

Sri Lanka

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 28 February 2011



Asian Elephant



Little Bee-eater



Painted Stork



Pied Thrush

Report compiled by Chris Kehoe

Images courtesy of Ian Tulloch



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Day 1

Saturday 12th February

Outbound to Colombo

Everyone caught a morning Sri Lankan Airlines flight to Colombo from London Heathrow.

Day 2

Sunday 13th February

En route to Anuradhapura; Anuradhapura

Weather: dry and sunny, warm/hot

After a 10-and-a-half hour flight the plane touched down at Bandaranayke Airport about 15 minutes early at 02.10 (local time). Having cleared immigration, collected bags and changed some money everyone was met in the arrivals area by myself and Dammi and we were soon on our way to the nearby Airport Garden Hotel for a wash and change and a cup of coffee.

By 05.15 we were making our way north towards Puttalam but around dawn we diverted off to the west for a mile or so for some introductory birding at a bird rich tank near Anawilundawa. New birds came thick and fast during our hour long visit with masses of Pheasant-tailed Jacanas on view throughout, a handful of scarce Cotton Pygmy Geese were seen on the overgrown tank along with commoner Lesser Whistling Ducks with Little and Indian Cormorants and Purple Swamphens while Greater Coucals and Brown-eared Barbets and others were in the trees. A stork-billed Kingfisher posed for the scope and a group of angry House Crows mobbed a White-bellied Sea-eagle perched in a distant tree.

Dragging ourselves away we arrived at the Puttalam Rest House for breakfast about 20 minutes later at 08.30 and after consuming our toast and omelettes we turned inland towards Anuradhapura. We arrived at the Meridya Hotel after a couple of hours at 11.30 having made a couple of brief stops en route to look at a Black Drongo and other birds. After a little time to settle into our rooms we sat down for a buffet lunch at 12.30 after which there was time for a little rest or a swim before we met up again at 15.30 and had a two hour stroll near the hotel that provided lots more birds, including Lesser Flameback, Jerdon's Leafbird and Spot-billed Pelicans while mammal interest came in the form of our first Toque Macaques and Tufted Grey Langurs. Back at the Meridya those who lingered in the garden until dusk at 18.15 were rewarded with fine views of an Indian Pitta.

Day 3

Monday 14th February

Old Anuradhapura & Mihintale

Weather: fine and mostly sunny, warm/hot and a little humid

Early risers enjoyed a wealth of wetland birds at the tank behind the hotel while the Indian Pitta gave fleeting views to some. After breakfast we set off at 08.00 for a morning's exploration of Old Anuradhapura, some choosing to accompany local guide Kapilla to the key archaeological sites such as the Bodh Tree and the Elephant Dagoba while the rest did some birding in the attractive parkland setting with rewards such as Thick-billed Flowerpecker, Grey-headed Fish Eagles, Coppersmith Barbets and several showy Shikras. Having regrouped we had brief visits to the Moonstone and a few other antiquities en route back to the hotel for lunch.

Our afternoon excursion took us east of Anuradhapura for 40 minutes where we visited the tank of Mahakanadayawa Wewa for 40 minutes where the avian highlights were several Grey-bellied Cuckoos and our first Green Bee-eaters. From there a short drive took us to Mihintale where we spent close to two hours slowly walking along the forested approach road and the area around the base of the steps to the Dagoba. Immediately on arrival a Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike was on show while other new birds seen before we set off back to Anuradhapura included Crimson-fronted Barbets and Sri Lanka Woodshrikes, Black-capped Babbler, Oriental White-eyes and Green Leaf Warbler. Back at the Meridya the Indian Pitta once more put on a good show before the light faded

Day 4

Tuesday 15th February

Anuradhapura to Sigyria; Sigyria Forest

Weather: dry and mostly sunny, warm/hot at Sigyria and a little humid

The highlight of pre-breakfast birding in the hotel garden was once again an Indian Pitta, sitting in the open for a while toying with a large worm. After breakfast we loaded the luggage van and set off southwards towards our next base at Sigyria. A couple of 30 minute stops at roadside tanks en route yielded a fine selection of wetland species including a furtive Watercock, a couple of Cotton Pygmy Geese, two Blue-faced Malkohas for some and other new birds such as Paddyfield Pipit and Jerdon's Bushlark. We arrived at the Hotel Sigyria at 11.30 and had an hour to settle in before lunch and a siesta. At 15.00 a 10 minute drive delivered us to the moat surrounding the imposing Sigyria Rock where an hour or so was spent watching Alexandrine Parakeets, Sri Lanka Green Pigeons, Asian Paradise-flycatchers (including a beautiful white male with improbably long tail), White-browed Fantail and Crested Hawk-eagle. Moving on to an area of denser forest we found several more Asian Paradise-flycatchers but the main prize was a responsive Crimson-backed Woodpecker, one of a pair, that gave a series of good views.

Day 5

Wednesday 16th February

Sigyria Forest / Rock; Pollonurawa

Weather: dry and mostly sunny, warm/hot and a little humid

A walk around the hotel grounds and the road opposite before breakfast provided views of Brown-breasted and Tickell's Blue-flycatchers. After breakfast four group members opted to climb Sigyria Rock which all deemed less demanding than anticipated...and with a couple of Peregrines thrown in for good measure. Having dropped the climbers off, the rest of us returned to the moat area where we enjoyed excellent views of Sri Lanka Swallows perched on wires, along with a very close Crested Hawk-eagle and its Sri Lanka Green Pigeon victim, plus many previously seen species. Moving on towards the denser forest areas we first visited a more open area where the forest backed on to open pastures where a couple of Stork-billed Kingfishers performed well and we saw our first Jungle Prinias and Baya Weavers as Crested Serpent Eagles called overhead. Nearby a flock of Sri Lanka Green Pigeons held a single Orange-breasted Green Pigeon and a little further on our search for an elusive Forest Wagtail was rewarded when an Orange-headed Thrush popped up for a couple of minutes viewing.

About half of the group were present for an afternoon excursion to the denser forest bordering the Sigyria moat, the rest opting to visit Pollunurawa where, in addition to the delights of the archaeological sites, a family of Asian Elephants were on the road during the return journey. At Sigyria the birding was again excellent with decent views of Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike, Black-naped Monarch, two Indian Pittas, a Peregrine, Large-billed and Green Warblers and Velvet-fronted Nuthatches keeping us well entertained. Those who assembled near the hotel lobby for a pre-dinner attempt to find Jerdon's Nightjar met with immediate success as one flew over and then posed, calling, for more than ten minutes from a bare branch

Day 6

Thursday 17th February

Sigyria to Kandy, Peradeniya Botanical Gardens

Weather: dry, sunny and warm/hot after some early mist

A final pre-breakfast exploration of the hotel area produced a brief Orange-headed Thrush, a White-rumped Shama and a couple of Green Warblers plus an obliging Black-naped Hare. With the luggage van loaded we set off south towards Kandy soon after 08.30 and by 10.15 arrived at the Luckgrove Spice Garden near Matale. About half the group members opted for a guided tour of the spice garden, while the rest of us went on a successful quest for Chestnut-backed Owlet with the diminutive predator posing well after a bit of searching.

Moving on we arrived at the Peradeniya Resthouse for lunch just after 12.30 and having consumed our curries or omelettes crossed the road for a couple of hours exploration of the attractive Peradeniya Botanical Gardens where highlights were Southern Hill Mynas, a cooperative Forest Wagtail and the famous large roost of Indian Flying Foxes. We arrived at the characterful Suisse Hotel in the heart of Kandy soon after 16.30, allowing everyone half-an-hour to freshen up and change before attending a performance of Kandian Dance before dinner. Today was a full moon, Poya, day which meant public consumption of alcohol was barred but thanks to the efforts of Dammi's boss we found a quiet private room complete with barman who provided 'refreshments' during the pre-dinner daily checklist.

Day 7

Friday 18th February

Kandy area

Weather: fine and mostly sunny, warm, a little humid

After breakfast we set off at 07.30 and arrived at Udawatakelle Reserve 15 minutes later. For the next three hours we slowly made our way along the wide forest trails and accumulated a respectable list of birds including new ones for the tour in the shape of Brown-capped Babbler, Rufous-bellied Eagle, Square-tailed Black Bulbul, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Yellow-browed Bulbul and, for one lucky group member, a rare Blue-throated Flycatcher. Amongst the supporting cast of previously seen species were several Tickell's Blue Flycatchers and White-rumped Shamans, numerous Southern Hill Mynas and a pair of Crimson-backed Woodpeckers; mammal interest was provided by a Muntjac Deer and several photogenic Toque Macaques.

After lunch back at the hotel and a short rest we drove for 40 minutes into the Hantane Tea Estate high above Kandy where we were successful in achieving good scope views of our two Parakeet targets species; Plum-headed and Layard's, with the latter showing particularly well. While here we also had several views of perched Sri Lanka Hanging-parrots, a Streak-throated Woodpecker and several previously seen species.

On our return to Kandy at just after 18.00 most of the group opted to join Dammi on a short visit to the fabled Temple of the Tooth before dinner.

Day 8

Saturday 19th February

Kandy to Nuwara Eliya, Victoria Park

Weather: fine, warm in Kandy, a little cooler and overcast in Nuwara Eliya with some light rain for an hour after 17.00

By 08.30 we were on our way through the Kandy suburbs before starting to climb high into the tea estates to the south. After just under two hours we arrived for an hour-long visit to the Blue Fields Tea Factory where most of the group opted for a short factory tour while the rest watched Hill Swallows darting around the cafe-cum-shop where some were nesting under the rafters. Raptors seen during our visit included a couple of Oriental Honey Buzzards and a Black-winged Kite.

Within an hour we arrived at the Leisure Village Hotel on the outskirts of Nuwara Eliya where Pied Bushchats and others were visible outside during lunch.

At 15.00 we set off on the 15 minute drive to Victoria Park in the town centre. Although busy with visitors as usual we soon began to see the first target birds when a small group of Sri Lanka White-eyes appeared in a path-side tree along with a couple of Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrikes as a large flock of Alpine Swifts buzzed overhead. Moving on to the stream area a Forest Wagtail put on a brief display and after about 15 minutes of searching a fine male Pied Thrush was located near the children's play area and gave stellar views for over 30 minutes. Nearby, Grey Wagtails were new for our tour list and after a bit more searching we located a small flock of Yellow-eared Bulbuls.

With the light fading and a few drops of rain starting to fall we returned to the hotel soon after 17.00.

Day 9

Sunday 20th February

Horton Plains; Victoria Park

Weather: fine in the morning chilly at dawn then warm; rather overcast with a few drops of rain and rather humid in the afternoon

Tea and coffee at 04.15 preceded our 04.45 departure to Horton Plains and we arrived at the entrance gate there a few minutes before the 06.00 opening time, allowing us a few moments to watch Indian Blackbirds in the half-light while Dammi purchased our tickets. Ten minutes later we pulled up at the famous Arrenga Pool where a Sri Lanka Whistling-thrush (locally named Arrenga) was calling away from the stream below. After a short while it flew into view, crossed the road next to us and proceeded to give a series of reasonable views during the next five minutes. A perched Sri Lanka Woodpigeon gave good views, with several more flying over, while nearby a couple of furtive Sri Lanka Bush Warblers darted around in some low bushes. Further highlights in the area before we ate our box breakfasts at 07.30 were several Dull Blue Flycatchers, a busy Kashmir Flycatcher, Yellow-eared Bulbuls and numerous Sri Lanka White-eyes.

After breakfast, during which a Black Eagle appeared over a nearby ridge, we strolled through the attractive mossy forest before emerging onto the open plateau where the clear and still conditions enabled panoramic views of the hills around including temple-topped Adam's Peak. Birds seen in this open area included our first Tricoloured Munias while a couple of Sambar Deer grazed. The walk back to the vehicles was punctuated by good views of Dark-throated Babblers and others. Heading back down towards Nuwara Eliya we stopped to watch Purple-faced Leaf Monkeys of the long-haired highland race ('Bear Monkeys'), while a 30 minute stop at Pattipole Station eventually produced some decent views of Black-throated Munias as well as giving a chance to look around the station itself.

After lunch back at our hotel some chose to return to Victoria Park for a couple of hours birding, seeing two Pied Thrushes and up to four Forest Wagtails, while others accompanied Dammi on a short driving tour of the town incorporating a visit to one of the grander hotels.

Day 10

Monday 21st February

Nuwara Eliya; en route to Tissamaharama via Ella

Weather: fine and warm/ hot with a short sharp thundery shower as we approached Tissamaharama

By 07.30 we were on our way south towards the south-east lowlands but stopped after an hour for a productive 90 minute visit to the forest fragment at the Surrey Tea Estate where we enjoyed good views of Giant Squirrels plus new birds such as Sri Lanka Scimitar-babblers, Lesser Yellownappe and Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher.

Ninety-minutes later we arrived at the Ella Resthouse for lunch where we had a few minutes to admire the view or the Yellow-fronted Barbets and others in the trees above the restaurant. Leaving Ella we made good time and were soon back in the flat lowlands and speeding south. By 15.30 we had reached the Priyahanka Hotel and checked-in quickly before setting off to nearby Deberewewa Tank for a couple of hours of evening birding.

Almost the first bird we saw at the rich overgrown tank was a flying Cinnamon Bittern, indeed Bitterns, as hoped, became the theme of the evening with three each of both Black and Yellow Bitterns also seen, some posing for the 'scopes, along with a host of other birds including Baya Weavers and numerous Herons and Egrets, Jacanas and Terns plus menacing-looking Marsh Mugger Crocodiles.

Day 11

Tuesday 22nd February

Bundala NP, Yala area

Weather: Fine and hot, rather humid

At 05.30 we were on our way to Bundala National Park where three jeeps were waiting to take us on a dawn drive. By 06.30 we approached the extensive saltpan complex and soon began to encounter a host of new birds with a large flock of Caspian Terns also containing Swift and Lesser-crested Terns and a few Brown-headed Gulls while Great Stone-curlews patrolled the shoreline. Moving on we stopped at an area where smaller waders abounded and soon notched up several Marsh and Curlew Sandpipers along with numerous Little Stints, Lesser Sand Plovers and Kentish Plover while Painted Storks and Eurasian Spoonbills stood around on the embankments. A highlight here was a flock of Red-necked Phalaropes totalling about 20 individuals while Small Pratincoles sat on the raised embankments where Oriental Skylarks shuffled about. We ate our box breakfasts overlooking this wealth of shorebirds before walking a short distance and encountering a few new species such as Ruff and Wood Sandpipers. Moving on to the lagoon area we enjoyed excellent views of a Grey-headed Fish-eagle consuming a fish while some saw Chestnut-winged Cuckoo and Blue-faced Malkohas briefly. It was getting decidedly warm by the time we returned to the bus around 10.30.

Back at the hotel there was an hour or so for packing and to freshen up before we sat down for lunch. At 13.30 we loaded the bus and set off towards Yala with a couple of roadside stops en route providing more excellent views of Great Stone-curlews, our first Little-ringed Plovers and some fleeting Rosy Starlings. On arrival at the hotel, Yala Village, we settled into our comfortable rooms before gathering on the viewing platform above the restaurant. From here we had fine views over the well wooded hotel complex, the adjacent tank and Indian Ocean beyond. Avian highlights this evening included several White-winged Terns and an assortment of waders at the tank and showy Orange-breasted Green Pigeons and Green Imperial Pigeons in the trees along with commoner fare such as Loten's Sunbirds and Pale-billed Flowerpeckers. A Giant Squirrel showed well here - it later transpired that this individual was a habitual visitor to the restaurant where it feasted on handouts of bananas - and a Wild Boar spent some time rooting about near the bar next to the swimming pool.

Day 12

Wednesday 23rd February

Yala NP and adjoining areas

Weather: fine and hot, rather humid

We set off for Yala National Park in three jeeps at 05.30 and entered the park at dawn. Although the inhabitants of one jeep did get a glimpse of a Leopard, the cat seemed to go to ground quickly and there were no further signs. However, there is much more to Yala than just its Leopards and four hours of touring around either side of a box breakfast on the beach produced a couple of Asian Elephants, several Ruddy Mongooses and Wild Boar and birds including Grey-headed Fish-eagle, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Indian Roller and a good mixture of waders.

After sitting out the heat of a very hot day at the luxurious Yala Village our evening excursion took us to some of the wetlands outside the main park gate where Garganey, Striated Heron and Pintail Snipe were all new amongst a fine selection of previously seen wetland species. A dusk vigil for Nightjars near the hotel was rewarded when a pair of Indian Nightjars put on a good show in the spotlight.

Day 13

Thursday 24th February

Yala Village, en route to Emblyptiya area

Weather: fine and hot, rather humid

Although the rare option of a lie-in was available, most of group revealed their indefatigable side and were up on the observation tower at dawn, where a flock of Small Pratincoles fed actively over the tank below. A short walk to the causeway area before breakfast produced good views of several species including a couple of Sri Lanka Woodshrikes and many waders.

After a leisurely and hearty breakfast we had a little time for final packing before our 10.00 departure from this idyllic spot. The journey to the Centauria Hotel on the outskirts of Emblyptiya took just under three hours and after checking-in we soon settled down for lunch downstairs as a wedding reception took place amongst plenty of noise and colour in the main restaurant above. The adjacent large tank here held several wetland birds and some were lucky to see a rare Black-capped Kingfisher near their rooms. A short afternoon excursion took us to an overgrown tank to the north where the hoped-for Streaked Weavers were on show, one attending a distant nest, while several previously seen species showed well including a Grey-bellied Cuckoo.

Day 14

Friday 25th February

Udawalawe, en route to Sinharaja

Weather: fine and hot, rather humid.

At 05.30 we set off on the 30 minute drive to Udawalawe National Park where we soon boarded three jeeps and set off into the extensive grassland reserve. By the time we reached the reservoir area for breakfast at 08.30 we had seen well over 20 Asian Elephants, often at close range and including a one-month-old individual, and another mammal highlight was a smart Golden Jackal which showed well before eventually sloping off. Plenty of birds were seen too with Yellow-eyed Babblers new while numerous Ashy Prinias sang away from the tops of small bushes. A typically elusive Sirkeer Malkoha gave some sort of views to most while Crested Hawk Eagle, Black-winged Kites and a migrant race Peregrine posed on bare treetops as, briefly, did a flock of Rosy Starlings. White-bellied Sea Eagles drifted overhead as we ate our boxed breakfasts while the return journey to the bus through a scrubbier part of the park produced fine views of a couple of Lesser Adjutants and several more Elephants.

Back at the Centauria we did some final packing before lunch and were on our way westwards towards Sinharaja by 13.00. With a couple of comfort stops and leg stretches en route we reached the Blue Magpie Lodge at Sinharaja around 17.30 which gave us 45 minutes to take in the surroundings before the light faded.

Day 15

Saturday 26th February

Sinharaja

Weather: fine and warm

Breakfast at 05.30 preceded our 06.00 departure for the main trail at Sinharaja via the park ticket office and a decidedly twisty and bumpy uphill jeep ride for 35 minutes. Once on the trail new birds quickly appeared with Sri Lanka Mynas and White-faced Starlings showing rather distantly in bare treetops, the former later showing well. Yellow-browed and Black-capped Bulbuls performed in trail side trees and after about 30 minutes we came across a decent feeding flock containing several each of Ashy-headed Laughingthrush, Orange-billed Babblers, Sri Lanka Crested Drongos, Sri Lanka Scimitar-babblers and a couple of fleeting Malabar Trogons. A little further on one of our local guides did well to find a roosting Sri Lanka Frogmouth which we eventually all managed to see well after a bit of ducking and weaving to find a suitable vantage point.

While looking for some calling Sri Lanka Blue Magpies a pair of Besras displayed overhead, while the Magpies eventually put in an appearance and were much appreciated. The walk back to the jeeps was punctuated by stops to watch the rear end of another feeding flock disappearing, allowing further fleeting views of a Malabar Trogon for some. A further stop was made to admire the Frogmouth again, this time allowing scope views, while another Frogmouth gave even better views nearer to the jeeps. Of the non-avian entertainments, the superb Sri Lanka Tree Nymph butterflies were probably the highlight this morning. Back at the Blue Magpie Lodge for lunch, a flock of Brown-backed Needletails put on a good show amongst Indian Swiftlets and Asian Palm Swifts.

Our evening excursion took us on foot to a quiet road near the village where a Lesser Yellownape and our first Legge's Flowerpeckers were seen amongst a slow moving feeding flock of Orange-billed Babblers and Dammi's...and persistence eventually led to views of a calling Green-billed Coucal.

Day 16

Sunday 27th February

En route to Colombo

Weather: fine and warm/hot, humid

Early risers went on a short but successful quest for Sri Lanka Spurfowl before breakfast. After breakfast, a walk to the park offices was enlivened by the appearance of a male Malabar Trogon, a very obliging pair of Legge's Flowerpeckers and a handful of Sri Lanka Crested Drongos along with several commoner or more widespread species. Back at the lodge there was time for some packing before an early lunch at 11.30 with a Black Eagle overhead on several occasions.

Shortly before 12.30 we set off on the long journey to Colombo and eventually arrived at the Airport Garden Hotel at 18.40 after dropping off Nicky and John who were remaining in Sri Lanka after the tour. A final dinner together coincided with the World Cup cricket match between England and India.

Day 17

Monday 28th February

Inbound to UK

Weather: fine and warm/hot in Colombo.

After a night of comparative luxury we then had a ten minute transfer to the airport. We left at 08.30, on the first stage of the long journey back to the UK via a short stopover in the Maldives.

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Systematic Lists

Birds

Species order, nomenclature and taxonomy follow the list maintained by the International Ornithological Union (v2.7, December 2010) and available online at Worldbirdnames.org. All numbers given are generally approximations designed to show relative abundance, species marked x were present but no numbers estimated, though generally abundant.

Key:

{1} - not seen by the tour leader or guides

[1] – only seen by the tour leader or guides

h - heard but not seen **E** – endemic ✓ = recorded

	Common name	Scientific name	February															
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
1	Sri Lanka Spurfowl E	<i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>															2	
2	Sri Lanka Junglefowl E	<i>Gallus lafayetii</i>			1	5	h				2		1	2		h	2	h
3	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	1	h	1	1	h					20	20		20			
4	Lesser Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	50	2	20	10					20	10	20	10				
5	Cotton Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	10		2	2												
6	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>											1					
7	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	2	3														
8	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	1								2	20	30		4			
9	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	10	10	10	1		2			20	20	30	5				
10	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>			1									1	1			
11	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>													2			
12	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	20	1	2						30	20	40	50	10			
13	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	{1}															
14	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	2									3	1					
15	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>									3							
16	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>									1							
17	Black Bittern	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>									3							
18	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1	10	5			2										
19	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>											2					
20	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	00's	00's	00's	30	50	20	20	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		4	
21	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	00's	00's	00's	20	000's	000's	00's	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
22	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	20	20	20						4	20	10	10	x			

	Common name	Scientific name	February														
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	4	1	40	✓	✓				1	4	10	6	10		
24	Eastern Great Egret	<i>Ardea modesta</i>	20	1	10	✓	✓	2	4		10	2		1	40		
25	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	20		1						1						
26	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	10	10	10		1	1	1		1	4	40	10	10		1
27	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	10	8	4			✓			3	20	30	1			
28	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	00's	40	30	✓	30			1		50	20	✓	✓		
29	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	10	4	2	1	1	150	50		500	100	50	✓	30	1	1
30	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	4		1						1				30		
31	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	2	2	2						4	20	10	10	3		
32	Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>								3	1						
33	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>								1	1		1			3	
34	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	30	50	30	2	2	1	2		30	2	10	10	10		4
35	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	2	4	1	1	2	1			1	1	1		2		
36	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>		2		2						1	1		1		
37	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	1	1	h	2		2			3	3		1		3	2
38	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>						1									
39	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>		6	3	5							1	1			2
40	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>															2
41	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>									1	1					2
42	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>										1					
43	Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Lophotriorchis kienerii</i>						1									
44	Crested Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>			2	1						2	2		2	2	1
45	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				1					1						
46	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				2											1
47	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	4	8	8	2				3	8	10	1		2	4	
48	Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>			1												
49	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	10		20							6					
50	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1	1													
51	Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>										1					
52	Great Stone-curlew	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>										10	6	2	2		
53	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>										2	200	50	✓	10	
54	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>										6	10				
55	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	10	20	30	2				2		4	6	✓	✓	10	
56	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>											10	10			
57	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>											10				
58	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>											2	2	1		

	Common name	Scientific name	February															
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
59	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>										20	2	4				
60	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>										300	100	50				
61	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	100	10	50	20						20	10	30				
62	Pintail Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>											3	3				
63	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>										10	10					
64	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>										{1}						
65	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>										100	50	10				
66	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>																
67	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>																
68	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>																
69	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>								1	2							
70	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>										10	10	4				
71	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>										1						
72	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>										500	20	20				
73	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>										50		10				
74	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>										2						
75	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>										20						
76	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>										4		10				
77	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>										8						
78	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>										2	20	6		1		
79	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>										40	2					
80	Swift Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>										50	2					
81	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>										50	10					
82	Little/ Saunder's Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons/ saundersi</i>										100	20	10				
83	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	00's	00's	00's							100	200	100	30	10		
84	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	4									20	100	40	30			
85	Common Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
86	Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon E	<i>Columba torringtoniae</i>										10					1	
87	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
88	Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>				1			h								3	1
89	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicincta</i>				1						10	10	10	2			
90	Sri Lanka Green Pigeon E	<i>Treron pompadora</i>			10	20									5		10	2
91	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	2	2		1	1					10	10		30	10		1
92	Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot E	<i>Loriculus beryllinus</i>					3	10				1				10	20	30
93	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>			10	15	6	10	2							4		
94	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	00's	00's	00's	30	10	10	10			50	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

	Common name	Scientific name	February															
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
95	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>							6									
96	Layard's Parakeet E	<i>Psittacula calthropae</i>							10			2				2	20	10
97	Green-billed Coucal E	<i>Centropus chlororhynchos</i>															1	
98	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	4	1	3	2	1	1			h	2	4	1	2	4	h	
99	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>														1		
100	Blue-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>			2							1						
101	Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i>										1						
102	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	2	1	1												h	
103	Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>		5	2	2					1	h	h	5	h	h	h	
104	Common Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>					h	h										
105	Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>			h									1	1			
106	Chestnut-backed Owlet E	<i>Glaucidium castanonotum</i>					1										h	
107	Sri Lanka Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>															2	
108	Jerdon's Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus atripennis</i>			h	1												
109	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>											2					
110	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>		6	20	10					10	10	10	10	4	8	2	
111	Indian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>									30				10	10	10	
112	Brown-backed Needletail	<i>Hirundapus giganteus</i>														20	2	
113	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	50	20	30	10	6		1	2	10		✓	✓	10	10	10	
114	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>							100	50								
115	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	100	00's	00's	00's	20	10			30	30		2				
116	Malabar Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>														3	1	
117	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	2		2		1				1	1	2	3				
118	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	2		2						1			1			1	
119	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	20	20	20	10	10	4	2	2	20	20	10	✓	4	2	2	
120	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1	1	3	3					1		1		1			
121	Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx erithaca</i>			h													
122	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>									1	10	1	2				
123	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>		3		4	2					10	20	✓	✓			
124	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	20	6	4	✓	4		10	10	30	10	30	✓	30	10	10	
125	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>						2	4		6						2	
126	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			h							1						
127	Sri Lankan Grey Hornbill E	<i>Ocyceros gingalensis</i>	1	4		6									h	1		
128	Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>									10		2	20	6			
129	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	4	10	10	6	6	2	1		1		1		✓		2	
130	Yellow-fronted Barbet E	<i>Megalaima flavifrons</i>						4	h	3	4							

	Common name	Scientific name	February															
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
131	Crimson-fronted Barbet E	<i>Megalaima rubricapillus</i>		2	1	2	1	h								h	h	
132	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>		3	4	4					1		h	1	h			
133	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>										2	3					
134	Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>									2					1		
135	Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>						1										
136	Lesser Goldenback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	2					3		3	1				1	3	2	
137	Crimson-backed Goldenback E	<i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i>			2			2										
138	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	1	1	1	3	h					1	h					
139	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>		2		4			2									
140	Sri Lanka Woodshrike E	<i>Tephrodornis affinis</i>		2		4							2					
141	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	1															
142	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>		6	4	10					4		2	1				
143	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>			1													
144	Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>				1												
145	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>			8	10		4		4	5		3					
146	Orange Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>					2	2			2					4	6	
147	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	2		2	2		2	1	1			4	3		2		
148	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	10	10	10	10	10	4	3		4		h	1	1	1	4	
149	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	1	1														
150	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	10	4		4	8	3			4		✓		✓	6	8	
151	Sri Lanka Drongo E	<i>Dicrurus lophorinus</i>														10	3	
152	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>			1			2					2	2				
153	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>				1											1	
154	Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	4	2	8	5		2			1		4	1		2	2	
155	Sri Lanka Blue Magpie E	<i>Urocissa ornata</i>									h						3	
156	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	00's	00's	00's	00's	00's	00's	00's	00's	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
157	Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>	2				2		50	30	20	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
158	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>								h	2							
159	Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>					4		1	2	3							
160	Jerdon's Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra affinis</i>			6	4							10	2	20			
161	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>											10	2				
162	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>											10	6	2			
163	Black-capped Bulbul E	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>		2		6									2		4	1
164	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	20	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
165	Yellow-eared Bulbul E	<i>Pycnonotus penicillatus</i>							8	10								
166	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	2	6	5							2					4	1

	Common name	Scientific name	February															
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
167	Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Acritillas indicus</i>							3							4	4	
168	Square-tailed Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes ganeesa</i>							4							2	20	
169	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	20	20	10	10										20	20	
170	Hill Swallow	<i>Hirundo domicola</i>								8	10							
171	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>										1						
172	Sri Lanka Swallow E	<i>Cecropis hyperythra</i>		2	3	8			4		2		2			1	1	
173	Green Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>		1	2	2	4	h	h	4	1			h	h	2	h	
174	Large-billed Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>		h		1					h					h	h	
175	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>														1	1	1
176	Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>										[1]						
177	Sri Lankan Bush Warbler E	<i>Elaphornis palliseri</i>									3							
178	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1	h	h	2					2	10			10	✓		
179	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	2	2														
180	Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>				2									1			
181	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>									1	1				20		
182	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>		2	4	4			h			1	2	3	1	4		
183	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	6	4	2	1	h	4	2	4	1	1	2	h	1		h	
184	Brown-capped Babbler E	<i>Pellorneum fuscocapillus</i>				h	h	2										
185	Sri Lankan Scimitar Babbler E	<i>Pomatorhinus melanurus</i>									2					8		
186	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>				8		5							4			
187	Dark-fronted Babbler	<i>Rhopocichla atriceps</i>				2				3								
188	Orange-billed Babbler E	<i>Turdoides rufescens</i>														3	10	2
189	Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>	30	30	10	10	10	10	4		20	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
190	Ashy-headed Laughingthrush E	<i>Garrulax cinereifrons</i>															5	
191	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>														6		
192	Oriental White-Eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>		8			3	2								4	2	
193	Sri Lanka White-Eye E	<i>Zosterops ceylonensis</i>							3	15								
194	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>				3												
195	Sri Lanka Hill Myna E	<i>Gracula ptilogenys</i>														10		
196	Southern Hill Myna	<i>Gracula indica</i>					4	20			4							
197	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	10	20	10	10	40	50	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
198	White-faced Starling E	<i>Sturnornis albofrontatus</i>															5	
199	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>											10			8		
200	Sri Lanka Whistling-Thrush E	<i>Myophonus blighi</i>									2							
201	Pied Thrush	<i>Zoothera wardii</i>							2	2								
202	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>				2	1											

	Common name	Scientific name	February														
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
203	Spot-winged Thrush E	<i>Zoothera spiloptera</i>															h
204	Indian Blackbird	<i>Turdus simillimus</i>								1	6						
205	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	4	4	10	6	8	4	20	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
206	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>			1	2	1	4									
207	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>	1	1	4	6		1					6	1	2		
208	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>							3	10	2						
209	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	1	2	2		1	1			1	1		1		2	1
210	Brown-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>				1	1									2	2
211	Kashmir Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula subrubra</i>								1							
212	Dull-blue Flycatcher E	<i>Eumyias sordidus</i>								8							
213	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>			3	2	1	4			4						
214	Blue-throated Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i>						{1}									
215	Jerdon's Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>	1	5	1	4					2		1	2			
216	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>		1	2	2											
217	Legge's Flowerpecker E	<i>Dicaeum vincens</i>														2	3
218	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	2	2	1	2	4	3	10	8	6	6	6	✓	✓	10	3
219	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>	8	10	✓	8	15	10		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
220	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	2	20	5						1						
221	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris lotenius</i>				2	6		6		4	2	✓	✓	1		
222	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>					1	2	10	✓	✓						
223	Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manyar</i>												10			
224	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>				6					2						
225	Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>													4		
226	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	2			4					2					20	10
227	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>		8	4	2								4	20	10	10
228	Black-throated Munia	<i>Lonchura kelaarti</i>						2		6						3	3
229	Tricolored Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>								8	4		4	100			
230	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>				1	1	1	2	3							
231	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>											1		1		
232	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>							2	2						1	1
233	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	3	2	4	2			2	10	4	10	10	10	2		
234	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>														2	

Mammals

Species order, nomenclature and taxonomy follow Duff and Lawson (2006) Mammals of the World: A Checklist

	Common name	Scientific name	February														
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1	Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>	1			1	1			2							
2	Indian Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Dusky Palm Squirrel E	<i>Funambulus sublineatus</i>								1	2					1	
4	Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel E	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>		1	2	1							3	2			
5	Common Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>											1				
6	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>											5	1	2	1	3
7	Indian Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>		2	1	1										1	1
8	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>											1		1		
9	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>		✓			300	200	✓								
10	Toque Macaque E	<i>Macaca sinica</i>	20	40	50	40	50	✓		✓	✓	✓					
11	Tufted Grey Langur	<i>Semnopithecus priam</i>	20	4	10	6	10				1	✓	✓	✓	✓		
12	Purple-faced Leaf Monkey E	<i>Trachypithecus vetulus</i>			h					9						1	7
13	Eurasian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>										1	20		10		
14	Spotted Deer	<i>Cervus axis</i>		2		1							30				
15	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>								3							
16	Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjac</i>						1									
17	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>				3							2		30		

Other Notable Fauna

Reptiles were represented by several Land Monitors and a handful of Water Monitors at a variety of sites, Green Garden Lizards were seen on four occasions, a Chameleon species once and a Starred Tortoise at Bundala and Soft-shell Terrapins at Udawatakelle. Marsh Mugger Crocodiles were at Sigyria, Yala and Bundala and Asian House Geckos were present at most of our accommodation. The only Snake Seen was a Water Snake species at Sinharaja. Few Amphibians were seen though many Treefrogs were heard; Skimmer Frogs were seen at Yala Village

The following Butterflies were noted: Blue Mormon; Common Jezebel; Common Gull; Crimson Rose; Common Cerulean; Common Indian Crow; Common Grass Yellow; Plain Tiger; Common Tiger; Spotted White Four-ring; Sri Lanka Tree Nymph; Common Palm-fly; Three-spot Grass Yellow; Ceylon Tiger; Common Soldier, Chocolate Albatross; Chocolate Soldier; Glassy Tiger; Gaudi Baron; and Bluebottle.