

Sri Lanka – Wildlife & History

Naturetrek Tour Report

4th – 23rd November 2023



Leopard



Jerdon's Bushlark



Common Pierrot



Spinner Dolphin

Tour report and photos by Saman Perera



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Highlights

Throughout the tour and its extension, a remarkable diversity of wildlife unfolded, with 228 avian species, 31 mammalian species, and 22 reptilian and amphibian species making appearances. Notably, the tour documented sightings of 34 endemic bird species, capturing the essence of the unique and exclusive avian life in the region. Among the standout moments was a sighting of the elusive Leopard at Lunnugumwera National Park, which added a thrilling highlight to the overall experience.

Day 1

Friday 4th November

Our tour started with a flight from the UK to Colombo.

Day 2

Saturday 5th November

Gathering at the airport, the group convened for the commencement of their 16-day expedition, embarking on a journey to Sri Lanka for the immersive Wildlife and History Tour.

Day 3

Sunday 6th November

Anuradhapura

The group convened at the airport around 2.30pm, marking the commencement of our journey to Anuradhapura. Along the way, we paused for a tea break, where we had the opportunity to observe a diverse array of bird species, including Purple Heron, Spot-billed Pelican and Brahminy Kite, among others. Our journey continued to Anuradhapura, revealing a fascinating collection of avian residents such as the Indian Peafowl, Green Imperial Pigeon, and Red-vented Bulbul.

By 7.30pm, we found ourselves at our first hotel in Anuradhapura, where a brief moment of relaxation preceded our dinner and a comprehensive briefing on the adventures that awaited us the next day. The day's birdwatching had already woven a tapestry of avian encounters, setting the tone for an exciting wildlife and history exploration in Sri Lanka.

Day 4

Monday 7th November

Anuradhapura

Commencing the day with an early birding expedition at 6.15am around the hotel premises and the nearby lake, our senses were treated to a vibrant avian display. Among the noteworthy sightings were the Painted Stork, Oriental Turtle Dove, and Golden-fronted Leafbird. The air was filled with the melodious calls of various species, including Indian Scops Owl, Jerdon's Leafbird, and Asian Paradise Flycatcher.

Returning to the hotel at 7.30am for a hearty breakfast, we then embarked on a visit to the ancient city of Anuradhapura. Our exploration unfolded amidst historical wonders, including the revered Sri Mahabodi sacred fig tree, the imposing Ruvanveli Maha Seya, and the Abhayagiriya Stupa. As we traversed the Twin Ponds and admired the intricacies of the Guard Stone, our surroundings echoed with the calls of the Malabar Pied Hornbill and the rhythmic tapping of the Red-backed Flameback (Woodpecker). The terrestrial realm also revealed its inhabitants, from the playful Toque Macaque and Grey Langur to the graceful Asian Land Monitor and the nimble Indian Palm Squirrel. The day seamlessly wove together avian encounters and historical marvels.

After a leisurely lunch back at the hotel around 1.30pm, we took some time to unwind and to relax. Despite the persistent rain, our adventurous spirits prevailed as we embarked on a 3.00pm excursion to the Mihintale temple. Undeterred by the weather, we ascended to the summit, where panoramic views unfolded, providing a captivating backdrop even in the rain.

During our descent, the avian landscape continued to enchant us with sightings of the Common Iora, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Brown Shrike, Black-hooded Oriole, Black-capped Bulbul, the graceful Sri Lanka Swallow and others. The lush surroundings echoed with the melodies of Green Warbler, Plain Prinia, and Common Tailorbird, creating a harmonious connection with nature.

Returning to the hotel, our evening unfolded with a comprehensive checklist session at 7.00pm, capturing the diverse species encountered throughout the day. The day's adventures culminated with a delightful dinner and a briefing that heightened anticipation for the upcoming explorations.

Day 5

Tuesday 8th November

Sigiriya

The day unfolded with a captivating pre-breakfast birding session commencing at 6.15am. Notable encounters included the elegant Green Imperial Pigeon, the enchanting Asian Paradise Flycatcher, and the vibrant hues of the

Indian Pitta. The morning also treated us to sightings of Purple-rumped Sunbird, White-breasted Waterhen, and the stately Black-headed Ibis, among others.

Post-breakfast, we bade *adieu* to our temporary abode and set forth towards Sigiriya, making a scenic detour to the Avukana Buddha statue. Along the way, the Gul Kullma Tank beckoned, showcasing the Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Cotton Pygmy Goose, and the regal Woolly-necked Stork, among other species.

Upon our arrival at Hotel Sigiriya around 1.30pm, a leisurely lunch preceded an afternoon of relaxation until 3.30pm. Eager to explore, we ventured into the Sigiriya Sanctuary for an immersive birding experience. The sanctuary unveiled treasures like the Sri Lankan Green Pigeon, Crimson-fronted Barbet, and the resplendent Alexandrine Parakeet. The air was alive with the calls of the Small Minivet, Black-napped Monarch, and the melodious notes of the Tickell's Blue Flycatcher.

As the day waned, a thorough checklist session at 7.00pm documented our avian encounters, setting the stage for an informative briefing and a delightful dinner. The day's adventures seamlessly blended birdwatching, historical exploration, and moments of relaxation against the picturesque backdrop of Sigiriya.

Day 6

Wednesday 9th November

Sigiriya

Bathed in the warmth of a sunlit morning, our day commenced with a pre-breakfast birding escapade at 6.15am. The avian realm unfolded before us, revealing captivating sightings that included the majestic Peregrine Falcon, the lively Sri Lanka Brown-capped Babbler, and the vibrant hues of the Tickell's Blue Flycatcher. Familiar friends from the avian world, such as the Sri Lanka Junglefowl and the Common Tailorbird, joined the morning symphony.

Following a hearty breakfast at 7.30am, we revisited the Sigiriya Sanctuary, where the avian spectacle continued. Greenish Warbler, White-browed Bulbul, and the distinctive calls of the Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill enriched our birding experience.

Retreating to the hotel for a leisurely lunch around 12.30pm, the afternoon unfolded with relaxation until 3.30pm. Eager for more, we returned to the Sigiriya Sanctuary, where many of the day's feathered companions made encore appearances.

At 6.00pm, we convened for a comprehensive checklist session, capturing the day's avian highlights. This laid the groundwork for an evening that unfolded with a delightful dinner and culminated in a short night-drive. As the night fell, our luck held, granting us sightings of the elusive Grey Slender Loris, the nimble Black-naped Hare, the mysterious Jerdon's Nightjar, and the nocturnal wonders of Wild Boar and Sri Lanka Spotted Chevrotain. The day seamlessly blended the beauty of daylight birding with the enchantment of a nocturnal safari.

Day 7

Thursday 10th November

Kandy

Embarking on the day's birding adventure at 6.15am amidst the rustic charm of Sigiriya Village, our morning unfolded with sightings of the iconic Sri Lankan Junglefowl, the elegant Fork-tailed Drongo-cuckoo, and the lively Jungle Prinia. The ethereal melodies of the Brown-capped Babbler added to the symphony of nature.

Post-breakfast, we bade farewell to Sigiriya and journeyed towards Kandy, making a noteworthy stop at the Dambulla cave temple. The richness of the area's produce unfolded at a Spice Garden in Matale, where we indulged in a lunch that celebrated the local flavours. By 5.00pm, we reached the welcoming Thilanka Hotel in Kandy, where some members of the group opted for an optional traditional cultural dance show.

As the evening deepened, the Temple of the Tooth beckoned at 6.30pm, offering a glimpse into the cultural and spiritual heritage of the region. The group was fortunate to witness the Golden casket housing the revered Tooth relic. Returning to the hotel, the day concluded with a convivial dinner at 8.00pm. With that, we bade *adieu* to a day enriched with avian discoveries, cultural experiences, and the warmth of Kandy's hospitality.

Day 8

Friday 11th November

Kandy

Commencing the day with an early breakfast at 7.00am, our journey led us to the Udawattakale Sanctuary, a haven that once graced the Kandyan kingdom as royal gardens. These lush grounds, steeped in history, provided a picturesque setting for our exploration. As we traversed the sanctuary, the air resonated with the calls of the Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, the melodious notes of the Lesser Hill Myna, and the striking hues of the Yellow-fronted Barbet. The avian spectacle continued with sightings of the Sri Lankan Hanging Parrot, Yellow-browed Bulbul, and the elusive Spot-winged Thrush. Our walk was further enriched by encounters with the Brown-breasted Flycatcher and the agile Grey Wagtail, while the terrestrial realm revealed the graceful Muntjac, the Hard-shelled Terrapin, and the elusive Wild Boar.

Returning to the hotel for a leisurely lunch at 12.30pm, our afternoon unfolded amidst the verdant splendour of the Peradeniya Botanical Garden. Amidst the diverse trees and plants, we marvelled at a colony of Indian Flying Foxes and observed avian wonders like the Common Hawk Cuckoo, Lesser Hill Myna, White-bellied Drongo, and the captivating Asian Koel. The Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike and the Cinereous Tit added to the avian symphony.

As the evening descended, we returned to the hotel around 7.00pm, where a delightful dinner awaited before we retired for the night. The day seamlessly blended historical exploration, botanical wonders, and avian delights in the heart of Kandy.

Day 9

Saturday 12th November

Nuwara Eliya

On a pre-breakfast birding expedition around the picturesque Kandy Lake, the serene waters played host to the Great Cormorant, Indian Cormorant, and the elegant Little Cormorant. Along the banks were avian wonders like the Black-crowned Night Heron, Stork-billed Kingfisher and the majestic Spot-billed Pelican. Adding a touch of enchantment, the skies above were adorned with the grace of the Intermediate Egret, while the nearby trees harboured a lively congregation of Indian Flying Foxes.

Returning to the hotel at 7.30am, our day continued with a wholesome breakfast, and we set off to make the transition from Kandy to the scenic landscapes of Nuwara Eliya. En route, a visit to a working tea factory immersed us in the art of tea manufacturing, culminating in a delightful tasting experience. The journey led us to our next hotel, Heaven Seven, by 1.30pm, where a satisfying lunch awaited.

Late afternoon found us exploring the verdant beauty of Victoria Park, where our birdwatching endeavours added new gems to our list. Among the discoveries were the Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher, the elegant Hill Swallow, the vibrant Sri Lanka White-eye, the striking Indian Blue Robin, and the Pied Bush Chat.

As the evening hues painted the sky, we returned to the hotel around 6.00pm. The day's avian encounters were meticulously recorded during our checklist session, setting the stage for an informative briefing and a delightful dinner that brought the day to a close.

Day 10

Sunday 13th November

Nuwara Eliya

The day commenced at the break of dawn, with a refreshing cup of tea or coffee at 4.45am: our adventure on Horton Plains began at 6.00am. Securing the first ticket entry to the park, our journey unfolded with a pause at a tranquil pond, where the elusive Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush made an appearance: both the male and female graced us with their presence. The avian spectacle continued with sightings of the Yellow-eared Bulbul, Zitting Cisticola, and the charming Pied Bush Chat.

As we explored the plains, the air resonated with the calls of the Hill Swallow, Sri Lankan White-eye, and Dull-blue Flycatcher. The verdant landscape revealed more treasures, including the Sri Lanka Bush Warbler, the elegant Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon, and the majestic Himalayan Buzzard. The sky above showcased Black Eagle, and we saw the vibrant Malabar Trogon and the Chestnut-headed Bee-eater. Among the trees, the Crimson-backed Goldenback (Woodpecker) added its vibrant hues to the tableau. The terrestrial realm was equally enchanting, with sightings of Sambar Deer, Dusky Striped Squirrel, Black-cheeked Lizard, Stripe-necked Mongoose, and the

Grizzled Giant Squirrel. A clear day granted us breathtaking views from the World's End watchpoint, where we marvelled at the natural beauty surrounding us.

Returning to the hotel for a well-deserved lunch, our afternoon continued with a visit to Hakgala Botanical Garden at 2.30pm. The Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler, the familiar Dull-blue Flycatcher, and the lively Sri Lanka White-eye were among the birds encountered amid the lush greenery.

As the evening descended, we reconvened at the hotel around 6.00pm. The day's birdwatching exploits and wildlife encounters were meticulously documented during our checklist session, setting the stage for a briefing that piqued our curiosity for the adventures that awaited us the next day. The day seamlessly blended dawn-to-dusk exploration, showcasing the rich biodiversity and natural wonders of Horton Plains and Hakgala.

Day 11

Monday 14th November

Tissamaharama

Commencing the day with a leisurely breakfast at 7.00am, we bade farewell to our accommodation at 8.15am as we set forth on our journey to Tissamaharama. En route, our exploration took an intriguing turn at the Surrey Estate Bird Sanctuary, where the elusive Brown Wood Owl made a captivating appearance. Amidst the familiar avian companions, the sanctuary provided a serene backdrop for our avian discoveries.

A delightful lunch awaited us in Ella, offering a moment of culinary indulgence before we resumed our journey. Along the way, a pause at Debara Weva added a touch of mystery to our day, as we were treated to sightings of two more owl species—the majestic Brown Fish Owl and the charming Jungle Owlet.

By 6.00pm, we found ourselves in the welcoming embrace of Kithala Resort. As the night descended, we gathered for a delightful dinner, concluding the day's explorations before we retired to the comfort of our rooms.

Day 12

Tuesday 15th November

Yala

Embarking on an early adventure, we checked out of our accommodations at 5.00am, armed with a picnic breakfast and lunch, and bound for Lunugamwehera National Park. As the clock struck 6.00am, the safari commenced, unveiling the natural wonders of the park. The sun, just beginning its ascent at 9.00am, cast its warm glow on an extraordinary sight: our encounter with a majestic Leopard.

Throughout the day, the park treated us to a diverse array of birdlife, including Western Osprey, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater and the melodious Grey-bellied Cuckoo. Lesser Adjutant and Painted Storks, and Sri Lanka Red-backed

Woodpecker graced our safari, along with the distinctive calls of Jerdon's Bush Lark and the enigmatic Brown Fish Owl. The air echoed with the calls of Marshall's Iora, Kentish Plover, Sirkeer Malkoha, Blue-faced Malkoha, and Blyth's Pipit, among other familiar companions.

A delightful packed lunch was savoured amid natural beauty, providing a moment of repose under the cool shade of a verdant tree. The day's terrestrial wonders included sightings of Spotted Deer, the elusive Ruddy Mongoose, and the gentle giants of the park, the Asian Elephants.

As the day concluded, we arrived at Cinnamon Wild Yala around 7.30pm, where a satisfying dinner marked the end of a day filled with extraordinary wildlife encounters in Lunugamwehera National Park.

Day 13

Wednesday 16th November

Yala

Commencing another day of wildlife exploration, our journey kicked off at the early hour of 5.30am as we headed to Yala National Park, armed with packed breakfast provisions. The park unfolded before us, revealing a vibrant avian spectacle that included the elegant Wood Sandpiper, the graceful Marsh Sandpiper, and the elusive Green Sandpiper. The marshy landscapes hosted Curlew Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, and Common Redshank, while the air resonated with the distinctive calls of the Common Hoopoe and the striking Malabar Pied Hornbill.

The avian panorama continued to captivate, with sightings of Baya Weaver, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, and Brahminy Starling. Flocks of Indian Silverbills added to the lively atmosphere, while we also saw Great Thick-Knee, Mongolian Sand Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Little Stint, Little Tern, and the elusive Pin-tailed Snipe.

In the midst of this avian abundance, our terrestrial companions made their appearances, with an Asian Elephant alongside Sambar, Spotted Deer, and the agile Grey Langurs.

Returning to the hotel by 12.30pm, we enjoyed a leisurely lunch, setting the stage for an afternoon of birding around the Cinnamon Wild Hotel Garden. Notable sightings included Jacobin Cuckoo, Ruddy Turnstone, and the elegant Pin-tailed Snipe, among many familiar feathered friends.

As the day transitioned to evening, the group gathered at the lobby for a comprehensive checklist session before coming together for a convivial dinner.

Day 14

Thursday 17th November

Embilipitiya

Embarking on another day of exploration, we commenced with an early start, fuelled by a packed breakfast, and smoothly checked out at 6.00am. Our journey led us to the charming destination of Embilipitiya, with the Hotel Centauria awaiting our arrival. En route, the morning unfolded with a birding safari at Bundala National Park, treating us to a mesmerizing display of waders, including Common Redshank, Marsh Sandpiper, and Ruddy Turnstone. The elegant Whiskered Tern graced the skies, adding to the avian spectacle.

Post-safari, our path led us to Hotel Centauria around 1.00pm, where a satisfying lunch awaited. The day's adventures continued with an evening birding session in a nearby forest patch. Our observations included the vibrant Thick-billed Flowerpecker, the striking Marshall's Iora, and the aerial prowess of the Sri Lanka and Red-rumped Swallows, plus Plain, Ashy, and Jungle Prinias. The forest floor revealed the elusive Barred Buttonquail.

Returning to the hotel, the evening unfolded with a gathering at 7.00pm, where dinner was enjoyed after a briefing about the upcoming day's programme and a comprehensive checklist session. The day seamlessly intertwined diverse birding experiences, the allure of Bundala National Park, and the warm hospitality of Hotel Centauria in Embilipitiya.

Day 15

Friday 18th November

Sinharaja

Embarking on a new leg of our journey, we bade *adieu* and set our sights on Udawalawe National Park for a captivating morning safari. The park's crown jewel awaited us: Asian Elephants, stealing the spotlight amidst the diverse wildlife canvas. Amidst the giants, avian wonders like the Grey-breasted Prinia, Yellow-eyed Babbler, and the elegant Sirkeer Malkoha graced our safari.

Post-safari, a satisfying lunch fuelled our onward journey to Sinharaja. The Blue Magpie Lodge welcomed us by 4.00pm, where a steaming cup of tea provided a perfect respite. Despite the challenging weather, our spirit for exploration remained undeterred. Venturing into the village in the afternoon, our birding expedition unfolded, revealing treasures like the vibrant Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, the majestic Crested Hawk Eagle, the melodic Black Bulbul, and mercurial Indian Swiftlets.

As the rain subsided in the late evening, a stroll around the hotel grounds presented a familiar avian ensemble, echoing the day's birding encounters. Our checklist session took place in the hotel restaurant, concluding with a pleasant dinner and the anticipation of the next day's adventures. A restful night awaited, setting the stage for an early start into the heart of the rainforest at Sinharaja.

Day 16

Saturday 19th November

Sinharaja

Commencing our day with an early breakfast at 5.00am, we embarked on an expedition into the heart of Sinharaja Rainforest, traversing the lush terrain in Jeeps, equipped with packed lunches. The rainforest unfolded its wonders, treating us to a dazzling array of birdlife. Among the avian gems were the vibrant Red-faced Malkoha, the lively Orange-billed Babblers, and the majestic Sri Lanka Crested Drongo. The Sri Lanka Blue Magpie added its allure to the avian symphony, accompanied by the melodious calls of the Ashy-headed Laughing Thrush, the striking White-faced Starling, the elusive Spot-winged Thrush, and the enchanting Sri Lanka Thrush.

Beyond the avian realm, the rainforest revealed its terrestrial wonders, including sightings of the Green Vine Snake, the coiled elegance of the Green Pit Viper, the curious Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard, and the melodious Sri Lanka Whistling Lizard.

We returned to the hotel in the afternoon, where a comforting cup of hot tea awaited, providing a moment of repose amidst the day's adventures. Early evening saw us engaging in a comprehensive checklist session, documenting the rich biodiversity encountered in Sinharaja. A delightful dinner marked the conclusion of the day's explorations, leaving us with the anticipation of more natural wonders to unfold in the days ahead.

Day 17

Sunday 20th November

Katunayake

Commencing the day with an early dose of tea or coffee and a packed breakfast, our journey unfolded towards the Sinharaja buffer zone known as Ketalapatala, commencing at the serene hour of 5.00am. The dawn revealed a series of remarkable encounters, including the elusive Sri Lanka Spurfowl, the vibrant Red-faced Malkoha, the melodious Ashy-headed Laughing Thrush, the striking Green-billed Coucal, and Chestnut-backed Owlet. A local house became a haven for observing Common Emerald Dove and the cheerful Yellow-browed Bulbul. As our path led us back, we chanced upon the Sri Lankan Myna, adding a final avian gem to our Sinharaja adventure. Returning to the hotel, a hearty breakfast awaited, followed by a leisurely break until lunchtime.

Post-lunch, the group underwent a division, with twelve members heading to Katunayake for their last night's stay, while four embarked on the Blue Whale extension. The main group found respite at the Airport Garden Hotel by 4.00pm, settling in for an overnight stay in Colombo.

Simultaneously, the Blue Whale extension group reached the Koggala Beach Hotel at 5.30pm, where they conducted a checklist session, documenting the day's marine and avian encounters. The day's adventures concluded, setting the stage for a night of rest and the anticipation of the final leg of their Sri Lankan journey.

Day 18

Monday 21st November

Katunayake

Following a hearty breakfast, our journey led us to the airport, where we embarked on the homeward-bound flight to the United Kingdom.

Blue Whale Extension

Day 1 Extension

Monday 20th November

Koggala

With a picnic breakfast in tow, we set out from the hotel at 5.30am, embarking on a boat journey that promised a day of marine exploration. As the boat cut through the waves, we were greeted by the playful presence of Striped Dolphins, their sleek forms dancing in the sea. The ocean also unveiled other wonders, including the graceful Olive Ridley Turtle, the majestic Greater Crested Tern, and the nimble Common Tern. After five immersive hours at sea, we returned to the hotel, our minds filled with the marvels of the marine world.

After our marine adventure, a leisurely lunch awaited us at the hotel. The afternoon unfolded with a visit to the historic Galle Fort, where we strolled along the ramparts, absorbing the rich history that surrounded us. A pause en route led us to a Turtle Hatchery, where our clients delved into the intricacies of turtle conservation, an experience that left them enriched and connected to the vital work of protecting these majestic creatures.

Returning to the hotel as the evening hues adorned the sky, we reconvened at 6.30pm. The evening continued with a checklist session at 7.00pm, capturing the day's diverse encounters. Dinner followed, accompanied by a briefing that illuminated the exciting prospects for the adventures awaiting us in the coming day.

Day 2 Extension

Tuesday 21st November

Koggala

Once more, our day began with an early departure from the hotel, armed with a picnic breakfast, setting the stage for the day's marine expedition. Our journey extended far out to sea, a quest that proved fruitful as we were graced

by the presence of a majestic Fin Whale. The encounter offered captivating views of this magnificent creature, enriching our maritime exploration.

As we retraced our path homeward, the ocean continued to reveal its wonders, treating us to the spectacle of a sizable pod of False Killer Whales and the playful antics of Spinner Dolphins. The return journey brought us back to the hotel by 11.00am, where a well-deserved lunch awaited at 12.30pm.

In the evening, a change of scenery led us to Kirala Kelle, where a leisurely walk unfolded amidst the natural beauty. The landscape became a canvas for avian delights, with sightings that included the striking Yellow Bittern, the elusive Black Bittern, and the regal Stork-billed Kingfisher.

Gathering for dinner at 7.00pm, the evening continued with a checklist session, capturing the essence of the day's discoveries. A briefing for the upcoming day added to the anticipation before we concluded the day's adventures, retiring for a night of rest and the promise of new encounters on the horizon.

Day 3 Extension

Wednesday 22nd November

Katunayake

Electing to extend their adventure, two of our clients embarked on an additional whalewatching excursion, where the marine realm revealed the captivating presence of Bottlenose Dolphins. Following this maritime spectacle, we reconvened at the hotel for a satisfying lunch before preparing for the next leg of our journey.

Post-lunch, the time came for us to bid farewell to our hotel as we checked out, setting our course for Katunayake. The journey unfolded, and by 5.00pm, we arrived in Katunayake, where our familiar evening routine awaited, offering a moment of relaxation and reflection on the incredible experiences of our Sri Lankan expedition.

Day 4 Extension

Friday 23rd November

Departure

Following a satisfying breakfast, we embarked on our journey to the airport, where we connected with our flight back to the United Kingdom.

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Species lists

Birds (E = Endemic)

Common name	Scientific name
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
Sri Lanka Spurfowl - E	<i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>
Sri Lanka Junglefowl - E	<i>Gallus lafayettii</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>
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</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>
Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>
Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>
Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
Jerdon's Baza	<i>Aviceda jerdoni</i>
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
Crested Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichthyaetus</i>
Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>
Slaty-breasted Rail	<i>Gallirallus striatus</i>
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>
Indian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>
Great Thick Knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Mongolian Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>
Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Common Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon - E	<i>Columba torringtoniae</i>
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>
Sri Lanka Green Pigeon - E	<i>Treron pompadora</i>
Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>
Green-billed Coucal - E	<i>Centropus chlororhynchos</i>
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>
Red-faced Malkoha - E	<i>Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus</i>
Blue-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>
Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus dicruroides</i>
Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>
Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>
Serendib Scops Owl - E	<i>Otus thilohoffmanni</i>
Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>
Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>
Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>
Chestnut backed Owlet - E	<i>Glaucidium castanotum</i>
Sri Lanka Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>
Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>
Indian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
Malabar Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smymensis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx erithaca</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>
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>
Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill - E	<i>Ocyrceros gingalensis</i>
Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>
Yellow-fronted Barbet - E	<i>Psilopogon flavifrons</i>
Crimson-fronted Barbet - E	<i>Psilopogon rubricapillus</i>
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus nanus</i>
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>
Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>
Red-backed Flameback - E	<i>Dinopium psarodes</i>
Crimson-backed Goldenback - E	<i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i>
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Layard's Parakeet - E	<i>Psittacula calthrapae</i>
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot - E	<i>Loriculus beryllinus</i>
Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>
Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>
Sri Lanka Woodshrike - E	<i>Tephrodornis affinis</i>
Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
Marshall's Iora	<i>Aegithina nigrolutea</i>
Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</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>
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
Sri Lanka Drongo - E	<i>Dicrurus lophorinus</i>
White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
Asian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
Sri Lanka Blue Magpie - E	<i>Urocissa ornata</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>
Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>
Jerdon's Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra affinis</i>
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
Black-capped Bulbul - E	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
Yellow-eared Bulbul - E	<i>Pycnonotus penicillatus</i>
White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>
Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Acritillas indica</i>
Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Hill Swallow	<i>Hirundo domicola</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Sri Lanka Swallow - E	<i>Cecropis hyperythra</i>
Green Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
Large-billed Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>
Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
Sri Lanka Bush Warbler - E	<i>Elaphornis palliseri</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler - E	<i>Pomatorhinus melanurus</i>
Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>
Dark-fronted Babbler	<i>Rhopocichla atriceps</i>
Brown-capped Babbler - E	<i>Pellorneum fuscicapillus</i>
Orange-billed Babbler - E	<i>Turdoides rufescens</i>
Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>
Ashy-headed Laughingthrush - E	<i>Garrulax cinereifrons</i>
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>
Oriental White-Eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
Sri Lanka White-Eye - E	<i>Zosterops ceylonensis</i>
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
Sri Lanka Hill Myna - E	<i>Gracula ptilogenys</i>
Lesser Hill Myna	<i>Gracula indica</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>
White-faced Starling - E	<i>Sturnornis albofrontatus</i>
Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>
Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>
Spot-winged Thrush - E	<i>Geokichla spiloptera</i>
Sri Lanka Thrush - E	<i>Zoothera imbricata</i>
Indian Blackbird	<i>Turdus simillimus</i>
Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>
Brown-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
Dull-blue Flycatcher - E	<i>Eumyias sordidus</i>
Indian Blue Robin	<i>Larivora brunnea</i>
Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush - E	<i>Myophonus blighi</i>
Kashmir Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula subrubra</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
Jerdon's Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>
Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>
Legge's Flowerpecker - E	<i>Dicaeum vincens</i>
Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>
Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
Loten's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris lotenius</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name
Grey Slender Loris	<i>Loris lydekkerianus</i>
Toque Macaque	<i>Macaca sinica</i>
Grey Langur	<i>Semnopithecus (Presbytis) entellus</i>
Purple-faced Leaf Monkey	<i>Trachypithecus (Presbytis) vetulus</i>
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>
Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>
Stripe-necked Mongoose	<i>Herpestes vitticollis</i>
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus kotiya</i>
Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
Sri Lanka Spotted Chevrotain	<i>Moschiola meminna</i>
Yellow-striped Chevrotain	<i>Moschiola kathygre</i>
Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjac</i>
Spotted Deer	<i>Cervus axis</i>
Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>
Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>
Indian Gerbil	<i>Tatera indica</i>
Indian Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
Grizzled Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>
Layard's Striped Squirrel	<i>Funambulus layardi</i>
Dusky Striped Squirrel	<i>Funambulus sublineatus</i>
Indian Hare- Black-naped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus gigantea</i>
Schneiders Leaf-nosed Bat	<i>Hipposideros speoris</i>
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncates</i>
Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella mulla</i>
Striped Dolphin	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>
False Killer Whale	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>

Reptiles & Amphibians

Common name	Scientific name
Sri Lanka Green Pit Viper	<i>Trimeresurus trigonocephalus</i>
Green Vine Snake	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>
Common Rat Snake	<i>Ptyas mucosus maximus</i>
Common Bronze-backed Tree Snake	<i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i>
Boulenger's (Sri Lanka) Keel-back Snake	<i>Xenochrophis asperrimus</i>
Bengal (Land) Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>
Asian Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>
Oriental (Common) Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
Green Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes calotes</i>
Black-cheeked Lizard	<i>Calotes nigrilabris</i>
Fan-throated Lizard	<i>Sitana ponticeriana</i>
Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
Soft-shelled Terapin	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>
Hard-shelled Terapin	<i>Melanochelys trijuga parkeri</i>
Olive Ridley Sea Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olvacea</i>
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
Common Skink	<i>Eutropis carinata</i>