

The National Parks of Southern India

Naturetrek Tour Report

12th – 29th November 2023



Indian Eagle Owl



Smooth-coated Otter



Sri Lankan Frogmouth



Indian Grey Mongoose

Tour report and photos by Narayana



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Tour participants: Narayana (leader) with six Naturetrek Clients.

This beautiful tour started on November 12th and the guests were excited and looking forward to exploring the culture and wildlife of the south Indian National Parks of the Western Ghats, one of the global biodiversity hotspots in India.

The great journey kickstarted on the very next day, admiring the Mysore palace, then the hills around the city and to the well-known National Park, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. Here we observed wild animals like Elephants, Gaur and deer. Also, so many bird species, the highlights being Osprey, storks, woodpeckers and hornbills.

After the full jungle life, now we were in “tea world” in Ooty! We enjoyed a couple of days here, tasting tea and watching the Blue Mountains, also watching many species of birds. Then to another hill station and we started looking for endemic species of mammals like Lion-tailed Macaque and the Nilgiri Langur. In the same area, we also did some hiking in the prestigious forests and enjoyed some fun boat safaris in the Periyar Tiger reserve.

After all that, now was the time to relax and go birding on a boat house! We got to see many species of birds and explored a village mid-way. After the luxury boat house experience, now was the time to enjoy the last wildlife site, the Thattekad bird sanctuary. We hoped to see a couple of special bird species, the Sri Lanka Frogmouth and Sri Lanka Bay Owl, two of the most endangered species of birds in the country...

The last day of the tour was an experience in Cochin city, taking in the history and culture of Kerala. On this beautiful note, we ended the tour.

Day 1

Sunday 12th November

Bengaluru – Arrival day – Very clear day in the morning, but later it became quite hot!

Picked up all the guests from Bangalore airport and dropped them at the hotel in Bangalore, and gave them a short briefing. Then there was some time to recover from the long journey and jetlag!

In the evening we all met at 6.00pm in the restaurant and had an official welcome to the tour. We made introductions and got know each other: we were travelling together for the next 18 days!

Then we went through the whole itinerary, and what to expect during the trip. We all had dinner together and ended the day.

Day 2

Monday 13th November

Mysore – A short stop at Ramadevara Betta, Vulture Sanctuary, Mysore Palace, Chamundi hills, Market and Church.

We met at 6.15am with a packed breakfast and left Bangalore city before it got busy with the traffic. It was a very clear morning and then it was a little warm in the middle of the day.

We reached Ramadevara Betta Vulture sanctuary (not in the itinerary), did some birding for an hour and half, and then experienced a traditional South Indian breakfast and hot filter coffee on the way to Mysore.

We reached Mysore Palace around 11am, enjoyed looking at one of the largest palaces in the country with the local guide, and then checked in to the hotel.

We met them again at 3.00pm after lunch and a quick nap, and went to explore the famous Chamundi hills. We spent some time there appreciating the temple, and birding around the temple premises: later we came down to explore the oldest market in Mysore, built by Maharaja of Mysore, and spent some time at the Church before returning to the hotel. Since it was a long day, we had a quick discussion and highlights of the day trip and got briefed about tomorrow's plans.

Day 3

Tuesday 14th November

Kabini, Nagarhole TR – Evening safari.

Today brought very clear and comfortable weather: we started from Mysore around 9.30am, and went to a Indian Eagle Owl roosting spot, on the outskirts of Mysore. We were lucky to find that bird roosting, although its superb camouflage meant it took us more than 30 minutes to find it! But it was worth the effort and we had a great sighting. After that, we drove straight to Kabini River lodge at Nagarhole Tiger Reserve and had some lunch, then took a quick nap, and went for an evening game drive. We were enjoying and exploring the park and looking for new birds, as we moved from one place to another, we heard some loud calls of the Malabar Pied Hornbill. As we were searching for them and trying to track their calls, we come across a big flock of these amazing birds. They were all sitting on the high canopy and feeding on some wild berries. Also, there was a Monitor Lizard sighting in the park today.

After all that, we sat still in one place to listen to the jungle. Then, suddenly, we heard a loud Sambar deer call. We just waited for some time with much curiosity and anticipation, but nothing happened. Then slowly, as we were making our way to another spot to scan, many Spotted Deer suddenly started giving distress calls. We waited for few minutes, and a beautiful female Tiger emerged! She was one of the dominant females of the area: she walked out of the bush and started staring at the Spotted Deer, scent-marked on a tree, and went very close to one of the trees and lay down. At the same time, she kept calling her cubs constantly, although they did not emerge for us. We watched every bit of her movement but finally, we had to leave the park because it was getting late and dark.

After the drive, we have celebrated our amazing day, enjoyed dinner and went to sleep!

Day 4

Wednesday 15th November

Kabini, Nagarhole TR – Morning and afternoon safari.

It was a beautiful cold morning: we went out on a jeep safari, had a beautiful and pleasurable safari with so many new bird species, like Crested Hawk Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle and Rufous Woodpecker. We came back from the drive and after breakfast and before lunch, we went out for a nature walk in the property to look for more birds. Somehow the activity was less, so we came back and rested before the afternoon drive.

The afternoon safari was a little slow, but later on it picked up with distress calls and many Stripe-necked Mongoose sightings. While coming back from the drive, we got to see one of the biggest owls in India, the Brown Fish Owl, just out of its roosting spot and ready to start hunting.

Today, we all thought we should sit and enjoy our drinks and we enjoyed our evening, went through our checklist and the highlights of our day, had dinner and called it a day.

Day 5

Thursday 16th November

Kabini, Nagarhole TR – Morning boat safari, afternoon Jeep safari.

We started our morning game 'drive' by boat for a change to look for water birds. It was cold and misty throughout the safari. As we entered the park, we got to hear some strong distress calls of a Spotted Deer and Langurs: we waited for quite a long time but no predator came out of the bush. Then we thought of going ahead to look for something else, instead of waiting. After a few minutes' drive, we were blessed with Smooth-coated Otters playing in the grass and marking their territory. After having an awesome time with them, we got to see three different species of Vulture: Indian, White-rumped and Red-headed. Then we had an amazing sighting of an Osprey perched on a tree, waiting for its first meal of the day. Later, there was a herd of three Asian Elephants trying to wake up their calf (which was very sadly dead), and trying to protect the calf from the crows and mynas going very close. It was a case of mixed feelings for us because, while we were happy to see the elephants, at the same time we felt for the distress they were clearly going through. Finally, we had to leave, with heavy hearts. We came back to the lodge and went out for a walk to look for one of the resident owls on the property. Instead of one, we got to see four Mottled Wood Owls. They were kept moving, as the crows were trying to chase the owls away from their colony.

In the evening, we had planned to go out on a Jeep safari, and we enjoyed watching some shore birds along the Kabini River area and a huge 'tusker' around that area. We heard so many alarm calls by Sambar and Spotted Deer: maybe we missed Leopard in few seconds!

We came back and enjoyed our drink with the checklist and had dinner and crashed.

Day 6

Friday 17th November

Kabini – Morning jeep safari and reached Ooty in the evening, Tamilnadu. Birded in Madumalai Tiger reserve.

It was a beautiful safari drive in the morning and we were looking for some different species of birds and animals. As we entered the park, it was very misty and we couldn't even see 100m! As the sun came out, the morning became a little warmer and more enjoyable. The animals also started coming out of their roosting areas, we got to see some amazing Malabar Pied Hornbills and another special small bird, the Vernal Hanging Parrot. They were all busy feeding and chasing each other: it was real visual feast for all of us.

After the game drive, we left Kabini and reached Masanagudi and did some birding for a couple of hours. We managed to see Malabar Lark, one of the prettiest birds, and endemic to western Ghats, and the migratory Pied Cuckoo. Then we took the amazing "36 hairpin bends to the heaven" road and reached Ooty, the 'cold city' of Southern India.

Day 7

Saturday 18th November

Ooty – Morning sight-seeing – Botanical garden, Tea Plantation and Tea Factory. Doddabetta visit.

It was a cold morning to start with and then it became little cloudy in the afternoon, weather which continued till evening. After having breakfast, we left the hotel with our guide to visit one of the most beautiful and oldest gardens in the country, the Ooty Botanical Garden. We enjoyed listening to the story behind this beautiful garden, all the hard work done to maintain it, and the amazing history. However, whenever we heard any bird call we successfully ignored the guide and started looking at the birds! But he also knew that the guests are interested in birds and he enjoyed the walk with us. We were so lucky in that garden walk to see birds like Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Cinereous Tit, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, and a beautiful Red Admiral butterfly.

After the walk, we visited a tea plantation and factory, and saw how much effort goes in from so many people to bring it to your cup!

After a short lunch break, we went to experience the highest peak of the Nilgiri mountains, Doddabetta, at an elevation of 2600m. You can see the whole city of Ooty from there. And it was quite crowded. We spent a little time watching birds like Lesser Whitethroat, which all the guests were familiar with from home!

After the walk, we came back to the hotel. Since it was still a good evening light, we all sat outside the hotel on the lawn, had a cup of tea and just relaxed, remembering the day's experiences. After spending an hour, we had to call it a day to relax and get ready for the next day's long journey.

Day 8

Sunday 19th November

Ooty to Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Banyan Tree Farm stay. Birding in the evening.

We started the journey after the leisurely breakfast and a good sleep. The weather was really pleasant. We all knew that it was going to take about 4 to 4.5 hours to reach Anamalai. But road works and maintenance meant it actually took almost 5.5 hours! As soon as we arrived, had some lunch and settled in our rooms for half hour to rest, we went out birding in the foothills of the Anamalai Tiger Reserve. It started with a fun ride, where all seven of us got into an old open Mahindra jeep, and reached a beautiful canal. We birded for more than an hour and got to see some amazing Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters. There were hundreds of them, resting on the trees and flying really high in the sky to catch insects. Then we started walking along the canal where we heard the spooky call of the Mottled Wood Owl, and an Indian Pitta.

We all got together in the evening and remembered the day's activities and new birds to add to our list. Evening dinner was the most amazing, homely and tastiest food prepared by the humble owner of the property.

Day 9

Monday 20th November

Banyan Farm Stay, Annamalai TR. A day trip to Valparai and back, birding & mammal watching for the whole day!

It was a great start in the morning, and the weather was perfect to look for birds. We started the day with much anticipation! As we started climbing forty hairpin bends, we got to see new birds like Blue-faced Malkoha and Flame-throated Bulbul, and we also got to see the only mountain goat found in the southern part of the country, the Nilgiri Tahr. As we climbed up, we were also blessed with the sighting of a Nilgiri Flycatcher and Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrikes.

Then we went up to Valparai and enjoyed local food in the restaurant, although it was on the spicier side, the guests were okay with that! Then our target was to find the endemic Lion-tailed Macaque and Nilgiri Langur. Luckily, one of the troops was very close to the road but in the protected area. We asked the forest authority for permission to get down and watch them: they were kind enough to allow us to watch and photograph them!

After a few minutes, we started moving towards one of the birding spots, where we were able to see few Asian Fairy Bluebirds, one of the rarest and the most colorful birds. And an unexpected Great Hornbill! A pair of them were perched and trying to make the nest.

The whole day birding and watching mammals was an amazing experience and when we got back to the lodge, we were little tired. But it had been well worth going up into the hills!

Day 10

Tuesday 21st November

Tea County, Munnar. Anamalai to Munnar through Anamalai tiger reserve and Chinnar WS.

A relaxed morning today: we had breakfast in the farm stay and left the place at 9.30am. A clear morning almost until afternoon and then by the time we reach Munnar it started raining!

We stopped a couple of times to watch birds and mammals, and reached Munnar for the lunch. We had a plan to go out and look for Nilgiri Thrush...but since it was raining and cloudy, we couldn't go out in the evening, but sat in the hotel and relaxed! Then we all met at 7.00pm, and went through our checklist to add Common Wood-shrike and swifts.

After the dinner, we went through the pictures that we had taken so far on this tour and discussed at length! We called it a day, because we had an early morning session tomorrow.

Day 11

Wednesday 22nd November

Tea County, Munnar. Day trip to Eravikulam NP. Birding around Munnar in the evening.

We started early in the morning at 6.00am and went half way towards Eravikulam NP. The weather was beautiful at the beginning of the morning. The afternoon was slightly on the warmer side, and then in the evening it was cloudy and drizzled a bit.

We birded along the road, before the traffic got busy! This is one of the best places to see some of the endemic species of birds of Western Ghats. We had a fantastic time watching Palani Laughing-thrush, White-bellied Sholakili (Nilgiri Blue Robin) and Black Bulbul. We spent about an hour and a half just looking at these birds. Then we went into the park and the big bus dropped us to the topmost hill. Before we hiked the hill, we were lucky to witness bold birds like Black-and-orange Flycatcher and Indian Blackbird. As we went up to the hill, we took our time to walk around and enjoyed watching Nilgiri Tahr very closely, foraging and resting along the rocky ridges. They came very close to the track where we were walking: it was a great experience and we spent some really good time with them. We had another sighting of an endemic species, the Nilgiri Pipit, perched on a rock in the grass and calling for its mate.

After lunch, we went out on a short walk around the Munnar outskirts. Though it was absolutely foggy with visibility less than 10m, it was still an enjoyable experience.

Day 12

Thursday 23rd November

Aranya Nivas - Periyar Tiger Reserve. Drove from Munnar to Periyar and a small nature walk in the reserve.

It was a leisurely morning: all of us woke up late after the whole day experience. We met for breakfast, and left the hotel around 9.45am to head for Periyar. The weather in the morning was beautiful with a very clear sky!

It was a beautiful scenic drive through the tea gardens and some patches of forest area. Since, we did not have any activities in the afternoon, we planned to do a short walk in the evening ourselves.

As we were driving, guests wanted to take a washroom and snack break, so we got to try the tender local coconut flavours: everyone enjoyed it. Finally, we reached Periyar TR, after a three-hour journey, had lunch and relaxed for some time. There was nonstop rain in the afternoon, but when it stopped, we went out for a short walk for an hour and enjoyed birding. Around 5.30pm, we were supposed to come back from the walk because it was a Tiger Reserve and 'animal moment' might occur once it starts getting dark.

We met at dinner again and had a good discussion of tomorrow morning's plans.

Day 13

Friday 24th November

Aranya Nivas – Periyar Tiger Reserve. Morning trekking and evening boat ride.

It was an early morning start and we thought we would do birding for an hour before the trek started. However, since it was raining the whole night and due to cloudy weather condition, there was no sunlight at all and there was very little bird activity in the forest. Unfortunately, we had to wait till 7.15am, and then the trekking started.

All of us were wearing leech socks and registered ourselves for the trek. We also had to cross the river by locally-made bamboo raft. It was the most fun part of the whole activity. After the short trip by bamboo raft, we started our journey through one of the most prestigious Tiger Reserves in the state. The forest floor was soft and damp due to heavy rains at night. We kept moving, alert to the threat of leeches! We had all the protection, but still they

were finding a way to climb on us. As we kept moving, a couple of routes were damaged due to the rains, so we had to change to the jungle routes, instead of the normal trek routes.

Since there was no sunlight at all, there was low bird activity and few butterflies either. However, we were very lucky to see Malabar Grey Hornbill and White-bellied Treepie. And we also heard the Great Hornbill calls, quite a few times. After a couple of hours of walk, we came back safely to the hotel and had breakfast and relaxed for a time. Some of our guests had leeches on their leg, hand and on their bodies also, but they were OK with it.

In the afternoon, a boat drive was booked for us and we were ready and anticipating some water birds sightings. It was a short ride, for an hour and a half, and we got to see beautiful Elephants on the shola and grassland forest peak, Pied Kingfishers and White-bellied Sea-eagle, which is not a common bird to see at the lakes. That was the highlight of the boat drive.

In the evening, we relaxed and hit the bar for some time, and discussed the day and those still to come.

Day 14

Saturday 25th November

Aranya Nivas – Periyar Tiger Reserve. Morning and Afternoon Boating, Afternoon nature walk!

We started around 7.00am, and went on another boat drive. The weather was pretty good and sunny: while there were not many wildlife sightings, it was still a good drive. We got to see a couple of Crested Honey Buzzards and an elusive 'romp' of Smooth-coated Otters!

In the afternoon we went out for a nature walk, looking for butterflies and spiders. We had a good hour and a half walk, and got to see butterflies like Common Small Flat, Pansy, Wanderers and Rustic, plus beautiful funnel-web and orb-weaver spiders, and froghoppers.

Since the forest floor was still wet and there were leeches around, we again opted for a boat ride in the evening. It was a good and enjoyable ride, and we got to see a herd of Elephants on a hillock and a huge bull Gaur, plus many Sambar deer browsing at the edges of the forest, and water birds like kingfishers, herons and cormorants. The highlight of the day was watching two beautiful Woolly-necked Stork chicks in their nest. Both of them looked very fragile, moving slowly and grooming each other and resting. We spent a few minutes there and returned to the resort.

In the evening we sat down for dinner, but suddenly got a call from the security gate to say there were a couple of Porcupines moving in the resort premises. We just ran to the gate and saw them feeding and moving close to the security gate. We enjoyed watching them in the dark with the help of our flash light, and we could also photograph them clearly. After a few minutes, they moved off into the bush.

Day 15

Sunday 26th November

House boat. Drove from Periyar to Alleppey. Perfect weather in the morning and it was humid in the evening.

We started off around 8.15am, after having our breakfast. Our next destination was going to be to relax and watch birds from a house boat. We had a beautiful drive through the mighty mountains of the western Ghats with so many streams on the way. It was a good four-hour drive, and we checked in to the house boat and relaxed for some time. We had lunch and all seven of us sat on the deck and watched birds. Quite a few of them were new to our list, like Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Lesser Whistling Duck and Bronze-winged Jacana. We spent our whole afternoon relaxing and enjoying the boat house. In the evening there was a village tour in between boat rides, and we took a good half hour walk in the village, and got to see one of the oldest churches in the village. We left the village after watching a beautiful Swallowtail butterfly caterpillar, looking like a bird dropping on the curry leaf plant. This is a defensive mechanism to save themselves from predators like lizards and birds.

When we got back to the boat, we also used a bat detector to see what types of bats were around us. We found about four species hunting insects in the dusk, using their most effective echolocation skills: it was one of the highlights of the day!

In the evening we all sat and enjoyed our beer and wine, discussed the fruitful day, had the tastiest food, and ended the day!

Day 16

Monday 27th November

Casino Hotel, Cochin. Morning Birding on the boat and afternoon nature walk in Thattekad Bird Sanctuary.

We had a very leisurely morning on the boat, woke up watching the sun rising from the horizon, had our tea watching birds and photographing them for an hour. The boat started moving towards the exit point, and we all had stood on the deck and birded for an hour, then had breakfast and got ready to disembark.

Our last wildlife viewing journey for this trip was to Thattekad Bird Sanctuary, the first bird sanctuary to be declared in the state and one of the most densely populated bird sites in peninsular India.

Our journey through small towns and hills was beautiful. Before we reached the bird sanctuary, we stopped in one of the small cities and enjoyed traditional Kerala thali food. We reached Thattekad bird sanctuary around 2.30pm. Since it was getting a little cloudy, we rushed to the sanctuary for the quick nature walk to find some of the most endangered species of birds in the country: our targets were the Sri Lanka Bay Owl and Frogmouth!

As we entered the sanctuary, our friend and a local guide took us inside the park and started searching for birds. Since both our targets were nocturnal, we all knew that they would be perched on a branch and resting. Our friend and a guide are local and they had been working very hard since morning to find these birds for us. As always, luck was on our side and we got to see the beautiful (and fluffy) Sri Lanka Bay Owl resting on top of the tree branch. Quietly, we went and saw the bird and photographed it. And then moved on to our next spot to look for the most camouflaged species, the Sri Lanka Frogmouth. Finally, we got to see them, and spent some really good time with

the pair resting at eye level. As we were rushing towards the Frogmouth, we were also lucky to find a Fan-throated Lizard clinging to the tree bark. It was just looking like a bark of the tree, but since it moved a bit, we got to see the yellow on the throat and we all could see it properly. We all had a good look at it and took enough photos to believe that was the Lizard!

After that, we walked back to the car, and it was time to say goodbye to the sanctuary for this trip. Our journey towards Cochin continued and just before we left that area, we had a chai at a small place next to the highway, and reached the hotel around 7.15pm. We enjoyed our dinner and fell asleep.

Day 17

Tuesday 28th November

Casino Hotel, Cochin. Whole day city tour.

It was a lovely morning with beautiful bright sunlight: later, it became pretty hot. We all had a lazy sleep till 8.00am and met for breakfast. We left the hotel at 10.00am to explore the great history and learn about the traditional culture of Kerala, also the well-known spice market!

Our journey started with looking at the old transportation trucks parked along the road. It was a great sight and it is really unfortunate that those trucks might disappear in the next decade. Then we explored the Chinese fishing nets of Cochin and how they use them to catch fish! We walked along the fishing market and saw many different species of fishes. After that we also explored the Dutch Cemetery and Cochin Fort, and after that the famous St. Francis Church. Guests were amazed watching the Dhobi Ghat in Kerala and the traditional way of washing clothes!

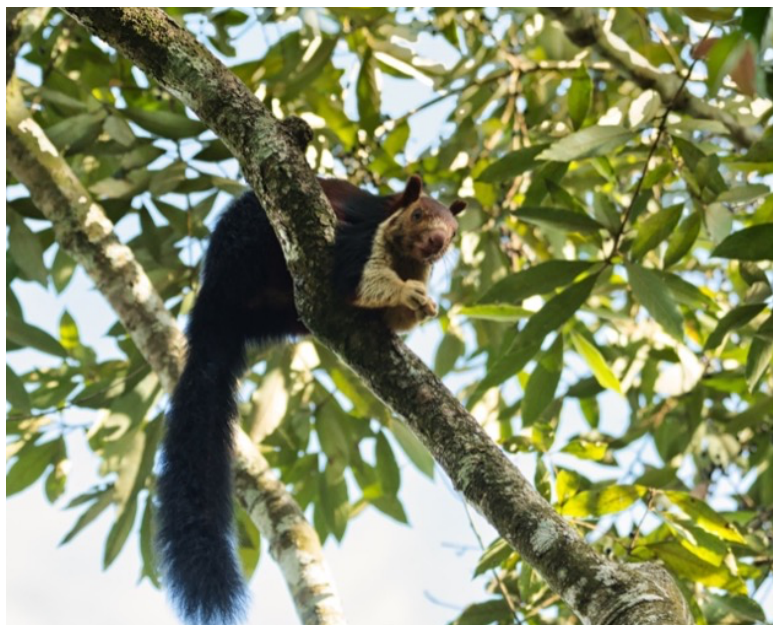
After lunch, our next place was to visit Cochin Palace. Wow! We were all so lucky to see the architecture and woodwork from the olden days! Also, the epic story of Ramayana was painted on the wall with natural paints. All of us were eager to see the famous spice market. We took a round of the market and bought some stuff to take home, and then went to watch the famous Kathakali dance, one of the oldest and most traditional performance, which tells a story through dance and facial expression! All of us enjoyed watching the show for an hour. Then we headed back to the hotel and sat down for our last dinner together for this trip. Since it was going to be very early morning tomorrow to catch our flight, we had to wind up the day around 10.00pm.

Day 18

Wednesday 29th November

Left Cochin, early in the morning. Pleasant weather!

The first departure was in the morning at 4.00am for Port Blair, and the second was at 5.30am to Dubai and on to the UK. Both departures were smooth.



Crested Hawk Eagle and Malabar Giant Squirrel

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

E = endemic, N = near endemic		November 2023																	
Common name	Scientific name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>														✓	✓			
Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>					✓													
Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓												
Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>					✓	✓												
Jungle Bush Quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>						✓												
Grey Junglefowl - E	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓					
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			✓															
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓												
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>		✓					✓	✓							✓	✓		
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>					✓	✓							✓	✓	✓			
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓		
Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>			✓		✓	✓									✓	✓		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>													✓					
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>					✓										✓	✓		
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					✓										✓	✓		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓		✓	✓									✓	✓	✓	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓		✓	✓	
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓												
Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓		

E = endemic, N = near endemic		November 2023																	
Common name	Scientific name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>					✓	✓								✓	✓			
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		✓																
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>					✓													
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓			
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>					✓	✓												
Indian Vulture - N	<i>Gyps indicus</i>		✓																
Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>					✓	✓												
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>			✓	✓		✓												
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓	✓			✓											
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>			✓	✓	✓													
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>						✓	✓		✓		✓			✓				
Greater Spotted Eagle – Indian	<i>Clanga clanga</i>					✓	✓												
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>			✓			✓												
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>											✓							
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>			✓	✓	✓									✓				
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							✓	✓	✓	
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>													✓					
Lesser Fish Eagle (Grey-headed)	<i>Haliaeetus humilis</i>					✓													
White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>				✓														
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>								✓			✓				✓	✓		
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>															✓			
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					✓													
Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>															✓			
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>			✓		✓										✓			
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓									✓			

E = endemic, N = near endemic		November 2023																	
Common name	Scientific name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			✓		✓										✓	✓		
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>															✓			
River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓									✓			
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>															✓	✓		
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												
Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>													✓					
Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>								✓										
Grey-fronted Green Pigeon - E	<i>Treron affinis</i>											✓							
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>				✓		✓												
Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>				✓	✓	✓												
Mountain Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>														✓				
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis parroti</i>						✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Blue-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>									✓									
Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus jacobinus</i>						✓												
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	
Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓					
Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>				✓	✓													
Sri Lanka Bay Owl - N	<i>Phodilus assimilis</i>																✓		
Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>			✓															
Indian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bengalensis</i>		✓																
Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>				✓	✓													
Mottled Wood Owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>					✓			✓										
Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>													✓					
Brown Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>													✓					
Sri Lanka Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>																✓		

E = endemic, N = near endemic		November 2023																		
Common name	Scientific name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>				✓															
Indian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>		✓																	
Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>				✓		✓	✓		✓										
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>								✓	✓	✓									
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>		✓											✓	✓	✓	✓			
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓											
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>															✓	✓			
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				✓	✓	✓										✓			
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>						✓	✓						✓						
Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓								
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>															✓	✓	✓		
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>								✓	✓		✓					✓			
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>						✓		✓			✓								
Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>									✓				✓	✓					
Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓										
Malabar Grey Hornbill - E	<i>Ocyrceros griseus</i>			✓		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓					
Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓						✓			
Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>									✓	✓									
White-cheeked Barbet - E	<i>Psilopogon viridis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Malabar Barbet - N	<i>Psilopogon malabaricus</i>												✓		✓	✓	✓			
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓			
White-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus javensis</i>				✓															
Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>				✓	✓	✓													
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												
Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>			✓									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>			✓																

E = endemic, N = near endemic		November 2023																	
Common name	Scientific name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>						✓		✓			✓							
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓			✓	✓			✓									
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Blue-winged Parakeet - E	<i>Psittacula columboides</i>									✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Vernal Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>						✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>								✓										
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>				✓				✓	✓									
Malabar Woodshrike - E	<i>Tephrodornis sylvicola</i>																✓		
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>										✓								
Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>				✓	✓				✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>					✓	✓	✓							✓				
Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>			✓		✓	✓												
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>							✓	✓										
Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>					✓		✓											
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓								
Orange Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓		✓		✓		
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓								
Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>						✓												
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>					✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			✓	✓		✓			✓									
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>									✓						✓			
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocerus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓						
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓								
Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓								
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>						✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					

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Common name	Scientific name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Indian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>										✓								
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>				✓		✓		✓	✓						✓	✓		
White-bellied Treepie - E	<i>Dendrocitta leucogastra</i>													✓					
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>								✓			✓							
Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
Indian Black-lored Tit - E	<i>Machlolophus aplonotus</i>									✓			✓		✓				
Indian Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>			✓															
Malabar Lark - E	<i>Galerida malabarica</i>						✓												
Flame-throated Bulbul - N	<i>Pycnonotus gularis</i>									✓									
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>				✓														
Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Acritillas indica</i>									✓									
Square-tailed Bulbul - N	<i>Hypsipetes ganeesa</i>											✓							
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica rustica</i>					✓										✓	✓		
Hill Swallow	<i>Hirundo domicola</i>											✓							
Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica daurica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>							✓											
Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>							✓	✓										
Green Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓							
Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>										✓	✓							
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		✓	✓							✓	✓							

E = endemic, N = near endemic		November 2023																		
Common name	Scientific name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
Indian Scimitar Babbler - E	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>						✓	✓												
Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>					✓	✓		✓	✓										
Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>									✓										
Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striata</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>		✓						✓	✓	✓									
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>							✓												
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>									✓			✓							
Indian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓							
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓										
Southern Hill Myna	<i>Gracula indica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>					✓	✓	✓							✓	✓				
Malabar Starling - E	<i>Sturnia blythii</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓					
Indian Blackbird	<i>Turdus simillimus</i>											✓								
Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>		✓				✓													
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>				✓					✓	✓				✓					
White-bellied Blue Flycatcher - E	<i>Cyornis pallipes</i>													✓						
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>								✓											
Nilgiri Flycatcher - E	<i>Eumyias albicaudatus</i>									✓		✓								
Nilgiri Blue Robin - E	<i>Myiomela major</i>											✓								
Malabar Whistling Thrush - E	<i>Myophonus horsfieldii</i>									✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>					✓	✓													
Black-and-orange Flycatcher - E	<i>Ficedula nigrorufa</i>							✓				✓								
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>							✓	✓											
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		✓				✓													

E = endemic, N = near endemic		November 2023																	
Common name	Scientific name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓							
Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>			✓															
Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>					✓	✓						✓						
Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>		✓				✓												
Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓							✓	
Nilgiri Flowerpecker - E	<i>Dicaeum concolor</i>									✓		✓	✓						
Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>		✓		✓					✓	✓						✓	✓	
Crimson-backed Sunbird - E	<i>Leptocoma minima</i>																✓		
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓		✓		✓						
Loten's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris lotenius</i>								✓										
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>						✓												
Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>		✓	✓															
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>		✓	✓															
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>						✓												
Nilgiri Pipit - E	<i>Anthus nilghiriensis</i>											✓							

Mammals

		November 2023																	
Common name	Scientific name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>			✓															
Bonnet Macaque	<i>Macaca radiata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Langur/Hanuman Langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓												
Lion-Tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca silenus</i>									✓			✓						

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023																	
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Nilgiri Langur	<i>Trachypithecus johnii</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Nilgiri Tahr	<i>Nilgiritragus hylocrius</i>									✓		✓							
Tufted Grey langur	<i>Semnopithecus priam Blyth</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Common/Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>					✓	✓												
Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>					✓													
Stripe-necked Mongoose	<i>Herpestes vitticollis</i>				✓	✓	✓												
Smooth-coated Otter	<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>					✓	✓								✓				
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>					✓	✓			✓						✓	✓		
Indian or Black-naped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>					✓	✓												
Indian Porcupine	<i>Hystrix indica</i>														✓				
Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennarum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						
Dusky Striped Squirrel	<i>Funambulus sublineatus</i>										✓	✓							
Jungle Striped Squirrel	<i>Funambulus tristriatus</i>								✓			✓							
Gaur (Indian Bison)	<i>Bos guarus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓				
Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓				
Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓												
Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>									✓									
Indian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓				
Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>			✓	✓	✓								✓	✓				

Reptiles

Common name	November 2023																	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Fan-throated Lizard																✓		
Red-tailed Skink																✓		
Bengal Monitor Lizard			✓										✓	✓				

	November 2023																	
Common name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Common Garden Lizard			✓															
Brahminy Skink													✓					
Indian Black Turtle														✓				
Rock Agama									✓									
Rat Snake									✓									
Day Gecko														✓				

Insects

	November 2023																	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Common Mormon														✓				
Blue Mormon			✓	✓									✓	✓				
Chocolate Pansy														✓				
Common Lascar														✓				
Southern Birdwing			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓								
Common Grass Yellow			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓				
Rustic									✓					✓				
Blue Tiger			✓	✓					✓					✓				
Dark Blue Tiger					✓	✓			✓				✓	✓				
Common Rose				✓	✓				✓					✓				
Malabar Banded Peacock													✓					
Common Small Flat														✓				
Glad-eye Bush-brown				✓	✓			✓	✓			✓		✓				
Common Wanderer			✓			✓								✓				
Common Sailor				✓	✓	✓				✓				✓				
Common Sargent														✓				
Common Crow			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓				
Common Leopard				✓			✓							✓				

	November 2023																	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Crane Fly														✓				