

Sri Lanka - Wildlife & History

Naturetrek Tour Report

20th December 2025 – 7th January 2026



Leopard



Indian Peafowl



Rhino-horned Lizard



Avukana Buddha

Tour report by Suman Kumara
Photos by Thilanka Ranatunga, Saman Gamage and Colin Hair



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Tour participants: Saman Kumara and Thilanka Ranatunga (leaders) with eight Naturetrek clients.

Summary

This seventeen-day journey across Sri Lanka offered an exceptional combination of birding, wildlife, culture, and World Heritage Site experiences, covering the island's major ecosystems, from coastal wetlands and dry-zone forests, to misty highlands and lowland rainforests.

The tour began with arrival in Katunayake, before we continued through important wetland habitats such as Mahadampe and the Ramsar-listed Anawilundawa Wetland Sanctuary. These early days produced a rich variety of waterbirds, raptors, and wetland species.

In Anuradhapura and Mihintale, the group combined birding with Sri Lanka's ancient heritage, exploring sacred cities, stupas, and monasteries while recording endemic birds, raptors, reptiles and mammals among the ruins. The journey continued to Sigiriya, where birding around village tanks, lakes, forests, and the famous rock fortress revealed dry-zone species and spectacular landscapes. A special Christmas Eve night safari added rare nocturnal wildlife such as owls, Grey Slender Loris, Golden Jackal, and White-spotted Chevrotain.

Traveling into the hill country, the group visited Kandy and explored Udawattakele Forest Sanctuary, the Temple of the Tooth Relic, Peradeniya Botanical Garden, and Kandy Lake. From there, the route climbed to Nuwara Eliya, where tea plantations, Hakgala Botanical Garden, and Horton Plains National Park revealed Sri Lanka's montane endemics and cold-climate bird species.

The tour then descended into the southern dry zone, passing Ella and Ravana Falls to reach Tissamaharama. Safaris in Lunugamwehera and Yala National Parks delivered outstanding wildlife encounters, including Leopards, Asian Elephants (including a tusker), Water Buffalo, deer, and diverse birdlife across grasslands, forests, and coastal habitats.

Next, the group visited Bundala National Park, a Ramsar wetland famed for migratory shorebirds, before we continued to Udawalawe National Park, renowned for its large Elephant population. A rare sighting of an Amur Falcon was a major highlight.

The final days were spent in Sinharaja Rainforest, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of South Asia's richest biodiversity hotspots. Here, guests observed many of Sri Lanka's endemic birds, reptiles, and amphibians while experiencing the unique atmosphere of a tropical rainforest.

The journey concluded with a return to Colombo/Katunayake, where part of the group continued on a whale-watching extension, while others prepared for departure to the UK.

Day 1

Saturday 20th December

Travel day

Clients took a Sri Lankan Airline flight from Heathrow to Katunayake.

Day 2

Sunday 21st December

Katunayake

Clients arrived on UL504 at 12.50pm at Bandaranaike International Airport and were met by Saman and Thilanka. Before leaving the airport, a short birding session produced an Oriental Magpie-Robin.

We left the airport at 2.15pm and drove towards Anuradhapura, the first capital of ancient Sri Lanka and a key historical centre of the island. En route, we stopped at Mahadampe, an important wetland area, where we recorded Painted Stork, Asian Openbill, Great Cormorant, White-throated Kingfisher, Whiskered Tern, Indian Pond Heron, Cattle, Little, Intermediate and Great Egrets, Black-winged Stilt, Blue-tailed Bee-eater and Black-headed Ibis.

From there, we continued to Anawilundawa Wetland Sanctuary, a Ramsar-designated site with a long history as an ancient irrigation system. Late afternoon birding along the tank bunds and water edges yielded Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Purple Swampphen, Great Cormorant, Indian Darter, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Asian Palm Swift, Indian Roller, Purple and Grey Herons, Spotted Dove, Brown-headed Barbet, Spot-billed Pelican and Ashy Woodswallow. Mammal sightings included Toque Macaque and Indian Palm Squirrel.

After about an hour of birding and a short break, we reached Rajarata Hotel at 8.00pm. Dinner followed, bringing the day to a close.

Day 3

Monday 22nd December

Anuradhapura

We set out at 6.00am for an early morning birding session, and recorded twelve species: Yellow-billed Babbler, Indian Robin, Red-backed Flameback, Indian Paradise Flycatcher, Black-crowned Night Heron, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, Indian Pitta, White-bellied Drongo, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Sri Lanka Woodshrike, Sri Lanka Junglefowl and Green Imperial Pigeon.

After breakfast at 7.30am, we proceeded to explore Anuradhapura, the first capital of Sri Lanka, founded in the fourth century BCE, and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We began at the Sri Maha Bodhi, the sacred fig tree grown from a cutting of the original Bodhi tree. This was followed by visit to the Ruwanwelisaya Stupa built by King Dutugemunu in the 2nd century BCE, the Moonstone, the Twin Ponds (Kuttam Pokuna), and the Abhayagiriya Stupa, once part of a major monastic and learning complex.

While walking through the ancient city, we recorded Shikra, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Asian Woolly-necked Stork and Purple-rumped Sunbird. Mammal and reptile sightings included Indian Grey Mongoose, Tufted Grey Langur, Toque Macaque, Bengal Monitor, Mugger Crocodile and Bark Gecko.

We returned to the hotel for lunch at 1.30pm. After a short rest, we left at 3.30pm to visit Mihintale, the site associated with the introduction of Buddhism to Sri Lanka in the third century BCE following the meeting of Arahat Mahinda and King Devanampiya Tissa. Here, we observed Crimson-fronted Barbet, Coppersmith Barbet, Brown-headed Barbet, White-browed Bulbul, Purple-faced Langur and a Daraniyagala Day Gecko.

We returned to the hotel by 6.45pm, followed by the daily checklist and briefing at 7.30pm.

Day 4

Tuesday 23rd December

Sigiriya

At first light, we went out for a pre-breakfast birding walk around the village. Species recorded included Little Grebe, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Grey-breasted Prinia, Tawny-bellied Babbler and Greater Coucal. We returned to the hotel for breakfast at 7.30am, checked out at 9.00am, and continued our journey towards Sigiriya. En route, we stopped at Gal Kulama Tank, where we observed Cotton Pygmy Goose, Crested Serpent Eagle and Oriental Garden Lizard, along with several species seen over the previous days.

Our next stop was the Aukana Buddha Statue, a standing Buddha image carved from a single granite rock during the fifth century CE. At over twelve metres in height, it is one of the finest surviving examples of ancient Sinhalese sculpture. In a quiet chamber near the site, we also noted a small roost of Schneider's Leaf-nosed Bats.

We arrived at Hotel Sigiriya at 1.30pm, checked in and had lunch. After a short break, we left at 3.30pm for afternoon birding at Thalkote Lake. Here we recorded Black-headed Cuckooshrike, Asian Green Bee-eater, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Black-crowned Night Heron, Plain Prinia and Sri Lanka Swallow. The day concluded with the checklist session at 7.30pm, followed by dinner.

Day 5

Wednesday 24th December

Sigiriya

Christmas Eve began with a pre-breakfast birding session from 6.15am to 7.30am. During this walk we recorded Sri Lanka Shama, Dark-fronted and Brown-capped Babblers, Indian Pitta and Tickell's Blue Flycatcher.

We returned to the hotel for breakfast at 7.30am and departed at 8.30am to visit Kassapa's Lion Rock, commonly known as the Sigiriya Rock Fortress. Built in the fifth century CE by King Kashyapa, Sigiriya served as a royal citadel and is noted for its sophisticated water gardens, planned layout and defensive design. Midway up the rock is the Lion Staircase, which once formed the entrance to the palace complex. The summit contains the remains of the royal palace and provides wide views over the surrounding plains. Sigiriya is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a key example of early urban planning in Sri Lanka. At the rock we observed Peregrine Falcon, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Loten's Sunbird and Common Iora, along with Sri Lankan Giant Squirrel.

We returned to the hotel for lunch at 1.00pm. After a short rest, we visited the Sigiriya Sanctuary at 3.30pm. The forested area around the rock protects wildlife, and has traces of the ancient garden systems developed during King Kashyapa's reign. Species recorded here included Malabar Pied Hornbill, Alexandrine Parakeet, Coppersmith Barbet, Common Kingfisher, Blue-faced Malkoha, Small Minivet, Brown Shrike, Brown-breasted Flycatcher, Black-naped Monarch and Sri Lanka Green Pigeon.

We returned to the hotel at 5.30pm and met for the checklist at 7.00pm. After dinner we set out on a night safari at 9.30pm. During the drive we observed Golden Jackal, White-spotted Chevrotain, Brown Wood Owl, Jerdon's Nightjar, Indian Scops Owl, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Indian Paradise Flycatcher, Grey Slender Loris, Indian Porcupine, Indian Hare and Green Garden Lizard. We returned to the hotel at 12.30am, wished each other a Merry Christmas, and concluded the day.

Day 6

Thursday 25th December

Kandy

After breakfast, we checked out of the hotel at 9.00am and travelled towards Kandy. On the way, we visited the Dambulla Cave Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a major centre of Buddhist worship. The cave complex dates back to the first century BCE and contains a series of rock caves adorned with Buddha statues and wall paintings, reflecting the development of Buddhist art and patronage over many centuries.

Around midday, we stopped at a spice garden for lunch. Here we were introduced to a range of spices traditionally grown in Sri Lanka, highlighting the island's long history as a centre of spice cultivation and trade.

We reached our hotel in Kandy by approximately 5.00pm. The remainder of the evening was at leisure. Dinner was served at 7.30pm, and the day concluded thereafter.

Day 7

Friday 26th December

Kandy

We started the day with an early breakfast at 6.30am, and then travelled into Kandy to visit the Udawattakele Forest Sanctuary. This protected forest was once part of the Kandyan royal domain and was later used by forest-dwelling monks. Today, it remains an important refuge for wildlife close to the city. During our walk we recorded Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, Brown-breasted Flycatcher, Sri Lanka Shama, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher and Southern Hill Myna. A notable observation was a pair of Common Emerald Doves feeding chicks. Mammals and reptiles seen included Malabar Red Muntjac, Toque Macaque, Water Monitor and Indian Black Terrapin.

We then visited the Temple of the Tooth Relic (Sri Dalada Maligawa), the most important Buddhist shrine in Sri Lanka. The temple safeguards the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha and has been a focal point of religious and political life since the Kandyan Kingdom. We observed devotees engaged in worship during our visit.

Lunch was taken at the hotel, followed by an afternoon visit to the Peradeniya Botanical Garden. Established in 1821 under British administration, the gardens are known for their diverse collection of tropical plants, orchids and mature

trees. Bird species recorded included Crested Honey Buzzard, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, Scarlet Minivet and Cinereous Tit.

We returned to the hotel in the evening. Seven clients attended a traditional cultural dance performance, which showcased several classical dance forms of Sri Lanka, many of which originated during the Kandyan Kingdom. These dances were historically performed at royal courts and religious ceremonies and are closely linked to drumming, ritual movements, and storytelling. The performance included vibrant costumes, rhythmic drumming, and expressive movements that reflect themes of nature, folklore, and ancient beliefs. Everyone regrouped for dinner at 7.30pm, after which the day concluded.

Day 8

Saturday 27th December

Nuwara Eliya

We began the day at 6.00am with early morning birding around Kandy Lake. The lake was constructed in 1807 by the last Kandyan king, Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe, and today provides an important habitat for birds and other wildlife within the city. During the walk we recorded several species seen over the previous days, with large numbers of Indian Flying Foxes being a notable sight.

After breakfast, we checked out of the hotel and travelled towards Nuwara Eliya. En route, we visited a tea factory. Tea cultivation in Sri Lanka began in the mid-nineteenth century during the British colonial period, and the visit provided an overview of the tea production process from leaf plucking to final processing.

We arrived at the hotel in Nuwara Eliya by 1.30pm for lunch. At 3.00pm, we visited Hakgala Botanical Garden, originally established as an experimental garden during the British era and later developed into a major botanical centre. Here we recorded Black Eagle, Yellow-eared Bulbul, Sri Lanka White-eye and House Sparrow. We returned to the hotel by 6.00pm. The evening was at leisure, followed by dinner at 7.30pm, bringing the day to a close.

Day 9

Sunday 28th December

Nuwara Eliya

We departed at 5.00am for an early morning visit to Horton Plains National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Sri Lanka's central highlands. The park was formally established in 1969, and is characterized by montane grasslands and cloud forest. It forms part of the Central Highlands World Heritage area and supports a high number of endemic plants and animals.

Morning birding was productive, with sightings of Sri Lanka White-eye, Yellow-eared Bulbul, Dull-blue Flycatcher, Scarlet Minivet, Yellow-fronted Nuthatch, Green Warbler, Grey Wagtail, Hill Swallow, Pied Bush Chat, Tricoloured Munia, Sri Lanka Bush Warbler, Crested Honey Buzzard, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher and Indian Blackbird. Mammals and reptiles recorded included Black-cheeked Lizard, Rhino-horned Lizard, Purple-faced Langur, Dusky-striped Squirrel and Sambar Deer.

We returned to the hotel by 4.00pm for lunch after a long but productive day. The afternoon was kept at leisure. The group met again at 7.30pm for the checklist session and dinner, after which the day concluded

Day 10

Monday 29th December

Tissamaharama

The day began with a pre-breakfast birding session at Victoria Park in Nuwara Eliya, established during the British colonial period. During the walk, we recorded Kashmir Flycatcher, Pied Thrush, Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler and Yellow-billed Babbler. After breakfast at 7.30am, we checked out at 9.30am and travelled towards Tissamaharama. On the way, we stopped briefly at the Nuwara Eliya Post Office, built during the British era and still functioning as a historic landmark.



Sri Lanka Bush Warbler



Spot-winged Thrush

Lunch was taken at Ella Mount Heaven, which offers panoramic views of the surrounding hills. During this break, we also observed Sri Lanka Swallow. We visited Ravana Falls, a waterfall with cultural significance linked to the Ramayana, noted for its height and scenic surroundings. At 4.30pm, we stopped at Dambana Wewa for owl watching, and recorded Brown Hawk-Owl, Jungle Owlet, Brown Fish Owl and Indian Scops Owl.

En route to the hotel, we stopped at a home garden and recorded a White-naped Woodpecker. We arrived at the hotel at 6.00pm, conducted the checklist at 7.00pm, had dinner, and concluded the day.

Day 11

Tuesday 30th December

Yala

We began the day with an early check-out at 5.00am, taking a picnic breakfast and lunch with us, and set out for Lunugamwehera National Park. The park, established in 1995, is part of Sri Lanka's network of protected areas designed to conserve dry-zone wildlife and habitats, including forests, tanks, and grasslands.

We entered the park by 6.00am. On this morning, only one jeep was fortunate enough to spot a Leopard. Leopards are extremely elusive in the wild, and due to their secretive nature, it is rare for multiple vehicles to encounter the same individual. During the drive, we also recorded Grey-bellied Cuckoo, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Black-winged Stilt, Lesser Adjutant, Painted Stork, Eurasian Spoonbill, Crested Treeswift, Common Tailorbird, Ashy Prinia, Orange-headed Thrush, Scaly-breasted Munia and White-rumped Munia.

We also saw several herds of Sri Lankan Elephants, including a tusker. Observing a tusker in the wild is particularly special, as mature males with large tusks are rare and striking in appearance. Other mammals included Water Buffalo and Chital, highlighting the importance of Lunugamwehera as a refuge for large mammals in the dry zone.

By 6.00pm, we had arrived at Cinnamon Wild Yala. After reviewing the day's checklist, we headed for dinner and called it a day.

Day 12

Wednesday 31st December

Yala

We started the day early at 5.30am with a half-day safari in Yala National Park. Established in 1938, Yala is Sri Lanka's oldest national park and is known for its dry-zone habitats, coastal areas, and high biodiversity, including one of the island's highest Leopard densities. With coffee and a picnic breakfast packed, we entered the park and recorded Black-headed Cuckooshrike, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Oriental Skylark, Black-necked Stork, Common Hoopoe, Rosy Starling, Wood Sandpiper, Pacific Golden Plover and Ruddy Mongoose.

We later drove towards the coastal section of the park, where we stopped for breakfast by the beach. By midday, we returned to the hotel for lunch.

In the afternoon, we spent time birding around the lake adjacent to the hotel. Species recorded included Striated Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Pied Kingfisher, Kentish Plover, Tibetan Sand Plover and Spot-billed Pelican.

We met for the checklist at 7.00pm. As it was New Year's Eve, the hotel had organised a special dinner buffet. The group enjoyed the dinner and the festive atmosphere as we welcomed the start of 2026.

Day 13

Thursday 1st January

Embilipitiya

After breakfast, we checked out of the hotel at 8.00am and travelled to Bundala National Park. Bundala is a UNESCO-designated Ramsar wetland in southeastern Sri Lanka and is internationally recognised for its importance to migratory waterbirds. The park consists of lagoons, scrubland and salt pans, and is a key wintering ground for flamingoes and many shorebird species. During our birding session we recorded Yellow Bittern, Greater Crested, Caspian and White-winged Terns, Black-winged Kite, Clamorous Reed Warbler, Sand Martin, Glossy Ibis, Indian Roller, Eurasian Collared Dove, Little Grebe, Indian Stone-curlew, Black-tailed Godwit, Pin-tailed Snipe, Small Pratincole and Curlew Sandpiper.

At midday, we departed Bundala and continued to Udawalawe, arriving around 2.00pm for lunch. Udawalawe National Park was established in 1972 to protect the catchment area of the Udawalawe Reservoir and its surrounding wildlife habitats. The park is particularly well known for its large population of Sri Lankan Elephants. Due to heavy rainfall, the afternoon was spent at leisure at the hotel.

In the evening, we met at 7.00pm for the checklist session to review the day's sightings. Dinner followed, and the day concluded as we prepared for the upcoming wildlife activities.

Day 14

Friday 2nd January

Sinharaja

We began the day with a 6.00am jeep safari in Udawalawe National Park, carrying packed breakfasts. Udawalawe is one of Sri Lanka's most important protected areas, particularly for the conservation of dry-zone wildlife and we spent time watching herds of Elephants feeding and moving through the open grasslands and scrub.

Birding during the safari was productive and included a notable sighting of an Amur Falcon. This species is a rare migrant to Sri Lanka, making its appearance in Udawalawe an exceptional record. Other birds observed included Sirkeer Malkoha, Grey-bellied Cuckoo, Marshall's Iora, Asian Palm Swift, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Tawny-bellied Babbler, Jungle Prinia, Ashy Prinia, Grey-headed Fish Eagle and Sri Lanka Woodshrike, along with several species recorded on previous days.

We returned to the hotel for lunch and checked out at 1.00pm, then travelled to Sinharaja Rainforest. Sinharaja is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and represents Sri Lanka's largest remaining tract of lowland rainforest. The forest is internationally recognised for its high level of endemism and its importance in watershed protection and climate regulation. After arriving at Blue Magpie Lodge, we took a short village bird walk and recorded White-bellied Drongo, Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, Square-tailed Bulbul and Legge's Flowerpecker. We met at 7.00pm for the checklist session, followed by dinner. The day ended with the sounds of the rainforest surrounding the lodge.

Day 15

Saturday 3rd January

Sinharaja

The day started with breakfast at 5.15am before we headed out on a jeep drive into Sinharaja Rainforest. While moving along the forest trails, we recorded a wide range of bird species including Sri Lanka Spurfowl, Common Emerald Dove, White-faced Starling, Legge's Flowerpecker, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, Yellow-browed Bulbul, Square-tailed Bulbul, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, Sri Lanka Spot-winged Thrush, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Orange-billed Babbler and Ashy-headed Laughingthrush.

Reptiles and amphibians were active during the morning hours. We observed Sri Lankan Kangaroo Lizard, Hump-nosed Lizard, Sri Lanka Green Pit Viper and Green Vine Snake, along with several small frogs and skinks in the forest undergrowth.

We returned to the hotel by 3.00pm for rest. At 5.00pm, we took an evening walk around the lodge, adding a few more bird species to the checklist and observing amphibians such as tree frogs and forest skinks. The day ended with the checklist session at 7.00pm, followed by dinner. The night was spent listening to the natural sounds of the rainforest.

Day 16

Sunday 4th January

Sinharaja to Colombo

The day started with a picnic breakfast at 6.00am, after which we visited Martin's Lodge, located deep within the Sinharaja Rainforest. The lodge is well known among birders for its location inside the forest and its long association with rainforest conservation and research. The surrounding habitat provided excellent birding, and we recorded Sri Lanka Spurfowl, Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, Square-tailed Bulbul, along with many species observed during our time in the rainforest.

We later returned to the hotel for lunch, bringing our Sinharaja Rainforest adventure to a close. After lunch, the group separated. Six guests continued with a whale-watching extension, while two travelled back to Colombo and stayed near the airport in preparation for their return flight to the UK the following day. The tour ended with shared experiences, a strong species list, and lasting memories of Sri Lanka's wildlife and landscapes.

Day 17

Monday 5th January

Katunayake

After breakfast, clients left for the airport to catch their flight back to the UK.

Post-tour extension

Extension Day 1

Sunday 4th January

After lunch, we proceeded to Koggala Beach Hotel and completed check in by 4.30pm. Later, a checklist review was carried out, followed by dinner in the hotel dining room.

Extension Day 2

Monday 5th January

Departing at 5.45am with a picnic breakfast, we set out for a whalewatching expedition under calm morning skies, spotting Whiskered Terns and a few Bridled Terns along the way. At sea, Common Bottlenose Dolphins accompanied us. Before a majestic Fin Whale emerged, gliding through the deep blue waters. The experience was made even more special by the rare sight of the whale lifting its tail fluke prior to a deep dive.

We returned to the hotel by midday, enjoyed some rest before lunch, and later visited a turtle hatchery dedicated to sea turtle conservation. The day ended with an exploration of the iconic Galle Fort.

Extension Day 3

Tuesday 6th January

With a picnic breakfast in hand, we departed the hotel at 5.45am for our second day of whalewatching. The morning began on a high note with a lively pod of Common Bottlenose Dolphins, displaying energetic and playful behaviour around the boat.

After spending some time at sea, we encountered a pod of Spinner Dolphins, actively feeding and engaging in impressive acrobatic displays. Our next sighting was particularly special: a small pod of the rarely observed Risso's Dolphins. The final encounter of the day proved to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, as we were fortunate to witness mating behaviour of Common Bottlenose Dolphins for nearly forty-five minutes; this was an exceptionally rare observation in the open ocean.

Following lunch, we continued our exploration with a visit to Kirala Kele Sanctuary. During our walk, many bird species previously recorded during the tour were observed again, providing excellent opportunities for further observation and appreciation.

Extension Day 4

Wednesday 7th January

Clients returned home after a fantastic extension to their Sri Lankan adventure.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Sri Lanka Spurfowl - E	<i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>
Sri Lanka Junglefowl - E	<i>Gallus lafayettii</i>
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>
Red-faced Malkoha - E	<i>Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus</i>
Blue-faced Malkoha - N	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>
Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon - E	<i>Columba torringtoniae</i>
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common 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>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
Great Stone-curlew	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>
Indian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
Tibetan Sand Plover	<i>Anarhynchus atrifrons</i>
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>
Asian Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>
Yellow Bittern	<i>Botaurus sinensis</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Medium Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Jerdon's Nightjar - N	<i>Caprimulgus atripennis</i>
Sri Lanka Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>
Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
Indian Swiftlet - N	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>
Brown Boobook	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>
Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>
Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga leucogaster</i>
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaeus</i>
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill - E	<i>Ocyceros gingalensis</i>
Malabar Pied Hornbill - N	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
Crimson-fronted Barbet - E	<i>Psilopogon rubricapillus</i>
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>
Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>
Yellow-fronted Barbet - E	<i>Psilopogon flavifrons</i>
Red-backed Flameback - E	<i>Dinopium psarodes</i>
Lesser Yellow-naped Woodpecker	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>
Crimson-backed Flameback - E	<i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i>
Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</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>
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>
Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage melanoptera</i>
Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
Marshall's Iora	<i>Aegithina nigrolutea</i>
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>
Sri Lanka Woodshrike - E	<i>Tephrodornis affinis</i>
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
Sri Lanka Drongo - E	<i>Dicrurus lophorinus</i>
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
Indian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
Sri Lanka Blue Magpie - E	<i>Urocissa ornata</i>
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>
Jerdon's Bush Lark - N	<i>Plocealauda affinis</i>
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</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>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Hill Swallow - N	<i>Hirundo domicola</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Sri Lanka Swallow - E	<i>Cecropis hyperythra</i>
Green Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>
Black-capped Bulbul - E	<i>Rubigula melanicteria</i>
White-browed Bulbul - N	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>
Yellow-eared Bulbul - E	<i>Pycnonotus penicillatus</i>
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
Yellow-browed Bulbul - N	<i>Acritillas indica</i>
Square-tailed Bulbul - N	<i>Hypsipetes ganeesa</i>
Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>
Sri Lanka White-eye - E	<i>Zosterops ceylonensis</i>
Indian White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>
Dark-fronted Babbler - N	<i>Dumetia atriceps</i>
Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler - E	<i>Pomatorhinus melanurus</i>
Brown-capped Babbler - E	<i>Pellorneum fuscocapillus</i>
Ashy-headed Laughingthrush - E	<i>Argya cinereifrons</i>
Orange-billed Babbler - E	<i>Argya rufescens</i>
Yellow-billed Babbler - N	<i>Argya affinis</i>
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
Sri Lanka Hill Myna - E	<i>Gracula ptilogenys</i>
Southern Hill Myna - N	<i>Gracula indica</i>
Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>
White-faced Starling - E	<i>Sturnornis albofrontatus</i>
Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Pied Thrush	<i>Geokichla wardii</i>
Spot-winged Thrush - E	<i>Geokichla spiloptera</i>
Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>
Indian Blackbird - N	<i>Turdus simillimus</i>
Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
Sri Lanka Shama - E	<i>Copsychus leggei</i>
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>
Brown-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>
Dull-blue Flycatcher - E	<i>Eumyias sordidus</i>
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
Kashmir Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula subrubra</i>
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
Legge's Flowerpecker - E	<i>Pachyglossa 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 - N	<i>Cinnyris lotenius</i>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Jerdon's Leafbird - N	<i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>
Tricoloured Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>

Mammals

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
Toque Macaque - E	<i>Macaca sinica</i>
Tufted Gray Langur	<i>Semnopithecus priam</i>
Purple-faced Langur - E	<i>Semnopithecus vetulus</i>
Grey Slender Loris	<i>Loris lydekkerianus</i>
Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>
Indian Crested Porcupine	<i>Hystrix indica</i>
Layard's Palm Squirrel - E	<i>Funambulus layardi</i>
Dusky Striped Squirrel - E	<i>Funambulus obscurus</i>
Indian Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
Sri Lankan Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>
Black (Roof) Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus medius</i>
Schneider's Leaf-nosed Bat	<i>Hipposideros speoris</i>
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Indian Gray Mongoose	<i>Urva edwardsii</i>
Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Urva smithii</i>
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>
Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>
Water Buffalo - I	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>
Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>
Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>
Malabar Red Muntjac - N	<i>Muntiacus malabaricus</i>
White-spotted Chevrotain - E	<i>Moschiola meminna</i>
Eurasian Wild Pig (Boar)	<i>Sus scrofa</i>

Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name
Indian Black Terrapin	<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>
Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>
Deraniyagala's Gecko	<i>Cnemaspis podihuna</i>
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
Bark Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus leschenaultii</i>
Oriental Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
Green Forest Lizard	<i>Calotes calotes</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Black-cheeked Lizard	<i>Calotes nigrilabris</i>
Sri Lankan Kangaroo Lizard	<i>Otocryptis wiegmanni</i>
Rhino-horned Lizard	<i>Ceratophora stoddartii</i>
Hump-nosed Lizard	<i>Lyriocephalus scutatus</i>
Bronze-green Little Skink	<i>Eutropis macularia</i>
Madras Skink	<i>Eutropis carinata</i>
Bengal Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>
Common Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>
Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
Buff-striped Keelback	<i>Amphiesma stolatum</i>
Green Vine Snake	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Common Bluebottle	<i>Graphium sarpedon</i>
Crimson Rose	<i>Atrophaneura hector</i>
Red Helen	<i>Papilio helenus</i>
Blue Mormon	<i>Papilio agenor</i>
Psyche	<i>Leptosia nina</i>
Common Jezebel	<i>Delias eucharis</i>
Dark Wanderer	<i>Pareronia ceylanica</i>
Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
Yellow Orange Tip	<i>Ixias pyrene</i>
Little Orange Tip	<i>Colotis etrida</i>
Ceylon Tree Nymph	<i>Idea iasonia</i>
Blue Glassy Tiger	<i>Ideopsis vulgaris</i>
Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala limniace</i>
Dark Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala septentrionis</i>
Ceylon Tiger	<i>Parantica taprobana</i>
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Common Indian Crow	<i>Euploea core</i>
Tawny Coster	<i>Acraea terpsicore</i>
Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>
Chocolate Soldier	<i>Junonia iphita</i>
Glad-eye Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis patnia</i>
White Four-rings	<i>Ypthima ceylonica</i>
Sri Lankan Hedge Hopper	<i>Baracus vittatus</i>

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name
Yellow Waxtail	<i>Ceriagrion coromandelianum</i>
Asian Groundling	<i>Brachythemis contaminata</i>
Granite Ghost (Indian Rockdweller)	<i>Bradinyopyga geminata</i>
Pied Paddy Skimmer	<i>Neurothemis tullia</i>
Wandering Glider	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>
Variiegated Flutterer	<i>Rhyothemis variegata</i>
Crimson Marsh Glider	<i>Trithemis aurora</i>
Indigo Dropwing	<i>Trithemis festiva</i>