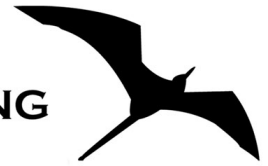




**TROPICAL
BIRDING**



**SRI LANKA
CEYLON SOJOURN**

A Tropical Birding Set Departure

January 20 – February 2, 2018

**Guides: Ken Behrens &
Saman Kumara**

Report and photos by Ken
Behrens

TOUR SUMMARY

The Indian Subcontinent is rich, both in human culture and history and in biological treasures. Sri Lanka is a large island at the southern tip of this region, lying a short distance from the Indian mainland. It contains a rich selection of the birds, mammals, and other wildlife of the subcontinent, which thrive in a selection of delightful protected areas; enough to thoroughly recommend it as a destination for a travelling birder. But even more alluringly, Sri Lanka is home to dozens of endemic birds – 33 given current Clements taxonomy, though this number is sure to continue to climb as distinctive subspecies are split as full species. Sri Lanka has decent infrastructure, excellent food, good lodges, and wonderfully kind and hospitable people. This short and sweet tour is equally attractive to those eager for their first taste of the Indian subcontinent, or to those who have travelled it extensively, and want to see the island's endemic birds.

As on all of our tours in recent years, we “cleaned up” on the endemics, enjoying great views of all 33 of them. This set of endemics includes a bunch of delightful birds, such as Sri Lanka Junglefowl, Sri Lanka Spurfowl, Serendib Scops-Owl, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Sri Lanka Hanging-Parrot, Red-faced Malkoha, Crimson-backed Woodpecker, Green-billed Coucal, Sri

Lanka Blue Magpie, Sri Lanka and Spot-winged Thrushes, Yellow-eared Bulbul, and White-throated (Legge's) Flowerpecker.

Although the endemics are the always the focus, we enjoyed excellent birding overall, tallying 257 species. At the end of the trip, all the participants and guides voted for the top sightings of the trip. The full results are below. Two of the top eight were mammals, and only two were endemic birds – a testament to the diverse nature of this tour. Non-endemic avian highlights were legion. To just mention a few... We started the trip in the southwestern “wet zone” at Kitulgala and Sinharaja. This is where the vast majority of the Ceylon endemics are found, in addition to a bunch of birds that are endemic to the southern Indian subcontinent. These include prizes like Legge's Hawk-Eagle, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Malabar Trogon, Orange Minivet, Yellow-browed Bulbul, and Dark-fronted Babbler.

Most of the rest of the trip was spent in the “dry zone”, which has a conspicuous and abundant avifauna. Just a few highlights of the incredibly birdy southeast included Indian Peafowl, Crested Hawk-Eagle, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Gray-headed Fish-Eagle, Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon, Blue-faced Malkoha, Chestnut-winged, Pied, and Gray-bellied Cuckoos, Crested Treeswift, White-naped Woodpecker, Jerdon's



Despite its name, the Sri Lankan Frogmouth isn't endemic, but it is a fabulous and weird bird, and we enjoyed great views of a pair at Sinharaja.

Leafbird, White-tailed (Marshall's) Iora, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Streaked and Baya Weavers, and Tricolored Munia.

Like much of the Indian subcontinent, Sri Lanka is excellent for nocturnal birds, most of which can be found during the day with the help of excellent local guides and helpers. Without doing a single nocturnal owling expedition, we saw six species of owls, including Brown Fish-Owl and Jungle Owlet. We also stayed at a stakeout until just after dusk one evening to find Jerdon's and Indian Nightjars, which both have delightful and very different calls.



One of six species of owls that we saw in broad daylight: a Brown Fish-Owl in Yala National Park.

Sri Lanka has excellent and extensive wetlands, where we saw birds like Cotton Pygmy-Goose, Black-necked and Painted Storks, Lesser Adjutant, Spot-billed Pelican, Yellow and Black Bitterns, Indian and Great Thick-knees, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, and Small and Oriental Pratincoles, plus a wide array of wintering shorebirds.

To the surprise of some, who don't expect many big mammals on this relatively small and heavily inhabited island, Sri Lanka is excellent for mammals, and we tallied 21 species. Most of these were in three well-protected and well-visited "safari" parks in the southeast, where we enjoyed the likes of Asian Elephant, Asian Water Buffalo, Spotted Deer, Ruddy Mongoose, and a single beautiful Leopard. But the rainforest also holds mammals, including most of the island's endemics. These include the playful Layard's Palm-Squirrel and handsome Purple-faced Langur.



**Sometimes bird and mammal sightings come concurrently!
A White-browed Fantail on a Chital or Spotted Deer.**

As is typical with Tropical Birding trips, we didn't ignore other groups of creatures either. We identified 14 species of reptiles, which included some cool endemics: Lyre-headed and Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizards, and Sri Lanka Green Pit Viper. Butterflies formed another wonderful sources of diversion, and often became active just as the birding was getting quiet. We identified 48 species of butterflies, including the huge Sri Lanka Birdwing, and beautiful endemic Ceylon Rose and Sri Lankan Treebrown.



The Sirkeer Malkoha is a scarce bird found across the Indian subcontinent. We had great views in Uda Walawe NP.

Overall, this was just an enjoyable and hassle-free tour. It would be hard for anyone not to enjoy this trip, whether they're a casual birder on their first visit to the subcontinent or a keen lister in search of the endemics.

We had lots of time to enjoy and photograph each creature we sighted. Although we worked hard at times, and found all the endemic birds, there was time on most days for a siesta during the mid-day heat, so no one was worn down by the end of the tour. The food was wonderful throughout. Even those who have been scared or scarred by fiery Indian curries will probably find that they enjoy the vibrant though much milder dishes of Sri Lankan cuisine. One particular culinary highlight that bears mentioning is the creamy buffalo curd (yogurt) that we enjoyed almost every day. In particular, the homemade clay pot curd at Tissamaharama was superb. This town is actually famous across the island for its curd, and we could easily see why! Last but not least, we had an excellent, amiable group, which went a long way to make Saman's and my job easy!



One of 32 endemics, the rainbow-colored Sri Lanka Junglefowl.

TOP 5 TOUR SIGHTINGS

As voted by the tour participants and guides

1) Sri Lanka Thrush – 9 VOTES. This cryptic beauty is incredibly shy, and is one of the hardest-to-find endemic birds. We enjoyed incredible luck with this bird, finding it within an hour of entering Sinharaja National Park. Once located, a single bird sat for more than 30 minutes, allowing detailed scope views.



2) Pheasant-tailed Jacana – 8 VOTES.

These birds have their fantastic breeding plumage at this season, and are calling and flying around Sri Lanka's wetlands. Unforgettable!



Leopard – 8 VOTES. Twelve hours into our day in Yala National Park, which is renowned as the best spot on Earth for Leopard, we still hadn't seen the park's famous cat. But just a few minutes before sunset, we finally lucked into a big, beautiful, spotty male leopard lounging next to the road. Views were brief, but sighting this top predator was satisfying.

3) Asian Elephant – 7 VOTES. We saw dozens of Asian Elephants, both at Uda Walawe and Yala National Parks. Our best encounter, the one shown below, was when a big female walked up the road behind our vehicle and passed us, nearly brushing our shoulders and the side of the vehicle. Few things get your adrenaline pumping like a close encounter with an animal that weights over two tons!



4) **Indian Pitta – 6 VOTES.** For half of the group, this was their first-ever Asian pitta. These birds are found all over the Asian and Australasian tropics, but few are easier to see than the Indian Pitta, which is astoundingly common and tame on its wintering grounds in southern India and Sri Lanka.



Green-billed Coucal – 6 VOTES. We had a couple of memorable encounters with this coucal, which is one of the rarest and most reclusive endemic birds



5) **Crimson-winged Cuckoo – 5 VOTES.** This huge cuckoo is rare across its whole range, and especially scarce in Sri Lanka, where it is thought to be a non-breeding visitor. So it was exciting to see a Chestnut-winged Cuckoo shoot across the road in front of us in Bundala National Park. Thankfully it stuck around for long enough to give us a couple more views before disappearing for good.

Sri Lanka Gray & Malabar Pied Hornbills – 5 VOTES. The hornbills are among the most spectacular birds of the Old World tropics. There are two species in Sri Lanka. The Gray is endemic, while the Malabar Pied (shown below) is shared with India.



ITINERARY

January 20	Colombo to Kitulaga.
January 21-22	Kitulaga area.
January 23	Kitulaga to Sinharaja
January 24-25	Sinharaja NP and surrounds.
January 26	Sinharaja to Embilipitiya.
January 27	Uda Walawe NP. Afternoon to Tissamaharama.
January 28	Bundala NP and Tissamaharama.
January 29	Yala NP.
January 30	Tissamaharama to Nuwara Eliya.
January 31	Horton Plains NP. Late afternoon in Victoria Park.
February 1	Nuwara Eliya to Kandy.
February 2	Kandy to Colombo.



A Green Imperial Pigeon being photo-bombed by a Yellow-fronted Barbet! This photo makes you realize what a monster the pigeon is – the barbet isn't a small bird in its own right, but it looks tiny compared with the "GIMP".

PHOTO GALLERY

Follows trip chronology

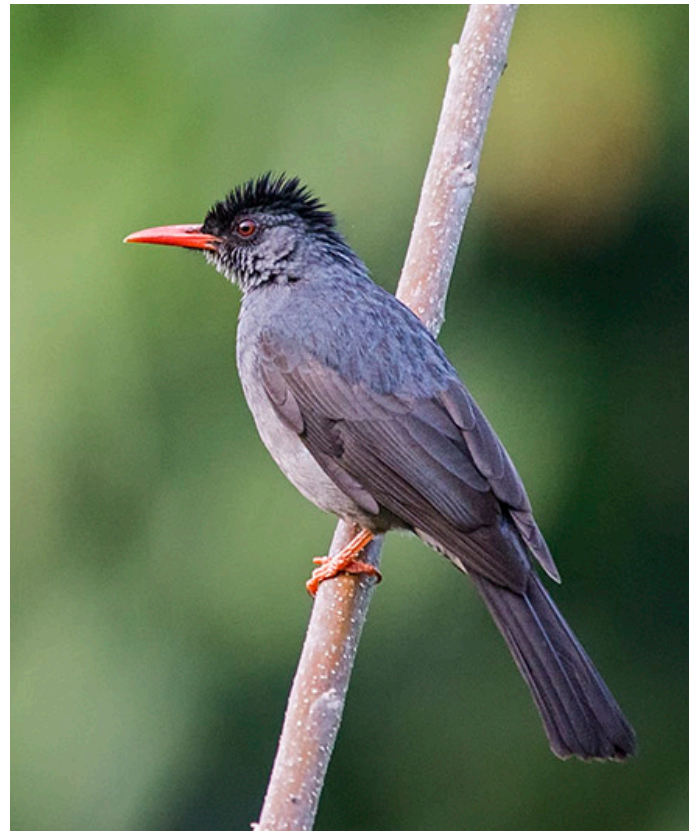


On our first morning, in Colombo, we visited a pond that was presided over by a very territorial Pheasant-tailed Jacana, which was calling, flying around, and chasing away intruders like this Large-billed Crow.





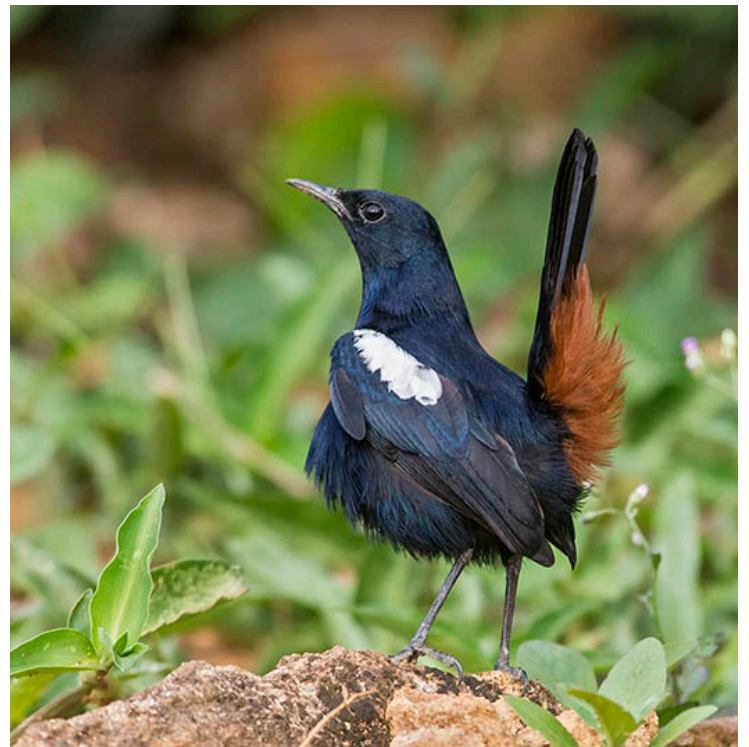
One of the first endemics that we spotted was the hefty Sri Lanka Swallow.



Two subcontinental endemics: Yellow-billed Babbler (left) and Square-tailed Bulbul (right).



At Kitulgala, we started ticking off the endemics. By the time we left, we had already seen over half of them. On our first morning in the area, we enjoyed good views of the Brown-capped Babbler.



Two birds with endemic Sri Lankan subspecies: Black-rumped Flameback (left) and Indian Robin (right). The flameback is a likely future split.



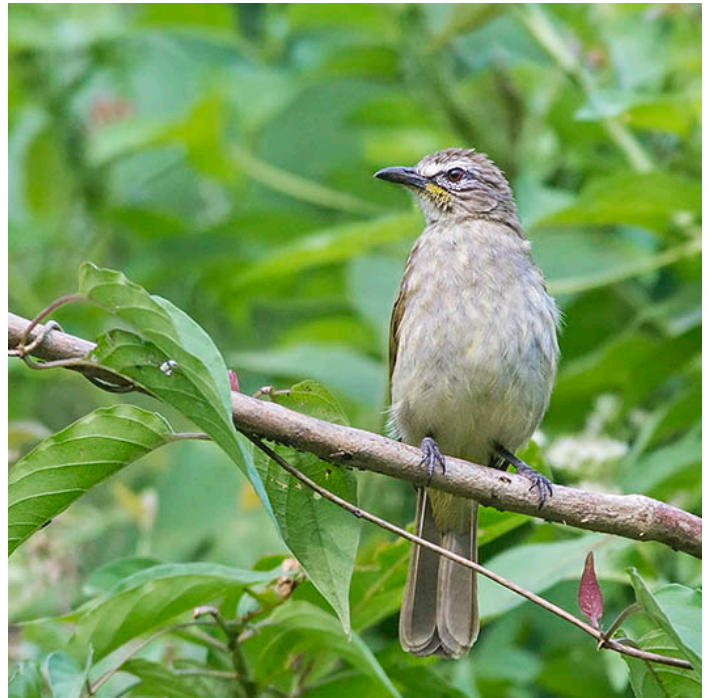
White-throated or Legge's Flowerpecker: male (left) and female (right).



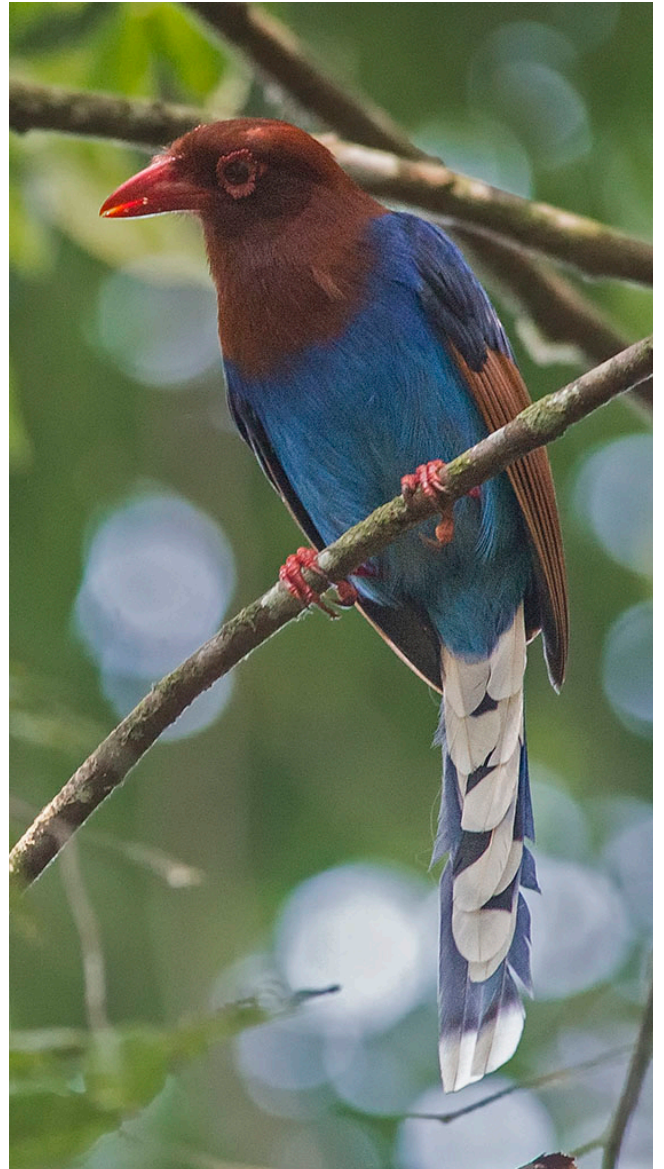
Sri Lanka Hanging-Parrot is usually seen in flight, so perched views were much enjoyed.



Chestnut-backed Owlet is one of the trickier-to-find endemic species.



Close encounters at Kitulgala: Dark-fronted Babbler (left) and White-browed Bulbul (right).



Endemic prizes in Sinharaja: Sri Lanka Green Pit Viper (left) and Sri Lanka Blue Magpie (right).



We had great views of the inconspicuous and uncommon Black-throated Munia.



The Ashy-headed Laughingthrush is a rather rare species that is confined to the wet zone.



Sri Lanka Junglefowl is the national bird, and with good reason – it's widespread and beautiful.



A pair of endemics: Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard (left) and Serendib Scops-Owl (right).



A White-rumped Munia chowing down on some seeding grass.



Purple-faced Langur is a beautiful endemic primate.



Our last mission in the wet zone was to visit a remote farmhouse whose owners feed kitchen scraps to an array of birds including the scarce and shy Sri Lanka Spurfowl.



Heading to the dry zone, we found an entirely new set of birds waiting for us. The birding was also delightfully easy after a week in the rainforest. On our first afternoon, near Uda Walawe NP, we found a couple of scarce birds: Yellow-crowned Woodpecker (left) and White-tailed or Marshall's Iora (right).



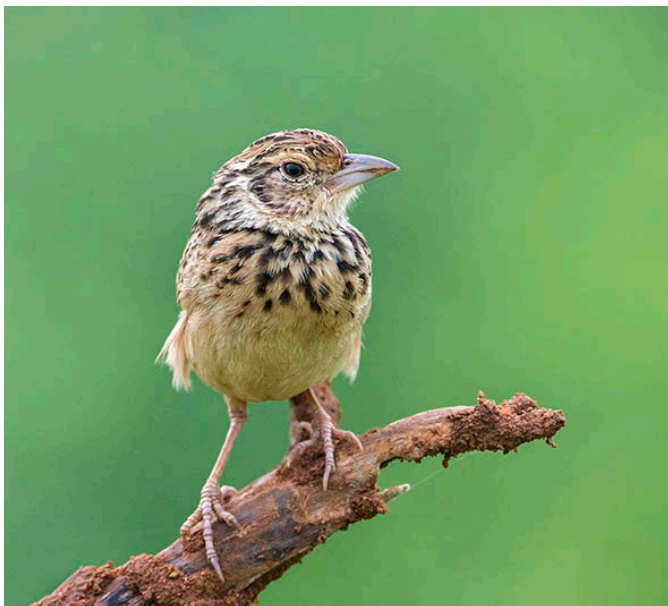
Rose-ringed Parrot is common and widespread in the subcontinent, but certainly a beautiful bird nonetheless.



The Yellow-wattled Lapwing is the less common of the country's two lapwing species.



The Yellow-eyed Babbler has a snappy song that is reminiscent of a White-eyed Vireo.



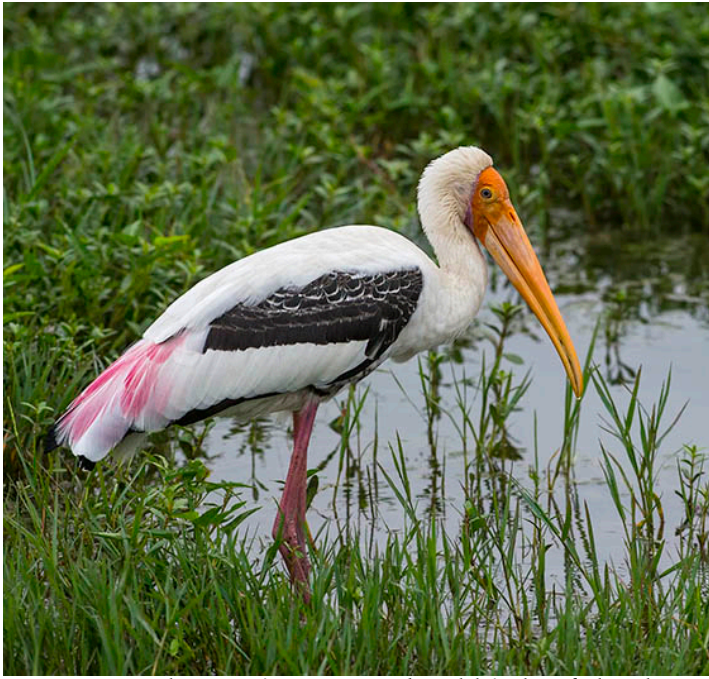
In Uda Walawe, we saw lots of Jerdon's Bushlarks (left) and Orange-breasted Green-Pigeons (right).



Coppersmith Barbet feeds like a miniature woodpecker.



Displaying Indian Peafowl is a spectacular bird from any angle.



Large and conspicuous wetland birds of the dry zone: Painted Stork (left) and Spot-billed Pelican (right).



Lesser Whistling-Duck leading its whistling-ducklings to safety.



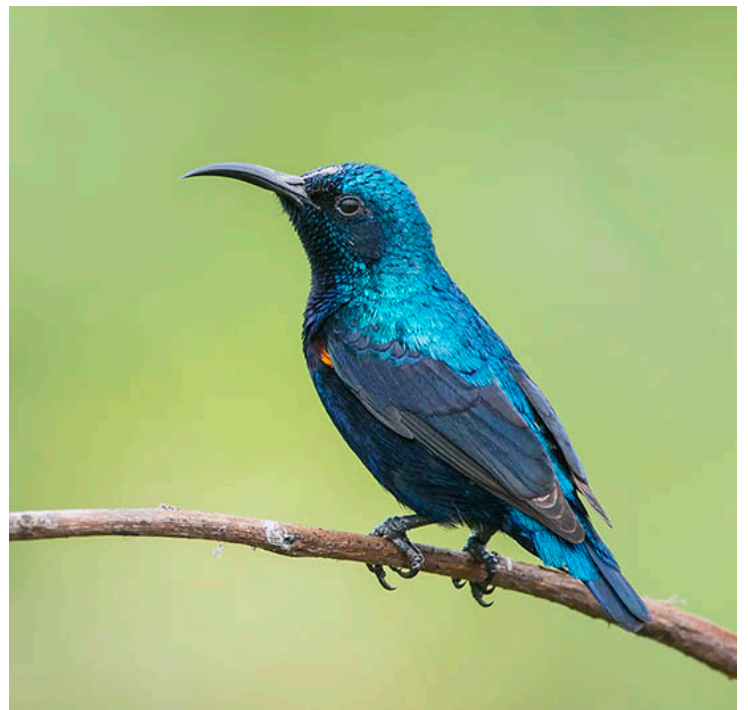
We saw several photogenic troops of Tufted Gray Langurs in Bundala National Park.



Blue-tailed Bee-eaters winter in Sri Lanka in large numbers.



In Tissa, we savored a lengthy scope view of the fabulous Crested Treeswift.



Dry country beauties: Little Green Bee-eater (left) and Purple Sunbird (right).



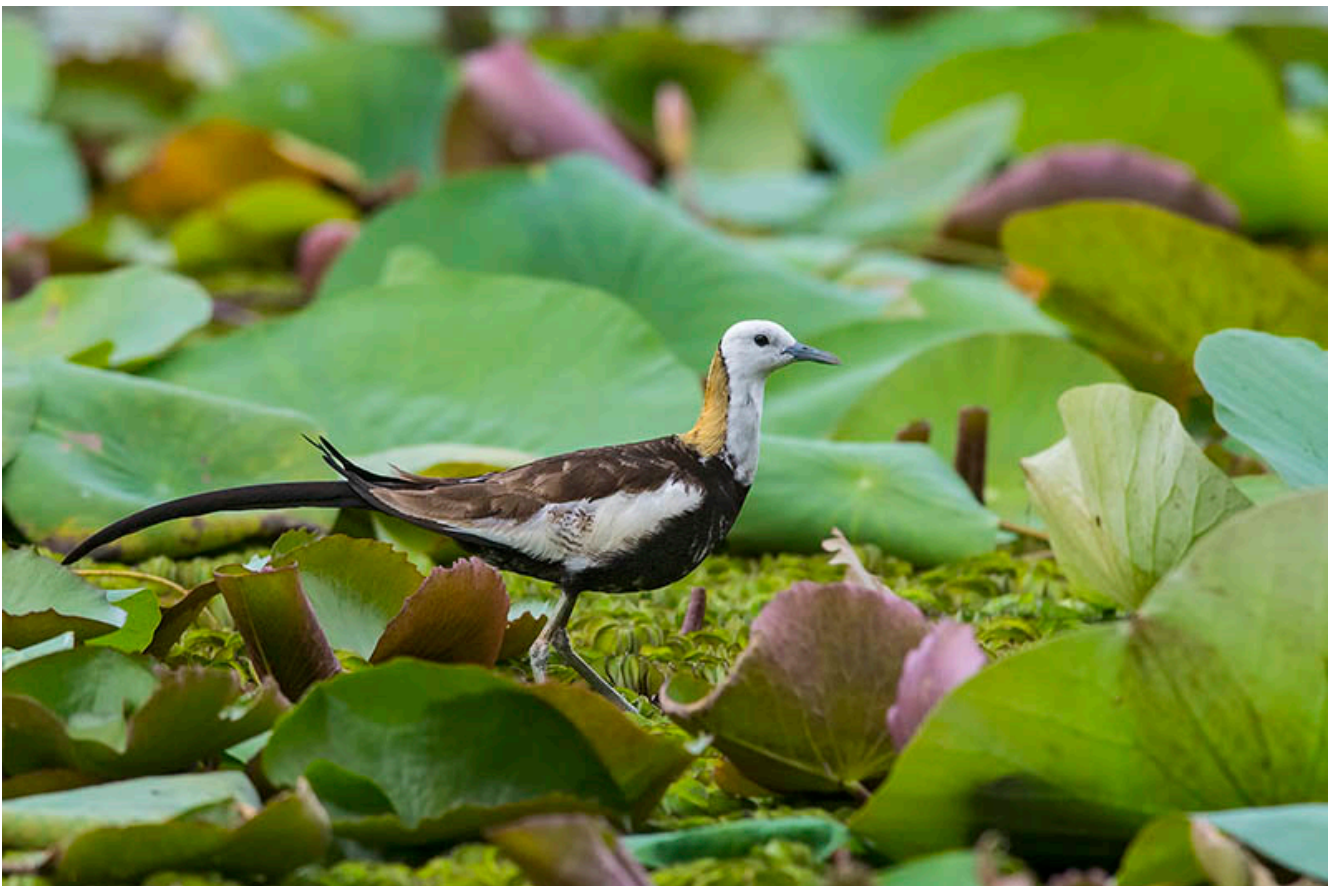
In Yala NP, we enjoyed the breeding antics of a small colony of Streaked Weavers.



This Slaty-legged Crake came as a surprise sighting in Yala.

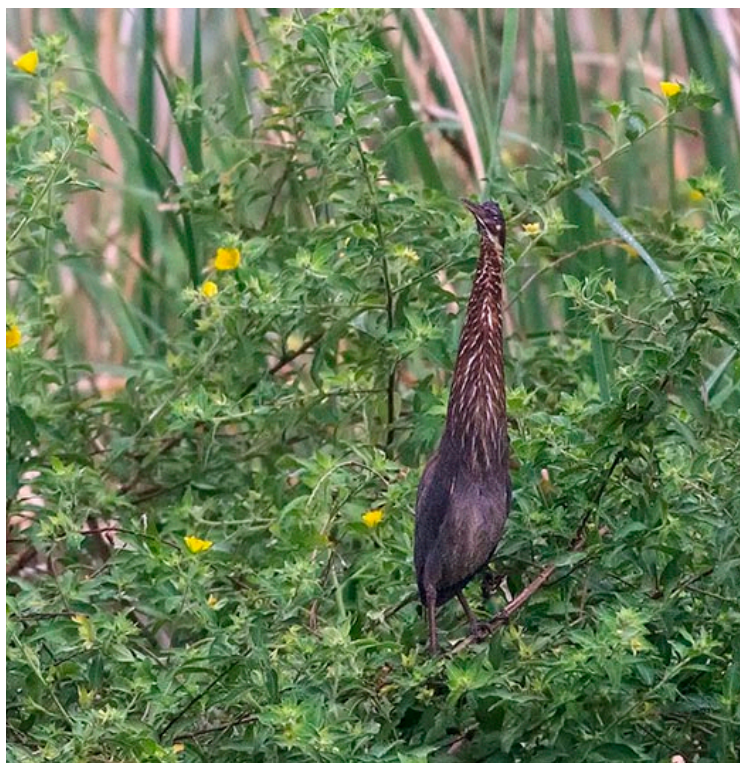
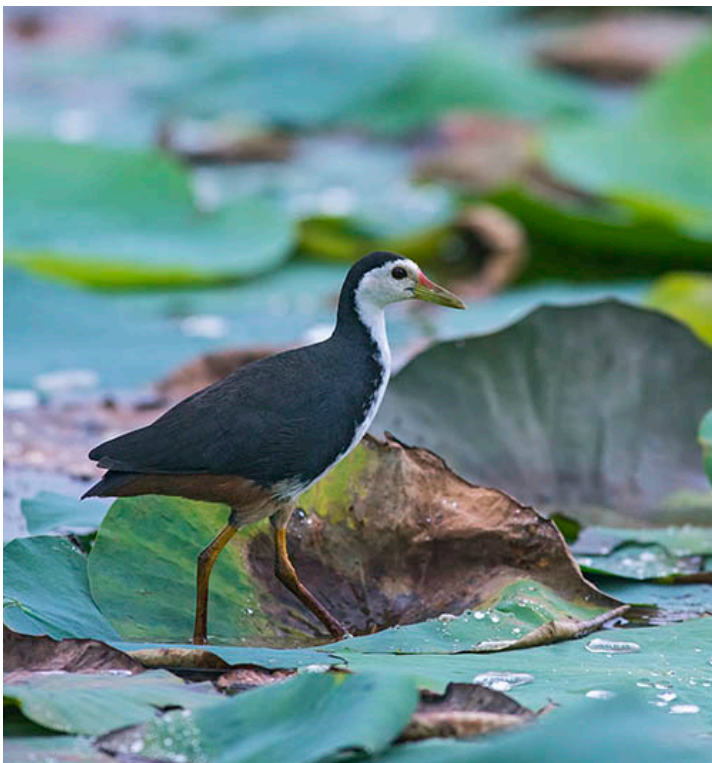


Around Tissa, we were treated to more delightful Pheasant-tailed Jacanas.





White-naped Woodpecker is a scarce resident, and a specialty of the Tissa area.



White-breasted Waterhen (left) is common, while finding Black Bittern (right) required a long search.



**In the highlands, our last few endemics awaited.
These included Sri Lanka White-eye (left) and Yellow-eared Bulbul (right).**



The Dull-blue Flycatcher is a highland endemic, and a nicer bird than its name suggests!



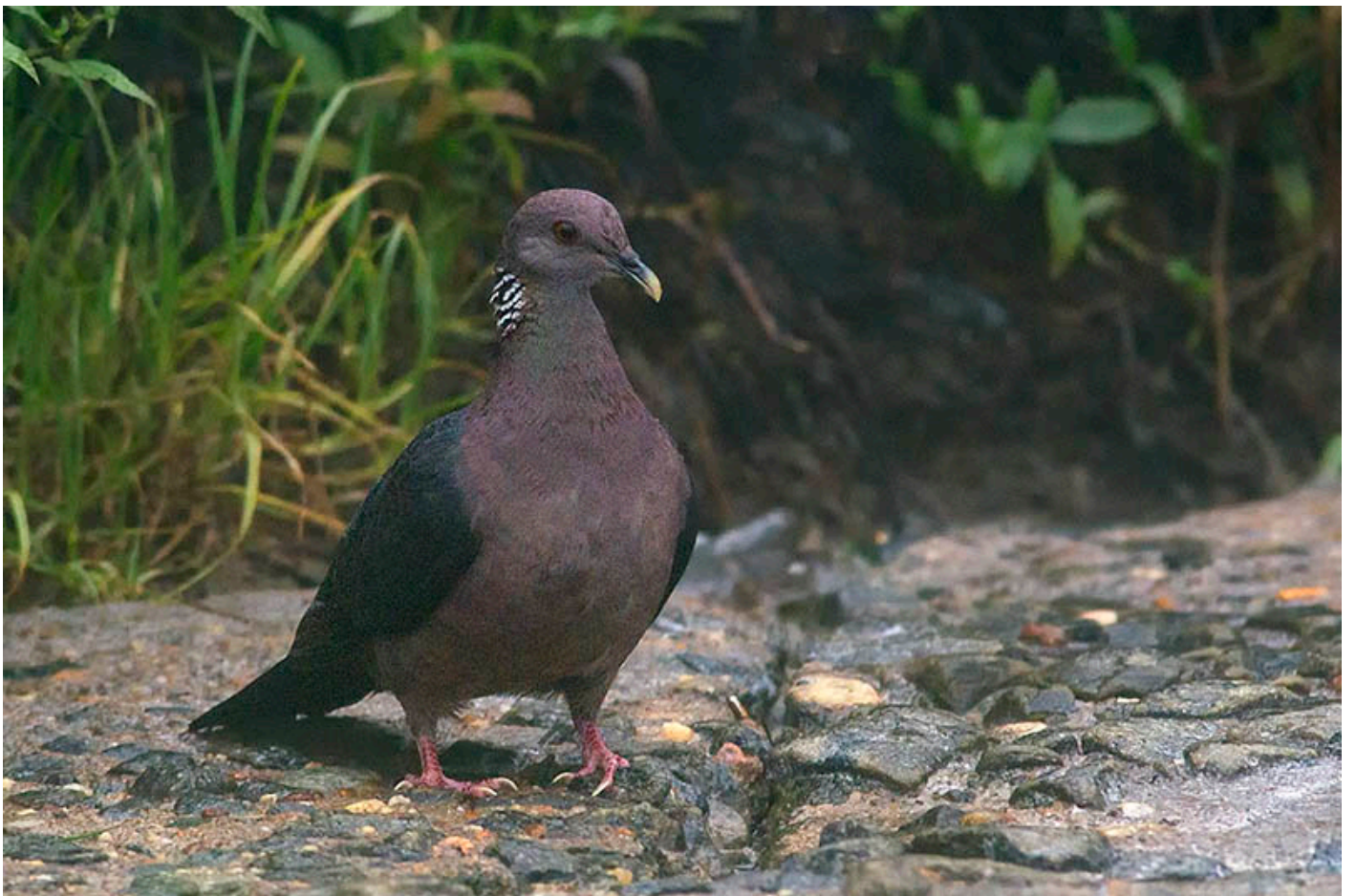
Pied Bushchat is common in open country in the highlands.



The Hill Swallow is only found at the highest elevations within Sri Lanka.



Victoria Park, right in the middle of bustling Nuwara Eliya, hosts wintering Forest Wagtails.



The Sri Lanka Woodpigeon can be one of the hardest-to-see endemics.

BIRD LIST

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow *The eBird-Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World v2017* (including updates through August 2017).

DUCKS, GEESE & WATERFOWL		ANATIDAE	
	Lesser Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	
	Cotton Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	
	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	
PHEASANTS, GROUSE & ALLIES		PHASIANIDAE	
	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Junglefowl	<i>Gallus lafayetii</i>	
GREBES		PODICIPEDIDAE	
	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	
STORKS		CICONIIDAE	
	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	
	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	
	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	
	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	
	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	
CORMORANTS & SHAGS		PHALACROCORACIDAE	
	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	
	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	
ANHINGAS		ANHINGIDAE	
	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	
PELICANS		PELECANIDAE	
	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	
HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS		ARDEIDAE	
	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	
	Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	

	Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	
	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	
	Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	
	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
	(Eastern) Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	
	Indian Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	
	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	
IBISES & SPOONBILLS		THRESKIORNITHIDAE	
	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	
	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	
OSPREY		PANDIONIDAE	
	(Western) Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus haliaetus</i>	
HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES		ACCIPITRIDAE	
	Black-shouldered (-winged) Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	
	Oriental (Crested) Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	
Essp	Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela spilogaster</i>	
Essp	Crested (Changeable) Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirratus ceylanensis</i>	
SSE	Legge's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus kelaarti</i>	
	Rufous-bellied (Hawk-) Eagle	<i>Lophotriorchis kienerii</i>	
	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>	
	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	
	Eurasian (Western) Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	
	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	
	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	
	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus besra</i>	
	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliaeetus indus</i>	
	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	
	Gray-headed Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichhyaetus</i>	
RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS		RALLIDAE	

	Slaty-legged Crake	<i>Rallina eurizonoides</i>	
	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	
	Slaty-breasted Rail	<i>Gallirallus striatus</i>	
	Ruddy-breasted Crake	<i>Porzana fusca zeylonica</i>	
	Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>	
	Gray-headed Swamphe	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>	
	Eurasian (Common) Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	G
THICK-KNEES		BURHINIDAE	
	Indian Thick-knee (Stone-curlew)	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>	
	Great Thick-knee (Stone-curlew)	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	
STILTS & AVOCETS		RECURVIROSTRIDAE	
	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	
PLOVERS & LAPWINGS		CHARADRIIDAE	
	Black-bellied (Gray) Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
	Pacific Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	
	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	
Essp	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus lankae</i>	
	Lesser Sand-Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus atrifrons</i>	
	Greater Sand-Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	
	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus seebohmi</i>	
	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	
	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
JACANAS		JACANIIDAE	
	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	
SANDPIPERS & ALLIES		SCOLOPACIDAE	
	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>	
	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	
	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	

	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	
	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	
	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	
	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	
	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	
	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	
BUTTONQUAIL		TURNICIDAE	
Essp	Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator leggei</i>	
PRATINCOLES & COURSERS		GLAREOLIDAE	
	Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	
	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	
GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS		LARIDAE	
	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>	
	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	
	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	
	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	
	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	
	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	
	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	
	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
	Great (Greater) Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	
	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	
PIGEONS & DOVES		COLUMBIDAE	
	Rock (Common) Pigeon (Rock Dove)	<i>Columba livia</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Wood-Pigeon	<i>Columba torringtoniae</i>	
	Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis suratensis</i>	
Essp	Asian Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica robinsoni</i>	

Essp	Orange-breasted (Green) Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus leggei</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron pompadora</i>	
	Green Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea pusilla</i>	
CUCKOOS		CUCULIDAE	
E	Green-billed Coucal	<i>Centropus chlororhynchus</i>	
	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis parroti</i>	
	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii leschenaultii</i>	
E	Red-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus</i>	
SSE	Blue-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>	
	Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i>	
	Pied (Jacobin) Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus jacobinus</i>	
	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	
Essp	Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii waiti</i>	
	Gray-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	
Essp	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius ciceliae</i>	
BARN-OWLS		TYTONIDAE	
	(Eastern) Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	
OWLS		STRIGIDAE	
E	Serendib Scops-Owl	<i>Otus thilohoffmanni</i>	
	Indian (Collared) Scops-Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	
Essp	Brown Fish-Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis zeylonensis</i>	
	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	
E	Chestnut-backed Owlet	<i>Glaucidium castanonotum</i>	
Essp	Brown Wood-Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica ochrogenys</i>	H
FROGMOUTHS		PODARGIDAE	
SSE	Sri Lanka Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>	
NIGHTJARS & ALLIES		CAPRIMULGIDAE	
SSE / Essp	Jerdon's Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus atripennis aequabilis</i>	
Essp	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus eidos</i>	
SWIFTS		APODIDAE	

SSE	Indian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>	
Essp	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba bakeri</i>	
	Little (House) Swift	<i>Apus affinis singalensis</i>	
	Asian Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	
TREESWIFTS		HEMIROCNIDAE	
	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	
TROGONS		TROGONIDAE	
SSE / Essp	Malabar Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus fasciatus</i>	
HOOPOES		UPUPIDAE	
	Eurasian (Common) Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	
HORNBILLS		BUCEROTIDAE	
E	Sri Lanka Gray Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros gingalensis</i>	
SSE	Malabar Pied-Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>	
KINGFISHERS		ALCEDINIDAE	
	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis taprobana</i>	
	Black-backed (Oriental) Dwarf-Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx erithaca</i>	
	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	
	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	
	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	
BEE-EATERS		MEROPIIDAE	
	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	
	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	
	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	
	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	
ROLLERS		CORACIIDAE	
	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis indicus</i>	
ASIAN BARBETS		MEGALAIMIDAE	
E	Crimson-fronted Barbet	<i>Megalaima rubricapillus</i>	
	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>	
	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus zeylanicus</i>	

E	Yellow-fronted Barbet	<i>Psilopogon flavifrons</i>	
WOODPECKERS		PICIDAE	
Essp	Brown-capped (Sri Lanka) Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos nanus gymnophthalmus</i>	
	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>	
Essp	Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus wellsii</i>	
Essp	Black-rumped (Sri Lanka) Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense psarodes</i>	
E	Crimson-backed (Goldenback) Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i>	
Essp	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus tantus</i>	
OLD WORLD PARROTS		PSITTACULIDAE	
	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria eupatria</i>	
	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri manillensis</i>	
	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	
E	Layard's Parakeet	<i>Psittacula calthropae</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Hanging-Parrot	<i>Loriculus beryllinus</i>	
PITTAS		PITTIDAE	
	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	
VANGAS, HELMETSHRIKES & ALLIES		VANGIDAE	
E	Sri Lanka Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis affinis</i>	
Essp	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus leggei</i>	
WOODSWALLOWS		ARTAMIDAE	
	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	
IORAS		AEGITHINIDAE	
	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia multicolor</i>	
	White-tailed (Marshall's) Iora	<i>Aegithina nigrolutea</i>	
CUCKOOSHRIKES		CAMPEPHAGIDAE	
	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus</i>	
SSE	Orange (Scarlet) Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	
	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei layardi</i>	
	Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage melanoptera</i>	
SHRIKES		LANIIDAE	

	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	
OLD WORLD ORIOLES		ORIOLIDAE	
	Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>	
Essp	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus ceylonensis</i>	
DRONGOS		DICRURIDAE	
Essp	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens leucopygialis</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Drongo	<i>Dicrurus lophorinus</i>	
FANTAILS		RHIPIDURIDAE	
	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola compressirostris</i>	
MONARCH FLYCATCHERS		MONARCHIDAE	
Essp	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea ceylonensis</i>	
Essp	Indian Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi ceylonensis</i>	
CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES		CORVIDAE	
E	Sri Lanka Blue-Magpie	<i>Urocissa ornata</i>	
Essp	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens protegatus</i>	
	Large-billed Crow (Indian Jungle Crow)	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos culminatus</i>	
LARKS		ALAUDIDAE	
	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>	
SSE	Jerdon's Bushlark	<i>Mirafra affinis</i>	
	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	
SWALLOWS		HIRUNDINIDAE	
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
SSE	Hill Swallow	<i>Hirundo domicola</i>	
	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Swallow	<i>Cecropis hyperythra</i>	
FAIRY FLYCATCHERS		STENOSTIRIDAE	
	Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	
TITS, CHICKADEES & TITMICE		PARIDAE	
	Cinereous (Great) Tit	<i>Parus cinereus mahrattarum</i>	
NUTHATCHES		SITTIDAE	

	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	
BULBULS		PYCNONOTIDAE	
E	Black-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>	
Essp	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer cafer</i>	
E	Yellow-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus penicillatus</i>	
SSE / Essp	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus insulae</i>	
SSE / Essp (SW)	Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Iole indica (guglielmi - SW)</i>	
SSE / Essp	Square-tailed (Black) Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes ganeesa humii</i>	
LEAF-WARBLERS		PYLLOSCOPIDAE	
	Green Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>	
	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	
	Large-billed Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>	
REED-WARBLERS & ALLIES		ACROCEPHALIDAE	
	Blyth's Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	
Essp	Clamorous Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus meridionalis</i>	
GRASSBIRDS & ALLIES		LOCUSTELLIDAE	
E	Sri Lanka Bush-Warbler	<i>Elaphrornis palliseri</i>	
CISTICOLAS & ALLIES		CISTICOLLIDAE	
Essp	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis omalurus</i>	
Essp	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius sutorius</i>	
Essp	Gray-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii pectoralis</i>	
Essp	Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica valida</i>	
Essp	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis brevicauda</i>	
Essp	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata insularis</i>	
SYLVIDS		SYLVIIDAE	
	Hume's Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia althaea</i>	
	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	
PARROTBILLS, WRENTIT & ALLIES		PARADOXORNITHIDAE	
Essp	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense nasale</i>	
WHITE-EYES, YUHINAS & ALLIES		ZOSTEROPIDAE	

E	Sri Lanka White-eye	<i>Zosterops ceylonensis</i>	
	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	
TREE-BABLERS, SCIMITAR-BABLERS & ALLIES		TIMALIIDAE	
Essp	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra phillipsi</i>	
SSE / Essp	Dark-fronted Babbler	<i>Rhopocichla atriceps nigrifrons</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus melanurus</i>	
GROUND BABBLERS & ALLIES		PELLORNEIDAE	
E	Brown-capped Babbler	<i>Pellorneum fuscocapillus</i>	
LAUGHINGTHRUSHES & ALLIES		LEIOTHRICHIDAE	
E	Orange-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides rufescens</i>	
SSE / Essp	Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis taprobana</i>	
E	Ashy-headed Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax cinereifrons</i>	
OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS		MUSCICAPIDAE	
	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa latirostris</i>	
	Brown-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>	
Essp	Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus leucopterus</i>	
	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis ceylonensis</i>	
Essp	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus leggei</i>	
Essp	Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae jerdoni</i>	
E	Dull-blue Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias sordidus</i>	
	Indian Blue Robin	<i>Larvivora brunnea</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Whistling-Thrush	<i>Myophonus blighi</i>	
	Kashmir Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula subrubra</i>	
Essp	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata atratus</i>	
THRUSHES & ALLIES		TURDIDAE	
	Pied Thrush	<i>Geokichla wardii</i>	
E	Spot-winged Thrush	<i>Geokichla spiloptera</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Thrush	<i>Zoothera imbricata</i>	
SSE / Essp	Indian Blackbird	<i>Turdus simillimus kinnisii</i>	

STARLINGS		STURNIDAE	
E	Sri Lanka (Hill) Myna	<i>Gracula ptilogenys</i>	
SSP	Southern (Lesser) Hill Myna	<i>Gracula indica</i>	
	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	
E	White-faced Starling	<i>Sturnia albofrontata</i>	
Essp	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis melanosternus</i>	
LEAFBIRDS		CHLOROPSEIDAE	
SSE	Jerdon's Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>	
Essp?	Golden-fronted (Sri Lanka) Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons insularis</i>	
FLOWERPECKERS		DICAEIDAE	
Essp	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile zeylonicum</i>	
E	White-throated (Legge's) Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum vincens</i>	
Essp	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos ceylonense</i>	
SUNBIRDS & SPIDERHUNTERS		NECTARINIIDAE	
Essp	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica zeylonica</i>	
	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	
SSE / Essp	Long-billed (Loten's) Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris lotenius lotenius</i>	
WAGTAILS & PIPITS		MOTACILLIDAE	
	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>	
	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
	Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	
	Paddyfield (Oriental) Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus malayensis</i>	
	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>	
OLD WORLD SPARROWS		PASSERIDAE	
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
WEAVERS & ALLIES		PLOCEIDAE	
	Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manyar</i>	
	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	
WAXBILLS & ALLIES		ESTRILIDAE	

	Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	
	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata striata</i>	
SSE / Essp	Black-throated Munia	<i>Lonchura kelaarti kelaarti</i>	
	Scaly-breasted Munia (Nutmeg Mannikin)	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	
	Tricolored (Black-headed) Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca malacca</i>	

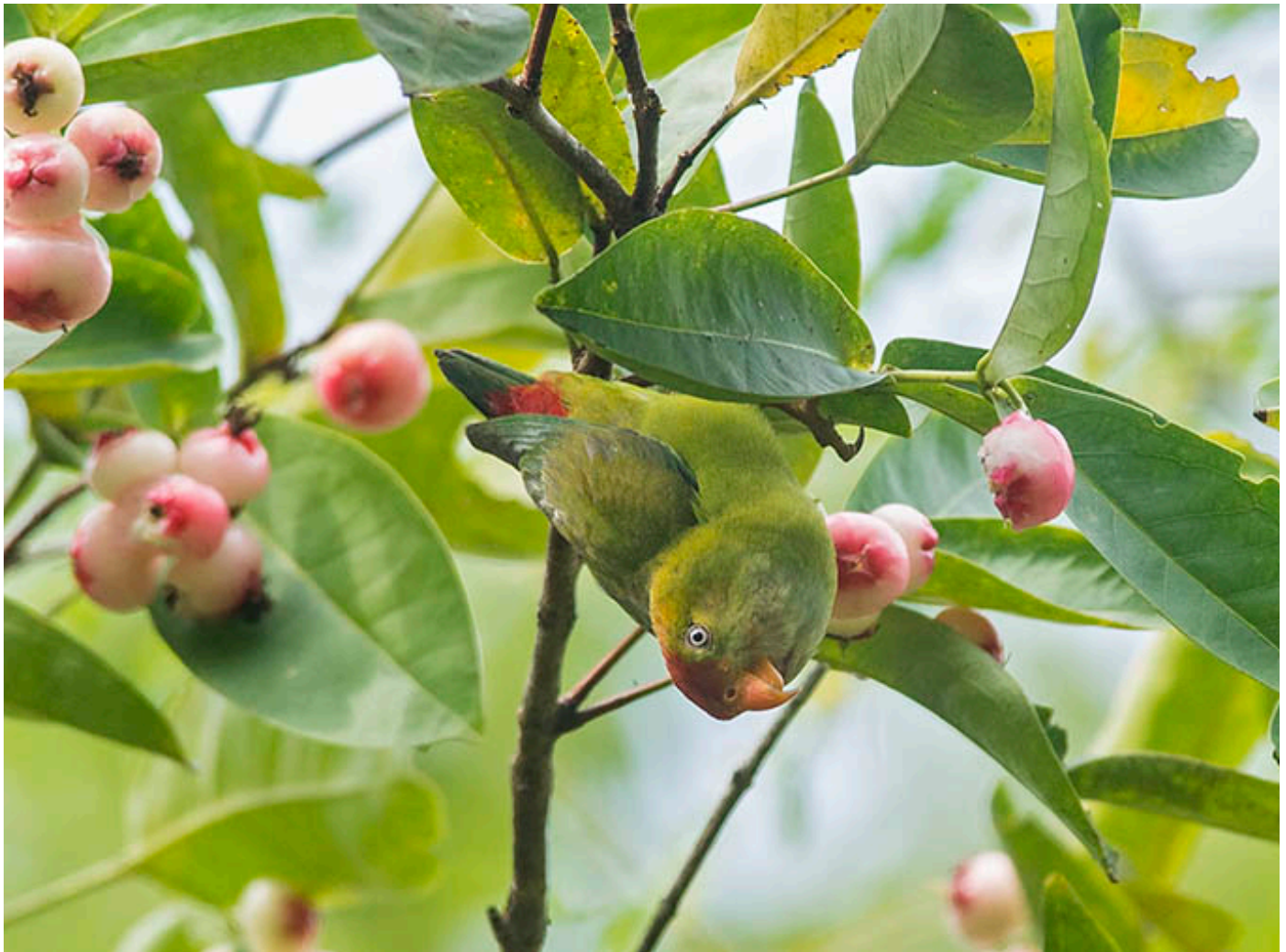
Bold / E = Endemic

Essp = Endemic Subspecies

SSE = Endemic to southern Indian subcontinent

G = Guide-only

H = Heard-only



A Sri Lanka Hanging-Parrot showing its namesake behavior.

MAMMAL LIST

ELEPHANTS		ELEPHANTIDAE
Essp	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
OLD WORLD MONKEYS		CERCOPITHECIDAE
E	Toque Macaque	<i>Macaca sinica</i>
SSE	Tufted Gray Langur	<i>Semnopithecus priam</i>
E	Purple-faced Langur	<i>Trachypithecus vetulus</i>
SQUIRRELS		SCIURIDAE
SSE	Grizzled Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>
E	Layard's Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus layardi</i>
	Indian Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
E	Dusky Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus sublineatus</i>
MICE, RATS, GERBILS, HAMSTERS etc.		MURIDAE
	Rat sp.	<i>Rattus sp.</i>
RABBITS, HARES		LEPORIDAE
	Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>
FLYING FOXES, OLD WORLD FRUIT BATS		PTEROPODIDAE
	Indian Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>
CATS		FELIDAE
Essp	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
MONGOOSES		HERPESTIDAE
SSE	Indian Brown Mongoose	<i>Herpestes fuscus</i>
	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>
DOGS, FOXES		CANIDAE
Essp	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
PIGS		SUIDAE
	Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
DEER		CERVIDAE
Essp	Sambar Deer	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>
Essp	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Axis axis</i>

E	Yellow-striped Chevrotain	<i>Moschiola kathygre</i>
Essp	Indian Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>
BUFFALO, ANTELOPES, GOATS, etc.		BOVIDAE
	Asian Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>

Bold / E = Endemic



Asian Water Buffalo is an impressive beast.

REPTILE LIST

AGAMID LIZARDS		AGAMIDAE
	Green Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes calotes</i>
	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
E	Lyre-head (Hump-nose) Lizard	<i>Lyriocephalus scutatus</i>
E	Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard	<i>Otocryptis wiegmanni</i>
GECKOS		GEKKONIDAE
	Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
SKINKS		SCINCIDAE
	Common Skink	<i>Eutropis carinata</i>
TURTLES, TERRAPINS etc.		GEOMYDIDAE
	Sri Lanka Black Terrapin	<i>Melanochelys trijuga thermalis</i>
TORTOISES		TESTUDINIDAE
	Star Tortoise	<i>Testudo elegans</i>
CROCODILES		CROCODYLIDAE
	Estuarine Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>
	Marsh Crocodile	<i>Cocodylus palustris</i>
MONITORS		VARANIDAE
	Land Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>
	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator kabaragoya</i>
TYPICAL SNAKES		COLUBRIDAE
	Checkered Keelback	<i>Xenochrophis piscator</i>
VIPERS AND PIT VIPERS		VIPERIDAE
E	Sri Lanka Green Pit Viper	<i>Trimeresurus trigonocephalus</i>

Bold / E = Endemic

BUTTERFLY LIST

E	Sri Lankan Birdwing	<i>Troiders darsius</i>
	Crimson Rose	<i>Pachliopta hector</i>
E	Ceylon Rose	<i>Pachliopta jophon</i>
	Common Rose	<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae ceylonica</i>
	Lime Butterfly	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>
	Blue Mormon	<i>Papilio polymnestor parinda</i>
	Bluebottle	<i>Graphium doson</i>
	Tailed Jay	<i>Graphium agamemnon</i>
	Psyche	<i>Leptosia nina</i>
	Jezebel	<i>Delias eucharis</i>
	Pioneer	<i>Belenois aurota</i>
E	Sri Lankan Lesser Albatross	<i>Appias galene</i>
	Common Gull	<i>Cepora nerissa</i>
	Small Salmon Arab	<i>Colotis amata</i>
	Little Orange Tip	<i>Colotis etrida</i>
	Three-spot Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema blanda</i>
E	Sri Lankan One-spot Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema ormistoni</i>
	Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
	Tree Nymph	<i>Idea iasonia</i>
	Blue Glassy Tiger	<i>Ideopsis similis</i>
	Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala Limmiace</i>
	Glassy Tiger	<i>Parantica aglea</i>
E	Ceylon Tiger	<i>Parantica taprobana</i>
	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
	Common Crow	<i>Euploea core</i>
	Angled Castor	<i>Ariadne ariadne</i>
	Lemon Pancy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>
	Grey Pancy	<i>Junonia atlites</i>
	Chocolate Soldier	<i>Junonia iphita</i>

	Great/Common Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>
	Danaid Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i>
	Common Sailor	<i>Neptis hylas</i>
	Commander	<i>Moduza procris</i>
	Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalanta</i>
	Tawny Coaster	<i>Acraea violae</i>
E	Sri Lankan Treebrown	<i>Lethe daretis</i>
	Dark-brand Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis mineus</i>
	Gladeye Bushbrown	<i>Nissanga patnia</i>
	White four-ring	<i>Ypthima ceylonica</i>
	Common Lineblue	
	Tail-less Lineblue	<i>Prosotas dubiosa</i>
	Common Cerulean	
	Lime Blue	
	Plains Cupid	<i>Chilades pandava</i>
	Water Snow Flat	
	Brown Awl	
Int.	Banana Skipper	<i>Erionota torus</i>

Bold / E = Endemic
Int. = Introduced