

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

IN



SRI LANKA

FEBRUARY 3RD – 16TH 2019

TRIP REPORT

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DAY 1 – 3RD FEBRUARY 2019

ARRIVAL AT COLOMBO TRANSFER TO KITHUGALA

WEATHER: bright start, cloudy later with heavy rainfall

I arrived in Colombo alone at 04:20 having travelled from Heathrow where the temperature was -1C, at Colombo it was 20C. I was collected by Jith our ground-agent and we drove in the dark to the Euro Star Hotel to collect our clients who had arrived the night before.

It took 15 minutes to get to the hotel, we all met up at 6:30 and went to breakfast. In the meantime, as it got light, birds began to appear in the hotel grounds, we noted **Common Myna, Spotted Dove, White-bellied Drongo, Purple-rumped Sunbird**, and a **Great Egret** flew over the hotel. Immediately after breakfast we met our guide Saman who showed us a roosting **Collared-Scops Owl** and an **Asian Koel** before we boarded our minibus for the journey to Kithugala.



White-bellied Drongo

We made a few stops along the way especially in the rice fields about 15 minutes into the journey. We stood on a bridge over a small river and scanned an area of the rice fields, birds seemed to be everywhere.

House Crows were very common and the sky was full of swifts and swallows, we logged **Asian Palm Swift, House Swift** (aka **Little Swift**) also **Barn Swallow**, we then went on to see **Black-hooded Orioles, Lesser Whistling Ducks, White-throated Kingfisher, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Yellow-billed Babbler,**

Little Cormorant, Intermediate Egret, Indian Pond Heron and a beautiful **White-naped Woodpecker**.

The next two stops produced more goodies such as **Ashy Prinia, Zitting Cisticola, Scale-breasted** and **White-rumped Munia** and two stunning **Brown-headed Barbets**.

A couple of impromptu stops produced **Crested Serpent Eagle**, more **White-throated Kingfishers, Indian Robin**, some Toque Monkeys and a few **Red-vented Bulbuls**.

We arrived at our hotel around 10am and quickly checked -in, after a short break we re-assembled in the car park at 11am. It was now very hot with a bright blue sky, bird activity was greatly reduced. Nevertheless, we saw quite a few birds and a couple of endemics too!

The endemic **Sri Lanka Hanging Parrots** were coming down to drink from a drinking tray that was placed in a tree we then had excellent views of the endemic **Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill**, we also saw **Black Bulbul, Oriental White-eye, Purple-rumped Sunbird, Indian Robin, Oriental Magpie-Robin** and lots of the common **Red-vented Bulbul**.

A long lunch ensued, in fact, I fell asleep for nearly four hours! We met up again at 3pm for our afternoon excursion which started really well and ended as a complete washout. The hotel overlooks a beautiful river with some outstanding scenery, we had to cross the river to get to the forest track. The ferry was a tiny converted canoe that had a small platform with handrails where we stood whilst we were rowed across the river, an **Asian Openbill** and a **Little Cormorant** were our sightings during the crossing.

Over the next hour bird sightings came thick and fast, we enjoyed many new species and some wonderful scenery. The **Common Tailorbird** was a nice sighting quickly followed by **Tawny-breasted Babbler** and a **Flame-backed Woodpecker**. We then, almost immediately, found a second Woodpecker, the **Lesser Yellownape**.

We went on to look for a couple more endemics and found several exciting, colourful species including the endemics. The **Common Iora** and the **Black-hooded Oriole** provided the colour before we found **Orange-billed Babbler**, which showed very well, we saw a party of five, then after watching a couple of **Yellow-browed Bulbuls** we found a **Yellow-fronted Barbet**.



It started to get dark as the cloud thickened but we continued up into the forest, it was a long climb up and the only bird we saw in the forest was a **Malabar Trogon**. Then it started to rain, not just pitter-patter but a real rain-forest downpour, we got soaked to the skin as we made a dash back, having walked for a kilometer it took a while to get back, we were drenched.

It was so nice to get into the shower and then put on dry clothes. We met again at seven for the bird-log and dinner.

DAY 2 – FEBRUARY 4TH 2019

KITHUGALA ALL DAY

WEATHER: cloudy all day, lots of rain during the late afternoon.

We had a superb morning it was fantastic birding although the light wasn't the best we could have hoped for. We met up at 6am just as it was getting light and drove a short distance to a footbridge over the river. The bridge was a long narrow suspension affair, it had a weight limit of 5 people at a time it was old and rickety with holes on the walkway, it wobbled like crazy as we walked across it, a little scary for some.



As we approached the final section of the bridge we could see a flock of some 35 **Asian Openbills** roosting in a tree and a **Stork-billed Kingfisher** sat on a wire a few meters from us. Once on the other side the light improved and the birds came out to play.

One of our first sightings was of a 'white morph' **Asian Paradise-Flycatcher**, what a beauty, then we saw our first **Green Imperial Pigeon** and the misnamed **Dark-fronted Babbler** (it has a white front). Birds came thick and fast, we had a string of firsts without moving too far. We stood in someone's driveway and watched the endemic **Brown-capped Babbler**, they showed really well, we

also saw **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**, **Scarlet Minivet**, **Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot** and **Common Iora** all in the same garden!

Walking further along a track that climbed up through a small tea plantations and open fields we saw the superb **Emerald Dove** feeding on the track, then a pair of the endemic **Sri Lanka Green Pigeon**, quickly followed by the endemic **Sri Lanka Junglefowl** and we had a brief encounter with the endemic **Green-billed Coucal**, just a glimpse and not really tickable!

We spent a lot of time trying to see a **Banded Bay Cuckoo** which called all the time and never showed, but our consolation came a few minutes later when we found, no one, but two endemic **Chestnut-backed Owlets**. They sat right out in the open and even copulated in front of us, how rude was that?



Chestnut-backed Owlet

After that excitement we made our way back slowly to the rickety bridge, we added another endemic, the **Sri Lankan Swallow** to the list also the **Asian Brown Flycatcher**, **Lesser Hill Myna**, **Golden-fronted Leafbird** and we had flyovers of both the endemic **Leyard's Parrot** and the larger **Alexandrine Parakeet**. It really was a bird-filled morning and I haven't even mentioned all the common Bulbuls, Tailorbirds, Sunbirds, swifts and swiftlets.

One last goodie was added as we approached the bridge and that was the **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, what a beauty that one is. We got back to the hotel around 9:30 and tucked into a nice breakfast, I left the curried tuna alone as I had a bad experience a couple of years back with that little breakfast specialty.

We reconvened at 10:30 and just went for a walk in the grounds, we had some unbelievably close views of both **Alexandrine Parakeet** and **Leyard's Parrot** and yet again the **Hanging Parrots** came down to drink. We added **White-browed Fantail** and watched many other more common species. As the day heated up raptors started to appear above the surrounding hills. A group of three **Oriental Honey Buzzards** were followed by **Legg's Serpent Eagle**, a **Brahminy Kite** and lastly the small accipiter, the **Besra**.

We took a long lunch break in the heat of the day and went out for a second walk around 3pm, this time we drove a very short way to a track next the local Police Station. Unfortunately for us a large group of Norwegian Birders arrived at exactly the same time, they did spoil things a little later on.

We notched our first **Shikra** just as we got out of the bus and left the Norwegians photographing it, but our destination was the same part of the track as theirs, it was much lower down and even though we went different ways we arrived together at the designated spot. The prize was an **Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher**, but we were sort of crowded out by Norwegian photographers who had no birding etiquette whatsoever.

The same happened with the **Indian Pitta** a few minutes later, but this time we let have them their fill and waited for the bird to reappear when we all had superb views all by ourselves. The clouds got a little thicker and it did go quite dull but we persevered and went on to have wonderful views of **Sri Lanka Swallow** and added **Black-headed Ibis** to our list and we saw a second **Shikra** which showed much better than the previous one.

It started to rain and fearing another soaking we decided to head back to the bus pretty smartish, it was now 5pm with not a lot of daylight left so we called it a day, a superb day.

We met at 7pm to call the bird-log and then went in for dinner, we were all in bed by 9pm in readiness for another early start. Tomorrow we are heading up to 2,800 meters based in Nuwara Eliya.

DAY 3 – FEBRUARY 5TH 2019

KITHUGALA – TRANSFER TO NUWARA ELIYA WITH STOPS AT CASTLE TEA PLANTATION – DEVON FALLS AND LOCL BIRDING SPOTS NEAR NUWARA

WEATHER: the same pattern as the previous two days, bright sunshine developing into cloudy wet weather late pm.

For our transfer day we decided to have a brief pre-breakfast walk in the grounds of the hotel, so we met at 6:30 am in the car park. Dozens of birds were zooming around, calling, singing and feeding. Our only new bird for the list was a **Legge's Flowerpecker**, we saw both the male and female feeding in the trees. Other birds of note include **Hanging Parrot, Scarlet Minivet, Common Tailorbird, Alexandrine Parakeet, Pale-billed Flowerpecker, Oriental White-eye, Black-hooded Oriole** and lots of others.

Legge's Flowerpecker

By 8:30 we were all loaded onto the bus and on our way. The journey was to take a couple of hours, but we made several stops along the way which increased our travel time. Our first stop was to watch a colony of **Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters**, they performed very well as they were building nest-holes in the roadside bank.

We stopped briefly to look at the magnificent 'Devon' falls and then across the road we visited a Tea Plantation where we drank a nice cup of tea. We noted our first **House Sparrows**, also **Loten's Sunbird** and we saw

Brahminy Kite and **Crested Serpent Eagle** circling over the hills. A **Banded Bay Cuckoo** called all the time we were there, but again we had no sighting of this elusive species.



We arrived at our Hotel on the shoreline of Lake Gregory on the outskirts of Nuwara, where we quickly found a **Pale Prinia, Pond Heron, Little Cormorant, Hill Swallow** and more **House Sparrows**. A **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** was seen from the bus as we passed a lake on the way up to Nuwara.

After checking -in we drove into town to buy lunch noting a **Grey Wagtail** on the driveway of our hotel, we returned to the hotel for our midday break, from then on it was dull and overcast for most of the day with a little rain.

Our birding excursion was a 10-minute drive from the hotel along a quiet lane on the edge of town, we quickly found several interesting species. A **Dusky Warbler** was 'tacking' from the scrub but refused to come out, but we did see our first endemic **Yellow-eared Bulbuls**, followed by the endemic **Sri Lanka White-eye** and then the endemic **Dull-blue Flycatcher**, what a trio of endemic gems. Whilst on the subject of endemics we also saw the endemic **Black-lipped Lizard** sitting below one of the **Yellow-eared Bulbuls**.

We then walked up the lane into a eucalyptus woodland which covered a steep-sided hillside on both sides of the lane, on our right it swept down to a river some 50 meters below us. Dense under-storey was covered in fly-tipping litter down towards the river, how nice. However, the rotting garbage attracted lots of flies and in turn, lots of flycatchers.



Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

During past visits we have seen several excellent species here but not today, it was dull, overcast, with some light rain and not many flying insects which reduced our chances of seeing much.

We did add **Great Tit** (an introduced species along with **Grey Wagtail**, **House Sparrow**, **Collared Dove**.....) to our list and we had very brief fleeting views of **Sri Lanka Bush Warbler**, yes you guessed it, an endemic, but generally it was disappointing. A **Brown-breasted Flycatcher** was new for the list and we then had excellent views of the endemic **Scimitar-billed Babbler**, what a beauty and so obliging.

The bird we sought most of all was the **Kashmir Flycatcher**, but it was not found, but an equally good find was a **Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher** which was found just 3 meters from the bus as we were climbing back in.

For the last hour of day-light we drove to another area of town where we climbed down a very steep path and stood on or near a bridge over a fast flowing stream. We hoped for a sighting of the secretive **Whistling Thrush**. When we arrived a birding group from Norway were there just ahead of us, so it was quite crowded down there.

We waited and waited and it grew darker and darker, several people gave up, we stayed until last, it started to rain and the bird.....never showed, Ha! But we did have splendid views of the **Indian Blue Robin**, a male, it was a fantastic consolation prize.

We ate back at the hotel around 8pm, it was our best meal yet, yummy! Tomorrow we are leaving with our breakfast in a bag at 5am. Good night.

DAY 4 – FEBRUARY 6TH 2019

NUWARA ELIYA – HORTON PLAINS – VICTORIA GARDENS

WEATHER: we were in the clouds for most of the morning, very light wind, visibility very poor

A very early start saw us loaded into the bus by 5am, we needed to get to the entrance to Horton Plains National Park by first light so that we could search for the **Whistling Thrush**. All great plans.....we were thwarted by the weather, very thick cloud shrouded the entrance to the park and the light was abysmal, hence we missed the Thrush and the usual **Indian Blackbird** (which in fact is almost identical the European Blackbird).

About 50 other vehicles were all trying to get into the park at 6:30am but all went smoothly and by the time we had drove a kilometer into the park we hardly saw another vehicle. The first hour of birding was very hard to do in the fog and the mist with very low light conditions. We saw a few species, **Grey Wagtail**, **Sri Lanka White-eye**, **Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon** and **Dull-blue Flycatcher**, the latter three all being endemic species. Then near a pond we added a few warblers, a **Blythe's Reed Warbler** showed very well, a **Sri Lanka Bush Warbler** also showed well just for me! A **Greenish Warbler** was watched by two of the group with Saman our guide.



We continued into the park and drove out onto the plains, the cloud lifted somewhat and we started seeing more birds! Both **Richard's** and **Blyth's Pipits** were seen on the short turf, whilst **Pied Bushchat**, **Zitting Cisticola**, **Brown Shrike** and small flocks of **Tricoloured Munia** were all seen in the scrub or on the bushes.

Further exploration onto the plains uncovered a **Common Snipe**, **Red-wattled Lapwing**, **Large-billed Crow**, **Hill** and **Barn Swallows**, **Sri Lanka Junglefowl** and a great bird, the **Himalayan Buzzard**.

We left the plains area and drove back into the forested section hoping for more sightings. It was during this spell that we had incredible views of the **Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush**, this bird flew out of the dense forested scrub and landing on a branch not 2 meters from me and out in the open. It was unbelievable, none of us moved a muscle for at least two minutes, I slowly got my phone out and rattle off a few shots before the bird flew back into the forest. I was able then to digiscope part of the bird, but it was still too close.

What a great result, the Thrush is in my opinion the hardest endemic to see and now we have it in the bag. We had further sightings of **Dull-blue Flycatcher**, **Yellow-eared Bulbul** and on the way out of the park we stopped to watch a dozen **Sri Lanka Wood Pigeons** coming down to drink at a small stream.

Himalayan Buzzard

We got back to the hotel at 1pm when we took a 2-hour lunch break, we met up again at 3pm when we assembled to go out for the last 3 hours of daylight. Our destination was Victoria Park on the edge of town, a beautiful landscaped area with ponds and open lawns, well-kept flowerbeds and some great areas of mature trees and rough scrub. A large stream runs through the park where, despite an horrific amount of litter, many birds can be seen.



We made our way around the park in nice warm sunshine, the park was crowded with people enjoying the weather. We completed two circuits and listed some nice species, our main target the **Pied Thrush** remained elusive, but we were happy to get good close views of **Indian Pond Heron**, **Little Cormorant**, **Common & Green Sandpipers**, **Forest & Grey Wagtails**, **Oriental Magpie Robin**, **Sri Lanka White-eye**, **Scimitar Babbler**, **Large-billed Crows** and several very common species.

The light was beginning to fade and we still had not seen our target species the **Pied Thrush**, then all of a sudden there was a gathering of birders around a particular tree, the bird had turned up, we had unbelievably bad views of the bird sitting in the canopy of a very tall tree. We left the bird and went in search of a **Kashmir Flycatcher**, the park is renowned for producing this little gem but personally I had never seen it here.



After some waiting and walking to and fro along a clump of bushes we found a male

KASHMIR FLYCATCHER,

oh boy, was that worth the effort! What a great sighting, but no time for photographing this flighty little bird. We carried on our birding in the general direction of the exit gate, it was getting close to closing time at 6pm. We then had a double stroke of luck when we found a much more obliging **PIED THRUSH**, it was sitting in the canopy of a much smaller tree and then we found a second **KASHMIR FLYCATCHER**, again this was a colourful

male bird and it posed for the camera, fantastic!

We called it a day and left for the hotel, another great dinner was enjoyed by all and the bird-log revealed that we have 112 birds on the list with 21 of them being endemics. Tomorrow we head for the coast at Tissa and a visit to the Yala National Park.

DAY 5 – FEBRUARY 7TH 2019

TRANSFER FROM NUWARA TO TISSAMAHARAMAYA (TISSA) - A FOUR OWL DAY!

WEATHER: a cloudless sunny morning was chilly to start with. As we drove south it got warmer and warmer. Very hot and humid at Tissa.

Before we left for the south-coast we had a pre-breakfast outing to look for the endemic **Sri Lanka (formerly Scaly) Thrush**. We left at 5:45 precisely in order to arrive at the thrush site dead on 6am. Once on site we waited in the dark until sunrise at around 6:15, we searched the designated area for the Thrush. Our hopes were raised when we could clearly hear it singing not too far into the forest, but after waiting for another 15 minutes the bird did not show, so we decided to take a walk and look for another one, without success.



The view from our hotel in Nuwara

After breakfast we packed up the bus with our luggage and set off, heading southward. After an hour or so on the road we stopped at a regular 'birders' venue called Surrey Hotel, where we took a long walk in a very forested area next to the hotel.

Our target bird was the **Brown Wood Owl**, this bird was very hard to find, but when we eventually found one, it was sitting deep inside a bush. A great bonus for us was the sighting of an **ORANGE-HEADED THRUSH** what a stunning bird and something special for me personally as I had

missed it on my previous two visits to Surrey Hotel. We also saw many other species during our hour-long walk.

We continued our road journey, stopping for lunch at one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the country, Rawana Ella Falls, it was crowded with tourists but still nice to see.

Our arrival at our hotel at Tissamaharamaya (Tissa for short) was around 2pm, the Hibiscus Hotel has wonderful grounds, a swimming pool, superb accommodation and lots of birds. **Indian Peafowl** strutted around the grounds and was a new species for the list.

At 3:30pm we set off for our afternoon birding and what a great time we had, we saw just over 70 species during the 3 hours that we were out, amazing. First, we went to two private spots where we were shown two more owls, the first was the cute **Jungle Owlet** and the second was the huge **Brown Fish Owl**, both birds showed well. We also saw **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** perched in a tree and a **White-breasted Waterhen** close up in the reeds.

Jungle Owlet

The best part of the day was easily our visit to the local 'Tanks' at Yoda Wewa, these huge water storage reservoirs are an amazing engineering feat and a clever foresight, considering that they were constructed over 700 years ago. Now they are a wildlife haven and a source of fish and water for the locals.

If I listed all the species that we saw I would be here until midnight, but suffice is to say, that we saw an abundance and a variety of water birds that would be hard to match anywhere. Egrets, Herons, ducks, waterhens, Jacanas, terns, kingfishers, cormorants of 2 varieties, storks, ibis, pelicans, bitterns and all the smaller birds in the surrounding bushes.

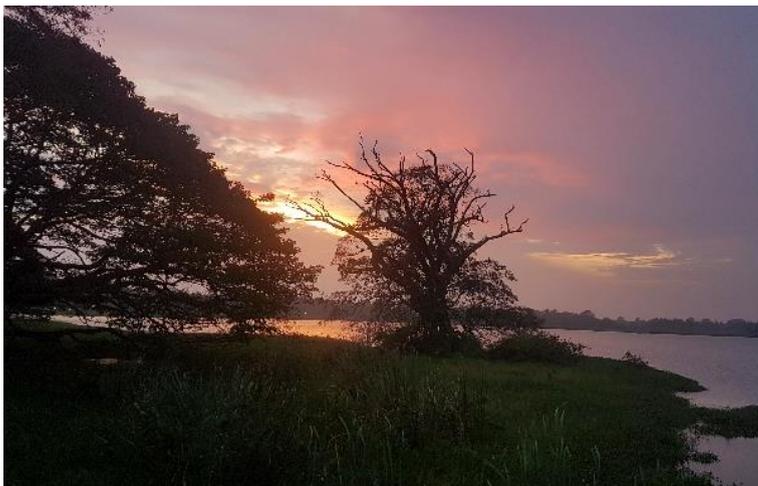


There were also **Brahminy Kites**, **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** and **Grey-headed Fish Eagles**, a **Shikra** flew over and dozens of terns skimmed the water.

Outstanding sightings for me were of **Green Bee-eaters**, **Sri Lanka Woodshrike**, **Sri Lanka Green Pigeon**, **Yellow Bittern**, **Watercock**, **Painted Stork**, **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**, **Pied Kingfisher** and just the overwhelming number of birds out there.

To top the day off nicely we stayed until nearly dark, it was a beautiful sunset and a bonus bird was the

appearance of the much anticipated, **Barn Owl**, two of these beauties emerged from a hole we were watching, so we completed a **FOUR OWL DAY**.



Dinner Was excellent, taken in the second-floor restaurant of the hotel, a nice cold beer went down well too.

DAY 6 – FEBRUARY 8TH 2019

YALA NATIONAL PARK ALL MORNING – LOCAL ‘TANKS’ IN THE AFTERNOON

WEATHER: a clear start, cloudy mid-morning with a heavy downpour. Sunny and hot from noon.

Yala National Park covers a vast swathe of open countryside with large pools, dense scrub, rocky outcrops and reed-fringed pools. Most of it is closed to the public but the area that you can visit holds all of the wildlife found in the rest of the park.

We left the hotel at 5am and made it to the gates of Yala just before opening time at 6am. There were a dozen or so other jeep-carrying people ahead of us and it was still semi-dark as we entered the Park and set out exploring a mosaic of tracks that crisscrossed the park.



Orange-breasted Green Pigeon

As we passed the first of many open pools, we started seeing Herons, Egrets and the impressive **Painted Stork** with the smaller **Asian Openbill**. As it got light it was evident that rain clouds were gathering ahead of us, but we managed a good hour or so before it started to rain.

In the meantime, we found a few waders such as: **Common Redshank**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Marsh Sandpiper** and a pair of **Painted Snipe**. We also added **Eurasian Spoonbill** to our list and got much better views of a lot of other species. **Common Kingfisher** joined **White-throated** and **Pied Kingfisher** on both the day list and the trip list.

The **Orange-breasted Green Pigeon** is a stunning looking bird, we saw several groups of them, also **Imperial Green Pigeon**, **Sri Lanka Green Pigeon** and had good views of a **Ruddy Mongoose** as it walked across the track in front of us.

The rain came down in buckets and as we were in an open vehicle some of us got a partial soaking, but it didn't last more than 30 minutes and soon the clouds had cleared. Mammals appeared everywhere and although our priority was bird watching we still hoped for a **Leopard** sighting. Other mammals seen include: **Black-naped Hare**, a second **Ruddy Mongoose**, **Spotted Deer**, **Indian Buffalo**, **Grey Langur**, **Toque Monkeys**, **Wild Boar** our **Sri Lanka Elephant** sighting came later. A few **Mugger Crocodiles** lay in the pools and several **Land Monitors** walked across the track during our morning drive.



One piece of excitement happened when a small party of wild **Spotted Deer** started giving out their alarm 'bark' and the **Grey Langur Monkeys** started calling loudly. Our driver explained that it was the presence of a Leopard that was causing the alarm, after searching the area we never saw the Leopard. However, during this stop we found a pair of the bizarre looking **Malabar Pied-Hornbill**, what a bill that dude has!

Crested Hawk-Eagle

At 9am we stopped to eat our packed breakfast, a designated area had toilets and gave us the chance to climb down off our vehicles and stretch our legs. We saw **Woolly-necked Storks**, **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** and Saman our guide pointed out the call of the

Drongo-Cuckoo but it never showed. We saw a **Grey-breasted Cuckoo** on the way out of the picnic area.

Soon after the picnic break saw our only **Sri Lanka Elephant** and then we got really lucky and found a **Leopard** sitting in a tree, it was sat upright giving great views but was too far away for a photograph.

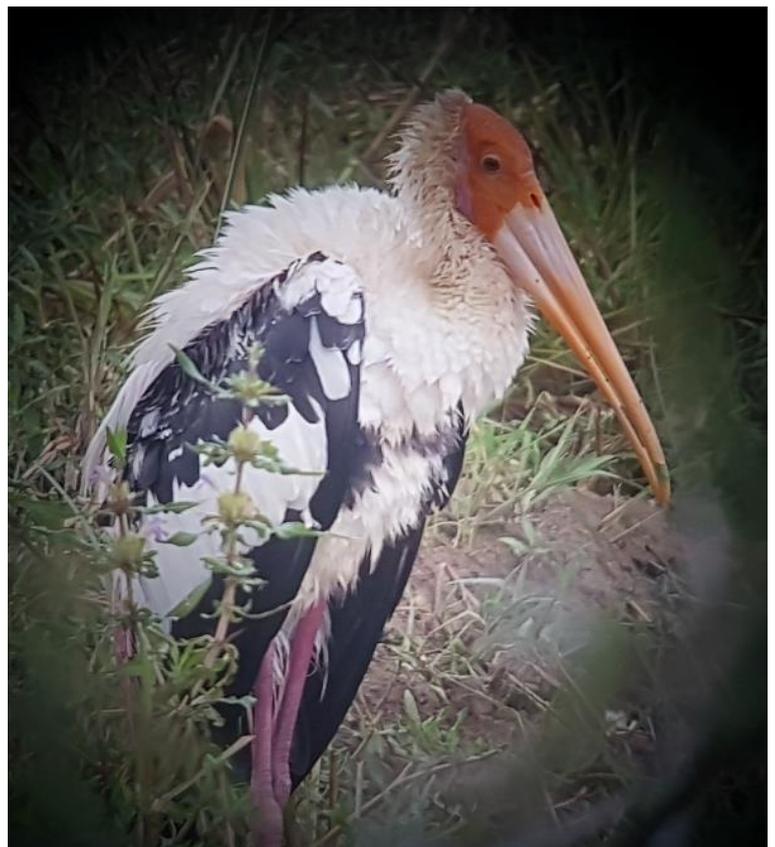
We then had a nice stop at another pool where we found **Painted Snipe** we also found several nice passerines during this part of the morning. **Jungle Prinia**, **Brown Shrike**, **Woodshrike**, **Coppersmith Barbet**, **Streaked Weaver**, **Jerdan's Bushlark**, **Richard's Pipit**, **Eurasian Hoopoe** and many more. E During every minute of the trip there were **Bee-eaters** and **Swallows** in the air, the **Green Bee-eater** seemed to be on every bush.

Because of the rain a lot of raptors sat out on top of dead trees drying their wings we saw several **Crested Serpent Eagles**, also **Grey-headed Fish Eagle**, **Crested Hawk-Eagle**, **Besra** a **Common Kestrel** and a few more **White-bellied Sea-Eagles**.

Painted Stork

On the way out of the park we stopped to watch a couple of **Brahminy Starlings**, they were really close to the jeep and gave extraordinary views, what a fantastic looking bird. The last excitement was caused by a **Blue-faced Malkoha**, this bird flew across the track in front of us and perched in a nearby bush, the view wasn't great, but we all saw some it.

After our long lunch we spent the afternoon visiting two more of the ' Tanks' not too far from the hotel. It was a bird filled afternoon I couldn't believe how many birds were present, you could see them in good numbers as far as the eye could see.



The first Tank produced our first sightings of **Little Grebe, Caspian Tern, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Garganey Ducks** and a host of other birds. We really enjoyed watching Terns, waders, egrets, herons, Ibis and more waterfowl than you could shake a stick at.

It was a little windy at the first site but it was just fine at the second tank, no wind and a lovely temperature. New species for our list came thick and fast, it really was quite overwhelming to see so many species in such a small area and in a short time. We first saw **Rose-coloured Starlings**, then **Indian Silverbills**, followed quickly by **Marshall's Iora, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark, Paddyfield Pipit** and **Coppersmith Barbet**. Phew!

Indian Thick-knee soon followed and all those sightings came before we started looking at the Tank. Several small pools on the edge of the marsh held a host of waders, we found about a dozen species in quick succession and many of them were new for our list.

If you like wader watching then this was your kind of heaven, **Little Stints** numbered in their thousands, hundreds of **Kentish, Lesser Sand-plover, Little Ringed Plovers, Redshank, Godwits, Pacific Golden Plover, Wood Sandpipers** and several other species were just right there in front of you.



Coppersmith Barbet

We stayed a couple of hours, it was magical. As the light began to fade strings of egrets, storks, Ibis, herons and cormorants scored the sky like bead necklaces as they flew off to their roosts. A large gathering of Terns appeared on the nearest pool, we found both **Common** and **Little Terns**, both of which were new for our list.

As it grew darker we walked slowly back towards the bus, an **Indian Nightjar** started calling and within minutes one landed on a post just 2 meters from us, what a great bird to finish off a fabulous day. However, we were not quite finished yet because back at the hotel we heard a **Jerdon's Nightjar** calling, it

flew right over the top of us in the middle of the hotel grounds, just fantastic.

We ate dinner at 7:30 and then called the bird log, we had seen 114 species of birds today, it was an amazing count.

DAY 7 – FEBRUARY 9TH 2019

BUNDALA NATIONAL PARK- YALA 2ND VISIT.

WEATHER: clear blue sky all morning, cloud and rain in the afternoon

What another great day, we visited BUNDALA NATIONAL PARK in the morning, which is one of my favourite places on the island. The reserve consists of reed-fringed pools, vast open marshes, clumps of scrub and a huge area of salt-pans surrounded by dry forest and a large salt water bay.

We arrived at 6am just as it was getting light and marshes on either side of the track were coming alive. Three new species for the trip list came in quick succession, first a **Night Heron** flew over us then a

BLACK BITTERN flew across the reed-bed right next to us and the third Species was a warbler. Saman our guide tracked one down that was singing loudly from the reeds, it was the aptly named **Clamorous Reed Warbler**.



At this time of the year the **Watercock** is usually just plain brown with very little other colouring, but we found a splendid looking specimen in full summer plumage, it was a nice surprise. We then searched for a **Cinnamon Bittern**, this rare bird had been seen recently at this site, it was Cindy who found one but the rest of us failed to see it, humbug! We had excellent views of the more common **Yellow Bittern** and plenty of other species. The whole area is a superb birding spot and we enjoyed 2 hours just strolling about 200 meters.



A collection of terns

At 9am we got back onto the jeep and drove the short distance to the visitor's centre. Where we sat and ate our picnic breakfast. At the visitor's centre we had good views of **White-Browed Bulbul**, **Purple Sunbird** and several other species.

We then moved on to the salt pans, in bright sunshine we spent another couple of hours touring the 'pans' making lots of stops to scan each 'pan'. Unfortunately for us the new rules in the Park do not allow us to leave the vehicle so we had to be content with views from where we were sitting.

The pans were full of birds, I never counted the species total but there must have been around 50 different species. All kinds of Terns sat in large groups, the larger species such as **Caspian**, **Crested** and **Lesser Crested** dwarfed the **Common**, **Whiskered** and especially the **Little Terns**.

Some interesting finds included **Bridled Terns**, **Red-necked Phalarope** and **Black-headed Gull**. Amongst the hundreds of waders we found **Temminck's Stint**, **Ruff**, **Curlew Sandpiper** and thousands of **Little Stints**.

In the Salt Water Bay area we saw hundreds of **Cormorants** fishing with dozens of **Caspian Terns** diving for fish all around them, it was quite a spectacle, our best views of **Spot-billed Pelican** was had there too.



Further exploration around the scrub-area behind the pans produced a number of other interesting sightings, the best by far was the re-finding of a very rare migrant visitor, the **Bay-backed Shrike**, very few sightings of this species have ever been made in Sri Lanka before this one. What a stunning bird too, it looks like a very upmarket Red-backed Shrike!

Red-necked Phalarope

We left the pans very happy with another fantastic and enjoyable morning behind us, we have some delightful memories to cherish.

Our lunch break lasted until 2:30pm when we set off for a second jeep excursion of the day, this trip was to be our second visit to YALA National Park. We entered via a quiet gate about a 45 minute drive from the hotel. At the gate we transferred to our jeep and set off.

This different route took us past a couple of man-made lakes with hundreds of standing dead trees, these trees provided excellent perches for birds especially raptors.

The first, much smaller lake, produced our first **Lesser Adjutant Stork** of the tour, what a colourful beast, the second huge pool had a dam and a series of turbine-houses produced a good selection of raptors. **Osprey** and **Peregrine Falcon** were new species for us, they were joined by **Grey-headed Fish Eagle**, **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** and several **Brahminy Kites**.

Dozens of **Little Swifts** swarmed around the turbine housings where they were nesting. The dry-sloping side of the dam was covered in **Monkeys** and **Peafowl** and below them we could see large herds of **Spotted Deer** and the odd **Wild Pig**. As the clouds began to gather, we drove alongside a canal for about 5km, it was dripping with birds. We must have seen over 20 **Asian Paradise Flycatchers**, also many **Indian Robins**, **Forest Wagtails**, **Oriental Magpie-Robins**, doves, bulbuls, shrikes and Kingfishers.



It was a marvellous drive and the sightings just kept on coming, **Indian Pitta**, **White-browed Bulbul**, **Brown Fish Owl**, **Drongo Cuckoo**, **Black-headed Cuckooshrike** and **Barred Buttonquail**.

We were searching for a **Rufous Woodpecker**, which appeared fleetingly, when Saman found a **WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA**, what a stunner and such a melodious song, this bird performed so well that it went straight to the top of everyone's 'favourites list'.

just before we left we also noted **Brown-capped Babbler**, **Blue-faced Malkoha**, **Indian Blue Robin** and more Flycatchers. Our timing was perfect because it poured down with rain just after we transferred from the jeep into our bus at the main gate.

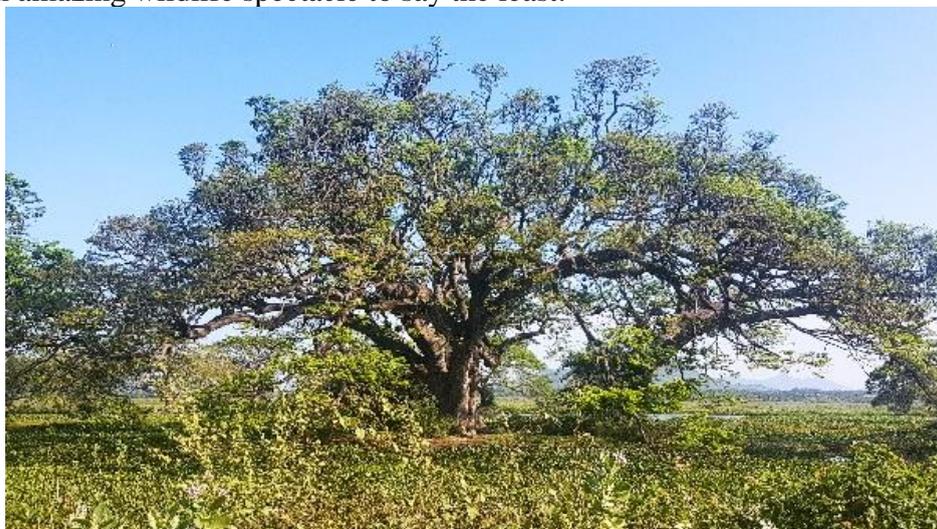
It had been another amazing day and not so tiring, the temperature had been lovely. Our last day at Tissa ended with another early night.

DAY 8 – 10TH FEBRUARY 2019

TRANSFER FROM TISSA TO UDE WALAWE – MORNING VISIT TO DEBRAWEWA TANK AFTERNOON TO UDE WALAWE NATIONAL PARK

WEATHER: All day hot and sunny.

We had a lie-in this morning, breakfast was at 7am! We then drove a short way to the nearest Tank called Debrawewa, we birded there for about 2 hours. Before we got to the birding site we stopped off to look at a huge **Flying Fox** colony, over 10,000 roost there. What a sight, the trees were covered, a **Grey Heron** colony could be seen in the same trees and hundreds of cormorants, egrets and waterfowl were feeding nearby, it was an amazing wildlife spectacle to say the least.



Flying Fox roost



Then Saman pointed out a pair of Kingfishers which on first inspection looked like a pair of **Common Kingfishers** but with closer scrutiny we could see that they were in fact, the much rarer **Blue-eared Kingfisher**. Well, Saman went crazy, we all got excited as this species had not been recorded in Sri Lanka for several years.

After that excitement we clambered back onto the bus and drove to the tank, any sighting from now on was going to be an anti-climax. Not really, we still had a great couple of hours walking along the bank of the 'Tank' watching all the waterfowl that we saw yesterday but in fewer numbers. We added **Jerdon's Leafbird** and the beautiful **Small Minivet** to our list and we had much better views of several other species that had not been too good thus far.



We returned to the hotel at 10:30 and were given an hour to pack before we departed. One last species was added to the list before we left, the **Thick-billed Flowerpecker**, was seen in the trees just outside the hotel's main entrance. Our stay at the Hibiscus Hotel had been wonderful, the service was great the rooms and the grounds were superb, highly recommended.

Malabar Pied Hornbill

We drove to our next hotel which was just 90 minutes along the coast near the Udawalawa National Park. After settling in and taking lunch we met again at 3pm and set off in a jeep to visit the Park. Once again, we had a terrific time watching many birds and lots of Elephants.

It was hot when we started but it soon clouded over and rain threatened we could hear thunder in the distance but this did not distract us from enjoying some great birds. Soon after we entered the Park we found **Yellow-eyed Babbler**, what a stunner then we had distant views of **Plum-headed Parakeet** and we saw lots of **Rosy (Rose-coloured) Starlings**. The **Malabar Pied-Hornbill** seemed to be common throughout the park and hundreds of **Spotted Doves** and **Red-vented Bulbuls** were seen all along the tracks.

Next, we found an **Indian Roller**, our first of the trip, this beautiful bird sat with its back to us the whole time we watched it, not very obliging but we enjoyed the sighting all the same.

Our search for the prize bird, the **Sirkeer Malkoha**, resulted in great success as we found one in a bush alongside the track. This bird showed so well that it was too close to digi-scope!

A large lagoon with a nice viewing area was a great place to get down from the jeep and stretch our legs, we scoped the area and, as usual, the place was heaving with birds. A nice colony of **Black-crowned Night Herons** could be seen on the far shore, also, all kinds of egrets, storks, spoonbills, terns and waders were feeding all around the lagoon.





We searched the dead trees and likely perches for a **Black-winged Kite** but never found one, we did see **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**, **Brahminy Kite**, **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** and **Crested Serpent Eagle**.

Golden Jackal

Back on the track we headed off towards the exit as the clouds grew darker and thunder rumbled in the distance, we continued our search for the Kite and came up instead with a little group of **Indian Rollers**, these birds were perched facing us and posed much better than our earlier sighting did. We then found a small group of **Tawny-bellied Babblers**

before bumping into a flock of **Yellow-billed Babblers**, this flock had an additional species with it. A **Jacobin Cuckoo** was following the group as though looking for friends to hang out with!

That was our final sighting of the day, we left the park and drove back to our luxurious hotel, the rain held off. Dinner at 7:30pm was delicious, our bird log included our latest finds and now stands at 221, with 24 endemics in the bag.

DAY 9 – FEBRUARY 11TH 2019

TRANSFER FROM UDA WALAWE TO SINAHARAJA RAIN FOREST AT MAGPIE LODGE

WEATHER: very hot and humid most of the day, cooler late afternoon



We had another comparatively late start to our day, we met at 7:30am for breakfast. Some of us walked around the grounds beforehand and up onto the roof garden. Lots of common 'garden' birds were around the grounds with the colourful **White-throated Kingfisher** and the **Common Iora** being the most popular sightings.

Sirkeer Malkoha

After breakfast we took a walk along the main road outside the hotel where a causeway enables you to scan a large area of marsh and part of the huge Uda Walawe Reservoir, on the other side of the road an area of open scrub is good for a number of species.

The area of grass and marshland on the shore of the reservoir was covered in birds, ranging from the huge **Spot-billed Pelican** to the tiny **Plain Prinia**. Birds on the grassland included a variety of **Yellow Wagtails**, **Jerdon's Bushlark**, **Oriental Skylark**, **Richard's Pipit**, **Green** and **Blue-tailed Bee-**

eaters and a nice selection of waders. **Pacific Golden Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Kentish Plover, Marsh, Wood and Common Sandpipers, Greenshank, Little Stint and Black-winged Stilts.**

The Sky was full of hirundines and swifts, we saw **Barn & Sri Lanka Swallows, Asian Palm Swifts** and a couple of the huge **White-bellied Sea Eagles.**

In the scrub on the other side of the road we saw **Coppersmith Barbet, Black-hooded Oriole** and several common species. We returned to the hotel in good time for our 10:30am departure.



During the transfer to Sinharaja we only noted a few species, the main one being **Indian Black Eagle**, for the rest of the trip we traveled through some wonderful scenery, but we did not see much else. On arrival at Sinharaja, it was lunchtime so we took a long break and met up again at 3pm.

From our balcony at the lodge we found our first new endemic, the **Black-capped Bulbul** and we got great views of the endemic **Yellow-fronted Barbet. Hanging Parrots** seemed to be everywhere and lots of birds flitted around the lodge, including **White-bellied Drongo, Sri Lanka Green Pigeon, Asian Paradise Flycatcher** and **Asian Palm Swifts.**

For our afternoon birding we drove to a quiet track not far from the hotel, it was quiet with little traffic and, at first, quiet with bird-life, our sightings were few but most of them were important finds. The first was **Black-capped Bulbul**, quickly followed by the endemic **Sri Lanka Drongo.** We searched for the **Sri Lanka Hill Myna** without success but then we found the most-wanted bird of the trip, the **BLUE MAGPIE.** This bird gave us the run-around until it finally decided to eat some fruit, what a show stopper, a great endemic and a real crowd pleaser.

Next came the **Greater Flameback Woodpecker**, this bird showed well for a very short period and then we had only glimpses, it was a pity as not all of the group got to see it well. We returned to the lodge after about 1 ½ hours and in the field behind the hotel we found **Black-throated Munia**, our first of the trip and the tiny **Crimson-fronted Barbet**, another endemic.

Finally we tracked down a couple of the **Sri Lanka Hill Mynas**, they perched high in the canopy of a tree down below the lodge, we all had great scope views of the birds, four new endemics went on the list in that short endemic-watching period, a great way to end the birding day before an ice-cold beer on the terrace.

DAY 10 - FEBRUARY 12TH 2019

SINHARAJA NATIONAL PARK

WEATHER: clear sky all day, hot and humid late afternoon

Sinharaja Reserve is a tropical rainforest of great ecological importance, it has no less than 830 species of endemic flora and fauna, it holds the most endemic bird species than anywhere else on the island. We spent all morning walking the trails and watching numerous birds, a host of butterflies and one or two mammals.



Our bus took us up to the ticket office where we transferred to a Land Rover, it was still dark when we got there and yet we still found two endemic birds, the fabulous **Blue Magpie** and the **Spot-winged Thrush**.

The drive up to the reserve gates was uncomfortable at times, sitting in the back of the jeep and it took 40 minutes, but it was well worth it. At the top we walked through the gates to look for a **Sri Lanka Thrush**, we were hoping for one to be feeding on the track, but we were disappointed once again. We did see another two **Spot-winged Thrushes** and not much else. We then

returned to the main gate and walked down the hill to a field study centre, where apart from about 30 students there were quite a few birds.

One of main targets was the **White-faced Starling**, we found 4 of them in a tree, scoping them from the field centre's car park, we also saw the **Sri Lanka Hill Myna**, an **Asian Brown Flycatcher**, a **White-bellied Drongo** (and nest), **Yellow-fronted Barbet** and lots of **Bulbuls** both **Black** and **Red-vented**.

We then walked back up to the Reserve and went in for a long walk which lasted 3 hours and we covered about 6km. The list of sightings was relatively small but whilst it lacked in numbers the quality of the sightings was high. At first, we saw several species in quick succession and then there were long gaps between sightings. **Orange-billed**, **Brown-capped** and **Dark-fronted Babblers** went on the list as did the two endemics **Sri Lanka Drongo** and **Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill** and then we came across a group of our third endemic species, the **Ashy-headed Laughingthrush**. These birds were hard to get on to, but we all managed a sighting.



Black-capped Bulbul

Next, we had great views of the delightful **Black-naped Monarch**, we thought it was a lovely bird until we saw the male, wow, it was soon upgraded from a 'lovely bird' to a 'beautiful bird'. Another great find was a canopy bird, the **Red-faced Malkoha**, what a stunner, a couple of the group were lagging behind and only

just got a sighting of this important endemic species, we all saw it through the scope, my phone was dead so no photographs were taken, what a pity.

After a short break we tracked down a group of noisy **Orange-billed Babblers** and Saman our guide saw a **Rufous-winged Cuckoo**, none of us saw it, but he pointed out the call, so we could at least tick it as a heard-only species. The butterflies along this track were both beautiful and prolific, we saw many but named just a few. Common Birdwing, Crimson Rose, Tree-nymph, Common Grass Yellow, Jeweled Four-ringed and The Commander.

After a brief search for the **Sri Lanka Thrush** we gave up and headed back to the entrance gate and boarded our luxurious 1954 land rover!!! We then took a long lunch at the hotel and met up again at 3:30pm. It was still hot and humid but we had received news of the whereabouts of a **Serendib Scops Owl** so we boarded our 'limo' and off we went.



For those of you reading this and were with me during the recce tour of 2016 you will remember the steep climb up a forested hill and clambering over boulders as we climbed up a very steep dry stream bed!! Well, that is exactly what we did today. But boy was it worth it, the **Serendib Scops Owl** showed extremely well as we looked through our binoculars that were damp with perspiration and the lens were steamed up.

After that exhausting excursion we drove straight back to the hotel and sank an ice-cold beer, ah..... that's better! Dinner was at 7:30pm but we completed the bird-log beforehand on the communal terrace outside our rooms. We have now seen 238 species and we are missing just two endemics, the **Sri**

Lanka Spurfowl and the **Sri Lanka Thrush**, some of the group also still need to see the endemic **Green-billed Coucal**, fingers crossed for tomorrow.

DAY 11 – 13TH FEBRUARY 2019

SINHARAJA VILLAGE TRACKS

WEATHER: the hottest day yet, high humidity

We met at 5:15 and spent a little time drinking fresh coffee before we departed at 5:30am. for our morning excursion we drove along the same track as yesterday but this time we went a lot further. Our destination was a small dwelling about 3km along the track, we got down from the jeep and spent some time looking and listening around the area as it got light. We were hoping for a sighting of a **Green-billed Coucal** and a **Sri Lanka Frogmouth** but neither were seen or heard.

We sat on chairs at the house and looked down onto a large garden that sloped downwards away from us, the owners had been feeding birds for many years and had attracted a rather special guest, the **Sri Lanka Spurfowl**. The birds that presented themselves during our stay included: many **Sri Lanka Junglefowl**, mostly female and one with three chicks, a single male turned up later. We also saw two or three **Spot-winged Thrushes**, a **White-breasted Watercock** and to our delight a **Slaty-legged Crake** appeared.

Our vigil lasted 2 hours, we ate our picnic breakfast whilst sitting there and still the Spurfowl failed to show. Saman our guide decided to take the group birding along the track to break up the monotony, two of the

group stayed whilst the rest of us went walking. We saw a number of nice species and enjoyed the walk, **Scarlet Minivet**, **Yellow-fronted Barbet**, **Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill**, **Oriental White-eye**, **Greenish Warbler**, **Sri Lanka Drongo**, **Orange-billed Babbler**, **Yellow-browed Bulbul**, to name but a few of our sightings.

Tree Nymph

After an hour we returned to the house and spent another hour hoping for a **Spurfowl** sighting which had not showed yet. Alas it wasn't to be, the bird didn't show and we left around 10am having seen a small flock of **Ashy-headed Laughingthrushes** pass through the garden.



As we made our way along the track back to the hotel we stopped a couple of times to look and listen for a **Green-billed Coucal**, without success, it was 11:30am when we arrived back at the hotel.



For the afternoon we took a short trip to a different lane out of the village, we were taken directly to a section of forest and were shown a roosting **Sri Lanka Frogmouth**, I don't know how the local guy found this bird, it was so well hidden.

The Frogmouth – looks a Gremlin

For the next hour or so we walked the track hoping for a sighting of the **Green-billed Coucal** without success, however the walk was lovely and there were plenty of other birds to see.

We gave up around 5pm and headed back to the hotel, a cold beer was called for and enjoyed immensely!

DAY 12 – 14TH FEBRUARY 2019

TRANSFER FROM SINHARAJA TO THE SOUTH COAST AT MIRISSA

WEATHER: hot and sunny all day, less humidity at the coast.

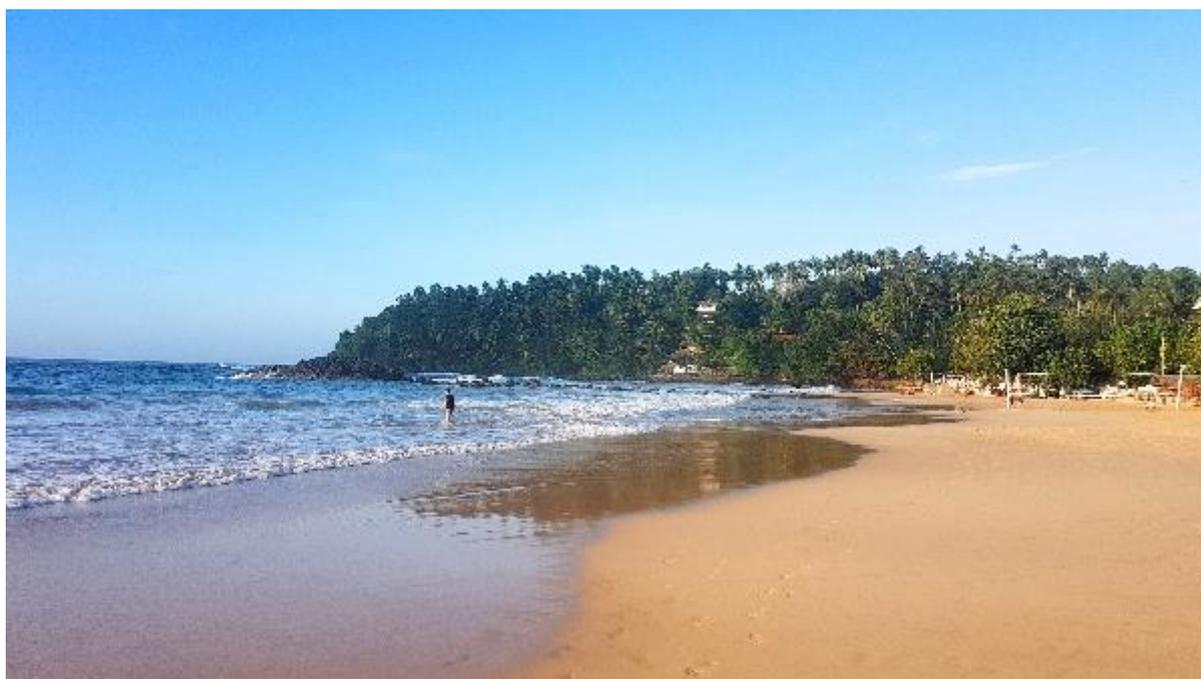
Our very last attempt to see the elusive **Sri Lanka Spurfowl** was made first thing this morning. We met at 6am and after a quick cup of coffee we set off in the bus. Our destination was another hotel about 2km away, there they had extensive gardens where the Spurfowl can be found at times, it is also a good place to find the **Green-billed Coucal**.

We had a modicum of success, the **Coucal** was calling constantly during the first 30 minutes after we arrived, then suddenly it appeared! Wow, this bird remained a fair distance away but showed well from time to time, it popped in and out of view for the next 30 minutes, everyone saw it.

The **Spurfowl** also called for most of time we were there, but it would not be lured out of the forest, which is a pity. We now had 31 of the 33 endemics on the list, but we would be leaving with two missing, hey, ho, you can't expect to see all the birds on every visit.

Breakfast was served back at the hotel at 7:30am and by 10:30 we were all packed and ready to leave. We had had a wonderful time at Magpie Lodge, the rooms were great, the food delicious and the gardens were packed full of birds. During an hour after breakfast we listed 20 species in the grounds, including some of the most colourful birds Sri Lanka has to offer, Sinharaja is a wonderful place to visit.

Our transfer to the coast took 3 ½ hours including a lunch break on the motorway, yes a motorway, what a luxury! We saw several raptors along the way, **Oriental Honey Buzzard, Brahminy Kite, Crested Hawk Eagle**, also bee-eaters, egrets, ibis, storks and herons.



It was after 2pm by the time we settled into our beach-side hotel and we had the rest of the afternoon for R n R. Tomorrow is our last official birding day, the morning will be taken up as we board our boat for a Whale Watching Cruise, the afternoon will be our last birding outing.

DAY 13 – 15TH FEBRUARY 2019

WHALE WATCHING CRUISE -VISIT TO KIRALAKELE MARSHES

WEATHER: hot and sunny, late afternoon some cloud

Our last full day had arrived and we started with another early morning meeting at 6am for the short drive to Mirissa Harbour to board our boat for the Whale Watching Cruise. A **Striated Heron** that sat on a boat near the quay was a new species for the trip list.

Very few birds were seen from then on, the odd **Lesser Crested Tern** and not much else but it was cetaceans we were looking for and after about an hour we started seeing small pods of **Spinner Dolphins**, we got quite close to them but they failed to demonstrate their spinning abilities.

For the next hour or so we had at least six sightings of **Blue Whales**, some distant some much closer, we saw them surface and dive, flipping their enormous tails up out of the water. It didn't get much more exciting than that, no of us got any good photographs to show here.

After the cruise had a very long break during the hottest part of the day and met again at 3:30pm for our very last birding excursion of the tour. After a ½ hour drive we arrived at the Kerilakele Marshes which was as good as my last visit here 1 year ago, it was teeming with bird-life.



We saw about 50 species during our 2 hour stay with three of them being additions to our tour list. Many egrets and herons were joined by Swampheens, Watercocks, Ibis, Storks and Spoonbills. A **Yellow Bittern** was a great find by Saman. Dozens of **Lesser Whistling Ducks** were in the swampy areas with a selection of wading birds, we saw **Wood Sandpiper**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Lesser Sandplover**, **Black-winged Stilt** and **Red-wattled Lapwing**.

Purple-faced Leaf Monkey

In the scrub we found **Common Iora**, **Zitting Cisticola**, **Streaked Weaver** and many **Scale-breasted Munia**. We had a big open sky that was full of **Barn** and **Sri Lanka Swallows** and we saw a number of raptors. **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, **Brhminy Kite**, **Besra** and very first **Booted Eagle** followed by at least three different individual **Marsh Harriers**, also our first for the trip.

After a while we drove to another spot where rice fields were being harvested and a canal ran along parallel to the track, it was alive with birds. We saw three species of **Kingfishers**, **White-breasted**, **Common** and **Stork-billed**. Also two **Barbets**, **Brown-headed** and **Coppersmith**, **Asian Paradise Flycatcher**, **Black-hooded Oriole** and lots of common species.

A flock of **Northern Pintail Ducks** circled over the marsh, they were joined by a single **Black-tailed Godwit**! Soon we began to lose the light and it was time to leave the marsh and head back to the hotel, the birding tour was over.

It had been an excellent and very enjoyable tour, my small group of companions were a joy to be with and both our driver and guide were great birders and so helpful.

I love this beautiful country, the people are so genuinely friendly and the birding is fantastic, come and join me on next year's trip.

Tomorrow we depart for Colombo, we are visiting Galle along the way for some sight-seeing, our flights are not until late evening.

CHECKLIST OF SPECIES SEEN 3RD - 16TH FEBRUARY 2019

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
1.	Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>	√
2.	Sri Lanka Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>	H
3.	Sri Lanka Junglefowl	<i>Gallus lafayettii</i>	√
4.	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	√
5.	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	√
6.	Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	√
7.	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	√
8.	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	√
9.	Painted Stork	<i>Mcyteria leucocephala</i>	√
10.	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	√
11.	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	√
12.	Lesser Adjutant Stork	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	√
13.	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	√
14.	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	√
15.	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	√
16.	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	√
17.	Black Bittern	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>	√
18.	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	√
19.	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	√
20.	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	√
21.	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	√
22.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	√
23.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	√
24.	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	√
25.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	√
26.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	√
27.	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	√
28.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	√
29.	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	√
30.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	√
31.	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	√
32.	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	√
33.	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnuculus</i>	√
34.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	√
35.	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	√
36.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	√
37.	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	√
38.	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	√
39.	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	√
40.	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	√
41.	Besra	<i>Accipeter virgatus</i>	√
42.	Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	√
43.	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanius</i>	√
44.	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	√
45.	Indian Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	√
46.	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	√
47.	Crested Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>	√

48.	Legge's Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus kelaarti</i>	√
49.	Slaty-legged Crake	<i>Ralina eurizonoides</i>	√
50.	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	√
51.	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	√
52.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	√
53.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	√
54.	Indian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus indicus</i>	√
55.	Great Stone Curlew	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	√
56.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	√
57.	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	√
58.	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	√
59.	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	√
60.	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	√
61.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	√
62.	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	√
63.	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	√
64.	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	√
65.	Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	√
66.	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	√
67.	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	√
68.	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	√
69.	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	√
70.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	√
71.	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	√
72.	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	√
73.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	√
74.	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	√
75.	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	√
76.	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	√
77.	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	√
78.	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	√
79.	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	√
80.	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	√
81.	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	√
82.	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	√
83.	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	√
84.	Common Tern	<i>Sternula hirundo</i>	√
85.	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	√
86.	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	√
87.	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopteryx</i>	√
88.	Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	√
89.	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	√
90.	Sri Lanka Woodpigeon	<i>Columba torringtoniae</i>	√
91.	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia Decaocto</i>	√
92.	Spotted-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia torringtoniae</i>	√
93.	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	√
94.	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>	√
95.	Sri Lanka Green Pigeon	<i>Treron pompadora</i>	√
96.	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	√
97.	Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot	<i>Loiculus beryllinus</i>	√
98.	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	√
99.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	√
100.	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	√
101.	Layard's Parakeet	<i>Psittacula calthorpae</i>	√

102.	Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	√
103.	Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i>	√
104.	Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>	H
105.	Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacaomantis passerinus</i>	√
106.	Drongo Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>	√
107.	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	√
108.	Blue-faced Malkoha	<i>Rhopodytes viridirostris</i>	√
109.	Red-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus</i>	√
110.	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Taccocua leschenautii</i>	√
111.	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	√
112.	Green-billed Coucal	<i>Centropus chlororhynchos</i>	√
113.	Sri Lanka Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>	√
114.	Jerdon's Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus atripennis</i>	√
115.	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	√
116.	Serendib Scops-Owl	<i>Otus thilohoffmanni</i>	√
117.	Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	√
118.	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	√
119.	Chestnut-backed Owlet	<i>Glaucidium castanotum</i>	√
120.	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	√
121.	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>	√
122.	Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>	√
123.	Indian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>	√
124.	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	√
125.	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	√
126.	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	√
127.	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	√
128.	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	√
129.	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	√
130.	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	√
131.	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	√
132.	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	√
133.	Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx erthaca</i>	√
134.	Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	√
135.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	√
136.	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	√
137.	Malabar Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>	√
138.	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	√
139.	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	√
140.	Yellow-fronted Barbet	<i>Megalaima flavifrons</i>	√
141.	Crimson-fronted Barbet	<i>Megalaima rubricapillus</i>	√
142.	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	√
143.	Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyroceros gingalensis</i>	√
144.	Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>	√
145.	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>	√
146.	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>	√
147.	Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	√
148.	Red-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	√
149.	Crimson-backed Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i>	√
150.	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	√
151.	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	√
152.	Sri Lanka Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis affinis</i>	√
153.	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	√
154.	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	√
155.	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	√

156.	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	√
157.	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	√
158.	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	√
159.	Marshall's Iora	<i>Aegithina nigrolutea</i>	√
160.	Jerdon's Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>	√
161.	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	√
162.	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	√
163.	Sri Lanka Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa ornata</i>	√
164.	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	√
165.	Large-billed Crow/Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	√
166.	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	√
167.	Barn Swallow	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	√
168.	Hill Swallow	<i>Hirundo (tahitica) domicola</i>	√
169.	Sri Lanka Swallow	<i>Cecropis (daurica) hyperythra</i>	√
170.	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	√
171.	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	√
172.	Sri Lanka Drongo	<i>Dicrurus lophorhinus</i>	√
173.	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>	√
174.	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	√
175.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	√
176.	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	√
177.	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	√
178.	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>	√
179.	Jerdon's Bushlark	<i>Mirafra affinis</i>	√
180.	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	√
181.	Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>	√
182.	Black-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>	√
183.	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	√
184.	Yellow-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus penicillatus</i>	√
185.	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	√
186.	Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Acritillas indica</i>	√
187.	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	√
188.	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	√
189.	Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>	√
190.	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	√
191.	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	√
192.	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	√
193.	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	√
194.	Sri Lanka Bush Warbler	<i>Elaphrornis palliseri</i>	√
195.	Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	√
196.	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	√
197.	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	√
198.	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	√
199.	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	√
200.	Asian Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone</i>	√
201.	Brown-capped Babbler	<i>Pellorneum fuscicapillus</i>	√
202.	Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus melanurus</i>	√
203.	Dark-fronted Babbler	<i>Rhopocichla atriceps</i>	√
204.	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	√
205.	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	√
206.	Orange-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides rufescens</i>	√
207.	Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>	√
208.	Ashy-headed Laughing-thrush	<i>Garrulax cinereifrons</i>	√
209.	Sri Lanka Hill Myna	<i>Gracula ptilogenys</i>	√

210.	Lesser Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	√
211.	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	√
212.	White-faced Starling	<i>Sturnus albofrontatus</i>	√
213.	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	√
214.	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	√
215.	Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus blighi</i>	√
216.	Pied Thrush	<i>Zoothera wardii</i>	√
217.	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	√
218.	Spot-winged Thrush	<i>Zoothera spiloptera</i>	√
219.	Sri Lanka Thrush	<i>Zoothera (dauma) imbricata</i>	H
220.	Indian Blue Robin	<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>	√
221.	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	√
222.	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabarricus</i>	√
223.	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>	√
224.	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	√
225.	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	√
226.	Brown-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>	√
227.	Kashmir Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula subrubra</i>	√
228.	Dull-blue Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias sordidus</i>	√
229.	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	√
230.	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	√
231.	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>	√
232.	Legg's Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum vincens</i>	√
233.	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	√
234.	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	√
235.	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	√
236.	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i>	√
237.	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	√
238.	Sri Lanka White-eye	<i>Zosterops ceylonensis</i>	√
239.	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	√
240.	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	√
241.	Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manyar</i>	√
242.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	√
243.	Indian Silverbill	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	√
244.	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	√
245.	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	√
246.	Black-throated Munia	<i>Lonchura kelaarti</i>	√
247.	Black-headed (Tricoloured) Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	√

BUTTERFLIES/DRAGONFLIES

1.	Common Emigrant	<i>Catopsilla crocale</i>	√	
2.	Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	√	
3.	Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i>	√	
4.	Common Sailor	<i>Neptis hylas</i>	√	
5.	Cruiser	<i>Vindula erota</i>	√	
6.	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	√	
7.	Crimson Rose	<i>Atrophaneura hector</i>	√	
8.	Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes</i>	√	
9.	Tree Nymph	<i>Idea lynceus</i>	√	
10.	Common Birdwing	<i>Troides helena</i>	√	
11.	Jewel Four-ringed	<i>Ypthima singala</i>	√	

MAMMALS

1.	Common flying fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus giganteus</i>	√	
2.	Ceylon fruit bat	<i>Rousettus seminudus</i>	√	
3.	Ceylon Grey Langur	<i>Semnopithecus priam thersites</i>	√	
4.	Purple-Faced Leaf Monkey	<i>Trachypithecus vetulus vetulus</i>	√	
5.	Toque Monkey	<i>Macaca sinica sinica</i>	√	
6.	Mountain Toque Monkey	<i>Macaca sinica pisthomelas</i>	√	
7.	Ceylon Black-Naped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis singhala</i>	√	
8.	Western Ceylon Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum favonicus</i>	√	
9.	Ceylon Dusky-Stripped jungle Squirrel	<i>Funambulus sublineatus obscurus</i>	√	
10.	Highland Ceylon Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura macroura</i>	√	
11.	Western Ceylon Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura melanochra</i>	√	
12.	Highland Ceylon Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum olympius</i>	√	
13.	Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	√	
14.	Ceylon Jackal	<i>Canis aureus lanka</i>	√	
15.	Indian Brown Mongoose	<i>Herpestes fuscus</i>	√	
16.	Common Ceylon Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsi lanka</i>	√	
17.	Ceylon Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithi zeylanicus</i>	√	
18.	Ceylon Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus lankae</i>	√	
19.	Ceylon Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus maximus</i>	√	
20.	Indian Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa cristatus</i>	√	
21.	Ceylon Spotted Deer	<i>Axis axis ceylonensis</i>	√	
22.	Sambhur	<i>Cervus unicolor unicolor</i>	√	
23.	Indian Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus bubalis bubalis</i>	√	

REPTILES

1.	Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>	√	
2.	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>	√	
3.	Land Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	√	
4.	Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	√	
5.	Black-lipped Lizard	<i>Calotes nigrilabris</i>	√	
6.	Sri Lanka Rat Snake	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>	√	
7.	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes calotes</i>	√	
8.	Indian Star Tortoise	<i>Geochelone elegans</i>	√	
9.	Red-eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	√	
10.				
11.	Parker's Hard-shelled Terrapin ?	<i>cannot find info on this species</i>	√	