



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Sri Lanka

Endemic Birds & Big Game Exclusive

30th January to 9th February 2019 (11 days)

Trip Report



Sri Lanka Bay Owl by Stephan Lorenz

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Stephan Lorenz

Tour Summary

The first Rockjumper tour to Sri Lanka in 2019 proved to be very successful: full of endemic birds, many speciality species, plenty of mammals, some unusual reptiles, and endless verdant and unique landscapes. Any tour to this beautiful island will leave visitors with enjoyable memories of some exciting birding, a surprising variety of wildlife, and, of course, its friendly people. This year, we again recorded all 34 of the currently recognised endemic birds; although one refused to show and remained heard only. The stars of the endemics were a Serendib Scops Owl snoozing at its day roost, showy Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush, above average views of the skulky Sri Lanka Bush Warbler, scope studies of White-faced Starlings, an eye-level encounter with a Chestnut-backed Owlet, close Sri Lanka Wood Pigeons, and a Green-billed Coucal that just sat there staring back at us as we stared at it. We also had excellent views of all the other endemics, except the Sri Lanka Spurfowl which was the endemic we heard only. This tour is also full of near-endemics, unique subspecies, and speciality species of which we found all possibilities, including



Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush by Stephan Lorenz

Kashmir Flycatcher, Pied Thrush, Lesser Adjutant, Legge's Hawk-Eagle, Small Pratincole, Sri Lanka Bay Owl, and many more. We also found a good helping of real surprises, including some birds that are rarely recorded in Sri Lanka, most notably a vagrant Bay-backed Shrike, Oriental Pratincoles, Greater Painted-snipe, Malayan Night Heron, Citrine Wagtail, and Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler. For all of us, what also stood out were the incredible number of owls, we encountered sixteen individuals of nine species, all seen exceedingly well. In addition to the rich bird list, we also enjoyed many mammals and reptiles – with a tusker Asian Elephant charging down the road in Yala National Park being especially memorable.



Pied Thrush by Stephan Lorenz

Tour in Detail

With everyone arriving a day early, we started the tour a few hours ahead of schedule, meeting up for breakfast in our comfortable Colombo hotel. After greeting, we made a plan for the day and soon thereafter packed up to head out of the capital by bus. Our first birding stop was in a wetland park in Colombo, and we quickly saw that Sri Lanka is full of birds. We studied some of the

wetland species that would be common throughout the tour, seeing Lesser Whistling Duck, Grey-headed Swamphen, White-breasted Waterhen, Red-wattled Lapwing, Whiskered Tern, Asian Openbill, Painted Stork, Oriental Darter, Little Cormorant, Spot-billed Pelican, Yellow Bittern, Indian Pond Heron, and Black-headed Ibis. We also noted the expected White-throated Kingfisher, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Brown-headed Barbet, Rose-ringed Parakeet, House Crow, Red-vented Bulbul, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Common

Tailorbird, Plain Prinia, Yellow-billed Babbler, Common Myna, Pale-billed Flowerpecker, and Purple-rumped Sunbird; while two Rosy Starlings and a nest building Tricolored Munia were more unexpected. We also started the endemic tally, with beautiful Sri Lanka Swallows coursing overhead.

We then continued our drive towards Kitulgala, arriving at the Plantation Hotel set right on the banks of the beautiful Kelani River for lunch. After checking in and enjoying our lunch with a view, we headed across the swing bridge to do some forest birding. We quickly added many endemic species, including good views of Sri Lanka Junglefowl, Sri Lanka Green Pigeon, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, scarce Crimson-fronted and Yellow-fronted Barbets, Red-backed Flameback, Layard's Parakeet, Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, and the first group of noisy Orange-billed Babblers. *What a start!* Other highlights of the afternoon included an Indian Pitta that flew into a tree to perch in the open, a pair of locally uncommon Lesser Yellownapes of the distinctive *wellsi* subspecies, colourful Black-hooded Orioles, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Jerdon's Leafbird, Long-billed Sunbird, and White-rumped Munia. We happily returned to the hotel for dinner, with an impressive list of birds already under our belts.



Sri Lanka Green Pigeon by Stephan Lorenz

Our first full day of the tour started early in Kitulgala, and we began birding among the nearby gardens and tea plantations. The first target of the morning was the endemic Chestnut-backed Owlet. Once we reached the right spot, we could hear one calling. It took a few minutes of patient tracking, but soon we had one individual perched at eye-level for minutes on end. We checked the area a bit more and quickly located another endemic when a pair of Brown-capped Babblers emerged from the forest to hop right in



Dull-blue Flycatcher by Stephan Lorenz

front of us. We headed back across the river after breakfast, where other new birds for the morning included Green Imperial Pigeon, Crested Treeswift, Black-headed Cuckooshrike, Indian Paradise Flycatcher, the endemic Black-capped Bulbul, and Brown-breasted Flycatcher. While we stood in a clearing scanning the forest canopy, an adult Rufous-bellied Eagle soared above us, another scarce species and welcome addition.

In the late afternoon, we checked the forest edge, seeing Crimson-backed Flameback – a large, endemic woodpecker that can sometimes be tricky to locate – and added

Alexandrine Parakeet, White-bellied Drongo, Yellow-browed and Square-tailed Bulbuls, Southern Hill Myna, Grey Wagtail, and Scaly-breasted Munia. We also increased our growing raptor tally, with Crested Honey Buzzard, Crested Serpent Eagle, Crested Hawk-Eagle, Shikra, and Brahminy Kite. We waited for dusk and then headed into the forest to look for owls and other night birds. We quickly found a pair of

Sri Lanka Frogmouths that showed very well and inside the forest located a calling Brown Hawk-Owl that perched in the open.

For the final morning in the Kitulgala area, we checked a new area and were able to add a responsive family group of Tawny-bellied Babblers. As we started to head back to the hotel for breakfast, we got information that our local guide had found a Sri Lanka Bay Owl on a day roost. We didn't hesitate and went to the spot right away, which required us to cross the river with the ferry again, and a Stork-billed Kingfisher flew right in front of us. Fortunately, the owl was not far into the forest, and we were soon enjoying unobstructed scope views of this rarity as it stared back at us from its day roost. This was a highlight finish to our stay in Kitulgala.



Sri Lanka White-eye by Stephan Lorenz

From here, we drove towards Nuwara Eliya and the highlands, where an entirely new set of birds was waiting for us. We made a stop at a tea plantation and had the opportunity to learn about the various teas grown and prepared in Sri Lanka, plus it was an excellent opportunity to buy some samples. Once we had checked into our excellent hotel, we went to the edge of town to bird a forested valley, where we added some highland endemics, including Dull-blue Flycatcher (not dull at all), Yellow-eared Bulbul, Sri Lanka White-eye, Sri Lanka Bush Warbler, and even found a pair of the difficult Sri Lanka Wood Pigeons that came into a large tree above us, allowing extended scope views. Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike and Cinereous Tit were also new. Around dusk, we headed to a stakeout on the edge of town, where soon a Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush flew across the trail, disappearing all too quickly. We waited



Forest Wagtail by Stephan Lorenz

longer and the bird cooperated again right as it was getting dark, offering full views in the spotlight. A Large Brown Flying Squirrel that landed in the tree right above us was a welcome mammal addition.

The following morning, we started very early to make the most of our day in Horton Plains NP, a stunning highland landscape of grasslands and mountain forests with views all the way to famous Adam's Peak. The weather was clear all morning, and we enjoyed the unusually pleasant conditions to the fullest. We stopped by a small pond along the main road after entering the park, and the

area proved productive. Four Sri Lanka Bush Warblers gave uncharacteristically good views and a pair of Sri Lanka Whistling Thrushes moved through, with the male perching in the open for some time; while Sri Lanka Wood Pigeons flew over. Other species we added here included Cinereous Tit, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, and the near-endemic Dark-fronted Babbler of the distinctive *nigrifrons* subspecies. A short walk along the road soon had us looking at a calling pair of endemic Sri Lanka Scimitar Babblers

that came into an open tree. We drove towards the visitor centre for a picnic breakfast and picked up Pied Bush Chat, Zitting Cisticola, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, and the uncommon Black-throated Munia along the way. A stakeout held the localised Indian Blackbird that gave great views.

We explored another area nearby, finding a few small feeding flocks that offered better views of several species we had already seen, and a large raptor that materialised on the horizon turned out to be the rare Legge's Hawk-Eagle. One of the more surprising finds of the morning was a single Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, a species more at home in lowland grasslands. We drove back down the mountain with several stops along the way that offered better views of another Legge's Hawk-Eagle – even perched – and after waiting a few minutes, we found a Black Eagle soaring along the steep slopes. We had lunch at the hotel back in Nuwara Eliya and took a short break before heading to Victoria Park. We had a short target list here, but all were quality

birds. The first we found was a Forest Wagtail along the stream, then a male Pied Thrush offered scope views, and finally, we located a female Kashmir Flycatcher for scope studies. Before we left the park, we caught everyone up with more views of Indian Pitta and then returned to the hotel for an early dinner.



Jungle Owlets by Stephan Lorenz



White-naped Woodpecker by Stephan Lorenz

With all the hoped-for species seen in Nuwara Eliya, we headed to the local horse race track for the final morning to see whether we could add any species in the wetlands. We soon flushed a Pin-tailed Snipe and then found the locally rare Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler – of which two birds offered glimpses. On the way to the lowlands, we stopped at the Surrey Bird Sanctuary, where we had great views of Asian Koel, Brown-headed Barbet, more Sri Lanka Grey Hornbills, and a pair of Grey-headed Canary-Flycatchers. The main reason we stopped at the location was for Brown Wood Owl, and we soon had a roosting bird in the scope. We stopped for lunch at a restaurant perched on the edge of the valley, offering great views of the dramatic landscape, and noted the first Tufted Grey Langurs.

We reached the Tissamaharama area in good time, and were soon scooping up new species at Debarawewa Lake. The wide variety of wetland species that we found included Eurasian Moorhen, Grey-headed Swamphen, Watercock, White-breasted Waterhen, Black-winged Stilt, Red-wattled Lapwing, Pheasant-tailed Jacana in full breeding regalia, Little, Gull-billed, White-winged and Whiskered Terns, Little, Great and Indian Cormorants, Spot-billed Pelican, Yellow and Black Bitterns,

Grey and Purple Herons, and Great, Intermediate, and Little Egrets. We then quickly added to our owl tally, as we found a pair of diurnal Jungle Owlets in a nearby garden, followed by a roosting pair of

Indian Scops Owls, then a pair of Brown Fish Owls, and, as we checked the river area, a Black Bittern flew past right in front of us. We then made a small detour that netted us Streaked Weaver before staking out an area for the scarce White-naped Woodpecker. At dusk, a family group of three White-naped Woodpeckers flew in, getting ready to roost in one of the cavities in the palm trees. Even after such great success, the birding for the day was not finished, and just after dark, we spotlighted a pair of Eastern Barn Owls that stayed in view for many minutes. It had been a busy day for birds; and we also won't forget the large roost of Indian Flying Foxes, as these massive bats took to the air at dusk.

The full day in Yala NP is always a highlight of the tour, and it is usually the most species-rich outing of the trip. We ended our day here with 115 species, many new for our list. Foremost on our minds as we started birding in the early morning was the Sri Lanka Woodshrike. Since this endemic is restricted to the dry zone of Sri Lanka, Yala NP offered the best chance to find it. Fortunately, we found a cooperative pair very early in the morning before we had even reached the official park gate. Everyone enjoyed good views as they foraged in low bushes right next to the safari jeeps. We then drove into this large national park that harbours a variety of habitats, including freshwater ponds, lagoons, beaches, moist woodland, dry scrub, and open grasslands. Not surprisingly, we added many new species here, and cloud cover kept bird activity going all day. Some of the highlights included a flock of Garganey, many Orange-breasted Green Pigeons, excellent views of the skulking Blue-faced Malkoha, Grey-bellied Cuckoo in the open, Great Stone-curlew snoozing, near-endemic Yellow-wattled Lapwing, very rare Black-necked Stork, uncommon Lesser Adjutant, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, migrant Eurasian Hoopoe, the massive Malabar Pied Hornbill, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Small Minivet, hundreds of Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Larks, Jerdon's Bushlark, and a single Oriental Skylark. Even during our picnic lunch, the birding didn't stop, and we found family groups of Grey-breasted and Jungle Prinias, both with fledges, showing that the breeding season was in full swing.



Blue-faced Malkoha by Stephan Lorenz



Asian Elephant by Stephan Lorenz

Other notable sightings included a Yellow-eyed Babbler that clambered to the top of a tree to sing, big flocks of Rosy Starlings, a handful of striking Brahminy Starling, and Purple Sunbirds. The other much-wanted speciality of the park is the Marshall's Iora, and we found a vocal male mid-morning – with the individual giving great views of its white tail and distinctive back pattern as it called from the tops of small trees. We even found another pair in the picnic area as we had the previous year. Late in the day, we finally found a small flock of the localized Indian Silverbill. The park was also filled to the brim

shorebirds, three species of bee-eaters, and an unexpected Common Kestrel as we were heading towards the exit. Large mammals are also a feature of Yala NP; and while we didn't get lucky with any cats, we did see an impressive tusker Asian Elephant, Sambar, Chital, Wild Boar, and several Ruddy Mongoose. We left the park around dusk and, before heading back to the hotel, made one last stop to try for nightjars. It didn't take long before we first had two vocal Jerdon's Nightjars fly around us and, moments later, found an Indian Nightjar that was calling while perched on a fence post. With such quick success, we headed back after a long day for a well-earned dinner.

Today included two very productive outings. First, we spent the morning in the coastal Bundala NP and then transferred for an afternoon safari to the Uda Walawe NP. Bundala is a small national park, but it packs a lot of different habitats and birds into a small area – a morning here is always exciting. Before proceeding to the saltpans and the flocks of shorebirds, we stopped alongside the extensive freshwater marshes. New birds came quickly, including Eurasian Collared Dove, distant Jacobin Cuckoo, Small Pratincoles perched on the dykes, a Cinnamon Bittern flushed from the marsh, singing Clamorous Reed Warbler, Western Yellow Wagtail, and yet another Streaked Weaver. Some astonishing surprise birds included three Oriental Pratincoles flying over, no less than three Greater Painted-snipe, and a Bay-backed Shrike – which is a very rare vagrant to Sri Lanka. Bundala NP is a fantastic location for shorebirds, and the species we found included Grey Plover, Pacific Golden Plover, Lesser and Greater Sand Plovers, Kentish and Little Ringed Plovers, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Pin-tailed Snipe, Common and Green Sandpipers, Common Greenshank, Marsh and Wood Sandpipers, and Common Redshank. We scanned through the loafing gulls and terns, finding Brown-headed Gull and Little, Gull-billed, Caspian, White-winged, Whiskered, Great Crested, and Lesser Crested Terns. We had to leave this incredible destination all too soon, and headed back to the hotel to pack up.



Malabar Pied Hornbill by Stephan Lorenz



Common Emerald Dove by Stephan Lorenz

abundant in this park; and while we enjoyed the spectacle of displaying males, we were after a few more skulking species. First, we lured a Barred Buttonquail from the thick vegetation, and the calling male showed well as it wandered up to the edge of the track. At the next stop, a Sirkeer Malkoha answered to

We drove towards Uda Walawe NP with a stop for lunch along the way. Transferring into two safari jeeps, we soon entered the park, which is rightly famous for a large population of Asian Elephants. The majority of the park is composed of scrubby forest with some larger fig trees, grasslands, lakes, and ponds. We focused on the few dry zone species we were still missing and had excellent views of the several specialities of this site. Indian Peafowl is particularly

playback and clambered to the top of a bush for unobstructed views of this sometimes-difficult species. Incredibly, we saw four more during our afternoon here. Another Marshall's Lora was a surprise and, at a promising fruiting fig tree, we located the diminutive Thick-billed Flowerpecker – although the dozen Malabar Pied Hornbills were more impressive. We headed to another part of the park, picking up the only Black-winged Kite of the trip along the way, and at the very last moment in the park, we found a pair of Indian Stone-curlews.

We spent the early hours before breakfast in the field and birded a small wetland and pasture area on the edge of Uda Walawe NP. The best finds here included three Red-rumped Swallows among the hordes of Barn Swallows, a locally rare Citrine Wagtail that eventually showed itself to all after a twenty-minute wait, and a cooperative Blyth's Pipit. As we left the area, we found an island in the reservoir that held no less than ten roosting Indian Stone-curlews. The lengthy drive to Sinharaja follows a winding road into the steep forested valley that protects one of the largest swathes of wet forest in Sri Lanka. We arrived at our beautiful lodge for lunch and enjoyed a delicious meal as we overlooked the valley. Right after arrival, a small bird appeared next to the porch and it turned out to be our first Legge's Flowerpecker, an excellent start. In the afternoon, we birded the edge of the village and tea plantations, getting our first good views of Common Emerald Dove, high-flying Brown-backed Needletails, fantastic scope views of a Green-billed Coucal sitting out in the open, stunning Orange Minivets, and other species we had recorded previously. In the early evening, we staked out the main entrance area, where a pair of the beautiful Sri Lanka Blue Magpies came in to the feeders to finish the day with another highlight. Just as it was getting dark, we also saw our first endemic Spot-winged Thrush.



Serendib Scops Owl by Stephan Lorenz

Our first full day in the Sinharaja rain forest, a UNESCO World Heritage site, began before first light as we made our way up a rough road in a large jeep to reach the ridgetop overlooking the pristine forest. We arrived after dawn and staked out a productive area for the scarce, endemic White-faced Starling.



Ashy-headed Laughingthrush by Stephan Lorenz

The morning started with good views of Orange Minivets, more Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler, and a surprise Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon. We also had better views of Brown-backed Needletails that swept along the high ridges. Soon, we located a pair of White-faced Starlings and we enjoyed close scope views as they were either feeding on ants or doing an anting behaviour. The pair then moved into a tree right overhead, offering even better views. With such quick success, we proceeded to the actual forest reserve where we walked the trail to the research station. We soon located a calling Sri Lanka Hill Myna that was calling from an open

perch across the valley, and saw another Legge's Flowerpecker. A vocal Black-naped Monarch showed well, but feeding flocks were absent for the moment. We also scouted several locations for the Serendib Scops Owl and Sri Lanka Thrush, but none showed. The research station area was relatively quiet, so we began the walk back and finally found a female Malabar Trogon, and a male soon thereafter. Almost at noon, we located a large feeding flock that held Orange-billed Babblers and the sought-after Red-faced Malkoha, of which a pair was moving through the canopy fast, but we eventually had views of one across the valley.

We headed back to the ridge to have a break and lunch at Martin's Lodge, enjoying the magnificent views and discovering a pair of nest-building Black-throated Munias. Our plan was to return to the forest for the entire afternoon, but when we received information of a Serendib Scops Owl on a day roost, we changed course. We had to drive back to the village and to the opposite side of the river before we arrived at the spot. The hike off trail was steep and a bit difficult, but we were



Spot-winged Thrush by Stephan Lorenz

rewarded with some of the best views of this endemic owl, perching on a relatively open branch in bright light. For the majority in the group, it was one of the most wanted birds of the trip. While some decided to return to the lodge for the remainder of the afternoon, others set forth to return to the forest. We hiked back along the trail in the late evening and were rewarded with a vocal pair of Sri Lanka Thrushes that flushed from the side of the trail, but most surprising was a Malayan Night Heron that walked out of the forest to cross the trail right in front of us. This species is rarely recorded in Sri Lanka and we were able



Sri Lanka Junglefowl by Stephan Lorenz

to follow it, eventually getting good views of it perched in a tree. As we walked out at dusk, we also caught up with one of the last endemics we needed, as a pair of Ashy-headed Laughingthrushes foraged on the edge of the trail.

The second full day in Sinharaja started even earlier, as we planned to be in position at a local garden to stake out a feeding area that is sometimes visited by the tricky Sri Lanka Spurfowl. We arrived right at dawn and picked some good spots to overlook the small clearing in the forest. A Serendib Scops Owl was calling across the river. First, Spot-

winged Thrushes flew in, and then Sri Lanka Junglefowl arrived, with the birds staying all morning. Then the hoped-for Slaty-legged Crake snuck in, first for brief views and then it hung around for close studies. While we heard Sri Lanka Spurfowl calling nearby, the birds never came to the feeding area. We stayed most of the morning, getting great views of Sri Lanka Blue Magpies, Orange-billed Babblers, and Ashy-headed Laughingthrushes that all visited the feeding area. We left mid-morning and stopped in a few spots to try for the spurfowl again; and while we heard a pair calling in the valley, they never came close enough for views. We birded our way back up to Martin's Lodge, where we had lunch and took a

break. After lunch, we experienced the first real rain of the tour, which forced us to wait out the squall in one of the shelters. Despite our best efforts and seemingly good conditions in the early evening, we could not locate any Sri Lanka Thrushes; but did see another, or the same, Malayan Night Heron.

For the final morning of the tour we, of course, set out early to try for the spurfowl again, which unfortunately again didn't come to the feeding area. We did, however, have excellent views of many species from the previous day. Trying in another spot, we heard a pair of spurfowl call very close, but they refused to move from the thick undergrowth. Sri Lanka Thrushes also called briefly, but did not show. We drove back to the lodge to leave time for packing and lunch, starting our drive towards Colombo immediately afterwards. The drive back to the capital and the airport was uneventful, except for a short stop for celebratory ice cream.



Sri Lanka Blue Magpie by Stephan Lorenz

Annotated List of species recorded

Note: Number in brackets () indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.
List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

Birds (249 in total: 245 seen, 4 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v 8.2).

Status codes: **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced

IUCN codes: **CR** = Critically endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **EW** = Extinct in the Wild, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient

Ducks, Geese & Swans *Anatidae*

Lesser Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna javanica

(4) 10 en route 30.1, 30 Tissamaharama 3.2, 40 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 30 Bundala NP 5.2.

Common in lowland wetlands.

Cotton Pygmy Goose

Nettapus coromandelianus coromandelianus

(1) 2 en route 5.2.

Seen well as we were travelling to Uda Walawe, a great bird to catch up with.

Garganey

Spatula querquedula

(2) 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 5 Bundala NP 5.2.

A small flock seen in Yala NP and then we all had good scope views in Bundala NP.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies Phasianidae**Sri Lanka Spurfowl (E)** *Gallus bicalcarata*

(2) 1 heard Sinharaja NP 8.2 and 2 heard Sinharaja NP 9.2.

Despite staking out a feeding area and trying various spots in Sinharaja this endemic remained heard only, although we could hear pairs duetting at very close distance.

Sri Lanka Junglefowl (E) *Gallus lafayettii*

(10) Up to 2 Kitulgala 30-1.2, 1 Horton Plains NP 2.2, 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 1 Bundala NP 5.2, 1 en route 6.2 and up to 10 Sinharaja NP 7-9.2.

This beautiful endemic is common and widespread.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

(6) 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 heard Kitulgala 1.2, 2 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Several males seen in full display, always a stunning sight.

Grebes Podicipedidae**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis albens*

(1) 3 Bundala NP 5.2.

Seen distantly from the viewpoint in Bundala NP.

Storks Ciconiidae**Painted Stork (NT)** *Mycteria leucocephala*

(6) 2 en route 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 Tissamaharama 3.2, 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 50 Udawalawe NP 5.2, 30 Bundala NP 5.2 and 5 en route 6.2.

Widespread with especially close views in Yala NP.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

(7) 1 en route 30.1, 30 Kitulgala 31.1, 10 Kitulgala 1.2, 5 Tissamaharama 3.2, 40 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 2 en route 6.2.

The most common and widespread stork in Sri Lanka.

Woolly-necked Stork (VU) *Ciconia episcopus episcopus*

(1) 1 en route 6.2.

We lucked into a flying individual our final morning in the Uda Walawe area.

Black-necked Stork (NT) *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus asiaticus*

(1) 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

A juvenile seen well in Yala NP, a very rare bird in Sri Lanka.

Lesser Adjutant (VU) *Leptoptilos javanicus*

(2) 3 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

Another rare stork, but we saw three in Yala NP and another flying at Bundala NP, always a great find.

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**Black-headed Ibis (NT)** *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

(5) 6 en route 30.1, 30 Tissamaharama 3.2, 40 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 en route 6.2.

Common in various wetlands.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia*

(2) 20 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Many noted in Yala NP.

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae***Yellow Bittern***Ixobrychus sinensis*

(3) 2 en route 30.1, 1 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

Excellent views during our first morning in Colombo wetland and more seen later during the tour.

Cinnamon Bittern*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

(1) 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

Flushed views in the freshwater wetland at Bundala NP.

Black Bittern*Dupetor flavicollis flavicollis*

(2) 1 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

Excellent views along the river in Tissamaharama when we walked in to look for the Brown Fish Owl and another seen as it flushed from the reeds at Bundala NP.

Malayan Night Heron*Gorsachius melanolophus*

(2) 1 Sinharaja NP 7.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

A big surprise in Sinharaja when one walked across the path in front of a lucky few and glimpsed again the following day.

Black-crowned Night Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

(2) 1 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 20 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Common in larger wetlands, especially Bundala NP.

Indian Pond Heron*Ardeola grayii*

(8) 4 en route 30.1, 2 Kitulgala 31.1, 10 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2, 20 Tissamaharama 3.2, 20 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 en route 9.2.

Abundant, present in every wetland.

Eastern Cattle Egret*Bubulcus coromandus*

(8) 30 en route 30.1.

Abundant.

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea cinerea*

(4) 4 Tissamaharama 3.2, 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 2 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Common and widespread.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea manilensis*

(4) 6 Tissamaharama 3.2, 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 2 en route 5.2 and 1 en route 6.2.

Numerous in larger wetlands.

Great Egret*Ardea alba modesta*

(4) 2 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 4 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Common.

Intermediate Egret*Ardea intermedia intermedia*

(5) 1 Horton Plains NP 2.2, 10 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

More common than previous species and identified by size, shape, and to some degree bill colour.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta garzetta*

(5) 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 4 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Widespread, but not numerous.

Pelicans *Pelecanidae***Spot-billed Pelican (NT)***Pelecanus philippensis*

(5) 2 en route 30.1, 50 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

We saw big numbers roosting in Tissamaharama.

Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae***Little Cormorant***Microcarbo niger*

(7) 5 en route 30.1, 2 Kitulgala 31.1, 2 en route 1.2, 10 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 20 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

The most common cormorant in Sri Lanka.

Indian Cormorant*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

(3) 1 en route 30.1 and 8 Tissamaharama 3.2.

Not common, but good numbers seen in Uda Walawe NP.

Great Cormorant*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

(2) 3 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 5 Bundala NP 5.2.

Uncommon with small numbers seen in Bundala NP and wetlands in Tissamaharama.

Anhingas *Anhingidae***Oriental Darter (NT)***Anhinga melanogaster*

(5) 1 en route 30.1, 10 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 4 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Widespread.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles *Accipitridae***Black-winged Kite***Elanus caeruleus vociferus*

(1) 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Only one noted perched in the evening in Uda Walawe NP.

Crested Honey Buzzard*Pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis*

(5) Up to 2 Kitulgala 30-1.2, 1 Horton Plains NP 2.2 and 2 en route 3.2.

The most common and widespread raptor of the tour.

Crested Serpent Eagle*Spilornis cheela spilogaster*

(5) 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 2 Udawalawe NP 5.2, 1 en route 6.2, 2 Sinharaja NP 8.2 and 2 en route 9.2.

Also fairly common.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle*Nisaetus cirrhatus ceylanensis*

(4) 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 Kitulgala 1.2, 3 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 5 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Many seen in the lowlands.

Legge's Hawk-Eagle (NE)*Nisaetus kelaarti*

(1) 2 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

Great observations of this rare raptor in Horton Plains NP with one seen in the scope perched and we also had lengthy flight studies of this impressive species.

Rufous-bellied Eagle*Lophotriorchis kienerii kienerii*

(1) 1 Kitulgala 31.1.

Fantastic views during our first full day in Kitulgala of an adult soaring right above us.

Black Eagle*Ictinaetus malaiensis perniger*

(2) 1 Horton Plains NP 2.2 and 1 en route 6.2.

Great views of an adult soaring along the steep slopes as we descended from the Horton Plains NP.

Shikra*Accipiter badius badius*

(3) 2 en route 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1 and 2 Kitulgala 1.2.

Common and widespread.

Besra*Accipiter virgatus besra*

(2) 1 Bundala NP 5.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

We enjoyed the best scope views in Sinharaja.

Brahminy Kite*Haliastur indus indus*

(7) 1 en route 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 en route 1.2, 8 Tissamaharama 3.2, 4 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 4 en route 6.2.

Widespread.

White-bellied Sea Eagle*Haliaeetus leucogaster*

(4) 1 Tissamaharama 3.2, 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 2 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 2 en route 6.2.

Many excellent views of this large species perched and in flight.

Grey-headed Fish Eagle*Haliaeetus ichthyaetus*

(2) 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 2 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

A great find in the lowland national parks.

Himalayan Buzzard*Buteo burmanicus*

(1) 1 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

Leader only in Horton Plains NP.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**Slaty-legged Crake***Rallina eurizonoides amauroptera*

(2) 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 9.2.

Close, open views at the stakeout in Sinharaja.

White-breasted Waterhen*Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*

(8) 2 en route 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 2 Tissamaharama 3.2, 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 4 Bundala NP 5.2, 1 Sinharaja NP 6.2, 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 9.2.

Widespread.

Watercock*Gallicrex cinerea*

(3) 1 Tissamaharama 3.2, 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 3 Bundala NP 5.2.

Flight views in Tissamaharama and then several seen in the scope at Bundala NP.

Grey-headed Swampen*Porphyrio poliocephalus poliocephalus*

(4) 6 en route 30.1, 20 Tissamaharama 3.2, 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 20 Bundala NP 5.2.

Common in larger wetlands.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus chloropus*

(2) 4 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

Only a few noted.

Buttonquails Turnicidae**Barred Buttonquail***Turnix suscitator leggei*

(1) 2 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Great views of a calling male by the roadside in Uda Walawe NP.

Thick-knees Burhinidae**Indian Stone-curlew***Burhinus indicus*

(2) 2 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 10 Embilipitiya 6.2.

A last-minute bird in Uda Walawe and then we found ten the following day roosting on a small island in Uda Walawe reservoir.

Great Stone-curlew (NT)*Esacus recurvirostris*

(2) 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 2 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 2 Bundala NP 5.2.

Numerous especially in Yala NP with many close views of roosting birds.

Stilts and Avocets *Recurvirostridae***Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

(4) 6 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 20 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Widespread.

Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae***Yellow-wattled Lapwing (NE)***Vanellus malabaricus*(3) 8 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 2 Udawalawe NP 5.2, 4 Bundala NP 5.2 and 2 Embilipitiya 6.2.
A near-endemic seen in Yala NP and other lowland sites.**Red-wattled Lapwing***Vanellus indicus lankae*

(6) 4 en route 30.1, 4 Horton Plains NP 2.2, 2 Tissamaharama 3.2, 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 4 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Common.

Pacific Golden Plover*Pluvialis fulva*

(3) 4 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 10 Bundala NP 5.2 and 1 Embilipitiya 6.2.

The typical migrant plover of open grasslands in the lowlands.

Grey Plover*Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*

(1) 4 Bundala NP 5.2.

Seen in the salt pans at Bundala NP.

Little Ringed Plover*Charadrius dubius jerdoni*

(2) 1 Bundala NP 5.2 and 1 Embilipitiya 6.2.

We all caught up with it just outside of Uda Walawe NP.

Kentish Plover*Charadrius alexandrinus seebohmi*

(2) 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 8 Bundala NP 5.2.

Numerous in Bundala NP.

Lesser Sand Plover*Charadrius mongolus atrifrons*

(3) 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 2 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Widespread in the lowlands.

Greater Sand Plover*Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii*

(1) 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

One noted among the previous species in Bundala NP.

Painted-Snipes *Rostratulidae***Greater Painted-snipe***Rostratula benghalensis*

(1) 3 Bundala NP 5.2.

Another big surprise in the reeds at Bundala NP and then our driver found two more hiding beneath bushes further into the park.

Jacanas *Jacanidae***Pheasant-tailed Jacana***Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

(4) 2 en route 30.1, 4 Tissamaharama 3.2, 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 6 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

A striking bird found in lily-covered wetlands.

Sandpipers and Allies *Scolopacidae***Black-tailed Godwit (NT)***Limosa limosa limosa*

(2) 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 60 Bundala NP 5.2.

A huge flock in Bundala NP.

Ruddy Turnstone*Arenaria interpres interpres*

(2) 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

Only two seen.

Ruff*Calidris pugnax*

(1) 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

A male in nonbreeding plumage seen in the freshwater wetland at Bundala NP.

Curlew Sandpiper*Calidris ferruginea*

(1) 2 Bundala NP 5.2.

Very few this year at Bundala NP.

Little Stint*Calidris minuta*

(3) 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 60 Bundala NP 5.2 and 4 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Common along coastal wetlands.

Pin-tailed Snipe*Gallinago stenura*

(3) 2 Nuwara Eliya area 3.2, 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 2 Bundala NP 5.2.

Seen in the highlands and lowlands.

Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

(5) 1 en route 30.1, 1 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2, 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Widespread.

Green Sandpiper*Tringa ochropus*

(2) 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 1 Embilipitiya 6.2.

We caught up with it in the Bundala area with excellent studies.

Common Redshank*Tringa totanus*

(3) 4 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 2 Embilipitiya 6.2.

One of the most widespread shorebirds.

Marsh Sandpiper*Tringa stagnatilis*

(3) 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 5 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Common and numerous.

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

(3) 4 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 6 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Very common.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

(3) 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2, 2 Bundala NP 5.2 and 1 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Uncommon in lowland wetlands.

Pratincoles and Coursers Glareolidae**Oriental Pratincole***Glareola maldivarum*

(1) 3 Bundala NP 5.2.

Another bonus bird seen flying high over Bundala NP.

Small Pratincole*Glareola lactea*

(1) 5 Bundala NP 5.2.

Great, close views along the dykes between salt pans Bundala NP.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Brown-headed Gull***Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*

(1) 5 Bundala NP 5.2.

Uncommon at Bundala NP.

Gull-billed Tern*Gelochelidon nilotica nilotica*

(3) 2 Tissamaharama 3.2, 4 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 40 Bundala NP 5.2.

Widespread.

Caspian Tern

Hydroprogne caspia

(2) 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 10 Bundala NP 5.2.

Seen well along the coastal wetlands.

Greater Crested Tern

Thalasseus bergii velox

(1) 30 Bundala NP 5.2.

Scope views at Bundala NP allowed great comparisons to similar species.

Lesser Crested Tern

Thalasseus bengalensis bengalensis

(1) 10 Bundala NP 5.2.

Less numerous at Bundala NP than previous species.

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons sinensis

(3) 4 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 60 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Big numbers along the coast with one adult in breeding plumage clearly identifiable from similar Saunder's Tern.

Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybrida hybrida

(5) 8 en route 30.1 and 10 Tissamaharama 3.2.

The most widespread tern in Sri Lanka.

White-winged Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

(3) 1 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 8 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Uncommon but seen in two locations.

Pigeons and Doves Columbidae

Rock Dove

Columba livia var. domestica

(7) 5 en route 30.1, 4 en route 1.2 and 10 en route 2.2.

Towns and villages.

Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon (VU) (E)

Columba torringtoniae

(4) 2 Nuwara Eliya area 1.2, 2 Horton Plains NP 2.2, 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Seen well outside of Nuwara Eliya and then several sightings in Sinharaja of this rare endemic.

Eurasian Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto decaocto

(1) 2 Bundala NP 5.2.

Uncommon on this route, but scope views in Bundala NP.

Spotted Dove

Spilopelia chinensis ceylonensis

(10) 4 Kitulgala 30.1, 6 Kitulgala 31.1, 4 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2, 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Abundant.

Common Emerald Dove

Chalcophaps indica robinsoni

(6) Up to 1 Kitulgala 30-1.2 and up to 2 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

Best views in Sinharaja where common.

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon

Treron bicinctus leggei

(3) 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 20 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Very common in lowland national parks.

Sri Lanka Green Pigeon (E)

Treron pompadora

(6) Up to 6 Kitulgala 30-1.2, 2 Tissamaharama 3.2, 4 Sinharaja NP 6.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

Uncommon but seen throughout.

Green Imperial Pigeon

Ducula aenea pusilla

(7) Up to 20 Kitulgala 30-1.2, 10 Tissamaharama 3.2, 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

Widespread and common.

Cuckoos Cuculidae**Green-billed Coucal (VU) (E)***Centropus chlororhynchos*

(3) Up to 2 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

Our first try for this skulking species was successful with lengthy scope studies in Sinharaja where also regularly heard.

Greater Coucal*Centropus sinensis parroti*

(5) Up to 2 Kitulgala 30-1.2 and 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Common in open habitats.

Sirkeer Malkoha*Taccocua leschenaultii leschenaultii*

(1) 6 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Incredibly, we saw five and heard another in Uda Walawe NP, this can be a tricky species, but we had lengthy views of calling birds.

Red-faced Malkoha (VU) (E)*Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus*

(1) 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

Quick and distant, but clear views of two in Sinharaja as they moved with a large feeding flock.

Blue-faced Malkoha (NE)*Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*

(2) 4 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Excellent views of another skulking cuckoo in Yala NP.

Jacobin Cuckoo*Clamator jacobinus jacobinus*

(1) 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

Very distant scope views in the reeds Bundala NP.

Asian Koel*Eudynamys scolopaceus scolopaceus*

(4) 1 heard en route 30.1, 1 en route 3.2, 1 Embilipitiya 6.2 and 1 heard Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Heard often and finally perched views outside of Uda Walawe NP.

Banded Bay Cuckoo*Cacomantis sonneratii waiti*

(1) 1 heard Kitulgala 31.1.

A distant bird heard only in the Kitulgala area.

Grey-bellied Cuckoo*Cacomantis passerinus*

(2) 4 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Close studies in Yala NP.

Barn-Owls Tytonidae**Eastern Barn Owl***Tyto javanica stertens*

(1) 2 Tissamaharama 3.2.

A pair showed very well just after dark in the Tissamaharama area and we enjoyed great views in the spotlight.

Sri Lanka Bay Owl (NE)*Phodilus assimilis assimilis*

(1) 1 Kitulgala 1.2.

Wow, one of the top birds of the tour with scope views of a roosting bird in Kitulgala.

Owls Strigidae**Serendib Scops Owl (EN) (E)***Otus thilohoffmanni*

(2) 1 Sinharaja NP 7.2 and 1 heard Sinharaja NP 8.2.

After we climbed up a steep slope we all enjoyed scope views of this fascinating endemic on a roost in Sinharaja.

Indian Scops Owl*Otus bakkamoena bakkamoena*

(2) 1 heard Kitulgala 31.1 and 2 Tissamaharama 3.2.

Very close views of a pair roosting in a garden in the Tissamaharama area.

Brown Fish Owl*Ketupa zeylonensis zeylonensis*

(2) 2 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

More day roosting owls with a pair seen in the Tissamaharama area and another the following day in Yala NP.

Brown Wood Owl*Strix leptogrammica ochrogenys*

(1) 1 en route 3.2.

Really close views at a stakeout as it snoozed on its roost on the way to the lowlands.

Jungle Owlet (NE)*Glaucidium radiatum radiatum*

(1) 2 Tissamaharama 3.2.

A pair posed for scope views in the garden in the Tissamaharama area.

Chestnut-backed Owlet (NT) (E)*Glaucidium castanotum*

(2) 2 Kitulgala 31.1 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

This endemic owlet showed really well during our first full day of the tour in Kitulgala, perching at eye level for minutes on end.

Brown Hawk-Owl*Ninox scutulata hirsuta*

(1) 1 Kitulgala 31.1. and Sinharaja NP 9.2.

Seen well during our owling session in Kitulgala after it flew in to perch and call in the open.

Frogmouths Podargidae**Sri Lanka Frogmouth (NE)***Batrachostomus moniliger moniliger*

(2) 2 Kitulgala 31.1 and 1 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

Good views after dark in Kitulgala and scope studies of a female of a day roost in Sinharaja.

Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae**Jerdon's Nightjar (NE)***Caprimulgus atripennis aequabilis*

(1) 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Great views as they flew around us calling outside of Yala NP just at dusk.

Indian Nightjar*Caprimulgus asiaticus eidos*

(1) 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Also great flight and perched views of calling birds outside of Yala NP.

Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae**Crested Treeswift***Hemiproctes coronata*

(3) 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 6.2.

Widespread in lowlands.

Swifts Apodidae**Indian Swiftlet***Aerodramus unicolor*

(5) 10 Kitulgala 30.1, 20 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 10 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Common in lowlands.

Brown-backed Needletail*Hirundapus giganteus indicus*

(2) 3 Sinharaja NP 6.2 and 6 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

Seen well but only in the Sinharaja area.

Asian Palm Swift*Cypsiurus balasiensis balasiensis*

(5) 2 en route 30.1, 3 Udawalawe NP 5.2, 10 Embilipitiya 6.2, 4 Sinharaja NP 7.2 and 4 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Common around lowland palm stands.

Alpine Swift*Tachymarptis melba bakeri*

(1) 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

A single bird flew past quickly in Uda Walawe NP.

Little Swift*Apus affinis singalensis*

(4) 5 Kitulgala 30.1, 5 Kitulgala 31.1, 2 en route 1.2 and 4 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Widespread, but not numerous.

Trogon Trogonidae**Malabar Trogon (NE)***Harpactes fasciatus fasciatus*

(2) 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

We noted males and females in Sinharaja including good scope views.

Rollers Coraciidae**Indian Roller***Coracias benghalensis indicus*

(2) 3 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Several seen in the Yala area.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae**Stork-billed Kingfisher***Pelargopsis capensis capensis*

(4) 1 Kitulgala 1.2, 1 Tissamaharama 3.2, 1 Bundala NP 5.2 and 1 heard Sinharaja NP 6.2.

Singles seen well in various wetlands.

White-throated Kingfisher*Halcyon smyrnensis fusca*

(6) 2 Kitulgala 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 6 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Common and widespread.

Common Kingfisher*Alcedo atthis taprobana*

(4) 1 en route 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1 and 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Seen well in lowland wetlands.

Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher*Ceyx erithaca erithaca*

(2) 1 heard Sinharaja NP 6.2 and 1 heard Sinharaja NP 9.2.

Heard only in the Sinharaja area.

Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis leucomelanurus*

(2) 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Good views in Yala NP.

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Green Bee-eater***Merops orientalis ceylonicus*

(3) 40 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Abundant in the lowland parks.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater*Merops philippinus*

(8) 4 en route 30.1, 5 Kitulgala 31.1, 10 Tissamaharama 3.2, 20 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 6 Sinharaja NP 7.2 and 6 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

The most common bee-eater in Sri Lanka.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater*Merops leschenaulti leschenaulti*

(3) 1 en route 3.2, 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 6.2.

Only small numbers seen, but we had great views of this gorgeous bee-eater.

Hoopoes *Upupidae***Eurasian Hoopoe***Upupa epops ceylonensis*

(2) 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Great views of this unique bird especially in Yala NP.

Hornbills *Bucerotidae***Malabar Pied Hornbill (NT) (NE)***Anthraceroceros coronatus*

(2) 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 10 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Good numbers seen in the lowlands with a fruiting fig in Uda Walawe NP literally full of these impressive beasts.

Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill (E)*Ocyroceros gingalensis*

(5) 2 Kitulgala 30.1, 2 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 en route 3.2, 1 Sinharaja NP 6.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

Good views in Kitulgala and Sinharaja of this endemic hornbill.

Asian Barbets *Megalaimidae***Brown-headed Barbet***Psilopogon zeylanicus zeylanicus*

(5) 1 en route 30.1, 6 en route 3.2, 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 2 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Widespread and noisy in the lowlands.

Yellow-fronted Barbet (E)*Psilopogon flavifrons*

(6) 2 Kitulgala 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 en route 3.2 and up to 2 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

Common in wetter forests.

Crimson-fronted Barbet (E)*Psilopogon rubricapillus*

(3) 1 Kitulgala 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1 and 1 Sinharaja NP 6.2.

Scope views in Kitulgala and Sinharaja, always uncommon.

Coppersmith Barbet*Psilopogon haemacephalus indicus*

(4) 1 heard Kitulgala 30.1, 4 Tissamaharama 3.2, 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 6 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Many seen in drier lowlands.

Woodpeckers *Picidae***Yellow-crowned Woodpecker***Leiopicus mahrattensis mahrattensis*

(2) 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Good views of a male and then female in Yala NP.

Lesser Yellownape*Picus chlorolophus wellsi*

(1) 2 Kitulgala 30.1.

A pair passed by quickly in Kitulgala.

Red-backed Flameback (E)*Dinopium psarodes*

(4) Up to 2 Kitulgala 30-1.2 and 2 Tissamaharama 3.2.

Great and many views of this beautiful endemic woodpecker.

Crimson-backed Flameback (E)*Chrysocolaptes stricklandi*

(2) 1 Kitulgala 31.1 and 1 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

The larger, endemic woodpecker and we lucked into great views one evening in Kitulgala when a calling bird flew in right in front of us.

White-naped Woodpecker*Chrysocolaptes festivus tantus*

(1) 3 Tissamaharama 3.2.

After a patient wait, a family of three arrived at their roosting cavity in the Tissamaharama area.

Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae***Common Kestrel***Falco tinnunculus objurgatus*

(2) 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

Uncommon in Sri Lanka, but we saw two females in two different lowland parks.

Old World Parrots *Psittaculidae***Plum-headed Parakeet***Psittacula cyanocephala*

(1) 1 heard Sinharaja NP 6.2.

Heard only distantly in Sinharaja.

Layard's Parakeet (E)*Psittacula calthrapae*

(5) 15 Kitulgala 30.1, 20 Kitulgala 31.1 and up to 10 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

Common in the wet zone.

Alexandrine Parakeet (NT)*Psittacula eupatria eupatria*

(5) Up to 6 Kitulgala 30-1.2, 6 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 4 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Noted in low numbers in the wet and dry zones.

Rose-ringed Parakeet*Psittacula krameri manillensis*

(6) 10 en route 30.1, 2 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2, 10 Tissamaharama 3.2, 20 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 10 Embilipitiya 6.2.

The most common parakeet in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot (E)*Loriculus beryllinus*

(7) Up to 30 Kitulgala 30-1.2, 6 en route 3.2 and up to 20 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

Many "green bullets" seen flying with the best perched views in Sinharaja.

Pittas *Pittidae***Indian Pitta***Pitta brachyura*

(6) 1 Kitulgala 30.1, 1 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2, 1 en route 3.2, 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 1 heard Sinharaja NP 6.2.

Heard and seen in many locations with all of us enjoying lengthy scope views of this beautiful migrant to Sri Lanka.

Vangas *Vangidae***Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike***Hemipus picatus leggei*

(2) 4 Nuwara Eliya area 1.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 6.2.

Best seen in the canopy outside of Nuwara Eliya.

Sri Lanka Woodshrike (E)*Tephrodornis affinis*

(1) 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

We lucked into a pair just on the edge of Yala NP, this endemic is restricted to the dry zone of Sri Lanka.

Ioras *Aegithinidae***Common Iora***Aegithina tiphia multicolor*

(3) 2 Kitulgala 30.1, 8 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 4 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Widespread in the lowlands.

Marshall's Iora (NE)*Aegithina nigrolutea*

(2) 3 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

We saw several this year with a calling male in Yala NP, a pair at our picnic spot in Yala NP, and a surprising third in Uda Walawe NP the following day.

Cuckoo-shrikes Campephagidae**Small Minivet***Pericrocotus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus*

(1) 15 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Good views of busy flocks in Yala NP.

Orange Minivet (NE)*Pericrocotus flammeus*

(5) 1 Kitulgala 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1 and up to 2 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

The best views we had of this bird that lights up the canopy was in Sinharaja.

Black-headed Cuckooshrike*Lalage melanopectera sykesi*

(3) 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Not many, but females and males seen in various locations.

Shrikes Laniidae**Brown Shrike***Lanius cristatus cristatus*

(8) Up to 1 Kitulgala 30-1.2, 1 Horton Plains NP 2.2, 1 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2, 1 en route 3.2, 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 en route 6.2.

Common and widespread.

Bay-backed Shrike*Lanius vittatus vittatus*

(1) 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

A very rare bird in Sri Lanka and we came across the long staying individual in Bundala NP and all had great views of this gorgeous shrike.

Old World Orioles Oriolidae**Black-hooded Oriole***Oriolus xanthornus ceylonensis*

(7) Up to 4 Kitulgala 30-1.2, 2 Tissamaharama 3.2, 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 1 Bundala NP 5.2 and 3 Sinharaja NP 6.2.

Common and vocal.

Drongos Dicruridae**White-bellied Drongo***Dicrurus caerulescens leucopygialis*

(6) Up to 4 Kitulgala 30-1.2 and up to 2 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

Mostly seen in the wet zone where it is often referred to as the "White-vented" subspecies.

Sri Lanka Drongo (E)*Dicrurus lophorinus*

(2) 1 Sinharaja NP 6.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Only two seen in Sinharaja but the views were excellent.

Fantails Rhipiduridae**White-browed Fantail***Rhipidura aureola compressirostris*

(3) 2 Tissamaharama 3.2, 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Seen well in the dry zone.

Monarchs Monarchidae**Black-naped Monarch***Hypothymis azurea ceylonensis*

(1) 1 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

Only one calling bird seen in the heart of the Sinharaja forest.

Indian Paradise Flycatcher*Terpsiphone paradisi*

(7) 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 Kitulgala 1.2, 2 Tissamaharama 3.2, 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2, 1 Embilipitiya 6.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Widespread with white morph males glimpsed.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae***Sri Lanka Blue Magpie (VU) (E)***Urocissa ornata*

(3) Up to 3 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

We staked out an area the first evening in Sinharaja and saw a pair very close and then lucked into more of this beautiful endemic in other areas of Sinharaja.

House Crow*Corvus splendens protegatus*

Observed 5 day(s) in total.

Abundant.

Indian Jungle Crow*Corvus culminatus*

(8) 2 en route 30.1.

Abundant.

Fairy Flycatchers *Stenostiridae***Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher***Culicicapa ceylonensis ceylonensis*

(1) 2 en route 3.2.

A calling pair seen in the Surrey Bird Sanctuary.

Tits, Chickadees *Paridae***Cinereous Tit***Parus cinereus mahrattarum*

(2) 1 Nuwara Eliya area 1.2 and 2 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

Seen well in Horton Plains NP.

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

(4) 1 Horton Plains NP 2.2, 100 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 20 Bundala NP 5.2 and 50 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Abundant in sandy, short grass areas in the lowlands.

Jerdon's Bush Lark (NE)*Mirafra affinis*

(3) 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 40 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 2 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Very abundant in lowlands, especially Uda Walawe NP.

Oriental Skylark*Alauda gulgula gulgula*

(1) 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Only one seen in Yala NP.

Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae***Black-capped Bulbul (E)***Pycnonotus melanicterus*

(4) 5 Kitulgala 31.1 and up to 2 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

The least common bulbul, but seen well in Kitulgala and Sinharaja.

Red-vented Bulbul*Pycnonotus cafer haemorrhousus*

(9) 5 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Abundant and seen nearly every day of the tour.

Yellow-eared Bulbul (NT) (E)*Pycnonotus penicillatus*

(2) 1 Nuwara Eliya area 1.2 and 2 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

Seen well in the highlands.

White-browed Bulbul (NE)*Pycnonotus luteolus insulae*

(3) 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 4 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 2 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Best seen in Yala NP, this species is more common in the dry zone.

Yellow-browed Bulbul (NE)*Acritillas indica guglielmi*

(6) Up to 2 Kitulgala 30-1.2 and up to 4 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

Common in the wet zone.

Square-tailed Bulbul (NE)*Hypsipetes ganeesa humii*

(6) Up to 40 Kitulgala 30-1.2 and up to 20 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

Abundant in the wet zone where they move noisily through the canopy.

Swallows *Hirundinidae***Sand Martin***Riparia riparia taczanowskii*

(2) 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

Uncommon in Sri Lanka with two sightings.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

(6) 10 en route 30.1 and 100 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Abundant with large flocks in the lowlands.

Hill Swallow (NE)*Hirundo domicola*

(1) 20 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

Excellent studies in the highlands.

Red-rumped Swallow*Cecropis daurica erythropigia*

(1) 3 Embilipitiya 6.2.

This uncommon migrant to Sri Lanka was again seen where we had it last year on the edge of Uda Walawe NP.

Sri Lanka Swallow (E)*Cecropis hyperythra*

(5) 2 Kitulgala 30.1, 2 Kitulgala 31.1, 4 en route 30.1, 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 4 Sinharaja NP 6.2 and 6 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

This endemic swallow was widespread.

Leaf warblers and allies *Phylloscopidae***Green Warbler***Phylloscopus nitidus*

(4) 1 Kitulgala 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 Horton Plains NP 2.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Often heard and seen well in Kitulgala and Sinharaja.

Large-billed Leaf Warbler*Phylloscopus magnirostris*

(1) 1 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

A single bird seen well in Horton Plains NP.

Reed warblers and allies *Acrocephalidae***Clamorous Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus stentoreus meridionalis*

(2) 1 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 8 Bundala NP 5.2.

Abundant in Bundala NP where we all had excellent views of this massive warbler.

Blyth's Reed Warbler*Acrocephalus dumetorum*

(6) 1 en route 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 Nuwara Eliya area 1.2, 1 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2, 1 Horton Plains NP 2.2, 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

Widespread and common.

Grassbirds and allies *Locustellidae***Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler***Helopsaltes certhiola rubescens*

(1) 4 Nuwara Eliya area 3.2.

Again the stakeout from last year was productive and we saw two and heard at least two more, although getting clear views was difficult as they skulked in the reeds in Nuwara Eliya.

Sri Lanka Bush Warbler (E)*Elaphrornis palliseri*

(2) 2 Nuwara Eliya area 1.2 and 4 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

Really great views in the open around the pond in Horton Plains NP of this normally secretive species.

Cisticolas and allies Cisticolidae**Zitting Cisticola***Cisticola juncidis*
cursitans

(1) 10 Tissamaharama 3.2.

Abundant in reeds and grasslands.

omalurus:

(1) 4 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

Very common in the highland grasslands.

Grey-breasted Prinia*Prinia hodgsonii pectoralis*

(2) 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 2 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Good views of a family group with fledgling in the picnic area in Yala NP.

Jungle Prinia*Prinia sylvatica valida*

(2) 3 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Another family group feeding a fledgling in the picnic area in Yala NP where we enjoyed close studies and could compare it well to the similar Plain Prinia.

Ashy Prinia*Prinia socialis brevicauda*

(1) 1 en route 3.2.

Great views sitting on a wire singing as we descended from the highlands.

Plain Prinia*Prinia inornata insularis*

(5) 1 en route 30.1, 1 Tissamaharama 3.2, 8 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 4 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 4 Embilipitiya 6.2.

The most common prinia.

Common Tailorbird*Orthotomus sutorius sutorius*

(7) Up to 6 Kitulgala 30-1.2, 1 en route 2.2, 1 en route 3.2 and 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Widespread and common.

Babblers Timaliidae**Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler (E)***Pomatorhinus melanurus melanurus*

(2) 2 Horton Plains NP 2.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

Great views of a calling pair in Horton Plains and seen again in Sinharaja.

Tawny-bellied Babbler (NE)*Dumetia hyperythra phillipsi*

(2) 1 Kitulgala 31.1 and 4 Kitulgala 1.2.

A small group came in close to check us out in Kitulgala.

Dark-fronted Babbler (NE)*Rhopocichla atriceps nigrifrons*

(3) 3 Horton Plains NP 2.2, 1 Sinharaja NP 6.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

Really close and clear views in Horton Plains and seen again in Sinharaja.

Fulvettas, Ground Babblers Pellorneidae**Brown-capped Babbler (E)***Pellorneum fuscicapillus fuscicapillus*

(2) 2 Kitulgala 31.1 and 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

A pair was feeding in the open in Kitulgala during our first morning there and glimpsed again in Sinharaja.

Laughingthrushes *Leiothrichidae***Orange-billed Babbler (NT) (E)** *Turdoides rufescens*

(5) 6 Kitulgala 30.1, 6 Kitulgala 31.1 and up to 20 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

Common in the wet zone.

Yellow-billed Babbler (NE) *Turdoides affinis taprobanus*

(7) 8 Kitulgala 30.1, 20 Kitulgala 31.1 and 20 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Abundant.

Ashy-headed Laughingthrush (E) *Garrulax cinereifrons*

(2) 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2 and 12 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Best seen at the feeding area in Sinharaja where a noisy flock visited each morning.

Sylviid Babblers *Sylviidae***Yellow-eyed Babbler** *Chrysomma sinense nasale*

(1) 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

A singing bird hitched up to the top of a tree for great views in Yala NP.

White-eyes *Zosteropidae***Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus egregius*

(3) 1 Kitulgala 30.1, 2 Kitulgala 31.1 and 1 en route 3.2.

Uncommon in lowlands.

Sri Lanka White-eye (E) *Zosterops ceylonensis*

(3) 10 Nuwara Eliya area 1.2, 20 Horton Plains NP 2.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Abundant in the highlands and also seen in the wet zone.

Nuthatches *Sittidae***Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** *Sitta frontalis frontalis*

(2) 2 Horton Plains NP 2.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Best seen in Horton Plains NP where a responsive pair flew around us.

Starlings *Sturnidae***Sri Lanka Hill Myna (NT) (E)** *Gracula ptilogenys*

(2) 2 heard Sinharaja NP 6.2 and 3 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

Good scope studies in Sinharaja.

Southern Hill Myna *Gracula indica*

(5) Up to 5 Kitulgala 30-1.2, 4 Sinharaja NP 6.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

Common in the wet zone.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis melanosternus*

(8) 10 en route 30.1, 2 Kitulgala 31.1, 2 Kitulgala 1.2 and 20 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Abundant in lowlands and highlands.

Brahminy Starling *Sturnia pagodarum*

(1) 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

A few individuals of this neat looking starling seen well at a regular spot in Yala NP.

White-faced Starling (E) *Sturnornis albofrontatus*

(2) 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

The first stake out in Sinharaja produced phenomenal scope views of a pair eating ants or anting and then seen again well the following day.

Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*

(3) 2 en route 30.1, 100 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 100 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Big flocks seen in the lowlands.

Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae***Pied Thrush***Geokichla wardii*

(1) 2 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

It didn't take too long this year before we had a male in the scope of this stunning thrush in Victoria Park.

Spot-winged Thrush (E)*Geokichla spiloptera*

(3) Up to 10 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

Common in Sinharaja where they were occasionally feeding right at our feet.

Sri Lanka Thrush (NT) (E)*Zoothera imbricata*

(1) 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2.

A vocal pair flushed by the side of the trail for a lucky few.

Indian Blackbird (NE)*Turdus simillimus kinnisii*

(1) 2 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

We had good views of an adult at a stakeout in Horton Plains NP, this is a distinct subspecies and quite shy.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae***Indian Robin***Copsychus fulicatus leucopterus*

(2) 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Abundant in Yala NP.

Oriental Magpie-Robin*Copsychus saularis ceylonensis*

(7) 2 Kitulgala 30.1, 2 Kitulgala 31.1, 4 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2, 1 en route 3.2, 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Common and widespread.

White-rumped Shama*Copsychus malabaricus leggei*

(1) 6 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Many heard in Yala NP and we managed to see at least two, although views were brief.

Asian Brown Flycatcher*Muscicapa dauurica poonensis*

(3) 1 Tissamaharama 3.2, 2 Sinharaja NP 6.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Common in more open habitats.

Brown-breasted Flycatcher*Muscicapa muttui*

(5) Up to 1 Kitulgala 30-1.2, 1 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Common in wet zone forests.

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher*Cyornis tickelliae jerdoni*

(2) 1 Kitulgala 30.1 and 1 Kitulgala 31.1.

Good views in the Kitulgala area.

Dull-blue Flycatcher (NT) (E)*Eumyias sordidus*

(2) 2 Nuwara Eliya area 1.2 and 8 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

Not dull at all and we saw many in Horton Plains NP.

Indian Blue Robin*Larvivora brunnea brunnea*

(1) 1 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2.

One was bathing in full view in Victoria Park, Nuwara Eliya.

Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush (EN) (E)*Myophonus blighi*

(2) 1 Nuwara Eliya area 1.2 and 2 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

The regular stakeout on the edge of Nuwara Eliya produced good but brief views of a male and then we had even better views the following day in Horton Plains NP.

Kashmir Flycatcher (VU)*Ficedula subrubra*

(1) 1 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2.

After a bit of searching, we tracked down a calling female in Victoria Park in Nuwara Eliya and had excellent scope views.

Pied Bush Chat

Saxicola caprata atratus

(1) 4 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

Common in Horton Plains NP where singing males were sitting atop bushes in the grasslands.

Leafbirds *Chloropseidae*

Jerdon's Leafbird

Chloropsis jerdoni

(3) 1 Kitulgala 30.1, 2 Kitulgala 31.1 and 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Excellent views, especially in Kitulgala.

Golden-fronted Leafbird

Chloropsis aurifrons insularis

(2) 1 Sinharaja NP 7.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Seen well in Sinharaja, including stunning scope views.

Flowerpeckers *Dicaeidae*

Thick-billed Flowerpecker

Dicaeum agile zeylonicum

(1) 2 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

We found a pair of this flowerpecker in a fruiting fig in the heart of Uda Walawe NP, a scarce species in Sri Lanka.

Legge's Flowerpecker (NT) (E)

Dicaeum vincens

(3) Up to 2 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

We had several great views of this endemic in the Sinharaja area.

Pale-billed Flowerpecker

Dicaeum erythrorhynchos ceylonense

(6) 2 en route 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 4 Horton Plains NP 2.2, 1 en route 3.2, 1 Sinharaja NP 7.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Common.

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*

Purple-rumped Sunbird

Leptocoma zeylonica zeylonica

(8) Up to 4 Kitulgala 30-1.2, 2 en route 30.1, 4 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and up to 4 Sinharaja NP 6-8.2.

The most common and widespread sunbird in Sri Lanka.

Purple Sunbird

Cinnyris asiaticus asiaticus

(1) 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Only seen in Yala NP.

Loten's Sunbird

Cinnyris lotenius lotenius

(5) 4 Kitulgala 30.1, 4 Kitulgala 31.1, 2 en route 1.2 and 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Many seen in lowlands.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus indicus

(4) 6 en route 1.2.

Seen in towns and villages.

Weavers, Widowbirds *Ploceidae*

Streaked Weaver

Ploceus manyar flaviceps

(2) 5 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

Seen well in the Tissamaharama area and then another male dropped in right in front of us in Bundala NP, an uncommon species on the tour.

Waxbills, Munias and allies *Estrildidae***Indian Silverbill***Euodice malabarica*

(1) 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

We finally found a small flock in Yala NP after searching in the grasslands.

White-rumped Munia*Lonchura striata striata*

(4) Up to 8 Kitulgala 30-1.2 and 2 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Common and widespread.

Scaly-breasted Munia*Lonchura punctulata punctulata*

(6) 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 Kitulgala 1.2, 10 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 20 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

The most common munia species in Sri Lanka.

Black-throated Munia (NE)*Lonchura kelaarti kelaarti*

(3) 10 Horton Plains NP 2.2, 2 Sinharaja NP 7.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

A small flock seen distantly in Horton Plains NP and then we enjoyed great views of this near-endemic as a pair was nest building in Sinharaja.

Tricolored Munia*Lonchura malacca*

(3) 1 en route 30.1, 1 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 3 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Seen well in various locations.

Wagtails, Pipits *Motacillidae***Forest Wagtail***Dendronanthus indicus*

(2) 2 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2 and 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Seen very well in Victoria Park in Nuwara Eliya.

Western Yellow Wagtail*Motacilla flava thunbergi*

(3) 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 30 Udawalawe NP 5.2, 2 Bundala NP 5.2 and 10 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Good numbers in the lowlands.

Citrine Wagtail*Motacilla citreola citreola*

(1) 1 Embilipitiya 6.2.

A rare species in Sri Lanka, but we saw one well outside of Uda Walawe NP.

Grey Wagtail*Motacilla cinerea cinerea*

(3) 1 Kitulgala 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1, 1 Horton Plains NP 2.2 and 2 Nuwara Eliya area 2.2.

Widespread especially in the highlands.

Richard's Pipit*Anthus richardi*

(2) 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 1 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Seen inside and outside of Uda Walawe NP.

Paddyfield Pipit*Anthus rufulus rufulus*

(5) 6 Horton Plains NP 2.2, 4 Nuwara Eliya area 3.2, 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 2 Embilipitiya 6.2.

The most common and widespread pipit in Sri Lanka.

Blyth's Pipit*Anthus godlewskii*

(1) 1 Embilipitiya 6.2.

One individual seen outside Uda Walawe NP.

Mammals (21 in total: 21 seen)

Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Elephants *Elephantidae*

Asian Elephant

Elephas maximus maximus

(3) 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 10 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 1 Embilipitiya 6.2.

The charging tusker in Yala NP was the most memorable encounter with this species that is common in lowland national parks, but seeing a very young one was also fun.

Old World monkeys *Cercopithecidae*

Toque Macaque

Macaca sinica

(5) 10 en route 30.1 and 20 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

Widespread and often seen alongside the road.

Tufted Grey Langur

Semnopithecus priam thersites

(3) 10 en route 3.2 and 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Seen well in the dry zone.

Purple-faced Langur

Trachypithecus vetulus

(5) 4 heard Nuwara Eliya area 1.2, 6 Horton Plains NP 2.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 6.2.

We saw the very furry highland subspecies sometimes known as "bear monkey" in Horton Plains NP and also had great views of the darker wet zone subspecies in Sinharaja.

Rabbits, Hares *Leporidae*

Indian Hare

Lepus nigricollis

(2) 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Bundala NP 5.2.

Seen well in Yala NP where it sat still out in the open.

Squirrels *Sciuridae*

Layard's Palm Squirrel

Funambulus layardi

(3) 1 Sinharaja NP 6.2 and 2 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

This species was easily identified by its darker colour in Sinharaja where it was fairly common.

Common Palm Squirrel

Funambulus palmarum

(7) 2 en route 30.1.

Widespread and abundant.

Dusky-striped Squirrel

Funambulus sublineatus

(1) 1 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

Seen briefly in Horton Plains NP.

Large Brown Flying Squirrel

Petaurista philippensis

(1) 1 Nuwara Eliya area 1.2.

This one took us by surprise as it "flew" into the tree right above us at dusk on the edge of Nuwara Eliya where we had staked out the whistling thrush.

Grizzled Giant Squirrel

Ratufa macroura

(3) 1 Kitulgala 30.1, 1 en route 3.2 and 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

We saw both the dark wet zone subspecies and lighter grey dry zone subspecies.

Mongoose *Herpestidae***Indian Brown Mongoose***Herpestes fuscus*

(1) 2 Horton Plains NP 2.2.

A rare mongoose seen well in Horton Plains NP and again in the Sinharaja area.

Ruddy Mongoose*Herpestes smithii*

(3) 8 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2, 1 Udawalawe NP 5.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

The most common mongoose of the tour with many excellent views.

Wolves, Coyote, Foxes, Jackals *Canidae***Golden Jackal***Canis aureus*

(2) 2 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 2 Udawalawe NP 5.2.

Seen well as they loafed in the open.

Weasels, Skunks, Otters *Mustelidae***Eurasian Otter***Lutra lutra*

(1) 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

One glimpsed in the river at Sinharaja.

Pigs *Suidae***Wild Boar***Sus scrofa*

(1) 30 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Big groups with young seen in Yala NP.

Chevrotains *Tragulidae***White-spotted Chevrotain***Moschiola meminna*

(1) 1 Sinharaja NP 9.2.

One ran through the feeding area we staked out in Sinharaja.

Deer *Cervidae***Chital***Axis axis*

(3) 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2 and 1 Embilipitiya 6.2.

Common especially in Yala NP.

Southern Red Muntjac*Muntiacus muntjak*

(1) 1 Horton Plains NP 1.2.

Seen well in a field as we were driving back from Horton Plains NP.

Sambar*Rusa unicolor*

(3) 1 Nuwara Eliya area 1.2, 10 Horton Plains NP 2.2 and 8 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

A big deer species common in the larger national parks.

Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats *Bovidae***Domestic Water Buffalo***Bubalus bubalis*

Observed 2 day(s) in total.

Seen in the larger national parks.

Old World Fruit Bats *Pteropodidae***Indian Flying Fox***Pteropus giganteus*

(1) 500 Tissamaharama 3.2.

A huge roost seen in the Tissamaharama area where many were already flying around at dusk.

Reptiles (7 in total: 7 seen)

Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Softshell Turtles *Trionychidae*

Indian Flapshell Turtle

Lissemys punctata

(1) 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Seen well at a small pond in Yala NP.

Agamas *Agamidae*

Common Green Forest Lizard

Calotes calotes

(3) 1 Kitulgala 30.1, 1 Kitulgala 31.1 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Males with bright red heads seen.

Eastern Garden Lizard

Calotes versicolor

(1) 1 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

More common in dry areas.

Mountain Horned Agama

Ceratophora stoddartii

(1) 1 Nuwara Eliya area 1.2.

Seen well on the edge of Nuwara Eliya.

Wiegmann's Agama

Otocryptis wiegmanni

(1) 1 Kitulgala 1.2.

Also known as a kangaroo lizard.

Monitor Lizards *Varanidae*

Water Monitor

Varanus salvator

(2) 5 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Many noted.

Water Monitor

Varanus salvator salvator

(2) 1 Kitulgala 1.2 and 1 Sinharaja NP 8.2.

Often seen en route.

Crocodiles and relatives *Crocodylidae*

Mugger Crocodile

Crocodylus palustris

(3) 3 Tissamaharama 3.2 and 10 Yala NP - Buthawa Wewa 4.2.

Some massive individuals were seen in larger wetlands.

Rockjumper Birding Ltd

The Hive, Lot 23

Centre Commercial du Barachois

La Place Cap, Tamarin

Mauritius

Tel: (USA & Canada) toll-free: 1-888-990-5552

Email: info@rockjumperbirding.com

Alternative email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com

Website: www.rockjumperbirding.com