



**TROPICAL
BIRDING**



SRI LANKA CEYLON SOJOURN

A Tropical Birding Set Departure

January 20 – February 2, 2019

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**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 (Scaly) and Spot-winged Thrushes, Yellow-eared Bulbul, and White-throated (Legge's) Flowerpecker.

Although the endemics are always the focus, we enjoyed excellent birding overall, tallying 252 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 five were mammals – 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 Slaty-legged Crake, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Malabar Trogon, Indian Pitta, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Orange Minivet, Tawny-bellied Babbler, 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, Sirkeer and Blue-faced Malkohas, Pied and Gray-bellied Cuckoos, Crested Treeswift, White-naped Woodpecker, Jerdon's Leafbird, White-tailed (Marshall's) Iora, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Streaked and Baya Weavers, and Tricolored Munia. We even saw a couple of national rarities: White Wagtail and Bay-backed Shrike.

We finished the trip in the high mountains, where our last few endemics waited for us. These included the rare Sri Lanka Whistling-Thrush, of which we enjoyed unforgettable and prolonged views. We also



There are many endemic subspecies in Sri Lanka that may be split as full species in the future. One example is the distinctive subspecies of Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker

found two rare wintering birds, for which the little urban Victoria Park may be the best site on earth: Pied Thrush and Kashmir Flycatcher.

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 seven species of owls, including Brown Fish-Owl, Brown Wood-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.



The endemic Chestnut-backed Owlet was one of seven owls that we saw during this trip.

Sri Lanka has excellent and extensive wetlands, where we saw birds like Black-necked and Painted Storks, Spot-billed Pelican, Watercock, Yellow and Black Bitterns, Indian and Great Thick-knees, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, and Small Pratincole, 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 24 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 two wonderful prolonged Leopard sightings. 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.

As is typical with Tropical Birding trips, we didn't ignore other groups of creatures either. We identified 15 species of reptiles, which included some cool endemics: Hump-snout and Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizards, Sri Lanka Green Pit Viper, and Reed-like Kukri Snake. Butterflies formed another wonderful sources of diversion, and often became active just as the birding was getting quiet. We identified 45 species of butterflies, including the huge Sri Lanka Birdwing, rare Sri Lankan Forester, and Indian Fritillary.

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



We enjoyed a spectacularly good field lunch during our full day in Sinharaja National Park.

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 the guides' jobs easy!

TOP 5 TOUR SIGHTINGS

As voted by the tour participants and Ken

1) Leopard – 21 VOTES. There was a bit of a story with this animal. I had guided a Namibia trip for two of the participants in which they didn't manage to see a Leopard, despite my having found one inside of a national park camp on the way back from dinner one night! Subsequent to that trip, they went on to not see Leopard on several other trips where it was a possibility. So this time, none of us wanted to miss this beautiful cat. Thankfully, we were heading to perhaps the best place on Earth for Leopard: Yala National Park. By mid-day, we had spent almost an hour watching one Leopard, and after lunch we enjoyed a bonus sighting of a huge male. Nemesis mammal finally busted!



2) Sri Lanka Thrush – 14 VOTES. This split from the Scaly Thrush complex is one of the hardest-to-find of Ceylon's endemic birds. Spotting it wasn't easy on this trip. It wasn't until we had put in more than eight hours of searching that we finally had lengthy scope views of this cryptic-gaudy beauty.



Serendib Scops-Owl – 14 VOTES.

This diminutive endemic owl was only discovered in the 1990s! It can be quite elusive, but thankfully, many local guides at Sinharaja have become skilled at finding it on a day roost. We were lucky in that someone had located it on the day when we arrived at Sinharaja. Of course, we headed straight out to see the Serendib on our first afternoon of birding. It took a bit of a scramble up a hill and into a thicket, but our reward was point-blank views of this odd and attractive little owl.



3) Red-faced Malkoha – 13 VOTES. It's easy to make a case that this weird cuckoo is the most spectacular of Sri Lanka's endemic birds. It is completely unlike any other malkoha, and has an incredibly striking pattern. This species can be tough to see at all, and especially to see well, but with lots of time in the forest, we were eventually rewarded with multiple excellent views. Like all malkohas, this one acts more like a squirrel than a typical bird, scrambling through dense thickets, and rarely emerging into the open.



4) Sri Lankan

Whistling-Thrush – 9

VOTES. This may be the toughest of all the Sri Lankan endemics. I had folks prepared for the fleeting dawn views that are sometimes your only glimpses of this bird. A birding group that shared our hotel had failed to even hear the whistling-thrush in two days of birding the highlands. All of this made it all the more exciting when we found a tame pair of thrushes that sat in the open and allowed us to admire them for 30 minutes! This is actually a good-looking bird when you have a good view!



5) Blue Whale – 6 VOTES. We added a visit to the southwestern coast to our itinerary this year, to be able to take a boat trip in search of Blue Whale. This huge whale is not just the largest animal living today; it is the largest organism ever known to have graced the face of the globe! As is usually the case on these boat trips, we enjoyed multiple long views of the king of the ocean. When you see these whales surface, the length of their body between their blowhole and their small dorsal fin seems to go on so long that you almost think that there are two different whales involved!



ITINERARY

January 20	Colombo to Kitulaga.
January 21	Kitulaga area.
January 22	Kitulaga to Sinharaja
January 23-24	Sinharaja NP and surrounds.
January 25	Sinharaja to Weligama.
January 26	Blue Whale boat trip. Mirissa 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.



Dawn on the "River Kwai" (actually the Kelani River) at Kitulgala.

PHOTO GALLERY

Follows trip chronology



On our first morning, in Colombo, we had great scope views of a Black Bittern.



On our first afternoon at Kitulgala, we had a Velvet-fronted Nuthatch at point-blank range.



Kitulgala has easy wet-zone birding, and is a great place to start the tour and quickly locate common species like Yellow-browed Bulbul (left) and Yellow-fronted Barbet (right).



We had nice studies of Little Cormorant while waiting for the ferry at Kitulgala.



The endemic Spot-winged Thrush is pretty common in the southwestern Wet Zone.



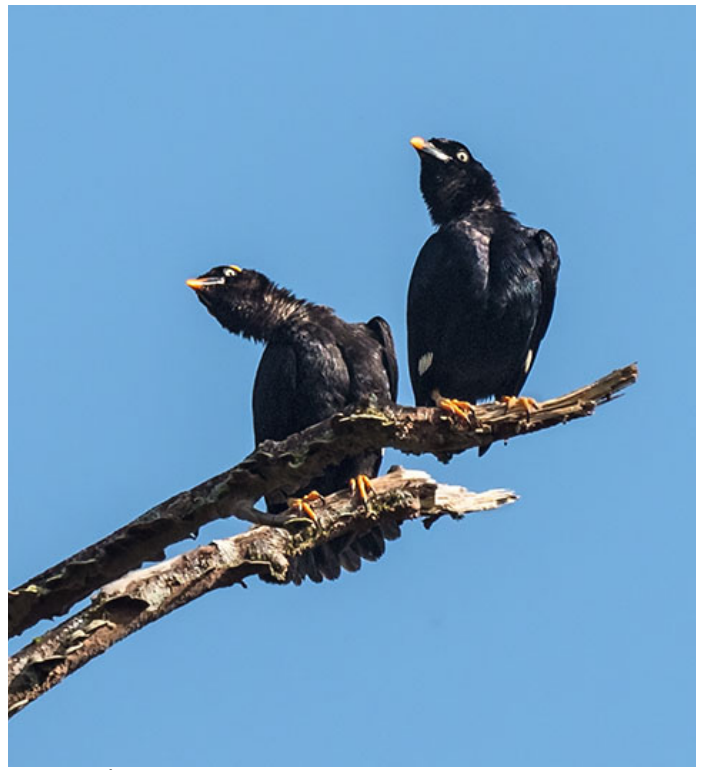
Sri Lanka Swallow (left) and Tawny-bellied Babbler (right).



The scarlet-backed subspecies of Black-rumped Flameback may be worthy of splitting as another endemic.



Footbridge at Kitulgala (left). Asian Paradise-Flycatcher male (right).



Sinharaja is the endemic capital of Sri Lanka, supporting about 2/3 of the island's endemics. These include Sri Lanka Gray Hornbill (left), Sri Lanka Myna (right), and Ashy-headed Laughingthrush (below).





Sinharaja National Park consists of a ridgeline covered in pristine rainforest.



More endemics: Kangaroo Lizard (left) and Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babbler (right).



The funky Orange-billed Babbler is a core flock member in the Sinharaja rainforest.



Green Garden Lizard male (left) and Sri Lanka Drongo (right).



Dark-fronted Babbler is a common but inconspicuous rainforest denizen.



Small rainforest inhabitants: Reed-like Kukri Snake (left) and Sri Lanka White-eye (right).



Endemic Purple-faced Langur (left) and Lesser Yellownape of the endemic subspecies (right).



Sri Lankan Frogmouths. From this photo, it's easy to see how the group got its name!



Pale-billed (left) and Legge's (right) Flowerpeckers.



Sri Lanka has two of the world's four loras: Common (left) and Marshall's (right).



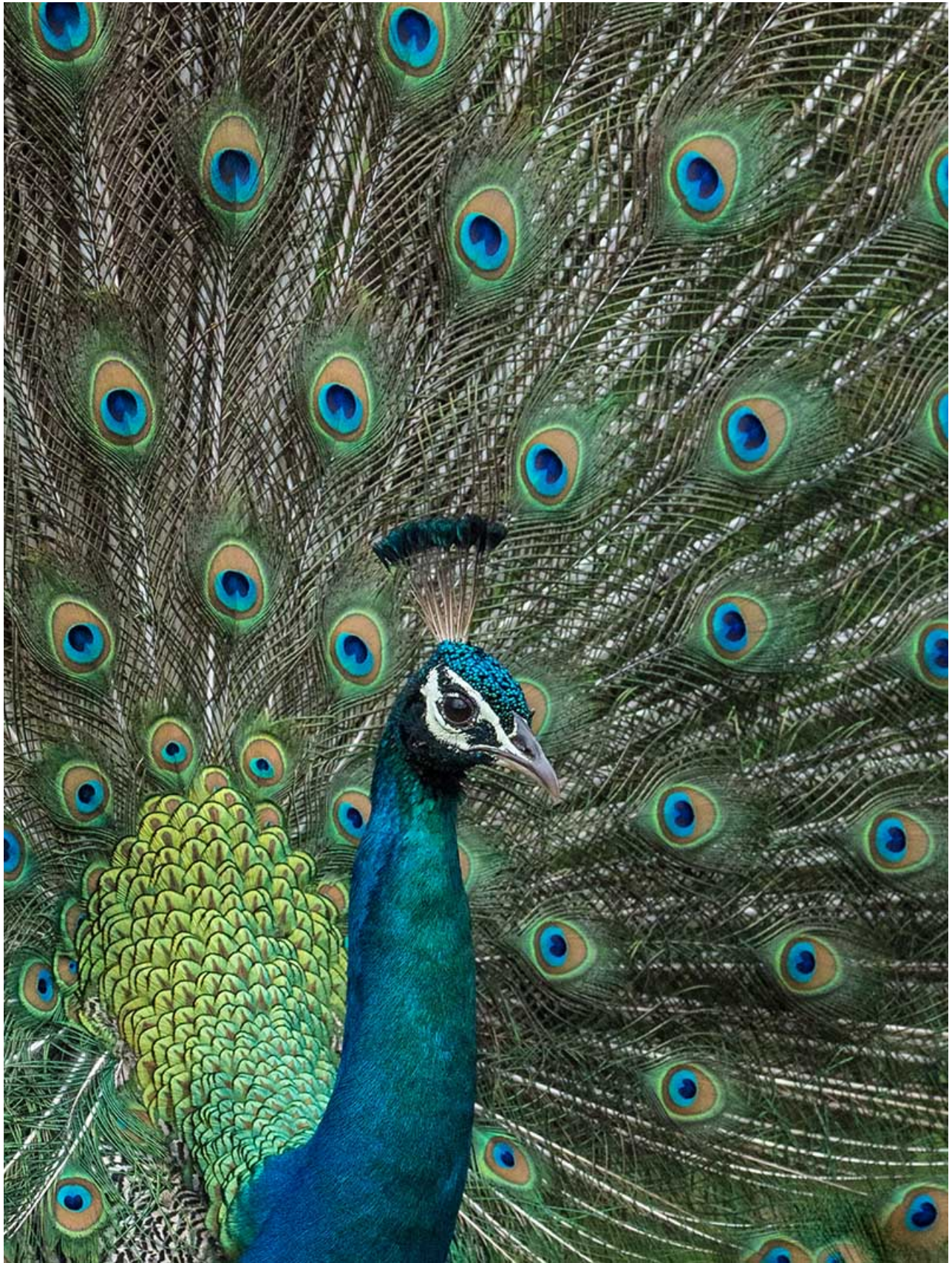
We had great views of Barred Buttonquail just outside of Uda Walawe National Park.



Red-wattled Lapwing is common in the parks of the Dry Zone.



Sri Lanka Woodshrike (left) and Jerdon's Bushlark (right).



Displaying Indian Peafowls show a dazzling galaxy of patterns and colors.



White-bellied Sea Eagle (left) and Rosy Starling (right), prize sightings in Uda Walawe.



Uda Walawe has wonderful scenery and lots of Asian Elephants.



Yellow-billed Babbler (left) and Sirkeer Malkoha (right).



We saw several beautiful Indian Rat Snakes.



In Yala, we had very, very close views of Crested Hawk-Eagle.



Kitties small and large: Jungle Cat (above) and Leopard (below).





Little Green Bee-eater is wonderfully common in the Dry Zone.



Reedbed birds in Yala: Streaked Weaver (left) and Tricolored Munia (right).

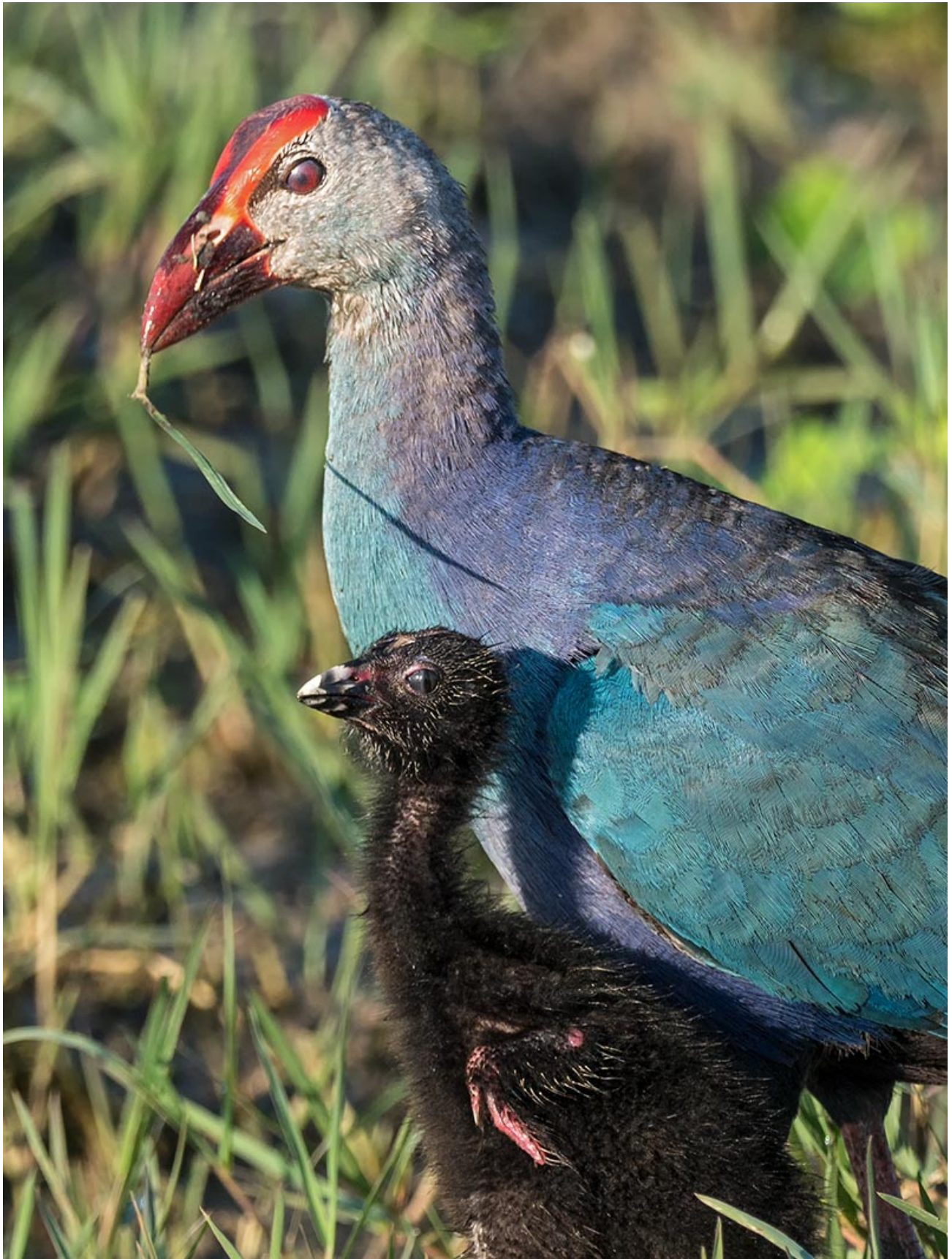


Chital or Spotted Deer in a woodland glade.



Bundala National Park is paradise for a range of waterbirds, including Common Redshank (above), Kentish Plover (left below), and Small Pratincole (right below).

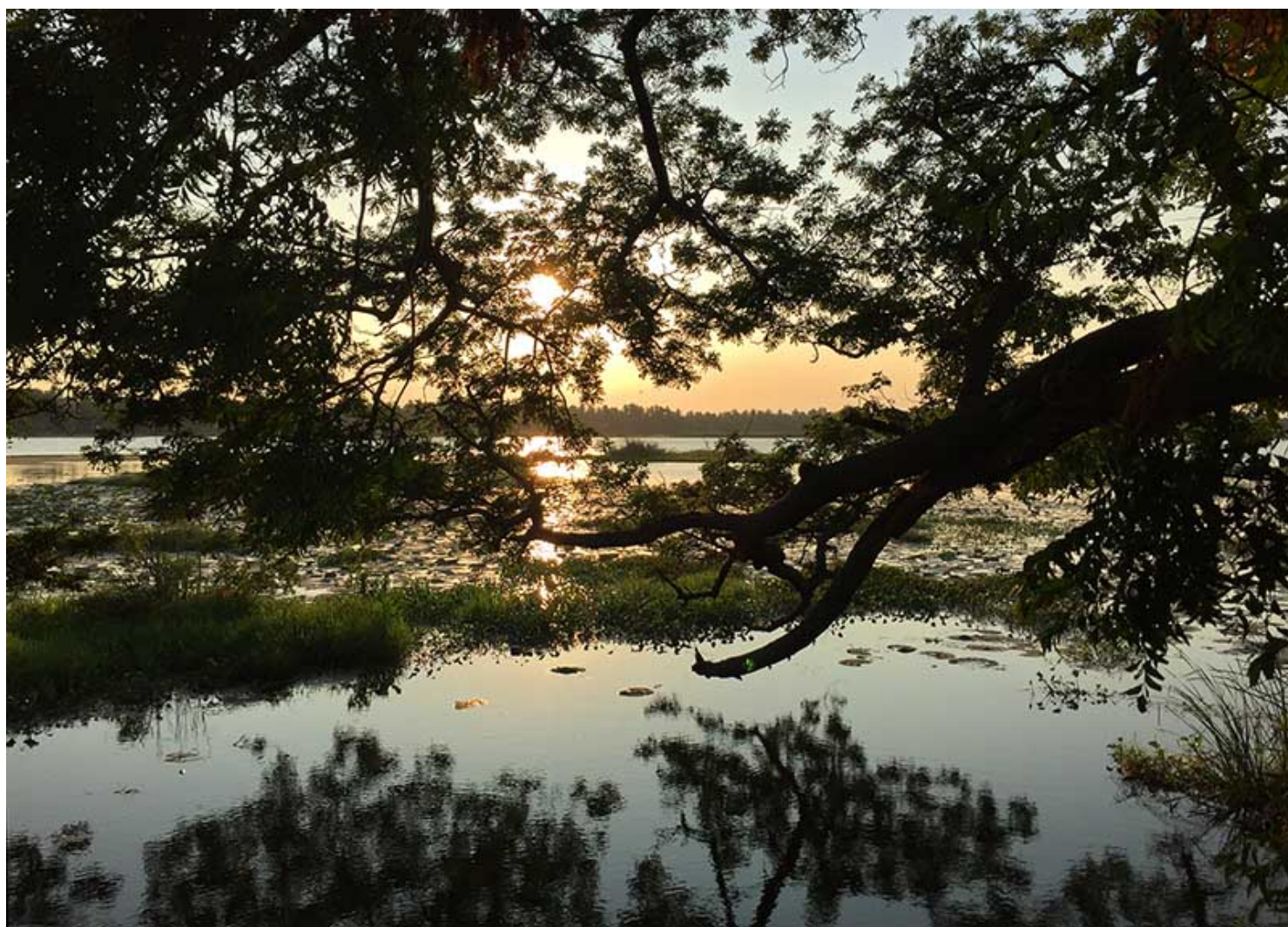




Gray-headed Swamphen youngster and parent.



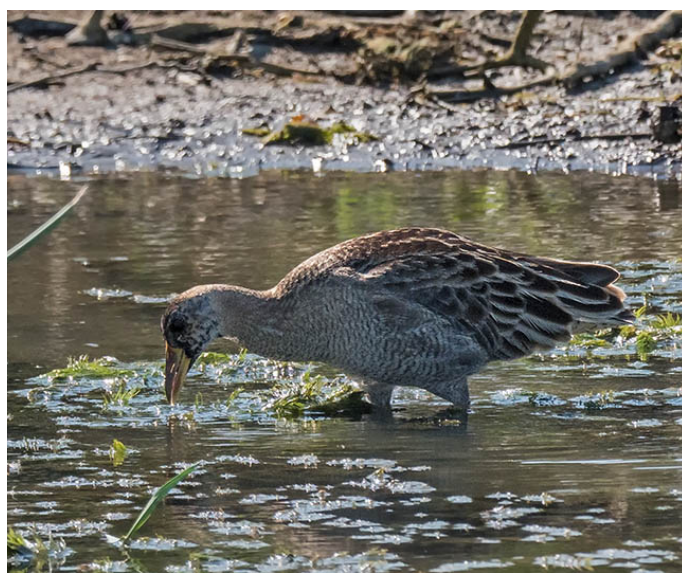
Tissa has abundant birdlife, and is a beautiful and relaxed place to wander around. Our sightings on the tanks of Tissa included Black-headed Ibis (left) and Black-tailed Godwit (right).



The sun sets through a Rain Tree, a classic sight at Tissa.



Bundala and Yala protect some lovely wild stretches of shoreline.



Common and rare: Brahminy Kite (left) and Watercock (right).



Victoria Park, in Nuwara Eliya, may be the best place on Earth to see Kashmir Flycatcher.



Indian Blackbird is a fairly common bird in the highlands.



The Yellow-eared Bulbul (left) is a resident endemic, while the Indian Blue Robin (right) is a winter visitor.



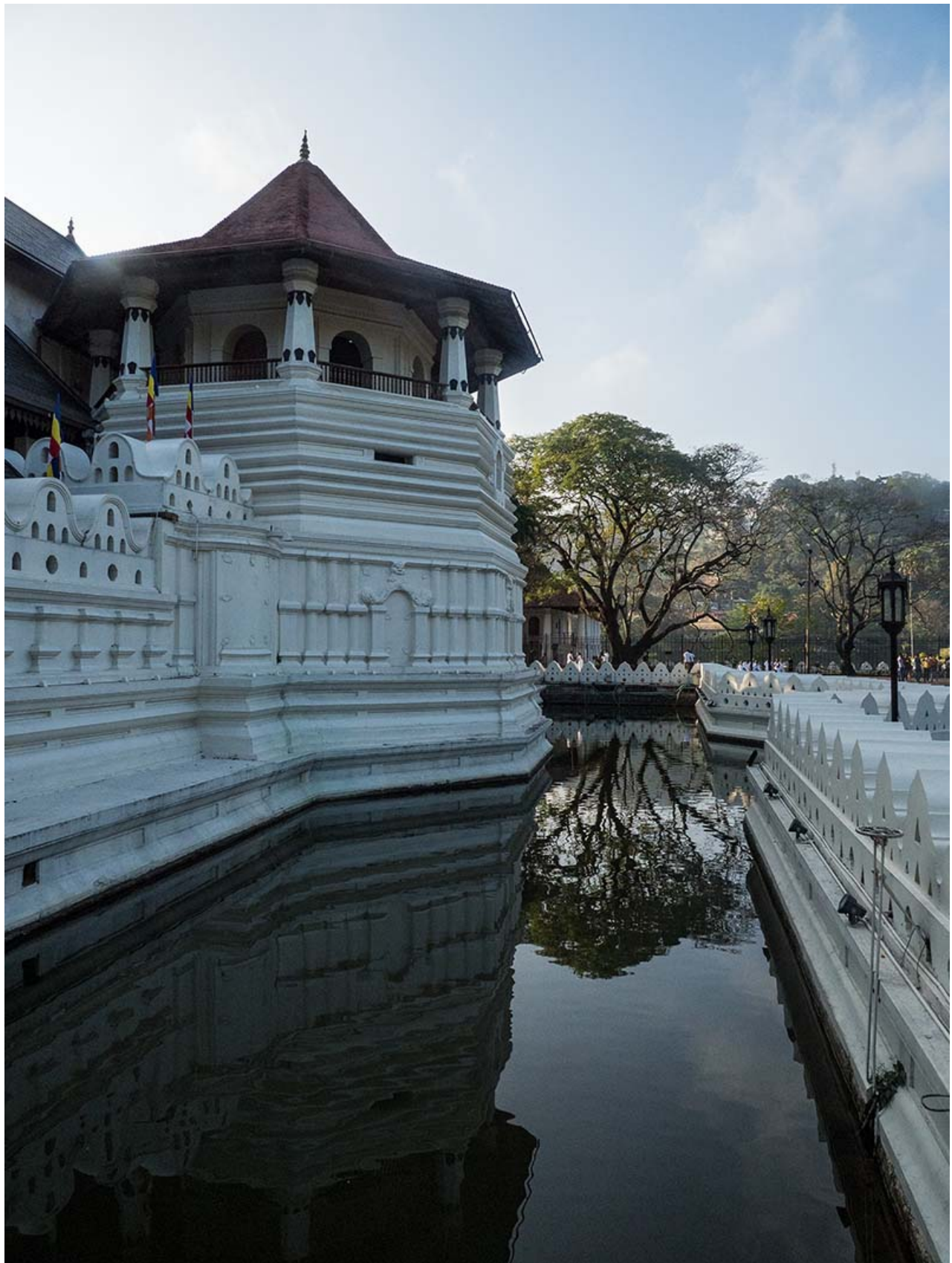
An array of vegetables for sale near Nuwara Eliya.



We visited the Glenloch tea factory, and sampled some of the delicious tea grown in the surrounding estate.



Indian Muntjac in Kandy (left) and a typical, delicious plate of Sri Lankan cuisine (right).



The Temple of the Tooth in Kandy is a fascinating and beautiful place.

BIRD LIST

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow *The eBird-Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World v2018* (including updates through August 2018).

DUCKS, GEESE & WATERFOWL		ANATIDAE	
	Lesser Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	
	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	
PHEASANTS, GROUSE & ALLIES		PHASIANIDAE	
	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Spurfowl (E)	<i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Junglefowl (E)	<i>Gallus lafayetii</i>	
GREBES		PODICIPEDIDAE	
	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	
PIGEONS & DOVES		COLUMBIDAE	
	Rock (Common) Pigeon (Rock Dove)	<i>Columba livia</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Wood-Pigeon (E)	<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 (E)	<i>Treron pompadora</i>	
	Green Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea pusilla</i>	
CUCKOOS		CUCULIDAE	
E	Green-billed Coucal (E)	<i>Centropus chlororhynchus</i>	
	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis parroti</i>	
	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii leschenaultii</i>	
E	Red-faced Malkoha (E)	<i>Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus</i>	
SSE	Blue-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>	
	Pied (Jacobin) Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus jacobinus</i>	
	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>	
Essp	Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii waiti</i>	H

	Gray-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	
Essp	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius ciceliae</i>	H
	Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</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	
	Brown-backed Needletail	<i>Hirundapus giganteus</i>	
SSE	Indian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>	
	Little (House) Swift	<i>Apus affinis singalensis</i>	
	Asian Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	
TREESWIFTS		HEMIROCNIDAE	
	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	
RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS		RALLIDAE	
	Slaty-legged Crane	<i>Rallina eurizonoides</i>	
	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	
	Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>	
	Gray-headed Swampfen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>	
	Eurasian (Common) Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
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 seebohmii</i>	
	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	
	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
PAINTED-SNIPES		ROSTRATULIDAE	
	Greater Painted-Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</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>	
	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	
	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</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	
	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	
GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS		LARIDAE	
	Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	
	Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</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>	
STORKS		CICONIIDAE	
	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	
	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	
	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	
	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	
ANHINGAS		ANHINGIDAE	
	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	
CORMORANTS & SHAGS		PHALACROCORACIDAE	
	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	
	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</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>	
	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</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-winged (-shouldered) 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 cirrhatus ceylanensis</i>	
	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>	
	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	
	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	
	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus besra</i>	
	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	
	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	
	Gray-headed Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichthyaetus</i>	
BARN-OWLS		TYTONIDAE	
	(Eastern) Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	
SSE / Essp	Sri Lanka Bay-Owl	<i>Phodilus assimilis assimilis</i>	H
OWLS		STRIGIDAE	
E	Serendib Scops-Owl (E)	<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 (E)	<i>Glaucidium castanonotum</i>	
Essp	Brown Wood-Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica ochrogenys</i>	

	Brown Boobook (Hawk-Owl)	<i>Ninox scutulata hirsuta</i>	
TROGONS		TROGONIDAE	
SSE / Essp	Malabar Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus fasciatus</i>	
HOOPOES		UPOUPIDAE	
	Eurasian (Common) Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	
HORNBILLS		BUCEROTIDAE	
E	Sri Lanka Gray Hornbill (E)	<i>Ocyrceros gingalensis</i>	
SSE	Malabar Pied-Hornbill	<i>Anthracosceros 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		MEROPIDAE	
	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	
	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</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 (E)	<i>Megalaima rubricapillus</i>	
	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>	
	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus zeylanicus</i>	
E	Yellow-fronted Barbet (E)	<i>Psilopogon flavifrons</i>	
WOODPECKERS		PICIDAE	
Essp	Brown-capped (Sri Lanka) Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus nanus gymnophthalmus</i>	
	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>	
Essp	Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus wellsi</i>	
Essp	Black-rumped (Sri Lanka) Flameback (Lesser Goldenback)	<i>Dinopium benghalense psarodes</i>	

	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>	H
E	Crimson-backed (Goldenback) Flameback (E)	<i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i>	
Essp	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus tantus</i>	
FALCONS & CARACARAS		FALCONIDAE	
	Eurasian (Common) Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus objurgatus</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 (E)	<i>Psittacula calthropae</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Hanging-Parrot (E)	<i>Loriculus beryllinus</i>	
PITTAS		PITTIDAE	
	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	
VANGAS, HELMETSHRIKES & ALLIES		VANGIDAE	
E	Sri Lanka Woodshrike (E)	<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>	
	Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage melanoptera</i>	
SHRIKES		LANIIDAE	
	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	
	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	
OLD WORLD ORIOLES		ORIOLIDAE	
Essp	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus ceylonensis</i>	

DRONGOS		DICRURIDAE	
Essp	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens leucopygialis</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Drongo (E)	<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 (E)	<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	
	Bank Swallow (Sand Martin)	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
SSE	Hill Swallow	<i>Hirundo domicola</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Swallow (E)	<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 (E)	<i>Rubigula melanicterus</i>	
Essp	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer cafer</i>	

E	Yellow-eared Bulbul (E)	<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		PYLLOSCOPIIDAE	
	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	
	Pallas's Grasshopper-Warbler (Rusty-rumped Warbler)	<i>Locustella certhiola</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Bush-Warbler (E)	<i>Elaphrornis palliseri</i>	
CISTICOLAS & ALLIES		CISTICOLIDAE	
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>	
PARROTBILLS, WRENTIT & ALLIES		PARADOXORNITHIDAE	
Essp	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense nasale</i>	
WHITE-EYES, YUHNAS & ALLIES		ZOSTEROPIIDAE	
E	Sri Lanka White-eye (E)	<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 (E)	<i>Pomatorhinus melanurus</i>	
GROUND BABBLERS & ALLIES		PELLORNEIDAE	
E	Brown-capped Babbler (E)	<i>Pellorneum fuscicapillus</i>	
LAUGHINGTHRUSHES & ALLIES		LEIOTHRICHIDAE	
E	Orange-billed Babbler (E)	<i>Turdoides rufescens</i>	
SSE / Essp	Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis taprobana</i>	
E	Ashy-headed Laughingthrush (E)	<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 (E)	<i>Eumyias sordidus</i>	
	Indian Blue Robin	<i>Larvivora brunnea</i>	
E	Sri Lanka Whistling-Thrush (E)	<i>Myophonus blighi</i>	
	Kashmir Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula subrubra</i>	
Essp	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata atratus</i>	
THRUSHES & ALLIES		TURDIDAE	
E	Sri Lanka Thrush (E)	<i>Zoothera imbricata</i>	
	Pied Thrush	<i>Geokichla wardii</i>	
E	Spot-winged Thrush (E)	<i>Geokichla spiloptera</i>	
SSE / Essp	Indian Blackbird	<i>Turdus simillimus kinnisii</i>	
STARLINGS		STURNIDAE	
E	Sri Lanka (Hill) Myna (E)	<i>Gracula ptilogenys</i>	
SSP	Southern (Lesser) Hill Myna	<i>Gracula indica</i>	
	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	
E	White-faced Starling (E)	<i>Sturnia albofrontata</i>	

	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</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>	H
FLOWERPECKERS		DICAEIDAE	
E	White-throated (Legge's) Flowerpecker (E)	<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>	
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba dukhunensis</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>	
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Bold / E = Endemic

Essp = Endemic Subspecies

SSE = Endemic to southern Indian subcontinent

G = Guide-only

H = Heard-only



At Bundala NP, we studied the intricately beautiful markings on the bill of the Eurasian Spoonbill.

MAMMAL LIST

RORQUALS		BALAENOPTERIDAE
	Blue Whale	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
DOLPHINS		DOLPHINIDAE
	Short-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>
	Spinner Whale	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>
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
	Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</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	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>
Essp	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
MONGOOSES		HERPESTIDAE
	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
Introduced?	Wild Asian Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>

Bold / E = Endemic



We saw Asian Elephant, the continent's largest land mammal, to go with our sighting of the world's largest oceanic mammal!

REPTILE LIST

AGAMID LIZARDS		AGAMIDAE
	Green Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes calotes</i>
	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
E	Hump-snout Lizard	<i>Lyriocephalus scutatus</i>
E	Kangaroo Lizard	<i>Otocryptis wiegmanni</i>
SKINKS		SCINCIDAE
	Common Skink Mabuya	<i>Carinata lankae</i>
VIPERS		VIPERIDAE
E	Sri Lanka Green Pit Viper	<i>Trimeresurus trigonocephalus</i>
COLUBRID SNAKES		COLUBRIDAE
	Reed-like Kukri Snake	<i>Oligodon calamarius</i>
	Indian Rat Snake	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>
	Olive Keelback	<i>Atretium schistosum</i>
TURTLES, TERRAPINS etc.		GEOMYDIDAE
	Hard-shelled Terrapin (Spotted Black Turtle)	<i>Melanochelys trijuga thermalis</i>
	Soft-shelled Terrapin	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>
TORTOISES		TESTUDINIDAE
	Star Tortoise	<i>Testudo elegans</i>
CROCODILES		CROCODYLIDAE
	Marsh Crocodile	<i>Cocodylus palustris</i>
MONITORS		VARANIDAE
	Land Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>
	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator kabaragoya</i>

Bold / E = Endemic

BUTTERFLY LIST

Common Birdwing	<i>Troiders darsius</i>
Crimson Rose	<i>Pachliopta hector</i>
Common Rose	<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae ceylonica</i>
Red Helen	<i>Papilio helenus</i>
Blue Mormon	<i>Papilio polymnestor parinda</i>
Bluebottle	<i>Graphium doson</i>
Common Jay	<i>Graphium doson</i>
Tailed Jay	<i>Graphium agamemnon</i>
Psyche	<i>Leptosia nina</i>
Jezebel	<i>Delias eucharis</i>
One-spot Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema ormistoni</i>
Three-spot Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema blanda</i>
Lemon Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>
Tree Nymph	<i>Idea iasonia</i>
Blue Glassy Tiger	<i>Ideopsis similis</i>
Ceylon tiger	<i>Parantica taprobana</i>
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Common/Single Branded Crow	<i>Euploea core</i>
Great/King Crow	<i>Euploea paenareta</i>
Fritillary	<i>Argynnis hyperbius</i>
Tawny Rajah	<i>Charaxes bernardus</i>
Chocolate Soldier	<i>Junonia iphita</i>
Peacock Pansy	<i>Junonia almana</i>
Great Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>
Indian Fritillary	<i>Argynnis hyperbius</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa indica</i>
Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>
Common Sailor	<i>Neptis hylas</i>
Sri Lankan Treebrown	<i>Lethe daretis</i>

Gladeye Bushbrown	<i>Nissanga patnia</i>
Common Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis lalassis</i>
Medus Brown	<i>Orsotriaena medus</i>
Plum Judy	<i>Abisara echerius</i>
Common Lineblue	<i>Prosotas nora</i>
Common Cerulean	<i>Jamides celeno</i>
Metallic Cerulean	<i>Jamides alecto</i>
Tiny Grass Blue	<i>Zizula hylax</i>
Gram Blue	<i>Euchrysops cnejus</i>
Lime Blue	<i>Chilades lajus</i>
Ceylon Hedge Blue	<i>Udara lanka</i>
Black Angle	<i>Tapena thwaitesi</i>
Restricted Demon	<i>Notocrypta curvifascia</i>
Gram Blue	<i>Euchrysops cnejus</i>
Oriental Palm Bob	<i>Suastus gremius</i>
Sri Lankan Hedge Hopper	<i>Baracus vittatus</i>



Jezebel was just one of 45 species of butterflies that we identified during this trip.