

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

IN

SRI LANKA



RECCE TOUR

JANUARY 10TH – 26TH 2016

TRIP REPORT

Day 1 - January 11th 2016

Overnight flight – London to Colombo – transfer to Kitulgala

Dawn and I met up with John and Gill, our friends from Leicester, at Heathrow in readiness for this recce trip and our 8:40 pm flight on the evening of the 10th January. After a short delay our flight went very smoothly we arrived a little after 12:30, on the 11th, passage through customs and baggage reclaim was quick and efficient, we met up Jith, our guide for the next two weeks, just outside the terminal building. We quickly loaded up into the minibus for the 3 hour drive to our first hotel.

The airport grounds and suburbs of Colombo produced very little bird-wise except for **Feral Pigeon** and **House Crow** but as we got further out into the countryside we began to list a few species. The roads were busy, schools were coming out and many, many buses were on the roads, what seemed like bedlam was in fact, organised chaos, and despite all of it we managed to get through the traffic quite quickly and unscathed. **Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Indian Pond Heron** were seen regularly and a few **Intermediate Egrets** were also seen in ditches and rice paddies.

Our first stop was to look at a small wetland with rice fields where we found **Brahminy Kite, Common Kingfisher, Spotted Dove, Hooded Oriole** and some lovely **Ashy-headed Woodswallows**. Not long afterwards we made a stop for lunch when we noted **White-bellied Drongo, Red-vented Bulbuls, Shikra** and a couple of unidentified distant raptors.



Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill

We arrived at Kitulgala around 5pm and quickly settled into our rooms at the Plantation Hotel, our ‘delux’ rooms shared a huge terraced-balcony that overlooked the River where “Bridge over the River Kwai” was filmed, how amazing is that.

Later a nice cold beer was enjoyed as we sat birding by the side of the river where several more species were added to our list, these included: **Large-billed Crow, Little Swift, Red-vented Bulbul, White-throated Kingfisher**, an unidentified cormorant species and our very first endemic species, the **Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill**. An **Oriental Honey Buzzard** flew over the river and as it got dark a few more unknowns’ appeared in the failing light.

We enjoyed a lovely dinner of fish and went to bed rather early, it had been a long day.

Day 2 - January 12th 2016

Our first full day was packed full of new birds and we saw 12 of the 33 endemic species, a great start to the holiday.....

Kitulgala Forest

After a nice refreshing 8 hour sleep in our air-conditioned room were up and out at first light, 6am. Jith and our driver, Thilina, arrived to collect us for a short drive to the village to another track which led down to the river. We quickly found a number of species, **Red-vented Bulbuls** were very common but we also found **Black Bulbul, Black-hooded Oriole, Golden-fronted Leafbird, White-bellied Drongo, Green Imperial Pigeon, Lesser Goldenback (woodpecker), Purple-rumped Sunbird, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill** (endemic) and as we searched for another endemic, the **Chestnut-backed Owlet**, we came across a couple of goodies.

First we tracked down a beautiful **Asian Paradise Flycatcher** and then we spent some time waiting for a pair of **Brown-capped Babblers** to appear, the pair of them eventually showed really well, it was another endemic in the bag. Then we had our second view of the **Lesser Goldenback**, also a **Spotted Dove**, **Rose-ringed Parakeets** and more **Golden-fronted Leafbirds**.

Walking to another area we found a couple of distant **Yellow-fronted Barbets**, yet another endemic species and further along the track we walked under some mature trees looking for the owlet and came across **Yellow-billed Babblers** quickly followed by a sighting of a group of **Orange-billed Babblers** (endemic) and **Layard's Parakeet** (also an endemic).

As we made our way back to the bus we watched **Indian Swiftlets**, **Asian Palm Swifts** and a pair of **Sri Lanka Swallows**. A **Common Tailorbird** remained elusive and out of sight but we had smashing views of some more **Yellow-fronted Barbets**.

We then returned to the hotel for breakfast, I ate curried tuna and rice, none of the others fancied curry for breakfast so they ate bread, bananas, jam and butter. It was me with an upset stomach at lunchtime.

After breakfast we drove to another area the other side of the village where we parked in the grounds of the Rest House hotel, we spent some time birding the excellent grounds before making our way down to the river to catch a ferry. Some nice sightings were made from the hotel's terrace, a distant **Black Eagle** was nice (Sri Lanka's largest bird of prey), also distant **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters**, a fly-by **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, **Scarlet Minivets** and an **Oriental Honey Buzzard**. Much closer was a **Pale-billed Flowerpecker** and in the same bush we had our second sighting of **Purple-rumped Sunbird**.

Once across the river we followed a track that led us into some rain-forest via some small tea plantations where we saw a beautiful male **Tickell's Flycatcher**. As we walked up into the forest a few nice species were added but generally they were hard to see and all we got was fleeting glimpses. We briefly saw **Malabar Trogon**, **Sri Lanka Drongo** (both endemics), also **Black-naped Monarch** and several species mentioned above. A short raptor-watch produced at least 4 **Crested Serpent Eagles**, **Shikra** and **Oriental Honey Buzzard**. On the way back across the river we added **Grey Wagtail**, **Common Kingfisher** and we had better views of **Stork-billed Kingfisher**.



Indian Pitta

Lunch was eaten back at the hotel and a short siesta time gave us some relaxing birding from the terrace when we added **Emerald Pigeon** to our growing list of sightings.

For the afternoon we went across the river via a small 'hanging' bridge, held together by rusty rivets and tired looking cables, some of the foot-plates were broken and loose and had holes in them, it was an 'experience'. The birding was very slow on the other side, it took ages to find a single bird! After an hour we gave up having only logged **Asian Brown Flycatcher** and we heard a distant **Chestnut-backed Owlet** and not much else.

So we abandoned the walk and went back across the river to the hotel, from there we drove about a mile up the road towards Kitulgala before stopping next to another track. This was a good decision by Jith because this new track held lots of birds, many new ones for us. We stayed for a couple of hours walking about 3km and enjoying some great birding.

A few new endemics went onto the list including **Sri Lanka Green Pigeon**, **Grey Hornbill**, **Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot**, **Black-capped Bulbul** and several other species were seen for the first time. We finally caught up with **Common Tailorbird**, also **Greater Coucal**, **Alexandrine Parakeet**, **Plum-headed Parakeet** (John only), **Oriental Magpie Robin** and **Loten's Sunbird**. We had a great time watching **Lesser Yellownappe** with prolonged views of two of them together, we also had another **Lesser Goldenback** sighting.

The light finally faded so we drove back to the hotel to shower in readiness for dinner, it had been a great first full-day, with 60 species on the list.

Day 3 - January 13th 2016

Kithulgala area – transfer to Kandy – Kandy Lake – Kandy Botanical Gardens

Our last morning at Kithulgala was a very good one, it was also a very early start! We met Jith our guide outside the hotel at 05:45 in the dark, he wanted us to be in the field before light to give us a much better chance of seeing the 'Owlet'.

We got to the site within a few minutes and as soon as we got out of the minibus the owl was heard calling. Over the next 15 minutes we heard three or four of them and eventually we nailed one, hooray! **Chestnut-backed Owllet**, another endemic species in the bag, a tremendous sighting and one we had worked hard for.

Whilst there we had another look at the **Brown-capped Babbler** and spent some time searching for a **Spot-winged Thrush**, which was calling, but without success. So we drove to the hanging bridge and walked across the river to re-visit some forest trails and farm tracks.

Our first bird encountered was another **Spot-winged Thrush**, but again despite the bird calling from close-by we never saw it. Next came a perched raptor, once viewed in the scope we identified it as a **Crested Hawk Eagle**, a nice find. There was a lot more birds around than there was yesterday afternoon. We watched **Black-headed Bulbuls**, **Tailorbirds**, **Purple-rumped Sunbirds** and many common species.

Another perched raptor turned out to be a **Shikra** then we heard yet another **Spot-winged Thrush**, this one eventually came out into the open, we all got great views of this Song Thrush-like bird, at last!



Oriental Magpie Robin

We continued along the tracks passing some lovely habitat including some rice-fields, this was where we had brief views of **White-breasted Waterhen** and several egrets and **Indian Pond Herons**. Soon it was time for breakfast and for packing.

A **Little Cormorant** was noted on the river at breakfast and to our great surprise a **Spot-winged Thrush** turned up right outside our room next to the terrace!

At 9:30am we set off for our next venue which was a 3 hour drive (with stops) up into the hills to Kandy. The best stop we had was to watch a small colony of **Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters** and whilst we watched them we noted **Brahminy Kite**, **Shikra** and **Oriental Honey Buzzard**.

Kandy is the second largest city of Sri Lanka it has a growing population of around 3 million people and they all seemed to be out on the roads today. It was bedlam out there, I can't believe we made through the town to the other side. Our hotel was very close to the shore of Lake Kandy and after a quick settling in period and a lovely buffet lunch we went for a short walk along the shoreline.

A colony of cormorants were nesting very close to the hotel, we saw hundreds of **Indian** and **Little Cormorants** as well as several **Great Cormorants**. **Night Herons** were with them as was **Pond Herons**, **Little & Cattle Egrets**. A huge colony of Fruit Bats filled some of the trees hanging like rotting fruit in their thousands.

Jith collected us at 2:30pm and drove us to the Botanical Gardens on the other side of town, it took about 45 minutes to drive 10 km! Nevertheless the gardens and parkland were magnificent, 147 acres of trees, shrubs, flowers, wildlife and people.

Jith led us to a quiet area and soon we were finding birds, the best of which included a **Common Hawk Cuckoo**, **Lesser Hill Myna**, **Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot**, **Loten's Sunbird**, **White-bellied Sea Eagle** and great close views of both **Alexandrine & Rosy Parakeets**, very similar species but the former being larger and issuing a totally different call.

Further along the walk we found **Asian Paradise Flycatcher**, thousands of bats, Toque Monkeys and to our great delight an **Indian Pitta** which sat out in the open and let us approach quite close, what a stunning bird!

Lastly we spent some time just watching a copse of trees which were attracting a number of species, we added a couple of endemics there. First a **Legge's Flowerpecker** and then a **Crimson-fronted Barbet**, lovely little birds.

We left the park at 5:30pm and took an adventurous way home, instead of the minibus we went by Tuk-Tuk, now that's an experience not to be missed!

Day 4 - January 14th 2016

Kandy Royal Forest –transfer to the highlands at Nuwara Eliya – Victoria Park

Another pre-dawn start, John and I met with Jith and our driver at 5:45am, the girls Dawn and Gill stayed in bed, how wise!

We drove across town to the other side of the lake and took a route up passed the Royal Palace and into the Royal Forest, the roads were quiet and we were there within 15 minutes. It was still dark as we got out of the bus, as we started our walk we heard a **Spot-bellied Eagle Owl** calling in the distance so we made our way up the gently sloping track towards the call. After about 1km we heard a new call, in fact two calls, both coming from **Brown Wood Owls**, they seemed to be very close to the track but we couldn't find them and by now the eagle owl had stopped hooting.

So we made our way back down the track and as the light improved more birds began to call, **Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler**, **White-rumped Shama**, **Indian Robin** plus many more common birds. The Shama has a beautiful melodic song, it showed well a little further along the track.

We took a steeper route back which led us to a lake and it was there that we had some excitement. First we saw our



Brown Sailor

first **Forest Wagtail**, this drew us to the edge of the lake where we flushed a **Brown Fish Owl**, this magnificent owl perched across the pond in full view, fantastic. Then we found an **Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher** what a beauty such vibrant colours in bleak surroundings, but a better find was still to come!

As we walked a little further down the track another owl called, it was the **Spot-bellied Eagle Owl** again. Jith and our birding-driver went into the woods up a steep slope and after a short while they located the bird. We scrambled up the slope and enjoyed some excellent, but distant views, what a stunning beast.

After the owl sighting we climbed back down the slope and spent some time locating a **Crimson-backed Goldenback**, it was drumming and gave us the run-around for a while, great views in the scope were eventually had, another endemic in the bag. Then we logged our first warbler when a **Green Warbler** was found in the low scrub, we also saw our second **Brown Fish Owl**, this one was perched much further away.

We returned to the hotel and enjoyed a superb buffet breakfast in this old palatial English-built colonial style hotel before checking out and heading off to the highlands. Our next destination was Nuwara Eliya situated at 1900m elevation. Our journey took us through some spectacular scenery, we stopped at a couple of scenic waterfalls before spending sometime at one of the largest tea plantations. We took the full tour of the tea-factory and sampled some typical tea with cakes, yummy.

Bird-wise we added a couple of new species to the list: **Hill Swallow** and **Scaly-breasted Munia**, we also had good views of several **Brahminy Kites**, **White-breasted Sea-Eagle**, **Shikra** and lots of **Lesser Hill Mynas**.

We ate lunch in the town of Nuwara Eliya before driving up to our hotel, which was found on the slopes above the man-made Lake Gregory, the whole landscape was scenically beautiful.

For our afternoon excursion we drove back into town and visited Victoria Park which is a typical landscaped recreational park with a good variety of trees, shrubs, open grass lawns, ponds and a stream. It was a beautiful sunny day, quite hot but with much reduced humidity, the park was very busy with tourists and locals.

Wagtails were abundant both **Grey** and **Forest** were quickly noted as was **Oriental Magpie Robin**. Jith led us to some mature pines where he located the first of several **Pied Thrushes**, both male and female sat high up in the thick canopy, after a short while we had good views of both.

The next little gem was another endemic, a fairly common species in the park, the **Sri Lanka White-eye**, what a little stunner. We continued our walk and got better views of **Pied Thrush**, **Scaly-breasted Munia**, **Forest Wagtail** and stunning views (although in shaded cover) of **Indian Pitta**, a **White-breasted Waterhen** was a nice find too.

As the light faded we retraced our steps to a quiet pathway where we found a pair of **Pied Thrushes** on the ground and another **Indian Pitta**, a fantastic finale to another superb day, I am really beginning to love it here!

Day 5 - January 15th 2016

Nuwara Eliya – Horton's Plains am – local birding pm

Our earliest start yet! The day began as we all scrambled into the bus at 5am for the 90 minute journey to Horton's Plain National Park. We needed to be there early in order to give us the best shot at seeing the **Whistling Thrush**. Along the way we tried for the Thrush just outside the park entrance, we heard the bird calling but failed to see it.

At the park entrance there is a toilet block where the Thrush had been seen by other birders in the past but today there wasn't a sniff of the bird. However whilst looking we managed to see three new species for the trip two of which were endemic. First we saw the beautiful **Indian Blackbird**, 3 of them were feeding down on the ground, then a **Sri Lanka Bush Warbler** was found, giving intermittent views but showing very well at times. Lastly a **Yellow-eared Bulbul** appeared a little higher up in the scrub, not a bad start, it was still only 6:30am.

We paid our entrance fee and drove along a single tarmacked lane. For the first few kilometers the park consisted of secondary forest with the occasional pool and small open areas, bush scrub encroached right up to the roadside in most places. Our first stop was near a pool where we tried for the Thrush again, the bird called but once again it failed to show, we spent nearly an hour trying to see it. A nice consolation prize was the **Dull-blue Flycatcher** a lovely bird and also endemic.

A walk back along the lane produced a few more birds, lots of **Sri Lanka White-eyes**, **Yellow-eared Bultuls** and we heard several owl-like calls which turned out to be **Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon**, we tracked a couple down and got good views of them.



Jungle Owlet

Driving further into the park we came to the main visitors centre which was packed with tourists, hundreds of minibuses, coaches, Tuk-Tuks and private cars had streamed passed us earlier and now we discovered where they were headed. We stayed for a quick cuppa and a short look at the visitor's centre before moving on.

Continuing along the lane we came to vast open grassland areas where a new set of species were to be found, we were very lucky with the weather having very little wind, few clouds and bright sunshine, we had started out being very cold now the layers were coming off.

Our first new birds were a pair of **Red-wattled Lapwings**. Then we started seeing **Pied Bush-Chats** on the tops of bushes, we made a stop for a raptor watch but only saw **Common Kestrel** but we did find several **Paddyfield Pipits** and a flock of **Black-headed Munias** feeding in the grass.

At this point we turned around and set off back towards the exit, but we soon stopped to watch a **Brown Shrike**, another **Common Kestrel** and a single **Brahminy Kite**. Our search for the **Whistling Thrush** continued with several stops which only produced more of the same species with the exception of **Long-billed Leaf Warbler**.

Finally we left the park, we were Thrush-less, but it had been a good morning's birding with spectacular scenery, some excellent sightings and lovely weather. It was now 11:30am so we made our way back to the hotel and after stopping for the odd bird sighting, some Purple-faced Leaf Monkeys, Samba Deer, Giant Squirrel and a perched **Oriental Honey Buzzard** and lunch we arrived about 1:30pm.

Our siesta lasted two hours we were back in the bus at 3:30pm, we were off to a couple of local birding sites just a few minutes' drive from the hotel. The first of which was a quiet wooded lane, one side dropped off steeply and lots of fly-tipping gave off some bad smells in places, but it was packed full of birds. We tried again for the now infamous **Whistling Thrush** without success, seeing only **Indian Blackbird** and **Red-vented Bulbuls**.

But further along the track we hit a purple patch and found **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, **Dull-blue Flycatcher**, **Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher** and **Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike**. We went on to see several more nuthatches and a great prize the **Kashmir Flycatcher**, a male too, what a stunner.

The light began to fade and Jith had one more place to show us, it was his 'best' place for the now-mythical **Whistling Thrush**. We drove a short distance and parked in a cutting where a path led steeply down to a fast flowing stream covered by thick undergrowth, we crouched down and waited, and waited!

We were losing the light and it was very dull down there but suddenly John called, "I've got something." But only Gill got onto it. So we waited a little longer, the bird reappeared and stayed in view a short while, it was a female **Whistling Thrush**, the bird was real after all, fantastic. The bird called a few times after that but it never reappeared.

We drove back to hotel just as it got dark at 6pm, dinner was at 7pm, we had a superb vegetable curry washed down with a cold Sri Lanka "Lion" beer. It had been a long day, but we had added some good sightings to our list which was now standing at 110 species, including 21 of 33 endemics.

Day 6 - January 16th 2016

Nuwara Eliya – Tissamaharama with stops at Surrey Hills Plantation and Tissa Wetlands

This was our best day yet and despite being on the road for 5 hours we managed to see more birds than on any other day so far.....

An early breakfast found us on the road at 7:30am we were transferring from the highlands to the lowlands in the south east a journey of about 5 hours. But we made frequent impromptu stops and some scheduled ones, the first of which was a private plantation called Surrey Hills Plantation.

What a great time we had there! As soon as we got out of the bus we were onto a new endemic species in the shape of a **Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler**, in fact birds were everywhere. Within a few minutes we had clocked up a dozen or so species, new ones for us were: **Small Minivet** (probably the most colourful species so far, both sexes are beautiful), also **Brown-headed Barbet**, **Scarlet Minivet**, **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, **Black-hooded Oriole**, **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike** and **Hanging Parrots**. Plenty of common species were around too.

After a while we went for a short walk to look for **Indian Blue Robin**, we failed on that species but came up trumps with **Brown Wood Owl**, we also saw more **Brown-headed Barbets** and **Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher**.



Oriental White-eye

From there we continued our journey, we stopped to photograph a scenic valley and found both **Plain** and **Ashy Prinias** and a little further we pulled over to watch an **Oriental Honey Buzzard** whilst it performed its wing-clapping display, also a perched **Crested Hawk-Eagle** and a **Black-winged Kite**. At the kite sighting we notched our third Prinia of the day when we found **Grey-breasted Prinia**.

Other stops were made as we approached Tissamaharama our next destination, where large areas of low lying rice fields and swamps gave us the chance to see more new species. Mostly

water birds and waders were seen, we added **Purple Sunbird, Dartar, Grey Heron, Whiskered Tern, Black-headed Ibis** and a few others.

We arrived at the Hibiscus Hotel at 2pm which gave us an hour to settle in before our afternoon excursion. The hotel was magnificent, lovely rooms set around a beautiful pool in great gardens, birds were everywhere. John and I logged a nice list in about 15 minutes, **Indian Peafowl, Black-headed Ibis, Black-headed and Scaly Munias, Pale-billed Flowerpecker, Plain Prinia, White-throated Kingfisher, Asian Paradise Flycatcher** to name but a few.



Indian Spotted Deer

We then went out with Jith for the last few hours of daylight, it was fantastic the local Tissa marshes were full of new species for our list, we added about 20 species, the highlights were: **Yellow Bittern, Painted Stork, Clamorous Reed Warbler, Baya & Streaked Weavers, Crested Treeswift, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Purple Heron** and much more. The sheer numbers of birds was almost overwhelming.

A second stop in the marshlands produced even more birds we added another couple of endemics and saw a dozen new species, one tree held 10 species at the same time! Another **Yellow Bittern** was nice, good views of **Stork-billed Kingfisher** was excellent and close views of **Small Minivet** were exquisite. **Sri Lanka Woodshrike** (endemic), **Jerdon's Leafbird, Coppersmith Barbet, Green Bee-eater, Black Hooded Oriole, Spotted Dove, Asian Koel** and others made up our fantastic sightings list at this venue.

Lastly we visited a private piece of land in a Cocoanut grove, Jith knew this place was good for **Jungle Owlet** and **White-naped Woodpecker**. We got great views of both species, it was a wonderful way to end the day.

Day 7 - January 17th 2016

Yala National park.

A fantastic day in the best national park I have ever visited – we saw over 100 species of birds, lots of mammals, reptiles and butterflies.

Yala National Park is the largest of 22 NP's in Sri Lanka, it covers about 220,000 acres and makes Coto Donana in Spain look like toy-town. Only about 20% of the park is open to the public but that is enough, it is huge!

There are miles of bumpy dirt tracks from where you can view the wildlife in swamps, marshes, open scrub, dense forest and rivers and streams. You are not allowed to leave your vehicle so we sat high up in the back of a converted 4*4 land rover it was a tremendous experience.

It was also a very long day, we left the hotel at 5am and entered the park at 6am with hordes of other tourists in similar vehicles, an **Indian Nightjar** was a nice sighting on the approach road. Once in the park we were treated to a birding spectacular the first



Sloth-Bear – look at its claws!

lagoons were packed with hundreds of birds, so whilst most of the other tourists whizzed past us we gorged ourselves on new species.

The main highlight of the birding was simply the sheer numbers found there, every lagoon held hundreds of birds; herons, egrets, spoonbills, ibis, storks, pelicans, ducks and 21 species of waders. Out of the 102 species recorded only one was an endemic, the **Sri Lanka Junglefowl**.

We added about 40 new species to our list including: **Barred Buttonquail, Woolly-necked Stork, Grey-bellied Cuckoo, Jacobin Cuckoo, Blue-faced Malkoha, Indian Roller, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Jerdon's Bushlark, Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark**, the lovely **White-browed Fantail**, the ubiquitous **Indian Magpie Robin, Brahminy Starling** and many more.

I've never seen so many mammals in one day it was like a 'fantasy' safari, the animals were so used to the vehicles that they allowed a close approach. Water Buffalo was the most common species but Spotted Deer were also abundant. Several monkey species were seen and included; Purple-faced Leaf Monkey, Toque Monkey and Ceylon Grey Langur. We saw Indian Golden Jackal, Wild Boar, Ruddy Mongoose, Grey Mongoose, Palm Squirrel, Mugger Crocodiles and two species of Monitors.

The best mammal sightings were of Sri Lanka Elephants. During one encounter we were parked in a narrow track which runs through dense forest where a small herd came crashing through the undergrowth, they became a little noisy and agitated, and so did we, especially when a massive bull Elephant suddenly appeared just behind the vehicle. The bull didn't look happy as we were now between him and his herd, so we quickly drove off to a safe distance.

Our next mammal excitement was when we came across two other vehicles that were parked and everyone was viewing a Sloth-Bear, this black-beauty was digging about in open scrub and seemed oblivious to our presence. A pair of Indian Jackals were nice to see but the best was saved to late in the afternoon.

We again 'bumped' into a couple of parked vehicles, the passengers seemed very excited and beckoned to us, they were watching a Leopard, how fantastic! Our views were limited to just the animal's head as it sat watching us from a gully in the scrub. After a short while this beautiful beast got up and walked away out of sight never to be seen again.

I loved this trip, it was one of the best wildlife experiences I had ever taken part in, the national park itself is a real testament to how wildlife and man can live side by side. I cannot wait to show people this wonderful place next year!

See the gallery to see a few of many pictures taken throughout our day;

Day 8 - January 18th 2016

Bundala National Park – the 'Tanks'



Orange-breasted Green Pigeon

John and I were up and out with Jith and our driver at 5:30am whilst the girls stayed in bed they were having a day off to enjoy the fabulous facilities at the Hibiscus Hotel.

We drove for 30 minutes to the reserve arriving just as it was getting light, we stopped along the approach track to view large areas of open marsh which were covered in birds.

The low power lines were covered in **Barn Swallows**, thousands of them, we picked out a solitary **Sand Martin**, our first for the trip. Then Jith called a **Black Bittern**, nice bird and another first. The morning sky was full of Bee-eaters feeding high up and egrets coming from their roosts with Ibis, herons, storks and crows.

Bundala is similar to Yala with a lot of brackish lagoons, forest tracks and open water

but it is much smaller in size. A series of coastal salt pans enhance the birding as you can drive along raised banks to view the pans, they were also full of birds. We spent 6 hours there and I loved every minute especially wader watching which isn't a great favourite of our two guides.

Further along the approach track we entered the forest and started listing woodland species, **Common Iora** is a little beauty, we also saw both **Purple** and **Purple-rumped Sunbirds**, **Grey-bellied** and **Jacobin Cuckoos**, **Blue-faced Malkoha** and several others.

But today was wader day, along with gulls and terns, herons, storks, ducks and egrets the salt pans held the most birds. Huge feeding flocks of **Black-tailed Godwits** were joined by **Dunlin**, **Little Stints**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Marsh Sandpipers**, **Redshank**, **Spotted Redshank**, **Greenshank**, **Wood Sandpipers**, both **Sand Plovers**, **Kentish Plover**, **Grey Plover**, **Pacific Golden Plover** and **Red Wattled Lapwing**.

We added 5 new tern species to our list, today we listed a total of 8 species, with **Caspian**, **Great Crested** and **Lesser Crested Terns** we saw **Gull-billed**, **Little**, **White-winged**, **Whiskered** and **Common Tern**.



Big Terns - Caspian, Great Crested and Lesser Crested

Amongst other new species we added to our list were: **Eurasian Curlew**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Small Pratincole**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Spotted Redshank** and the beautiful **Yellow-eyed Babbler**.

It was around noon that we left the reserve, it was very hot by then and the sun-light was intense, not good for birding. We joined our wives back at the hotel enjoying the pool and having a nice lunch together by the side of the pool. At 3:30pm John and I were collected and taken to some local reservoirs, these vast pools called ‘Tanks’ were first developed in the 3rd Century!! Amazing foresight by the local people to envisage that they were creating a birder’s paradise some 700 years later.

The tanks were overgrown with water lilies and reeds, ideal for birds of many species especially: **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **Indian Pond Heron**, **Yellow Bittern**, **Purple Heron** and **White-throated Kingfisher** to name but a few.

Birds in the trees around the ‘Tanks’ didn’t produce any new species for our list but I particularly liked the **Coppersmith’s Barbet** and **Green Bee-eaters**. Jith took us into a residential area where he knew of a roosting owl. Sure enough the **Collared Scops Owl** was there, in fact two of them sat side by side but in a very dark and difficult place to photograph, very enjoyable nevertheless.

We finished the day after watching another **White-naped Woodpecker** briefly and a **Lesser Goldenback Woodpecker** performing a bizarre ritual. It flew down onto the track and jumped into a fresh cow-pat and began covering itself with cow dung, how odd was that!!

We are half way through the trip, we have 22 endemics on the list of 203 species, so we still have some way to go, tomorrow we are heading back to the forest.

Day 9 - January 19th 2016

Transfer from Tissa to Udawalawe – afternoon visit to Udawalawe National Park

We had a lie-in today, hooray!! We checked out of the wonderful Hibiscus Hotel at 9am and headed for the forest at Udawalawe. Along the way we stopped several times to view ‘Tanks’ or reservoirs to look for new species, but before

we got to the first 'Tank' we stopped to look at a pair of **Indian Stone Curlews** in a small paddock, a new bird for the list.

Our time spent searching the large stretches of water in the reservoirs was rewarded with views of **Cotton Pygmy Goose** and, wait for it.....**Little Grebe**, ha! This bird has to be rare somewhere?

We arrived at our hotel in Udawalawe at lunch time, so we ate lunch there. The grand hotel has magnificent grounds, a lovely pool and is not too far from the National Park. At 2:30pm we boarded our 4-wheel drive jeep for a safari of the park. The safari lasted 4 hours and was wonderful. This national park is about a third of the size of Yala and encircles a huge man-made lake which has many inlets and swamp areas. Wild Elephants are the dominant mammal found there.

Before we entered the park we stopped to view a large open area of wet meadow which, as usual, was covered in birds. We list about 30 species and found 3 more good species for our list. First we found a **Citrine Wagtail**, then a **Temminck's Stint** and finally we found two **Oriental Skylarks**.

In the park birding was slow which was due mainly to the temperature, today was over 30C and it was quite humid. We did find a couple of new species, first we found a couple of **Marshall's Iora** (just after we were watching **Common Iora**), then a **Rufous-winged Cuckoo** flew across the track in front of the jeep. I missed the bird but fortunately we tracked it down and got better, but brief, views of it. An interesting mammal sighting was of the rarely seen Jungle Cat, a beautiful beast which caused mayhem in the scrub by upsetting all the local birds.

Lastly, and it was just before the park closed, we found our main target bird of the day, the **Grey-headed Fish Eagle**, we found a perched bird, wonderful. On the way out of the park we saw lots of small flocks of **Rosy Starlings**, these winter migrants in winter plumage were off to a roost, some of them perched high in the trees for a while so we had good scope views.



Small Pratincoles

Many raptors were settled on top of dead trees ready for the night, we saw **Serpent Crested Eagle**, **Crested Hawk-Eagle**, **Black Winged Kite**, **White-bellied Sea Eagle** and **Brahminy Kite**. One last sighting deserves a mention and that was of **Plum-headed Parakeet**, this handsome bird was seen by John on day 2 which I missed, now we were on equal terms, ha!

Our total sits at 214, we have 5 days left to find 9 more endemics and a handful of other species, tomorrow we are heading into the rainforest to the perfect place to find the missing endemics.

Day 10 - January 20th 2016

Transfer - Udawalawe to Martin's Rain Forest Lodge - Sinharaja National Park

Before we set off to our next venue we decided to go out before dawn to look for nightjars near the Udawalawe Dam. Just the four of us turned out as the girls opted for a lie-in, we parked up at the far end of the dam where a large area of open scrub provided perfect habitat for nightjars. Immediately we heard two or three calling and within minutes we located, by torch-light, an individual on the track, it was an **Indian Nightjar**. Several sightings, both in flight and on the ground, followed over the next 30 minutes.

The morning light quickly filtered through as the sun came up over the horizon. Bird song was prolific coming from all directions. Soon we had a nice list of species which included a new bird for our list the **Tawny-breasted Babbler**, one of the smallest babblers but very cute.

Prinias were quite common both **Jungle** and **Grey-breasted** were singing, as were **Tailorbirds** and we saw both **Grey-bellied Cuckoo** and **Asian Koel**. Across the road a huge marsh area was covered in birds, none of which were new for us but we enjoyed watching **Painted Storks**, egrets, herons, waders, larks, pipits and wagtails. An interesting sighting was of **White Wagtail**, this bird looked much more like a Pied Wagtail with its black nape, mantle and back, a totally alien plumage of **White Wagtail** for me.

After breakfast we set off for the Sinharaja Forest a journey of some 3 hours but with stops to buy lunch and short birding stops we spent most of the day travelling. By 3pm we were settled in our rooms at Martin's Lodge the steep drive up the hill to the lodge is an interesting experience, we all piled into the back of a land driver in order to combat an atrocious track, it took 25 minutes to cover the 2kms, a very bumpy ride.

The panoramic views from the terraces at the lodge cover a wide section of forest that stretches across a deep valley below, but at this time of the day not many birds were moving around.

At 3:30pm we set off on foot to visit the National Park which was a couple of hundred meters from the lodge, however we didn't walk very far as a small flock of **White-faced Starlings** were found, first a very distance bird appeared then 2 or 3 flew into a much nearer tree. We still have 9 endemic species to find, this was the first of them.



Pheasant-tailed Jacana

The walk into the national park didn't produce much, it was very quiet, we found a new flycatcher for our list, the **Brown-breasted Flycatcher** and the local warden pointed out a pair of **Sri Lanka Frogmouths**. A **Sri Lanka Junglefowl** came out of the forest and followed us for an hour or so which was quite comical but that was gist of our first walk in the forest.

We made our way back to the entrance gate and along the way we found a **Sri Lanka Blue Magpie**, it was distant but what a beauty, it is also an endemic.

As the light began to fade around 6pm we returned to the lodge but not before we added one more endemic species to the list. Our driver, Thilina, who is also an excellent forest birder, heard the **Sri Lanka Hill Myna** calling and found two of them flying over, so that was 3 of the 9 remaining endemics in the bag! 27 endemics on the list, 6 more to come, hopefully!

Day 11 - January 21st 2016

Sinharaja Rainforest National Park all day.

This was billed as our "endemic extravaganza day" – nearly all of Sri Lanka's endemic bird species can be found in and around the park, we needed 6 more to complete the list:

1. Serendib Scops Owl
2. Green-billed Coucal
3. Red-faced Malkoha
4. Sri Lanka Thrush
5. Ashy-headed Laughingthrush
6. Sri Lanka Spurfowl

After an 8 hour sleep in what can be described as, at best, 'basic' accommodation and worse as a complete dump (I shall not be using this place for future trips) we got up at 5:30am in preparation for daylight at 6am and ate breakfast at 6:30am. We had hoped for more sightings of **Sri Lanka Blue Magpie** which did not materialise until around 7am. Three of these beautiful birds came very close to the veranda just before we left. We also had good views of **Asian Brown Flycatcher**, **Small Minivet**, **White-bellied Drongo** and several other species.

We set off for the park and we hadn't walked 100 meters when we got a trip tick in form of a **Black-throated Munia**, several of them showed well and completed the 'Munia set'. Once inside the park we searched for our most wanted species, the **Serendib Scops Owl**, this bird had been seen at a regular roost site just inside the park, but unfortunately for us it hadn't been seen there for about 6 days!



Crested Hawk Eagle

Undeterred we ventured further into the forest, it was a typical rainforest walk, nothing was seen for 20 minutes then a flurry of activity had us searching the canopy for a mixed feeding flock. We found **Black-naped Monarch**, **Asian Paradise Flycatcher**, we had brief inconclusive views of **Red-faced Malkoha** but great views of another trip tick, the **Dark-fronted Babbler**.

A little further along the track we added **Yellow-browed Bulbul** to the list, this species is fairly common but had eluded us up until now. Another flurry of activity produced superb views of **Ashy-headed Laughingthrush**, there was at least 4 of them in a flock (they are essentially a babbler not a thrush) whilst watching them we found our second only **Malabar Trogon**.

Then after a two mile walk we found ourselves near a small research centre where a couple of streams flowed down through the forest. This is where we

planned to look for the endemic **Sri Lanka (Scaly) Thrush**, this very shy and elusive bird can be found along the side of the streams feeding on the forest floor.

The girls gave this walk a miss as we were going to go off-track to look for the bird, I didn't blame them, it was very hot and humid. We followed our guides through thickets and mud and water, getting hot and sweaty, lovely. We spent almost an hour chasing shadows and little calls, eventually we got very brief flight sightings of the thrush before we gave up.

After an hours rest we resumed our search, we promised the girls that this would be a shorter search. Indeed it was because after 20 minutes we had fantastic views of the bird for at least 5 minutes, wow that was worth the effort.

Back with our wives we saw another **Sri Lanka Blue Magpie**, several lovely butterflies, a snake and a lovely Bamboo Orchid. We then walked back to the lodge for lunch and a most welcomed break. We had seen three of our wanted endemics but the owl was still a priority so John and I joined Jith, Thilina and a park ranger to look again for it. Just before we left a **Besra** flew in front of the veranda, another trip-tick.

Our third excursion was centred around areas outside the park, we concentrated on places where the owl had been seen in the past. Our guides worked hard but came up with nothing, never mind, there is always tomorrow.

Three endemic species remain to be found, read on.....

Day 12 - January 22nd 2016

Goodbye to Sinharaja and Martin's Lodge – transfer to Rockview Motel.

We were coming down the mountain.....at 5am we left Martin's Lodge and took the bumpy track by Land Rover, the journey on the way down wasn't so bumpy and seemed much quicker than going up, we were soon at the bottom. From there our luggage was sent on to Rockview Motel whilst we took another bumpy track up another hillside. The habitat there was more open, there were lots of small farms with associated cottage-industry style tea plantations. We stopped after 20 minutes or so at a regular venue of Jith's. We were to look for **Green-billed Coucal**.

We walked to the backyard of a small house and waited for the light to improve, as the sun came up it didn't make it over the ridge of the mountains, so we remained in shadow and wouldn't feel or see direct sunlight for a few hours yet. After a short while Jith drew our attention to the call of the Coucal, two or three were calling nearby. Then we had our first brief sighting which were soon followed by several good views of one individual out on the open.

The light was too bad for digi-scoping so my pictures were a bit below par but they are record shots of one of the last endemic species wanted for our list.

Next we walked across the road to another farmhouse, this house had a cleared garden which sloped fairly steeply down to some water. About five **Junglefowl** were milling around in the open space. Apparently the family had been throwing food scraps from their kitchen door over a long period of time and this had attracted a good number of birds. Three **Spot-winged Thrushes** joined the **Junglefowl** as well as **Brown-capped Babbler**, **Indian Blue Robin** and a **White-breasted Waterhen** messed about in the water.



Sri Lanka Spurfowl - male

common as was the endemic **Sri Lanka Drongo**. We also found **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, **Small Minivet**, **Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill** and lots of bulbuls, babblers, sunbirds and a **Blue-faced Malkoha**.

Jith had arranged to meet a local guy who had reported seeing our most-wanted owl last night, he was to lead us to the place deep in the forest. My god it was a steep climb, the humidity was about 90% and it was hot even at 9:00am.



Sri Lanka Blue Magpie

We watched for a while then to our surprise and to Jith's relief a male **Sri Lanka Spurfowl** appeared at the bottom of the garden. It showed well as it climbed up towards us, what a great bird, the field guide illustration doesn't do it justice. A female also turned up a little later, both birds remained in view for around 20 minutes, they made regular soirées up to the food scraps just a couple of meters from us, fantastic! After we left them in peace.

So now just one endemic eluded us, the **Serendib Scops Owl**.

We walked about a kilometer back down the track which took about an hour because so many species appeared and needed our attention. **Yellow-fronted Barbets** were

It was a very difficult climb we scrambled up a very steep dry river bed, I carried my scope just in case I needed to digiscope. After about 30 minutes we turned off the rocky path and walked through some dense bamboo scrub. Finally we caught up the local guy who had shot up the hillside like a mountain goat.

He had relocated the owl.....yes the **SERENDIB SCOPS OWL** was sitting some ten meters away from us in dense bamboo. I had struggled up the mountain with my scope but I couldn't digi-scope in the poor light and through such dense scrub the owl was sat in dark shadow so I just viewed through my bins.

Nevertheless this was a great sighting, our last endemic in the bag, 33 out of 33 recorded, it was a wonderful achievement by Jith. One point of interest was that we noted that the owl had ear-tufts which are not shown in the field guide, Jith explained that the illustration shows the owl, relaxed and at rest when the ear-tufts are retracted or laid flat.

Well we were all exhausted from the heat, humidity and the climb but we all agreed that it been worth it.

From there it took just 30 minutes to drive to the Rockview motel, we arrived around 11:30 am. We planned to meet again at 4pm for our penultimate excursion in the rainforest region.

The hotel rooms had lovely balconies that overlooked a beautiful green valley with many small tea plantations and clumps of forest. I soon had a nice list of species from our balcony.

Balcony list – Rockview:

Little swift, Asian Palm Swift, Barn Swallow, Sri Lanka Swallow, Cattle Egret, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Oriental Honey Buzzard, Brown Shrike, Red-vented Bulbul, Black-capped Bulbul, White-browed Bulbul, Orange-billed Babbler, Common Myna, Purple-rumped Sunbird, Oriental Magpie Robin and Purple-rumped Sunbird.

At 4pm we set off back along the road toward Sinharaja and stopped as we climbed up into the forest area, our main target was a **Sri Lanka Hill Myna**, we had seen this species twice before, but we wanted good in-the-scope views.

The area was alive with birds, the usual rush to feed before nightfall brought the trees and shrubs alive with calls and movement. The Yellow-fronted Barbet was very common, we had lovely views of Imperial Pigeon and Sri Lanka Green Pigeon sitting together and one palm held Hanging Parrot, Little Minivet and a Hooded Oriole on the same branch!

We walked a couple of kilometers slowly uphill, hoping to see the Myna, but we failed to find one. As the light began to fade we walked back to the bus and set off for dinner at Rockview.

Day 13 - January 23rd 2016

Transfer from Rockview to the coast near Galle



Last morning's birding in Sinharaja and Rockview

This was our very last birding excursion of the tour! Jith had departed for home so John, Gill and I were guided by Thilina our driver/guide who was more than capable of finding birds. We searched the high forest all the way back to Sinharaja village on a beautiful sunny morning.

We left Rockview at 6:30am, our targets included Thick-billed Flowerpecker, Sri Lanka Hill Myna and anything else that turned up. We stayed out for 2 hours and had some wonderful sightings but nothing new came our way. We ended up at Magpie Lodge a kilometer from the village of Sinharaja. Their lush grounds held plenty of birds and a welcomed cold drink, I viewed the accommodation there and found a very nice venue for future trips, lovely clean, a/c apartments awaited my group for next year's trip.

By 9am we were back at Rockview eating breakfast during which we sighted a raptor circling outside the restaurant window, it was a **Besra**, a small falcon. Later, John found a much larger raptor circling in the valley, he correctly identified it as a **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, another trip tick



White-faced Starling

That more or less concluded the birding tour, we were driven to the coast where we stayed in a hotel right on the beach but our binoculars were put away and our fiction novels came out.

We had seen 238 species of birds, 33 of which are endemic to Sri Lanka and over 25 mammals, a host of colourful butterflies as well as lizards, snakes and other interesting insects . For a full list of sightings check the table below.

CHECKLIST OF SPECIES RECORDED BETWEEN 11TH – 26TH JANUARY 2016

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	DATE SEEN																
			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
1.	Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>							X										
2.	Sri Lanka Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>												X					
3.	Sri Lanka Junglefowl	<i>Gallus lafayettii</i>							X	X		X	X	X					
4.	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>						X	X	X	X	X		X					
5.	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>						X	X	X	X	X							
6.	Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>									X								
7.	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>								X									
8.	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>								X									
9.	Painted Stork	<i>Mcyteria leucocephala</i>						X	X	X	X							X	
10.	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	X	X				X	X	X	X							X	
11.	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>							X										
12.	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchos asiaticus</i>								X									
13.	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>						X	X	X	X							X	
14.	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>							X	X	X	X					X		
15.	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>						X		X									
16.	Black Bittern	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>								X									
17.	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			X	X		X		X		X							
18.	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>							X							X			
19.	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
20.	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
21.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>						X	X	X	X								
22.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>						X	X	X	X								
23.	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	
24.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	X	X					X	X	X								
25.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X				X	
26.	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>									X								
27.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>																	
28.	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>			X	X			X	X	X	X			X				
29.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			X			X											
30.	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>			X	X		X	X	X	X								

ENGLISH NAME		SCIENTIFIC NAME	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31.	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>						X	X	X	X	X						
32.	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnuculus</i>					X			X								
33.	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>						X		X	X							
34.	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
35.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>								X								
36.	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>			X	X			X	X	X	X				X	X	
37.	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>									X							
38.	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	X	X	X	X					X	X						
39.	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>											X		X			
40.	Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	X	X	X	X					X	X		X				
41.	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>		X	X				X		X							
42.	Indian Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>		X								X		X				
43.	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>							X		X				X			
44.	Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Lophotriorchis kienerii</i>																
45.	Crested Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>			X			X	X		X				X			
46.	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X				
47.	Purple Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>						X		X	X							
48.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						X	X		X							
49.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>						X	X	X	X							
50.	Indian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus indicus</i>									X							
51.	Great Stone Curlew	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>							X	X								
52.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						X	X	X	X	X						X
53.	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>							X		X							
54.	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>					X	X	X	X	X	X						
55.	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>							X	X								
56.	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>							X	X								
57.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>							X	X	X	X						
58.	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>							X	X								
59.	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>							X	X	X	X						
60.	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>							X	X								
61.	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>							X	X								
62.	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						X	X	X								
63.	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>								X								
64.	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>								X								
65.	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>							X									
66.	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						X	X	X								
67.	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>							X	X	X	X						
68.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>							X	X	X	X						

ENGLISH NAME			SCIENTIFIC NAME			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
69.	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>											X	X	X						
70.	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>										X	X	X	X						
71.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>									X	X	X	X	X						
72.	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>											X								
73.	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>										X	X	X	X						
74.	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>												X							
75.	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>											X								
76.	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>											X								
77.	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>											X								
78.	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>										X	X								
79.	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>									X	X	X	X	X						
80.	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>											X						X		
81.	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thelasseus benglensis</i>											X						X		
82.	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>										X									
83.	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thelasseus bergii</i>											X								
84.	Common Tern	<i>Sternula hirundo</i>											X								
85.	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>										X	X								
86.	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>									X	X	X	X	X				X		
87.	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopteryx</i>											X								
88.	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X
89.	Sri Lanka Woodpigeon	<i>Columba torringtoniae</i>						X													
90.	Spotted-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia torringtoniae</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X
91.	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>			X											X	X				
92.	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>										X									
93.	Sri Lanka Green Pigeon	<i>Treron pompadora</i>		X	X					X			X	X		X	X	X			
94.	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>		X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
95.	Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot	<i>Loiculus beryllinus</i>		X	X	X				X						X	X	X			
96.	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>		X	X					X											
97.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		X	X					X	X	X	X			X		X			X
98.	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>		X										X							
99.	Layard's Parakeet	<i>Psittacula calthorpeae</i>		X											X		X	X			
100.	Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>										X	X								
101.	Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i>												X							
102.	Common Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>			X																
103.	Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacaomantis passerinus</i>										X	X		X						
104.	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>	X								X		X	X	X			X			
105.	Blue-faced Malkoha	<i>Rhopodytes viridirostris</i>										X	X	X				X			
106.	Red-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus</i>														X					

ENGLISH NAME			SCIENTIFIC NAME			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
107.	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>		X									X				X				
108.	Green-billed Coucal	<i>Centropus chlororhynchos</i>															X	H			
109.	Sri Lanka Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>													X						
110.	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>										X			X						
111.	Serendib Scops-Owl	<i>Otus thilohoffmanni</i>															X				
112.	Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>											X								
113.	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>									X										
114.	Chestnut-backed Owlet	<i>Glaucidium castanotum</i>		H	X																
115.	Spot-bellied Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo nipalensis</i>						X													
116.	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>						X				X									
117.	Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>						H			X										
118.	Indian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>		X	X												X	X			
119.	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>		X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X			
120.	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	X	X	X										X		X	X			
121.	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>									X	X	X	X				X			
122.	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>										X		X	X						
123.	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>									X	X	X	X	X						
124.	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
125.	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>						X				X									
126.	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>									X		X								
127.	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X
128.	Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx erthaca</i>						X													
129.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	X	X								X	X	X	X						
130.	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>									X	X	X		X						
131.	Malabar Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>		X													X				
132.	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>										X		X	X						
133.	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>									X		X	X							
134.	Yellow-fronted Barbet	<i>Megalaima flavifrons</i>		X											X		X	X			
135.	Crimson-fronted Barbet	<i>Megalaima rubricapillus</i>			X												X				
136.	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>									X		X	X	X						
137.	Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros gingalensis</i>	X	X	X										H	H	X				
138.	Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>									X	X									
139.	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>										X									
140.	Lesser Yellow-nape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>		X	X																
141.	Lesser Goldenback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>		X	X								X								
142.	Crimson-backed Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i>																			
143.	Greater Flame-backed Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>						X													
144.	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>									X		X								

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

MAMMALS		
258.	Common flying fox	Pteropus giganteus giganteus
259.	Ceylon fruit bat	Rousettus seminudus
260.	Ceylon Grey Langur	Semnopithecus priam thersites
261.	Purple-Faced Leaf Monkey	Trachypithecus vetulus vetulus
262.	Bear Monkey	Trachypithecus vetulus monticola
263.	Toque Monkey	Macaca sinica sinica
264.	Mountain Toque Monkey	Macaca sinica pisthomelas
265.	Ceylon Black-Naped Hare	Lepus nigricollis singhala
266.	Western Ceylon Palm Squirrel	Funambulus palmarum favonicus
267.	Ceylon Dusky-Stripped jungle Squirrel	Funambulus sublineatus obscurus
268.	Highland Ceylon Giant Squirrel	Ratufa macroura macroura
269.	Western Ceylon Giant Squirrel	Ratufa macroura melanochra
270.	Highland Ceylon Palm Squirrel	Funambulus palmarum olympius
271.	Spinner Dolphin	Stenella longirostris
272.	Ceylon Jackal	Canis aureus lanka
273.	Ceylon Sloth Bear	Melursus ursinus inornatus
274.	Common Ceylon Grey Mongoose	Herpestes edwardsi lanka
275.	Ceylon Ruddy Mongoose	Herpestes smithi zeylanicus
276.	Striped-Necked Mongoose	Herpestes vitticollis
277.	Ceylon Jungle Cat	Felis chaus kelaarti
278.	Ceylon Leopard	Panthera pardus lankae
279.	Ceylon Elephant	Elephas maximus maximus
280.	Indian Wild Pig	Sus scrofa cristatus
281.	Ceylon Spotted Deer	Axis axis ceylonensis
282.	Sambhur	Cervus unicolor unicolor
283.	Indian Water Buffalo	Bubalus bubalis bubalis
REPTILES		
284.	Mugger Crocodile	Crocodylus palustris
285.	Green Turtle	Chelonia mydas
286.	Water Monitor	Varanus salvator
287.	Land Monitor	Varanus bengalensis
288.	Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard	Otocryptis wiegmanni
289.	Indian Golden Gecko	Calodactylodes aureus
290.	Common House Gecko	Hemidactylus frenatus
291.	Black-lipped Lizard	Calotes nigrilabris
292.	Sri Lanka Green Pit Viper	Trimeresurus trigonocephalus

