



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

SRI LANKA II

15th - 25th January 2009



All photos by Markus Lilje

Tour Leaders: Markus Lilje & Glen Valentine

Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Glen Valentine

Top 10 Birds of the Tour as voted by participants:

1. Serendib Scops Owl
2. Sri Lanka Blue Magpie
3. Sri Lanka Junglefowl
4. Oriental Bay Owl
5. Sri Lanka Thrush
6. Sirkeer Malkoha
7. Red-faced Malkoha
8. Kashmir Flycatcher
9. Crimson-backed Goldenback
10. Indian Peafowl

Top 3 Mammals of the Tour as voted by participants:

1. Sloth Bear
2. Purple-faced Leaf Monkey
3. Asian Elephant



Tour Summary

Arriving at Colombo International Airport, we soon struck out for the rainforest site of Kelani River Forest Reserve near the town of Kitulgala where we would begin the exciting search for the numerous sought-after Sri Lankan endemics that inhabit the lush, humid rainforests of the lower-lying areas of this remarkable island. We bumped into Yellow-fronted Barbet, Ashy Woodswallow and a magnificent Rufous-bellied Eagle on the way, which set us in good spirits. The forest edge bordering our hotel on the banks of the beautiful Kelani River was alive with birds and we found mouth-watering species such as Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, Legge's Flowerpecker, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, immaculate Loten's Sunbird, Dark-fronted Babbler, noisy Orange-billed Babbler and Black-crested (capped) Bulbul within minutes of arrival. The area also yielded some of the islands most acclaimed birds, which included the attractive Chestnut-backed Owlet, secretive Green-billed Coucal, Spot-winged Thrush, gorgeous Crimson-fronted Barbet, Layard's Parakeet, elusive Brown-capped Babbler and the seldom-seen Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl.

The highlands of Nuwara Eliya were beckoning and we were keen to start picking up the specialties of the area. A visit to the Hakgala Botanical Gardens produced some goodies that included the rare and localized Black-throated Munia, stunning Kashmir and Dull-blue Flycatchers, Peregrine (Shaheen) Falcon and Yellow-eared Bulbul. The Horton Plains National Park produced the goods and saw us adding the skulking Sri Lanka Bush Warbler, Sri Lanka White-eye and Sri

Lanka Wood Pigeon to the ever-growing list. The scenery from the plains is spectacular and we spent some time up here soaking in the wilderness. A Lesser Cuckoo revealed itself as did a flock of Pacific (Hill) Swallow and a small group of Common (Indian) Blackbird showed off while feeding on a flowering Rhododendron. The famous Victoria Park did not disappoint and we enjoyed great views of the rare Pied Thrush along with saturation views of Indian Pitta, whilst a forested stream near the town produced the elusive Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush. Interesting mammals included the highland race of Purple-faced Leaf-Monkey, Sambar, Dusky Striped Squirrel and Small Indian Civet.

It was time to leave the highlands and make our way to the south eastern lowlands. We arrived in the afternoon for some indulging birding at the highly productive wetlands that surround the town of Tissamaharama. The lily-clad backwaters produced unrivalled scope views of Black Bittern, brilliant Pheasant-tailed Jacana in full breeding regalia, Watercock, Spot-billed Pelican, White-bellied Sea-Eagle and a host of other waterbirds. Cruising around the woodlands, thickets and wetlands of Yala National Park on the back of Jeeps was enjoyable and rewarding and we scored some gems like the uncommon Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike, Thick-billed Flowerpecker, unobtrusive Sirkeer and Blue-faced Malkohas, Grey-headed Fish-eagle, scarce Lesser Adjutant, large flocks of Malabar Pied Hornbill, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Malabar Bush Lark and Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark. We were also fortunate to find nesting Baya and Streaked Weavers, whilst mammal sightings saw us adding Asian Elephant and Water Buffalo and as the light began to fade, Golden Jackal and a most memorable sighting of Sloth Bear when a mother and her two cubs were seen parading down the road! The salt pans and waterbodies of Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary revealed a host of waders and shorebirds that kept us entertained throughout the morning. We were delighted to achieve scope views of Oriental and Small Pratincoles and the surrounding bush was alive with Rosy Starlings. A visit to Uda Walawe National Park was a very pleasurable one indeed! We enjoyed close wildlife encounters and highlights were Grey-bellied and Jacobin Cuckoos, Indian Silverbill, Forest Wagtail, Stork-billed Kingfisher and Black-headed (Tricolored) Munia by the thousands.

Our final site was the vast rainforests of Sinharaja and our time spent patrolling the paths that meander through the forest produced some of the most memorable sightings one could ever have imagined! We worked hard but also had some exceptional luck and our efforts were duly rewarded with unbeatable views of Red-faced Malkoha, the outrageous Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, Ashy-headed Laughingthrush, the rare and secretive Sri Lanka Thrush, gaudy Sri Lanka Junglefowl, impressive Greater (crimson-backed) Goldenback, Sri Lanka Myna and White-faced Starling. The calls of Sri Lanka Spurfowl were heard on several occasions but proved frustrating to see and only some of the group managed brief views of this shy and reclusive species. We did, however, come up trumps with Sri Lanka Frogmouth and what could only be described as crippling views of the endemic and recently discovered Serendib Scops Owl and near-mythical Oriental (Sri Lanka) Bay Owl, both on day roosts – absolutely amazing!

Unfortunately it was time to say our farewells as another extremely successful Rockjumper birding tour to this fascinating island concluded.



Annotated List of Birds Recorded

(233 species)

Note: Names and taxonomical order of the bird species list follows that of IOC (International Ornithological congress), Birds of The World.

E = Endemic, **SE** = Sub-continent endemic, **PE**= Possible Endemic, **PSE**=Possible Sub-continent Endemic

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae**Sri Lanka Spurfowl (E)***Galloperdix bicalcarata*

A very secretive species however it does call and two birds were seen by some at Kitulgala with a further brief sighting in Sinharaja forest. Otherwise only heard vocalizing loudly on several occasions at both rainforest sites.

Sri Lanka Junglefowl (E)*Gallus lafayetii*

Good numbers were encountered in Yala with several extremely close sightings being enjoyed in Sinharaja.

Indian Peafowl (SE)*Pavo cristatus*

A truly magnificent species that was recorded in large numbers in Yala, Bundala and surrounding areas. We were fortunate to witness a gorgeous male doing a full display right in front of us in Yala NP.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae**Lesser Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna javanica*

Several birds were first observed in the wetlands around Tissa and Yala with further sightings at Bundala and surrounding wetlands.

Garganey*Anas querquedula*

A single flock of 14 birds were seen at a wetland near Bundala.

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

We enjoyed multiple views of this widespread species in the wetlands of Tissa and Yala as well as again the following day in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.

Storks Ciconidae**Painted Stork***Mycteria leucocephala*

Good numbers were encountered in the Tissa wetlands and surrounds.

Asian Openbill*Anastomus oscitans*

Good numbers were noted at all wetland localities in the Tissa area, Yala NP and Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary as well as en route from Colombo to Kitulgala.

Lesser Adjutant*Leptoptilos javanicus*

A total of three birds were seen in Yala NP.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**Black-headed Ibis***Threskiornis melanocephalus*

Common in the wetlands and rice paddies around Tissa, Yala NP and Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.

Eurasian Spoonbill*Platalea leucorodia*

Good numbers were noted around Tissa, Yala NP and in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.

Bitterns & Herons Ardeidae**Yellow Bittern***Ixobrychus sinensis*

Three birds were seen in the Tissa wetlands with a further sighting near Bundala.

Black Bittern*Ixobrychus flavicollis*

Amazing numbers were seen in the Tissa wetlands; we had a total of 8 birds with several prolonged saturation scope views in great afternoon light.

Black-crowned Night-Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax*

A total of 12 birds were found in the Tissa area.

Indian Pond Heron*Ardeola Greyii*

A very common species, which was encountered almost daily.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

A singleton en route to Yala and another bird at Bundala were our only sightings of the trip.

NOTE: Controversial to some authorities, Clements includes a full twenty-nine subspecies under this species. The only split he recognizes is the Green Heron (B. virescens) of North and Central America. IOC splits B. Striata into three species, Striated Heron (B.striata), Green Heron (B.virescens) and Lava Heron (B.sundevalli)

(Eastern) Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis (coromandus)*

Commonly recorded throughout Sri Lanka where it was seen almost daily.

NOTE: B.coromandus is not split by Clements but is regarded as a full species by IOC according to the latest update.

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

Seen daily in the wetlands of Tissa, Yala and again in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

More camouflaged than the preceding species, we found this attractive heron in wetlands around the town of Tissa, in Yala NP and Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.

(Eastern) Great Egret*Ardea alba (modesta)*

A common sight at all wetlands and rice paddies throughout the tour including good numbers in the Tissa area and Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.

NOTE: A.modesta is not split by Clements but is regarded as a full species by IOC according to the latest update.

Yellow-billed Egret*Mesophyx intermedia*

This species was recorded in similar numbers and sights as Great Egret.

NOTE: This group may be split into 3 species, the Africa Yellow-billed Egret (E. brachyrhyncha), Plumed Egret (E. plumifera) and the nominate Intermediate Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements or IOC.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

Encountered often at the many rice paddies around Tissa and surrounding areas.

NOTE: Clements lumps Little, Western Reef (E. gularis) and Madagascar's Dimorphic (E. dimorpha) Egret into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted as IOC accepts all three splits.

Pelicans Pelecanidae**Spot-billed Pelican***Pelecanus phillipensis*

Close to 40 birds were seen during 3 days in the Tissa, Yala and Bundala.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae**Little Cormorant***Phalacrocorax niger*

Seen regularly at most water bodies countrywide with hundreds being found at the Tissa wetlands.

Indian Cormorant*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

Not uncommon in the wetlands surrounding the town of Tissa as well as in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary and Kitulgala.

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

Seen at wetlands in the Tissa area and in Yala NP.

NOTE: A.melanogaster is split into three separate species by IOC according to the latest update but is not split into further species by Clements.

Falcons & Caracaras Falconidae**Common Kestrel***Falco tinnunculus*

Two birds were found near Nuwara Eliya with further sightings in Yala NP.

NOTE: M.caerulescens is split into two species by IOC according to the latest update, Common Kestrel (F.tinnunculus) and Rock Kestrel (F.rupicolus) in S Africa.

Peregrine (Shaheen) Falcon*Falco peregrinus (peregrinator)*

This distinctive and rather attractive race of Peregrine Falcon was scoped in the Hakgala Botanical Gardens.

NOTE: F.peregrinator is the race that we saw but is not split by either Clements or IOC.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Crested Honey Buzzard

Pernis ptilorhyncus

A total of seven birds were seen during the trip with peak numbers in the Nuwara Eliya area.

Black-winged Kite

Elanus caeruleus

This common and widespread raptor was seen on a few occasions with three birds encountered at Uda Walawe NP.

NOTE: Clements has split the two species Black-shouldered Kite (Elanus caeruleus) of the Old World and White-tailed Kite (Elanus leucurus) of the New World. This split is not universally accepted. IOC splits it into three species.

Brahminy Kite

Haliastur Indus

Regularly recorded in small numbers throughout the tour.

White-bellied Sea Eagle

Haliaeetus leucogaster

A very striking raptor that was seen very well in flight at the Tissa wetlands.

Grey-headed Fish Eagle

Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus

This uncommon species was seen exceptionally well in Yala NP and in Uda Walawe NP.

Crested Serpent Eagle

Spilornis cheela

A handsome species that was commonly recorded on most days of the tour.

Crested Goshawk

Accipiter trivirgatus

Several sightings were had on the Horton Plains and in Sinharaja Rainforest.

Shikra

Accipiter badius

Both widespread and fairly common accipiter of Africa and Asia, we found several individuals near Tissa.

Black Eagle

Ictinaetus malayensis

Excellent views were had at Kitulgala and at Sinharaja.

Booted Eagle

Hieraaetus pennatus

A single bird was found near Tissa.

Rufous-bellied Eagle

Hieraaetus kienerii

This rare forest raptor was seen well in flight en route from Colombo to Kitulgala.

Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo

Good flight views were had of two birds on the Horton Plains.

NOTE: B.buteo is split by IOC into three species according to the latest update, Common Buzzard (B.buteo), Eastern Buzzard (B.japonicus) and Himalayan Buzzard (B.refectus) in the Himalayas.

Crested Hawk-Eagle

Spizaetus cirrhatus

One bird was first seen in Yala NP with further brilliant views in Uda Walawe NP.

NOTE: Some authorities split this species from the Changeable Hawk-Eagle, which inhabits mountainous areas and higher altitudes. This split is not accepted by either Clements or IOC.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Slaty-legged Crake

Rallina Eurizonoides

One of the group members was fortunate enough to get brief views of a single bird in Victoria Park.

White-breasted Waterhen

Amaurornis phoenicurus

A very attractive but abundant species seen on most days of the tour.

Watercock

Gallicrex cinerea

Often a hard bird to catch up with, we found three birds in the Tissa wetlands with a further sighting at a roadside wetland near Embilipitiya.

Purple Swamphen

Porphyrio Porphyrio

Commonly sighted at the wetlands around Tissa and at suitable habitat in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.

NOTE: P.porphyrus is split into two full species by IOC according to the latest update but is not split into further species by Clements.

Common Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Just two birds seen during the trip, one at Tissa and another near Bundala.

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

Good views were had in Yala NP with further sightings in Uda Walawe NP.

Stone-Curlews & Thick-knees Burhinidae**Great Stone-Curlew***Escacus recurvirostris*

An impressive species that was encountered in good numbers at wetlands in Yala NP and in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.

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

This species was common at wetlands near Tissa and in Yala and Bundala National Parks.

Plovers Charadriidae**Yellow-wattled Lapwing (SE)***Vanellus malabaricus*

A bird of dry, open areas that was encountered in such habitat in Yala and Bundala National Park's.

Red-wattled Lapwing*Vanellus indicus*

Far more common and widespread than the previous species; we had many sightings during the tour.

Pacific Golden Plover*Pluvialis fulva*

A single bird was seen in Yala NP with further sightings in Bundala NP.

Grey Plover*Pluvialis squatarola*

Small numbers were seen in Yala and Bundala National Park.

Little Ringed Plover*Charadrius dubius*

Small numbers were seen at both Yala and Bundala National Parks.

Kentish Plover*Charadrius alexandrinus*

Several birds were seen in Yala NP with large numbers found at Bundala.

NOTE: IOC splits C.alexandrinus into two species, Kentish Plover (C.alexandrinus) widespread and Snowy Plover (C.nivosus) of the New World.

Lesser Sand Plover*Charadrius mongolus*

Several birds were seen in Yala NP with large numbers found at Bundala.

Jacanas Jacanidae**Pheasant-tailed Jacana***Metopidius indicus*

A stunning bird frequenting areas covered in lilies, we found this species at suitable habitat at several roadside wetlands including many birds in immaculate breeding plumage.

Snipes & Sandpipers Scolopacidae**Pin-tailed Snipe***Gallinago stenura*

Great views were had of four birds in total in Yala NP.

Black-tailed Godwit*Limosa limosa*

Small numbers in Yala with hundreds seen at Bundala.

Common Redshank*Tringa tetanus*

Seen at pans in Yala and Bundala National Parks.

Marsh Sandpiper*Tringa stagnatilis*

This species was fairly common at pans in Yala NP and in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

Another common species of the pans in the Yala and Bundala areas.

Green Sandpiper*Tringa ochropus*

A single bird was seen at a pan in Uda Walawe NP.

Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Several birds were seen in Yala and Bundala National Parks.	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Commonly sighted at several localities throughout the country.	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
A group of four birds was scoped in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
A single bird was found at a pan along the coastal area of Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Common at pans in the Yala and Bundala areas.	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Plentiful in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.	
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
We were pleasantly surprised to find five birds on a salt pan in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.	

Couriers & Pratincoles Glareolidae

Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lacteal</i>
This dainty species was scoped at length in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary where we found eight birds perched on a sand dike near salt pans.	
Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>
A flock of 15 birds was scoped at the edge of a small roadside wetland near Tissa.	

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Brown-headed Gull	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>
A total of eight birds were seen in the Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>
Good numbers were found at wetlands near Tissa and in Yala and Bundala National Parks.	
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>
Strong numbers were seen at Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.	
Swift Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>
At least 15 birds were seen at the salt pans in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.	
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
A small flock was scoped in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna Hirundo</i>
We scoped four birds in a mixed tern flock in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.	
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
Several birds were found at a salt pan in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.	
<i>NOTE: IOC has split S.albifrons into two species, Little Tern (S.albifrons) and Saunder's Tern (S.saundersi). These two species are indistinguishable in the field in winter plumage and we presume that the birds at Bundala refer to S.albifrons due to the range of these species although S.saundersi has been recorded.</i>	
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
Large numbers were found near Tissa, in Yala NP and in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.	
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Two birds were found in Yala NP.	

Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

Common Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common at every locality throughout the entire tour.	
Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon (E)	<i>Columba elphinstonii</i>
This special pigeon is very localised and found only in the higher areas of the country. Three birds gave us quite a run-around but everyone eventually ended up obtaining reasonable flight views.	

Spotted Dove*Streptopelia chinensis*

A very common species throughout Sri Lanka.

Common Emerald Dove*Chalcophaps indica*

This species was seen on several occasions at the lowland forest sites of Sinharaja forest and Kelani River FR.

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon*Treron bicincta*

Several birds were seen well during our time in Yala NP and in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.

Pompadour (Sri Lanka) Green Pigeon*Treron pompadora*

Several birds were seen in the Kelani River FR and heard in the Sinharaja forest.

NOTE: This particular species is split by IOC into 6 species, Sri Lanka Green Pigeon (T.pompadora) of Sri Lanka, Grey-fronted Green Pigeon (T.affinis) of S India, Ashy-headed Green Pigeon (T.phayrei) of E Asia, Andaman Green Pigeon (T.chloropterus) of the Andamans & Nicobars, Philippine Green Pigeon (T.axillaris) of the Philippines and Buru Green Pigeon (T.aromaticus) of the Buru Islands.

Green Imperial Pigeon*Ducula aenea*

This large pigeon is common on the island and was sighted nearly every day on the tour.

Parrots & Cockatoos Psittacidae**Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot (E)***Loriculus beryllinus*

Common and conspicuous at Kelani River FR and at Sinharaja.

Alexandrine Parakeet*Psittacula eupatria*

Good views of several of these huge parakeets were enjoyed near Tissa and in Uda Walawe NP.

Rose-ringed Parakeet*Psittacula krameri*

Commonly recorded during the tour with peak numbers in Yala and Uda Walawe National Parks.

Plum-headed Parakeet (SE)*Psittacula cyanocephala*

Just a single bird was heard and seen briefly in flight in Uda Walawe NP.

Layard's Parakeet (E)*Psittacula calthropae*

We enjoyed good views of this species first at the Kelani River FR and in Sinharaja rainforest.

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

This scarce and secretive endemic was seen exceptionally well at Kitulgala with further brief sightings at Sinharaja rainforest.

Greater Coucal*Centropus sinensis*

Encountered on several occasions throughout the tour.

Sirkeer Malkoha (SE)*Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*

An uncommon, shy and secretive bird throughout its limited range, we were fortunate to find a total of 4 birds in the thickets of Yala NP. One of these birds were seen very well.

Red-faced Malkoha (E)*Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus*

We were very fortunate to have had stupendous views of a total of seven birds on several occasions! This is one of Sri Lanka's star endemics!

Blue-faced Malkoha (SE)*Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*

The species is fairly common in Yala NP. We had about 10 birds in total during our day in the park.

Jacobin Cuckoo*Clamator jacobinus*

A single bird was seen very well in Uda Walawe NP.

Asian Koel*Eudynamys scolopacea*

We had sightings of this species at Kitulgala, in Yala NP and in Uda Walawe NP.

Indian Cuckoo*Cuculus microptelus*

Two birds were seen flying over a clearing in the rainforest in the Kelani River FR.

Banded Bay Cuckoo*Cacomantis sonnerati*

We had incredible scope views of this scarce species en route from Embilipitiya to Sinharaja.

Grey-bellied Cuckoo (SE)*Cacomantis passerinus*

This species was surprisingly common in Uda Walawe NP.

NOTE: IOC splits *C. merulinus* into two species, Plaintive Cuckoo (*C. various*) and Grey-bellied Cuckoo (*C. passerinus*) of India.

Lesser Cuckoo*Cuculus plocephalus*

A single bird was seen in the Horton Plains NP.

Barn Owls Tytonidae**Oriental (Sri Lanka) Bay Owl (PSE)***Phodilus badius (assimilis)*

We were blown away when we were presented with walk-away views of this exceptionally rare forest owl on the day roost in Sinharaja Rainforest.

NOTE: *P. assimilis* that is endemic to South India and Sri Lanka is the race/species that we saw. It is not split by Clements but is given full species status by IOC in the latest updates.

Owls Strigidae**Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl***Bubo nipalensis*

Another rare, localized and highly sought-after Asian owl; we managed to locate and obtain views of this mega in the Kelani FR.

Serendib Scops Owl (E)*Otus thilohoffmannii*

This species was only discovered in 1998 and described in 2004! We were exceptionally fortunate to obtain saturation scope views of this rarity on a day roost in Sinharaja Rainforest.

Indian Scops Owl (SE)*Otus Bakkamoena*

We had wonderful views of a pair of these great little birds on a day roost in Embilipitiya.

NOTE: IOC splits *O. bakkamoena* into four species, Indian Scops Owl (*O. bakkamoena*) of India and Sri Lanka, Collared Scops Owl (*O. lettia*) of Himalayas and E Asia, Japanese Scops Owl (*O. semitorques*) of NE Asia and Sunda Scops Owl (*O. lempiji*) of SE Asia.

Chestnut-backed Owlet (E)*Glaucidium castanonotum*

Another endemic owl species of which a pair was seen incredibly well for extended periods near the Kelani River. Several more were heard in Sinharaja Rainforest.

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

Another cracker! We had brilliant views of a single bird perched at eye level at forest edge in Sinharaja.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae**Indian Nightjar***Caprimulgus asiaticus*

We eventually walked away from this species after having it in the spotlight for all to see near Yala NP.

Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae**Crested Treeswift (SE)***Hemiprogne coronata*

This attractive species was regularly encountered at several sites during the tour with peak numbers in Yala NP.

Swifts Apodidae**Indian Swiftlet (SE)***Aerodramus unicolor*

A very common species on the island, which was seen cruising the skies at most localities.

Brown-backed Needletail*Hirundapus giganteus*

A single bird was seen briefly by one of the group members in Sinharaja Rainforest.

Asian Palm Swift*Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Small numbers were encountered at most localities on the island.

NOTE: IOC splits *C.parvus* into two species, African Palm Swift (*C.parvus*) of Africa and Asian Palm Swift (*C.balasiensis*) of Asia.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Small numbers were sighted at several different localities.

NOTE: IOC splits *A.affinis* into two species, Little Swift (*A.affinis*) of Africa and House Swift (*A.nepalensis*) of Asia.

Trogon Trogonidae

Malabar Trogon (SE) *Harpactes fasciatus*

This is a stunning bird of dense forests on the island. We enjoyed incredible views of no less than 13 birds including several stunning males while exploring the forests at Sinharaja and Kelani River.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*

This majestic species of kingfisher was seen several times on the tour.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

The regions most common kingfisher, we recorded this species on almost every single day.

Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erichacus*

One member of the group was lucky enough to have brief views of this rare forest kingfisher in Sinharaja.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Small numbers seen at widely scattered waterbodies with three birds found in Yala NP.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Several were found in Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

The most common bee-eater in the Tissa, Yala and Bundala areas; we saw hundreds during our day in Yala NP.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops phillipinus*

Commonly encountered on most days of the tour; we saw hundreds in Uda Walawe NP.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschinaulti*

This gorgeous species was noted in the Tissa, Yala and Bundala areas.

Rollers Coraciidae

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

This gorgeous bird was seen on a couple of occasions during the tour.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

A rare visitor to the forested areas of the island; we were lucky to find a single bird in a clearing in the Kelani River Forest Reserve.

Hoopoes Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Small numbers were seen in Yala and Uda Walawe National Parks.

NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognised by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar (*U. marginalis*) and Eurasian (*U. epops*) as does IOC. The white-winged African form is often split by other authorities as West African Hoopoe (*U. senegalensis*) with the fourth species being African Hoopoe (*U. africana*). However, the most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill (E) *Tockus gringalensis*

This endemic was found at the edge of lowland rainforest at Kelani River FR, in Yala NP and at Sinharaja.

Malabar Pied Hornbill (SE)*Anthracoceros coronatus*

An impressive species that was seen extremely well en route to Tissa and again in large numbers in Yala and Uda Walawa National Parks!

Barbets & Toucans Capitonidae**Brown-headed Barbet (SE)***Megalaima zeylanica*

A common bird on the island that calls frequently, we found them at most localities throughout the tour.

Yellow-fronted Barbet (E)*Megalaima flavifrons*

This endemic species was frequently encountered at the edge of lowland rainforest in the Kelani River FR and at Sinharaja forest.

Crimson-fronted Barbet (SE)*Megalaima rubricapilla*

We had brilliant scope views of this gorgeous species on the edge of the rainforest at Kelani River FR with further individuals being heard at Sinharaja.

NOTE: IOC splits M.rubicapillus into two species, Crimson-fronted Barbet (M.rubicapillus) of Sri Lanka and Malabar Barbet (M.malabarica) of S India.

Coppersmith Barbet*Megalaima haemacephala*

Wonderful views were had of several birds near Tissa with more being heard in Yala and Uda Walawe National Parks.

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

Good views were obtained in Uda Walawe NP.

Lesser Yellownape*Picus chlorolophus*

Several birds were seen well at Kitulgala with further sightings at Sinharaja.

Lesser Goldenback*Dinopium benghalense*

This attractive woodpecker was commonly recorded at most sites.

Greater (Crimson-backed) Goldenback (PE)*Chrysocolaptes lucidus (stricklandi)*

We enjoyed amazing views of two of these magnificent birds in Sinharaja rainforest.

NOTE: C.stricklandi is not split by Clements but is regarded as a full species by IOC according to the latest update. This species is endemic to Sri Lanka.

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

This stunning bird of dense undergrowth winters in this area and was sighted four times during the tour with great views in Victoria Park and in Yala NP.

Family Uncertain Incertae sedis**Common (Sri Lanka) Woodshrike***Tephrodornis pondicerianus (affinis)*

Several birds were seen in the Tissa, Yala and Uda Walawe areas.

NOTE: T.affinis, which is endemic to Sri Lanka is the race/species that we saw and is split by IOC according to the latest update. It is not split by Clements.

Woodswallows Artamidae**Ashy Woodswallow***Artamus fuscus*

Small numbers of these unique birds were seen en route to Kitulgala, at Tissa and in Uda Walawe NP.

Ioras Aegithinidae

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*
 Small numbers were seen at scattered localities throughout the tour.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Black-headed Cuckooshrike (SE) *Coracina melanoptera*
 A very uncommon species that was seen well in Yala NP.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
 This bright and demonstrative species was seen on several occasions throughout the tour.

Scarlet (Orange) Minivet (PSE) *Pericrocotus speciosus (flammeus)*
 Good numbers of this stunning species were seen at the lowland rainforest sites of Kelani River and Sinharaja.

NOTE: P.flammeus is the race/species that we saw and is endemic to South India and Sri Lanka. This is not split by Clements but is regarded as a full species by IOC according to the latest update.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*
 Birds were seen on numerous occasions at forested sites both in the lowlands and in the highlands.

Shrikes Laniidae

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
 Fairly large numbers of this obtrusive species were seen on most days of the trip.

Orioles & Figbirds Oriolidae

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*
 Birds were noted in both forest and woodland areas.

Drongos Dicruridae

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
 Several birds were seen in Yala and Uda Walawe National Parks.

White-bellied Drongo (SE) *Dicrurus caerulescens*
 Common at the lowland rainforest sites of Kelani River FR and Sinharaja forest.

Greater Racket-tailed (Sri Lanka) Drongo (PE) *Dicrurus paradiseus (lophorinus)*
 The subspecies occurring on the island is very different as it lacks the large rackets. We found this species in the Kelani River and Sinharaja Forest Reserves.

NOTE: D.lophorinus is not split by Clements but is regarded as a separate species endemic to Sri Lanka by IOC according to the latest update.

Fantails Rhipiduridae

White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*
 Three individuals were seen in Yala NP.

Monarchs Monarchidae

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*
 An attractive species that is normally associated with mixed feeding flocks, we found it in Sinharaja forest.

Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*
 Small numbers of this flashy species were located on most days of the tour.

Crows & Jays Corvidae

Sri Lanka Blue Magpie (E) *Urocissa ornata*
 This bird has an incredible combination of colours and is a treat to the senses in every possible way; we had glorious views of this species on numerous occasions in the Sinharaja forest.

House Crow*Corvus splendens*

A very common species throughout the country.

(Indian) Jungle Crow (PSE)*Corvus macrorhynchus (culminatus)*

An abundant species that was seen on every day of the tour.

NOTE: C.culminatus is split as a full species by IOC according to the latest update and is endemic to South India and Sri Lanka. Clements does not recognize this split.

Tits & Chickadees Paridae**Great (Cinereous) Tit***Parus major (cinereous)*

A species of the highland forests where it was noted at Victoria Park and Horton Plains NP.

NOTE: IOC splits P.major into three species, Great Tit (P.major), Cinereous Tit (P.cinereous) and Japanese Tit (P.minor).

Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

This species was encountered at most sites throughout the tour in large numbers.

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

Six birds were seen in the Horton Plains NP.

NOTE: H.domicola is not split by Clements but is regarded as a full species by IOC according to the latest update. This species is endemic to South India and Sri Lanka.

Red-rumped (Sri Lanka) Swallow (PE)*Hirundo daurica (hyperythra)*

This species was noted in small numbers at Kelani River FR, in Yala NP and near Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary - The unique red-breasted form is endemic to Sri Lanka.

NOTE: IOC splits H.daurica into three species, Red-rumped Swallow (H.daurica), Sri Lanka Swallow (H.hyperythra) of Sri Lanka and West African Swallow (H.domicella) of W Africa. Clements does not yet recognize these splits.

Sand Martin*Riparia riparia*

Small numbers were encountered near Bundala NP.

Larks Alaudidae**Jerdon's Bush Lark (SE)***Mirafra affinis*

We had several close sightings in Yala and Uda Walawe National Parks.

Oriental Skylark*Alauda gulgula*

A total of three birds were seen at close range in the Bundala Wildlife Conservancy.

Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark (SE)*Eremopterix grisea*

A large flock was seen in Yala NP.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**Zitting Cisticola***Cisticola juncidis*

This species was commonly seen in grassland areas throughout.

Grey-breasted Prinia*Prinia hodgsonii*

Just a single bird was seen in Uda Walawe NP.

Ashy Prinia (SE)*Prinia socialis*

A good-looking species that was recorded in near Tissa and in Uda Walawe NP.

Plain Prinia*Prinia inornata*

This common and widespread prinia was seen on several occasions with peak numbers being found in Uda Walawe NP.

Family Uncertain Incertae sedis**Common Tailorbird***Orthotomus sutorius*

An attractive and lively species that was seen with fair regularity.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Black-crested (-capped) Bulbul (PE)

Pycnonotus flaviventris (melaniterus)

This species was seen frequenting the forest edge at Kelani River and Sinharaja Forest Reserves.

NOTE: P.melanicterus is split by IOC into six full species, Black-capped Bulbul (P.melanicterus) of Sri Lanka, Black-crested Bulbul (P.flaviventris) of N India to SE Asia, Ruby-throated Bulbul (P.dispar) of Sumatra, Java & Bali, Flame-throated Bulbul (P.gularis) of S India, Bornean Bulbul (P.montis) of Borneo & Andaman Bulbul (P.fuscoflavescens) of the Andaman Islands. Clements does not recognize these splits.

Red-vented Bulbul

Pycnonotus cafer

An extremely common bird that was seen in all habitats and on every day of the tour.

Yellow-eared Bulbul (E)

Pycnonotus penicillatus

This stunning endemic species of the highland forests was sighted at Hakgala Botanical Gardens in Nuwara Eliya and in the Horton Plains NP.

White-browed Bulbul (SE)

Hypsipetes luteolus

Several birds were found in Yala and Bundala National Parks.

Yellow-browed Bulbul (SE)

Iole indica

Common at the edge of lowland forest at Kelani River FR and Sinharaja.

Black (Square-tailed) Bulbul (PSE)

Hypsipetes leucocephalus (ganeesa)

This species was common at Kelani River FR and Sinharaja forest.

NOTE: H.ganeesa is not split by Clements but it is split by IOC according to the new update. This species is endemic to South India and Sri Lanka.

Old World Warblers Sylviidae

Sri Lanka Bush Warbler (E)

Bradypterus palliseri

This is a highly localised endemic that favours areas of highland stunted bamboo. We had good views of three birds in the Horton Plains National Park and heard several other vocal individuals from the dense undergrowth.

Clamorous Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus stentorius

Two birds were seen during the tour; one at the Tissa wetlands and another near Embilititiya.

NOTE: A.stentoreus may be split into a further species, Indian Reed Warbler (A.brunnescens) but neither Clements nor IOC recognize this split as yet.

Blyth's Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus dumetorum

A common species of dense undergrowth throughout.

Green Warbler

Phylloscopus nitidus

This species was also fairly common and was seen regularly at many forested localities.

NOTE: IOC splits trochiloides into two species, Greenish Warbler (P.trochiloides) and Green Warbler (P.nitidus) of India.

Large-billed Leaf Warbler

Phylloscopus magnirostris

This forest species was found at Kelani River FR and at Sinharaja forest where we saw several individuals.

Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae

Brown-capped Babbler (E)

Pellorneum fuscicapillum

We had unbeatable views of this scarce endemic at forest edge near the Kelani River FR with further sightings at Sinharaja.

Indian (Sri Lanka) Scimitar-Babbler (SE)(PE)

Pomatorhinus horsfieldii (melanurus)

This attractive and rather vocal species was seen regularly at all the forest sites.

NOTE: P.melanurus, which is endemic to Sri Lanka is not split by Clements but is regarded as a full separate species by IOC according to the latest update.

Dark-fronted Babbler (SE)

Rhopocichla atriceps

A rather secretive species that was fairly common at lowland forest sites throughout the island and we enjoyed great views on several occasions.

Yellow-eyed Babbler

Crysomma sinense

Two small groups were located; one at the Tissa wetlands and another in Yala NP.

Orange-billed Babbler (E) *Turdoides rufescens*

This species was easily found at the forests around the Kelani River and Sinharaja.

Yellow-billed Babbler (SE) *Turdoides affinis*

Very common and easily seen at most localities on tour.

Ashy-headed Laughingthrush (E) *Garrulax cinereifrons*

Two flocks totalling 13 birds were seen extremely well in the Sinharaja rainforest.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

This fairly common species was seen at several localities.

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

A highland endemic that was seen well on numerous occasions.

Nuthatches & Wallcreeper Sittidae

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

A pair was found in Hakgala Botanical Gardens and in the Sinharaja Rainforest.

Starlings Sturnidae

Sri Lanka Hill Myna (E) *Gracula ptilogenys*

After two birds flew over us at Kelani River Forest Reserve, we were treated to fantastic sightings on several occasions in the Sinharaja Rainforest.

Southern Hill Myna (SE) *Gracula indica*

Five birds were seen at the Kelani River FR.

NOTE: Southern Hill Myna is sometimes lumped with Common Hill Myna G. intermedia of south-east Asia. The IOC accepts this split.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Common in and around urban centres throughout the country.

White-faced Starling (E) *Sturnia senex*

A lowland forest species with a very restricted range, we found at a total of three birds during our stay in the Sinharaja area.

Brahminy Starling (SE) *Sturnus pagodarum*

A single bird was observed in Yala NP.

Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Fairly large numbers were encountered at Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary.

Thrushes Turdidae

Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush (E) *Myophonus blighi*

This shy and secretive endemic was seen at a stream near Nuwara Eliya with a further bird being heard in Horton Plains NP.

Pied Thrush (SE) *Zoothera wardii*

One of the star birds of Sri Lanka! Although a very shy species, we had brilliant views of several males and females in Victoria Park on consecutive days.

Spot-winged Thrush (E) *Zoothera spiloptera*

A species of forest undergrowth that was observed on several occasions in the Kelani River FR and at Sinharaja Rainforest.

Sri Lanka Thrush (E) *Zoothera imbricata*

This species looks considerably different to the nominate bird; We managed to obtain very good views of this shy skulker on several occasions in Sinharaja forest.

NOTE: IOC has split *Z. dauma* into five species, Scaly Thrush (*Z. dauma*) from Himalayas to SE Asia, White's Thrush (*Z. dauma*) of E Asia, Amami Thrush (*Z. major*) of Ryukyu Is, Sri Lanka Thrush (*Z. imbricata*) of Sri Lanka and Nilgiri Thrush (*Z. neilgherriensis*) of S India.

Common (Indian) Blackbird (PSE) *Turdus merula (simillimus)*

This species was seen only in the highlands where we found five birds in the Horton Plains NP.

NOTE: *T. simillimus* is not split by Clements but is regarded as a full species by IOC according to the latest update. This species is endemic to South India and Sri Lanka.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Indian Blue Robin (SE) *Luscinia brunnea*

Good sightings of this skulker were had at a stream near Nuwara Eliya with a further sighting in Sinharaja.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

A common species that was seen at all highland and lowland forest sites on tour.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*

This widespread Asian species was seen well in Yala NP.

Indian Robin (SE) *Saxicoloides fulicata*

A common sight in Yala, Bundala and Uda Walawe National Parks.

Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata*

At least ten birds were found at the Horton Plains NP.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*

A few birds were seen, mainly in Sinharaja Rainforest.

Brown-breasted Flycatcher (SE) *Muscicapa muttui*

This usually uncommon understorey dweller was seen on numerous occasions with several confiding individuals at the Kelani River and in Sinharaja forest.

Kashmir Flycatcher (SE) *Ficedula subrubra*

This endangered bird has its wintering grounds almost confined to the island and we were fortunate to find several gorgeous males in Hakgala Botanical Gardens and near Nuwara Eliya.

Dull-blue Flycatcher (E) *Eumyias sordida*

This endemic is confined to the stunted high altitude forest around Nuwara Eliya and in Horton Plains National Park where we found 13 birds.

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*

A few were seen at the Kelani River FR with more heard at Sinharaja.

Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

These beauties were commonly recorded in the highlands.

Leafbirds Chloropseidae

Blue-winged (Jerdon's) Leafbird (PSE) *Chloropsis cochinchinensis (jerdoni)*

A total of five birds were seen during the tour with peak numbers in woodland at the Tissa wetlands.

NOTE: *C. jerdoni* is not split by Clements but is regarded as a full species by IOC according to the latest update. This species is endemic to India and Sri Lanka.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*

This stunner is restricted to the rainforest sites where we saw 6 individuals in total.

Flowerpeckers Dicaeidae

Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrorhynchus*

A widespread but relatively scarce Asian species, a single bird was found feeding on flowers in Yala NP.

Legge's Flowerpecker (E) *Dicaeum vincens*

This endemic of the lowland forests was sighted at the Kelani River FR and in the Sinharaja forest.

Pale-billed Flowerpecker (SE) *Dicaeum erythrorhynchus*

This species was common at all forest sites in the highlands and lowlands.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Purple-rumped Sunbird (SE) *Nectarinia zeylonica*

Another fairly common sunbird species that was located at every locality on the island.

Purple Sunbird *Nectarina asiatica*

This gaudy species was located at the Tissa wetlands, in Yala NP and at Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary and surrounding areas.

Loten's Sunbird (SE) *Cinnyris lotenius*

Located in small numbers at the Kelani River, in the highlands and in Yala NP. A brilliant sunbird with a dagger of a bill!

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Widespread and common in urban areas throughout Sri Lanka.

Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar*

A small flock of around 10 birds were seen nest-building in Yala NP. Several males were in fantastically showy breeding dress!

Baya Weaver *Ploceus phillipinus*

A flock of 15 birds were seen nest-building in Yala NP

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Indian Silverbill *Lonchura malabarica*

Two birds were encountered in Uda Walawe NP.

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*

A few individuals were seen at the Kelani River and in Sinharaja.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

Small numbers were encountered throughout the country.

Black-throated Munia (SE) *Lonchura kelaarti*

This is an extremely uncommon species throughout its range and we were very fortunate to obtain wonderful scope views of a single bird in Hakgala Botanical Gardens.

Black-headed (Tricolored) Munia (PSE) *Lonchura Malacca*

A few birds were seen well at the Tissa wetlands and in Yala NP with literally thousands being found later in Uda Walawe NP.

NOTE: L.malacca is endemic to South India and Sri Lanka and is split into two full species by IOC according to the latest update. Clements does not accept this split.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus*

This species of forest undergrowth was found in small numbers at various localities throughout the trip.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

A widespread and common species that was seen on two occasions.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

The most common wagtail in Sri Lanka; it was seen in small numbers at several localities on tour.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Good numbers were found in most grassland areas.

Annotated list of Mammals Recorded

(19 species)

Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Indian Flying Fox

Pteropus giganteus

Large numbers of over a hundred animals were seen in roosts next to the road on several occasions.

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae

Toque Macaque (E)

Macaca sinica

We enjoyed scattered sightings of this endemic primate on numerous occasions throughout the tour.

Ceylon Gray Langur (E)

Semnopithecus priam

Many were found in Yala NP, Bundala Wildlife Sanctuary and on the drive to Uda Walawe NP.

Purple-faced Leaf-Monkey (E)

Trachypithecus vetulus

Both the highland and lowland races were seen during the tour. The highland race is particularly beautiful with its thick, woolly coat.

Hares & Rabbits Leporidae

Black-naped (Indian) Hare

Lepus nigricollis

Two were seen during our early morning drive to the Horton Plains NP with a further three being sighted on the drive to and from Yala NP.

Bears Ursidae

Sloth Bear

Melursus ursinus

Without a doubt the top mammal of the trip! This awesome creature was seen exceptionally well in Yala NP. A mother and her two cubs were seen parading down the road – what an amazing sighting!

Dogs & Allies Canidae

Golden Jackal

Canis aureus

A total of seven of these scavengers were encountered in Yala NP.

Genets & Civets Viverridae

Small Indian Civet

Viverricula indica

We were very fortunate to see this nocturnal species during our early morning drive to Horton Plains NP.

Mongoose Herpestidae

Ceylon Brown Mongoose (E)

Herpestes fuscus

This species was seen en route to Kitulgala as well as near the Tissa wetlands.

Ruddy Mongoose

Herpestes smithii

Good views were had of this species in Yala NP.

Elephants Elephantidae

Indian Elephant

Elephus maximus

These impressive beasts were first found in Yala NP with further sightings in Uda Walawe NP where good numbers were encountered.

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

At least 20 were seen during our day in Yala NP.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae**Water Buffalo***Bubalis bubalis*

Large numbers were encountered in Yala and Uda Walawe National Parks.

Deer Cervidae**Spotted Deer (Chital)***Cervus axis*

A commonly recorded species in Yala NP with a singleton being found in Uda Walawe NP.

Sambar*Cervus unicolor*

We saw this large species at close range in Horton Plains National Park and again in Yala NP.

Squirrels Sciuridae**Layard's Squirrel (E)***Funambulus layardi*

This attractive forest-dwelling squirrel was seen well on several occasions in Sinharaja Rainforest.

Ceylon Palm Squirrel (E)*Funambulus palmarum*

Common and regularly encountered at most localities.

Dusky Striped Squirrel*Funambulus sublineatus*

This species was seen in forests around Nuwara Eliya and again in Sinharaja Rainforest.

Indian (Sri Lanka) Giant Squirrel (E)*Ratufa macroura*

This beautiful species was regularly found in the Sinharaja forest.

Photo credits: Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, Oriental Bay Owl, Greater (Crimson-backed) Goldenback, Yala NP scenery, Indian Peafowl and Sri Lanka Junglefowl.

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Worldwide Birding Adventures
PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, South Africa
Tel: +27 33 394 0225
Fax: +27 88 033 394 0225
Email: info@rockjumper.co.za
Alternative Email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com
Website: www.rockjumper.co.za