

Sri Lanka - Wildlife & History

Naturetrek Tour Report

14th February – 5th March 2026



Sri Lanka Blue Magpie



Leopard



Golden Jackal



Sri Lanka Shama

Tour report by Saman Kumar
Photos by David Wilkinson, Ged O'Shea and Katy Lanxon



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Report compiled by Sama Kumar. Images courtesy of David Wilkinson, Ged O'Shea and Katy Lanxon.

Tour participants: Saman Kumar (leader), Thilanka Ranathunga and Pradeep Rathnasiri (local guides) with 16 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 14th February

Arrival

Sri Lankan Airline flight from Heathrow to Katunayake.

Day 2

Sunday 15th February

Katunayake

Clients arrived on UL 504 at 12.12pm at Bandaranaike International Airport, and were met by Saman, Thilanka and Pradeep. We left the airport and drove towards Anuradhapura.

En route, we stopped at Anawilundawa wetland sanctuary. This complex is a designated Ramsar site, and forms part of an ancient irrigation system believed to date back more than 2,000 years. The sanctuary consists of several interconnected tanks that were originally built for rice cultivation. Today, the wetlands support a variety of birds, reptiles, and mammals, and are an important habitat for waterbirds.

Late afternoon birding along the tank bunds and water edges produced Jacobin Cuckoo, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Purple Swampphen, Indian Darter, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Brahminy Kite, Asian Palm Swift, Indian Roller, Purple Heron, Spot-billed Pelican, Lesser Whistling Duck, Greater Coucal, Red-wattled Lapwing, Gull-billed and Whiskered Terns, Asian Openbill, Black-headed Ibis, Painted Stork, Little Cormorant, Indian Pond Heron, Great and Eastern Cattle Egrets, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, White-throated and Pied Kingfishers, Red-backed Flameback, Black-hooded Oriole, White-bellied Drongo, Brown Shrike, Red-vented Bulbul, Common Myna, Purple-rumped Sunbird and Jerdon's Leafbird. Mammal sightings included Indian Flying Fox and Indian Palm Squirrel, and we also observed an Oriental Garden Lizard.

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

Day 3

Monday 16th February

Anuradhapura

We set out at 6.30am for an early morning birding session around Anuradhapura. Bird sightings included Yellow-billed Babbler, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, Sri Lanka Woodshrike, Sri Lanka Green Pigeon, Oriental Magpie-Robin, Common Tailorbird, Indian Cormorant and Green Imperial Pigeon. We also saw Indian Palm Squirrel and Indian Grey Mongoose.

After breakfast at 7.30am, we proceeded to explore the ancient city of Anuradhapura. Founded in the fourth century BCE, Anuradhapura served as the political and religious centre of the island for many centuries and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city is known for its large irrigation reservoirs, Buddhist monasteries, and stupas built during the early Sinhalese kingdoms.

We began at the Sri Maha Bodhi, the sacred fig tree grown from a cutting of the original Bodhi tree in India under which the Buddha attained enlightenment. We then visited the Lovamahapaya (Brazen Palace), a monastic building originally constructed with multiple storeys and copper roof tiles. This was followed by a visit to the Ruwanwelisaya Stupa, built by King Dutugemunu in the second century BCE, and regarded as one of the most important stupas in Sri Lanka. We also observed the Sandakada Pahana (The Moonstone), an elaborately carved stone step found at the entrances of ancient buildings, and the Kuttam Pokuna (Twin Ponds), which were part of the bathing complex used by monks from the nearby monasteries. Our visit continued to the Abhayagiri Stupa, once the centre of a large monastic complex and an important place of Buddhist learning, and finally to Thuparamaya, considered the first stupa built in Sri Lanka, constructed during the reign of King Devanampiya Tissa. While walking through the ancient city, we recorded Changeable Hawk-Eagle and Asian Woolly-necked Stork. We also observed a Bengal Monitor, along with Grey Langur and Toque Macaque.

We returned to the hotel for lunch at 1.30pm. After a short rest, we left at 3.30pm to visit Mihintale, traditionally regarded as the place where Buddhism was introduced to Sri Lanka in the third century BCE, following the meeting between Arahata Mahinda and King Devanampiya Tissa. The site contains several monasteries, stupas and meditation caves, dating back more than two thousand years.

Bird sightings here included Crimson-fronted and Coppersmith Barbets, Indian White-eye, Thick-billed Flowerpecker, Malabar Pied Hornbill and Asian Brown Flycatcher. Reptiles recorded were Indian Black Terrapin, Bronze-green Little Skink and a Deraniyagala's Day Gecko.

Day 4

Tuesday 17th February

Sigiriya

At first light, we went out for a pre-breakfast birding walk around the village near Anuradhapura. Species included Greater Coucal, Indian Pitta, Shikra, Medium Egret, Malabar Pied and Sri Lanka Grey Hornbills and Ashy Woodswallow. We returned to the hotel for breakfast at 7.30am, checked out at 9.00am, and continued our journey towards Sigiriya.

Our next stop was the Aukana Buddha Statue, a standing Buddha image carved from a single granite rock during the fifth century CE, most likely during the reign of King Dhatusena. At over twelve metres in height, it is one of the finest surviving examples of ancient Sinhalese stone sculpture. The statue is known for its detailed carving and the robe which clings closely to the body, showing the skill of early Sri Lankan craftsmen. In a quiet chamber near the site, we also noted a small roost of Schneider's Roundleaf Bats.

We arrived at Hotel Sigiriya at 12.30pm, checked in, and had lunch. After a short break, we left at 3.30pm for afternoon birding at Halmilla Wewa. Here we recorded Crested Serpent Eagle and White-throated Kingfisher. The

birding session was cut short due to rain. The day concluded with the checklist session at 7.00pm, followed by dinner.

Day 5

Wednesday 18th February

Sigiriya

The day began at 6.00am. As the sun was rising, we climbed Sigiriya Rock Fortress, also known as Kassapa's Lion Rock. Built in the fifth century CE by King Kashyapa, Sigiriya served as a royal citadel and palace complex. The site is known for its water gardens, terraced gardens and defensive structures, which show an advanced level of planning and engineering. Halfway up the rock is the Lion Staircase, which once formed the entrance to the palace and was originally built between the paws of a large lion sculpture. The summit contains the remains of the royal palace, along with reservoirs and foundations of buildings, and offers wide views over the surrounding plains. Sigiriya is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is considered one of the most important examples of early urban planning in Sri Lanka. At the rock, we observed Peregrine Falcon and Tickell's Blue Flycatcher.

We returned to the hotel for breakfast at 8.40am. After breakfast, we took some time to relax and enjoy the hotel and its surroundings before meeting again for lunch at 12.30pm.

At 3.30pm we visited Sigiriya Sanctuary. The forested area around the rock protects wildlife, and contains traces of the ancient garden systems developed during the reign of King Kashyapa. The sanctuary today forms an important habitat for many birds and small mammals in the dry zone forest. Species recorded here included Indian Swiftlet, Little Swift, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Asian Green Bee-eater, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Red-backed Flameback, Alexandrine Parakeet, White-browed Bulbul, Indian Paradise Flycatcher, Plain Prinia, Sri Lanka Swallow, Orange-headed Thrush, Baya Weaver, Tricoloured Munia and Paddyfield Pipit.

After dinner, we set out on a night safari at 9.00pm in the surrounding area. We observed Black-crowned Night Heron, Jerdon's Nightjar, Brown Fish Owl and Jerdon's Leafbird. Mammal sightings included Northern Palm and Small Indian Civets, Indian Hare, Indian Crested Porcupine and Grey Slender Loris. Reptiles recorded were Oriental Garden Lizard, Green Forest Lizard and Hump-nosed Pit Viper.

Day 6

Thursday 19th February

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, another UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most important centres of Buddhist worship in Sri Lanka. The cave complex dates back to the first century BCE, when King Valagamba took refuge in the caves during his exile and later developed the site into a temple. The complex consists of several rock caves containing numerous Buddha statues and extensive wall and ceiling paintings, representing the development of Buddhist art and royal patronage over many centuries.

Around midday, we stopped at a spice garden for lunch. During the visit, we were introduced to a variety of spices traditionally grown in Sri Lanka, such as cinnamon, pepper, cardamom and cloves. Sri Lanka has a long history as a centre of spice cultivation and trade, attracting traders from the Middle East and Europe for many centuries. While here, we recorded Brown-capped Babbler. We reached our hotel in Kandy at approximately 5.00pm.

Day 7

Friday 20th February

Kandy

We started the day with an early breakfast at 6.30am, and travelled into Kandy to visit Udawattakele Forest Sanctuary. This protected forest was once part of the royal domain of the Kandyan kings and was later used by forest-dwelling monks for meditation. Today, it remains an important forest refuge within the city, supporting a range of birdlife and mammals in a relatively undisturbed habitat.

During our walk we recorded Yellow-fronted Barbet, Crimson-backed Flameback, Layard's Parakeet, Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Black-capped and Square-tailed Bulbuls, Southern Hill Myna, Spot-winged Thrush, Sri Lanka Shama, Brown-breasted Flycatcher, Loten's Sunbird, and Scaly-breasted and White-rumped Munias. Mammal sightings included Indian Brown Mongoose and Malabar Red Muntjac.

We then visited the Temple of the Tooth Relic, also known as Sri Dalada Maligawa, the most important Buddhist shrine in Sri Lanka. The temple safeguards the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha, which has been closely associated with the island's political and religious history. During the period of the Kandyan Kingdom, the ruler who possessed the relic was considered the legitimate king. During our visit, we observed devotees engaged in worship and offering flowers at the shrine.

Lunch was taken at the hotel, followed by an afternoon visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya. Established in 1821 under British administration, the gardens developed from earlier royal gardens used by the Kandyan kings. Today, they are known for their collection of tropical plants, orchids, palms and mature trees, and are also an important green space supporting birds and bats. Species recorded here included Common Hawk-Cuckoo and Asian Palm Swift, along with several Indian Flying Foxes roosting in the tall trees.

Day 8

Saturday 21st February

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 as they roosted in the trees around the lake.

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, after coffee plantations on the island were affected by disease. The visit provided an overview of the tea production process, from leaf plucking in the plantations to withering, rolling, drying and grading before export.

We arrived at the hotel in Nuwara Eliya at 1.30pm for lunch. At 3.00pm, we attempted to visit the Hakgala Botanical Garden. The garden, originally established in the nineteenth century during British rule, is one of the highest botanical gardens in Sri Lanka, and is known for its collection of temperate plants. However, due to heavy rain, we had to turn back. On the return journey we stopped briefly at the Nuwara Eliya Post Office, a well-known colonial-era building dating from the late nineteenth century, built in the Tudor architectural style.

Day 9

Sunday 22nd February

Nuwara Eliya

We departed at 5.00am for an early morning visit to Horton Plains National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located 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, many of which are adapted to the cool and wet highland climate.

Morning birding was productive, with sightings of Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush, Sri Lanka White-eye, Yellow-eared Bulbul, Dull-blue Flycatcher, Yellow-fronted Nuthatch, Hill Swallow, Pied Bush Chat, Sri Lanka Bush Warbler, Crested Honey Buzzard, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher and Common Hawk-Cuckoo. Mammals and reptiles included Purple-faced Langur, Dusky-striped Squirrel, Sambar, Stripe-necked Mongoose, Wild Boar and Toque Macaque. Reptiles observed were Green Forest and Oriental Garden Lizards.

We returned to the hotel for lunch at 2.00pm after a long but productive morning in the park. Later, we left at 4.00pm to visit Victoria Park, a well-known urban park established during the British colonial period and named in honour of Queen Victoria. The park is known as a good location for highland bird species. Here we recorded Pied Thrush, Oriental Magpie Robin, Indian Pond Heron and Eastern Cattle Egret.

Day 10

Monday 23rd February

Tissamaharama

After breakfast at 7.00am, we checked out and visited Hakgala Botanical Garden, which we had tried to visit two days ago. During our walk we recorded Yellow-eared and Square-tailed Bulbuls, Sri Lanka White-eye, Dull-blue Flycatcher and Grey Wagtail, along with Purple-faced Langur.

We then made our way to Surrey Estate Bird Sanctuary, a small forest patch within a tea estate which has become well-known among birdwatchers for owl sightings. We observed Brown Wood Owl resting quietly within the forest. Lunch was taken at Ella Mount Heaven Hotel, which offers panoramic views of the surrounding hills and valleys.

In the afternoon we visited Ravana Falls, a well-known waterfall located along the Ella–Wellawaya road. The falls are associated with legends from the Ramayana, where it is believed that King Ravana once hid Princess Sita in nearby caves. The waterfall is also 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, Indian Scops Owl and White-naped Woodpecker.

Before heading to the hotel, we stopped in Tissamaharama to observe the large bat colony near the town. This colony, consisting mainly of Indian Flying Foxes, roosts in large numbers in the tall trees around the tanks and wetlands of the area. The bats gather here during the day, hanging in dense clusters on the branches, before dispersing at dusk to forage across the surrounding countryside. We arrived at the Kithala Resort at 6.00pm.

Day 11

Tuesday 24th February

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, forms part of Sri Lanka's network of protected areas created to conserve dry-zone wildlife and habitats, including forest, grassland, and large irrigation reservoirs. The park also serves as an important Elephant corridor between Yala and Udawalawe National Parks.

We entered the park at 6.00am and spent the morning exploring its tracks and wetlands. During the drive we recorded Grey-bellied Cuckoo, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Great and Indian Stone-curlews, Yellow-wattled and Red-wattled Lapwings, Barred Buttonquail, Crested Treeswift, Crested Serpent Eagle, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Sri Lanka Grey and Malabar Pied Hornbills, Indian Roller, Chestnut-headed, Asian Green and Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, Plum-headed Parakeet, Indian Cuckooshrike, Common and Marshall's Ioras, Sri Lanka Woodshrike, White-browed Fantail, Jerdon's Bushlark, Grey-breasted and Jungle Munias, Rosy Starling, Purple Sunbird and Yellow Wagtail. Mammal sightings included Asian Elephant, Ruddy Mongoose, Chital, Water Buffalo and Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel.

At 6.00pm, we arrived at DoubleTree by Hilton Weerawila Rajawarna Resort. After reviewing the day's checklist, we headed for dinner, bringing the day to a close.

Day 12

Wednesday 25th February

Yala

We started the day early at 5.00am with a half-day safari in Yala National Park. Established in 1938, Yala is Sri Lanka's oldest national park, and is famous for its dry-zone forests, scrublands, wetlands, and coastal habitats, supporting a rich diversity of wildlife. The park is particularly renowned for having one of the highest densities of Leopards in the world, making it a premier destination for wildlife enthusiasts.

During our safari, we were lucky to observe a Leopard, a highlight of the trip, and a rare and thrilling sighting. Alongside the Leopard, we recorded numerous bird species including Sirkeer Malkoha, Jacobin Cuckoo, Pacific Golden, Tibetan Sand and Kentish Plovers, Pin-tailed Snipe, Marsh and Wood Sandpipers, Little Stint, Barred Buttonquail, Lesser Adjutant, Black-necked Stork, Brown Fish Owl, Hoopoe, Large-billed Leaf Warbler and European Bee-eater. Mammal sightings included Asian Elephant, Indian Grey Mongoose, Ruddy Mongoose, Golden Jackal, Chital, Sambar, Water Buffalo and Indian Hare.

We returned to the hotel for lunch, and in the afternoon spent time birding around the lake adjacent to the hotel, recording Common Tailorbird, Plain Prinia, Coppersmith Barbet, White-breasted Waterhen and Brown-headed

Barbet. The day concluded with the checklist at 7.00pm, followed by dinner, after an unforgettable morning featuring one of Yala's most iconic residents - the Leopard.

Day 13

Thursday 26th February

Embilipitiya

After breakfast, we checked out of the hotel at 6.00am 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 encompasses lagoons, scrubland and salt pans, serving as a key wintering ground for flamingoes, shorebirds and a wide range of wetland species. During our birding session we recorded Blue-faced Malkoha, Jacobin Cuckoo, Watercock, Grey Plover, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Curlew Sandpiper, Small and Collared Pratincoles, Caspian, White-winged, Greater Crested and Lesser Crested Terns, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker and Yellow Bittern.

At midday, we departed Bundala and continued to Udawalawe National Park, arriving around 2.00pm for lunch. We went on a bird walk around the Udawalawe Tank, a large irrigation reservoir which supports a variety of waterbirds and other species. Here we recorded Eastern Red-rumped Swallow, Tawny-bellied Babbler, Indian White-eye, White-browed Bulbul and Yellow-crowned Woodpecker.

Day 14

Friday 27th February

Udawalawe and Sinharaja

We began the day with a 6.00am jeep safari in Udawalawe National Park, carrying packed breakfasts. Udawalawe was established in 1972 to protect the catchment of the Udawalawe Reservoir and is one of Sri Lanka's most important protected areas, particularly for the conservation of dry-zone wildlife. The park is especially well known for its large and easily observable population of Sri Lankan Elephants, and we spent time watching herds feeding, moving, and interacting across the open grasslands and scrub. Birding during the safari was productive, with sightings of Blue-faced and Sirkeer Malkohas, Barred Buttonquail, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Indian Cuckooshrike and many species we had previously recorded on earlier excursions.

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 recognized for its exceptionally high level of endemism, and its critical role in watershed protection and climate regulation.

After arriving at Blue Magpie Lodge, we enjoyed some birding from the lodge's restaurant. Species included Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Square-tailed Bulbul and White-bellied Drongo. The day ended with the sounds of the rainforest surrounding the lodge.

Day 15

Saturday 28th February

Sinharaja

The day started with breakfast at 5.30am, before we headed out on a jeep drive into Sinharaja rainforest. 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, Sri Lanka Spot-winged Thrush, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Orange-billed Babbler, Red-faced Malkoha, Malabar Trogon, Sri Lanka Crested Drongo, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and Ashy-headed Laughingthrush.

Reptiles and amphibians were active in the morning. We observed Sri Lankan Kangaroo Lizard, Hump-nosed Lizard, Sri Lanka Green Pit Viper, Olive Keelback, Sinharaja Tree Snake, Molligoda's Gecko and Purple-faced Leaf Monkey, along with several small frogs and skinks in the forest undergrowth.

We returned to the hotel at 3.00pm for a 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.

Day 16

Sunday 1st March

Sinharaja to Colombo

The day started with breakfast at 6.00am, after which we visited Kethalapathala. Here we recorded Chestnut-backed Owlet and Red-faced Malkoha, along with many of the bird species observed earlier in Sinharaja, as we enjoyed one last morning of rainforest birding.

We later returned to the hotel for lunch, bringing our Sinharaja Rainforest adventure to a close. After lunch, the group separated. Eight guests continued with a whale-watching extension, while the others travelled back to Colombo, staying near the airport in preparation for their return flight to the UK the following day.

Extension clients proceeded to Koggala Beach Hotel and completed the check-in by 4.30pm

Main tour Day 17 / Post-tour extension day 1

Monday 2nd March

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

Departing at 5.30am with a picnic breakfast, we set out for a whalewatching expedition under calm morning skies. Along the way we observed Whiskered, Bridled and a few Greater Crested Terns. At sea, Common Bottlenose Dolphins accompanied our boat, before a mother and calf Fin Whale emerged, gliding through the deep blue waters.

We returned to the hotel by midday and enjoyed some rest before lunch. Later in the afternoon, we visited a turtle hatchery dedicated to sea turtle conservation, learning about ongoing protection efforts. The day concluded with an exploration of the iconic Galle Fort, taking in its historic ramparts, colonial architecture and vibrant streets.

Post-tour extension Day 2

Tuesday 3rd March

With a picnic breakfast in hand, we departed the hotel at 5.15am for our second day of whale watching. While at sea, we encountered a pod of Spinner Dolphins, actively feeding and performing impressive acrobatic displays. Later, we observed a small pod of the rarely seen Risso's Dolphins, a highlight of the expedition. In addition, we spotted Green Turtles and Olive Ridley Turtles, adding to the marine wildlife experience.

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

Post-tour extension Day 3

Tuesday 4th March

Having spent the morning at leisure, we met for lunch at noon and then checked out before heading to Katunayake. We gathered for dinner at 7.00pm, sharing a final meal together before concluding the tour.

Post-tour extension Day 4

Wednesday 5th March

After breakfast at 9.30am, the clients were dropped off at Bandaranaike International Airport for their departures. This marked the end of the tour in Sri Lanka, concluding a journey filled with wildlife sightings, cultural experiences and scenic landscapes. Guests shared farewells, reflecting on the memorable moments, rich birdlife, Elephant and Leopard encounters, rainforest explorations and coastal adventures they had enjoyed together. The tour closed with a sense of gratitude, and lasting memories of Sri Lanka's diverse natural and cultural heritage.

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Species lists

Birds

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</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>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>
Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>
Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</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 Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>
Great Stone-curlew	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>
Indian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Thinornis dubius</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>
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</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>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>
Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>
Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>
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>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</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>
Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Botaurus cinnamomeus</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>
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</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>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
Indian Swiftlet - N	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>
Brown Boobook	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>
Chestnut-backed Owlet - E	<i>Glaucidium castanotum</i>
Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</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 ichthyaetus</i>
Malabar Trogon - N	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>
Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill - E	<i>Ocyrceros gingalensis</i>
Malabar Pied Hornbill - N	<i>Anthracosceros coronatus</i>
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</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>
Crimson-backed Flameback - E	<i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i>
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>
White-rumped Woodpecker	<i>Meiglyptes tristis</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>
Layard's Parakeet - E	<i>Psittacula calthrapae</i>
Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot - E	<i>Loriculus beryllinus</i>
Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
Indian Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</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>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
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>
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 - 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>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
Sri Lanka Bush Warbler - E	<i>Elaphornis palliseri</i>
Hill Swallow - N	<i>Hirundo domicola</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Sri Lanka Swallow - E	<i>Cecropis hyperythra</i>
Eastern Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Large-billed Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>
Black-capped Bulbul - E	<i>Rubigula melanictera</i>
White-browed Bulbul - N	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>
Yellow-eared Bulbul - E	<i>Pycnonotus penicillatus</i>
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</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>
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>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
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>
Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush - E	<i>Myophonus blighi</i>
Indian Blue Robin	<i>Larvivora brunnea</i>
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Pachyglossa agilis</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>
Jerdon's Leafbird - N	<i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>
Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manyar</i>
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
Black-throated Munia - N	<i>Lonchura kelaarti</i>
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>
Tricoloured Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>

Mammals

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced	
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>
Dusky Striped Squirrel - E	<i>Funambulus obscurus</i>
Indian Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
Sri Lankan Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus medius</i>
Schneider's Roundleaf Bat	<i>Hipposideros speoris</i>
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Indian Grey Mongoose	<i>Urva edwardsii</i>
Indian Brown Mongoose	<i>Urva fusca</i>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced

Common name	Scientific name
Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Urva smithii</i>
Stripe-necked Mongoose	<i>Urva vitticollis</i>
Northern Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>
Small Indian Civet	<i>Viverricula indica</i>
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>
Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</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 Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>

Amphibians & reptiles

Common name	Scientific name
Common House Toad	<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>
Indian Skipper Frog	<i>Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis</i>
Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>
Olive Ridley Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>
Indian Black Terrapin	<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>
Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
Deraniyagala's Gecko	<i>Cnemaspis podihuna</i>
Molligoda's Gecko	<i>Cnemaspis molligodai</i>
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
Oriental Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
Green Forest Lizard	<i>Calotes calotes</i>
Sri Lankan Kangaroo Lizard	<i>Otocryptis wiegmanni</i>
Rhino-horned Lizard	<i>Ceratophora stoddartii</i>
Bronzegreen Little Skink	<i>Eutropis macularia</i>
Bengal Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>
Common Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>
Olive Keelback	<i>Atretium schistosum</i>
Hump-nosed Pit-viper	<i>Hypnale hypnale</i>
Sri Lanka Green Pit-viper	<i>Craspedocephalus trigonocephalus</i>

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Crimson Rose	<i>Pachliopta hector</i>
Blue Mormon	<i>Papilio polymnestor</i>
Common Jezebel	<i>Delias eucharis</i>
Small Salmon Arab	<i>Colotis amata</i>
Psyche	<i>Leptosia nina</i>
Common Gull	<i>Cepora nerissa</i>
One-spot Yellow Grass	<i>Eurema andersoni</i>
Common Tiger	<i>Danaus genutia</i>
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Glassy Tiger	<i>Parantica aglea</i>
Common Crow	<i>Euploea core</i>
White Four Ring	<i>Ypthima ceylonica</i>
Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i>
Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>
Chocolate Soldier	<i>Junonia iphita</i>
Centaur Oakblue	<i>Arhopala centaurus</i>
Dark Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i>
Lesser Grass Blue	<i>Zizina otis</i>
Chestnut Bob	<i>Iambrix salsala</i>