

# Sri Lanka

Jewel of the Indian Ocean

Sat 02–Fri 15 November 2019

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*Changeable Hawk Eagle at Udawalawe. Photo © Mike Crewe/Limosa*

**Report compiled by tour leader:  
Robin Chittenden**

## Sri Lanka | Jewel of the Indian Ocean

**Tour leaders:** Robin Chittenden and Dhammi Samarasinghe

**with:** Mary Anketell, David & Gillian Asher, Harry Baillie, Bill Dick, Phil & Lesley Eastlake, Nick Harris & Phil Parker.

### 3rd November

We left the UK on the evening of the 2nd and arrived at Colombo airport early afternoon on the 3rd. After passing rapidly through immigration we were met by our local guide Dhammi and we were soon on our way to Kithulgala. *En route* we stopped for a snack and cup of tea. Here, Mary had the good fortune to see a Loten's Sunbird. Further along we stopped to scan some paddyfields, just as a rain shower started. Luckily it only lasted a few minutes and it was actually quite refreshing. Scanning from the more sheltered side of the minibus helped.

A Crested Serpent Eagle showed very closely perched on a telegraph pole. Wildlife seen were a couple of White-throated Kingfishers, Little Cormorant, Eastern Cattle Egrets, a couple of Intermediate Egrets, Purple Heron, Red-wattled Lapwings, four Sri Lanka Green Pigeons, distant Blue-tailed Bee-eaters and two Purple-faced Langurs. Other roadside stops produced nine Crested Treeswifts and a Scaly-breasted Munia. We arrived at Kithulgala at dusk and at about the same time the 'heavens opened'. There had been unusual amounts of rainfall 'post' rainy season this year.

### 4th November

Our pre-breakfast walk started at 6.00am. Two Stork-billed Kingfishers greeted us at dawn, perched on wires over the River Kelenie. One was still there, when we took the ferry across the river. But I am getting ahead of myself. We had intended on birding the neighbouring property, but the birds were so good at the entrance to our hotel it took a while. Birds kept popping up: a Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, one or two Loten's Sunbirds, a couple of Sri Lanka Grey Hornbills, a Gold-fronted Leafbird, three Pale-billed Flowerpeckers and a Lesser Yellownappe that posed briefly in full view. By comparison the 'Rafters Retreat' was relatively quiet.

The buffet breakfast was interrupted by a Common Emerald Dove, which had hit a window, and sat stunned for a while. Happily it made a full recovery and flew off after a few minutes. After breakfast we watched a male Asian Koel plucking ripe fruit, plus a White-browed Fantail that seemed to have formed a bond with an Oriental Magpie-Robin, or perhaps it was the other way round. The Kelenie River was more in flood this year but despite this the ferryman ensured we avoided wet feet. Wet boots or feet though were unavoidable on the return leg, as the river had risen further. On the other side the first bird was a male Black-hooded Oriole and a little later our first Sri Lanka Junglefowl crossed the track. Dragonflies included the Shining Gossamerwing. By Makandawa Forest Reserve ticket office were three Black-capped Bulbuls and a huge butterfly: the Ceylon Rose.

Walking the trail we found a few Black-naped Monarchs, a flyover Crimson-backed Flameback and up to five Malabar Trogons. While Dhammi explored potential roost sites for the Serendib Scops Owl we observed and photographed a millipede and a species of skink that looks like a recently split species *Eutropis greeri*. Leeches were more abundant than in recent years, presumably as a result of the wetter conditions. No owls were found, but that was about to change. We then walked into a clearing and, as before, Dhammi went ahead to check the area. Suddenly a large owl was glimpsed in flight, then again. Dhammi called us over, he had found it perched, a Brown Fish Owl - the first he'd ever seen at this reserve.

After a siesta we found a noisy gaggle of Orange-billed Babblers around the hotel entrance and a pair of Common loras. We took our minibus to the area by the police station. All seemed quite quiet, but David spotted a pair of Layard's Parakeets, then Mary pointed out two Red-backed Flamebacks. We 'scoped a Square-tailed Bulbul and a little later from the same spot were two Southern Hill Mynas. The weather was looking ominous so we headed to the 'River Lounge' for a tea break and we were just in time, as the rain lashed down. After a while it eased off so we had a quick look around the area and at the last gasp Nick spotted a Spot-winged Thrush.

### 5th November

Up at 5.45am to bird the area near the suspension bridge. We walked along a track, through the mixed habitat of forest trees, gardens and clear areas. We found three Red-backed Flamebacks, a Black-hooded Oriole, two Black-capped Bulbuls, (that almost fell victim to a domestic cat), a pair of Orange Minivets and two confiding Dark-fronted Babblers. Then Nick latched on to one of his dream birds, an India Pitta, which helpfully sat up on a low branch, long enough for most to see. Then Dhammi heard a Chestnut-backed Owlet and amazingly two were perched, only slightly above head height, but unfortunately they both moved off to another branch, where they mainly gave back views, although one did turn its head occasionally to keep an eye on us.

*En route* to Sinharaja we saw a Crested Honey Buzzard, two Brahminy Kites and a Crested Serpent Eagle. A Lime Butterfly was found feeding along a roadside verge, along with many migrant Lemon Emigrants. A brief stop resulted in lovely views of a Brown Shrike. At our hotel were a Yellow-browed Bulbul, a Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill and a Common Emerald Dove, all from the veranda. A late afternoon downpour was spectacular but did reduce any bird activity.

After a siesta we birded from the road back from the entrance to the Sinharaja Forest Reserve. At the headquarters were six Sri Lanka Blue Magpies, but would the singing Sri Lanka Myna show itself? At least Phil (E) managed to see it as it disappeared into the gloom.

### **6th November**

Breakfast was at 5.30 am. This gave us an early start at the Sinharaja Forest Reserve proper. We headed up the shockingly rough mountain track by Jeep and Land Rover. This was after completing the entry permits at the Sinharaja Forest Reserve park entrance and meeting a park guide, who elected to walk up the main track, to meet us.

At the education centre were three Purple-faced Langurs, the alpha male even performed his noisy 'look at how strong am I' display for the benefit of any potential rivals.

We stopped at the main entrance to the reserve proper but happily it took us forever to actually start the main trail. First there was the delicate beauty of a Green Vine Snake to enjoy. And then there was a Green-billed Coucal singing occasionally from dense cover. It would not show itself, so we started along the track, but then it sang in earnest so back we went. It didn't show again, so off we set again, but then the local guide brought us back as he had detected it. As it was it was incredibly elusive and although it showed briefly only a few managed to glimpse it. We started the trail, but had only got a few yards when it became apparent, from the accompanying cacophony, that a bird flock was on its way. We returned to the start as the flock was heading towards the trees by the entrance. Most of the birds were Orange-billed Babblers. Among the flock were three Lesser Yellownapes, three Red-faced Malkohas, a few Sri Lanka Drongos, up to six Sri Lanka Blue Magpies and two Sri Lanka Scimitar Babblers. We also saw our first Layard's Palm Squirrel and another Purple-faced Langur.

Further down the track, it was disappointing to learn that no Sri Lanka Frogmouths had been found, despite a thorough search of their favoured roosting sites. At a small stream was a Boulenger's Keelback snake lying in wait for any unsuspecting fish. And amazingly it grabbed one and quickly carried it off to consume, which it did tail first. The lateral barbs of the fish did not seem to put up any resistance to it being swallowed. Also seen were a Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard, a Green Forest Lizard and many Sri Lanka Tree Nymphs were floating about. Nick happened to be in the right place at the right time when the local guide found a female Indian Blue Robin.

We ate our cheese sandwich packed lunches by the research centre. Here it felt like we were under siege from Leeches that seemed to be appearing from nowhere and this while we ate under the shelter by the centre and not even in the forest. Luckily most were flicked off before getting the chance to bite, but this year even Dhammi, who somehow manages to avoid getting bitten, had one bite.

A bird flock got us going again with a Malabar Trogon, two Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, Orange Minivets and ten or so Sri Lanka White-eyes. We had just started the return leg when Dhammi detected another distant bird flock. After ten minutes or so the noisy flock ended up by the path. Naturally by this time we had reversed back along the track back almost to the research station. Most of the flock was again Orange-billed Babblers but suddenly there were three White-faced Starlings. You had to be quick as they weren't on view for long. Also in the flock were another Malabar Trogon and a Sri Lanka Drongo. Mary saw an Indian Paradise Flycatcher. We then headed back to the entrance and were soon recuperating on 'Martin's balcony' with lashings of ginger beer and/or tea. As well as the usual Yellow-eared and Square-tailed Buleuls, a Sri Lanka Spurfowl flew from the garden, but was only seen by those that were lucky enough to be looking in the right direction at the right time. A pair of Sri Lanka Junglefowls was more cooperative as were two Layard's Palm Squirrels. On the way back down the track we stopped off midway where we saw a Sri Lanka Myna and a Jezebel.

### **7th November**

A 5.30am start for those that wanted to visit a 'new' Sri Lanka Spurfowl location. We were soon in position behind a rudimentary screen with slats cut out for viewing. The first bird down was a Common Emerald Dove, followed by a tribe of Sri Lanka Junglefowl. The beautifully marked females went about feeding among a group of males, which included one obvious alpha male that was in pristine plumage, accompanied by various duller

looking underlings. Three Spotted Doves popped in and then at last, three Sri Lanka Spurrows arrived: a pair with their fully-grown young female.

We then walked down the hill. Highlights were several Sri Lanka Green Pigeons, a couple of Yellow-fronted Barbets, about ten Layard's Parakeets, an adult Brown Shrike, a couple of Brown-capped Babblers and a Legge's Flowerpecker. We ate our packed breakfast (that seemed very similar to the packed lunch, with those difficult to get down cheese sandwiches) overlooking the misty covered valley and mountains. Beautiful.

We arrived back at the hotel to meet up with the rest of our group, who had elected to have breakfast at the hotel. Enough time for Nick to head back to his room and see, amazingly, another Sri Lanka Spurrow briefly by the hotel. We then headed down another bouncy track in the Jeep and Land Rover. We luckily came across a flock almost straight away, which had two Sri Lanka Scimitar Babblers, a Red-backed Flameback, Sri Lanka Drongo and Phil (P) spotted a heavenly white Indian Paradise Flycatcher. We were then tossed side to side for about half an hour, before arriving at our destination. At a garden here we quickly found about four Ashy-headed Laughing Thrushes. A Greater Coucal came out into the open. Exploring the area on foot we discovered several Purple-faced Langurs, a male Green Forest Lizard and some lovely butterflies including Red Helen, but Nick and Mary found the real prize, a Sri Lanka Blue Oak Leaf.

We returned to our hotel late morning for an early lunch. The local 'owl boy' (as Dhammi calls him) searching for the owl and frogmouth had so far had no luck. But after a siesta there was a change in fortunes. A Sri Lanka Frogmouth had been located. The only problem being it was up a steep slope and before that slope was a deep cleft in the rocks to cross. After an improvised stone ramp was constructed, most of us got up the incline, with the help of the drivers, and there it was, looking like a leaf. Fantastic. Now for the trip down the slope.

We then explored the area near our hotel. Amazingly two Green-billed Coucals were found. More drama was to follow as at dusk as Nick and Mary had found an owl. Dhammi saw it just before it flew and confirmed it as an Oriental Bay Owl. Unfortunately we could not locate the bird again. Some compensation for those that could not make the steep climb earlier was a calling Sri Lanka Frogmouth from the hotel balcony.

### **8th November**

Overnight there had been a 'hatching' of flying ants, many of which remained scattered around the outside parts of the hotel. This attracted a Spot-winged Thrush, four Sri Lanka Blue Magpies and several Orange-billed Babblers to the feast. We then walked the back lane again, a Legge's Flowerpecker showed poorly.

We had just sat down for breakfast when the Jeep and Land Rover turned up. This could only mean one thing the 'owl' boy had discovered a Serendib Scops Owl. In fact he had found two. After breakfast and for those that could, we found ourselves scrambling up another steep hill, wonderfully assisted by drivers and hotel staff, for about two hundred yards. We waited patiently in single file, as viewing was restricted in the thick vegetation. The Serendib Scops Owls were almost too close (if such as thing is possible) and one was, unusually, completely in the open. So tiny.

Birding from the minibus *en route* to Udawalawe we saw about six Black-throated Munias, two Baya Weavers, a Crimson-fronted Barbet, a Changeable Hawk Eagle and five Crested Honey Buzzards. We picked up a packed lunch *en route* to Kalametiya Bird Sanctuary, which we consumed in the minibus to save time. Near Kalametiya we first stopped at a tank where there were many Pheasant-tailed Jacanas. On the south side of the reserve proper we found four Wood Sandpipers, a Purple Heron with a large fish and two Great Egrets: one in summer and the other in winter plumage.

We then explored the northern side. Walking across the dry scrubby habitat were a few Jerdon's Bushlarks. In the drier areas were a few Yellow-wattled Lapwings, Green Bee-eaters, Orange-breasted Green Pigeons and Paddyfield Pipits. Several Spot-billed Pelicans flew over. Nick saw a Barred Button Quail.

The lagoon proved tricky to get to this year, as the usual access points were flooded. However a narrow track was discovered through the prickly scrub to view the lake. Here we found five Marsh Sandpipers, a few White-winged Black Terns, many Whiskered Terns and four Great Stone-curlews. Further along the track a Blue-faced Malkoha was perched in the open, until some cyclists came past. Also there was a fly-over Gull-billed Tern and two Pacific Golden Plovers.

### **9th November**

Up very early again, for the opening time of 6.00am at Udawalawe National Park. While waiting for tickets to be purchased we had a pair of Plum-headed Parakeets. Virtually the first beast we saw in the reserve were three

Asian Elephants, right by the track. It wasn't long before we had come to grips with Jungle, Plain and Ashy Prinias. There were several Brown Shrikes, including some beautiful males, only feet away. Both vehicles independently came across a male Marshall's Iora and soon we had all seen Tawny-bellied and Yellow-eyed Babblers. One of the drivers, amazingly, spotted an Indian Pitta, lurking in the shadows but perched fully in the open. It soon flew off though, so sadly there was not enough time for the other 'jeep' to turn round to see it. Other highlights included a Black-winged Kite, a Yellow-crowned Woodpecker and Indian Roller on the same branch. A few Changeable Hawk Eagles were dotted about. Mary spotted a Golden Jackal that proceeded to walk down the track followed by the first jeep. Lesley spotted a Lesser Adjutant perched in the top of a large tree.

We ate our packed breakfast by a large lake under the cooling shade of a large tree. It was all rather idyllic with many water birds: three Woolly-necked Storks, Grey-headed Fish-eagle, Oriental Darters, Spot-billed Pelicans, Black-crowned Night Heron, Painted Storks. The Toque Macaques there had young this year, that were incredibly cute. On the return journey were two Sirkeer Malkohas, a Blue-face Malkoha and two Lesser Adjutants were spotted in flight.

We returned to our hotel for an early buffet lunch. After our siesta we birded a section of the Debarawewa tank. There were hordes of wetland birds: Caspian Terns, Gull-billed Terns, Little Tern, Lesser Whistling Ducks, Grey-necked Swampheens and Oriental Darters. A pair of White-bellied Sea-eagles was marvelled at as they came sailing by, calling. One even landed briefly on the floating vegetation. In the Rain Trees we discovered a Red-backed Flameback, Stork-billed Kingfisher, a Sri Lanka Woodshrike but perhaps best of all two White-naped Woodpeckers.

### **10th November**

We left our hotel at five in the morning to get to the Yala National Park entrance in time for the six o'clock opening. Before we even got to the entrance we had to pass by a large Asian Elephant that was casually walking along the road, not to mention the many herds of cows that used the road as their sleeping zone. In sharp contrast to last year there was only a five-minute queue to get into the park (twenty minutes in 2018).

At the first pool we came to were some close waders and once you had got your eye in, these turned out to be a Lesser Sand Plover and a few Kentish Plovers. A huge Mugger Crocodile almost went unnoticed. Nearby at a small ley we found five Great Stone-curlews, a few Lesser Sand Plovers and about five Greater Sand Plovers. Also there were the first of many Wild Boar and Chital also known as Spotted Deer. We ambled back to the main drag and then entered a sort of scrummage with other 'jeeps'. A Sloth Bear was snouting around in the scrub. The Bear was mostly snout to the ground and showing its rear end, and even that was partially hidden for most of the time. But still, it was a Sloth Bear!

On the estuary side of the track we found two Sri Lanka Woodshrikes and a scan of the closer waders revealed a Broad-billed Sandpiper. Across a lovely vista were herds of Sambar and Spotted Deer. We watched a Painted Stork feeding by raising a wing to shade the water. A couple of Golden Jackals were mucking about on the other side of the meadow and then David spotted a bird of prey that turned out to be a Besra. A little further on and there were four Ashy-crowned Sparrow-larks. We ate our packed lunch by the beach where there were some welcome toilets. On leaving, we watched a Grey-breasted Prinia, but other 'jeeps' leaving the area at the same time detracted a bit. Next stop was a fairly skulking White-rumped Shama. We explored several tracks that took us past a few tanks, one of which had an enormous breeding colony of Asian Openbills. A couple of Lesser Adjutants were seen in flight. We arrived back at the entrance gates at noon, just as the park closed for an hour and a half. By the road on the way out we found a Brahminy Starling. Mammals seen included Grey Mongoose and a total of three Asian Elephants.

After a welcome siesta we strolled along the edge of the Panagamuwa tank and enjoyed Purple Herons, Indian Cormorants, Grey-necked Swampheens, eight or so lovely Ashy Woodswallows and two Sri Lanka Woodshrikes, but no sign of the hoped-for Black Bittern.

### **11th November**

Having left our hotel at six in the morning we were soon clambering aboard the high-seated jeeps near the entrance to Bundala National Park. Here we spent some time scanning the freshmarsh. We saw a total of three Yellow Bitterns and many Grey-headed Swampheens. We obtained prolonged close views of a Clamorous Reed Warbler. We entered the park proper, no queues at the ticket office for this one, then headed to the seaward end of the salt pans. Here we ate our packed breakfast while 'scoping the various birds on offer. Highlight was a Small Pratincole perched completely in the open. There were also many Marsh Sandpipers and one Broad-billed Sandpiper among a few Little Stints. Two Great Crested Terns were perched on a close pan. On the estuary

side, five Saltwater Crocodiles lurked. Heading back we saw up to four Pied Kingfishers, a flock of 60 or so Caspian Terns and about 16 Great Stone-curlews.

There had been so much rain that, what were normally dusty tracks, were actually flooded in places, preventing us exploring as much as we would have liked. We came across some pools with four Rosy Starlings and a Grey-headed Fish-eagle perched nearby. The latter caused consternation with the feeding waterbirds when it swooped down, presumably with the intention of catching a fish. A Changeable Hawk Eagle did a close fly past and helpfully landed low down nearby. Heading out of the park we became aware of vast numbers of Variegated Flutterers and at the last gasp the 'jeep' driver spotted a huge Lesser Adjutant right by the track. How could we have missed it, but we were all looking the other way at the time?

We returned to our hotel late morning for lunch and siesta, before heading to Yala National park entrance. White-browed Bulbuls were seen along the road plus a few family parties of Wild Boar, right by the road. Also seen was a pair of Ashy-headed Sparrow-larks. Nick spotted a Jacobin Cuckoo, hunting from the ground and a little later Mary spotted two Malabar Pied Hornbills. As dusk approached we headed to a likely area for Indian Nightjars. The passing of 'jeeps' detracted from the birding, but eventually we got some views of an Indian Nightjar, illuminated by torchlight.

### 12th November

A pre-breakfast trip to the Tissamaharama Tank saw us admiring the huge Indian Flying Fox colony. Heading to the Debarawewa tank we saw a Yellow Bittern but nothing else 'new'. On returning to our hotel we passed the Tissamaharama Tank again and here were four Cotton Pygmy Geese and a pair of Stork-billed Kingfishers that seemed to be excavating a nest in a Rain Tree.

After breakfast and before leaving, Tissa Dhammi's 'owl boys' had been busy. First they found an Indian Scops Owl, which was perched in the open, once you were standing in the right spot and had a clear view through the vegetation. It was roosting just yards from someone's veranda. The next owl was in another semi-wild garden and after crossing a narrow concrete bridge that accessed the property we discovered the Jungle Owlet had done a bunk. Luckily we had Nick, who surpassed us all again, by spotting it even before the owl boys and Dhammi. We 'scoped it and had plenty of time to watch it calling.

*En route* to the highlands we bumped into four Malabar Pied Hornbills just north of Tissamaharama, one of which flew low over us. As a result of the many days of rain in the highlands, a landslide had deposited a large boulder in the middle of the road that we had intended to take. Only small vehicles could pass so we had to take the A4 detour. The road sounded impressive but it was mostly a bumpy single-track road that wiggled up through the forest-covered mountain. We stopped at the Deiyaluma Waterfall. Here a Black Eagle flew over and a distant blob turned out to be a Changeable Hawk-Eagle. After lunch we still had time to drop by the Surrey Tea Estate. Here the resident Brown Wood Owl gave us a bit of a run around. But with Dhammi's persistence one felt secure enough to be 'scoped'. A little later we had checked into our hotel at Nuwara Eliya and were soon enjoying its decadent buffet selection.

### 13th November

We left our hotel in two taxis at the early hour of 4.30am to get to Horton Plains for first light. *En route* a Sambar shot out from the side of the road and almost ran into the second taxi. We arrived just as it was getting light and luckily there were three Indian Blackbirds by the entrance gate. Even jammier was the confiding Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush that posed for several minutes, often in full view.... unbelievable. We normally only get quick views of the bird as it flits through the vegetation. We drove a little way into the park and then started birding from the narrow road and it wasn't long before Dhammi latched on to a Sri Lanka Bush Warbler, which eventually everyone got views of despite it being a notorious skulker.

Other birds quickly followed. In all we saw three Dull-blue Flycatchers, eight Yellow-eared Bulbuls, six Cinerous Tits, a Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, a Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler, a Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, a few Green Warblers and at least eight Dusky Palm Squirrels. We ate our packed breakfast by the Arrenga Pool. A bird flock there was busy foraging opposite us in perfect light. We then headed towards the visitor centre area where Hill Swallows and a few Pied Bushchats were found. Heading back down the hill we stopped to look for Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon and amazingly managed to get one in the 'scope through the thick vegetation.

After lunch and siesta we headed into Victoria Park. An immature White-bellied Sea-eagle flew over (thoughts of us being quite a way from the coast popped into my mind). In the park we soon got on to a Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler, a Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher and a Velvet-fronted Nuthatch. An Indian Blue Robin popped out

several times but always very briefly. And although Kashmir Flycatcher and Pied Thrush were glimpsed by Dhammi, they couldn't be pinned down. Phil (E) saw a Forest Wagtail during the siesta period, though.

#### 14th November

We left the hotel at 6am to get to Victoria Park at dawn. A skulking female Indian Blue Robin was found again. And happily it didn't take too long before we tracked down a male Pied Thrush. It perched briefly by the river before coming down to the edge to feed. Moments later Dhammi found a first winter male Kashmir Flycatcher perched on a fence line, but all too quickly it vanished. After wandering about for a while it was located not far away by Nick and everyone got lovely views. One more walk around the park and a Forest Wagtail was found strolling along a shadowy pathway. Sadly no sight or sound of the Indian Pitta in its usual location though.

After the buffet breakfast we headed towards Colombo. *En route* we stopped at a teashop, which also had fabulous views of the tea plantation below, complete with tealeaf pickers in action. We stopped at Kithulgala for a buffet lunch. It was nice to remind ourselves of the wet forest birds again. Not much birdwise was seen *en route* to our final hotel at Negombo.

#### 15th November

An early morning stroll onto the beach at Negombo produced many terns fishing offshore. Most were Whiskered Terns but there were a few very distant Great Crested Terns and even fewer Lesser Crested Terns.

My thanks to Dhammi for his brilliant tour leading and to the careful driver, Susantha and his assistant Indika for all their help.

### Checklist of Birds Recorded (215 species)

#### Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

Widely scattered at wetlands.

#### Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

Four Tissamaharama Tank.

#### Sri Lanka Spurfowl *Galloperdix bicalcarata*

Five Sinharaja Forest Reserve.

#### Sri Lanka Junglefowl *Gallus lafayetii*

Ones and twos seen or heard, here and there.

#### Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristata*

Plentiful and seen regularly throughout the trip.

#### Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Twenty plus near Kalametiya bird and five Panagamuwa Tank.

#### Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*

Common at wetlands in the south of the island.

#### Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

A couple here and there and a large colony Yala National Park.

#### Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

Three Udawalawe National Park.

#### Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*

Two-three Udawalawe National Park, and singles Bundala National Park and Yala National Park.

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

Common in shallow wetlands, especially rice paddies in the south of the island.

#### Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Several in the wetlands.

#### Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

Three Bundala National Park and one Debarawewa tank.

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

Several in the wetlands.

#### Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*

Abundant throughout the trip in wetland areas.

#### Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Abundant throughout the trip in wetland areas.

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

Small numbers seen in the southern wetlands.

**Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea***

Small numbers seen in the southern wetlands.

**Great Egret *Ardea alba***

Small numbers widely scattered.

**Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia***

Small numbers at wetlands.

**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

Fairly common in suitable wetlands.

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

Small numbers seen regularly in wetlands in the south.

**Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger***

The most common cormorant.

**Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis***

Several in southern wetlands.

**Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

Thirty plus over Udawalawe National Park and four Tissamaharama Tank.

**Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster***

Small numbers on wetland sites.

**Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus***

One Udawalawe.

**Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus***

Ones and twos here and there.

**Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela***

Ones and twos here and there and seven en route from Nuwara Eliya to Kithulgala.

**Changeable Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus ceylanensis***

One east Sinharaja, six Udawalawe National Park, one Bundala National Park and four Yala National Park.

**Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis***

One Deiyaluma Waterfall. One en route to Surrey Estate and one by road between Horton Plains and Nuwara.

**Shikra *Accipiter badius***

Singles Kithulgala, Udawalawe National Park and Tissamaharama.

**Besra *Accipiter virgatus***

One Yala National Park.

**Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus***

Ones and twos here and there.

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

Two Debarawewa Tank and two other sightings in Tissa area and one Nuwara Eliya.

**Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaetus***

One Udawalawe National Park, one Bundala National Park and one Debarawewa Tank.

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

Fairly common.

**Grey-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus***

Very common in wetlands in the south.

**Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***

Uncommon.

**Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator***

One Kalametiya bird sanctuary, one Bundala National Park and one Yala National Park.

**Indian Stone-curlew *Burhinus indicus***

One west of Tissamaharama.

**Great Stone-curlew *Esacus recurvirostris***

Four Kalametiya bird sanctuary, ten Yala National Park and at least twenty-five Bundala National Park.

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

Fairly common.

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

Small numbers on open, grassy areas in the south of the island.

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

Common wetland habitats.

**Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva***

Two Kalametiya bird sanctuary, twelve Yala National Park and thirty plus Bundala National Park.

**Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola***

A few Bundala National Park.

**Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus***

Eight Yala National and a few Bundala National Park.

**Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus***

Twelve plus Yala National and a few Bundala National Park.

**Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii***

Five Yala National Park

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

Common in wetlands.

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

Two thousand or so Bundala National Park and twelve near Yala National Park.

**Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***

One Yala National Park and three Bundala National Park.

**Ruff *Calidris pugnax***

Three Bundala National Park.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus***

One Yala National Park and one Bundala National Park.

**Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***

Ten plus Bundala National Park.

**Little Stint *Calidris minuta***

Ten Yala National Park and thirty plus Bundala National Park.

**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***

Small numbers at southern wetlands.

**Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus***

One Kalametiya bird sanctuary and one Victoria.

**Common Redshank *Tringa totanus***

Small numbers at southern wetlands.

**Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis***

Good number of birds in southern wetlands.

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

A few in southern wetlands.

**Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***

Small numbers at southern wetlands.

**Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea***

One Bundala.

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

Common in southern wetlands.

**Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia***

Up to four Debarawewa Tank and sixty plus Bundala National Park.

**Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii***

Two Bundala and a few distantly off Negombo.

**Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis***

A few distantly off Negombo.

**Little Tern *Sternula albifrons***

A scattering of birds in the south.

**Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida***

Common.

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

Six Kalametiya bird sanctuary.

**Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia***

Widespread but local in towns and larger villages.

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

One between Horton Plains and Nuwara Eliya.

**Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***

Three Bundala.

**Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis***

Very common.

**Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica***

Fairly common in forested areas of the wet zone at Kithulgala and Sinharaja.

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

Small numbers around Kalametiya, Udawalawe and Yala.

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

A handful Sinharaja.

**Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea***

Fairly common and widespread.

**Green-billed Coucal *Centropus chlororhynchos***

Three in total Sinharaja.

**Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis***

Singles here and there.

**Red-faced Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus***

Three Sinharaja.

**Blue-faced Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris***

One Kalametiya bird sanctuary, one Udawalawe National Park and one Yala National Park.

**Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus***

One Kalametiya bird sanctuary and one near Yala National Park.

**Grey-bellied Cuckoo *Cacomantis passerinus***

Two Udawalawe National Park and up to two Yala National Park

**Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus***

One Kalametiya bird sanctuary and others Udawalawe National Park and Yala National Park.

**Oriental Bay Owl *Phodilus badius***

One Sinharaja.

**Serendib Scops Owl *Otus thilohoffmanni***

Two Sinharaja.

**Indian Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena***

One Tissamaharama.

**Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis***

One Makandarawa.

**Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica***

One Surrey Tea Estate.

**Jungle Owlet *Glaucidium radiatum***

One Tissamaharama.

**Chestnut-backed Owlet *Glaucidium castanonotum***

Two Kithulgala.

**Sri Lanka Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger***

A Sinharaja.

**Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus***

One near Yala.

**Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata***

Nine en route to Kithulgala from Colombo and one Yala National Park.

**Indian Swiftlet *Aerodramus unicolor***

Common.

**Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis***

One Kithulgala.

**Malabar Trogon *Harpactes fasciatus***

Four Makandarawa Forest Reserve and four Sinharaja Forest Reserve.

**Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis***

Two Udawalawe National Park.

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

Two Kithulgala, two Debarawewa tank and two Tissamaharama Tank.

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

Widespread and common.

**Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis***

A few in the south.

**Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis***

Several in the south.

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

Common in the south.

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

Fairly common.

**Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops***

One near Colombo.

**Malabar Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros coronatus***

Two near Yala National Park and four north of Tissamaharama.

**Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros gingalensis***

A few in the wet zone.

**Brown-headed Barbet *Psilopogon zeylanicus***

A few here and there.

**Yellow-fronted Barbet *Psilopogon flavifrons***

Several Kithulgala and Sinharaja.

**Crimson-fronted Barbet *Psilopogon rubricapillus***

One east of Sinharaja.

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

One Udawalawe National.

**Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus***

One Kithulgala and three Sinharaja Forest Reserve.

**Red-backed Flameback *Dinopium psarodes***

A few here and there.

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

One briefly Makandarawa Forest Reserve.

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

Two Debarawewa Tank.

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

Two Udawalawe National Park.

**Layard's Parakeet *Psittacula calthrapae***

A few Kithulgala and several Sinharaja.

**Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria***

Several Kithulgala.

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

Common in south-east.

**Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot *Loriculus beryllinus***

Several particularly Kithulgala and Sinharaja.

**Indian Pitta *Pitta brachyura***

One Kithulgala and one Udawalawe National Park.

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

Two Kithulgala.

**Sri Lanka Woodshrike *Tephrodornis affinis***

One Debarawewa Tank, two Yala National Park and two Panagamuwa Tank.

**Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus***

Eight Panagamuwa Tank.

**Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia***

Two Kithulgala.

**Marshall's Iora *Aegithina nigrolutea***

Seen at Udawalawe.

**Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus***

Six east of Sinharaja and one Panagamuwa Tank.

**Orange Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus***

Ones and twos, here and there.

**Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei***

Two east of Sinharaja Forest Reserve

**Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus***

Ones and twos, here and there.

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

Ones and twos here and there.

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

A few here and there but mainly Kithulgala and Sinharaja.

**Sri Lanka Drongo *Dicrurus lophorinus***

Up to six Sinharaja.

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

One and twos here and there.

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

Four Makandarawa Forest Reserve and one Sinharaja.

**Indian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi***

Four in total including a white one Sinharaja.

**Sri Lanka Blue Magpie *Urocissa ornata***

Fifteen seen in total Sinharaja.

**House Crow *Corvus splendens***

Very common.

**Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus culminatus***

Common.

**Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis***

One Victoria Park and one Horton Plains.

**Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus***

One Surrey Tea Estate, six Horton Plains and one Victoria Park.

**Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark *Eremopterix griseus***

Four Yala National Park and two more near the entrance and forty plus over Bundala National Park.

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

A few Udawalawe and Yala.

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

A few Kithulgala and Sinharaja.

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

Common and widespread.

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

Eight Horton Plains.

**White-browed Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus***

Two near Yala.

**Yellow-browed Bulbul *Acritillas indica***

Several Sinharaja Forest Reserve.

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

Several Kithulgala and Sinharaja.

**Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

About ten Bundala National Park.

**Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

Common.

**Hill Swallow *Hirundo domicola***

One near Nuwara Eliya and eight Horton Plains.

**Sri Lanka Swallow *Cecropis hyperythra***

Ones and twos in the wet zone.

**Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus***

A few Horton Plains.

**Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus***

Four Bundala National Park and one Tissamaharama.

**Sri Lanka Bush Warbler *Elaphornis palliseri***

Two Horton Plains.

**Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis***

A few in south-east.

**Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii***

One Udawalawe National Park, one Yala National Park and one Bundala National Park.

**Jungle Prinia *Prinia sylvatica***

Several Udawalawe and one Yala.

**Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis***

Several Udawalawe National Park.

**Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata***

A few here and there.

**Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius***

Fairly common.

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

Up to four Sinharaja, one Horton Plains and one Victoria Park.

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

Four Udawalawe and one near entrance Yala National Park.

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

Two Kithulgala and one Sinharaja Forest Reserve.

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

Two Sinharaja Forest Reserve.

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

Four Sinharaja.

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

Common.

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

Several Kithulgala and Sinharaja.

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

Six Udawalawe National Park.

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

A few here and there.

**Sri Lanka White-eye *Zosterops ceylonensis***

Ten Sinharaja Forest Reserve, two Surrey Tea Estate and sixteen Horton Plains.

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

Two Sinharaja, one Horton Plains and two Horton Plains.

**Sri Lanka Hill Myna *Gracula ptilogenys***

Two Sinharaja.

**Southern Hill Myna *Gracula indica***

Sixteen in total Kithulgala.

**Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis***

Common.

**Brahminy Starling *Sturnia pagodarum***

One near Yala National Park.

**White-faced Starling *Sturnornis albofrontatus***

Three Sinharaja.

**Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus***

Four Bundala National Park.

**Pied Thrush *Geokichla wardii***

One male Victoria Park.

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

One Kithulgala and one Sinharaja.

**Indian Blackbird *Turdus simillimus***

Four Horton Plains.

**Indian Robin *Copsychus fulicatus***

Fairly common in the south-east.

**Oriental Magpie-robin *Copsychus saularis***

Common.

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

One Yala National Park.

**Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica***

Ones and twos here and there.

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

Two Kithulgala and Sinharaja.

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

One Kithulgala.

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

Three Horton Plains.

**Indian Blue Robin *Larvivora brunnea***

One Sinharaja and one Victoria Park.

**Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush *Myophonus blighi***

One Horton Plains.

**Kashmir Flycatcher *Ficedula subrubra***

One Victoria Park.

**Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata***

Seven Horton Plains.

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

Three Debarawewa Tank.

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

Four Kithulgala.

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

One Debarawewa Tank.

**Legge's Flowerpecker *Dicaeum vincens***

A couple Sinharaja.

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

Ones and twos here and there.

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

Ones and twos here and there.

**Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus***

Ones Bundala National Park and one near Yala National Park.

**Loten's Sunbird *Leptocoma lotenius***

One east of Colombo and up to two Kithulgala.

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***

A few here and there.

**Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar***

Two Bundala National Park

**Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus***

Two east of Sinharaja and one Bundala National Park.

**Indian Silverbill *Euodice malabarica***

Three Yala National Park

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

A few here and there.

**Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata***

Fairly common and widespread.

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

Six east of Sinharaja Forest Reserve.

**Tricoloured Munia *Lonchura malacca***

Fairly common in south-east.

**Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus***

One Victoria Park.

**Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***

Two Bundala National Park.

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

Ones and twos here and there.

**Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus***

Fairly common in south-east.

**Mammals****Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus***

Ten plus Udawalawe and three Yala.

**Toque Macaque *Macaca sinica***

Small numbers here and there.

**Tufted Grey Langur *Semnopithecus priam***

Widespread.

**Purple-faced Langur *Trachypithecus vetulus vetulus***

Several in wet zone.

**Sri Lankan Giant Squirrel *Ratufa macroura***

A few seen.

**Layard's Palm Squirrel *Funambulus layardi***

A few Sinharaja.

**Indian Palm Squirrel *Funambulus palmarum***

Common.

**Dusky Palm Squirrel *Funambulus obscurus***

Eight Horton Plains.

**Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus***

Common particularly Tissamaharama.

**Indian Grey Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsi***

Three seen

**Brown Mongoose *Herpestes fuscus***

One seen

**Ruddy Mongoose *Herpestes smithii***

A few seen.

**Golden Jackal *Canis aureus***

One Udawalawe and several Yala.

**Sloth Bear *Melursus ursinus***

One Yala National Park.

**Wild Boar *Sus scrofa***

Many Yala.

**Chital *Axis axis***

Many Yala

**Sambar *Cervus unicolor***

Ten Yala and four Horton Plains.

**Feral Water Buffalo *Bubalus bubalis***

Common in the national parks at Udawalawe, Bundala and Yala.

**Reptiles**

Saltwater Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*

Mugger Crocodile *Crocodylus palustris*

Asian Water Monitor *Varanus salvator*

Bengal Monitor *Varanus bengalensis*

Brown-patched (aka Sri Lankan) Kangaroo Lizard *Otocryptis wiegmanni*

Green Forest Lizard *Calotes calotes*

Oriental Garden Lizard *Calotes versicolor*

Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*

Skink Species *Eutropis greeri*

Taylor's Striped Skink *Eutropis floweri*

Indian Flapshell Turtle *Lissemys punctata*

Green Vine Snake *Ahaetulla nasuta*

Indian Rat Snake *Ptyas mucosa*

Boulenger's aka Sri Lanka Keelback *Fowlea asperrimus*

**Butterflies**

With thanks to Mary for compiling the list.

**Papilionidae**

Citrus Swallowtail (Lime Butterfly) *Papilio demoleus*

Tailed Jay *Graphium agamemnon*

Common Bluebottle *Graphium sarpedon*

Common Rose *Pachliopta aristolochiae*

Crimson Rose *Pachliopta hector*

Sri Lankan Rose *Pachliopta jophon*

Red Helen *Papilio helenus*

Blue Mormon *Papilio polymnestor*

Common Mormon *Papilio polytes*

Sri Lanka Birdwing *Troides darsius*

**Pieridae**

Pioneer *Belenois aurota*

Lemon Emigrant *Catopsilia pomona*

Common Gull *Cepora nerissa*

Small Salmon Arab *Colotis amata*

Common Jezebel *Delias eucharis*

Common Grass Yellow *Eurema hecabe*

White Orange-tip *Ixias marianne*

Yellow Orange-tip *Ixias pyrene*

Psyche *Leptosia nina*

Dark Wanderer *Pareronia ceylanica*

Painted Sawtooth *Prioneris sita*

**Nymphalidae**

Tawny Coster *Acraea violae*

Common Tiger *Danaus genutia*  
 Common Palmfly *Elymnias hypermnestra*  
 Sri Lanka Palmfly *Elymnias singala*  
 Common Crow *Euploea core*  
 Brown King Crow *Euploea klugii*  
 Sri Lanka Tree Nymph *Idea iasonia*  
 Lemon Pansy *Junonia lemonias*  
 Sri Lanka Blue Oak Leaf *Kallima philarchus*  
 Blue Admiral *Kaniska canace*  
 Common Evening Brown *Melanitis leda*  
 Dark-Brand Bush Brown *Mycalesis mineus*  
 Common Sailer *Neptis hylas*  
 Gladeye Bush Brown *Nissanga patina*  
 Glassy Tiger *Parantica aglea*  
 Sri Lanka Tiger *Parantica taprobana*  
 Leopard *Phalanta phalantha*  
 Blue Tiger *Tirumala limniace*  
 Dark Blue Tiger *Tirumala septentrionis*  
 White Four-ring *Ypthima ceylonica*

#### **Lycaenidae**

Common Silverline *Cigaritis vulcanus*  
 Common Pierrot *Castalius rosimon*  
 Common Hedge Blue *Acytolepis puspa*  
 Lime Blue *Chilades lajus*  
 Pointed Ciliate Blue *Anthene lycaenina*

#### **Hesperiidae**

Tree Flitter *Hyarotis adrastus*

#### **Dragonflies**

Black Stream Glider aka Indigo Dropwing *Trithemis festiva*  
 Pink Skimmer *Orthetrum pruinosum*  
 Blue Pursuer *Potamarcha congener*  
 Black-tipped Flashwing *Vestalis apicalis nigrescens*  
 Shining Gossamerwing *Euphaea splendens*  
 Scarlet Basker *Urothemis signata*  
 Pied Parasol *Neurothemis tullia*  
 Variegated Flutterer *Rhyothemis variegata*  
 Yellow Waxtail *Ceriagrion coromandelianum*

#### **Other taxa**

Giant Wood Spider *Nephila pilipes*  
 Elegant Golden Jumping Spider *Chrysilla lauta*  
 Snail species *Acavus phoenix*  
 Sri Lanka Green Snail *Beddomea albizonatus*

#### **A few plants**

Badura Pitcher plant species *Nepenthes distillatoria*  
 Rhododendron species *Rhododendron arboreum zeylanicum*  
 Ceylon Balsam *Impatiens repens*  
 Blue Lotus *Nymphaea stellata* National Flower of Sri Lanka. Also known as *Nymphaea nouchali* Star Lotus, Red and Blue Water Lily, Blue Star Water Lily or Manel Flower  
 Bamboo Orchid *Arundina graminifolia*