over territory and access to a supply of food. A little further we found a Lesser yellow-naped Woodpecker, Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Black-naped Blue Monarch and few other species.



Phil Naylor's shot of the endemic Orange-billed babbler (now called the Sri Lanka Rufous Babbler)





Tickell's Blue Flycatcher – one of my favourites



**the group before we descended the slope down towards the river this afternoon - we all have our leech-socks on: Left to right “Little” Phil, Alison, Rick, “Big” Phil, John (Mac), Rachel, Myself, Sue and Sally (Mac)**

New birds kept on coming as we made our way towards the River. Tickell's Blue Flycatcher was nice to see, we found this bird as we searched for our most wanted bird, the Endemic Chestnut-backed Owlet. It was John Mac, once again, who found our bird of the day, the Owlet.



Lesser Yellow-nape taken by Phil Naylor



We heard an Indian Pitta calling as we made our way back up the hill to the bus, we never had a glimpse of it or the Pygmy Kingfisher which was another of our target birds.



one of the several Crested Serpent Eagles seen today, taken by Phil Naylor

The group was very happy with our sightings today, we had logged over 60 species and before we ended for the day we found a Stork-billed Kingfisher sitting on a wire over the river. Several Alexandrine Parakeets flew over us and a second Stork-billed Kingfisher landed in a tree across the river.

### **TOUR DAY 2 – TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> 2025**

#### **MAKANDAWA - KELANI GANGA RIVER AREA - MIRISWALATHANNA ROAD AREA**

WEATHER: hot and humid all day. Top temp 30C

We made a pre-breakfast walk around the grounds at 6:30am and despite doing a very similar walk twice already we still found a lot more birds for our trip total. We finally connected with the Layard's Parakeet which had eluded us so far, a pair of them showed well as they devoured the palm nuts with Alexandrine Parakeets and a single Hanging Parrot.

Dhammi, our guide, then found us a Grey Hornbill and whilst watching the Hornbill enjoying a breakfast of Papaya Fruit we found a Common Coucal.

High up in the Kaypoc Trees we found another endemic species, the Sri Lanka Green Pigeon, what a beautiful bird! We also located and identified our first Green Warbler and Big Phil found a Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike. A compliment of locally common birds lit up the trees with their colour and splendour, what a treat for us and all before breakfast in beautiful sunshine and a lovely temperature, Oh to back in England.....not!!!!

**White-bellied Sea-Eagle a young bird - taken by Little Phil Naylor at the hotel.**

We listed: Orange Minivet, Oriental Magpie-Robin, Common Iora, Hill Myna, Green Imperial Pigeon, Black-hooded Oriole, Tailorbird (the species that stitches leaves together to form its nest), Brown-breasted Flycatcher, Purple-rumped Sunbird, White-browed Fantail, Asian Paradise Flycatcher (female), Oriental White-eye, White-throated Kingfisher and all the usual Bulbuls. We did then see our first Yellow-browed Bulbul and a juvenile White-bellied Sea Eagle dropped into a tree above the hotel, phew! That was a busy morning.



a Layard's Parakeet

From the breakfast room we had views of the river and in a bush on the far bank we found our first Golden-fronted Leafbird, we also saw Indian Swiftlets skimming the water and an Indian Cormorant flew upriver.



Sri Lanka Hill Myna with an Imperial Green Pigeon (which is predominantly grey in colour)

After breakfast we boarded the bus for a short drive to the edge of the town where we could walk across a bridge over the Kelani Ganga River into the region of forest that lies next to the Makandawa Nature Reserve (the reserve is apparently closed right now?). We walked across the wobbly bridge, 3 at a time and crossed it safely.

Birding was much slower; we had to work for our sightings. We tracked down an Indian Pitta and got fairly good short bursts of it in view. At first it was walking along a side track where the first few people in our group had excellent views of it.

We saw many 'common' species as we walked 'up hill and down dale' in search of new findings. Dhammi called out a small group of Brown-capped Babblers, it took some time, but they eventually showed. For a dull brown bird I thought it was very beautiful, what do you think?





Brown-capped Babblers - taken by 'Little' Phil Naylor

After climbing a long, steep hill we walked a flat track, with open forest uphill to our right and a steep slope to our left. We searched in hope of a Green-billed Coucal, the endemic speciality of the area. We did find a Brown Shrike and a small group of Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters, also, another new bird for the trip list was found, it was the White-rumped Munia.

After walking back down the hill and back across the wobbly bridge we returned to the hotel for lunch.



the Brown Shrike, a distant record shot



**Common Lascar Butterfly taken by Little Phil Naylor**

Our afternoon session began at 3:30pm we drove to the same area as yesterday near the Police Station at



the eastern end of town. We walked down towards the river and found many of the same species as we did before, we had superb views of the Sri Lanka Green Pigeon and the Grey Hornbill. Then we bumped into a star Woodpecker.

Dhammi heard the woodpecker calling and it was Sue who found it perched high up in a tree, we got it in the scope just before it flew over the top of us and disappeared behind some tall woodland. It was the tiny Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, just 13cm in length. We never relocated it and had to make do with the brief glimpse we had.

**Pied Flycatcher-Shrike superbly taken by Little Phil Naylor**

Next, we found a Bar-winged (now called a Pied) Flycatcher-Shrike, which showed much better than the one seen this morning, Little Phil Naylor got a fabulous



picture of it. Whilst searching for a Pygmy Kingfisher we heard a Banded Bay Cuckoo calling. Dhammi called it in, and we had brief views of it in flight, but we never saw it perched. Whilst searching for the Cuckoo we found a Sri Lanka Hill Myna, another tick for the group and a good addition to our trip list.

The walk back up the hill was punctuated with stops to look at several species, but we did not add any more species to the list. As we were boarding the bus Dhammi found a Black-rumped Woodpecker. This bird has had several name changes in the last few years, we have been confusing it with the Red-backed Flameback for the last few days!

We got to the hotel at 6pm and enjoyed a cooling shower before dinner and the bird-log which began at 7pm. This was our last night in Kithulgala, we are moving on tomorrow, to higher ground with cooler weather we hope.

### **TOUR DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> 2025**

#### **TRANSFER FROM KITHULGALA TO NUWARA ELIYA - WITH STOPS IN THE TEA PLANTATIONS NEAR WATAWALA, HATTON AND TALAWAKELLE**

WEATHER; hot and humid to start then cooler and fresh in the mountains at Nuwara Eliya.

Our pre-breakfast hour-long birding session was just as enjoyable as the previous two even though we saw fewer new species, it was just great to be out in the morning sun with a lovely temperature and exquisite light. We gathered as usual in the car park and scanned the trees all around us. Large Kaypoc Trees dominated the skyline with Papaya, eucalyptus and Jap fruit. Birds were all over the place, ranging from the foragers on the ground to species sitting in the sunshine out on the extreme top of the trees.

One new bird we saw was the Asian Brown Flycatcher but we also had good views of many other species, the most notable were: Hanging Parrot, Alexandrine Parakeet, Sri Lanka Green Pigeon, Orange Minivet and a brief watch from the terrace, which overlooks the river, we saw the Stork-billed and the White-throated Kingfishers.



the Asian Brown Flycatcher - taken by Phil Naylor



After breakfast we loaded up the bus and set off for Nuwara Eliya, it is only a 75km drive but we knew it would take all morning because the slow winding roads and the frequent stops for birding. We saw Brown Shrikes, Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters as we climbed the slopes and entered the Tea Plantation mountains.

#### **upcountry view of the tea plantations**

It was raptors that stopped the bus several times we had a great time watching buzzards and eagles. We saw an Oriental Buzzard perched, a Mountain Hawk Eagle

rising the thermals at one stop. Later on we stopped to watch White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Mountain Hawk Eagle. A stop at some waterfalls we found a Changeable Hawk Eagle sitting in a eucalyptus tree.



Black Eagle taken at the Castle Tea Plantation by Phil Naylor





a Sri Lanka White-eye by Phil Naylor

As we were driving through the most scenic landscapes of the trip so far it would have been rude not to stop and admire it. We were passing mountainsides covered in tea-plantations, so we pulled into one of them to sample a cup of tea. Whilst there we watched a few birds. A party of three Black Eagles circled right above us as we watched Sri Lanka White-eye, Scaly-breasted Munia, Great Tit, Purple and Purple-rumped Sunbirds and some House Sparrows.



Loton's Sunbird taken later in Victoria Park





One stop was made to look at a colony of roosting Flying Foxes, which was interesting, we also saw Grey Wagtail on the river below us.

#### Flying Fox

We arrived at our new hotel at lunchtime, we ate lunch there, then we had an hour or so to rest up before we made an afternoon excursion. Birds around the hotel included a pair of Hill Swallows which were nesting in a covered area below us. we also watched a pair of Ashy Prinias, Tailorbirds, Scaly-breasted Munias, an Indian Pond Heron, a White-breasted Waterhen and a couple of Eastern Cattle Egrets.

At 3pm we left for the short drive to Victoria Park in the centre of town, we had a magical time there and saw all our target species! The well-manicured park has some semi-wild places along the river

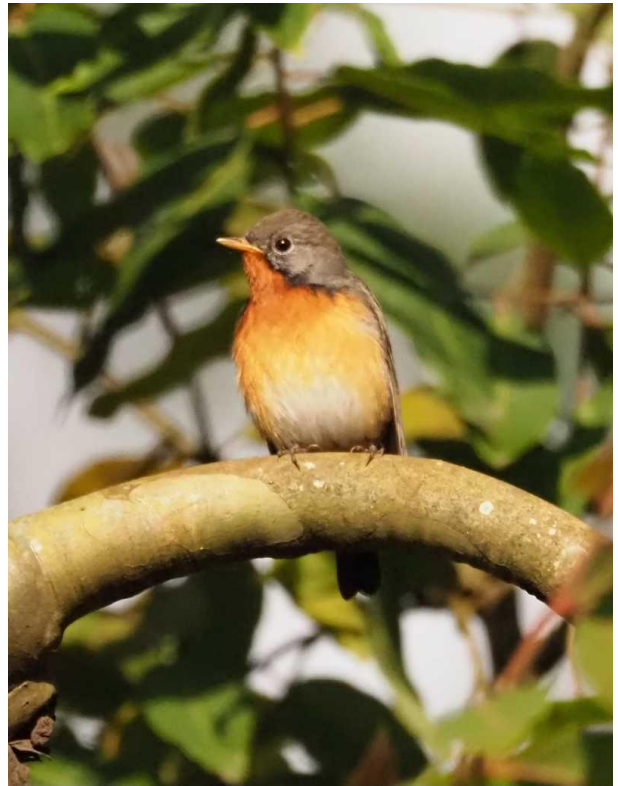
where a good selection of birds could be found. We spent 2 1/2 hours looking for them and during that time we targeted Kashmir Flycatcher, Indian Robin, Forest Wagtail, Yellow-eared Bulbul and the Pied Ground Thrush.

#### Indian Robin taken at Victoria Park by Phil Naylor

Things were going well, we saw everything on our target list except the Pied Thrush, so Dhammi our guide took us to a tree where the thrushes roost. It was now approaching 5:30pm and the light was fading. But, sure enough, not one but three or four Pied Thrushes flew into the dense foliage of the tree, luckily for us one of them stayed in a viewable position and the whole group got to see it well.







**Phil Naylor's shots of the Yellow-eared Bulbul and the Kashmir Flycatcher**

However, it was the Kashmir Flycatcher which got the vote of best bird of the day, we saw two of them and they were both colourful males. The Yellow-eared Bulbul came a close second and the poor old (normally elusive) Pied Thrush came in third place!!



**A record shot of one of the Pied Thrushes**

We left just before 6pm and arrived at our hotel 5 minutes later, there was a power cut until 6:40pm but all was well by the time we went down for dinner at 7pm.



## SRI LANKA TOUR - DAY 4- Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup> 2025

### **HORTON PLAINS ALL MORNING - NUWARA ELIYA LAKE GREGORY AND SURROUNDS IN THE AFTERNOON**

WEATHER; cloudy to start with a fresh breeze, it was only 10C on Horton Plains. Hot in the afternoon around 25C

The main reason for our stay in Nuwara Eliya was to pay a visit to Horton Plains, which mainly consists of a high plateau around 2000M above sea level. In order to see one particular Thrush we needed to get there at first light just as the gates were opening to the park, that is 6am. This meant we had to leave the hotel at 5am and guess who was late to the bus, by at least 15 minutes, yes yours truly.



the entrance to Horton's Plain at 6:30am this morning



Indian Blackbird found by Rachel and taken by Phil Naylor near the entrance gate

We got to the Plains just a little later than usual, but this turned out to be a blessing in disguise because when we finally reached our first birding spot a couple of birders were already there watching the infamous, endemic, WHISTLING THRUSH. We spent the next 30 minutes having excellent views of at least three Thrushes, we saw two males and a female. Wow, that was unexpected, I had the best views of this particular species than I have ever had.



**Fantastic shot of the Whistling Thrush by Phil Naylor - if you have ever tried to see this bird you will know how lucky we were to see it out in the open like this**



Our good fortune didn't stop there, many other birds were flitting around in the dense bushes and scrub which grows around a small roadside pool that was right next to us. Grey Wagtail (introduced) flitted about on the lily pads, we saw Dusky Blue Flycatcher (endemic), Green Warbler, Yellow-eared Bulbul (endemic), Sri Lanka White-eye (endemic) and a couple of Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon (endemic) flew over us.



Dusky Blue Flycatcher by Phil Naylor





Green Warbler taken at the pool

The group split up for an hour or so, three of us stayed by the pool whilst the others walked up the lane looking for the Sri Lanka Scimitar-babbler (endemic). At the pool we saw much of the same with the addition of two Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, Great Tit, Pale-billed Flowerpecker, Orange Minivet (formerly Scarlet Minivet), Indian Blackbird and Red-vented Bulbul.



Pale-billed Flowerpecker - Sri Lanka's smallest bird

When the others return to the pool area we re-found the Nuthatches and added Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher to the list, we all enjoyed a fabulous time as the sun rose and started to warm us up. The part

of the group that had walked for a while did not find the Scimitar Babbler but they did see the Wood Pigeon and they found yet another WHISTLING THRUSH, a male, which showed extremely well.



**a view of Adam's Mountain from the plains**

We ate our picnic breakfast (most of the group had already devoured theirs) before we drove on to the open plains. We saw many Sambar Deer out in the open areas and we added Peafowl, Brahminy Kite and Hill Swallow to the day list. In the large grassy savannah we stopped to look for more species. A flock of about 50 Munias were flying around we found our first Tricoloured (Black-headed) Munia in with the Scaly breasted flock. The Pied Bushchat sat on top of bushes, singing at times, Zitting Cisticolas bounced around in the air above us, whilst zitting! We found many Paddyfield Pipits dotted about and we watched two Black Eagles in the distance.





**another great shot from Phil Naylor of the Brahminy Kite**

We stopped at the main visitor's centre for a cup of tea/coffee and during the break we had unbelievable close views of Brahminy Kite, a few Black-headed Munias and another Pied Bushchat sat on the cafe's roof. A little further along the road we stopped to see if we could coax out the skulking endemic Bush Warbler. One did appear very briefly but only a few of us saw it.



**Pied Bushchat – very common on the plains**

Moving on we drove another kilometer or two and stopped to search for raptors, we were hoping for a Himalayan Buzzard but all we got was another Brahminy Kite, a Common Kestrel and another Black Eagle. A second attempt to see the Bush Warbler proved much more successful, all of the group got views of it and Phil Naylor actually got a good picture of it, see below.



**Phil Naylor did very well to grab this image of the endemic Bush Warbler**

It was now 11:30 am we had been on the Plains for 5 hours and it was time to head back to the hotel, we made a stop along the way back to look for Sri Lanka Wood Pigeons near the highest Railway Station in Pettipola.

Only two of us managed to see a Wood Pigeon perched in the fir trees before it disappeared but it was a nice walk. We did see two very nice Butterflies, the Ceylon Tiger and the Tailed Jay (a type of swallowtail). I have to say that Butterfly sightings have been very disappointing this year so far.



**part of Lake Gregory at Nuwara Eliya**

For the afternoon trip we reconvened at 3:30pm and drove around 2/3 of the large Gregory Lake in central Nuwara Eliya. We then took a small lane down into a valley which was steep sided and covered in a mixture of Eucalyptus and Pine Trees. A stream ran down the centre of the valley and we followed the route of the stream. We were looking for the endemic Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush at a regular site and one where the WINGSPAN group saw the thrush last year.





**the Scaly Thrush picture taken last year in exactly the same place as this year's sighting**

However, this year there wasn't much around and although Big Phil got a couple of glimpses of the Thrush the rest of us drew a blank. Walking a little further down the track we bumped into a mixed flock feeding in the trees. We then spent a really enjoyable 30 minutes watching Velvet-fronted Nuthatches at close quarters with Pied Flycatcher-shrike, Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, Dusky Blue Flycatcher, Large-billed Warbler, Asian Brown Flycatcher and a couple of Great Tits.



**the Velvet-fronted Nuthatch taken during our trip in 2024 by Tony Moore**

We left the area and drove back to the hotel taking the road that circumnavigates Gregory Lake. Around the lake we saw Grey Heron, Little Cormorant, Indian Pond Heron, Cattle and Great Egrets and lots of House Crows.

We ate dinner at 7pm, this was our last night in the highlands, tomorrow we head to Tissamaharama (you trying saying that when you've ad a couple of beers!) for some lowland birding and lots more species for our trip list.

### **SRI LANKA TOUR - DAY 5 - Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> 2025**

#### **TRANSFER FROM NEWARA ELIYA TO TISSAMAHARAMA WITH STOPS AT HAKRALLA HINDU TEMPLE – SURREY BIRD SANCTUARY – ELLA FALLS – DEBARAWAWA TANK**

**WEATHER;** a cool start with a cloudy sky, afternoon bright sunshine hot and humid.

Our transfer day started at 8am as we left the hotel in Nuwara Eliya and headed southward, we only travelled a few kilometers before we made our first stop. The Hindu temple just outside of the town was our first destination, several of the group wanted to visit, some of us stayed outside and watched a few birdies with a small troupe of Toque Macaques. Birds seen during our brief stop included: Tailorbird, Yellow-eared Bulbul, Grey Wagtail and an unexpected pair of Kashmir Flycatchers. One piece of good luck was the sighting of a Brown Mongoose.



**Brown Mongoose taken by Phil Naylor**



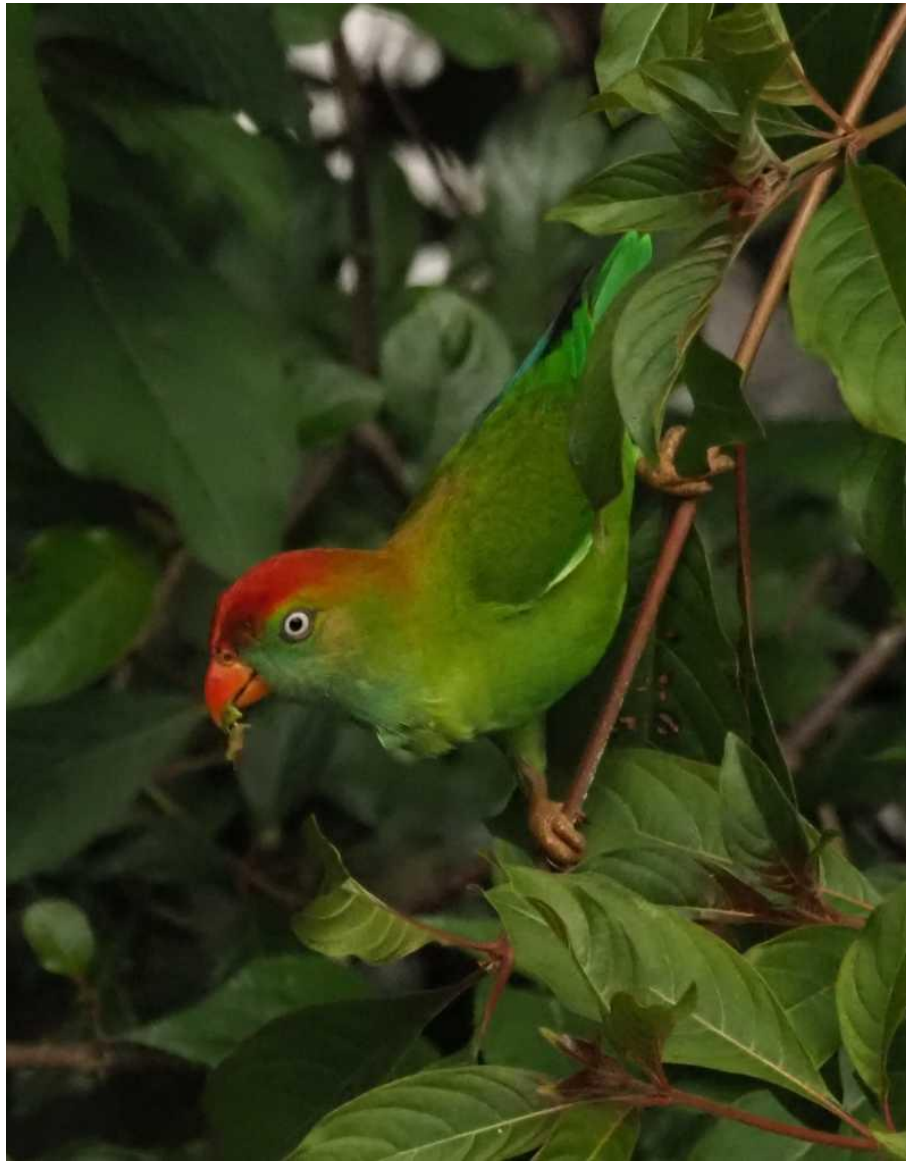


**Toque Macaque outside the Hindu Temple**

We travelled for another 90 minutes before we pulled into the Surrey Bird Sanctuary; we had one main target bird on our list and that was the Brown Wood Owl. This owl had been a regular sighting during our previous trips and this is a reliable roost site.



**The Purple-rumped Sunbird another shot by Phil Naylor**



**Hanging Parrot by Phil Naylor**

Dhammi our guide, went ahead and checked where the owl was situated, in the meantime we scanned the trees and the bushes from the car park. We enjoyed watching many birds which included our first Thick-billed Flowerpecker, also all three Sunbird species, Hanging Parrot, Brown Headed Barbet, Ring-necked Parakeets and many more.

Our walk through the woods to see the owl was arduous, but well worth the effort. We had excellent views of the Brown Wood Owl and whilst watching we found our first Sri Lanka Scimitar-bill (endemic).





**Brown Wood Owl at Surrey Bird Sanctuary**



### **Coconuts being prepared for us**

We made a short stop to buy and drink coconut milk from freshly cut coconuts which was lovely we also saw Brahminy Kite and Yellow-billed Babblers during the stop. Apart from short quick stops to look at raptors we never stopped again for about an hour, raptors seen were Oriental Honey Buzzard, Crested hawk Eagle and a Shikra.

Another stop was made to look at our first Pied Hornbill, it was distant, sitting in the top of a dead tree, a Green Imperial Pigeon was seen in the adjacent tree.





**Pied Hornbill – phone-scoped from the roadside**

Our next stop was the waterfall just south of the town of Ella, a very busy tourist spot, we noted a couple of the beautiful Blue Mormon Butterflies and nothing much else except for dozens of people.

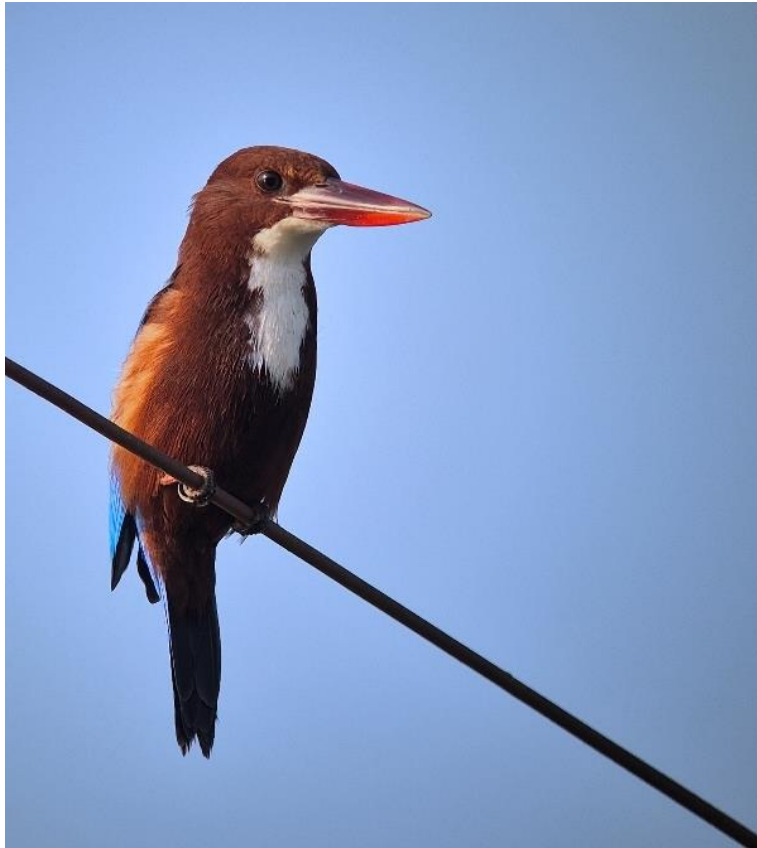


### **The Waterfall near Ella**

Our lunch stop at a roadside restaurant was also enjoyable, we added a few birds to the day list and one to the trip list. Sri Lanka Swallows, Palm Swifts and Little Swifts were dashing about above us and only half of the group saw them as they were not finished eating.

Before we drove to our hotel we made one birding stop at the reservoirs at Debarawawa, these 'tanks' were built in the 19th century for water storage and are now a haven for waterbirds and many more. We had a fabulous time there, the weather was hot and humid with a lovely cooling wind and the light was just perfect. We listed dozens of species many of which were new to the group.





**the very common White-throated Kingfisher**



**Purple Swamphen**

We started with Spot-billed Pelican, Purple Swamphen, Yellow Bittern, Whiskered Tern, Common Darter, Indian Cormorant, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Little Green and Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, White-throated Kingfisher and bird list just kept on growing. More birds followed: Little Grebe, Common Greenshank, Black-winged Stilt, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Purple Heron and four species of white egrets.



**This track that circumnavigates the 'Tank'**



**Yellow Bittern, one of the first birds we came across at the 'Tanks' - taken by Phil Naylor**

Both Baya and Streaked Weavers were seen, the latter were making new, freshly woven nests. We watched the most beautiful Pigeon you are ever going to see, the Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, what a stunning bird. We saw three species of Munias, also Black-rumped Woodpecker, Black-hooded Oriole, Black-headed Ibis, Asian Openbill and Grey Herons.





**Black-rumped Woodpecker, probing a hole with its tongue in this dead stump.**



**Orange-breasted Green Pigeon**

Phew! It was exhausting just writing the list of species. We called it a day at 5:30pm and drove the last 10 minutes to our hotel, which was set in wonderful gardens and our chalets surrounded a beautiful swimming pool. As we went to dinner in the dark at 7pm a Brown Fish Owl was spotted sitting on top of one of the sunshades in the garden, wowzah! What a great surprise and an excellent sighting to finish the day with.

## **SRI LANKA TOUR - DAY 6 - Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> 2025**

### **YALA NATIONAL PARK ALL MORNING – DEMBAWAWA TANKS AND VILLAGE**

WEATHER; hot and sunny all day with a strong breeze.

One of the main highlights of any birding or wildlife trip to Sri Lanka is a visit to Yala National Park. It has the potential to produce a huge bird list and lots of mammals, as well as butterflies, amphibians and reptiles. Today Yala did not disappoint we had a terrific visit and saw just under 80 species of birds.



**one of the first pools we came to in Yala National Park**

It would take me a couple of hours to list the sequence of our sightings so I will report the best bits to give you an idea of just how good this place is. It was a little disheartening at first when we joined a queue to get in, there must have been over 100 open-topped landrover-type passenger vans in front of us. But, as soon as we got into the park we turned off the main track and found virtual solitude on smaller side tracks, it was amazing.





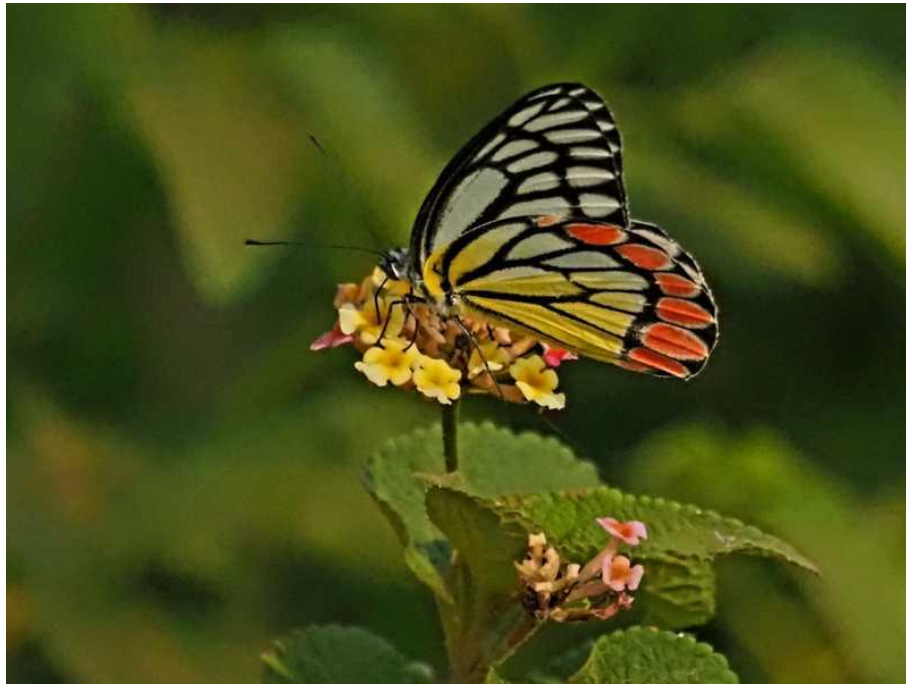
**Asian Openbill Stork**

Several pools appeared on both sides of the track, we found many species of waders and soon built a nice list of them. In one pool we watched four sandpipers feeding together, there was: Common, Green. Wood and Marsh Sandpipers with a single Redshank and a Lesser Sand Plover.



**Marsh and Green Sandpipers**

Grey-headed Fish Eagle was nearby also dozens of Spotted Deer, Water Buffalo, a single Golden Jackel, Mugger Crocodiles and Land Monitors. Other pools held many species, everywhere was teaming with wildlife, no matter which way you looked you could see or hear birds and mammals.



**Common Jezebel by Phil Naylor**

Bee-eaters were the most common bird species seen, but egrets, herons, ibis, spoonbills and storks came a close second. sightings in the scrub ranged from the tiny Pale-billed Flowerpecker to the huge Peafowl. Some special endemic species were found by Dhammi our guide. The Sri Lanka Wood Shrike was nice to see, so was the uncommon White-rumped Shama. We had brief glimpses of the Blue-faced Malkoha and enjoyed our first views of Jerdon's Bushlark, Coppersmith Barbet, White-browed Bubul and Jungle Prinia.





**White-browed Bulbul taken by Phil Naylor**

We toured those bumpy tracks for a couple of hours before pulling over to a rest area where we could climb down from the jeep. We ate our packed breakfast before setting off again for more birding. We saw Elephants (not many) also Grey Langur Monkeys, a Grey Mongoose, Sambur Deer and several lovely butterflies.



**a very impressive stag, Spotted Deer**



**Painted Stork overseeing a gang of Black-headed Ibis**

Another two hours flashed by, we added more birds at the pools, Gull-billed, Whiskered and Common Terns, Great Thick-knee, Yellow Wattled Lapwing, Hanuman Plover (formerly called Kentish Plover but now split), Little Ringed Plover and Pin-tailed Snipe.





### **Red Wattled Lapwing**

A Eurasian Hoopoe sighting was very pleasing for Rick our American group member, it was seen with a Crested Treeswift and a White-browed Fantail. At one area with high rock formations, we found Peregrine Falcon, Common Kestrel, Brahminy Kite and a Booted Eagle. Nearly every stop we made we encountered the Indian Black Robin, Little Green bee-eater and the Orange-breasted Green Pigeon. The bush areas kept on producing new birds for our list which was growing rapidly. Brown Shrike, Jerdon's leafbird, Small Minivet, Sri Lanka Swallow and Little Swift all went onto the list.



**the beautiful White-rumped Shama**

Before we knew it, it was 11am, five hours has passed oh so quickly, it was time to make our way out of the park and head for the hotel, it was now getting very warm.



**Water Buffalo with Spotted Deer behind**

Back at the hotel we ate lunch at 1pm and met up again at 3:30pm for an owl-outing. For the owls we searched the Dembarawawa area, especially the wooded area near a river. A Local lad helped us find a few species, he led us to a garden where we could see a Jungle Owlet sitting looking down at us. As we



walked away we found one of our must see species, the White-naped Flameback, wowzah! what a beauty.



**Jungle Owlet**

The next Owl target was the Brown Hawk-owl, but unfortunately it did not show, so we went onto another site where we found a pair of Brown Fish Owls. They performed beautifully, showing very well especially as they are a nocturnal species.



**White-naped Woodpecker**



**Brown Fish Owl**



**White-breasted Waterhen**

We had time to kill before moving onto our last target owl, so we re-visited the Tank at Dembarawawa, we spent 45 minutes there and added a couple of species. Common Moorhen and Clamorous Reed Warbler went onto the list but many other species were recorded.

At 6pm we drove to main Tank just outside of Tissamaharama where a huge Fruit Bat roost was located. We waited until dark to watch the bats leave their roost as egrets, ibis, herons, pelicans, cormorants and spoonbills came into roost in the same area. We added Black-crowned Night Heron to the list. It was a wonderful experience to witness the dispersal of circa 10,000 large bats, many people had turned up to



watch it. The bats did not leave the roost simultaneously, they crept away in a constant stream, nevertheless it was spectacular.



**just a tiny section of the Flying Fox colony**



**Spot-billed Pelican**

On the way home we stopped at another site nearby to look for a Barn Owl. there was a regular nesting site where up to two birds could be seen as they emerged from their nest-hole. It was 6:45 when one of the Barn owls appeared!



**Barn or 'Ghost' Owl - our last owl of the day!**

We got back to the hotel at 7pm, it had been a very long but extremely enjoyable day, starting at 5am and finishing at 7pm, but we did have breaks during the day.

### **[SRI LANKA TOUR - DAY 7 - Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2025](#)**

#### **BUNDALA NATIONAL PARK ALL MORNING AND DEBARAWEWA - EVENING NIGHTJAR WALK AT OUR HOTEL**

**WEATHER:** hot, dry, humid and breezy, a perfect birding morning. TEMP 15C - 30C

Bundala is my favourite place in Sri Lanka. The reason why? Waders! Thousands of them congregate in the salt pans and the open marshes and that, coupled with a plethora of other water birds, makes it one hell of a place for any birder with a pair of bins and a scope.

We arrived at the entrance track by bus and transferred to our open-top jeeps, we only drove 100 meters or so before we climbed down from our high perches, set up our scopes and started listing. The marshes were absolutely full of birds of all shapes and sizes, they were present in small pools, reedbeds, bushes, grassy banks and the track margins. The sky was dotted with moving lines of Little Cormorants and Whistling Ducks. Whilst egrets, ducks, herons, pigeons, terns and doves dashed about the marsh in a haphazard fashion looking for breakfast. I can imagine that some of my group were totally blown away by the vision in front of them.





**the road to Bundala at 7am this morning**

One of our most wanted birds was the Watercock, this a was a good place to find one. Sure enough, after just 5 minutes of searching we had one in the bag. Unfortunately, it didn't stay in view for very long and never reappeared whilst we were there. It was a drab brown job anyway, a juvenile or adult female.



**Tricoloured Munias**



**the unusual feeding behaviour of the Painted Stork. They stand side by side, absolutely motionless, with their beaks open and immersed in the water. When prey swims between their mandibles they snap them shut and catch their breakfast. Photo by Phil Naylor**

Glossy Ibis was new for our list, we saw three of them. So was the Eurasian Collared Dove, an invasive species here as it was in Europe 70 years ago. We started seeing small flock of Starlings, not Common Starlings but Rosy Starlings, alas they were in winter plumage, but a new species nevertheless.



**Rosy or Rose-coloured Starling in winter plumage**

The most common waders were Wood and Marsh Sandpipers, Redshanks and Greenshanks, we also saw Pin-tailed Snipe, Great Thick-knee, Red-wattled Lapwings and our first Pacific Golden Plovers. Some of



the bigger birds fed nearby, Asian Openbills, Painted Storks, Black-headed Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Eurasian Spoonbill, Purple, Indian Pond and Grey Herons, Great, Intermediate, Little and Cattle Egrets. A single Lesser Adjutant was seen in the marsh, not the best-looking species me thinks!



**Lesser Adjutant - eating a snake or an eel, I think?**

We had great views of a Yellow Bittern and to add a bit of colour to the scene we watched dozens of Little Green and Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, also Tricoloured Munias, White-throated, Pied and Common Kingfishers.



**Yellow Bittern**

Back on the jeeps we drove a little further where open muddy pools and sandy shores could be found. We scanned the mud where a group of terns were roosting, both Little Tern and Caspian Terns were new birds for the trip and we saw Whiskered, Gull-billed and our first White-winged Terns.



**Caspian Tern, one of the largest terns in the world and standing in front of it are a couple of Little Terns, one of the smallest terns in the world!**

A few small waders dashed about on the sandy banks, Kentish Plover now called Hanuman Plover were with Little Ringed Plovers and we added Black-tailed Godwits to the list.

Paddyfield Pipits were numerous, we saw sunbirds, bulbuls and babblers, Sri Lanka Green Pigeon, Barn Swallows and a few Yellow Wagtails. The leading jeep stopped to search for a Grey-bellied Cuckoo, it called but did not show, in the meantime our jeep a few meters behind were watching the most beautiful starling you are ever likely to see, the Brahminy Starling. A few of them were mixed in with the Rosy variety.





**Phil Naylor's shot of the Brahminy Starling**

We ate our picnic breakfast at the visitor's centre and used the facilities before driving on. We hadn't actually entered the National Park at this point. Once in the park we found a flock of Ashy-crowned Finch-larks, lots of Grey Langur Monkeys, we saw Mugger Crocodiles, a Soft-shelled Terrapin, Water Buffalo and a few butterflies.



**Pheasant-tailed Jacana by Phil Naylor**

The birding got better and better with large numbers of waders in mixed flocks feeding in the pools around the salt pans. We found another Lesser Adjutant Stork in a pool with a big Mugger Crocodile not far away.



**you can't go to Sri Lanka and not appreciate the Peacock in full display. Photo by Phil Naylor.**

We finally reached the open salt pans area and started to list new wader species, not too many, as most of the 'pan's were flooded. We saw Whimbrel, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Grey Plover, Ruddy Turnstone and hundreds of the more common species. In the distance we could see a huge roost of Terns, we picked out a lot of Caspian Terns and more Lesser Crested Terns. Little Terns became more prevalent too.





**here we have a bunch of Redshanks with a Marsh Sandpiper and a Lesser Sandplover**

We spent quite a while searching for Small Pratincole and it was Dhammi, our guide, who picked out the first one, Big Phil found a second. We then found a couple of Red-necked Phalaropes and a few more Pacific Golden Plovers and lots more Grey Plovers.



**very distant birds, two Red-necked Phalaropes**

I may have missed a few species, but you should get the message, this place is a paradise for wader lovers and general waterfowl. We recorded 101 species, that's nice!



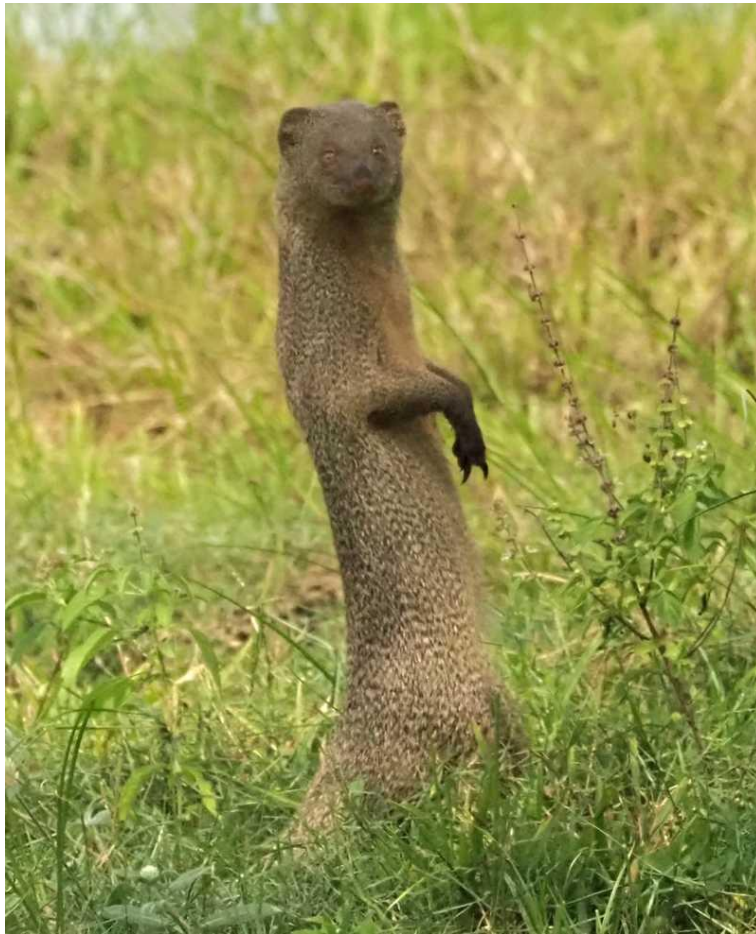
**A Grey Langur**

One the way back we added a couple more species, we had good views of a Jacobin Cuckoo, we saw a Grey Mongoose, an Indian Elephant fed close to the track, more troupes of Langur Monkeys and we found a couple more Brahminy Starlings. Our driver pointed out a small group of Indian Thick-knees, another first for the trip and a Yellow Wattled Lapwing was only our second of the tour.



**Indian Thick-knee**





**Grey Mongoose or is it a meerkat? taken by Phil Naylor**



**The Ashy-crowned Finch-lark by Phil Naylor**

After changing transport we returned to Tissamaharama but we made one stop in Debarawewa for our second search for the Brown Hawk Owl. This time we were successful, it showed really well, but it was fast asleep most of the time we were there. It was the second day in a row that our last bird was an Owl.



**a Brown Hawk-owl, I managed to catch it with its eyes open**

I have to correct that last statement because we met at 6pm for a Nightjar Walk in the gardens of the hotel. As all the diurnal birds went off to roost the nocturnal fraternity came out to play. We had great views of a Brown Fish Owl (which incidentally landed in a tree just outside my bungalow!). Then the large Flying Fox Bats started appearing along with two other unknown species of bats. Finally, we had good views, two or three times, of a Jerdon's Nightjar, that was our final bird of the day!

### **[SRI LANKA TOUR - DAY 8 - Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> 2025](#)**

**TRANSFER FROM TISSIMAHARAMA TO UDAWALAWE - WITH BIRDING ALONG THE WAY AT WIRAWILA TANK AND PANNAGAMUWA WEWA - BIRDING THE CAUSEWAY AT UDA WALAWE RESERVOIR AND NIGHTJAR WATCHING AT A LOCAL SITE.**



**WEATHER:** another perfect day. It was cool at the beginning and the end, but hot in the middle. Humid all day with a moderate breeze. Temp. 20C+ all day.

We were on the move again today, we said goodbye to the excellent staff at the Hotel and birded in the car park until everyone was ready and the bus was loaded up. It was amazing that so many different species showed up to bid us farewell. Indian Black Robin, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Jorden's Leafbird, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Purple-rumped Sunbird, Black-hooded Oriole, Imperial Green Pigeon, Asian Koel and a few others were all seen in the small car parking area.

We were on the road for 30 minutes or so when we stopped at the large reservoir called Wirawila, there we searched for the Cotton Teal, formerly called the Cotton Pygmy Goose. We never found one there, but we did see lots of other water species. Little Grebes, Waterhens, Jacanas, Swampheens, Cormorants, Egrets, Herons, Kingfishers and Terns, none of them were new for the list but they were nice to see in the wonderful morning light.



### **Marshland habitat where we searched for Cotton Teal and Black Bittern**

A few kilometers further along the road we stopped once again to view a smaller reservoir with very similar habitat, this time we struck lucky and found a few Cotton Teals. At first, we found just two birds but then another bunch of six appeared, all were very distant but with the lovely light the scope was able to pick out the colours etc.



**another typical 'tank' where Cotton Teals roam.**

One last stop was made to view a small reservoir, we searched for Black Bittern without luck, but we did see a few more species for the list. I photographed a Little Cormorant which had caught a large frog and after many attempts it finally swallowed it. As we drove on we stopped the bus to watch two Woolly-necked Storks circle the road and another stop was to watch an Oriental Honey Buzzard.



**Little Cormorant trying to eat a large frog!**





**almost down!!**



**gone!! Just look at its neck!**

Our arrival at our one-night hotel was timed to coincide with lunch and after checking in we all went down for a bite to eat. After that we had two hours to kill, some walked the grounds and other went to the pool to relax. Birds seen in the grounds included: Common Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail, Brown-headed Barbet, Indian Black Robin and several common species.

The afternoon birding session began at 3:30pm, we drove down to the dam and crossed the causeway, the huge Udawalawe Reservoir stretched out to our right. A couple of kilometers down the road we came

to a large open area of marsh on one side and open woodland on the other. We stopped for birding and spent an hour or two just watching the tremendous wildlife all around us.



**Spotted Deer, Intermediate Egret and Black-winged Stilt**

The huge reservoir formed a backdrop to the marshland, book-ended by woodland, birds and mammals fed side by side and in good numbers all over the marsh. Water Buffalo, Spotted Deer, Grey Mongoose and Land Monitors were seen with about 50 species of birds. We had seen 95% of the birds already but a couple of nice additions to the list were found. Citrine Wagtail was a nice find, Phil went on to find a second bird.





**Citrine Wagtail**

Then Dhammi found the bird of the day, a Painted Snipe, it was distant and unfortunately it did not stay in view for long, also it was the dull male. A few minutes later Rick, our American friend and EAGLES fan (they had won the American Super Bowl just a few hours earlier) found a second Painted Snipe, this time it was a beautiful female (remember that role reversal exists with the Painted Snipe).



**Painted Snipe, this is the second bird, found by Rick. A colourful female.**



**another shot of the Painted Snipe**

Of course, Phil just had to go one better! He found a third Painted Snipe and one that was much nearer than the others, it was also a female. Wow! That was fun and unexpected.





**Pin-tailed Snipe, wouldn't win a beauty contest I'm afraid!**

We walked across the road and viewed the open forest where lots of other species could be found. We added several new species to the day list but nothing new for the trip. Common lora, Brown Shrike, Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Sri Lanka Swallow, Oriental White-eye, Scaly-breasted Munia, Black-hooded Oriole, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon were seen to name but a few.



**Common lora**

As we lost the bright daylight birds started moving off to their respective roost, we saw a string of 30+ Glossy Ibis go over, all the Yellow Wagtails took off and headed towards their roost with larks, finches and

pipits. We decided to drive a few kilometers to a site where Nightjars are regularly seen, the Indian Little Nightjar in particular.



**Jerdan's Bushlark, a very common forest species**

We arrived just in time to see thousands of wagtails dropping down into the fields of sugar-beet and bats began to take to the air. A short walk into the fields along a wide track took us a few minutes. Within 10



minutes Nightjars started calling and we found one sitting on the track. We all photographed the bird before it flew off. We saw it again a few times before we moved off, job done, Indian Little Nightjar in the bag. Time to go back to the hotel for dinner.

**The Indian Little Nightjar taken by Phil Naylor**



## SRI LANKA TOUR - DAY 9 - Tuesday February 11<sup>th</sup> 2025

### **MORNING JEEP SAFARI IN UDAWALAWE NATIONAL PARK - TRANSFER FROM UDAWALAWE TO SINHARAJA RAIN FOREST**

WEATHER: overcast for most of the morning with some very light rain, it was still hot and humid but much cooler today.

We were on the move again, but before we set off we took our third and final Jeep Safari. It was yet another early start, we left the hotel at 6am with our breakfasts in a bag and drove for about fifteen minutes to the Udawalawe Park. There was the usual queue to get tickets and then we queued to get into the park. Udawalawe is so much smaller than Yala and far fewer people visit.



**Jeep 1, the leading jeep with six of the group**

A few meters from the entrance gate on the inside of the park we stopped to enjoy great views of a pair of Indian Rollers, we couldn't have hoped for better views, but the light wasn't quite right for the photographers of course! Moving on into the park it was easy to find solitude, no other jeeps were on birding trips such as ours, so they sped off in search of Elephants and Crocodiles. Brown Barbet and Coppersmith Barbet appeared in the same tree just at the side of the track as we started our tour.



**Indian Roller, one of first birds once inside the park**

We soon amassed a nice list of species, most of them we had already encountered, but a few new birds started to appear. Our first Blue-faced Malkoha showed relatively well, but soon we had three of them and we were spoilt for choice. Dhammi then found a Grey-bellied Cuckoo, it was the rufous hepatic form and looked superb in the morning sunlight. A second cuckoo appeared not too far away.





**The hepatic Grey-bellied Cuckoo**

The leading Jeep then found a Black-headed Cuckoo Shrike, also a new bird for the trip but those of us in the second jeep dipped on that one. We all spent some time chasing down a Tawny-bellied Babbler, it was quite the skulker, but eventually everyone got a view of it. Whilst watching the Babbler a small group of Yellow-eyed Bulbuls appeared and enjoyed those too.



**Phil Naylor's photograph of the Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike**

A few raptors were seen perched in the dead trees, we saw Crested Hawk-eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle and we found the nest of a White-bellied Fish-eagle with the adults in attendance. The leading group then found a Eurasian Hoopoe on the track and enjoyed some great views of it before we got there in the second jeep, the bird had gone when we arrived, of course.





**Blue-faced Malkoha by Phil Naylor**

In many of the dead trees we watched small groups of Rose-coloured Starlings, some of them were coming into their beautiful summer plumage, we found Marshall's lora, Brown Shrike and our first Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker appeared to our right.



**not just a cockerel! But the endemic Sri Lanka Junglefowl**

It was just after 9am when we reached the designated 'dismount' picnic spot, where we were allowed to jump of the jeeps and eat our packed breakfast. The place was ideal, we sat by the side of a bird-filled lake just as the sun came out. We probably saw over 20 species from where we sat, the majority of our sightings were waterbirds with some terns and birds of the prey.



**our breakfast stop, we must have seen 20+ species from there**



Black-crowned Night Herons were sitting all over the marsh, on top of reeds and in small bushes, dozens of them. Herons and egrets dominated our sighting's list with a few waders thrown in.

We had to be out of the park by 11am so we only had about an hour of birding left. So, we climbed back into the jeeps, we made an attempt to see the Sirkeer Malkoha, we made several stops to search for it but never had a sniff.



**Crested Serpent Eagle**

Elephant watching took up most of our return journey, several small family groups were seen at the side of the track. We also saw Ruddy Mongoose and the best of all was a Jungle Cat! Wowzah! Little Phil even got a picture of it. Land Monitors, Toque Monkeys, Palm Squirrels were also seen. We watched a couple of pairs of Malabar Pied-Hornbill, we saw at least three Common Kingfishers, two White-throated Kingfishers and a single Pied Kingfisher.



**close encounter with a male Indian Elephant**

It was nearly 12 noon when we got back to the hotel. We had time to pack and vacate our rooms and take dinner before we were due to move on.



**a quick 'grab' shot by Phil Naylor of the Jungle Cat**

The road to Sinharaja was slow and arduous, narrow winding roads and steep climbs, it took two hours to get there. Nevertheless, the group were happy and excited to go out birding at 4:30pm especially when we enticed them with the possible sighting of the most wanted owl in Sri Lanka, the Serendib Scops Owl.





**another shot of the Elephant being chased off by a Cattle Egret.....not!**

A long steep uphill climb through the rainforest was needed in order to see the owl. We all made the climb, but the owl had other ideas. It was there, but so well hidden that it was very hard to see at all, no-one got a good view of it and no-one took a reasonable photograph. Hey, Ho! sometimes it goes that way.

It was after 6pm when got back to our new hotel where we will be staying for three nights.

### **[SRI LANKA TOUR - DAY 10 - Wednesday February 12<sup>th</sup> 2025](#)**

#### **SINHARAJA FOREST RESERVE AND SURROUNDING AREA ALL DAY**

**WEATHER:** typical rain forest weather today, hot and humid with full on sunshine until about 1pm. Then cloud and rain-cloud formation, it rained lightly around 6pm. Temp 20C – 28C

It was a very early start today; the alarm went off at 4:20am!!! We had coffee and tea at 4:45am before driving off at 5am. The purpose for this early start was the endemic Sri Lanka Spurfowl. We were taken to a private house high up on the mountainside where there was a feeding station and a blind we could stand behind. First, we sat in the yard to watch the dawn break and the first few birds emerging from their slumber.

We saw our very first Black-capped Bulbul feeding in the garden trees with Yellow-browed Bulbuls and Square-tailed Bulbul. We saw Brown-headed, Yellow-fronted and Coppersmith Barbets, White-bellied Drongo and both Green Imperial Pigeon and the endemic Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon.



**Black-capped Bulbul**



**Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon**

Then a star bird arrived at the garden feeder, the endemic Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, in fact two came down to feed and a Jungle Nightjar circled behind us. The shout went up from the local guys that the Spurfowl had appeared at the feeding station, so we marched up there in silence and soon we were all watching this endemic wildfowl. A group of the endemic Sri Lanka Junglefowl turned up after a few minutes and frightened the Spurfowl off.





**Sri Lanka Blue Magpie**

From the garden we jumped back onto the jeeps for a bumpy ride on an partially unmade track! We were lucky in the fact that most of this track had been concreted but there was still a good way to go with some large potholes and rocky scree.

We stopped a couple of times to look for birds and one particular stop produced two more endemic species and another very good sighting. The first was the endemic **Green-billed Coucal**, it gave us the run around for a while, but all eventually got good, short views of it. Whilst tracking the Coucal we heard a White-faced Starling calling and Dhammi found it for us. The Starling did not show very well and not all of the group got to see it before it flew off.



**Spurfowl - it was very dark in the forest and the bird was too close for a decent picture**

In the meantime, one of our drivers slipped into the woods and found a pair of Sri Lanka Frogmouth, that was an exciting find for all of the group and a most wanted species.



**Ceylon Frogmouth the brown bird is the female**

We spent some time at the top of the mountainside near a Lodge looking for various species but not with much luck. So, a walk on a track near the entrance to the forest reserve was made and proved very productive. We bumped into a feeding flock and listed a few wanted species. The endemic Ashy-headed



Laughing Thrush was moving through the forest in good numbers and we found our first Sri Lanka Drongo. Sri Lanka Rufous Babbler was also in the flock, and we saw Crimson-backed Flameback Woodpecker.

The same driver that found the Frogmouth suddenly called us further up the track, he had found number one target bird the **RED-FACED MALKOHA**! Well, this bird was very so elusive we only got to see bits of it, but at times it took short flights in the open and we filled our boots.

After that excitement we walked back to the Lodge for lunch, during our lunch we stopped to watch another pair of Sri Lanka Blue Magpies, in fact it was Little Phil who found a nesting site which had a couple of chicks in it.



**a male Kangaroo Lizard**

We all took a nap during our relaxation time and we were awoken by a call of Spot-winged Thrush! This endemic species was our eighth of the day and now only one remained, the Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush. So, our next walk was into the Forest Reserve, we had picked a bad day for this because there were over 400 students having a day trip with escorts, it was bedlam on the main track.

Nevertheless we found quite a few species, everyone had much better views of the Ashy-headed Laughing-thrush. Butterflies and reptiles dominated our sightings and general interest. Many Tree Nymph butterflies glided gracefully in and out of the forest, we saw many Kangaroo Lizards, also the weird looking Hump-nosed Lizard and a colourful Common Garden Lizard. Our local guide found a Green Vine Snake and pointed out Comb-tailed Fish in the ponds. We also saw Purple-faced Leaf Monkeys and the Dusky Palm Squirrel.

The local guide was an excellent spotter, even without binoculars!! He found us a pair of Malabar Trogons, two more Spot-winged Thrushes and relocated many other species. At one stage he found a nest of the Black-naped Blue Monarch.

Our return journey began at 4pm and now that it was quiet, with all the students departed, we saw a lot more birds. None of them were new for the list and after making many stops and searches for the Scaly Thrush we never found one.

We left the park at five and drove down the bumpy track to our bus waiting at the bottom. We were well pleased with the number of species seen today and now we only need one more endemic species and a few other species to complete our list.

We got back to the hotel at 6pm and ate dinner at 7pm. It had been a long and very rewarding day.

## **SRI LANKA TOUR - DAY 11 - Thursday February 13<sup>th</sup> 2025**

### **SINHARAJA FOREST RESERVE AND SURROUNDS ALL DAY**

**WEATHER:** exactly the same as yesterday except that it was a little hotter. Top temp 34C

After 10 days of birding and travelling around this beautiful country we had seen 226 species including 33 of the 34 endemic birds, we had only to find the Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush for the full set, we put the pressure on Dhammi to produce the Thrush.



**a view from the mountain track on the way up to Sinharaja Forest Reserve**

We set off at 7am after a 6am breakfast and after driving to the centre of Sinharaja Village we transferred into the jeeps in preparation for the bumpy ride up the Forest Reserve entrance. We stopped not too far up the track to look for Plum-headed Parakeet, a species still missing from our list.





**Purple-faced Leaf Monkey by 'Little' Phil Naylor**

The mountainside was alive with birds we saw many species as we searched the tree-tops for the Parakeet. We had good views of Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike a species missing from the list of many of the group, in fact we saw this species at several locations both males and females.



**White-faced Starling taken by 'Little' Phil**

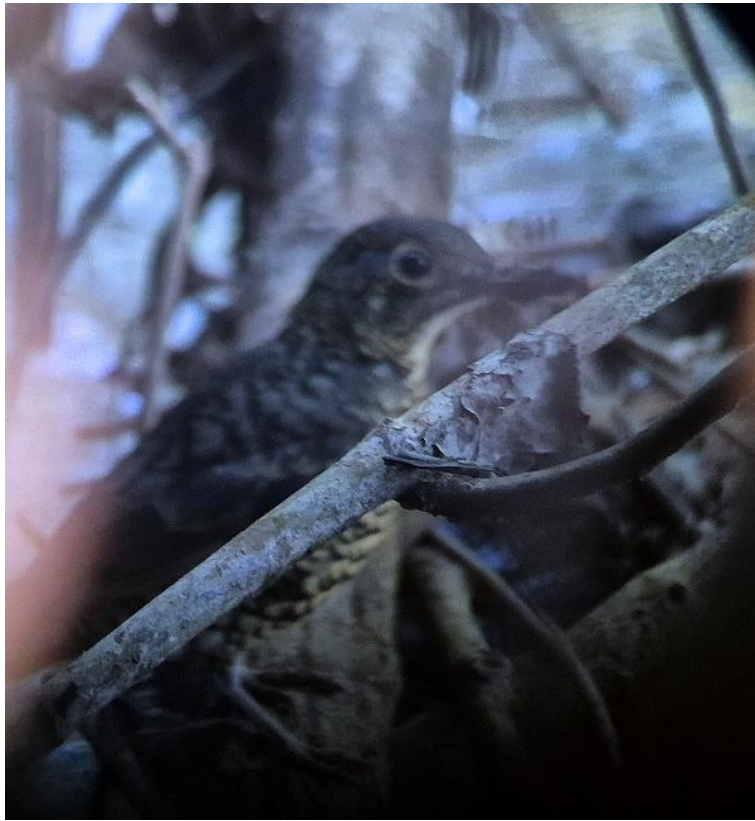
Crested Treeswifts flew around above the trees as did Sri Lanka Swallow and a few Asian Palm Swifts. We logged Common Iora, Jerdan's Leafbird, Black-hooded Oriole, Purple Sunbird, Pale-billed Flowerpecker and many common bulbuls and babblers.



**the wonderful Tree Nymph floats around the trees without a care in the world!**

We eventually made it to the top, but before we entered the Reserve we stopped for coffee and local cake at the little cafe. We met Mahindra, the local guide who works for the Forest Reserve and he took us a few meters into the reserve and told where to look for the SCALY THRUSH, which was the little beast missing from our list of endemics, the bird appeared after just a few minutes. It showed to some of group at first but then everyone had a good look at it in the depths of the undergrowth next to a stream.





**my best shot of the Scaly Thrush, it was in a dark place and it wouldn't keep still!**

Wowzah! We had done it, all the endemics in the bag with a couple days to spare. Now we wanted to see more non-endemic species missing from our list and get better views of some of the species that were on it.



**Malabar Trogon, a male taken by Phil Naylor**

The Malabar Trogon was one of those species that some of group saw very well yesterday and others didn't. Mahindra found a pair of them a little further down the track. He also pointed out a small flock (3) Red-faced Malkoha, we didn't get good views yesterday of this species but now we had excellent sightings. The same went for Sri Lanka Drongo, Ashy-headed Laughing Thrush and Spot-winged Thrush.



**Spot-winged Thrush by Phil Naylor**

For the return route we all opted to walk down the permitted pathway to the large Administration Building at the lower entrance to the park. We didn't see too many birds along this walk, but we did enjoy the scenery, butterflies, reptiles and a few mammals. Some of the group saw Striped-necked Mongoose, we all saw Purple-faced Leaf-Monkeys. We found several Lizards and our second Green Vine Snake.





**can you spot the Green Vine Snake in this shot?**

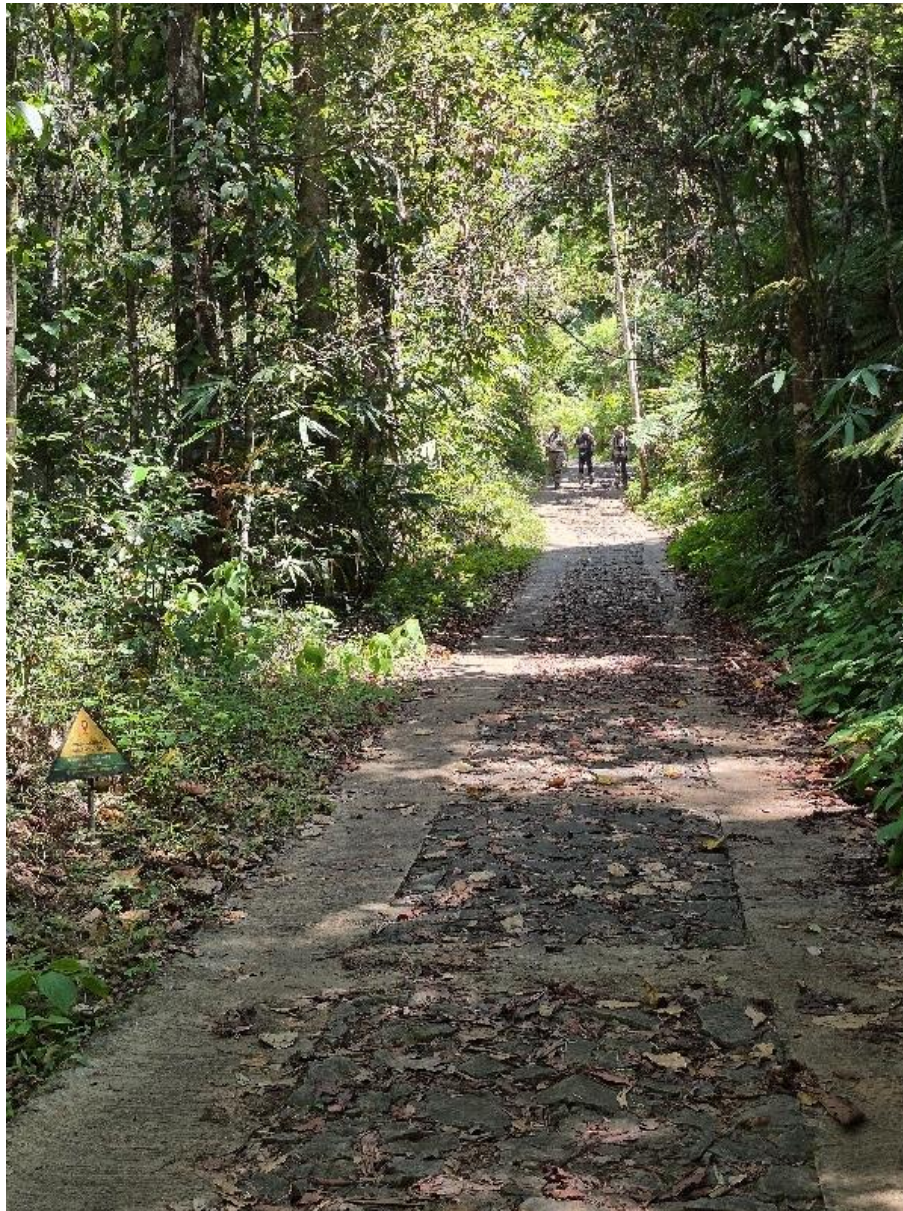
We then made a stop at a cafe on the edge of town and ate cake with our coffee, that completed our morning birding, we drove back to the hotel for lunch and a siesta. It was 3:30pm when set off again, we drove straight back to Sinharaja village and took a track that runs parallel to the river. We hoped to see Plum-headed Parakeet and spent nearly an hour looking for it.



**Giant Wood Spider**

Having missed our target species again we walked back into town and Dhammi our guide arranged jeep transport for a short trip up the mountainside to another spot where the Parakeet hangs out. It was fun as we all had to cram in one vehicle nine of us in a six seater! Dhammi was on the back of a moped!





### **The track down for the Sinharaja Reserve**

When we got to the correct spot we bailed out and after a few false alarms when Layard's Parakeet was found we finally got see a Plum-headed Parakeet although the first one or two we found were in moult and their head feathers looked a real mess. It was as we were leaving that Big Phil found a full-on male bird in superb plum-plumage, it was Little Phil who took the pictures.



**one of the moulting Plum-headed Parakeets, note the very long tail.**

That concluded our last full day's birding, we still have some time for birding but tomorrow will be mainly travelling and we have a visit to the centre of Galle planned.

### **[SRI LANKA TOUR - DAY 12 - Thursday February 14<sup>th</sup> 2025](#)**

#### **TRANSFER FROM SINHARAJA TO GALLE - BIRDING GALLE RAMPARTS AND THE KIRALAKALE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

WEATHER: hot, humid and breeze. Temperature range 20C-30C

Our final birding day had arrived, we had to travel to the coast for our Whale Watching Cruise booked for tomorrow, so we had little time for birding today.





**the view from the balcony of our hotel**

At breakfast we spent some time on the balcony of the hotel looking down into a lush green valley with terraced tea plantations on the slopes and a few rice fields down at the bottom. Small flock of Munias were feeding on the nearly ripened rice, we scanned with our scopes and we picked the Black-throated Munia which is a local speciality and a new bird for our list. Other birds seen whilst we enjoyed the beautiful morning included: Alexandrine and Layard's Parakeets, Hanging Parrots, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Little Swifts (nesting under the eaves of the hotel building), Sri Lanka Swallows, Oriental Magpie Robin (nesting in a pipe just above us), White-throated Kingfisher (at least three) and many more locally common species.



**Alexandrine Parakeets**

After breakfast we packed up the bus and set off for the coast, passing through lovely scenic landscapes until we reached the coastal plateau, there we found miles of rice paddies and other crops. We noted a few species during the drive which included the ubiquitous Brahminy Kites, Red-vented Bulbuls and Spotted Doves, they were everywhere. One species new for the list was seen by Rick, he found an Osprey whilst the rest of us missed it.





**on the ramparts of Galle**



**Cattle Egrets, roosting in the Palms**

We then spent 1 1/2 hours in the centre of the old town section of Galle. Most of us spent a lot of time walking the ramparts of the old bastion, we had lovely views of the open sea and rocky coves. It was hot and sunny with quite a nice breeze. We spotted a lot of terns on the rock and listed, Whiskered, Little, Gull-billed, Common, Lesser-crested and Greater-crested Terns. Also found was Common Sandpiper, Whimbrel, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Red-wattled Lapwing, Scaly-breasted Munias, Common Myna.



**Terns on the rocks taken from the ramparts at Galle**



**A Whimbrel taking a bath on the beach at Galle taken by Phil Naylor**

From Galle we drove the short distance to our beach hotel which literally sits on the beach. For the afternoon birding session some of the group opted to stay and enjoy the beach etc whilst the rest of us were driven to a Marsh area near Marissa.

Kailakare Wildlife Sanctuary has extensive marshes with open pools and supply canals, it was covered in birds, we listed over 40 species. Our main target birds were Bitterns, but a few other species were looked for that were still missing from our list.





**Purple Heron in deep water in the marshes**

After a short while Little Phil Naylor found a Cinnamon Bittern, he called out and we all saw it in flight but couldn't find it in the reeds where it landed. We then found a Watercock, it was another female type not the colourful male. Herons. Egrets, spoonbills, ibis, storks, Whistling Ducks, Moorhen, Waterhens, Lapwings littered the marsh and Brahminy Kites patrolled the skies.



**this is the best view we had of the Watercock**

We found a Pied Cuckoo, three types of Kingfishers (Pied, Common and White-throated). We strolled through the marsh and along avenues of trees for about 3 kilometers. Just as we decided to turn back Dhammi shouted out “Black Bittern” as a bird dashed past us. It landed in full view on the top of the reeds and gave us all stunning views. Wowzah! That was our star bird and most wanted species, we were all made up with that sighting.



**Pied Kingfisher**





**Black Bittern was very hard to see even though it was hiding in plain sight**



**Water Buffaloes enjoying the cool water with Cattle Egret enjoying the insects and the ride,**

**by Phil Naylor**



**Yellow Bittern - one of the last species seen at Kiralalakale Sanctuary**

The return walk produced nothing new until we reached the final canal when Dhammi pointed out a Yellow Bittern. I can't believe we saw three species of Bittern in one place, an amazing result.

That concluded our birding for the day. Tomorrow it is an early start for the Whale Watching excursion with our return trip to Colombo due to be taken in the afternoon.

### **[SRI LANKA TOUR - DAY 13 - Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup> 2025](#)**

#### **BEACH HOTEL NEAR GALLE - WHALE WATCHING TRIP FROM MARISSA - VISIT TO TURTLE SANCTUARY - CENTRAL COLOMBO TOUR AND DINNER**

WEATHER: full on sunshine all day, lovely sea breeze and a flat calm sea.

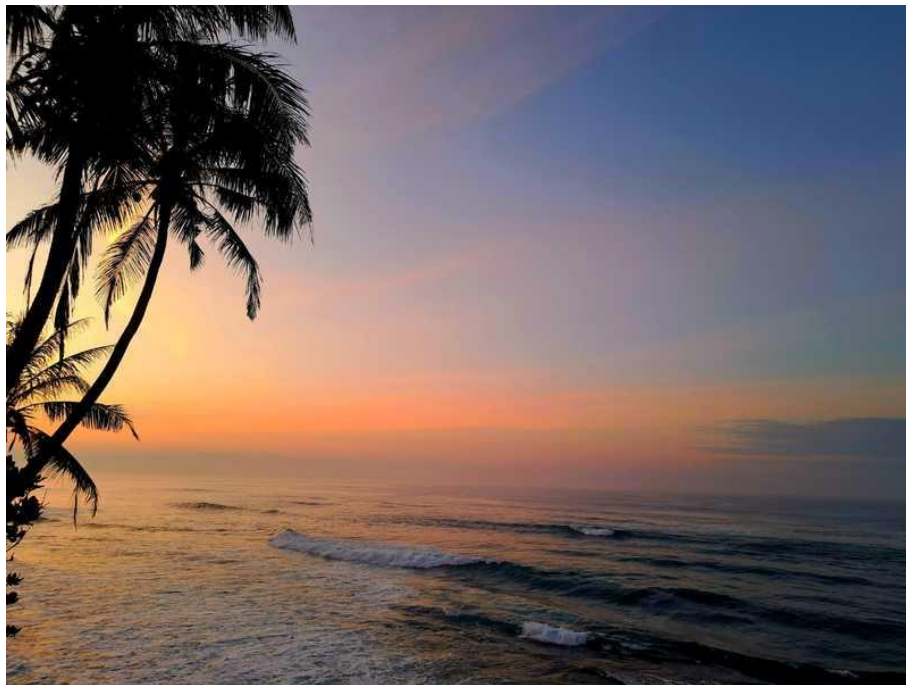
We had a bit of a mish-mash morning, some of the group remained at the hotel, some went walking along the beach and some went on the whale watching cruise.





**The beach near Galle**

The whale watchers saw the most birds and cetaceans of course, but they never saw a Blue Whale!! The usual sighting of a Striated Heron in the mariner at Marissa was a bonus for those that saw it. But the 5 hour whale watching cruise produced very little. The best of which was a couple of sightings of Bridled Terns with one sighting comprising of a group of 20+ terns.



**sunrise at the Beach Hotel on the morning of the Whale Watch Cruise**

Lesser Crested and Great Crested Terns were seen from the beach along with Whiskered and Gull-billed Terns. Small pods of both Spinner Dolphins and Rossi's Dolphin were seen from the boat. Green Turtles

could also be seen from the beach as well as from the boat and I think that just about sums up the morning sightings apart from a White-breasted Sea-eagle which seen from the hotel.



a *back-of-camera* shot of Rick's Tern picture taken in Galle yesterday. The Terns with orange bills are Lesser Crested and the larger and darker, Yellow-billed Tern at the back, is the Great Crested Tern. The lower Tern in the foreground, with a black bill, is a moulting Gull-billed Tern





**here is Rick and Big Phil having breakfast on the cruise**

We all met again at lunchtime, it was 1:30pm when we boarded the bus for the final drive back to Colombo and then onto our hotel for the last night.

Brahminy Kites, House Crows, Egrets and Herons were seen all along the way back to Colombo, but nothing new or really exciting popped out. About halfway to Colombo we stopped at a Turtle Sanctuary where we had guided tour of the place. it was extraordinary, we could see many turtles that had been rescued from tangled ropes and fishing nets, some had been permanently damaged and needed to be looked after for life.



**The Nursery tanks for the Green Turtles - these are just 2 weeks old, they will be released into the ocean when they are 4 weeks old.**



**we were allowed to handle one or two Turtles, Sue and Ali are watching over this one**

A section of the sanctuary was devoted to conservation efforts, we were shown tanks full of newly hatched turtles, tiny little beings that fit in the palm of your hand. This one sanctuary had raised and released 1.5 million turtles since it opened.



**the 7 species of Turtle that our found in Sri Lanka**

For our dinner on this last night we had a real treat! We were taken to Kingsbury Hotel at the docks in central Colombo. We also stopped a couple times to admire some of Colombo's architectural, historical and famous landmark sites. The Building to mark Sri Lanka's independence, the Memorial Hall was one of the sites we visited, and we passed by the Gangarmaya Temple.





**Independence Memorial Hall in Colombo**

The Kingsbury Hotel was where we ate the most wonderful food you could imagine. The buffet-style service was out of this world and the variety and choice was just incredible. Everyone had a fantastic time and really enjoyed some delicious plates of food. The sweets were innumerable, colourful and spread for miles, out on long counters. What a perfect ending this was for our wonderful holiday. We had to leave around 9pm in order to get back to our last hotel unfortunately we did not stay at the Kingsbury Hotel.



**at dinner in the Kingsbury Hotel**

We arrived at our last hotel (which happened to be the same hotel we stayed at on the first night), Rick had to be leaving us at 11pm to catch his early morning flight, so we said our last goodbye to him. The rest of us slept until 6am when we left, in the dark, for the airport. Only Phil and Sue remained, they had booked an extra week of relaxation (lucky beggars). At the airport we said goodbye to Dhammi our guide, to Nuga our driver and to Sandu our helper.



Little Phil and Sue stayed on at the hotel for another week. This is one of his many pictures that he sent to us. It is a male Small Minivet, a bird that we failed to see during the tour. He loved it when he found this bird!!! Common Redstart I say!

We all had long flights ahead of us, but everyone got home safely without any delays or mishaps. All's well that ends well. It had been a great trip with a really lovely group of people, we saw 235 species of birds 20+ mammals and lots of butterflies, interesting insects, reptiles and amphibians.

**The 2026 Tour is filling up, to book your place please contact [info@wingspanbirdtours.com](mailto:info@wingspanbirdtours.com)**



## PLACES VISITED

DAY 1	TRANSFER FROM TAMARIND TREE RESORT TO KITHULGALA REST HOUSE GARDENS WITH A STOP AT AROPOLA MARSHES – LOCAL BIRDING NEAR THE RIVER KOILLONI.
DAY 2	MAKANDAWA - KELANI GANGA RIVER AREA - MIRISWALATHANNA ROAD AREA
DAY 3	TRANSFER FROM KITHULGALA TO NUWARA ELIYA - WITH STOPS IN THE TEA PLANTATIONS NEAR WATAWALA, HATTON AND TALAWAKELLE
DAY 4	HORTON PLAINS ALL MORNING - NUWARA ELIYA LAKE GREGORY AND SURROUNDS IN THE AFTERNOON
DAY 5	TRANSFER FROM NEWARA ELIYA TO TISSAMAHARAMA WITH STOPS AT HAKRALLA HINDU TEMPLE – SURREY BIRD SANCTUARY – ELLA FALLS – DEBARAWAWA TANK
DAY 6	YALA NATIONAL PARK ALL MORNING – DEMBAWAWA TANKS AND VILLAG
DAY 7	BUNDALA NATIONAL PARK ALL MORNING AND DEBARAWEWA - EVENING NIGHTJAR WALK AT OUR HOTEL
DAY 8	TRANSFER FROM TISSIMAHARAMA TO UDAWALawe - WITH BIRDING ALONG THE WAY AT WIRAWILA TANK AND PANNAGAMUWA WEWA - BIRDING THE CAUSEWAY AT UDA WALawe RESERVOIR AND NIGHTJAR WATCHING AT A LOCAL SITE.
DAY 9	MORNING JEEP SAFARI IN UDAWALawe NATIONAL PARK - TRANSFER FROM UDAWALawe TO SINHARAJA RAIN FOREST
DAY 10	SINHARAJA FOREST RESERVE AND SURROUNDING AREA ALL DAY
DAY 11	SINHARAJA FOREST RESERVE 2 <sup>ND</sup> DAY
DAY 12	TRANSFER FROM SINHARAJA TO GALLE - BIRDING GALLE RAMPARTS AND THE KIRALAKALE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
DAY 13	BEACH HOTEL NEAR GALLE - WHALE WATCHING TRIP FROM MARISSA - VISIT TO TURTLE SANCTUARY - CENTRAL COLOMBO TOUR AND DINNER
DAY 14	TRANSFER FROM COLOMBO HOTEL TO THE AIRPORT

# CHECKLIST OF SPECIES RECORDED BETWEEN 2<sup>ND</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

*Endemic species are highlighted in green*

ENGLISH NAME		SCIENTIFIC NAME	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
235.	<b>Sri Lanka Spurfowl</b>	<i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>											X		
1.	<b>Sri Lanka Junglefowl</b>	<i>Gallus lafavettii</i>		X	X							X	X	X	
2.	<b>Indian Peafowl</b>	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.	<b>Lesser Whistling Duck</b>	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>							X	X	X	X			X
4.	<b>Cotton Teal</b>	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>									X				
5.	<b>Painted Stork</b>	<i>Micropygia leucocephala</i>							X	X	X	X			X
6.	<b>Asian Openbill</b>	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
7.	<b>Woolly-necked Stork</b>	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>									X	X			
8.	<b>Lesser Adjutant</b>	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>								X					
9.	<b>Glossy Ibis</b>	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>									X	X			
10.	<b>Black-headed Ibis</b>	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>		X				X	X	X	X	X			X
11.	<b>Eurasian Spoonbill</b>	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>							X	X	X				X
12.	<b>Yellow Bittern</b>	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>						X		X					X
13.	<b>Chestnut Bittern</b>	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>													X
14.	<b>Black Bittern</b>	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>													X
15.	<b>Night Heron</b>	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>							X			X			
16.	<b>Striated Heron</b>	<i>Butorides striata</i>													X
17.	<b>Indian Pond Heron</b>	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
18.	<b>Cattle Egret</b>	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
19.	<b>Grey Heron</b>	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>						X	X	X	X	X			X
20.	<b>Purple Heron</b>	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
21.	<b>Great Egret</b>	<i>Ardea alba</i>		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
22.	<b>Intermediate Egret</b>	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>		X				X	X	X	X	X			X
23.	<b>Little Egret</b>	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						X	X	X	X	X			X
24.	<b>Spot-billed Pelican</b>	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	X					X	X	X	X	X			
25.	<b>Little Grebe</b>	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						X	X		X				
26.	<b>Little Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
27.	<b>Indian Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>						X	X		X				



ENGLISH NAME		SCIENTIFIC NAME	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
28.	<b>Oriental Darter</b>	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>						X	X	X	X	X			X
29.	<b>Common Kestrel</b>	<i>Falco tinnuculus</i>					X		X						
30.	<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>							X						
31.	<b>Black-winged Kite</b>	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		X											
32.	<b>Brahminy Kite</b>	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
33.	<b>Osprey</b>	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>													X
34.	<b>White-bellied Sea Eagle</b>	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>			X	X		X	X	X		X			X
35.	<b>Grey-headed Fish Eagle</b>	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>							X	X	X	X			X
36.	<b>Shikra</b>	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	X	X	X		X	X							X
37.	<b>Oriental Honey Buzzard</b>	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>				X		X			X				
38.	<b>Crested Serpent Eagle</b>	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
39.	<b>Indian Black Eagle</b>	<i>Ictinaetus malavensis</i>				X	X	X							
40.	<b>Booted Eagle</b>	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>							X	X					
41.	<b>Changeable Hawk Eagle</b>	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>				X						X			X
42.	<b>Mountain Hawk-eagle</b>	<i>Nisaetus kelaarti</i>				X									
43.	<b>White-breasted Waterhen</b>	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
44.	<b>Watercock</b>	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>								X					X
45.	<b>Purple Swamphe</b>	<i>Porphyrion porphyrio</i>						X	X	X	X	X			X
46.	<b>Common Moorhen</b>	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>							X						X
47.	<b>Pheasant-tailed Jacana</b>	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>						X	X	X	X				X
48.	<b>Indian Thick-knee</b>	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus indicus</i>								X	X	X			
49.	<b>Great Thick-knee</b>	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>							X	X	X				
50.	<b>Black-winged Stilt</b>	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						X	X	X	X	X			X
51.	<b>Yellow-wattled Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>							X						
52.	<b>Red-wattled Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>		X			X	X	X	X	X	X			X
53.	<b>Pacific Golden Plover</b>	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>								X	X				
54.	<b>Grey Plover</b>	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>								X					
55.	<b>Little Ringed Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>							X	X	X				
56.	<b>Hanuman Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>							X	X	X				
57.	<b>Lesser Sand Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>							X	X	X	X			
58.	<b>Greater Painted Snipe</b>	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>									X				
59.	<b>Pin-tailed Snipe</b>	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>		X					X	X	X				
60.	<b>Whimbrel</b>	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>								X					X

[illegible]



[illegible]

ENGLISH NAME		SCIENTIFIC NAME	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
130.	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>							X		X	X		X	
131.	Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros aingalensis</i>		X	X			X		X		X	X	X	X
132.	Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>						X			X	X			
133.	Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>										X			
134.	Lesser Yellow-nape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>		X									X	X	
135.	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	X	X	X	X		X							
136.	Crimson-backed Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i>					X						X	X	
137.	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>							X						
138.	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>		H	X										
139.	Sri Lanka Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis affinis</i>							X		X				
140.	Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera svkesi</i>										X		X	
141.	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>							X						
142.	Orange Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>		X	X	X	X						X	X	
143.	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>			X		X								
144.	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>			X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X
145.	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>		X	X	X	X				X	X		X	
146.	Marshall's Iora	<i>Aegithina nigrolutea</i>										X			
147.	Jerdon's Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis ierdoni</i>			X									X	
148.	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>							X		X	X		X	
149.	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	X	X	H	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
150.	Sri Lanka Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa ornata</i>											X		
151.	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
152.	Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	X	X		X	X	X				X			X
153.	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>						X							
154.	Barn Swallow	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>					X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
155.	Hill Swallow	<i>Hirundo (tahitica) domicola</i>				X	X								
156.	Sri Lanka Swallow	<i>Cecropis (daurica) hypervythra</i>		X				X	X		X		X	X	X
157.	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>													
158.	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	X	X	X							X	X	X	X
159.	Sri Lanka Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus lophorhinus</i>											X	X	
160.	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>				X		X							
161.	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>								X	X	X			
162.	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>									X				
163.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			X	X	X	X			X				X
164.	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>					X		X	X	X	X			



[illegible]

ENGLISH NAME		SCIENTIFIC NAME	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
200.	Brahminv Starling	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>								X		X			
201.	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>								X		X			
202.	Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush	<i>Mvophonus bliqhi</i>					X								
203.	Pied Ground-thrush	<i>Zoothera wardii</i>				X									
204.	Spot-winged Ground-thrush	<i>Zoothera spiloptera</i>											X	X	
205.	Sri Lanka Scalv Thrush	<i>Zoothera (dauma) imbricata</i>					X							X	
206.	Indian Blackbird	<i>Turdus simillimus</i>					X								
207.	Indian Blue Robin	<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>				X									
208.	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
209.	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabarricus</i>							X						
210.	Indian Black Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>							X	X	X	X			
211.	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>					X								
212.	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>				X	X	X			X		X	X	
213.	Brown-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>		X	X								X	X	
214.	Kashmir Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula subrubra</i>				X		X							
215.	Dusky-blue Flycatcher	<i>Eumvias sordidus</i>					X								
216.	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cvornis tickelliae</i>		X											
217.	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa cevlonensis</i>					X								
218.	Legg's Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum vincens</i>		X							X		X		
219.	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile zevlonicum</i>						X	X						
220.	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>				X	X		X	X				X	
221.	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zevlonica</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
222.	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	X	X		X		X		X		X		X	
223.	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i>	X			X		X	X						
224.	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>		X	X						X		X		X
225.	Sri Lanka White-eye	<i>Zosterops cevlonensis</i>				X	X	X							
226.	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>													
227.	Great Tit	<i>Parus maior</i>				X	X	X							
228.	Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manvar</i>						X			X				
229.	Bava Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>						X							
230.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			X	X	X	X				X			X
231.	Indian Silverbill	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>						X						X	X
232.	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>			X										
233.	Scalv-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>		X		X	X	X	X		X				X
234.	Black-throated Munia	<i>Lonchura kelaarti</i>												X	X
235.	Tri-coloured Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>					X	X		X					



BUTTERFLIES			
1.	<b>Common Lascar</b>	<i>Pantoporia hordonia sinuata</i>	X
2.	<b>Common Grass Yellow</b>	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	X
3.	<b>Small Grass Yellow</b>	<i>Eurema brigitta</i>	X
4.	<b>Common Sailor</b>	<i>Neptis hylas</i>	X
5.	<b>Crimson Rose</b>	<i>Atrophaneura hector</i>	X
6.	<b>Tailed Jay</b>	<i>Graphium Agamemnon</i>	X
7.	<b>Common Mormon</b>	<i>Papilio polytes</i>	X
8.	<b>Blue Mormon</b>	<i>Papilio polymnestor parinda</i>	X
9.	<b>Red Helen</b>	<i>Papilio Helenus mooreanus</i>	X
10.	<b>Common Tiger</b>	<i>Danaus genutia</i>	X
11.	<b>Common Tree Nymph</b>	<i>Idea lynceus</i>	X
12.	<b>Common Birdwing</b>	<i>Troides helena</i>	X
13.	<b>Common Rose</b>	<i>Pachilopta aristolochiae</i>	X
14.	<b>White Four-ring</b>	<i>Ypthina ceylonica</i>	X
15.	<b>Common Leopard</b>	<i>Phalanta phalanta</i>	X
16.	<b>Common India Crow</b>	<i>Euploea core asela</i>	X
17.	<b>Common Mime</b>	<i>Chilasa lankeswara</i>	X
18.	<b>Common Pierrot</b>	<i>Castalius rosimon</i>	X
19.	<b>Common Jezebel</b>	<i>Delias eucharis</i>	X
20.	<b>Blue Mormon</b>	<i>Papilio polymnestor parinda</i>	X
21.	<b>Painted Sawtooth</b>	<i>Prioneris sita</i>	X

MAMMALS			
1.	<b>Common flying fox</b>	<i>Pteropus giganteus giganteus</i>	X
2.	<b>Leaf-nosed Bat</b>	<i>Hipposideros srilankaensis</i>	X
3.	<b>Ceylon Grey Langur</b>	<i>Semnopithecus priam thersites</i>	X
4.	<b>Purple-Faced Leaf Monkey</b>	<i>Trachypithecus vetulus vetulus</i>	X
5.	<b>Bear Monkey</b>	<i>Trachypithecus vetulus monticola</i>	X
6.	<b>Toque Monkey</b>	<i>Macaca sinica sinica</i>	X
7.	<b>Western Ceylon Palm Squirrel</b>	<i>Funambulus palmarum favonicus</i>	X
8.	<b>Ceylon Dusky-Stripped Jungle</b>	<i>Funambulus sublineatus obscurus</i>	X
9.	<b>Highland Ceylon Giant Squirrel</b>	<i>Ratufa macroura macroura</i>	X
10.	<b>Western Ceylon Giant Squirrel</b>	<i>Ratufa macroura melanochra</i>	X

11.	<b>Spinner Dolphin</b>	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	X
12.	<b>Risso's Dolphin</b>	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	X
13.	<b>Ceylon Jackal</b>	<i>Canis aureus lanka</i>	X
14.	<b>Common Ceylon Grey Mongoose</b>	<i>Herpestes edwardsi lanka</i>	X
15.	<b>Ceylon Ruddy Mongoose</b>	<i>Herpestes smithi zeylanicus</i>	X
16.	<b>Striped-Necked Mongoose</b>	<i>Herpestes vitticollis</i>	X
17.	<b>Brown Mongoose</b>	<i>Herpestes fuscus</i>	X
18.	<b>Ceylon Jungle Cat</b>	<i>Felis chaus kelaarti</i>	X
19.	<b>(Indian) Ring-tailed Civet</b>	<i>Viverricula indica</i>	X
20.	<b>Ceylon Elephant</b>	<i>Elephas maximus maximus</i>	X
21.	<b>Ceylon Spotted Deer</b>	<i>Axis axis ceylonensis</i>	X
22.	<b>Mouse Deer (Sri Lanka Spotted</b>	<i>Moschiola meminna</i>	X
23.	<b>Sambhur</b>	<i>Cervus unicolor unicolor</i>	X
24.	<b>Indian Water Buffalo</b>	<i>Bubalus bubalis bubalis</i>	X
25.	<b>Barking Deer (Muntjac)</b>	<i>Cervus muntjak</i>	X
26.	<b>Bryde's Whale</b>	<i>Balaenoptera brvdei</i>	X
<b>REPTILES</b>			
1.	<b>Mugger Crocodile</b>	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>	X
2.	<b>Green Turtle</b>	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	X
3.	<b>Water Monitor</b>	<i>Varanus salvator</i>	X
4.	<b>Land Monitor</b>	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	X
5.	<b>Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard</b>	<i>Otocoryptis wiegmanni</i>	X
6.	<b>Common House Gecko</b>	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	X
7.	<b>Green Vine Snake</b>	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>	X
8.	<b>Skink species</b>	<i>Lankascincus sp.</i>	X
9.	<b>Garden Green Lizard</b>	<i>Calotes calotes</i>	X
10.	<b>Hump-nosed Lizard</b>	<i>Liviocephalus scutatus</i>	X
11.	<b>Comb-tailed Fish</b>	<i>Belontia signata</i>	X