



### **Birding Team Members**

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## Introduction

We have done an eighteen days long tour to Sri Lanka, which included not only focused target birding in many different habitats, but also a whale-watching tour and visits to cultural sites such as Kataragama, Buduruwagala, Sigiriya and Dambulla Cave Temples. Bird wise we were highly successful, not only seeing all the endemic species, but also a record total of 271 species. All this would not have been possible without the help of the very skillful guide and chauffeur from Bauer's, Mr. Chaminda Dilruk. Mr. Dilruk might be contacted at [prcdilruk@yahoo.com](mailto:prcdilruk@yahoo.com).

Regarding our itinerary we are extremely satisfied, which is not surprising considering how much time was spent prior to the trip planning it in detail. Now, on hindsight, the only things that we would have changed is one day less in Uda Walawe NP instead spent for *Painted Francolin* in Eastern Sri Lanka<sup>1</sup> or in Bundala NP.

We flew from Stockholm/Gothenburg to Frankfurt with SAS, and from there to Colombo with Sri Lankan Airlines.<sup>2</sup> We paid 8500 skr pp for the return tickets<sup>3</sup>. The Sri Lankan Airlines flights were punctual, but the quality of food, service and in-flight entertainment were somewhat below that of average European and American airlines. We paid 2280 \$ pp<sup>4</sup> to Bauer's, which included everything but lunch and beverage throughout the tour<sup>5</sup>. We had read in many trip reports that people had paid in cash to Bauer's on arrival to the airport in Colombo, but in November we were all of the sudden told that we had to pay the full amount via bank transfer 45 days prior to the trip, which Bauer's had not mentioned in our correspondence before. As far as we understand it, this change in policy is due to a new manager, Malinda Ekanayake. Fortunately, Bauer's handled everything else prior to and during the trip in an excellent way.

We brought several different bird books to Sri Lanka, i.e. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Sri Lanka* by John Harrison, *Birds of Sri Lanka* by Deepal Warakagoda, Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp and Tim Inskipp and *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* by Carol Inskipp, Richard Grimmett and Tim Inskipp. We recommend *Birds of Sri Lanka*. In addition, we bought the somewhat expensive *Birds of Sri Lanka, MP3 sound and image collection* [Audio CD] by Deepal Warakagoda. Many of the songs/calls are available for free at xenocanto, and Chaminda brought his own recordings, but nevertheless we recommend buying the sound collection if one wants to be well prepared for the trip.



*Tufted Gray Langur (Photo: SJ)*

<sup>1</sup> According to Chaminda it is possible as a day trip from Tissa.

<sup>2</sup> Nowadays one needs to apply for a visa to Sri Lanka prior to the trip. It is done online: <http://www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/>.

<sup>3</sup> Roger, who booked in April instead of in February, had to pay 9800 skr.

<sup>4</sup> We also paid a 25 \$ pp New Year's Eve supplement.

<sup>5</sup> We budgeted 15 \$ per day for lunch and beverages which was more than enough. We paid approximately 100 \$ in total pp for tips and portorage.

## Itinerary

December 21	Flight from Stockholm/Gothenburg to Frankfurt. Flight from Frankfurt to Colombo – Bandaranayake International.
December 22	Early morning arrival <sup>6</sup> . Transport from the airport to <b>Kithulgala</b> , stopping en route at Viyangoda and Ura Pola. Birding in the Kithulgala village area near the police station. After lunch birding at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation.
December 23	Early morning at <b>Kithulgala</b> village area near the police station, followed by a visit to Makandawa Forest before lunch. After lunch Makandawa Forest again.
December 24	Early morning at <b>Kithulgala</b> village area near the police station. Transport from Kithulgala to <b>Sinharaja</b> . Birding in an area close to the Blue Magpie Lodge in the afternoon.
December 25	<b>Sinharaja</b>
December 26	<b>Sinharaja</b>
December 27	Early morning owl-listening at Sinharaja. Transport to <b>Mirissa</b> .
December 28	Whale-watching tour from <b>Mirissa</b> Harbour.
December 29	Sightseeing in <b>Galle</b> followed by a visit to the Buddhist temple Yatagala Raja Maha Viharaga. Evening visit to <b>Kirala Kele</b> .
December 30	Early morning visit to <b>Kirala Kele</b> . Transport to Tissa via <b>Kalameiya</b> and <b>Hambantota Tanks</b> . Evening visit to <b>Tissa Debera Wewa</b> .
December 31	Full day safari in <b>Yala NP</b> .
January 1	<b>Tissa Debera Wewa</b> before and after breakfast. Afternoon safari in <b>Yala NP</b> .
January 2	Morning visit to <b>Tissa Debera Wewa</b> followed by visit to the pilgrimage site in <b>Kataragama</b> . Afternoon and evening in <b>Bundala NP</b> .
January 3-4	Full day safaris in <b>Uda Walawe NP</b> .
January 5	Transport to <b>Nuwara Eliya</b> via <b>Sureya Wewa</b> , <b>Buduruwagala</b> and <b>Surrey Estate</b> .
January 6	<b>Nuwara Eliya</b> : Victoria Park, forest area close to Nuwara Eliya and Gregory's Lake Marsh.
January 7	Transport to Kassapa Lions Rock, Sigiriya via <b>Glenloch Tea Estate</b> (Hill Swallow) and <b>Kandy</b> (Temple of the Tooth).
January 8	Early morning birding in the Kassapa Lions Rock hotel area, followed by birding in the Sigiriya area. Climbing <b>Sigiriya Rock Fortress</b> and visit to <b>Dambulla</b> cave temples.

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<sup>6</sup> We arrived at 4.40 am and were able to leave the airport at 5.30 am.

## Site-by-site Account

In the account below we mark the target species we saw at each site with a √ within parenthesis, i.e. (√), endemic species (following Clements Checklist 6.7) with an E within parenthesis, i.e. (E) and rare birds reported from the site with an R within parenthesis, i.e. (R). The target species for each site are based mainly on reading seven birding trip reports found on the Internet<sup>7</sup> prior to our trip, but also on Wings Birding Tours list on what species have been seen on their seventeen tours to Sri Lanka<sup>8</sup>:

Dahl, Anders, Bygård, Stellan and Andreas Viberg, *Sri Lanka 2012-01-27-02-11*

Grundsten, Måns, *Birding Sri Lanka January 23rd-February 5th 2011*

Gustavsson, Hans-Åke and Thomas Lindblad, *Sri Lanka 10th – 25th February 2012*

Holmberg, Roger, *Sri Lanka 7-14/3 2011*

Krabbe, Erling, Heegaard, Morten and Niels Riis, *Sri Lanka Birding the pearl of South Asia 23. January- 5. February 2011*

Owain Gabb, Maher, Micky, Sykes, Tim and Stuart Thomas, *Sri Lanka 27 November – 10 December 2010*

Sørensen, Uffe Gjøl and Jørgen Bech, *Birding, mammaling and reptiling in Sri Lanka 12-31/1 2010*

Wings Birding Tours, <http://wingsbirds.com/tours/sri-lanka/birdlist/>

## Kithulgala

Main target species: Green-billed Coucal (E√), Chestnut-backed Owlet (E√), Serendib Scops-Owl (E√), Red-faced Malkoha (E), Ceylon Spurfowl (E√), Ceylon Gray Hornbill (E√), Spotted-winged Thrush (E√), Ceylon Magpie (E), Ceylon Myna (E) and Sri Lanka Drongo (E√).

Other target species: Sri Lanka Green-Pigeon (E√), Sri Lanka Swallow (E√), Layard's Parakeet (E√), Ceylon Hanging-Parrot (E√), Crimson-backed Flameback (E), Black-capped Bulbul (E√), Yellow-eyed Bulbul (√), Brown-capped Babbler (E√), Orange-billed Babbler (E√), Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babbler (E√), Yellow-fronted Barbet (E√), White-throated Flowerpecker (E), Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher (√), Rufous Woodpecker, Asian Drongo-Cuckoo, Golden-fronted (Sri Lanka) Leafbird<sup>9</sup> (√), Ceylon Frogmouth (√), Crested Goshawk (R), Chestnut-winged Cuckoo<sup>10</sup> (R), Rufous-bellied Eagle (√), Malabar Trogon (√), Dollarbird (√), Black-naped Monarch (√), Black-throated Munia (√) and Banded Bay Cuckoo (√).

<sup>7</sup> [www.club300.se](http://www.club300.se), except for Sørensen ([http://www.netfugl.dk/trip\\_reports/asia/SriLanka\\_2010\\_UGS.pdf](http://www.netfugl.dk/trip_reports/asia/SriLanka_2010_UGS.pdf)) and Owain (<http://www.surfbirds.com/mb/trips/sri-lanka-report-gabb-2010.pdf>)

<sup>8</sup> We are aware that what is a target species and what is not of course depends on one's own life list etc. Those of you who are totally focused only on seeing the endemics will find enough of information in other trip reports. Nevertheless, what we hope to do here is helping what we imagine to be an average birder; we have based our target species on what we imagine to be the average birder's target species, since our group consisted of birders with variable expectations and life-lists. We have also based our target list on our goal to see as many species as possible during a round trip like this.

<sup>9</sup> Probable future split, therefore a target species.

<sup>10</sup> Also possible in Sinharaja, Uda Walawe, Bundala and Yala according to Grundsten.

On the way from Bandaranayake International Airport to Kithulgala we made several stops. These stops at Viyangoda (bakery for breakfast) and at Ura Pola were mainly done because of our eagerness to get started birding, but also because this is a good area for the Sri Lankan race of Crimson-fronted Barbet (a.k.a. *Sri Lanka Small Barbet*), a probable future split. According to the trip reports we had read prior to the trip this seemed to be a difficult species/race, but we saw several birds at Viyangoda and Ura Pola, and later on during the trip also in Kithulgala and Sinharaja.

We spent two full days in Kithulgala, which felt enough. We birded mainly in three areas, i.e. in the village area near the police station, at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation and at Makandawa Forest, which is reached by taking the “passenger ferry” (more like a canoe) across the river from Kithulgala Rest House. We wore leech socks in the Kithulgala area, but leeches were few and far between. We had pre-ordered the socks via Bauer’s and they were handed over to us by Chaminda.



*Sri Lanka Small Barbet, Ura Pola (Photo: SJ)*

We stayed in Kithulgala Rest House, which was beautifully situated near the river. The rooms had a basic standard, but the service and the food were quite good.



*Kelani River, Kithulgala (Photo: RT)*

### Sinharaja National Park

Main target species: Sri Lanka Bay-Owl (R), Ceylon Magpie (E√), White-faced Starling (E√), Red-faced Malkoha (E√), (Sri Lanka) Scaly Thrush (√), Ceylon Myna (E√), Ashy-headed Laughingthrush (E√), Ceylon Gray Hornbill (E), Ceylon Spurfowl (E√), Green-billed Coucal (E√), Serendib Scops-Owl (E), Chestnut-backed Owlet (E√), Spotted-winged Thrush (E√), Sri Lanka Drongo (E√), Sri Lanka Wood-Pigeon (E), Slaty-legged Crake (√) and Malayan Night-Heron (R)<sup>11</sup>.

Other target species: Crimson-backed Flame-back (E√), Sri Lanka Green-Pigeon (E√), Black-capped Bulbul (E√), Yellow-eyed Bulbul (√), Brown-capped Babbler (E√), Orange-billed Babbler (E√), Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babbler (E√), Sri Lanka Swallow (E√), White-throated Flowerpecker (E√), Yellow-fronted Barbet (E√), Ceylon Junglefowl (E√), Layard's Parakeet (E√), Ceylon Hanging-Parrot (E√), Indian Blue Robin (√), Black-throated Munia, Golden-fronted (Sri Lanka) Leafbird<sup>12</sup> (√), Crested Goshawk, Banded Bay Cuckoo (√), Malabar Trogon (√), Dollarbird (√), Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher (√) and Black-naped Monarch (√).



*Ceylon Magpie, Sinharaja (Photo: SJ)*

<sup>11</sup> This species is very rare – Chaminda has seen the species only twice during his fourteen years of birding on Sri Lanka, which says a lot. The best place is supposed to be the stream below the research station.

<sup>12</sup> Probable future split, therefore a target species.

We birded in the Sinharaja area for approximately three full days, which felt enough. We spent two mornings birding inside the forest reserve, walking a rather short distance along the same path both days. Quality wise birding in the forest was excellent, but it was rather slow. To be able to bird inside the park one needs a permit, which we received at the visitor center (all handled by Chaminda).



*The Team, Sinharaja*

We spent three afternoons/evenings walking from the lodge towards the park and into the village area. *Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher*<sup>13</sup>, *Slaty-legged Crake* and *Indian Blue Robin* could be found quite close to the “main bus stop” in the village.

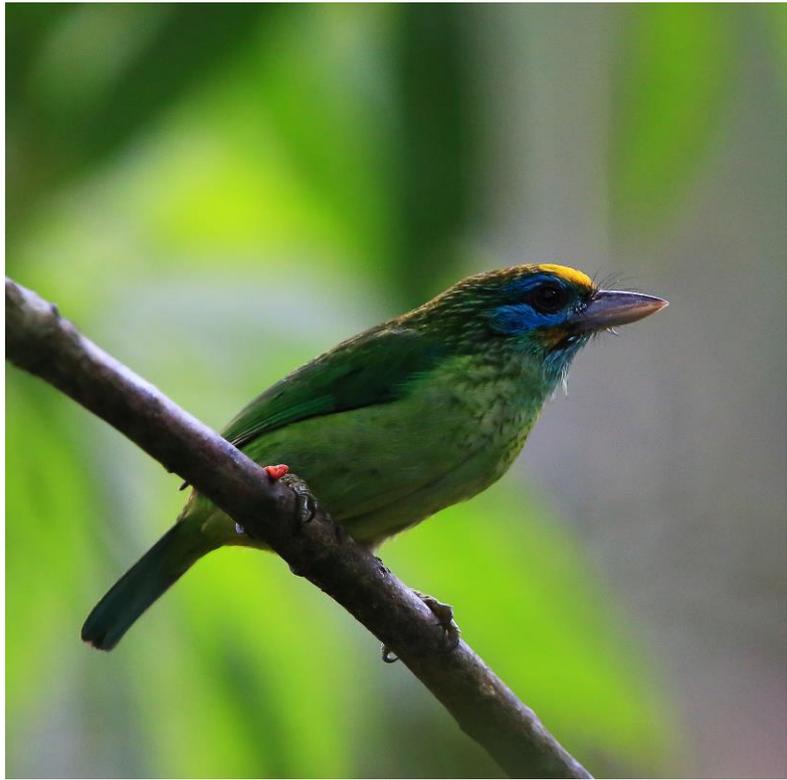
We had luck with the weather in Sinharaja; we had no rain during the days, only some heavy showers during two evenings and one night. There were plenty of leeches around everywhere in the Sinharaja area, why wearing leeches socks here are strongly recommended. The most effective way to get rid of them if they are sucking blood is to spray something containing DEET on them (i.e. MyggA for Swedes).



*Spot-winged Thrush, Sinharaja*  
(Photo: SJ)

<sup>13</sup> We heard it calling several times, but getting good views of the bird was very difficult, although we did get short glimpses.

What about *Sri Lanka Bay-Owl*? The good news is that there now seems to be a known site for them, close to Sinharaja village, where they have been seen and heard regularly lately.<sup>14</sup> We were out listening for them late evening December 26 and early morning December 27. Unfortunately, the owls are calling less actively this time of the year, which might be one reason behind why we failed to tick the species. In truth, one could say that the main reason behind our failure is that we did not know the different sounds of the species well enough; Chaminda heard *Sri Lanka Bay-Owl* calls two times at sunrise December 27, but unfortunately no one in the group except for him heard the calls with certainty well enough to be able to identify it species wise.



*Yellow-fronted Barbet, Sinharaja (Photo: SJ)*

We stayed at Blue Magpie Lodge, a hotel that has very basic rooms, but excellent service and good food. We can warmly recommend this place! Please note that it is advisable to check your shoes in the morning here; according to one trip report bedrooms are sometimes visited by tarantulas ...

### **Mirissa**

Target species: Wedge-tailed Shearwater (R<sup>✓</sup>), White-tailed Tropicbird (R), Red-billed Tropicbird (R), Brown Noddy (R), Lesser Noddy (R), Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern (R), Pomarine Jaeger (R) and Brown Booby (R).

We had two full days in the Mirissa area. The highlight, and for us the main reason coming here, was the whale-watching tour from Mirissa Harbour, during which we saw three *Indian Blue-Whales*, two *Bryde's Whales*, four *Long-snouted Spinner Dolphins* and four *Bottle-nosed Dolphins*. Bird wise, we saw a *Wedge-tailed Shearwater*, but otherwise birds were few and far between. Obviously, what is seen bird wise during the whale-watching tours varies a lot, from tour to tour and from year to year. The two target bird species that are seen most often are *Bridled Tern* and *Pomarine Jaeger*.

<sup>14</sup> For example mentioned in Dahl, Anders, Bygård, Stellan and Andreas Viberg, *Sri Lanka 2012-01-27-02-11* and seen in this YouTube-video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JmU7mPkfYY>



*Indian Blue-Whale, Mirissa (Photo: RB)*

During our stay in Mirissa we did a day-tour to Galle followed by an afternoon/evening visit to Kirala Kele, a wetland approximately 40 minutes' drive from Mirissa. Galle old town was a laid back place with rooftop cafés, art shops, a lighthouse, old churches and a fort. We

really enjoyed the time spent here. Kirala Kele might not be an essential stop on your itinerary, but if you are interested in taking photographs it is a good place, because you get really close to the birds. Furthermore, we actually saw a few good species here, i.e. *Yellow- and Black Bittern, Watercock, Eurasian Coot* and *Brown Hawk-Owl*.



*Galle (Photo: PA)*

We stayed three nights at Paradise Beach Hotel. The hotel is situated by beautiful Mirissa beach. The rooms were good, the breakfast buffet great but the dinner buffets only ok.



*Mirissa Beach (Photo: RT)*

### **Kalametiya – Hambantota Tanks**

Target species Kalametiya: Oriental Pratincole (R), Caspian Plover (R), Black Bittern (√) and Watercock (√).

Both Kalametiya and Hambantota are en route from Mirissa to Tissa. Kalametiya was somewhat of a disappointment, with much fewer shorebirds than expected, which according to Chaminda was the result of high water levels. Nevertheless, this seems to be a site that should be included in the itinerary if one is interested in the chance to see rare shorebirds, i.e. *Pratincoles* and *Caspian Plover*<sup>15</sup>.

Hambantota Tanks, right along the highway en route, was an improvised stop that was very fruitful: *Broad-billed Sandpiper*, *Spotted Redshank* and *Sanderling*.

### **Tissa Debera Wewa**

Target species: White-naped Woodpecker (√), Ruddy-breasted Crake (√), Cinnamon Bittern (√), Yellow Bittern (√), Black Bittern (√), Watercock (√), Greater Painted-Snipe (√), Brown Fish-Owl (√), Indian Spot-billed Duck (R√), Black Tern (R) and Streaked Weaver (R).

Tissa Debera Wewa is an excellent birding site, not least for the chance to see some really rare/difficult breeding/wintering birds, i.e. *White-naped Woodpecker*, *Cinnamon Bittern*,

<sup>15</sup> No actual sightings in the reports read, but secondary information from Grundsten in his report.

*Ruddy-breasted Crake* and *Greater Painted-Snipe*. Regarding the latter two, Chaminda had one of his many stake-out sites, a.k.a. Chaminda's "secret places".



*Cinnamon Bittern and White-naped Woodpecker, Tissa Debera Werwa*  
(Photos: SJ and RB)

### **Bundala National Park**

Target species: Saunder's Tern, Jerdon's Nightjar (√), Indian Nightjar (√), Small Pratincole (√), Glossy Ibis (√), Red-necked Phalarope (√), Streaked Weaver, Terek Sandpiper, Yellow Bittern, Cinnamon Bittern, Greater Painted-Snipe, Ruddy Shelduck (R), Hume's Whitethroat (R), Long-toed Stint (R√), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (R√) and Red-necked Stint (R√).



*Bundala National Park (Photo: SJ)*

We found Bundala National Park to be a true paradise for birders interested in shorebirds. Moreover, Chaminda said that there were fewer birds than usual because of the water levels, why we guess this can be a site where one easily can spend many enjoyable days. Unfortunately, we only had a few hours to spend here during an afternoon/evening, which most definitely was not enough. If one wants to be able to really scan all shorebirds here, one probably needs at least a morning tour plus an afternoon tour. Nevertheless, we managed to find most of our target species here plus two rarities: *Sharp-tailed Sandpiper* (new lifer for Chaminda), *Red-necked Stint* (unfortunately only seen by Patrik), *Long-toed Stint*, *Red-necked Phalarope*, *Glossy Ibis*, *Small Pratincole* and *Jerdon's-* and *Indian Nightjar*.



*White-bellied Fish-Eagle, Bundala (Photo: SJ)*

### Yala

Target species: Saunder's Tern, Black-necked Stork (✓), Lesser Adjutant (✓), Sri Lanka Woodshrike (E✓), Malabar Pied-Hornbill (✓), Orange-breasted Pigeon (✓), Crimson-backed Flameback (E✓), Pied Cuckoo (✓), Plaintive Cuckoo (✓), Blue-faced Malkoha (✓), White-rumped Shama (✓), Jerdon's Nightjar (✓), Indian Nightjar (✓), Jerdon's Bushlark (✓), Gray-headed Fish-Eagle (✓), White-bellied Fish-Eagle (✓), Hume's Whitethroat (R), Streaked Weaver, Marshall's Iora (R), Pacific Swift (R), Amur Falcon (R), Black Stork (R) and Common Cuckoo (R).



*Lesser Adjutant and Black-necked Stork, Yala (Photos: SJ)*

We went for two safaris in Yala National Park, one full day safari and one evening safari. Leopard, the obvious target mammal species, was seen during both safaris. Birding was very good in the park, especially early in the morning and later in the afternoon.



*Yala, a heaven for photographers (Photos: RT and SJ)*

We stayed at Priyankara Hotel in Tissamaharama for three nights. This was without comparison the best hotel of the trip; the rooms were of excellent, Western standard, the service extraordinary and the dinner buffet by far the highest quality buffet during our trip.



*Sri Lanka Woodshrike and Brahminy Starling, Yala NP (Photos: SJ)*

During our last day in the area, January 2, we spent a few hours visiting the Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim pilgrimage site Kataragama some thirty to forty minutes' drive from Tissa. Since two in the birding team also happen to be teachers in Religious studies, the visit was connected to a special interest in religion in Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, we found the site to be very fascinating, and guess that most people with a general interest in culture and religion would enjoy a detour here!

### Uda Walawe National Park

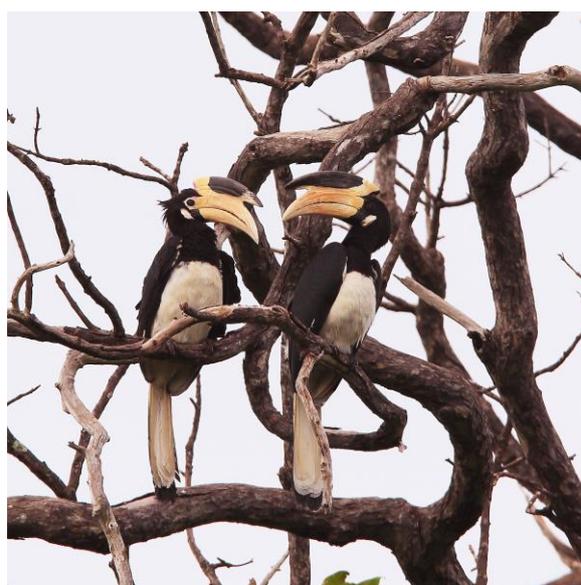
Target species: Sirkeer Malkoha (✓), Lesser Adjutant (✓), Indian Scops-Owl (✓), Sri Lanka Woodshrike (E✓), Malabar Pied-Hornbill (✓), Yellow-crowned Woodpecker (✓), Rufous Woodpecker (✓), Orange-breasted Pigeon (✓), Jungle Owlet (✓), Pied Cuckoo (✓), Plaintive Cuckoo (✓), Barred Buttonquail (✓), Jerdon's Bushlark (✓), Gray-breasted Prinia (✓), Jungle Prinia (✓), Ashy Prinia (✓), Orange-headed Thrush (✓), Forest Wagtail (✓), Rosy Starling (✓), Black-shouldered Kite (✓), Gray-headed Fish-Eagle (✓), White-bellied Fish-Eagle (✓), Eurasian Hobby (R), Osprey (R), Pallid Harrier (R), Blue-breasted Quail (R), White Wagtail (R), Lesser Cuckoo (R) and Red-rumped Swallow (R).

Since we had read several trip reports filled with superlatives about Uda Walawe NP we had decided to include two full days here. Our first day here was quite good and we saw some really exciting birds, i.e. *Sirkeer Malkoha* and *Rufous Woodpecker*, but our second day the rain kept falling all day long and almost no new birds were seen, which felt like a disappointment.

We stayed three nights at Centauria Hotel. *Indian Scops-Owl* can be seen on the hotel grounds, but except for this it is difficult to find anything good to say about this dull hotel, which nevertheless is functional for birders.



*Sirkeer Malkoha, Uda Walawe (Photo: SJ)*



*Black-capped Bulbul and Malabar Pied-Hornbill, Uda Walawe (Photos: SJ)*



*Orange-breasted Pigeon, Uda Walawe (Photo: SJ)*

### Surrey Estate

Target species: Brown Wood-Owl (✓), Dull-blue Flycatcher (E✓), Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babbler (E✓) and Sri Lanka Wood-Pigeon (E✓).

Surrey Estate is a small area en route from Uda Walawe to Nuwara Eliya. The main reason to stop here is to search for *Brown Wood-Owl* and *Sri Lanka Wood-Pigeons* in the small forest.

### Nuwara Eliya

Target species: Ceylon Whistling-Thrush (E✓), Ceylon Bush-Warbler (E✓), Yellow-eared Bulbul (E✓), Ceylon White-eye (E✓), Sri Lanka Wood-Pigeon (E✓), Dull-blue Flycatcher (E✓), Pied Thrush (✓), Kashmir Flycatcher (✓), Ceylon Magpie (E), Indian Blackbird (✓), Pallas's Grasshopper-Warbler (✓), Mountain Hawk-Eagle (✓), Crimson-backed Flameback (E✓), Long-legged Buzzard (R), Eurasian Buzzard and Pied Bushchat (✓).

We were highly successful in the area around Nuwara Eliya, why we decided not to go to Horton Plains, thereby avoiding many hours in the car that we could spend birding instead. We spent an early morning in Victoria Park, where we easily found the main targets *Kashmir Flycatcher* and *Pied Thrush*. Moreover, we also spent an evening and an early morning at Gregory's Lake Marsh, where we managed not only to get superb views of *Pallas's Grasshopper-Warblers* in the southwest corner of the marsh, but also fantastic

opportunities to compare *Common Snipe* (here rather *Uncommon Snipe*) with *Pin-tailed Snipe*. In addition, we spent an afternoon and a morning at a forest area in the outskirts of town where we had such birds as *Ceylon Bush-Warbler*, *Yellow-eared Bulbul*, *Ceylon White-eye*, *Sri Lanka Wood-Pigeon* (it took some time before we finally could get fantastic views of one perched in a tree near a garbage dump), *Dull-Blue Flycatcher* and *Mountain Hawk-Eagle*. According to Chaminda Scaly-Thrush is another possibility at this site if one visits it at first daylight. Finally, we went to a stream just south of Nuwara Eliya on the way to Hakgala Botanical Gardens, where we at dusk got good views of *Ceylon Whistling-Thrush*.



*Yellow-eared Bulbul* (Photo: SJ)



*Ceylon White-eye* (Photo: SJ)



*Dull-blue Flycatcher* (Photo: SJ)



*Ceylon Bush-Warbler* (Photo: RB)

On the way from Nuwara Eliya to Kandy we made a quick stop at Glenloch Tea Estate for *Hill Swallows* and a nice cup of tea.

We stayed two nights at Leisure Village Hotel, which was a nice “birder-oriented” place with good service.



*Kashmir Flycatcher, Indian Blue Robin and Pied Thrush, Nuwara Eliya*  
(Photos: RB photo 1 and SJ photo 2 and 3)

### Sigiriya

Target species: Asian Drongo-Cuckoo (✓), Indian Cuckoo (✓), Orange-headed Thrush (✓), Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (✓), Ruddy-breasted Crake (✓), White-rumped Shama (✓), Black-naped Monarch (✓), Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher, Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl<sup>16</sup>, Oriental Scops-Owl<sup>17</sup> and Large Cuckooshrike.

We began our day in the area with a walk from the Kassapa Lions Rock hotel grounds, which gave *Indian Cuckoo*, *Ruddy-breasted Crake* and *Black Drongo*. After breakfast we drove towards the Sigiriya Rock. The rock is surrounded by some really good birding habitat, where we spent a few hours walking slowly along the road. Among the highlights here were *Asian Drongo-Cuckoo*, *Greater Racket-tailed Drongo* and another *Indian Cuckoo*.

We stayed one night at Kassapa Lions Rock hotel, which had good rooms but was a somewhat impersonal place.



*White-rumped Shama, Sigiriya*  
(Photo: SJ)

<sup>16</sup> According to Chaminda there is a known breeding site for them at Sigiriya, where one can hear them calling.

<sup>17</sup> When we birded at Sigiriya Chaminda went into the forest to a known site for the species, and he managed to find it after some time. He went to get us, but unfortunately we were really in a rush then, and could only spend a few minutes trying to refind it, which we failed.

## List of Bird Species

In the species list below, we have followed the nomenclature of Clements Checklist 6.7. In total we saw 271 species.

### Lesser Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

Common 29/12-3/1 (for example 200 at Kirala Kele 29/12), 2 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1 and 2 at Sureya Wewa 5/1.

### Cotton Pygmy-Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

12 and 5 respectively at Tissa Debera Wewa 1-2/1.

### Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*

1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1.

### Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

25 at Kirala Kele and 40 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12.

### Garganey *Anas querquedula*

35 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 20 at Tissa Debera Wewa 31/12 and 50 at Bundala 2/1.

### Ceylon Spurfowl *Galloperdix bicalcarata*

8 at Makandawa Forest, Kithulgala 23/12, 2 in Sinharaja NP 25/12 and 4 at Sinharaja 26/12.

### Ceylon Junglefowl *Gallus lafayetii*

Seen ten days: Kithulgala, Sinharaja, Kalametiya, Yala and Uda Walawe.

### Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Common at the "south coast sites" 29/12-2/1 and in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

### Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

1 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 2 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

### Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*

1 on whale-watching tour from Mirissa 28/12.

### Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

4 along the road between Negombo and Kithulgala 22/12, 3 along the road between Sinharaja and Mirissa 27/12, 1 at Yatagala Raja Maha Viharaga and 3 at Kirala Kele 29/12, 15 at Kirala Kele 30/12, common in the Tissa, Yala and Uda Walawe area 31/12 to 4/1 and 2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

### Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

1 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1/1, 2 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1 and 17 close to Buduruwagala 5/1.

### Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

1 in Yala NP 1/1.

### Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*

1 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1.

**Painted Stork** *Mycteria leucocephala*

Common at Hambantota Tanks, Tissa Debera Wewa, Yala NP, Bundala NP and Uda Walawe NP, plus 2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Indian Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

Seen at Kirala Kele (29/12), Tissa Debera Wewa (30/12, 1-2/1), Yala NP (31/12-1/1), Uda Walawe NP (3-4/1), Sureya Wewa (5/1) and in the Sigiriya area (8/1). Largest numbers were seen in the Tissa Debera Wewa area (100+).

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

2 and 5 respectively at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12 and 1/1 and 3 in Uda Walawe 4/1.

**Little Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax niger*

Seen twelve days.

**Oriental Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster*

15 and 20 respectively at Kirala Kele 29-30/12, observed in small numbers at Tissa Debera Wewa (30/12, 1-2/1), Yala NP (31/12-1/1), Uda Walawe NP (3-4/1) and Sureya Wewa (5/1).

**Spot-billed Pelican** *Pelecanus philippensis*

7 and 6 respectively at Kirala Kele 29-30/12, 5 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 26, 2 and 4 respectively at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, 1/1 and 2/1, 12 in Yala NP 31/12, 3 in Bundala NP 2/1, 2 and 10 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 3 at Sureya Wewa 5/1.

**Yellow Bittern** *Ixobrychus sinensis*

3 at Kirala Kele 29/12, 4, 15 and 1 respectively at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, 1/1 and 2/1 and 2 at Sureya Wewa 5/1.

**Cinnamon Bittern** *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1 and 1 at Sureya Wewa 5/1.

**Black Bittern** *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

1 at Kirala Kele 29/12, 1 at Kalametiya 30/12, 1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/ and 2/1 and 1 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1.

**Gray Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Seen ten days: Kirala Kele, Kalametiya, Hambantota Tanks, Tissa Debera Wewa, Yala NP, Bundala NP, Uda Walawe NP, Sureya Wewa and Sigiriya area.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

Seen nine days: Kirala Kele, Kalametiya, Hambantota Tanks, Tissa Debera Wewa, Yala NP, Bundala NP, Uda Walawe NP, Sureya Wewa and Sigiriya area.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

Seen ten days: Kirala Kele, Kalametiya, Hambantota Tanks, Tissa Debera Wewa, Yala NP, Bundala NP, Uda Walawe NP, Sureya Wewa, Nuwara Eliya and Sigiriya area.

**Intermediate Egret** *Mesophoyx intermedia*

Seen eight days: Negombo-Kithulgala (22/12), Kithulgala-Sinharaja (24/12), Sinharaja-Mirissa (27/12), Kirala Kele (29/12), Tissa Debera Wewa (1/1), Uda Walawe NP (4/1), Sureya Wewa (5/1) and Sigiriya area (8/1).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Seen daily 29/12-8/1.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

Abundant - seen fifteen days.

**Indian Pond-Heron** *Ardeola grayii*

Abundant - seen sixteen days.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

1 in Mirissa Harbour 28/12, 1 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

3, 2 and 1 respectively at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, 1/1 and 2/1, 2 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

2 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Black-headed Ibis** *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

Seen eight days, with a maximum amount of 100 birds seen 30/12.

**Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

8 at Kalametiya, 47 at Hambantota Tanks and 5 at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, ~20 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1/1, 8 at Tissa Debera Wewa and 25 in Bundala NP 2/1 and 15 and 5 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

7 and 4 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 1 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Oriental Honey-buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Single birds seen nine days.

**Crested Serpent-eagle** *Spilornis cheela*

Observed eleven days.

**Changeable (Crested) Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus cirrhatus ceylanensis*

1 at Sinharaja 24/12 and 25/12 and 2 at Sinharaja 26/12, 1 and 2 respectively in Yala NP 31/12 and 1/1 and 1 and 4 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Mountain Hawk-Eagle (Legge's)** *Nisaetus nipalensis kelaarti*

1 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1.

**Rufous-bellied Eagle** *Lophotriorchis kienerii*

1 in Kithulgala 23/12 and 1 at Buduruwagala 5/1.

**Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malayensis*

1 and 3 respectively in the Kithulgala area 22-23/12 and 1 and 2 respectively in Nuwara Eliya 5-6/1.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1 and 1 at Buduruwagala 5/1.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*

1 at Tissa Debera Wewa and 1 in Yala NP 1/1.

**Besra** *Accipiter virgatus*

1 in the Kithulgala area 23/12, 1 en route from Kithulgala to Sinharaja 24/12 and 2 in Yala NP 31/12.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*

Common – seen fourteen days.

**White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

1 at Kalametiya 30/12, 2 and 1 respectively in Yala NP 31/12 and 1/1, 1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1, 1 and 2 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1, 3 at Sureya Wewa 5/1 and 1 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Gray-headed Fish-Eagle** *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*

1 at Kalametiya 30/12, 2 and 1 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 1 at Tissa Debera Wewa and 2 in Bundala NP 2/1 and 2 and 1 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Slaty-legged Crake** *Rallina eurizonoides*

1, 2 and 1 respectively in Sinharaja 25-27/12.

**White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Common – seen thirteen days.

**Ruddy-breasted Crake** *Porzana fusca*

1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1 and 2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Watercock** *Gallicrex cinerea*

1 at Kirala Kele 29/12, 1 at Kalametiya and 2 at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12 and 3 at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1 and 3/1.

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyria*

Seen seven days: Kirala Kele (29-30/12), Kalametiya (30/12), Tissa Debera Wewa (30/12, 1-2/1), Yala NP (31/12, 1/1), Uda Walawe NP (3/1) and Sureya Wewa (5/1).

**Eurasian Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

15 and 10 respectively at Kirala Kele 29-30/12, 2 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*

2 and 1 respectively at Kirala Kele 29-30/12.

**Indian Thick-knee** *Burhinus indicus*

20 at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1.

**Great Thick-knee** *Esacus recurvirostris*

2 at Hambantota Tanks and 1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, 10 in Yala NP 31/12, 2 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1, 40 in Bundala NP 2/1 and 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1.

**Yellow-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus malabaricus*

40 at Kalametiya 30/12, 20 in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 3 at Tissa Debera Wewa and 1 in Bundala NP 2/1 and 4 and 1 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*

Common – seen thirteen days.

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

1 at Kalametiya 30/12 and 10 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Pacific Golden-Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

1 and 2 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 2 in Bundala NP 2/1 and 15 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Lesser Sand-Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

6 at Kalametiya 30/12, 40 and 50 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 400 in Bundala NP 2/1 and 4 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Greater Sand-Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultia*

1 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 2 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1/1 and 5 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

2 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 7 in Yala NP 31/12 and 50 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

2 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

1 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

Seen seven days: Kalametiya, Hambantota Tanks, Tissa Debera Wewa, Yala NP, Bundala NP, Uda Walawe NP and Sureya Wewa.

**Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

Seen seven days: Kirala Kele, Tissa Debera Wewa, Yala NP, Sureya Wewa and Sigiriya area.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

2 at Kalametiya and 2 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 20 and 10 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 10 in Bundala NP 2/1, 2 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1 and 4/1, 4 at Sureya Wewa 5/1 and 1 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

2 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

3 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 2 in Yala NP 31/12 and 2 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

25 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 60 and 10 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1 and 150 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

1 at Kalametiya 30/12, 15 in Yala NP 31/12 and 20 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Common Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*

3 at Kalametiya and 7 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 10 and 2 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1 and 40 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

1 at Kalametiya 30/12 and 2 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

700 at Kalametiya and 300 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 150 and 60 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1 and 200 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

3 at Kalametiya 30/12, 8 and 1 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1 and 15 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

5 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12.

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*

1 in Bundala NP 2/1 (PA).

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

10 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 25 in Yala NP 31/12 and 80 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

2 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 3 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta*

5 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*

1 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

15 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 30 in Yala NP 31/12 and 40 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*

5 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12 and 1 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

3 and 2 respectively at Gregory's Lake marsh, Nuwara Eliya 6-7/1.

**Pin-tailed Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*

4 in Yala NP 31/12, 4 at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1 and 10 and 5 respectively at Gregory's Lake marsh, Nuwara Eliya 6-7/1.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

5 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Barred Buttonquail** *Turnix suscitator*

1 in Yala NP 31/12, 2 in Bundala NP 2/1 and 8 and 6 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Small Pratincole** *Glareola lacteal*

17 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Greater Painted-Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

9 at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1.

**Brown-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*

20 in Galle 29/12 and 20 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

35 on whale-watching safari, Mirissa 28/12, 2 in Galle and 2 in Mirissa 29/12, 5 in Yala NP 31/12 and 50 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

1 in Mirissa Harbour 28/12, 1 at Kirala Kele 29/12, 1 at Kalametiya and 2 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12, 16 and 5 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 15 in Bundala NP 2/1, 2 in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 1 at Sureya Wewa 5/1.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

2 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12 and 50 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

5 at Kirala Kele 29/12, 10 at Kalametiya, 10 at Hambantota Tanks and 20 at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, 10 in Yala NP 31/12, 5 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1 and 25 at Bundala NP 2/1.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrid*

Common – seen eleven days.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

3 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Great Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*

3 between Galle and Mirissa 27/12, 10 on whale-watching safari 28/12, 2 between Mirissa and Galle 29/12, 2 between Mirissa and Kalametiya 30/12 and 20 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis*

20 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Common – seen fourteen days.

**Sri Lanka Wood-Pigeon** *Columba torringtoniae*

1 at Surrey Estate 5/1 and 2 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1.

**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

Very common – observed daily except for December 28 when we were on the whale-watching safari.

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

2 and 1 respectively in the Kithulgala area 23-24/12, 1 between Kithulgala and Sinharaja NP 24/12, 1, 1, 2 and 1 respectively in Sinharaja NP 24-27/12, 2 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1 and 1 in Sigiriya 8/1.

**Orange-breasted Pigeon** *Treron bicinctus*

2 at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, 90 and 15 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 1 in Bundala NP 2/1 and 60 and 45 respectively in Uda Walawe 3-4/1.

**Sri Lanka Green-Pigeon** *Treron pompadora*

10 at Ura Pola and 6 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 10 in the Kithulgala police station area and 2 in Sinharaja 24/12 and 11, 11 and 2 respectively in Sinharaja 25-27/12.

**Green Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula aenea*

4, 6 and 2 respectively in Kithulgala 22-24/12, 1, 2, 3 and 2 respectively in Sinharaja 24-27/12, 9 and 2 respectively at Kirala Kele 29-30/12, 3 at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, 5 in Yala NP 1/1, 3 and 10 respectively in Uda Walawe 3-4/1 and 3 at Sureya Wewa 5/1.

**Pied Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus*

2 in Yala NP 31/12, 2 in Bundala NP 2/1 and 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1.

**Common Hawk-Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx varius*

1 in the Kithulgala police station area 23/12 and 24/12, 1 in Sinharaja NP 25/12 and 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1.

**Indian Cuckoo** *Cuculus micropterus*

2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Banded Bay Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sonneratii*

1 in Makandawa Forest, Kithulgala 23/12 and 1 in Sinharaja NP 26/12.

**Plaintive (Gray-bellied) Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus passerines*

1 and 2 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 4 in Bundala NP 2/1 and 7 and 10 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Asian Drongo-Cuckoo** *Surniculus lugubris*

1 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Asian Koel** *Eudynamys scolopaceus*

Seen in small numbers (1-4) nine days.

**Blue-faced Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*  
1 at Kalametiya 30/12 and 8 in Yala NP 31/12.

**Sirkeer Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultia*  
3 and 2 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Red-faced Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus*  
1 in Sinharaja NP 25/12.

**Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis*  
Seen in small numbers (1-9) eleven days.

**Green-billed Coucal** *Centropus chlororhynchus*  
3 in Kithulgala 23/12 and 2 and 1 respectively in Sinharaja NP 26-27/12.

**Serendib Scops-Owl** *Otus thilohoffmanni*  
1 in Kithulgala 23/12.

**Indian Scops-Owl** *Otus bakkamoena*  
1 at Centauria Hotel, Embilipitiya 5/1.

**Brown Fish-Owl** *Ketupa zeylonensis*  
1 at Sinharaja 26-27/12 and 2 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1.

**Jungle Owlet** *Glaucidium radiatum*  
1 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1.

**Chestnut-backed Owlet** *Glaucidium castanonotum*  
6 and 1 respectively in Kithulgala 23-24/12 and 1 in Sinharaja 25/12 and 27/12.

**Brown Wood-Owl** *Strix leptogrammica*  
1 in Sinharaja NP 26/12 and 2 at Surrey Estate 5/1.

**Brown Hawk-Owl** *Ninox scutulata*  
3 at Kirala Kele 30/12.

**Ceylon Frogmouth** *Batrachostomus moniliger*  
2 in Kithulgala 23/12.

**Jerdon's Nightjar** *Caprimulgus atripennis*  
1 in Yala NP 1/1 and 9 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Indian Nightjar** *Caprimulgus asiaticus*  
3 and 2 respectively in Yala NP 30/12 and 1/1 and 20 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Brown-backed Needletail** *Hirundapus giganteus*  
4 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12 and 14 and 1 respectively in Sinharaja NP 26-27/12.

**Indian Swiftlet** *Aerodramus unicolor*

40 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 15 at Makandawa Forest, Kithulgala 23/12, 25 in the Kithulgala police station area 24/12, 10, 4 and 10 respectively in Sinharaja NP 25-27/12, 6 between Sinharaja and Mirissa 27/12 and 10 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1.

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*

1 at Surrey Estate 5/1.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

15 and 10 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 4 at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1, 10 in Bundala NP 2/1, 10 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1 and 40 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Asian Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

6 at the Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 6 in the Kithulgala police station area 23/12, 6 at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1, 2 and 40 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 2 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1.

**Crested Treeswift** *Hemiprocne coronata*

5 at Ura Pola 22/12, 1 in Kithulgala police station area 24/12, 3 in Sinharaja 26/12, 1 at Kirala Kele 30/12, 25 and 1 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1, 2 and 4 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 2 at Sureya Wewa 5/1.

**Malabar Trogon** *Harpactes fasciatus*

1 at Makandawa Forest, Kithulgala 23/12 and 4, 3 and 1 respectively in Sinharaja 25-27/12.

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

1 in Sinharaja 26/12, 2 at Kirala Kele 29/12, 1 at Kalametiya 30/12, 2 in Yala NP 31/12, 2 and 3 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher** *Ceyx erithaca*

1 in the Kithulgala police station area 24/12 and 1 in Sinharaja NP 25/12.

**Stork-billed Kingfisher** *Pelargopsis capensis*

1 and 2 respectively at Kirala Kele 29-30/12, 3 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1 and 2 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1.

**White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Common – observed fifteen days.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

4 and 1 respectively at Kirala Kele 29-30/12, 2 at Kalametiya 30/12, 2 and 3 respectively at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12 and 1/1, 5 and 2 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1 and 2 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis*

Common in the dry zone 30/12 to 5/1 and in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops philippinus*

The most common bee-eater, observed fourteen days.

**Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** *Merops leschenaultia*

2 at Ura Pola and 10 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 1 in the Kithulgala police station area 23/12, 2 in Yala NP 31/12 and 8 and 2 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis*

2 between Hambantota Tanks and Tissa 30/12, 2 and 1 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1 and 1 at Sureya Wewa 5/1.

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

1 seen from Kithulgala Rest House 22/12 and 1 in Sinharaja 26/12.

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

15 and 20 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1 and 2 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1.

**Ceylon Gray Hornbill** *Ocyceros gingalensis*

2 in the Kithulgala village area near the police station and 1 in Makandawa Forest 23/12, 4 in the Kithulgala village area near the police station and 2 between Kithulgala and Sinharaja 24/12.

**Malabar Pied-Hornbill** *Anthracoceros coronatus*

80 and 150 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1, 12 and 4 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 2 at Sureya Wewa 5/1.

**Brown-headed Barbet** *Megalaima zeylanica*

The most common barbet, observed fifteen days.

**Yellow-fronted Barbet** *Megalaima flavifrons*

2 at Ura Pola, 1 in the Kithulgala village area near the police station and 2 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12 and 2, 2, 4 and 3 respectively in Sinharaja NP 24-27/12.

**Crimson-fronted Barbet (Sri Lanka Small Barbet)** *Megalaima rubricapillus rubricapillus*

4 at bakery shop, Viyamgoda, 7 at Ura Pola and 2 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12 and 1, 2 and 2 in Sinharaja 24-26/12.

**Coppersmith Barbet** *Megalaima haemacephala*

1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12 and 1/1, 3 and 2 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1 and 20 and 10 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Brown-capped Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos moluccensis gymnophthalmus*

1 at Ura Pola 22/12 and 1 in Yala NP 31/12.

**Yellow-crowned Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*

3 and 1 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Rufous Woodpecker** *Celeus brachyurus*

2 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1.

**Lesser Yellownape** *Picus chlorolophus*

2 at Ura Pola and 2 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12 and 1, 1, 3 and 1 respectively in Sinharaja 24-27/12.

**Black-rumped Flameback** *Dinopium benghalense*

2 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 1 in Kithulgala village area near the police station and 1 in Makandawa Forest 23/12, 2 in Kithulgala village area near the police station 24/12, 1, 1 and 2 respectively in Sinharaja NP 24-26/12, 2 at Sureya Wewa 5/1 and 2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Crimson-backed Flameback** *Chrysocolaptes stricklandi*

1 in Sinharaja NP 26/12, 1 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1 in Nuwara Eliya 5-6/1.

**White-naped Woodpecker** *Chrysocolaptes festivus*

2 females at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1.

**Eurasian Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

3 and 1 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

1 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12 and 1 in Yala NP 31/12.

**Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*

1 between Sinharaja and Mirissa 27/12, 40 and 8 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1, 2 in Kandy 7/1 and 2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Common, observed twelve days.

**Plum-headed Parakeet** *Psittacula cyanocephala*

1 at Ura Pola 22/12, 1 between Kithulgala and Sinharaja 24/12 and 2 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1.

**Layard's Parakeet** *Psittacula calthropae*

2, 7 and 10 respectively in the Kithulgala village area near the police station 22-24/12, 5 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 8, 8 and 3 respectively in Sinharaja NP 24-26/12, 2 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1 and 1 at Sureya Wewa 5/1.

**Ceylon Hanging-Parrot** *Loriculus beryllinus*

8 at Ura Pola 22/12, 2 in the Kithulgala village area near the police station and 5 in Makandawa Forest 23/12 and 2, 3, 2 and 2 respectively in Sinharaja NP 24-27/12.

**Indian Pitta** *Pitta brachyura*

2 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 1 in the Kithulgala village area near the police station 24/12, 1 in Yala NP 31/12, 3 in Bundala NP 2/1, 4 and 2 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 3 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Sri Lanka Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis affinis*

7 and 1 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 3 in Bundala NP 2/1 and 1 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1.

**Ashy Woodswallow** *Artamus fuscus*

1 between Viyamgoda and Ura Pola and 5 at Ura Pola 22/12, 4 between Sinharaja and Mirissa 27/12, 9, 1 and 5 respectively at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, 1/1 and 2/1 and 1 in Yala NP 31/12.

**Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia*

1 at Ura Pola 22/12, 6 in Makandawa Forest 23/12, 1 between Sinharaja and Mirissa 27/12, 4 in Yala NP 31/12, 2 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1, 2 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1 and 4/1, 2 at Sureya Wewa 5/1 and 4 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Small Minivet** *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

2 between Sinharaja and Mirissa 27/12, 5 in Yala NP 31/12, 5 at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1, 1 at Surrey Estate 5/1, 2 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1 and 2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus flammeus*

4 at Ura Pola and 2 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 2 in the Kithulgala village area near the police station and 2 in Makandawa Forest 23/12, 2 in the Kithulgala village area near the police station 24/12, 4, 20 and 2 respectively in Sinharaja NP 25-27/12, 2 in Yala NP 31/12, 2 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1 and 2 at Nuwara Eliya 5/1 and 6/1.

**Black-headed Cuckooshrike** *Lalage melanoptera*

1 at Ura Pola and 2 in the Kithulgala village area near the police station 22/12, 1 in Sinharaja NP 24/12 and 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1.

**Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** *Hemipus picatus*

2 at Ura Pola 22/12, 3 in Makandawa Forest 23/12, 1 in Yala NP 31/12 and 5 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1.

**Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus*

Observed in small numbers eleven days; the highest day amount being 8 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Black-hooded Oriole** *Oriolus xanthornus*

Common, observed fourteen days.

**Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*

1 close to Kassapa Lions Rock Hotel, Sigiriya 8/1.

**Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

2 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1.

**White-bellied Drongo** *Dicrurus caerulescens*

Common in Kithulgala, Sinharaja NP and Kirala Kele.

**Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus paradiseus*

1 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Sri Lanka Drongo** *Dicrurus lophorinus*

6 in the Makandawa Forest 23/12 and 3, 1 and 1 respectively in Sinharaja NP 25-27/12.

**White-browed Fantail** *Rhipidura aureola*

1 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 23/12, 2 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1.

**Black-naped Monarch** *Hypothymis azurea*

3 in the Makandawa Forest 23/12, 6 and 2 respectively in Sinharaja NP 25-26/12, 1 at Surrey Estate 5/1 and 2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Asian Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone paradisi*

2 at Ura Pola 22/12, 1 in the Kithulgala village area near the police station 23/12, 3, 2 and 2 respectively in Sinharaja NP 25-27/12, 1 at Kirala Kele 29/12 and 30/12, 2 in Yala NP 31/12, 1 in Bundala NP 2/1, 2 and 3 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 7 at Sigiriya 8/1.

**Ceylon Magpie** *Urocissa ornata*

6 and 1 respectively in Sinharaja NP 25/12 and 27/12.

**House Crow** *Corvus splendens*

Common, observed fifteen days.

**Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Common, observed sixteen days.

**Jerdon's Bushlark** *Mirafra affinis*

7 in Yala NP 31/12 and common in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix griseus*

6 at Kalametiya and 10 at Hambantota Tanks 30/12 and 13 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula*

2 at Kalametiya 30/12 and 4 in Bundala NP 2/1.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Common, observed fifteen days.

**Pacific (Hill) Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica domicola*

6 at Glenloch Tea Estate 7/1.

**Sri Lanka Swallow** *Cecropis hyperythra*

1 in the Kithulgala village area and 8 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 11 in the Kithulgala area 23/12, 2 and 3 respectively in Sinharaja NP 25/12 and 27/12, 1 between Sinharaja and Mirissa 27/12, 1 at Kirala Kele 29/12, 2 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1.

**Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia*

2 between Sinharaja and Mirissa 27/12.

**Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

4 at Surrey Estate and 6 at Nuwara Eliya 5/1 and 4 at Nuwara Eliya 6/1.

**Great Tit (Cinereous)** *Parus major mahrattarum*

12 at Surrey Estate and 8 and 3 respectively at Nuwara Eliya 5-6/1.

**Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** *Sitta frontalis*

2 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 1 in Sinharaja NP 25/12 and 26/12 and 1 and 3 respectively in Nuwara Eliya 5/1 and 6/1.

**Black-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus melanicterus*

1 at Ura Pola 22/12, 2 in the Kithulgala village area near the police station and 2 in Makandawa Forest 23/12, 2 in the Kithulgala village area near the police station 24/12, 1, 2, 5 and 2 respectively in Sinharaja NP 24-27/12, 2 in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*

Common, observed seventeen days.

**Yellow-eared Bulbul** *Pycnonotus penicillatus*

4 and 7 respectively in Nuwara Eliya 5-6/1.

**White-browed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus luteolus*

1 at Ura Pola and 2 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 4 and 1 respectively in Sinharaja NP 24/12 and 25/12, 2 at Kalametiya and 1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, 2 in Yala NP 31/12, 2 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1, 3 and 4 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1, 3 at Surrey Estate 5/1 and 4 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Yellow-browed Bulbul** *Iole indica*

10+ in the Kithulgala area 23/12 and 3, 10 and 10 respectively in Sinharaja NP 24-26/12.

**Square-tailed Bulbul** *Hypsipetes ganeesa humii*

4 in the Kithulgala village area and 6 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 8 in the Kithulgala village area 23/12 and 7, 5, 5 and 10+ respectively in Sinharaja NP 24-27/12.

**Green Warbler** *Phylloscopus nitidus*

1 at Kithulgala village area 22/12 and 24/12, 1 in Sinharaja NP 25/12, 1 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1 and 5 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

1 in Sinharaja NP 25/12.

**Large-billed Leaf-Warbler** *Phylloscopus magnirostris*

10+, 2 and 1 in Sinharaja NP 25-27/12, 3 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1 and 3 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Blyth's Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

1 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12, 1 and 4 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1, 5 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1 and 2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Clamorous Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

1 in Yala NP 31/12, 2 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1, 3 in Bundala NP 2/1 and 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1.

**Ceylon Bush-Warbler** *Bradypterus palliseri*

1 in Nuwara Eliya 5/1.

**Pallas's Grasshopper-Warbler** *Locustella certhiola*

3 and 1 respectively at Gregory's Lake Marsh, Nuwara Eliya 6-7/1.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

2 at Ura Pola 22/12, 1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1 and 2 and 7 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius*

3 at Ura Pola 22/12, 2 in Galle 29/12, 5 in Yala NP 31/12, 2 at Tissa Debera Wewa and 2 in Yala NP 1/1, 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1, 1 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1 and 5 at Sigiriya 8/1.

**Gray-breasted Prinia** *Prinia hodgsonii*

6 and 1 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and common in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Jungle Prinia** *Prinia sylvatica*

3 in Yala NP 31/12 and 4 and 20 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Ashy Prinia** *Prinia socialis*

Common in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata*

Common, observed twelve days.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

2 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1.

**Yellow-eyed Babbler** *Chrysomma sinense*

2 and 1 respectively at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12 and 1/1 and 5 in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Ceylon White-eye** *Zosterops ceylonensis*

10 and 20 respectively in Nuwara Eliya 5-6/1.

**Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*

5, 10 and 2 respectively in the Kithulgala area 22-24/12, 3 in Sinharaja NP 25/12, 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1 and 6 and 2 respectively in Nuwara Eliya 5-6/1.

**Brown-capped Babbler** *Pellorneum fuscicapillus*

4 in Kithulgala 23/12, 1 in Sinharaja NP 25/12, 1 Surrey Estate 5/1 and 7 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Ashy-headed Laughingthrush** *Garrulax cinereifrons*

15 and 4 respectively in Sinharaja NP 25-26/12.

**Orange-billed Babbler** *Turdoides rufescens*

10 and 6 respectively in the Kithulgala area 22-23/12 and 9, 15+, 15+ and 6 respectively in Sinharaja NP 24-27/12.

**Yellow-billed Babbler** *Turdoides affinis*

Common, observed fifteen days.

**Tawny-bellied Babbler** *Dumetia hyperythra*

3 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12 and 2 and 15 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Dark-fronted Babbler** *Rhopocichla atriceps*

10+ in Sinharaja NP 25/12, 2 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1, 3 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1 and 4 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babbler** *Pomatorhinus melanurus*

2 in Makandawa Forest 23/12, 1, 2, 2 and 2 respectively in Sinharaja NP 24-27/12 and 2 at Surrey Estate 5/1.

**Asian Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa latirostris*

1 in the Kithulgala village area 23/12, 1 in Sinharaja NP 26/12, 1 in Yala NP 31/12, 1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 1/1, 3 and 1 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 1 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Brown-breasted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa muttui*

2 and 1 respectively in Kithulgala 23-24/12, 3 in Sinharaja NP 25-26/12 and 1 in Yala NP 31/12.

**Indian Robin** *Copsychus fulicatus*

Common, observed nine days, at all major birding sites except for Sinharaja, Kirala Kele and Kalametiya.

**Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis*

Common, observed twelve days.

**White-rumped Shama** *Copsychus malabaricus*

4 in Yala NP 31/12, 1 in Nuwara Eliya 5/1 and 3 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher** *Cyornis tickelliae*

3 and 1 respectively in Kithulgala 23-24/12, 2 in Sinharaja NP 26/12, 1 at Surrey Estate 5/1 and 2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Dull-blue Flycatcher** *Eumyias sordidus*

1 at Surrey Estate 5/1 and 2 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1.

**Indian Blue Robin** *Larvivora brunnea*

1 in Sinharaja NP 26-27/12, 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1, 1 at Surrey Estate and 1 in Nuwara Eliya 5/1, 3 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1 and 2 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Ceylon Whistling-Thrush** *Myophonus blighi*

1 male in Nuwara Eliya 5/1.

**Kashmir Flycatcher** *Ficedula subrubra*

4 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1.

**Pied Bushchat** *Saxicola caprata*

4 and 5 respectively in Nuwara Eliya 5-6/1.

**Pied Thrush** *Geokichla wardii*

3 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1.

**Spot-winged Thrush** *Geokichla spiloptera*

1 and 2 respectively in Kithulgala 22-23/12 and 3, 6 and 2 respectively in Sinharaja NP 25-27/12.

**Orange-headed Thrush** *Geokichla citrina*

1 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1 and 1 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**(Sri Lanka) Scaly Thrush** *Zoothera dauma imbricata*

2 in Sinharaja NP 25-26/12.

**Indian Blackbird** *Turdus simillimus*

3 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1.

**Southern Hill Myna** *Gracula indica*

2 at Ura Pola and 2 at Kithulgala Estate rubber plantation 22/12 and 2 at Surrey Estate 5/1.

**Ceylon Myna** *Gracula ptilogenys*

2, 5 and 3 respectively in Sinharaja NP 25-27/12.

**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*

Common, observed daily.

**White-faced Starling** *Sturnia albofrontata*

4 and 3 respectively in Sinharaja NP 25-26/12.

**Brahminy Starling** *Temenuchus pagodarum*

7 and 1 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1.

**Rosy Starling** *Pastor roseus*

25 in Yala NP 31/12 and 1500 and 2000 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Jerdon's Leafbird** *Chloropsis jerdoni*

1 in the Kithulgala village area 23/12 and 1 in Sinharaja NP 24/12.

**Golden-fronted Leafbird** *Chloropsis aurifrons*

1 at Ura Pola and 1 in the Kithulgala village area 22/12, 1 in Sinharaja NP 25/12 and 1 in Yala NP 31/12.

**Thick-billed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum agile*

1 at Kirala Kele and 1 at Kalametiya 30/12 and 4 and 2 respectively in Uda Walawe 3-4/1.

**White-throated Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum vincens*

1 and 3 respectively in Sinharaja NP 24-25/12.

**Pale-billed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*

1, 2, 6 and 1 respectively in Sinharaja NP 24-27/12 and 1 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Purple-rumped Sunbird** *Leptocoma zeylonica*

Common, seen daily.

**Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiaticus*

3 at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, 4 in Yala NP 31/12, 1 at Tissa Debera Wewa 2/1, 2 in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 2 at Sureya Wewa 5/1.

**Long-billed Sunbird** *Cinnyris lotenius*

1 in the Kithulgala village area 23/12, 2 at Kalametiya and 2 at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1, 1 in Nuwara Eliya 5-6/1 and 1 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

2 at Kalametiya 30/12, 1 (ssp. *Lutea*?) in Bundala NP 2/1 and 2 and 1 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Gray Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

1, 1 and 5 respectively in the Kithulgala area 22-24/12, 1 in Sinharaja NP 24/12, 1 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1, 1 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1 and 1 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*

2-3 at Kalametiya 30/12 and 1 in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Oriental Pipit** *Anthus rufulus*

30 at Kalametiya 30/12, 10 and 15 respectively in Yala NP 31/12-1/1, 10 in Bundala NP 2/1, 15 and 5 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 10 and 3 respectively in Nuwara Eliya 6-7/1.

**Blyth's Pipit** *Anthus godlewskii*

2 in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1.

**Forest Wagtail** *Dendronanthus indicus*

2 and 4 respectively in Uda Walawe NP 3-4/1 and 1 in Nuwara Eliya 6/1.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Observed seven days.

**Baya Weaver** *Ploceus philippinus*

2 in Yala NP 31/12 and 3 in Uda Walawe NP 3/1.

**Indian Silverbill** *Euodice malabarica*

7 in Yala NP 31/12 and 2 in Uda Walawe NP 4/1.

**White-rumped Munia** *Lonchura striata*

Common, observed nine days.

**Black-throated Munia** *Lonchura kelaarti*

2 in Kithulgala 24/12.

**Nutmeg Mannikin** *Lonchura punctulata*

Common, observed fifteen days.

**Tricolored Munia** *Lonchura malacca*

3 at Kirala Kele 29/12, 3 at Tissa Debera Wewa 30/12, 2 in Yala NP 31/12, common in Uda Walawe NP and at Sureya Wewa 3-4/1 and 4 in the Sigiriya area 8/1.

**List of Mammals<sup>18</sup>**

**Indian Elephant** *Elephas maximus*

79 all in all from December 31 to January 4 (Yala NP and Uda Walawe NP).

**Toque Macaque** *Macaca sinica*

27 all in all, seen December 31 (Yala NP) and January 3-4 (Uda Walawe NP).

**Tufted Grey Langur** *Semnopithecus priam*

Trip total: 150

**Purple-faced Leaf Monkey** *Trachypithecus vetulus*

Common.

**Indian Hare** *Lepus nigricollis*

Trip total: 5

**Short-nosed Fruit bat** *Cynopterus sphinx*

Trip total: 20

**Indian Flying Fox** *Pteropus giganteus*

Trip total: 1300

**Leopard** *Panthera pardus*

1 in Yala NP December 31 and January 1.

**Ruddy Mongoose** *Herpestes smithii*

Trip total: 113.

**Golden Jackal** *Canis aureus*

3 in Yala NP December 31.

**Wild Boar** *Sus scrofa*

Trip total: 42.

**Spotted Mouse Deer** *Moschiola meminna*

1 in Sinharaja December 26.

**Chital** *Axis axis*

Trip total: 125

**Sambar** *Rusa unicolor*

Trip total: 16

<sup>18</sup> This list has been compiled by Roger Börjesson

**Bryde's Whale** *Balaenoptera edeni*

2 on whale-watching trip (Mirissa) December 28.

**Blue Whale** *Balaenoptera musculus*

3 on whale-watching trip (Mirissa) December 28.

**Long-snouted Spinner Dolphin** *Stenella longirostris*

4 on whale-watching trip (Mirissa) December 28.

**Bottle-nosed Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus*

4 on whale-watching trip (Mirissa) December 28.

**Indian Giant Flying Squirrel** *Petaurista philippensis*

Trip total: 4

**Layard's Striped Squirrel** *Funambulus layardi*

Trip total: 5

**Indian Palm Squirrel** *Funambulus palmarum*

Common.