

BIRDING, MAMMALING AND REPTILING IN

SRI LANKA 12-31/1 2010

UFFE GJØL SØRENSEN & JØRGEN BECH ©

Introduction

A visit to Sri Lanka has been long overdue. After a number of visits to India/Nepal, it was time for Sri Lanka.

This report contains notes on birds, mammals, reptiles and (very briefly) butterflies, including a commented species account. Comments are given to major highlights and especially to the species that are difficult to find.

Despite a rather modest size (1½x our native Denmark!) the nature on Sri Lanka exhibits a unique diversity caused by its variation in altitude and precipitation in a productive combination with the isolation from mainland Asia. From tropical seas and shores the land rises through a sequence of different habitats – wet and dry forests, savannah etc - to reach above 2100 m ending with the sub-alpine elfin forests and grasslands. While the SW-corner receives humid monsoon-winds the east and north is left surprisingly dry. Remarkably, thanks to human engineering through the last couple of millenniums the dry lands in the SE hold fabulous freshwater tanks, vast paddy-fields which in combination with saline coastal lagoons offer room for immense numbers of wetland birds. High populations of cormorants, storks and herons which thanks to the paddy-fields and the numerous ponds are spread all-over make the recording of their numbers quite a nightmare. Winter visitors are adding to the wealth of wetland-birds – ducks, waders etc.

The occurrences of most bird-species/subspecies are well-known and well-described. It is not an awfully demanding effort to find the majority of species and this makes birding in Sri Lanka quite easy and entertaining (not to forget a couple of genuine hard-skulkers). Most endemic birds are readily seen at a visit to a few major localities. Sinharaja and the Nuwara Eliya highlands cover most with some additions in the Yala/Tissa-wetlands. Therefore one can press a visit into a few adrenalin-pumped days and still make a 'clean-out', but our visit - involving three generations (from 8 years of age) - proved that with a little extra time is possible to combine the interest in birding/mammaling with a genuine family-holiday taking advantage of the many good beach-resorts and wealth of spectacular cultural sites.

We recorded around 250 birdspecies including the 33 endemics presently recognised (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). Besides we enjoyed a good number of the South Asian endemics, i.e. species shared only with Southern India (and here in particular the Western Ghat mountains) and not seen on trips to the northern part of the subcontinent. Classification of species is a dynamic field in these years and it is recommended not only to look for all presently accepted endemics but also to have an eye on a number of distinct subspecies - possible up-coming splits. We have noted those we saw.

Difficult birds are in three groups: 1. Owls and Frogmouth. 2. Scarce, heavy skulkers (SL Whistling Thrush in particular) 3. The trio of exclusive Himalayan winter-visitors (Pied Thrush, Indian Blue Robin, Kashmir Flycatcher). We have commented on all of these species and we have included our major dips (Oriental Bay Owl, Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl and White-naped Woodpecker). In this way the species account should be informative for the majority of the typical targets. Especially the owls can be very challenging and we had hoped for better success. This was not because of lacking efforts during the trip. Having missed the Serendib Scops Owl at Kitulgala because of rain, it was a surprise coming to Sinharaja and realising that access to the Park is strongly restricted after dark – finding the species here today demands skilled luck. Looking in the rear-mirror we should have had one extra back-up site for the Serendib Scops Owl included in the programme.

Mammals as always are difficult but still we found 32+ species (some bats left un-identified). The endemic day-active monkeys are easy. Other species are night-active and we only did a little spot-lighting. Don't forget a pelagic trip for Blue Whale! We subscribe to the new slogan: Sri Lanka is best for Blue. We noted the reptiles when seen, but did not make any special effort to find them.

All pictures in the report are from our trip.

Our team.

Uffe Gjør Sørensen and Lene Smith 11.-31. January. Jørgen Bech and Jette Lyager 11.-31. January, Stinne Lyager Bech and Aslak Skovsgaard Bech (8 years!) 18.-31. January. The group split on 25. January – Uffe and Lene heading for the cultural triangle further north, Jørgen and family returning to Sinharaja and some days of sea-holiday at Unawatuna Beach.

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PRACTICALITIES

The Country

Sri Lanka is a very pleasant place to stay. Though quite densely populated you never feel the pressure of over-population – which at times can be a bit overwhelming in India. Hassling is virtually non-existent, at least on an organized trip. Atmosphere is friendly and relaxed. We did not experience any inconveniences at all. The transition-period from wet to dry season in early January seems to be an ideal period for travelling.

Distances of travelling are short as the key-localities are in the southern part of the country. However, transport can be rather time-consuming as the roads are narrow and you generally travel at low speed. Food is splendid and Indian-style. Hotel-standards were incredibly high compared to costs.

The chronic military conflict in the north is away from the typical itinerary and seems more or less neutralized.

Regrettably some political tension has struck the Sri Lankan society after the vote for presidency in January 2010. Take an up-date of the present situation before planning a trip.

Health

Malaria is rare and there is no need for anti-malaria drug at least for the time being, nor will a 2-3 week stay indicate vaccination for Japanese Encephalitis. So - only protection against Hepatitis A (and basic diphtheria-tetanoid) is required. Normal precautions will be insect-repellents and especially in the wet period leech-socks are recommended in the moist, forested southwest.

Planning of trip

Uffe and Lene made the original planning based on various trip-reports available on the internet and travel-guides. A travel-programme was drafted and we placed the technical arrangement safely in the hands of Jetwing Eco Holidays. Ganganath Weerasinghe was efficient in realizing our expectations. Jetwings is a huge company, and their eco-section can do the individual jig-saw puzzle by combining the interests of any hard-core ornithologist, the culture-freak, and need for a traditional holiday including children. We ended up paying around 2700 USD/person for 3 weeks including everything: Transport with a good driver in your own car/van, hotels, breakfast and dinner, park-fees, a pelagic trip, guiding. We highly recommend starting any trip to Sri Lanka through Jetwing Eco Holidays (eco@jetwing.lk). Add to total cost the fare for the international flights - around 1000 USD/person.

Guides

The standard of the guides and their knowledge of the Lankan Avifauna are very high! We were accompanied by a guide for 4 days – in Kitulgala and our first visit to Sinharaja. Wicky (Chandraguptha Wickramasekaraicky) did a very good job. Apart from introducing us to the birds of Sri Lanka and helping us with the many forest-species, he gave us many good tips for the rest of our trip. Later Uffe and Lene bumped into Wicky in Sigiriya and enjoyed good birding together with his new clients. We also met another Jetwing Eco-guide Supurna Hettiarachchi (Hetti) on Horton's Plains and again at the second visit to Sinharaja and were given very good assistance. Occasionally, we also met with other birder-groups guided by other companies. In spite of an understandable on-going competition between the companies, we were met with open, friendly co-operation in the field, and we also picked up further advice from other guides. We can highly recommend Wicky and Hetti if you need a professional guide for some days or throughout your trip.

In Sinharaja a local forest-guide is compulsory. The local guides of Sinharaja know a lot – especially often a day-roost for Frogmouth. We can especially recommend the guide B. Somapala whom you might ask for at the entrance to the NP.

Drivers

We highly recommend our drivers: Stanley (Didagas Stanley Perera) took the van safely through most of the trip. He was very good company, very much appreciated by all of us including the 8 year old boy of our team. Elmo (Elmo Ferdinandaz) took Lene and Uffe on their week in the cultural triangle and was likewise very good company. Actually, both drivers functioned as tour-guides with many good suggestions and active participation in the practical planning.

Other Acknowledgements

Hans Jørgen Bruun (HRG Event and Meetings Management) as usual made the international flight-tickets. Suyama Meegaskumbura (University of Peradeniya) helped with the identification of the dead shrew. Charles Anderson (The Whale and Dolphin Company, Maldives) provided good information about the blue whales. Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne (CEO; Jetwing Eco Holidays) helped with multiple information and is to be praised for his constant stream of nice photo-based publications on Sri Lankan biodiversity made available free of charge at the Jetwing Eco Holidays web: www.jetwingeco.com. Lene Smith did the proof-reading.

BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO VISITED SITES

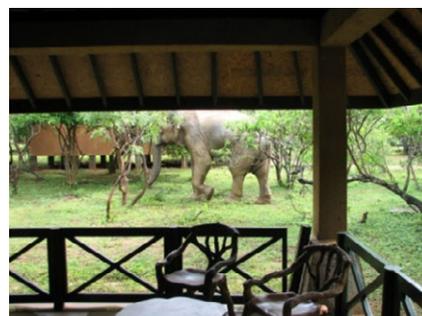
Kithulgala: Lowland rainforest and riverine woodland – 4 hours from Colombo international airport. We stayed at Kitulgala Rest House close to the ferry - a dug-out canoe - to cross the river for the forests. The nearby Sisira's Lodge could be the lodge of choice as soon as facilities are extended as it has good riverine scrubs right outside the door – we found Brown-capped Babbler, Indian Pitta, as well as Green-billed Coucal and Chestnut-backed Owlet. Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher is regular around Sisira's – if we had had our base here we would probably not have missed it. This species and Large-billed Leaf-Warbler is probably easier here than in Sinharaja. One further Sisira-advantage is the skills of the cook! We did not see any species in Kithulgala not found later in Sinharaja. One advantage of the place is that you can enter the forest after dark and use play-back. Unfortunately heavy rains in the evenings gave us little chance for the Serendib Scops Owl in particular.

Sinharaja Rainforest: The only remaining lowland rainforest of some extent and the key-spot for about ¾ of the endemics! We stayed at Martin's Simple Lodge and visited the area twice with a different line-up. Martin is a somewhat mythical figure maintaining this resort for decades. The place is basic but contains all you need and has an atmosphere of its own, a true birders paradise. A rough road only passable by jeep leads to the lodge and entrance. A local guide to the core-area is compulsory. Access only between 06 am and 06 pm, play-back is not allowed. It is quite straight forward to see the bird-targets within a few days following the main-path and making shortcuts into the forest. At a more leisurely second visit the list was copied within a day. Comments for individual species: See Species account. Most difficult bird: Serendib Scops Owl at the gate entrance in the dark of night.

Pelagic Trip: Starts from Mirissa harbour some km east of the picturesque town of Galle (of which the old inner town and fort certainly are worth a visit). The set-up was quite unpretentious compared to the wildlife scenery less than 20 km off-shore where the continental shelf is very close to the coast. The boat could take about 15 persons and had a good observation platform on the upper deck. Our trip was shared with a couple of local families. It was a calm day – luckily as heavy winds will cancel the trip (it might be wise to plan an alternative day). The swellings of the ocean were noticeable; the boat rolled up to 45 degrees which made bird-observations quite difficult and caused some sea-sickness among those not actively scanning the horizon. For us this turned out to be a minor problem. After passing a tern-roost about 5 km off-shore the sea was virtually empty! Well, a flock of Spinner Dolphins was entertaining but we were expecting bigger game. After 1½ hour the first blow from a huge whale was observed as an introduction to an incredible show of minimum 7 Blue Whales at close range - at times with the foul smell from the blow drifting across the boat!

Wetlands of the SE: Tissa Tanks, Bundala NP: Driving east from Galle the road passes close to Kalamatiya – a very good wetland-site certainly worth a visit (Watercock among many water-birds), but we did not manage to include this place. Tissa Tanks just west of the temples and ancient ruins of Tissamaharama are very rich freshwater marshes. The margins of the marsh is an option for Black Bittern and the coconut-plantation stands east of the marsh and temples a hot spot for White-naped Woodpecker, a species which we missed. Planning a visit early morning would probably have compensated this loss. Instead we did Bundala NP which is a huge wetland gradually more and more saline approaching the sea. Good, local guides operate from the visitor's centre. Some birds seen only in Bundala were Yellow Bittern, Little Pratincole, and Oriental Skylark and here we have our first Grey-bellied Cuckoo, Jerdon's Leaf-bird and SL Woodshrike.

Yala N.P.: We explored Yala as well as Bundala and Tissa from Yala Village – a safari style lodge within the park with individual huts. Elephant among the huts (see photo) and a distant Leopard seen from the lodge clearly indicate that this is within the core-zone! It is very pleasant if not luxurious and obviously a general tourist-target. The road to Yala Village passed one of the best shore-bird sites we came across with dense wader-roosts including Broad-billed Sandpiper and the Blyth's Pipit of the trip. A whole-day safari to Yala with Sloth Bear but no further Leopard, however, Yala holds the best chance - probably worldwide - to see a leopard.



Uda Walawe NP: Moved from Yala to Uda in time for an afternoon safari to this dry elephant-savannah including lakes and some wetlands. Much calmer atmosphere here compared to Yala and with few tourists. Many elephants were seen besides nice dry-land species as Barred Button-Quail, Blue-faced and Sirkeer Malkoha, and lots of Jerdon's Bush-lark. Night at Centauria Inn (Embilipitiya).

Nuwara Eliya Highland: Climbed to this highland-town during the day and had some hours at Hakgala Botanical Garden. The last hour of day-light was spent in the "hole" - a gully with a vegetated stream just underneath the road between Hakgala and Nuwara Eliya. Came out with a blank for SL Whistling-Thrush but were compensated by Indian Blue Robin. We stayed at Tea Bush Hotel – one of many empty highland hotels here out of season. Only guests at the hotel and treated like kings including splendid food. To reach Horton Plains in early morning we had to leave at 4.30 entering the NP at first light and luckily on a sunny day. The highlands can be very misty and rainy so plan to go as late as possible on a January trip. An open highland of grass-land and elfin forest, very scenic with the steep escarpments at "world's end". Really astonishing that this is Sri Lanka! The hot-spot Arranga Pool is 1 km after entering – Indian Blackbirds roadside in the first light and the possibility of Leopard (one seen from the next car passing half an hour later than us!). The super-skulker SL Whistling Thrush was finally heard and yielded short views at the pool/stream, also SL Bush Warblers together with more easily accessible highland-targets. This place should not be missed. Spent the late afternoon in Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya) – along the dirty stream passing the margin of the park. Top-target winter-visitors skulk in this park and we had prolonged, happy views of Pied Thrush, Forest Wagtail, Indian Blue Robin and Indian Pitta.

Kandy and Hunas Falls: Reached Kandy in time for a visit to Udewattekele Sanctuary for owls! Success at the lake-side – Brown Fish Owl – but did not manage to find the Spot-bellied Owl also reported from this site. The Temple of the Tooth is very close and late in the afternoon comes alive with people – tourists mixing with locals – and colourful religious events take place. Drove 18 km north to Hunas Falls Hotel after dark. This is a real highland leisure place, actually owned by Jetwings and quite luxurious. The swimming pool was very attractive to part of our team. Nearby woodland with good birding – but the best spot was the lake-side by the hotel with Otter and Kashmir Flycatcher!

Cultural triangle: The many fantastic cultural sites hold plenty of birds as an extra bonus. Compared to the rest of our trip we came across a number of local species and winter-visitors characteristic for the dryland. The tanks are holding good numbers of wetland birds but lower numbers compared to the southeast. The spectacular Sigiriya Rock is surrounded by good forest: birds and wildlife can be met with everywhere. But be careful away from the tourist-areas because of many elephants. We had one elephant feeding in the dense forest just by the gate to Sigiriya Hotel. The Shaheen Peregrines by the rock are spectacular. The gravel-road north of the rock is passing through interesting forest. At this time of year Minneriya NP near Sigiriya was dense forest by a large artificial lake. This area is more interesting when the water-level drops during the dry season and the open grassland emerges.

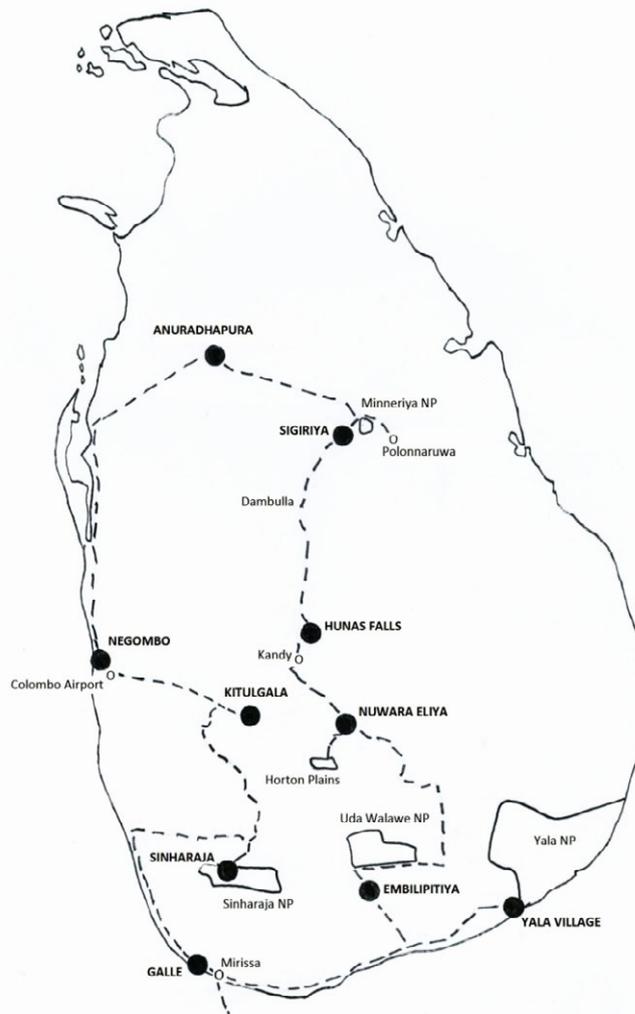
Unawatuna Beach: Probably the best beach in this corner of the world at a sheltered bay moderating the swellings, an excellent hotel - complete for a successful classic family sea-side holiday. In January the sea was quite empty of birds.

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Itinerary

- 11/1 Flight Copenhagen-London (07.45-08.45). Departure from London (12.05)
- 12/1 Arrival Colombo (04.10; GMT +4½ hours). Easy entry and welcome by Wicky (guide for the first 4 days) and Stanley (driver). Left airport at day-break and had an easy transfer to *Kitulgala Rest House* with the first birding from the car and a couple of short stops. After a rest we had a walk in patches of forest among rice-fields around Sisira's Lodge. Torrential rain started shortly before sunset and prevented any idea of activities after dark.
- 13/1 All day Kitulgala. Early morning walk around Sisira's Lodge. After breakfast a good walk in the Kitulgala forest – river crossed by the local ferry next to the rest house – a dug-out canoe. Excellent lunch at Sisira's Lodge. Late afternoon visit to the same area in Kitulgala. Unfortunately rain again started just around sun-set. Even though the rain fairly soon stopped there was absolutely no owl activity after dark.
- 14/1 Easy start with early morning walks around the hotel. Transfer to Sinharaja and new base at Martin's Simple Lodge. Afternoon walk in *Sinharaja NP*.
- 15/1 All day Sinharaja. Long morning walk and a shorter walk during afternoon. Day of solar eclipse. Unfortunately, we were far from the path of the Annular Solar Eclipse crossing the northern part of Sri Lanka, but the light changed significantly during the passage.
- 16/1 Morning around Martin's Lodge. Transfer to Galle with stop by Boulder Garden Hotel (but no Spot-bellied Owl). Some confusion about our hotel in Galle, but we ended up in the luxurious Printers Fort Hotel. Nice late afternoon walk around the Old Dutch town unfortunately with heavy rain at the end.
- 17/1 Early departure to reach Mirissa before 07.00. Whale-watching trip from 07.10-13.20. We were taken about 17 km out at sea in SSE direction and with overwhelming success: 7 blue whales around the boat at the same time. Drive to Yala Village Hotel with late lunch in Tissa. Arrival at hotel around dusk.
- 18/1 The ladies took a leisure day by the pool and had a wild elephant right outside our hut and a distant leopard on top of a rock (only Lene saw this). The gents had a long and good day with the morning in *Bundala NP* and the afternoon around the *Tissa tanks*. Stinne and Aslak arrived late evening after their long travel from the now snow-clad Denmark.
- 19/1 All day in *Yala NP*. Had a rest in the middle of the day by the coast.
- 20/1 Early morning trip to Elephant Reach Hotel but most of the morning was spent by the bird-rich lagoon fairly close to Yala Village Hotel. Drive to the next hotel 09.00-13.00 with two stops around Tissa: The old stupa and the huge colony of flying foxes. Quick lunch and afternoon game drive in *Uda Walawe NP* 15.30-18.00.
- 21/1 Leisurely start and some stops on the road along *Uda Walawe NP* – in particular at wet meadows just after passing the dam. Late afternoon visit in *Hakgala Botanical Garden* with very few birds – but the highland forms of both macaque and langur showed well. Last hour 17.30-18.30 spend at 'certain' place for the whistling thrush – unfortunately without a sound....
- 22/1 Early morning departure (04.30) for an all morning visit to Horton Plains. Arrival just before 06.00. Sri Lanka Blackbirds were common on and along the road. Went straight to Arranga Pool and after a focused effort for a couple of hours we had heard the whistling thrush well and seen it twice in fractions of a second! The morning was brilliant with a completely clear



sky. We walked most of path to the ‘worlds end’ – fabulous view and good birding in the elfin forest. Afternoon visit to Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya) with success: Pied Thrush.

- 23/1 Early morning revisit to the so-called certain place for the whistling thrush – and unfortunately again without a sound – and a brief revisit to Victoria Park. Drive to Kandy with stop by tea factory. In Kandy visit to Udewattekele Sanctuary. Late afternoon visit to dance performance in the National Theatre and early evening visit to a lively Tooth Temple. Late arrival around 21:00 at Hunas Falls Hotel.
- 24/1 All day within walking distance of Hunas Falls Hotel.
- 25/1 Morning by Hunas Falls Hotel, and then the group split up as planned: Jørgen (and family) returned to Sinharaja followed by days by the coast, while Uffe (and Lene) started a round-trip to the cultural triangle. *Jørgen*: Drive to Sinharaja NP. *Uffe*: Drive to Sigiriya with stops at Alu Vihara, Nalanda Gedige and the rock caves at Dambulla. Took the road passing Kandalama Tank on the final drive to Sigiriya.
- 26/1 *Jørgen*: All day in Sinharaja NP. *Uffe*: All day Sigiriya – morning visit to the rock with climb to the top. Afternoon walk north of rock including a little spotlighting after sunset.
- 27/1 *Jørgen*: Morning in Sinharaja NP. Transfer to hotel by Unawatuna Bay. *Uffe*: All day visit to Polannaruwa.
- 28/1 *Jørgen*: Hotel by Unawatuna Bay. *Uffe*: Morning drive in Minneriya NP. Afternoon walk north of rock and visit to lake south of Sigiriya (including spotlighting after sunset).
- 29/1 *Jørgen*: Hotel by Unawatuna Bay. *Uffe*: Short morning walk north of the rock. Drive to Anuradhapura with stops by the magnificent Aukana Buddha and Mihintale.
- 30/1 *Jørgen*: Hotel by Unawatuna Bay. *Uffe*: Most of the day around the historical sites in Anuradhapura, but morning and late afternoon walk in hotel garden.
- 31/1 *Jørgen*: Afternoon drive to Seashell Hotel in Negombo. *Uffe*: Early morning walk by hotel. Drive to Seashell Hotel in Negombo. Occasional sea-watching during the afternoon (Jørgen joined at dusk).
- 1/2 Transfer to airport 00.45 (local time). Flight Colombo (departure 03.45) to London (arrival 10.15 (GMT)). Flight London-Copenhagen (14.05-17.00 (GMT+1)).



SPECIES ACCOUNTS

If a photo was obtained this is marked with *

MAMMALS

1. ***House Shrew** *Suncus murinus*. 24/1 1 found dead near Hunas Falls Hotel
2. ***Indian Flying Fox** *Pteropus giganteus*. 18-20/1 large colony Tissa tanks, 20-21/1 large colony N of Embilipitya. 28-30/1 25+ at dusk Unawatuna. *In the lowlands, dead electrocuted specimens were frequently seen hanging from power-lines. Photo from Tissa.*
3. ***Leschenault's Rousette** *Rousettus leschenaulti*. 30/1 200+ cave by Rock Temple (Anuradhapura).
4. ***Black-bearded Tomb Bat** *Taphozous melanopogon*. 25/1 2 probably this species Nalanda Gedige, 30/1 7 (under roof) Rock Temple (Anuradhapura).
5. ***Leaf-nosed Bat** *Hipposiderous* sp. 120-125 kHz. 14/1-15/1 15+ Martin's Lodge.

Notes on un-identified bats *Vespertilioniformes* sp. Bats were regularly recorded during the trip but only once in high numbers: 30/1 hundreds Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). Sounds of bats were sometimes checked by use of a Peterson D200 Ultrasound Detector. Characteristics of the sounds were noted. It has only been possible to locate little information on the sounds of Sri Lankan bats and there seems not to be any general studies available. Based on general information (Phillips 1980, Bates & Harrison 1997), a possible interpretation of the records is only possible for the small *Pipistrellus*-types:

- a. Indian Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus coromandra*. Should mainly be found in the dry zone. A possible record is: 27/1 singles Sigiriya Hotel. This was a small Pipistrelle-type. Sound 39-42 kHz.
- b. Indian Pygmy Bat *Pipistrellus tenuis*. From the intermediate or wet zone. Emerging very soon after sunset. Possible record is: 14/1 20+ Martin's Lodge (Sinharaja). Sound 54-55 kHz. A small species active just after sunset while flying over road through the forest. Other records possibly being the same species: 15/1 1+ Martin's Lodge (Sinharaja). Sound 51 kHz. It was recorded after dark and right over Martin's Lodge. 26/1 several Sigiriya. Sound 51-54 kHz. Among trees by moat north of Sigiriya rock.
- c. Kelaart's Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus ceylonicus*. Possible record is: 24/1 5+ Hunas Falls Hotel. Sound 47-48 kHz. A small bat with greyish underside which became active soon after sunset.

Other records were: (d) Un-identified bat. 21-22 kHz. 17/1 heard Yala Village Hotel. (e) Un-identified bat. 20-25 kHz. 26/1 singles Sigiriya. (f) Un-identified bat. 29-30 kHz. 19/1 heard Yala Village Hotel; 29-31 kHz. 28/1 singles Lake S of Sigiriya, (g) Un-identified bat. 34 kHz. 24/1 2 Hunas Falls Hotel.

6. **Red Slender Loris** *Loris tardigradus*. 13/1 1 after dark Kitulgala. *Endemic*. The call heard several times but only seen briefly high up in the canopy.
7. **Toque Macaque** *Macaca sinica*. *Endemic*. All three subspecies seen:
 - a. ***The wetforest subspecies** *ssp. aurifrons*. 12/1 10 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 13/1 2 morning Kitulgala rest house, 21/1 20+ drive Uda Walawe to Nuwara Eliya, 23/1 30+ Udewattekele Sanctuary (Kandy), 24/1 30+ Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 5 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 25 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya.

- b. ***The dryland subspecies** *ssp. sinica*. 17/1 1 drive Galle to Mirissa, 18/1 20+ Bundala NP, 26/1 30 Sigiriya, 27/1 + drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 27/1 50 Polannaruwa, 28/1 5 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28/1 1 Minneriya NP, 29/1 100+ drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 50+ Anuradhapura.
- c. **The high-land subspecies** *ssp. opisthomelas*. 21/1 10+ Hakgala Botanical Garden.
8. ***Hanuman Langur** *Presbytis [entellus] priam thersites*. 18/1 100+ Bundala NP, 19/1 25+ Yala NP, 20/1 3 Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 20/1 3 Uda Walawe NP, 26/1 15 Sigiriya, 27/1 1 Polannaruwa, 28/1 5 Minneriya NP, 29/1 30+ drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 75+ Anuradhapura.



9. **Purple-faced Leaf Monkey** *Presbytis vetulus*. *Endemic*. Three subspecies seen (and a fourth only heard):
- *Western** *ssp. nestor*. 12/1 heard site near Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 heard near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 1 morning walk Kitulgala.
 - *Southern** *ssp. vetulus*. 14/1 6+ Sinharaja, 15/1 heard morning walk Sinharaja, 15/1 2 afternoon walk Sinharaja.
 - *Highland (Bear Monkey)** *ssp. monticola*. 21/1 15+ Hakgala Botanical Garden, 22/1 10 seen + heard Horton Plains,
 - Northern** *ssp. philbricki*. 24/1-25/1 heard – likely this subspecies – from forest higher than Hunas Falls Hotel, 26/1 heard Sigiriya.
10. **Jackal** *Canis aureus*. 19/1 2 Yala NP, 28/1 2 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP.
11. ***Sloth Bear** *Melursus ursinus*. 19/1 1 seen twice Yala NP.
12. **Otter** *Lutra lutra*. 22/1 faeces Horton Plains, 24/1 1 seen Hunas Falls Hotel, 28/1 1 seen Minneriya NP.
13. **Toddy Cat** *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*. 24/1 1 female 3 juveniles Hunas Falls Hotel.
14. **Small Civet** *Viverricula indica*. 17/1 1 Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 1 near Yala Village Hotel.
15. ***Indian Grey Mongoose** *Herpestes edwardsi*. 17/1 2 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel (see photo), 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 29/1 2 Sigiriya village, 30/1 1 Anuradhapura, 31/1 1 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
16. **Indian Brown Mongoose** *Herpestes fuscus*. 25/1 1 crossed the road shortly after leaving Hunas Falls Hotel. *South Asian endemic*.
17. **Ruddy Mongoose** *Herpestes smithii*. 19/1 4 Yala NP, 20/1 1 Centauria Hotel, 28/1 2+1 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP.
18. ***Leopard** *Panthera pardus kotiya*. 18/1 1 (distant on rock) Yala Village Hotel, 20/1 track Uda Walawe NP, 28/1 track (and a notable smell of big cat in the air!) Minneriya NP.
19. ***Spinner Dolphin** *Stenella longirostris*. 17/1 15+ boat trip from Mirissa.



20. ***Blue Whale** *Balaenoptera musculus*. 17/1 7-10 (or even more) boat trip from Mirissa. *Fabulous experience. Seen down to 50 m. At one time 7 animals were within few hundred meters from the ship, but repeatedly blue whales/blows were seen at long distances and it was our impression that we saw more than 7 animals. Several times seen in sub-groups of two and size-difference indicated probable mother with calf. Belongs to the spp. indica – which is smaller and seems to have more pronounced dorsal fin than other Blue Whales. Often included in the so-called Pygmy Blue Whale – special to reach a length of 24 m and still being recognized as a Pygmy!*



21. ***Asian Elephant** *Elephas maximus*. 18/1 1 Yala Village Hotel, 19/1 3 males 1 female 1 juvenile Yala NP, 20/1 46 Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 13 Uda Walawe NP, 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 27/1 tracks drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 28/1 tracks drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28/1 tracks Minneriya NP.
22. ***Wild Pig** *Sus scrofa*. 15/1 tracks morning walk Sinharaja, 17/1 25+ Yala Village Hotel, 19/1 30+ Yala NP, 24/1 tracks Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 tracks Hunas Falls Hotel, 28/1 9 Minneriya NP.
23. ***Spotted Deer** *Cervus axis*. 19/1 100+ Yala NP, 20/1 3 Uda Walawe NP, 28/1 5 Minneriya NP, 29/1 2 Mihintale temple.
24. ***Sambar** *Cervus unicolor*. 19/1 15+ Yala NP, 22/1 3 Horton Plains.
25. ***Water Buffalo** *Bubalus bubalis*. 19/1 125+ Yala NP, 20/1 + wetland near Yala Village Hotel, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 30+ Uda Walawe NP, 28/1 tracks Minneriya NP, 31/1 9 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
26. ***Palm Squirrel** *Funambulus palmarum*. 12/1 2 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 13/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 2 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 5 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 16/1 1 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 16/1 1 Galle, 19/1 5+ Yala NP, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 20/1 5+ Uda Walawe NP, 23/1 + Kandy, 24/1 ++ Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 ++ Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 5 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 26/1 + Sigiriya, 27/1 3 Minneriya, 29/1 10+ drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 15+ Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 10+ Anuradhapura, 31/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
27. **Dusky Striped Squirrel** *Funambulus sublineatus*. 15/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja, 21/1 1 near Hakgala Botanical Garden, 22/1 2 Horton Plains, 22/1 1 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 24/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel.
28. **Grizzled Squirrel** *Ratufa macroura*. *South Asian endemic*
a. *Spp. melanochra*. 14/1 1 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja, 26/1 1 Sinharaja.
b. *Spp. dandolena*. 24/1 1 probably this subspecies Hunas Falls Hotel, 27/1 1 Minneriya, 29/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 1 Anuradhapura, 31/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
29. **Un-identified Mouse** *Mus sp.* 20/1 1 (ran across Aslak's bed and woke him up) Yala Village Hotel, 23/1 1 (larger than House Mouse) by hotel Nuwara Eliya.
30. **Roof Rat** *Rattus rattus*. 22/1 3 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya). *Likely one of the local subspecies.*
31. **Indian Gerbil** *Tatera indica*. 18/1 1 near Yala Village Hotel.
32. **Indian Hare** *Lepus nigricollis*. 17/1 1 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 19/1 3 Yala NP, 20/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 22/1 5 drive to Horton Plains.

BIRDS

1. **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. 17/1 1 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 2 Bundala NP, 5 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 2 Yala NP, 21/1 1 drive Uda Walawe NP to Hakgala Botanical Garden, 27/1 1 Polannaruwa, 28/1 2 Minneriya NP, 28/1 10+ lake S of Sigiriya, 30/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 5 Anuradhapura, 31/1 5 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
2. ***Spot-billed Pelican** *Pelecanus philippensis*. 17/1 13 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 17 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 86 Bundala NP, 19/1 10 Yala NP, 26/1 2 overflying Sigiriya, 28/1 38 Minneriya NP, 30/1 1 Anuradhapura. *A total of 167 of this vulnerable species.*
3. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*. 25/1 3 Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya), 28/1 1 lagoon/remnants of mangroves E of Galle, 28/1 35 Minneriya NP, 28/1 1 lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 1 Anuradhapura.
4. ***Indian Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*. 17/1 10+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 5 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 10 Tissa Tanks, 23/1 2 Kandy, 26/1 2 Sigiriya, 28/1 6 lagoon/remnants of mangroves E of Galle, 31/1 2 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo. *Breeding plumage showing white tufts behind the eye.*
5. ***Little Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax niger*. 12/1 2 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 5 Kitulgala rest house, 12/1 4 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 2 morning Kitulgala rest house, 17/1 500+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 75 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 900 Bundala NP, 500+ Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 25 Uda Walawe NP, 23/1 30 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 50 Kandy, 25/1 10+ Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya), 26/1 10 Sigiriya, 27/1 + drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 27/1 5 Polannaruwa, 28/1 200 Minneriya NP, 28/1 200 lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 + Anuradhapura, a40 2 b40, 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
6. **Oriental Darter** *Anhinga [melanogaster] melanogaster*. 17/1 5 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 + Bundala NP, + Tissa Tanks, 19/1 25 Yala NP, 20/1 20 Uda Walawe NP, 30/1 2 Anuradhapura.



7. **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*. 17/1 5 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 4 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 10 Bundala NP, 15 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 5 Uda Walawe NP, 23/1 1 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 28/1 20 Minneriya NP, 28/1 2 lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 5 Anuradhapura, 31/1 5 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.

8. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*. 12/1 2 drive airport to Kitulgala, 17/1 2 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 5 Bundala NP, 30 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 28/1 1 Minneriya NP, 28/1 2 lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 1 Anuradhapura, 31/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 1 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
9. **Eastern Great White Egret** *Ardea [alba] modesta*. 17/1 50+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 15+ Bundala NP, 50 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 15 Uda Walawe NP, 25/1 1 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 27/1 + drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 28/1 5 Minneriya NP, 28/1 + lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 1 Anuradhapura, 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo. *A few birds noted with reddish legs, i.e. demonstrating the breeding-time character of this recently split from Great White Heron.*
10. **Intermediate Heron** *Egretta intermedia*. 17/1 75+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 4 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 50 Uda Walawe NP, 26/1 1 Sigiriya, a30 5 drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 28/1 10 Minneriya NP, 28/1 + lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 + Anuradhapura, 31/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
11. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzatta*. 12/1 20+ drive Airport to Kitulgala, 14/1 1 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 16/1 1 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 150+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 50+ Bundala NP, 150 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 25 Uda Walawe NP, 23/1 1+ Kandy, 25/1 25 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 26/1 5 Sigiriya, 27/1 + drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 28/1 30 Minneriya NP, 28/1 + lake S of Sigiriya, 30/1 + Anuradhapura.
12. **Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis*. 18/1 1 (dark phase) Bundala NP, 31/1 1 possibly this species (white phase) flew N at sea 31/1.
13. ***Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus [ibis] coromandus*. 12/1 100+ drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 5 Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 5 morning Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 50 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 16/1 200+ drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 1000+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 500 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 40 Bundala NP, ++ Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 20 Uda Walawe NP, 22/1 170 drive Horton Plain to Nuwara Eliya, 23/1 + Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 + Kandy, 25/1 100+ drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 26/1 20 Sigiriya, 27/1 + drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 28/1 400+ Sinharaja-Unuwatura, 28/1 + drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28/1 50 Minneriya NP, 28/1 300 lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 ++ drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, a45 5 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 200+ Anuradhapura, 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
14. **Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*. 12/1 50+ drive Airport to Kitulgala, 13/1 5 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 5 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 16/1 2 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 50+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 100 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 150 Bundala NP, 200 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 50 Uda Walawe NP, 22/1 4 Horton Plains½, 22/1 5 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 26/1 5 Sigiriya, 28/1 20 Sinharaja-Unuwatura, 30/1 50+ Anuradhapura, 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
15. **Little Green Heron** *Butorides striatus*. 18/1 1 Bundala NP, 1 Tissa Tanks, 28/1 6 remnants of mangroves east of Galle.
16. ***Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*. 17/1 1 drive Galle to Mirissa, 17/1 20+ juveniles in nests drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/ 1 near Yala Village Hotel.
17. **Yellow Bittern** *Ixobrychus sinensis*. 18/1 2 Bundala NP, 1 Tissa tanks.
18. **Black Bittern** *Dupetor flavicollis*. 18/1 2 Tissa tanks. *Both in the margin of the big tank west of the temple-area, one was started, one climbing on a small dead trunk.*
19. **Painted Stork** *Mycteria leucocephala*. 17/1 6 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 4 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 70 Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 6 Uda Walawe NP, 27/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 30/1 1 Anuradhapura.

20. **Asian Openbill** *Anastomus oscitans*. 12/1 7 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 5 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 1 morning Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 1 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 17/1 30+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 15 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 10 Bundala NP, 50 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 15 Uda Walawe NP, 27/1 5 drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 28/1 2 Minneriya NP, 28/1 4 lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 2 drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 5+ Anuradhapura, 31/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 10 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
21. ***Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus*. 20/1 1 Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 3 Uda Walawe, 27/1 8 drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 28/1 4 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP (see photo), 29/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 31/1 1 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
22. ***Black-headed Ibis** *Threskionis melanocephalus*. 17/1 50+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 10 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 15 Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 27/1 2 Polannaruwa, 28/1 2 lake S of Sigiriya, 30/1 2 Anuradhapura, 31/1 2 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
23. ***Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*. 18/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 34 Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 2 wetland near Yala Village Hotel,
24. ***Lesser Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna javanica*. 12/1 7 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 17/1 30 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 10 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 40 Bundala NP, 35 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 15 incl. 1 pair with 6 pullus Yala NP, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilibitya), 21/1 5 + drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 26/1 7 Sigiriya, 27/1 10 Polannaruwa, 28/1 5 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 29/1 4 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 1 Anuradhapura, 31/1 2 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
25. **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*. 18/1 1 male w.pl. Bundala NP. *A unexpected vagrant to this ultimate southern position of the Indian Subcontinent*
26. **Cotton Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus*. 18/1 6 Tissa Tanks, 30/1 4 (2 pairs) Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 2 Anuradhapura, 31/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
27. **Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*. 17/1 400+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 31/1 75 mig. S Seashells Hotel (Negombo).
28. **Garganey** *Anas querquedula*. 17/1 100+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 1 Tissa Tanks, 21/1 1 drive Uda Walawe NP to Hakgala Botanical Garden, 28/1 1 lake S of Sigiriya, 31/1 2 mig. S Seashells Hotel (Negombo).
29. **Oriental Honey-Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhyncus*. 13/1 2 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 1 possible Sinharaja NP, 22/1 3 Horton Plains, 28/1 1 Sinharaja-Unuwatura, 31/1 1 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
30. **Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*. 20/1 7 Uda Walawe NP.
31. ***Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*. 12/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 16/1 1 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 3 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 5 Bundala NP, 19/1 5 Yala NP, 20/1 1 Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 + drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 24/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 1 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 25/1 25 Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya), 27/1 2 drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 27/1 3 Polannaruwa, 28/1 6 Minneriya NP, 28/1 2 lake S of Sigiriya, 28/1 2 Sinharaja-Unawatuna, 29/1 10+ drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 5 Anuradhapura, 30/1 3 Unawatuna, 31/1 5 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.



32. **White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*. 16/1 1 possible drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 1 adult Bundala NP, 19/1 4 Yala NP, 20/1 2 + 2 nests Uda Walawe NP, 23/1 1 Kandy, 24/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 1-2 Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya), 27/1 1 Polannaruwa, 28/1 2 Minneriya NP.
33. ***Grey-headed Fishing-eagle** *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*. 20/1 1 adult Uda Walawe NP, 28/1 2 immatures Minneriya NP, 28/1 1 immature lake S of Sigiriya.
34. ***Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*. 13/1 1 morning walk Kitulgala, 16/1 1 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 18/1 1 Bundala NP, 20/1 4 Uda Walawe NP, 24/1 2 Hunas Falls Hotel, 27/1 1 Sinharaja, 27/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 28/1 1 lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 31/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
- Un-identified Sparrowhawk *Accipiter badius/virgatus*. 17/1 1 drive Galle to Mirissa, 20/1 1 Uda Walawe NP.
35. **Shikra** *Accipiter badius*. 12/1 1 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 25/1 1 male drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 27/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 29/1 1 male drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 1 juvenile Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 1 juvenile Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 1 + 1 male Anuradhapura, 30/1 1 Unawatuna, 31/1 1 juvenile Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
36. **Besra** *Accipiter virgatus*. 28/1 1 Minneriya NP.
37. **Himalayan Buzzard** *Buteo [buteo] burmanicus*. 22/1 1 Horton Plains, 22/1 1 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya). *These buzzards looked slightly different compared to the Common Buzzard of Europe – a dark, blackish upper side and densely barred pale tail. According to Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) the buzzard to be seen on Sri Lanka is the taxa from Himalaya now split from B. buteo and classified as a species.*
38. ***Indian Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malayensis*. 14/1 1 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 24/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel.

Splendid views were obtained of the special Black Eagle on a low patrol in a valley close to Sinharaja



39. **Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*. 19/1 1 dark phase Yala NP, 20/1 1 dark phase Uda Walawe NP.
40. ***Crested Hawk Eagle** *Spizaetus cirrhatus*. 12/1 1 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 1 possible Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 1 morning walk Kitulgala, 15/1 1 afternoon walk Sinharaja, 18/1 2 Bundala NP, 19/1 3 Yala NP, 20/1 2 Uda Walawe NP, 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 30/1 1 Anuradhapura.
41. **Kelaarts's Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus [nipalensis] kelaarti*. 24/1 1 immature Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 1 immature Hunas Falls Hotel. *Recently split from Mountain Hawk Eagle and now a South Asian endemic.*

42. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*. 20/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 29/1 1 Mihintale.
43. **'Black' Shaheen Falcon** *Falco peregrinus peregrinator*. 25/1 1 Sigiriya, 26/1 2 Sigiriya. *Circling on the up-winds to the rock - only seen late afternoon, when Little Swifts after having been widespread during the day returned in numbers and started display-flights over the rock.*
44. **Sri Lanka Spurfowl** *Galloperdix bicalcarata*. 15/1 5 heard morning walk Sinharaja, 27/1 at least 4 heard Sinharaja. *Endemic. Voice conspicuous but very skulky and hard to see – at times seen in the bottom of the gully next to Martin's Lodge in the early morning.*
45. ***Sri Lanka Junglefowl** *Gallus lafayetii*. 12/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 14/1 4 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 2 + heard morning walk Sinharaja, 15/1 2 afternoon walk Sinharaja, 16/1 1 female Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 16/1 1 female drive Sinharaja to Galle, 18/1 1 heard Bundala NP, 19/1 10 Yala NP, 20/1 1 male + 1 female with pullus drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 22/1 3 + 1 heard Horton Plains, 27/1 2 Sinharaja, 28/1 2 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28/1 5 Minneriya NP, 29/1 1 heard Sigiriya, 30/1 1 heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 2 heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *Endemic. It became obvious why the Junglefowl has been domesticated. Once in Sinharaja we were followed by a cock which even rushed to a lowered hand as if it expected to be fed. A female came to the lodge each morning for food.*



46. ***Indian Peafowl** *Pavo cristatus*. 17/1 10 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 10 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 25+ Bundala NP, 19/1 50+ Yala NP, 20/1 75+ Uda Walawe NP, 28/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28/1 15 Minneriya NP, 30/1 1 Anuradhapura. *An amazing bird and one of the most special of all Indian birds. Had the species been difficult to see like so many other fowl-species it would have been mythical!*
47. **Barred Buttonquail** *Turnix suscitator*. 20/1 4 Uda Walawe NP, 27/1 2 drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa.
Un-identified Crake *Rallina/Porzana sp.* 18/1 1 Tissa Tanks.
48. **Slaty-legged Crake** *Rallina eurizonoides*. 27/1 1 heard from a forested river bottom, Sinharaja – *gave a few but loud calls, a very loud croak ("krrreee-kra-kra-kra-krrr.."). Surprisingly heard in the middle of the day at 11.30.*
49. **White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*. 13/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 1 heard morning walk Kitulgala, 16/1 1 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 18/1 + Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 23/1 2 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 29/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).

50. **'Grey-headed' Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio [porphyrio] poliocephalus*. 17/1 20+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 50 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 21/1 2 drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 30/1 3+ Anuradhapura, 31/1 5+ drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.

51. **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*. 17/1 4 drive Mirissa to Tissa, 18/1 10 Tissa tanks.

52. **Coot** *Fulica atra*. 18/1 3 Tissa tanks.

53. **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*. 17/1 12 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 300 Bundala NP, 75 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 26/1 2 Sigiriya, 28/1 15 lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 6+ Anuradhapura, 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.

54. ***Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*. 18/1 1 pair + 1 Bundala NP. *See photo – always a nice bird to see.*

55. ***Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*. 17/1 300+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 50 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 450 Bundala NP, + Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 21/1 + drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 30/1 10+ Anuradhapura, 31/1 5+ drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.

56. ***Indian Stone-curlew** *Burhinus [oediconemus] indicus*. 18/1 2 Bundala NP, 20/1 1 Wetland near Yala Village Hotel.

57. ***Great Thick-knee** *Esacus recurvirostris*. 17/1 11 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 6 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 19/1 4 Yala NP, 20/1 12 wetland near Yala Village Hotel.

58. **Small Pratincole** *Glareola lactea*. 18/1 6 Bundala NP.

59. ***Yellow-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus malabaricus*. 17/1 3 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 4 (see photo) Bundala NP, 19/1 2 Yala NP, 21/1 2 drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya.

60. **Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*. 12/1 2 drive airport to Kitulgala, 16/1 1 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 10 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 5 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 12 Bundala NP, 19/1 10 + 1 pair with 4 pullus Yala NP, 20/1 20 Uda Walawe NP, drive Uda Walawe to Nuwara Eliya, 25/1 4 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 26/1 4 Sigiriya, 27/1 4 Polannaruwa, 28/1 6 Minneriya NP, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 6 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 8 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 4 Anuradhapura, 31/1 + Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.

61. **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*. 17/1 6 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 15 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 5 Bundala NP.

62. **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*. 18/1 6 Bundala NP.

63. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*. Two subspecies recorded:

a. The resident ssp. *jerdoni*. 21/1 10+ breeding plumage Uda Walawe NP. *Pale lower beak and more distinct yellow eye-ring. Perhaps candidate for being split to independent species.*

b. The winter-visitor ssp. *curonicus*. 17/1 4 w.pl. drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 5 w.pl. Bundala NP, 20/1 5 w.pl. wetland near Yala Village Hotel.



64. **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*. Two subspecies recorded.
 a. The migratory ssp. *alexandrinus*. 17/1 100+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 5 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 10 Bundala NP, 19/1 5 Yala NP, 20/1 75+ wetland near Yala Village Hotel. All birds checked in the Yala-area showed a distinct black lore.
 b. The resident ssp. *seebohmi*. 21/1 2 Uda Walawe NP. Only observation of Kentish Plovers with completely white lores. *The subspecies a South Asian endemic.*
65. **Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*. 17/1 500+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 25 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 45 Bundala NP, 19/1 5 Yala NP, 20/1 300+ wetland near Yala Village Hotel, 21/1 15 Uda Walawe NP.
66. ***Swinhoe's Snipe** *Gallinago megala*. 19/1 2 perhaps this species Yala NP. *At present field identification of Swinhoe's/Pintail Snipe is defined as mission impossible (Leader & Carey 2003). One bird was seen on very dry land - running almost like a diminutive Woodcock (Scolopax rusticolus) across a small glade in open woodland only to disappear under some bushes after crouching shortly under a single thin bush. The other was seen with 5 presumed Pintail Snipe in a lakeside marsh (see photo). Both presumed Swinhoe's Snipe had a more angular head-shape. The second bird showed a number of the 'classic' ID-clues for Swinhoe's Snipes: Fairly long tail projection, primaries slightly longer than tertials, whitish tips to tail and yellowish legs.*



Possible Swinhoe's Snipe (left) and probable Pintail Snipe (right)

67. ***Pintail Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*. 18/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 19/1 6 Yala NP, 27/1 1 Polannaruwa, 31/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *Mostly likely this species, cf. comment under preceding species.*
68. **'Western' Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa [limosa] limosa*. 18/1 35 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 18/1 50 Bundala NP.
69. **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*. 30/1 2 roosting at rocks Unawatuna Bay.
70. **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*. 17/1 1 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel.
71. **Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*. 17/1 10 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 30 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 30 Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 5+ wetland near Yala Village Hotel.
72. **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*. 17/1 50+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 40 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 280 Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 30+ wetland near Yala Village Hotel, 21/1 10+ Uda Walawe NP.

73. **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*. 17/1 5 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 3 Bundala NP, 19/1 2 Yala NP.
74. **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*. 18/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP.
75. **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*. 17/1 8 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 4 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 21/1 5 Uda Walawe NP.
76. **Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*. 13/1 1 morning Kitulgala rest house, 17/1 5 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 20/1+ wetland near Yala Village Hotel, 21/1 + drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 22/1 2 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 2 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 27/1 1 Polannaruwa, 30/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
77. **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*. 16/1 7 Galle, 17/1 4 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 2 Bundala NP, 28-30/1 6 on rocks Unawatuna Bay.
78. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*. 20/1 2 drive wetland near Yala Village Hotel. *Always a pleasure to find this discrete migrant between the numerous Little Stints and Kentish/Lesser Sand Plovers.*
79. **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*. 17/1 100+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 70 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 450 Bundala NP, 19/1 5+ Yala NP, 20/1 50+ wetland near Yala Village Hotel, 21/1 15 Uda Walawe NP.
80. **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*. 17/1 50+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 50 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 150 Bundala NP, 20/1 25+ wetland near Yala Village Hotel.
81. **Brown-headed Gull** *Larus brunnicephalus*. 17/1 2 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 2 Bundala NP, 20/1 1 wetland near Yala Village Hotel.
82. ***Gull-billed Tern** *Sterna nilotica*. 16/1 2 Galle, 17/1 23 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 20 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 25 (see photo) Bundala NP, 19/1 10+ Yala NP, 20/1 10+ wetland near Yala Village Hotel, 21/1 5 Uda Walawe NP, 25/1 1 Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya), 28/1 5 Minneriya NP, 28/1-30/1 up to 10 Unawatuna Bay, 29/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 31/1 1 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo, 31/1 40 Seashells Hotel (Negombo).



83. ***Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*. 16/1 2 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 18/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 25 (see photo) Bundala NP, 20/1 5 wetland near Yala Village Hotel.
84. **Great Crested Tern** *Sterna bergii*. 16/1 25 Galle, 17/1 4 boat trip from Mirissa, 11 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 460 Bundala NP, 30/1 4 E Unawatuna Bay, 31/1 1 Seashells Hotel (Negombo).
85. **Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis*. 16/1 2 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 2 boat trip from Mirissa, 18/1 15 Bundala NP, 31/1 2-3 Seashells Hotel (Negombo).
86. **Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons* (probably *ssp sinensis*). 18/1 3 in summer plumage Bundala NP.
- Besides Little/Saunders's Tern *Sternula albifrons/saundersi* were seen: 17/1 3 drive Marissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 5 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 50 Bundala NP, 19/1 2 Yala NP, 20/1 wetland near Yala Village Hotel.
87. **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*. 16/1 2 possible Galle, 18/1 1 Bundala NP.

88. **Bridled Tern** *Sterna anaethetus*. 17/1 15 boat trip from Mirissa. *Showed up just outside the coastal zone when we were returning towards land. The first was seen resting on a floating coconut but the rest were scattered individuals mixing with the other terns seen. Turned out to be the only true “sea-bird” of this pelagic trip. None were seen from Unawatuna despite regular search of the sea.*
89. ***Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*. 12/1 1 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 16/1 150 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 16/1 30 Galle, 17/1 500 Boat trip from Mirissa, 17/1 50 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 50 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 5500 Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 + wetland near Yala Village Hotel, + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 100+ Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 + drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 25/1 100+ drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 25/1 300+ Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya), 26/1 5 Sigiriya, 27/1 + drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 27/1 + Polannaruwa, 28/1 100+ Minneriya NP, 28/1 50 lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 + Anuradhapura, 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo, 31/1 100+ Seashells Hotel (Negombo). *An abundant winter visitor in the wetlands of the dry southwest. Even more surprising were a couple of dense feeding-flocks seen several kilometres out at sea during the boat-trip from Mirissa – mixing with a few Bridled Terns and even some White-winged Black Tern. This species was also common along the shore off Negombo – where often seen around the fishing-boats coming in. Such marine occurrence of this species seems highly unusual.*
90. ***White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*. 17/1 10+ boat trip from Mirissa, 3 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 3 Bundala NP, 20/1 1 wetland near Yala Village Hotel. *It was a genuine surprise to see this classic freshwater-species at sea during the boat trip from Mirissa. The number recorded is probably underestimated.*
91. **Feral Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*. 12/1 + drive Airport to Kitulgala, 14/1 +, 16/1 +, 17/1 + drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 4 (by large dead tree) Tissa Tanks, 21/1 + drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 22/1 4 Horton Plains, 22/1 + Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 + Kandy, 25/1 1 Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya). *Seemed to be fully naturalized at places away from human habitation.*
92. **Sri Lanka Woodpigeon** *Columba torringtonii*. 21/1 1 Hakgala Botanical Garden, 22/1 4 + 5+ heard Horton Plains. 27/1 1 Sinharaja. *Endemic. Fast-flying and typically seen in short flights.*
93. **Oriental Turtle-dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*. 24/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel. *Vagrant this far south. Seen close to the hotel sitting on the ground and in small trees.*
94. **Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*. 12/1 2 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 13/1 1 juvenile near Sisira’s lodge (Kitulgala), 14/1 2 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 16/1 5 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 + drive Galle to Mirissa, 17/1 + drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 50 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 50 Bundala NP, 20 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 + all day, 20/1 200+ Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 + drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 22/1 5 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 + Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 + Kandy, 24/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25-29/1 a few seen daily, 28-20/1 daily ab. 5 Unawatuna Bay, 30/1 30+ Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 + Anuradhapura, 31/1 + Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo, 31/1 + Seashells Hotel (Negombo).
95. **Emerald Dove** *Chalophaps indica*. 12/1 1 near Sisira’s lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 4 near Sisira’s lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 2 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 1 Sinharaja NP, 16/1 2 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 22/1 1 Horton Plains, 28/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP.
96. **Orange-breasted Green-pigeon** *Treron bicincta*. 18/1 4 Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 6 Uda Walawe NP, 28/1 10 Minneriya NP, 28/1 1 N of Sigiriya Rock, 29/1 6 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 30+ Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 10+ Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
97. **Pompadour Green Pigeon** *Treron pampadora*. 12/1 4 Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 35, morning Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 6 Kitulgala rest house, 16/1 2 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 24/1 2 Hunas Falls Hotel, 26/1 4 probably this species Sigiriya, 27/1 6 probably this species Polannaruwa, 28/1 1 N of Sigiriya Rock, 28/1 1 lake S of Sigiriya. *Endemic.*

98. **Green Imperial Dove** *Ducula aenea*. 12/1 2 Kitulgala rest house, 12/1 6 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 2 morning Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 4 Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 5 heard Sinharaja NP, 15/1 heard morning walk Sinharaja, 17/1 1 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 1 Uda Walawe NP, drive Uda Walawe to Nuwara Eliya, 25/1 3 Sigiriya, 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 27/1 7 Sinharaja, 28/1 2 N of Sigiriya Rock, 29/1 3 drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 3 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 2 Anuradhapura, 31/1 3 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
99. ***Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*. 12/1 2 Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 6 morning Kitulgala rest house, 20/1 20 Uda Walawe NP, 24/1 4 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel, 26/1 2 Sigiriya, 28/1 30 lake S of Sigiriya.
100. **Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*. 12/1 10 Sinharaja gate to Martin's Lodge, 18/1 80 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 23/1 1 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 27/1 20 Polannaruwa, 28/1 20 Minneriya NP, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 + Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 15 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 50+ Anuradhapura, 31/1 20+ Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
101. **Plum-headed Parakeet** *Psittacula cyanocephala*. 16/1 1 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 17/1 8 drive Galle to Mirissa, 20/1 1 Uda Walawe NP, 24/1 25 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya.
102. **Layard's Parakeet** *Psittacula calthrope*. 12/1 2 Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 3 morning Kitulgala rest house, 24/1 3 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel, 27/1 5 Sinharaja. *Endemic*.
103. **Sri Lanka Hanging-Parrot** *Loriculus beryllinus*. 12/1 2 + heard Kitulgala rest house, 12/1 2 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 2 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 4 Sinharaja NP, 24/1 10+ Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 5 Hunas Falls Hotel, 27/1 2 Sinharaja. *Endemic*.
104. **Pied Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus*. 18/1 2 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 1 Yala NP, 20/1 1 wetland near Yala Village Hotel.
105. **Common Hawk-Cuckoo** *Cuculus varius*. 22/1 2 Horton Plains, 27/1 1 heard ('*brain-fever*') Sinharaja.
106. **Indian Cuckoo** *Cuculus micropterus*. 27/1 3 singing Polannaruwa, 29/1 1 singing Aukana Buddha.
Indian/Eurasian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus/canorus*. 20/1 1 seen briefly Uda Walawe NP.
107. **Grey-bellied Cuckoo** *Cacomantis passerinus*. 18/1 1 Bundala NP, 19/1 4 Yala NP, 20/1 4 Uda Walawe NP.
108. **Asian Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea*. 13/1 1 female morning Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 1 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 16/1 2 Galle, 17/1 3 drive Galle to Mirissa, 17/1 1 female drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 heard drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 19/1 heard Yala NP, 20/1 heard drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 21/1 2 drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 30/1 2 + heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 1 heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
109. **Blue-faced Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*. 18/1 1 Bundala NP, 19/1 1 Yala NP, 20/1 1 Uda Walawe NP, 28/1 1 lake S of Sigiriya.
110. **Red-faced Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus*. 14/1 4 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja, 27/1 1 Sinharaja. *Endemic. A handsome malkoha hidden in the canopy.*
111. **Sirkeer Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*. 19/1 1 Yala NP, 20/1 1 Uda Walawe NP.
112. **Southern Coucal** *Centropus [sinensis] parroti*. 13/1 1 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 1 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 15/1 2 afternoon walk Sinharaja, 18/1 heard Bundala NP, 2 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 3 Yala NP, 20/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 21-29/1 heard daily, 29/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 2 heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 + Anuradhapura, 31/1 + Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).

113. ***Green-billed Coucal** *Centropus chlororhynchos*. 12/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 heard near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala) 27/1 1+1 Sinharaja. *Endemic. Terrestrial or in low brush.*

114. ****Eastern' Barn Owl** *Tyto [alba] javanica*. 27/1 2 Polannaruwa.

Sri Lanka Bay Owl *Phodilus [badius] assimilis*. Not seen. *The most recently known site at Sinharaja has been abandoned and there were apparently no other breeding sites known/public in 2009/2010.*



115. ***Indian Scops-owl** *Otus bakkamoena*. 18/1 1 near Tissa, 20/1 2 (day-roost) near Tissa - *see photo, one greyish and one tawny morph.*

116. **Oriental Scops-owl** *Otus sunia*. 26/1 1 heard Sigiriya. A possible future spilt.

117. **Serendib Scops-Owl** *Otus thilohoffmanni*. 13/1 none at dusk and after dark during walk into Kitulgala - heavy rain disturbed the chances and even when it stopped shortly after sunset the forest remained silent, 26/1 1 heard Sinharaja close to the gate 04.15-05.30. *Series of persistent "hoots" heard at close range, probably down to 10-20 meters away but the owl could not be visualized. A soloist in the night, only a vague background of night-cicadas active in this period. Absolutely silent from the very first light. Endemic.*

118. ***Brown Fish Owl** *Ketupa zeylonensis*. 23/1 2 Udewattekele Sanctuary (Kandy). *A pair perched in old lake-side trees near the entrance, see photo.*

Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl *Bubo nipalensis*. Several places searched, but without success: 16/1 & 31/1 Boulder Garden Hotel (N of Sinharaja NP), 23/1 Udewattekele Sanctuary (Kandy), 28/1 N of Sigiriya Rock.

119. ***Chestnut-backed Owlet** *Glaucidium castanonotum*. 12/1 1 near Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 2 heard near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 2 heard morning walk Kitulgala, 13/1 1 heard afternoon walk Kitulgala, 15/1 1 heard afternoon walk Sinharaja, 26/1 2 (19.00), 27/1 2 (5.30) and 1 (7.00) heard Sinharaja represents 2 birds in total. *Endemic. Often vocal until mid-morning and again from mid-afternoon so not too difficult to localize.*



120. **Brown Hawk Owl** *Ninox scutulata*. 28/1 2 lake S of Sigiriya.

121. ***Sri Lanka Frogmouth**

Batrachostomus moniliger. 14/1 1 female 1 pullus (on nest), 15/1 1 male 1 pullus (on the same nest, see front page), 26/1 5+ heard Sinharaja 19.30-20.00, 27/1 1 heard 06.00 + 1 male seen on nest Sinharaja late afternoon (a new site, as the first nest seen was empty – the young had presumably fledged). South Asian *Endemic. When getting familiar with the distinctive call, the species appears to be a wide-spread bird in Sinharaja, but actually seeing a bird of this cryptic genus on its day-roost is a challenge. One has to rely on the well-informed guides, and actually they did 'the trick' well at both our visits to Sinharaja.*

122. **Jerdon's Nightjar** *Caprimulgus atripennis*. 13/1 1 afternoon walk Kitulgala, 18/1 1 heard Yala Village Hotel, 19/1 2 Yala NP, 25/1 1 Sigiriya, 26/1 3 heard Sigiriya, 27/1 1 heard Sigiriya Hotel. South Asian Endemic.
123. **Indian Nightjar** *Caprimulgus asiaticus*. 30/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
124. **Indian Swiftlet** *Collocalia unicolor*. 12/1 15 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 14/1 2 Sinharaja gate to Martin's Lodge, 15/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja, 16/1 2 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 21/1 50+ Hakgala Botanical Garden. South Asian Endemic.
125. **Brown-backed Needletail** *Hirundapus giganteus*. 14/1 8+ Sinharaja NP, 15/1 5 morning walk Sinharaja.
126. **Asian Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis*. 12/1 10 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 4 Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 4 Kitulgala rest house, 18/1, 20/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 23/1 4 drive Nuwara Eliya to Kandy, 25/1 1 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 28/1 2 lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 2 drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 28-30/1 up to 15 Unawatuna Bay, 30/1 5 Anuradhapura.
127. **Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*. 22/1 25+ Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 24/1 20 Hunas Falls Hotel.
128. **Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*. 31/1 3 most likely this species Seashells Hotel (Negombo). *Quite a strange observation. The swifts were discovered by chance during sea-watching. They never reached the shore, but were followed for several minutes in the telescope flying fairly high over the sea. Slim proportions of long wings and tail matched this species - but too far out for seeing white rump.*
129. **Little Swift** *Apus affinis*. 12/1 20 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 13/1 2 morning Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 6 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 16/1 25+ Galle, 18/1 10 Tissa Tanks, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 23/1 3 Kandy, 2 by their nest during dance performance in National Theatre, 24/1 15 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 10+ drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 25-28/1 300+ Sigiriya Rock, 27/1 20 Polannaruwa, 28/1 2 Minneriya NP.
130. **Crested Tree-swift** *Hemiprogne coronata*. 18/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 19/1 10+ Yala NP, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 21/1 + drive Uda Walawe to Nuwara Eliya, 24/1 10 Hunas Falls Hotel, 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 29/1 5 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 10+ Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 5 Anuradhapura.
131. **Malabar Trogon** *Harpactes fasciatus*. 15/1 1 female morning walk Sinharaja, 15/1 2 females afternoon walk Sinharaja, 27/1 2 Sinharaja – morning-walk eventually 1 male, in the afternoon 1 female. South Asian Endemic.
132. **Stork-billed Kingfisher** *Pelargopsis capensis*. 14/1 1 Kitulgala rest house, 19/1 1 Yala NP.
133. **White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*. 12/1 30 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 13/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 1 morning Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 5 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 16/1 5 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 16/1 3 Galle, 17/1 5 drive Galle to Mirissa, 17/1 10 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 5 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 + wetland near Yala Village Hotel, 10 Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 + drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 23/1 drive Nuwara Eliya to Kandy, 24/1 2 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 3 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 25/1 1 Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya), 26/1 2 Sigiriya, 27/1 + drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 27/1 5 Polannaruwa, 28/1 + drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28/1 5 Minneriya NP, 28/1 5 lake S of Sigiriya, 28/1 10 Sinharaja-Unuwatura, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 4 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 + Anuradhapura, 4 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 2 Unawatuna Bay, 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo, 31/1 1 Seashells Hotel (Negombo).
134. **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*. 13/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 18/1 3 Bundala NP, 19/1 1 Yala NP, 21/1 1 drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 24/1 3 Hunas Falls Hotel, 28/1 2 Sinharaja-Unuwatura, 28/1 1 lake S of Sigiriya, 30/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).

135. **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*. 18/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 4 Bundala NP, 19/1 Yala NP, 31/1 2 Seashells Hotel (Negombo).

136. **Little Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis*. 17/1 2 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 70 Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 200+ Uda Walawe NP, 26/1 2 Sigiriya, 27/1 + drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 28/1 10 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, Minneriya NP 10 Minneriya NP, 28/1 2 lake S of Sigiriya, 30/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 2 Anuradhapura, 31/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.

137. ***Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops philippinus*. 13/1 2 morning Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 4 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 16/1 20 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 50+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 5 (see photo) Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 25+ Uda Walawe NP, 22/1 4 Horton Plains, 25/1 2 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 25/1 1 Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya), 27/1 + drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 27/1 5 Polannaruwa, 28/1 2 Minneriya NP, 28/1 2 lake S of Sigiriya, 28-30/1 6 Unawatuna Bay, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 6 Anuradhapura, 31/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo, 31/1 5 Seashells Hotel (Negombo).



138. **Bay-headed Bee-eater** *Merops lechenaulti*. 13/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 2 morning walk Kitulgala.

139. **Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis*. 17/1 6 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 2 Bundala NP, 2 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 1 Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 4 Uda Walawe NP, 27/1 4 Polannaruwa, 30/1 2 Anuradhapura, 31/1 7 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.

140. ***Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*. 18/1 2 Bundala NP, 19/1 3 Yala NP, 20/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 20/1 3 Uda Walawe NP.



141. ***Sri Lanka Hornbill** *Ocyroceros gingalensis*. 12/1 1 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 1 Kitulgala rest house, 12/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 2 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 2 morning (see photo) Kitulgala, 15/1 heard morning walk Sinharaja, 25/1 1 heard Sigiriya, 27/1 4 and 27/1 3 Sinharaja, 28/1 2 Minneriya NP, 29/1 1 + 1 heard drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 1 Anuradhapura. *Endemic*.

142. **Malabar Pied Hornbill** *Anthracoceros coronatus*. 19/1 18 Yala NP. *South Asian Endemic*.

143. ***Brown-headed Barbet** *Megalaima zeylandica*. 12/1 4 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 2 Kitulgala rest house, 12/1 2 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 4 morning Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 2 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 3 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 14/1 1 heard Sinharaja gate to Martin's Lodge, 15/1 10+ heard morning walk Sinharaja, 18/1 4 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 5 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 20/1 heard Uda Walawe NP, 26-29/1 heard daily, 30/1 2 + heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 2 Unawatuna Bay, 30/1 2 + heard Anuradhapura, a 49 1 + heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).

144. **Yellow-fronted Barbet** *Megalaima flavifrons*. 12/1 heard drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 heard Kitulgala rest house, 12/1 heard near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 heard morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 3 + heard Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 2 + heard Sinharaja NP, 16/1 heard Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 23/1 heard Udewattekele Sanctuary (Kandy), 24/1 1 + 5 heard Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 heard drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 26/1 25 Sinharaja. *Endemic*.

Sri Lanka Small Barbet/Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima rubricapillus/haemacephala*. 26-29/1 heard daily.

145. **Sri Lanka Small Barbet** *Megalaima rubricapillus*. 13/1 1 heard morning walk Kitulgala, 16/1 1 seen + heard drive Sinharaja to Galle, 23/1 2 seen Kandy, 1 heard Udewattekele Sanctuary (Kandy), 24/1 6 seen + heard Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 heard drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya. *Endemic*.

146. **Coppersmith Barbet** *Megalaima haemacephala*. 19/1 1 Yala NP, 19/1 2 heard Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 + drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 27/1 1 Polannaruwa, 30/1 2 + heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 heard Anuradhapura, 31/1 3 + heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
147. **Indian Pygmy Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus nanus*. 31/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *Endemic subspecies – possibly a future split.*
148. **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus mahrattensis*. 18/1 1 Bundala NP, 19/1 2 Yala NP.
149. **Lesser Yellownape** *Picus chlorolophus wellsi*. 14/1 2 Sinharaja NP. *Possibly a future split – in case as a South Asian endemic.*
150. **Black-rumped Flameback** *Dinopium benghalensis*. Two subspecies recorded:
 a. ‘Golden-backed’ spp. *jaffnense*. 29/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
 b. ‘Crimson-backed’ spp. *psarodes*. 12/1 2 Kitulgala rest house, 12/1 heard near Sisira’s lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 1 morning walk Kitulgala, 15/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja, 18/1 6 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 2 Yala NP, 24/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel, 28/1 1 (this or the following species) drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28/1 3 (this or the following species) Minneriya NP.
151. **Crimson-backed Flameback** *Chrysocolaptes stricklandi*. 16/1 1 Sinharaja NP, 20/1 1-2 Uda Walawe NP, 28/1 1 (this or the preceding species) drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 27/1 1 Sinharaja, 28/1 3 (this or the preceding species) Minneriya NP. *Endemic.*
- White-naped Flameback** *Chrysocolaptes festivus*. 18/1 none Tissa tanks – despite a concentrated late afternoon effort. *South Asian endemic.*
152. ***Indian Pitta** *Pitta brachyura*. 13/1 1 near Sisira’s lodge (Kitulgala), 22/1 1 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 27/1 1 heard Sigiriya Hotel. *Prolonged and extremely good views of the Victoria Park-bird, - at dusk it was actively calling from a open perch and seemed to take no notice of our presence, see photo.*
153. **Jerdon's Bushlark** *Mirafra [assamica] affinis*. 17/1 3 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 19/1 30 Yala NP, 20/1 150+ Uda Walawe NP, 28/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28/1 2 Minneriya NP, 30/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *South Asian Endemic.*
154. **Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark** *Eremopterix grisea*. 17/1 1 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 15 Bundala NP, 19/1 40 mig. W along coast Yala NP, 20/1 40+ wetland near Yala Village Hotel.
155. **Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula*. 18/1 4 Bundala NP.
156. **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*. 18/1 2+2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP. *Only few reach Sri Lanka. The four birds were seen well and showed distinct breast-bands excluding the at least theoretically possible Pale Sand Martin (Riparia diluta)*
157. ***Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*. 13/1 2 morning walk Kitulgala, 16/1 1 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 13 (out at sea!) boat trip from Mirissa, 17/1 200+ drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 100 Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 20/1 + Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 + drive Uda Walawe to Nuwara Eliya, 22/1 5 Horton Plains, 22/1 4 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 24/1 15 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 10 Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya), 26/1 2 Sigiriya, 27/1 2 Polannaruwa, 28/1 25 Minneriya NP, 28/1 + lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 5 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 20 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 + Anuradhapura,



31/1 10 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo, 31/1 5 Seashells Hotel (Negombo). *Active movements along the south coast - interestingly some Barn Swallows were attempting to migrate south. During the pelagic from Mirissa 13 Barn Swallows were seen flying north about 10 km off-shore - a good idea as next stop south is the Antarctic continent*

158. ***Hill Swallow** *Hirundo [tahitica] domicola*. 22/1 20+ Horton Plains, 23/1 2 (by tea factory) drive Nuwara Eliya to Kandy, 24/1 25+ Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 10+ Hunas Falls Hotel. *South Asian Endemic. Highlands swallow and split from Pacific Swallow.*

159. ***Sri Lanka Swallow** *Hirundo hyperythra*. 12/1 4 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 2 Kitulgala rest house, 12/1 4 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 14/1 25 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 19/1 1 Yala NP, 24/1 5 (see photo) Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 3 Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya), 27/1 3 Sigiriya Hotel, 28/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28/1 1 N of Sigiriya Rock, 30/1 3 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *Endemic. A distinct swallow with its all-orange under-parts. Maybe some-what more sluggish flyer than the closely related Red-rumped Swallow, but eventually seen in glides too.*



160. **Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus [novaeseelandiae] rufulus*. 17/1 3 drive Mirissa to Tissa, 18/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 4 Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 2 wetland near Yala Village Hotel, 20/1 50+ Uda Walawe NP, 22/1 2 Horton Plains, 26/1 1 Sigiriya.

161. **Blyth's Pipit** *Anthus godlewskii*. 20/1 1 wetland near Yala Village Hotel. *Scoped at close range: A moulting bird but with a few juvenile coverts remaining.*

162. **Forest Wagtail** *Dendronanthus indicus*. 22/1 2 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 2 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 28/1 1 Minneriya NP. *As always: Discrete and exquisite...*

163. **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava thunbergi*. 20/1 25+ Uda Walawe NP. Besides the species was recorded twice without identification of sub-species: 17/1 1 heard drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 21/1 5 Uda Walawe NP (*in moult; had deep yellow throat, perhaps ssp. lutea*).

164. **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*. 13/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 1 afternoon walk Kitulgala, 14/1 1 Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 1 Sinharaja NP, 22/1 2 Horton Plains, 5 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 2 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya).

165. **Large Cuckooshrike** *Coracina macei*. 27/1 1 Polannaruwa.

166. **Black-headed Cuckooshrike** *Coracina melanoptera*. 13/1 1 morning walk Kitulgala, 31/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).

167. **Small Minivet** *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*. 24/1 1 pair Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 4 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 26/1 3 Sigiriya, 27/1 5 Sigiriya Hotel, 29/1 5 Sigiriya Hotel, 31/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).

168. **Orange Minivet** *Pericrocotus [flammeus] flammeus*. 12/1 5 Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 1 female drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 15/1 5 morning walk Sinharaja, 16/1 4 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 19/1 2 Yala NP, 20/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 25/1 1 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 27/1 1 male Sinharaja. *South Asian endemic.*

169. **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike** *Hemipus picatus*. 22/1 3 Horton Plains, 23/1 3 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 24/1 10 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 4 Hunas Falls Hotel. *Endemic subspecies, ssp. leggei, where plumage of male and female is similar with black back – possibly a future split?*

170. **Sri Lanka Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis affinis*. 18/1 2 Bundala NP, 19/1 2 Yala NP, 29/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *Endemic*.
171. ***Black-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus melanicterus*. 12/1 2 Kitulgala rest house, 15/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja, 15/1 2 afternoon walk Sinharaja, 16/1 6 morning walk Kitulgala, 16/1 1 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 27/1 6 Sinharaja. *Endemic*.
172. **Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*. 12/1 2 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 5 Kitulgala rest house, 12/1 5 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 + near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 4 morning Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 + afternoon walk Kitulgala, 14/1 + Kitulgala rest house, 16/1 6 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 16/1 + drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1-31/1 daily, 28-30/1 a few Unawatuna Bay.
173. **Yellow-eared Bulbul** *Pycnonotus penicillatus*. 22/1 15+ Horton Plains, 22/1 2 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 1 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya). *Endemic*.
174. **White-browed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus luteolus*. 18/1 1 Bundala NP, 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 28/1 2 + heard Minneriya NP, 29/1 3 Hotel Sigiriya, 29/1 5 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 10+ Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 6+ Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *South Asian endemic*.
175. **Yellow-browed Bulbul** *Iole indica*. 12/1 3 Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 3 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 20 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja, 15/1 5 afternoon walk Sinharaja, 16/1 4 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 23/1 1 Udewattekele Sanctuary (Kandy), 27/1 2 Sinharaja. *South Asian endemic*.
176. **Square-tailed Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes [leucocephalus] ganeesa*. 12/1 5 Kitulgala rest house, 12/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 3 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 14/1 5 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 5 afternoon walk Sinharaja, 24/1 6 Hunas Falls Hotel, 27/1 10 Sinharaja. *South Asian endemic*.
177. **Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia*. 15/1 2 heard morning walk Sinharaja, 18/1 2 Bundala NP, 20/1 1 female drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 29/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
178. **Jerdon's Leafbird** *Chloropsis [cochinchinensis] jerdoni*. 18/1 2 Bundala NP, 29/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *South Asian endemic*.
179. **Golden-fronted Leafbird** *Chloropsis aurifrons*. 12/1 2 Kitulgala rest house, 27/1 1 Sinharaja, 29/1 1 Sigiriya Hotel.
180. **Magpie Robin** *Copsychus saularis*. 12/1 5 morning Kitulgala rest house, 12/1 5 Kitulgala rest house, 12/1 2 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 14/1 5 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 16/1 10 Galle, 17/1 + drive Galle to Mirissa, 18/1 + Bundala NP, + Tissa Tanks, 19/1 20 Yala NP, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 20/1 2 Uda Walawe NP, 22/1 10+ Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 + Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 + Kandy, 24/1 2 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 + Hunas Falls Hotel, 26/1 5 Sigiriya, 27/1 + drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 27/1 + Polannaruwa, 28/1 + drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28/1 2 Minneriya NP, 28/1 + N of Sigiriya Rock, 29/1 3 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 6 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 + Anuradhapura, 31/1 5 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
181. **Indian Robin** *Saxicoloides fulicata*. 17/1 2 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, + Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), + Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 + drive Uda Walawe to Nuwara Eliya, 25/1 2 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
182. **Pied Bushchat** *Saxicola caprata atratus*. 21/1 2 Nuwara Eliya, 22/1 10+ Horton Plains, 3 Nuwara Eliya, 23/1 2 Nuwara Eliya. *Possible split as a South Asian endemic*.
183. **Blue Rock-Thrush** *Monticola [solitarius] phillipensis*. 26/1 1 Sigiriya.

184. **Indian Blue Robin** *Luscinia brunnea*. 21/1 1 male near Hakgala Botanical Garden, 22/1 1 male Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 2 males 3 females near Hakgala Botanical Garden, 27/1 1 female Sigiriya Hotel, 27/1 1 Sinharaja (call only), 29/1 1 heard drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 1 heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *This migratory member of the attractive Luscinia/Tarsiger-group is not possible during traditional winter-trips to the Himalayas and therefore a target-bird for the trip! Quite skulky but the total of 11 birds (including several beautiful males at close range) made this species the most accessible of the three Himalayan species having the Sri Lankan highland as main winter-area (cf. Pied Thrush & Kashmir Flycatcher).*
185. **Sri Lanka Whistling-Thrush** *Myophonus blighi*. 22/1 2 + 1 heard Arranga Pool, Horton Plains. *Endemic. This bird is notorious for extremely skulky habits and few easily accessible sites. Key-words: Quite fast running streams with dense vegetation at dawn or late dusk. We came out with a blank at a roadside stream between Hakgala and N.Eliya (visited twice). So we went for the classic site at Horton Plains: Arrived at Arranga Pool in the first light of the cool morning. The main spot for the species seems to be the stream running down-slope to the north from the road, where one bird was heard calling – very high-pitched. But the bird does visit the pool itself. One all dark bird – probably a male – was glimpsed zipping over the road and rushing to new cover. Another glimpse was obtained of a female in the dense pond-side vegetation. This was our result of some hours of focussed work!*
186. **Spot-winged Ground-thrush** *Zoothera spiloptera*. 13/1 1 + 1 heard morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 1 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 2 morning walk Sinharaja, 15/1 1 afternoon walk Sinharaja, 27/1 4 Sinharaja (2 seen, 2 heard). *Endemic. Not too hard to see, typically best early mornings including road-side observations.*
187. **Pied Thrush** *Zoothera wardii*. 22/1 1 male Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya). *A great Zoothera and a major target for our trip. Scarce on the Himalayan breeding grounds and scarce and skulky as well in its major winter-grounds in the Lankan highlands. Our late afternoon visit to Victoria Park was close to a draw after having searched the bushes around the compost heaps for this expected ground-dwelling thrush. All of a sudden a bird flew to and settled in a tree-top, quite short-tailed and woodpecker-like in flight: Pied Thrush – male bird! Excellent views in the telescope allowed us enjoy to the black and white plumage with distinct white eyebrow, white wing-bars and scaling on the flanks. And the unique bill – ivory yellow.*
188. ***Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush** *Zoothera [dauma] imbricata*. 14/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja, 15/1 2 afternoon walk Sinharaja, 27/1 1 Sinharaja. *All birds skulk on the forest floor around streams close to a somewhat abandoned research-station and all seen well after some search. Endemic.*
189. **Indian Blackbird** *Turdus simillimus kinnisii*. 22/1 20+ Horton Plains. *Possible future split as an endemic, i.e. Sri Lankan Blackbird. All birds seen in the very first daylight along the road between the entrance and Arranga Pool.*
190. **Sri Lanka Bush-warbler** *Elaphrornis palliseri*. 22/1 3 Horton Plains. *Endemic. A stout warbler seen well in the bushes by Arranga Pool in the early morning sun; was not very vocal.*
191. **Blyth's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*. 20/1 1 Uda Walawe NP, 25/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel.
192. **Indian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus [stentoreus] brunnescens*. 18/1 2 heard drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 4 heard Tissa Tanks.
193. **Booted/Sykes' Warbler** *Hippolais caligata/rama*. 22/1 1 Horton Plains, 22/1 1 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 25/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel. *Status of the two species in Sri Lanka is somewhat obscure. 3 observations definitely more than expected. All three birds suspected to be H. caligata.*
194. **Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius*. 12/1 heard drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 heard Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 2 morning Kitulgala rest house, 18/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 20/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 22/1 2 Horton Plains, 22/1 1 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 1 Kandy, 24/1 2 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 1 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 28/1 heard Minneriya NP.
195. **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides trochiloides*. 15/1 2 heard morning walk Sinharaja, 24/1 1 possibly this species Hunas Falls Hotel.

196. **Green Warbler** *Phylloscopus [trochiloides] nitidus*. 14/1 3 Sinharaja gate to Martin's Lodge, 15/1 1 + 5+ heard morning walk Sinharaja, 16/1 2 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 22/1 5 Horton Plains, 23/1 2 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 24/1 5 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 + Hunas Falls Hotel, 26/1 heard Sigiriya, 3 Sinharaja NP, 27/1 heard Sigiriya Hotel drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 29/1 heard drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 1 heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 heard Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *Common in wooded areas of Sri Lanka - Nitidus winter-ground!*
197. **Large-billed Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus magnirostris*. 12/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 1 heard morning walk Kitulgala, 27/1 1 Sinharaja (lodge-area), 28/1 1 N of Sigiriya Rock.
198. **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*. 17/1 1 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 2 Bundala NP, 20/1 50+ Uda Walawe NP.
199. **Grey-breasted Prinia** *Prinia hodgsonii*. 28/1 2 lake S of Sigiriya.
200. **Jungle Prinia** *Prinia sylvatica*. 18/1 1 Bundala NP, 20/1 2 Uda Walawe NP, 27/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa.
201. **Ashy Prinia** *Prinia socialis*. 21/1 2 drive Uda Walawe NP to Hakgala Botanical Garden, 23/1 2 Tea Bush Hotel (Nuwara Eliya), 24/1 2 Hunas Falls Hotel.
202. **Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata*. 18/1 6 Bundala NP, 19/1 1 by nest Yala NP, 20/1 20 Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 2 Uda Walawe NP, 24/1 4 Hunas Falls Hotel, 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 27/1 2 drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 28/1 2 by nest Minneriya NP.
203. **Asian Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa dauurica*. 12/1 1 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 1 possible morning walk Kitulgala, 15/1 1 afternoon walk Sinharaja, 18/1 1 Tissa Tanks 28/1 1 N of Sigiriya Rock, 28/1 1 lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 1 Hotel Sigiriya, 29/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 1 Anuradhapura.
204. ***Brown-breasted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa muttui*. 15/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja, 27/1 1 (see photo) at Martin's lodge + 1 in the forest Sinharaja, 28/1 1 at Martin's lodge (same as 27/1) Sinharaja. *A nice flycatcher - solitaire and non-descript. The bird by Martin's lodge was in quite an open area, hawking insects from a favourite perch. Another two birds were found in dense forest.*
205. **Kashmir Flycatcher** *Ficedula subrubra*. 24-25/1 1 female Hunas Falls Hotel. *From the tiny breeding area in Kashmir, the population spends the winter in Sri Lankan highlands (above 900 m). We thought it to be sadly lost for our trip when we left the Nuwara Eliya-area with no observations. But one bird eventually showed up in the small trees along the lake next to the Hunas hotel (our last visit above 900 m!). Could even be enjoyed from the outdoor morning-table on the restaurant balcony. Obviously close to the Red-throated/Red-breasted Flycatchers (*F. albicilla/parva*) in plumage as well as in behaviour.*
206. **Dusky Blue Flycatcher** *Eumyias sordidus*. 21/1 2 Hakgala Botanical Garden, 22/1 4 Horton Plains, 24/1 2 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel. *Endemic. A Verditer-type of flycatcher.*
207. ***Tickell's Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis tickelliae*. 13/1 2+ near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 27/1 1 female 1 juvenile Hotel Sigiriya, 28/1 1 N of Sigiriya Rock, 29/1 1 Hotel Sigiriya.
208. **Grey-headed Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*. 22/1 4 Horton Plains.



209. **White-browed Fantail** *Rhipidura aureola*. 19/1 2 Yala NP, 20/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya).
210. **Black-naped Monarch** *Hypothymis azurea*. 15/1 5 morning walk Sinharaja, 15/1 2 afternoon walk Sinharaja.
211. **Asian Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone paradise*. Rufous birds: 14/1 1 female Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 1 Sinharaja NP, 18/1 1 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 2 Yala NP, 20/1 1 (ssp. *ceylonensis*?) drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 22/1 1 Horton Plains, 27/1 1 male drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 27/1 1 + 1 Sinharaja, 28/1 1 female N of Sigiriya Rock, 29/1 1 female drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 1 female Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). White males (= *Certain winter-visitors, likely ssp. paradisi*): 23/1 1 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 25/1 1 drive Hunas Falls to Sigiriya, 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 28/1 1 N of Sigiriya Rock, 29/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura.
212. **Brown-capped Babbler** *Pellorneum fuscocapillus*. 13/1 2 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 15/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja, 28/1 2 N of Sigiriya Rock. *Endemic. Most skulky of the endemic Sri Lankan babblers and always at or close to the ground.*
213. **Sri Lanka Scimitar-babbler** *Pomatorhinus [schisticeps] melanurus*. 14/1 5 heard Sinharaja NP, 15/1 6 morning walk Sinharaja, 22/1 2 + 5 heard Horton Plains, 22/1 2 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 2 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 24/1 1 + heard Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 2 + heard Hunas Falls Hotel, 26/1 heard Sigiriya, 27/1 4 Sinharaja. *Endemic.*
214. **Tawny-bellied Babbler** *Dumetia hyperythra*. 24/1 6+ Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 4 Hunas Falls Hotel, 31/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *The local white-throated subspecies, ssp. phillipsii.*
215. **Dark-fronted Babbler** *Rhopocichla atriceps*. 14/1 10 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 10 morning walk Sinharaja, 15/1 2 afternoon walk Sinharaja, 27/1 4 Sinharaja, 29/1 2 Mihintale. *South Asian endemic.*
216. **Yellow-eyed Babbler** *Chrysomma sinense*. 19/1 4 Yala NP.
217. **Yellow-billed Babbler** *Turdoides affinis*. 12/1 30+ drive Airport to Kitulgala, 14/1 10 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 16/1 1 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 5 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 10 a19, 20 Bundala NP, 15 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 30 Yala NP, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 20/1 + Uda Walawe NP, drive Uda Walawe to Nuwara Eliya, 26/1 5 Sigiriya, 27/1 + drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 27/1 + Polannaruwa, 28/1 + drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28-30/1 7 Unawatuna Bay, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 + Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 + Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 30+ Anuradhapura, 31/1 + Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *South Asian endemic.*
218. **Sri Lanka Rufous Babbler** *Turdoides rufescens*. 13/1 4+ near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 14/1 30 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 15 morning walk Sinharaja, 27/1 22 Sinharaja. *Endemic. A key-species in a typical mixed forest-flock of Sinharaja.*
219. **Ashy-headed Laughingthrush** *Garrulax cinereifrons*. 14/1 6 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 15 morning walk Sinharaja, 27/1 6 Sinharaja. *Endemic.*
220. **Cinereous [Great] Tit** *Parus [major] cinereus*. 21/1 2 Hakgala Botanical Garden, 22/1 30 Horton Plains, 23/1 2 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 2 shortly after Nuwara Eliya, 24/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel.
221. **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** *Sitta frontalis*. 22/1 2 Horton Plains.
222. **Purple-rumped Sunbird** *Nectarinia zeylonica*. 12/1 5 Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 2 near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 2 morning walk Kitulgala, 15/1 2 morning walk Sinharaja, 16/1 2 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 18/1 15 Bundala NP, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 10 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 20/1 2 Uda Walawe NP, 24/1 2 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 4 Hunas Falls Hotel, 26/1 5 Sigiriya, 27/1 2 Sinharaja, 28/1 4 Minneriya NP, 28/1 2 N of Sigiriya Rock, 28-30/1 10 Unawatuna Bay, 29/1 + drive

Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 4 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 4 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 4 Anuradhapura, 31/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).

223. **Purple Sunbird** *Nectarinia asiatica*. 18/1 1 Bundala NP, 19/1 5 Yala NP, 20/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 20/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), drive Uda Walawe to Nuwara Eliya, 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 27/1 2 Hotel Sigiriya, 29/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
224. **Loten's Sunbird** *Nectarinia lotenia*. 13/1 2 morning Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 2 Kitulgala rest house, 22/1 1 Horton Plains, 24/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel, 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 27/1 2 Polannaruwa, 28/1 1 Minneriya NP, 31/1 1 Negombo. *South Asian endemic*.
225. **Pale-billed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*. 13/1 3 morning Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 1 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 3 Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 1 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 2 morning walk Sinharaja, 16/1 1 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 16/1 1 Galle, 23/1 4 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 10 Kandy, 26/1 3 Sinharaja, 27/1 Sinharaja, 30/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/5 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
226. **Legge's Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum vincens*. 14/1 3 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 3 morning walk Sinharaja, 16/1 2 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 27/1 1 male Sinharaja. *Endemic*.
227. **Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*. 12/1 1 Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 2 morning walk Kitulgala, 15/1 2 morning walk Sinharaja, 20/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 24/1 2 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 6 Hunas Falls Hotel, 28/1 1 N of Sigiriya Rock.
228. **Sri Lanka White-eye** *Zosterops ceylonensis*. 21/1 1 between Hakgala and Nuwara Eliya, 22/1 50+ Horton Plains, 23/1 2 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya). *Endemic*.
229. **Black-hooded Oriole** *Oriolus xanthornus*. 12/1 5+ drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 4 Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 4 morning walk Kitulgala, 15/1 heard morning walk Sinharaja, 16/1 1 Martin Lodge to Sinharaja gate, 18/1 2 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 + Yala NP, 20/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 20/1 + Uda Walawe NP, 27/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 27/1 1 Polannaruwa, 28/1 4 Minneriya NP, 28/1 2 lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 2 Hotel Sigiriya, 29/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 10 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 1 Unawatuna Bay, 31/1 5 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
230. ***Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus*.
Two subspecies seen:
a. Nominate subspecies *ssp. cristatus*. 13/1 1 morning walk Kitulgala 18/1 1 Bundala NP, 2 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 5 Yala NP, 20/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 20/1 5 Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 1 drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 22/1 3 Horton Plains, 22/1 1 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 1 Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 24/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel, 27/1 1 Sinharaja, 28/1 2 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28/1 5 Minneriya NP, 30/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura). *Most of these birds were typical ssp. cristatus but some medium forms were also seen (if these not females of ssp. lucionensis?)*.
b. 'Philippine' Shrike *ssp. lucionensis*. 15/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja (see photo), 16/1 1 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 31/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).



233. **White-bellied Drongo** *Dicrurus caerulescens*. Two subspecies recorded:
 a. Spp. *leucopygialis*. 12/1 10+ drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 5 morning Kitulgala rest house, 13/1 5 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 2 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 15/1 2 morning walk Sinharaja, 16/1 2 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 5 drive Galle to Mirissa.
 b. Spp. *insularis*. 24/1 2 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 1 Hunas Falls Hotel, 27/1 2 drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 30/1 6 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
234. **Sri Lanka Crested Drongo** *Dicrurus lophorinus*. 13/1 heard morning walk Kitulgala, 13/1 2 afternoon walk Kitulgala, 14/1 2 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 4 morning walk Sinharaja, 27/1 5 Sinharaja. *Endemic. Often part of mixed feeding-flocks.*
235. **Ashy Woodswallow** *Artamus fuscus*. 12/1 2 Kitulgala rest house, 16/1 3 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 31/1 2 drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
236. ***Sri Lanka Blue Magpie** *Urocissa ornate*. 13/1 flock heard morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 2 by nest Sinharaja NP, 15/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja, 15/1 2 afternoon walk Sinharaja, 16/1 3 Martin Lodge, 27/1 and 28/1 3 (6.30 collecting moths at Martin's Simple Lodge) + 2 Sinharaja. *Endemic. No doubt the icon for avian endemism on Sri Lanka! The isolation has created an almost eccentric colourfulness (see front-page). Quite noisy when found in the forests but most easily seen in the early morning at Martins Simple Lodge: A nearby family hunts the terrace for moths that have been attracted by the electric light during the dark hours.*
237. ***House Crow** *Corvus splendens*. 12/1 +++ drive Airport to Kitulgala, 12/1 + near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 16/1 + drive Sinharaja to Galle, 16/1 100+ Galle, 17-21/1 daily, 23/1 + Kandy, 27/1 + drive Sigiriya to Polannaruwa, 27/1 + Polannaruwa, 28-30/1 50 Unawatuna Bay – also ravaging off-shore rocks, 29/1 + Dambulla, 30/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 + Anuradhapura, 31/1 1 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo, 31/1 30+ Seashells Hotel (Negombo).
238. **Indian Jungle Crow** *Corvus [macrohynchos] culminates*. 12/1 10+ drive Airport to Kitulgala, 13/1 1 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 2 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 17/1 10+ drive Galle to Mirissa, 17/1 5 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18-21/1 daily, 22/1 10 Horton Plains, 22/1 30+ Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 + Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 + Kandy, 24/1 15+ Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 + Hunas Falls Hotel, 26/1 + Sigiriya, 28/1 2 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 28/1 10 Minneriya NP, 28/1 + lake S of Sigiriya, 29/1 + drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 29/1 + Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 1 Anuradhapura, 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
239. ***Rosy Starling** *Sturnus roseus*. 17/1 25 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 350 Bundala NP, 19/1 355 mig. W Yala NP, 20/1 500 drive Yala Village Hotel to Centauria Hotel (Embilipitya), 20/1 550 (see photo) Uda Walawe NP. *A total of 1780. The migratory movement by the cost of Yala NP took place in the middle of the day. This must be close to the absolute end-point on the south-east migratory route of the species.*
240. **White-faced Starling** *Stunia albofrontata*. 14/1 2 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 2 morning walk Sinharaja, 27/1 1 + 2 Sinharaja, latter 2 birds seen at close range away from the canopy. *Endemic.*
241. ***Common Mynah** *Acridotheres tristis*. 12/1 30+ drive Airport to Kitulgala, 13/1 2 morning Kitulgala rest house, 17-31/1 daily, 28/1-30/1 ab. 5 Unawatuna Bay.
242. **Sri Lanka Hill Mynah** *Gracula ptilogenys*. 13/1 2 + heard morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 2 Sinharaja NP, 27/1 1 Sinharaja. *Endemic. Scarce, typically seen perched in the top of trees.*



243. **Southern Hill Mynah** *Gracula indica*. 12/1 heard near Sisira's lodge (Kitulgala), 13/1 2 morning Kitulgala rest house, 14/1 6 Kitulgala rest house, 23/1 1 heard Udewattekele Sanctuary (Kandy), 24/1 5 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 3 Hunas Falls Hotel. *South Asian endemic*.
244. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*. 12/1 2+ drive Airport to Kitulgala, 16/1 2+ Galle, 18/1 + drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 19/1 15 Yala NP, 20/1 15+ Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 + drive Uda Walawe NP to Nuwara Eliya, 22/1 + Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 23/1 + Victoria Park (Nuwara Eliya), 26/1 10+ Sigiriya, 28/1 2 drive Sigiriya to Minneriya NP, 30/1 + Anuradhapura, 31/1 + drive Anuradhapura to Negombo.
245. **Streaked Weaver** *Ploceus manyar*. 18/1 1 male Tissa tanks.
246. **Baya Weaver** *Ploceus philippinus*. 19/1 4 by nests Yala NP.
247. **Indian Silverbill** *Lonchura malabarica*. 19/1 5 Yala NP, 20/1 3 Uda Walawe NP.
248. **White-rumped Munia** *Lonchura striata*. 13/1 4 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 1 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 15/1 1 afternoon walk Sinharaja, 20/1 3 Uda Walawe NP, 24/1 15 Hunas Falls Hotel, 25/1 2 Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya), 26/1 3 Sigiriya, 29/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 30/1 2 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 10 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
249. ***Black-throated Munia** *Lonchura [kelaarti] kelaarti*. 13/1 6+ (see photo) morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 3 afternoon walk Sinharaja. *South Asian endemic – possible future split to endemic species*.
250. **Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*. 16/1 8 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 17/1 5 drive Mirissa to Yala Village Hotel, 18/1 1 Tissa Tanks, 19/1 30 Yala NP, 20/1 40+ Uda Walawe NP, 25/1 8 Kandalama Tank (Sigiriya), 26/1 3 Sigiriya, 28/1 10 lake S of Sigiriya, 30/1 6 (nest-building) Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura), 31/1 4 Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).
251. ***Black-headed Munia** *Lonchura malacca*. 19/1 50 Yala NP, 20/1 60+ Uda Walawe NP, 21/1 1 Uda Walawe. *South Asian endemic*



REPTILES

1. ***Common Rough-sided Snake** *Aspidura trachyprocta*. 22/1 1 Horton Plains. See photo below (to the left)



2. ***Common Bronzeback Tree Snake** *Dendrelaphis tristis*. 26/1 1 Sinharaja NP.
3. ***Sri Lankan Keelback Water Snake** *Xenochrophis asperrimus*. 26/1 1 Sinharaja – by a small pond inside the forest (with a lot of small fish), see photo above to the right.

4. ***[Spectacled Cobra *Naja naja*]**. 30/1 3 seen with a traditional snake charmer Anuradhapura, see photo below (left).



5. ***Sri Lankan Green Pit Viper *Trimeresurus trionocephalus***. 14-15/1 1 Martin's Lodge (Sinharaja), see photo above (central).
6. **Green Forest Lizard *Calotes calote***. 26/1 1 Sigiriya.
7. ***Black-lipped Lizard *Calotes nigrilabris***. 22/1 2 Horton Plains. See photo above (right).
8. **Garden Lizard *Calotes versicolor***. 12/1 1 drive Airport to Kitulgala.
9. ***Sri Lankan Kangaroo Lizard *Otocryptis weigmanni***. 13/1 1 morning walk Kitulgala, 14/1 1 Sinharaja NP, 15/1 1 morning walk Sinharaja, 27/1 1 Sigiriya Hotel.
10. **Bark Gecko *Hemidactylus leschenaultii***. 30/1 1 Anuradhapura.
11. ***Four-clawed Geckoo *Gehyra mutilate***. Martin's Simple Lodge. Photo below (left).



12. ***Brooke's House Gecko *Hemidactylus brookii***. Kitulgala. Photo above (central).
13. **Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus triedrus***. Galle, Yala Village Hotel, Centauria Hotel. Tooth temple in Kandy, Sigiriya Hotel.
14. **Spotted Supple Skink *Lygosoma punctata***. 25/1 1 Dambulla.
15. ***Common Skink *Mabuya carinata***. 26/1 2 Sigiriya, 29/1 1 (see photo above (right)) Palm Garden Hotel (Anuradhapura).

16. ***Rock Skink** *Mabuya macularia*. 29/1 2 Mihintale, 30/1 1 Anuradhapura.
17. ***Land Monitor** *Varanus bengalensis*. 14/1 1 drive Kitulgala to Sinharaja, 16/1 2 drive Sinharaja to Galle, 18/1 1 Bundala NP, 19/1 10+ Yala NP, 20/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 21/1 2 Hakgala Botanical Garden, 27/1 2 Polannaruwa, 29/1 1 drive Sigiriya to Anuradhapura, 30/1 1 Anuradhapura.
18. ***Water Monitor** *Varanus salvator*. 12/1 1 drive Airport to Kitulgala, 14/1 1 Sinharaja NP, 18/1 1 Bundala NP, 20/1 1 drive Yala Village Hotel to Elephant Reach Hotel, 23/1 1 Udewattekele Sanctuary (Kandy), 26/1 1 Sigiriya, 27/1 9 drive Minneriya to Polannaruwa (see photo), 27/1 15 drive Sinharaja-Unuvatura.

An innovative road-side tourist attraction is developing in a village between Minneriya and Polannaruwa, where wild Water Monitors are fed and allow close approach. A couple of years ago only two animals – but during our stop 9 content Water Monitors were waiting for an easy bite



19. ***Mugger Crocodile** *Crocodylus paluster*. 18/1 2 drive Yala Village Hotel to Bundala NP, 3 Bundala NP, 1 Yala Village Hotel, 19/1 5 Yala NP.
20. ***Spotted Black Turtle** *Melanochelys trijuga thermalis*. 20/1 1 Uda Walawe NP, 27/1 3+1 Polonnaruwa, 29/1 10+ Mihintale.
21. **Sea-Turtle sp.** 28/1 50 newly hatched collected and kept until 30/1 where released to the sea.
22. ***Star Tortoise** *Geochelone elegans*. 30/1 1 Anuradhapura.
23. **Flapshell Turtle** *Lissemys punctata*. 27/1 1 Polonnaruwa.

AMPHIBIANS

Research in recent years has demonstrated a dramatic increase in the numbers of amphibian species known from Sri Lanka. Unfortunately this is still specialist-knowledge. We know of no field-guide and we did not focus on amphibians during the trip. Sounds from frogs were mainly heard in the lowland forests and the only notes taken are: 13/1 6 un-identified frogs in a forest pool (see photo) Kitulgala, and 24/1 after dark several large, spectacular frogs were seen during spot-lighting – they were sitting on wet rocks by the streams near Hunas Falls Hotel.



BUTTERFLIES

Great numbers of butterflies are found on Sri Lanka and large, beautiful species are seen almost everywhere. From time to time we tried to put names to some of the most spectacular ones seen, but most of the time butterflies were mainly an important element of the aesthetic delight of the wealth of Sri Lanka biodiversity. Species recorded with certainty:

Glassy Tiger *Parantica aglea* (see photo to the right), Common Tiger *Danaus genutia* (see photo to left), Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*, Common Indian Crow *Euploea core*, Ceylon Tree Nymph *Idea iasonia*, White Four-ring *Ypthima ceylonica*, Common Leopard *Phalanta phalantha*, Great Eggfly *Hypolimnas bolina*, Clipper *Parthenos sylvia*, Chestnut-streaked Sailor *Neptis jumbah*, Common Jezebel *Delias eucharis*, Small Salmon Arab *Colotis amata*, Common Blue Bottle *Graphium sarpedon*, Blue Mormon *Papilio polynestor*, Common Mormon *Papilio polytes*, Common Rose *Pachliopta aristolochiae*, Crimson Rose *Pachliopta hector*, Common Birdwing *Troides darsius*.

During our drive around Yala NP on 19/1 we had an hour or so, where unprecedented numbers of an un-identified white butterfly-species were literally floating the landscape.



PHOTOGRAPHERS

Photos taken by the following with indication of page number and the following abbreviations: L = left. R = right. B = Bottom, C = Central, T = Top

Jørgen: 1BL, 1BR, 9TL, 10, 16B, 17, 18, 23T, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32T, 32BR, 33TR, 36T

Lene: 1CR, 4, 21T, 32BL, 33TL, 35 TR

Uffe: 1TL, 1TR, 7, 8, 9TR, 9B, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16T, 21B, 23B, 33TC, 33BTR, 34, 35TL, 35B, 36B





Great Thick-knees at Bundala NP



Two of the very common primate-species regularly recorded around cultural site on Sri Lanka.

Note the typical occurrence in dense, strictly species-specific flocks!