



**TROPICAL  
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Worldwide Birding & Photography Tours

**SRI LANKA**  
**Set Departure Tour**

*17th - 30th January 2020*

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Known to the Romans as Serendivis, the Arabs as Serendib, the British as Ceylon, and the modern world as Sri Lanka, this large island off of the Indian subcontinent beholds a true world of its own. A little south Asian, a little Indonesian, with a flavour harkening back to its history as a Chinese trading post, this teardrop shaped piece of land off of south-east India has rightly earned its reputation among birders and general naturalists as a heaven on Earth. Pumped with endemic species, second only to New Guinea for endemic-species-per-metre abundance, a suite of spectacular birds and butterflies, some of the best safari outside of Africa, friendly people, and consistently ranking as one of the safest tourist destinations available, Sri Lanka has A LOT to offer. That's not to mention the world's finest tea and some of the best food in Asia.

*Orange-billed Babbler is a very common Sri Lankan endemic*



Our Ceylon Sojourn began north of the bustling capital of Colombo at a quaint hotel near the international airport. Chosen for its surroundings, we visited a neighbouring wetland to see the likes of **Yellow Bittern**, **Grey-headed Swamphen**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **Brown-headed Barbet** as well as **Common**, **White-throated** and even **Stork-billed Kingfishers**, and this was all before breakfast. Breakfast itself was interrupted by our first Sri Lankan endemic - a **Crimson-fronted Barbet** singing loudly from a tree above the hotel swimming pool. Does birding get any better?!

*Blue-tailed Bee-eater is common throughout this island*



Our first base for the tour was the picturesque Kithulgala. Our hotel sat above the false River Kwai where we spent our mealtimes with binoculars on full alert as **Alexandrine**, **Rose-ringed** and **Layard's Parakeets** flew to and from a fruiting tree, **Crested Hawk-Eagles** cried mournfully across the river and **Green Imperial Pigeons** and **Sri Lanka Grey Hornbills** flew from treetop to treetop, often perching momentarily before a flock of noisy **Sri Lanka Hanging Parrots** surely scared them off. **Stork-billed Kingfisher** and **White-rumped Munia** became meal companions.

*Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher is as beautiful as it is difficult to say*



Birding within and beside the forest over the course of a couple of mornings and afternoons, we managed to pull together an impressive list of birds. A nearby resort area was our first foray, holding **Yellow-fronted Barbet**, stunning **Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher** which gave way above average views, our first skulking **Spot-winged Thrush**, a party of **Grizzled Giant Squirrels**, the first of many **Sri Lanka Green Pigeons**, and the star of the show, an eventually co-operative endemic **Chestnut-backed Owlet**. Endemics don't come much cuter or fiercer than this guy, and all in one tiny little package. The long-perched **Shikra** and **Common Hawk Cuckoo** could hardly compete with birds like those previously mentioned on display.

*Chestnut-backed Owlet*



Our forays into the park itself involved a precarious rickety bridge crossing, and a rather serene drift across the river on a pontoon boat. Along the way, and along the trails, we came across our first **Sri Lanka Junglefowl**, which apparently have no fear of tuktuks, as well as the absurdly skulking **Green-billed Malkoha** which despite its best efforts, was eventually seen well by everybody. The oddly attractive and bold **Legge's Flowerpecker** arrived with a covey of **Yellow-fronted Barbets** that fed at eye level for some time, and almost outdid the Coconut Hopas we were offered by a local chef-extraordinaire. Further on we found the Sri Lanka endemic subspecies of **Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**, as well as **Sri Lanka Flameback** AND **Scarlet-backed Woodpecker**, quite the trunk-smashing haul for one site!

*Legge's Flowerpecker is a bold and common endemic*



Our last afternoon saw us catch up with **Black-headed** and **Large Cuckooshrikes** as well as three species of bee-eater, **Pale-billed Flowerpecker**, **Sri Lanka Woodshrike** and **Green Warbler** at a nearby rubber plantation before we set our sights forth to the lush green emerald in the crown of Sri Lanka - Sinharaja National Park.

Our introduction to Sinharaja was *wild*. A frantic, sweaty, steamy, muddy, slippery, weary scramble up a steep slope took us to our first and most desired endemic of this location - a superb roosting **Serendib Scops Owl**. Only recently discovered, this was a monster find and one we were ecstatic to see.

*Sri Lanka Junglefowl - a true 'chicken'*



Time spent at the National Park headquarters found us in absolute awe of one of the best birds in the world - **Sri Lanka Blue Magpie**. A small family group were visiting a well-placed feeder and showed little of the normally-shy behaviour these birds display in the forest. The feeder was also visited by **Yellow-browed Bulbuls** and **Indian Blue Robin**, whilst the car park played host to two absurdly tame **Emerald Doves**. At a far-flung gate of the reserve we found a tame group of **Black-capped Bulbuls** and a **Green Vine Snake** before commencing our work on the trail.

*Sri Lanka Blue Magpie is always on the top of the 'must see' list*



Along the beautiful forest trail that we spent two mornings on we found bountiful wildlife. Cocky **Sri Lanka Junglefowl** harassed us for food, and received nothing for their effort. **Sri Lanka Woodpigeon** surprisingly showed well and at length, despite their usually shy behaviour, as did **Grey-headed Laughingthrush** which required a lot of shifting and sliding to get into position. **Dark-fronted** and **Brown-capped Babblers** babbled us along the trail regularly whilst **Spot-winged Thrushes** were positively abundant. **Sri Lanka Scimitar-babbler** made their first appearance and wowed the crowd, but it was the several **Red-faced Malkohas** that we had exceptional views of that really stole the show here. Not only a rare bird, and an endemic, but also an absolutely stunning looker; this is what every endemic bird aspires to be, and is one of the main reasons Sri Lanka is mentioned in excited whispers by birders worldwide.

*Red-faced Malkoha is even better than it looks in the book!*





Significantly trickier, and by far the trickiest bird on the island, is **Sri Lanka Thrush**. Some of us were extremely lucky with Saman, our local guide, and Lisle spread across a dense patch of forest pin-pointing a perched bird for those within grabbing distance, before it disappeared as they are renowned to do. Much effort and slogging through leech-infested forest found us several more glimpses, and fleeting views of one individual hopping its way through the leaf litter, but little more. We had been exceptionally lucky to begin with. Consolation though came in the form of abnormally good extended views of both **Sri Lanka Myna** with its dangling nape skin, and **Sri Lanka Drongo**, a forest specialist, as well as a nesting **Black-naped Monarch** and several gaudily beautiful **Malabar Trogons**.

*Spot-winged Thrush is common but always worth stopping for*



Before leaving Sinharaja we made one final vigil at a local blind to see if the elusive **Sri Lanka Spurfowl** would visit. Luck was with us, finally, after two fruitless visits, as we had a short but very very sweet visit by a male and female pair of spurfowl. To make things sweeter we also found **White-faced Starling** nearby, though on our first morning, and on our final morning found a **Slaty-legged Crane** that would have showed well had a feral dog not tried to grab it as it emerged. With wild success behind us, we journeyed on to the coast...

*Sri Lanka Spurfowl really gave us the runaround this year*



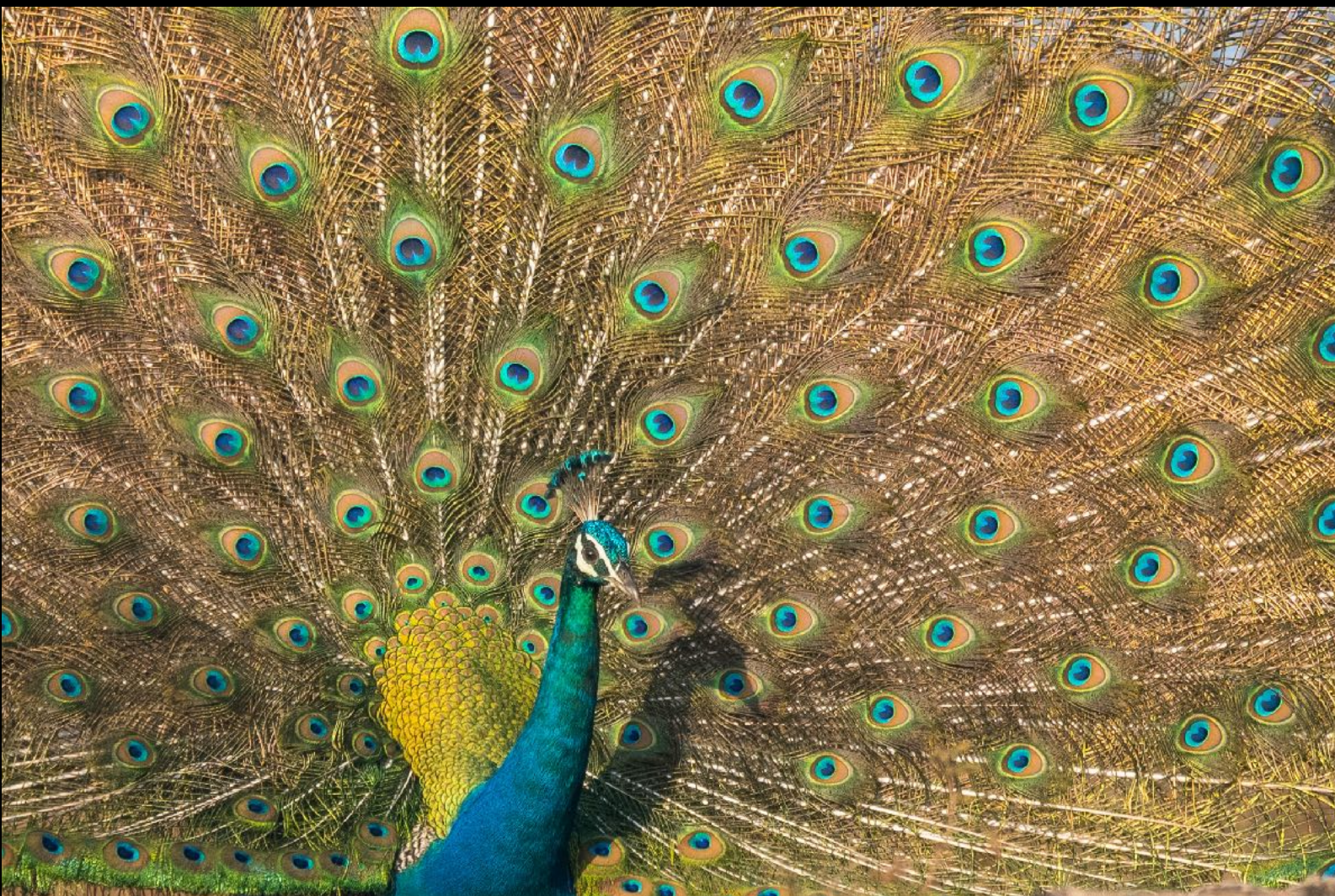
The diversity of experiences in Sri Lanka is astonishing, and for our 2020 tour we have altered the itinerary to include a visit to the coastal town of Mirissa. Why, you ask? Well, the biggest animal on the planet, of course. Our main reason for visiting the coast was to undertake a boat trip to look for the legendary **Blue Whale** which occurs off of Sri Lanka in good numbers during January and February. We were very fortunate on our trip, with many close encounters including one whale that swam directly beneath our boat. Not to mention the **Indian Ocean Spinner Dolphins** that played supporting cast alongside a **Swordfish**, several **Green Turtle** and **Common, Greater Crested** and **Whiskered Terns**.

*Blue Whale is impressive enough, but a fluker is almost too much!*



Back on land we made our way to Uda Walawe National Park, ready to take an evening wander along the waterside. Here we really started to rake in extra species that included **Oriental Skylark, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Barred Buttonquail, Great Thick-Knee** and a host of shorebirds including **Lesser Sandplover, Little Ringed Plover, Marsh Sandpiper, Common Greenshank** and **Pin-tailed Snipe**. We also managed to find **Pied** and **Grey-bellied Cuckoos** in brushland, as well as **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker**, before dusk fell and we turned our minds to night creatures. Watching **Asian Elephants** graze as we waited for darkness, our targets began to sing, and before it was even totally dark we had already had close and prolonged views of both **Indian** and **Jerdon's Nightjars**.

*Indian Peafowl strutting its stuff at Uda Walawe*





Back into Uda Walawe at first light, we had some unfinished business with a few avian residents. First up was **Tricoloured Munia** which gave itself up in flocks throughout the morning. Next came another **Asian Elephant**, which we couldn't drive past without admiring. **Yellow-eyed Babblers** came next but betrayed the presence of our much-wanted **Tawny-bellied Babbler** beside them. **Blue-faced Malkoha** perched in the complete open, a rarity in itself, before we first scored good views of **Marshall's Iora** then found a roosting **Brown Fish Owl** that caused a traffic jam over a small bridge. A brief breakfast stop netted us **Hume's Whitethroat** but by mid-morning the heat had set in and activity had died down, so we decided to call it a day and toward our next base near Tissa.

Arriving in time for an afternoon jaunt to the local wetlands, we went in search of new birds in the peasant orange glow of evening. **Pheasant-tailed Jacanas** strutted their stuff, but it was with the help of two local boys that we found our afternoon highlights. First, a somewhat curious **Jungle Owlet** gave us a bit of a runaround, but a much more sleepy **Indian Scops Owl** was more co-operative in its chosen bamboo stand. We finished the day with a visit to a local family's garden where we watched a **White-naped Woodpecker** inspect its nesting hole.

*Blue-faced Malkoha is tricky to get out in the open,  
but when you do... wow!*







*Large male Asian Leopard at Yale National Park*

The next day we spent the entire day in Sri Lanka's flagship national park - Yala NP - home of the Leopard. Almost immediately after entering the park we started to see new birds. First, **Little Tern**, then a remarkably showy **Lesser Adjutant** that really strutted its stuff for us. Next up, for one of the jeeps, was a trio of **Asian Leopard**, a mother with two cubs, though she quickly disappeared. We focussed our attention on the series of pools and scrub and found **Baya Weaver**, **Grey-headed Fish Eagle**, **Brown-backed Needletail** and more for our efforts, but it was a duo of astonishing mammal encounters that really made the day for us.

Close encounters with large game are always thrilling. Having a huge male **Asian Elephant** walk just a couple of feet from the vehicle, checking us out, was remarkable. Though not quite as remarkable as when we found ourselves in the absolute perfect position to watch a hulking male **Asian Leopard** walk through the scrub, out into the open, then settle down beside a muddy pond for us to have long uninterrupted views of this most majestic of beasts.





With most of our targets under the belt, we left with little pressure at Bundala NP the next morning. Upon arriving, our desired **Clamorous Reed Warblers** were already calling in the darkness, and soon made themselves visible with the sunrise. A couple of brief **Watercock** were not as obliging, but we all thoroughly enjoyed watching hundreds of striking **Black-tailed Godwits** circling above us and dropping into nearby pools. Out on the pans we found many new shorebirds, including scarce birds like **Small Pratincole** and **Spotted Redshank**, and a true Sri Lankan rarity in the form of a **Broad-billed Sandpiper**. Also present were **Common, Green** and **Marsh Sandpipers**, **Common Greenshank**, **Lesser Sand**, **Common Ringed, Kentish** and **Little Ringed Plovers**, **Little Stint**, **Curlew Sandpiper** and a single **Ruff**.

As the day heated up nicely, and the heat haze began to shimmer, disrupting our vision, we added a brief but beautiful **Bay-backed Shrike** to our morning list, alongside a single cryptic **Eurasian Thick-Knee**, before turning our sights back to Tissa. The afternoon was spent in various fashions. Some of us took a walk along the wetland, spending time watching a **Rat Snake** harass some **Rose-ringed Parakeets**. We then split, some returned to the hotel's purpose-built viewing platform to watch the emergence of thousands of **Indian Flying Fox** again, whilst Hari, Susan and Lisle went with Saman to look for a local family of **Barn Owls**, which really gave a fantastic display.

*Barn Owl giving exceptional looks with two of its young near Tissa*



Our final ecotype of the tour is the famed 'hill country', home to the finest teas in the world, and some of the island's most range-restricted endemic birds. We spent our first afternoon at a local dumping ground, exotic, I know. Despite first impressions, this little heap had a wonderful attendance of birds including remarkable views of **Sri Lanka Whistlingthrush**, repeated visits by **Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babbler**, **Indian Blackbird** and even a heart-stopping appearance by a surprise **Slaty-legged Crane** that gave some of the best views imaginable for this normally secretive bird!

*Slaty-legged Crane near Horton Plains NP*



Our full day in these hills saw us split between two locations. The morning was spent high up at Horton Plains National Park where we almost immediately secured laughably super views of the mega-skulking **Sri Lanka Bush Warbler**, before focussing our attention on some nearby **Dull-blue Flycatcher** - this just happened to be our final Sri Lankan endemic bird - hoorah! The bushes dripped in **Sri Lanka White-eyes** and we got our best views yet of **Yellow-cheeked Bulbul**, a brief **Blyth's Reed Warbler** was seen by some, whilst others enjoyed a **Greenish Warbler**. At the top, **Hill Swallow** made its first appearance of the tour.

*Dull-blue Flycatcher was our final Sri Lankan endemic bird*



With a whole afternoon now available and free to dedicate to a local town park, Victoria Park, we were confident in our chances of finding the three very special birds that this surprisingly urban park is famous for. The first came within minutes when we spotted a stonking **Forest Wagtail** pumping its way up and down the trail ahead of us. Normally shy, this individual was not. Next up came a small stream where we found a **Kashmir Flycatcher** flicking and flitting around. Rare throughout its range, this town park is probably the best place in the world to see this species. The final specialty took more effort, but after some work and muddy bums we all managed walk-away views of a perfect male **Pied Thrush**. With a little time to spare, we went in search of **Indian Pitta** in a quiet corner of the park. We were successful with this bird too. What an afternoon!



*Pied Thrush at Victoria Park*



Our final birding stop of the tour took us Uda Wattakele, a small patch of forest behind the town of Kandy, the original capital of Sri Lanka. Here we added the likes of **Orange-headed Thrush** and **White-rumped Shama**, a fitting end to our birding in this magnificent country. However, a visit to Sri Lanka is not complete without two important 'cultural' stops. The first was at the Glenloch tea factory, to see the process that this famous tea goes through before it reaches us in the west. The second was to visit 'The Temple of The Tooth' where the real tooth of Buddha resides, making this the most sacred place in Buddhist culture. Unmissable attractions. Whilst everybody enjoyed the tea factory equally, Barry was particularly blown away by the majesty and significance of the temple.

*Spectacular Yellow-eared Bulbul in the Hill Country*





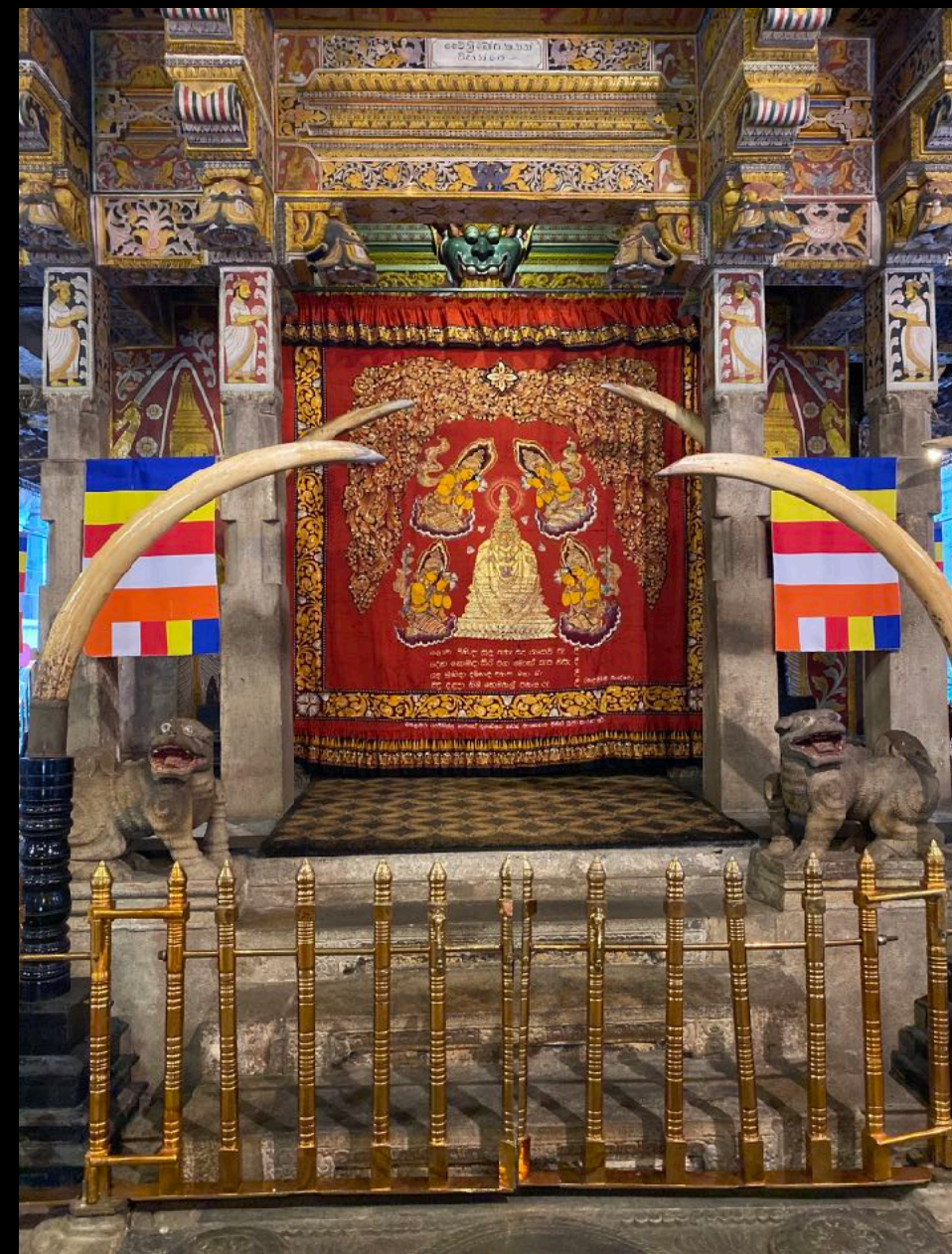
*LEFT TOP: Freshly picked tea is dried before its processed.*

*RIGHT TOP: Buddha's tooth was smuggled to Sri Lanka by the exiled prince and princess of India to keep it safe from tyrannic rulers.*



*LEFT BOTTOM: The different parts of the dried tea are shown and explained before the group is taken for an extended taste testing.*

*RIGHT BOTTOM: The entrance to the chamber that hold's the tooth of Buddha*





WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERED

|            |   |   |   |
|------------|---|---|---|
|            | <b>DUCKS, GEESE &amp; WATERFOWL</b>             | <b>ANATIDAE</b>   |   |
|            | Lesser Whistling-Duck                           | <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>   | Common at wetlands throughout   |
|            | Garganey  | <i>Anas querquedula</i>   | Common in the Yala / Bundala area   |
|            | <b>PHEASANTS, GROUSE &amp; ALLIES</b>           | <b>PHASIANIDAE</b>  |   |
| E          | Indian Peafowl<br><b>Sri Lanka Spurfowl (E)</b> | <i>Pavo cristatus</i><br><i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>                   | Excellent encounter with two birds after significant time at a blind in Sinharaja |
| E          | <b>Sri Lanka Junglefowl (E)</b>                 | <i>Gallus lafayetii</i>   |   |
|            | <b>GREBES</b>                                   | <b>PODICIPEDIDAE</b>  |   |
|            | Little Grebe                                    | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>   | Common in the Yala / Bundala area   |
|            | <b>PIGEONS &amp; DOVES</b>                      | <b>COLUMBIDAE</b>   |   |
|            | Rock (Common) Pigeon (Rock Dove)                | <i>Columba livia</i>  |   |
| E          | <b>Sri Lanka Wood-Pigeon (E)</b>                | <i>Columba torringtoniae</i>  | Excellent scope views at Sinharaja  |
|            | Eurasian Collared-Dove                          | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>  | A couple seen at Bundala  |
|            | Spotted Dove                                    | <i>Streptopelia chinensis suratensis</i>                                  | Common throughout   |
| Essp       | Asian Emerald Dove                              | <i>Chalcophaps indica robinsoni</i>                                       | Common at Sinharaja   |
| Essp       | Orange-breasted (Green) Pigeon                  | <i>Treron bicinctus leggei</i>  | Particularly good views of this stunning pigeon at Udawalawe                      |
| E          | <b>Sri Lanka Green-Pigeon (E)</b>               | <i>Treron pompadora</i>   |   |
|            | Green Imperial-Pigeon<br><b>CUCKOOS</b>         | <i>Ducula aenea pusilla</i><br><b>CUCULIDAE</b>                           |   |
| E          | <b>Green-billed Coucal (E)</b>                  | <i>Centropus chlororhynchus</i>   | A tough skulker that eventually showed well for all of us at Kithulgala           |
| E          | Greater Coucal<br><b>Red-faced Malkoha (E)</b>  | <i>Centropus sinensis parroti</i><br><i>Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus</i> | Superb views of at least 3 birds along a trail at Sinharaja - a stonking endemic! |
| SSE        | Blue-faced Malkoha                              | <i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>                                       | Common at Udawalawe and Yala but only one gave great views                        |
|            | Pied (Jacobin) Cuckoo                           | <i>Clamator jacobinus jacobinus</i>                                       | Common at Udawalawe and Yala but only a handful gave great views                  |
|            | Asian Koel                                      | <i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>  |   |
| Essp       | Banded Bay Cuckoo                               | <i>Cacomantis sonneratii waiti</i>  | One at Kithulgala   |
|            | Gray-bellied Cuckoo                             | <i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>  | Common at Udawalawe and Yala but only a handful gave great views                  |
| Essp       | Common Hawk-Cuckoo                              | <i>Hierococcyx varius cicelliae</i>                                       | Common by voice, best views at Kithulgala   |
|            | <b>FROGMOUTHS</b>                               | <b>PODARGIDAE</b>   |   |
| SSE        | Sri Lanka Frogmouth                             | <i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>   | Lovely views of a roosting bird at Sinharaja                                      |
|            | <b>NIGHTJARS &amp; ALLIES</b>                   | <b>CAPRIMULGIDAE</b>  |   |
| SSE / Essp | Jerdon's Nightjar                               | <i>Caprimulgus atripennis aequabilis</i>                                  | Common at Udawalawe   |
| Essp       | Indian Nightjar                                 | <i>Caprimulgus asiaticus eidos</i>  | Udawalawe and Bundala   |
|            | <b>SWIFTS</b>                                   | <b>APODIDAE</b>   |   |
|            | Brown-backed Needletail                         | <i>Hirundapus giganteus</i>   | A handful at Yala   |
| SSE        | Indian Swiftlet                                 | <i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>  |   |
|            | Little (House) Swift                            | <i>Apus affinis singalensis</i>   |   |
|            | Asian Palm-Swift                                | <i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>  |   |

|      |                                      |  |  |
|------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
|      | <b>TREESWIFTS</b>                    | <b>HEMIROCNIDAE</b>  |  |
|      | Crested Treeswift                    | <i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>                                 |  |
|      | <b>RAILS, GALLINULES &amp; COOTS</b> | <b>RALLIDAE</b>  |  |
|      | Slaty-legged Crake                   | <i>Rallina eurizonoides</i>                                | Brief views at Sinharaja but exceptional views at a small dumping site near Horton Plains NP |
|      | White-breasted Waterhen              | <i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>                               |  |
|      | Watercock<br>Gray-headed Swampphen   | <i>Gallicrex cinerea</i><br><i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i> | Brief looks at Bundala   |
|      | Eurasian (Common) Moorhen            | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>                                 |  |
|      | <b>THICK-KNEES</b>                   | <b>BURHINIDAE</b>  |  |
|      | Eurasian Thick-knee                  | <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>                                 | One bird found roosting in the shade at Bundala  |
|      | Great Thick-knee (Stone-curlew)      | <i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>                               |  |
|      | <b>STILTS &amp; AVOCETS</b>          | <b>RECURVIROSTRIDAE</b>                                    |  |
|      | Black-winged Stilt                   | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>                               |  |
|      | <b>PLOVERS &amp; LAPWINGS</b>        | <b>CHARADRIIDAE</b>  |  |
|      | 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>                       |  |
|      | Kentish Plover                       | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus seebohmi</i>                    |  |
|      | Common Ringed Plover                 | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>                                |  |
|      | Little Ringed Plover                 | <i>Charadrius dubius</i>                                   |  |
|      | <b>JACANAS</b>                       | <b>JACANIIDAE</b>  |  |
|      | Pheasant-tailed Jacana               | <i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>                            |  |
|      | <b>SANDPIPERS &amp; ALLIES</b>       | <b>SCOLOPACIDAE</b>  |  |
|      | Black-tailed Godwit                  | <i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>                                | Flocks of this striking shorebird at Bundala   |
|      | Ruddy Turnstone                      | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>                                  |  |
|      | Ruff                                 | <i>Calidris pugnax</i>                                     |  |
|      | Broad-billed Sandpiper               | <i>Calidris falcinellus</i>                                | One observed at length at Bundala  |
|      | 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>                                     |  |
|      | Spotted Redshank                     | <i>Tringa erythropus</i>                                   | One observed at length near Mirissa and two more at Bundala                                  |
|      | Common Greenshank                    | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>                                    |  |
|      | Marsh Sandpiper                      | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>                                  |  |
|      | Wood Sandpiper                       | <i>Tringa glareola</i>                                     |  |
|      | Common Redshank                      | <i>Tringa totanus</i>                                      |  |
|      | <b>BUTTONQUAIL</b>                   | <b>TURNICIDAE</b>  |  |
| Essp | Barred Buttonquail                   | <i>Turnix suscitator leggei</i>                            |  |



|  |                                      |  |                                    |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
|  | <b>PRATINCOLES &amp; COURSERS</b>    | <b>GLAREOLIDAE</b>   |                                    |
|  | Small Pratincole                     | <i>Glareola lactea</i>                                       | Great views of two at Bundala      |
|  | <b>GULLS, TERNS &amp; SKIMMERS</b>   | <b>LARIDAE</b>   |                                    |
|  | Little Tern                          | <i>Sternula albifrons</i>                                    | Yala and Bundala                   |
|  | Gull-billed Tern                     | <i>Gelocheidon 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>                                | One fly-through at Bundala         |
|  | <b>STORKS</b>                        | <b>CICONIIDAE</b>  |                                    |
|  | Asian Openbill                       | <i>Anastomus oscitans</i>                                    |                                    |
|  | Woolly-necked Stork                  | <i>Ciconia episcopus</i>                                     |                                    |
|  | Lesser Adjutant<br>Painted Stork     | <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i><br><i>Mycteria leucocephala</i> | Excellent views of several at Yala |
|  | <b>ANHINGAS</b>                      | <b>ANHINGIDAE</b>  |                                    |
|  | Oriental Darter                      | <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>                                  |                                    |
|  | <b>CORMORANTS &amp; SHAGS</b>        | <b>PHALACROCORACIDAE</b>                                     |                                    |
|  | Little Cormorant<br>Great Cormorant  | <i>Microcarbo niger</i><br><i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>        |                                    |
|  | Indian Cormorant                     | <i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>                             |                                    |
|  | <b>PELICANS</b>                      | <b>PELECANIDAE</b>   |                                    |
|  | Spot-billed Pelican                  | <i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>                                |                                    |
|  | <b>HERONS, EGRETS &amp; BITTERNS</b> | <b>ARDEIDAE</b>  |                                    |
|  | 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>                                 |                                    |
|  | <b>IBISES &amp; SPOONBILLS</b>       | <b>THRESKIORNITHIDAE</b>                                     |                                    |
|  | Glossy Ibis                          | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>                                  |                                    |
|  | Black-headed Ibis                    | <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>                           |                                    |
|  | Eurasian Spoonbill                   | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>                                   |                                    |
|  | <b>OSPREY</b>                        | <b>PANDIONIDAE</b>   |                                    |
|  | (Western) Osprey                     | <i>Pandion haliaetus haliaetus</i>                           |                                    |
|  | <b>HAWKS, EAGLES &amp; KITES</b>     | <b>ACCIPITRIDAE</b>  |                                    |

|            |  |   |  |
|------------|--|---|--|
|            | Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite              | <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>   | One at Udawalawe   |
|            | Oriental (Crested) Honey-buzzard             | <i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>   |  |
| Essp       | Crested Serpent-Eagle                        | <i>Spilomis cheela spilogaster</i>                                  |  |
| Essp       | Crested (Changeable) Hawk-Eagle              | <i>Nisaetus cirrhatus ceylanensis</i>                               |  |
|            | Black Eagle                                  | <i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>  | Two scaring at Sinharaja   |
|            | Shikra                                       | <i>Accipiter badius</i>   |  |
|            | Besra  | <i>Accipiter virgatus besra</i>                                     | One fly-through at Sinharaja   |
|            | Brahminy Kite<br>White-bellied Sea-Eagle     | <i>Haliaastur indus</i><br><i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>            |  |
|            | Gray-headed Fish-Eagle                       | <i>Haliaeetus ichthyaetus</i>                                       |  |
|            | <b>BARN-OWLS</b>                             | <b>TYTONIDAE</b>  |  |
|            | (Eastern) Barn Owl                           | <i>Tyto alba</i>  | Fantastic encounter with three birds in the dark near Yala   |
|            | <b>OWLS</b>                                  | <b>STRIGIDAE</b>  |  |
| E          | <b>Serendib Scops-Owl (E)</b>                | <i>Otus thilohoffmanni</i>  | This was a well-deserved lifer for all on the tour. A strenuous and slippery climb up a steep vine-clad slope eventually saw us crawl to the finish line with several blood-sucking hangers-on. Views at just a few feet distance of what is still a little-known giga bird. |
|            | Indian (Collared) Scops-Owl                  | <i>Otus bakkamoena</i>  | A great encounter with a roosting but increasingly-active bird as darkness approached near Yala NP.  |
| Essp       | Brown Fish-Owl<br>Jungle Owlet               | <i>Ketupa zeylonensis zeylonensis</i><br><i>Glaucidium radiatum</i> |  |
| E          | <b>Chestnut-backed Owlet (E)</b>             | <i>Glaucidium castanonotum</i>                                      | We heard this charismatic endemic on several days but coaxed it into view with some effort on the first afternoon of the tour. The perfect way to begin!   |
| Essp       | Brown Wood-Owl                               | <i>Strix leptogrammica ochrogenys</i>                               | A single sleepy but wary bird en-route to Kandy in the hill country  |
|            | <b>TROGONS</b>                               | <b>TROGONIDAE</b>   |  |
| SSE / Essp | Malabar Trogon                               | <i>Harpactes fasciatus fasciatus</i>                                |  |
|            | <b>HOOPOES</b>                               | <b>UPUPIDAE</b>   |  |
|            | Eurasian (Common) Hoopoe                     | <i>Upupa epops</i>  |  |
|            | <b>HORNBILLS</b>                             | <b>BUCEROTIDAE</b>  |  |
| E          | <b>Sri Lanka Gray Hornbill (E)</b>           | <i>Ocyeros gingalensis</i>  |  |
| SSE        | Malabar Pied-Hornbill                        | <i>Anthracceros coronatus</i>                                       | Great looks at this hulking beast of a bird at Udawalawe - a much desired bird by all!   |
|            | <b>KINGFISHERS</b>                           | <b>ALCEDINIDAE</b>  |  |
|            | 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<br>Pied Kingfisher | <i>Halcyon smymensis</i><br><i>Ceryle rudis</i>                     |  |
|            | <b>BEE-EATERS</b>                            | <b>MEROPIDAE</b>  |  |
|            | Green Bee-eater                              | <i>Merops orientalis</i>  |  |
|            | Blue-tailed Bee-eater                        | <i>Merops philippinus</i>   |  |
|            | Chestnut-headed Bee-eater                    | <i>Merops leschenaulti</i>  |  |



|      |  |   |   |
|------|--|---|---|
|      | <b>ROLLERS</b>   | <b>CORACIIDAE</b>                           |   |
|      | Indian Roller  | <i>Coracias benghalensis indicus</i>        |   |
| E    | <b>ASIAN BARBETS</b>                                   | <b>MEGALAIMIDAE</b>                         |   |
|      | <b>Crimson-fronted Barbet (E)</b>                      | <b><i>Megalaima rubricapillus</i></b>       |   |
|      | Coppersmith Barbet                                     | <i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>             |   |
| E    | Brown-headed Barbet                                    | <i>Psilopogon zeylanicus zeylanicus</i>     |   |
|      | <b>Yellow-fronted Barbet (E)</b>                       | <b><i>Psilopogon flavifrons</i></b>         |   |
|      | <b>WOODPECKERS</b>                                     | <b>PICIDAE</b>                              |   |
| Essp | Brown-capped (Sri Lanka) Woodpecker                    | <i>Yungipicus nanus gymnophthalmus</i>      | Extended scope views of an obliging individual of this tiny species at Kithulgala   |
|      | Yellow-crowned Woodpecker                              | <i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>               | A particularly co-operative pair gave excellent looks near Udawalawe  |
| Essp | Lesser Yellownape                                      | <i>Picus chlorolophus wellsi</i>            |   |
| Essp | Black-rumped (Sri Lanka) Flameback (Lesser Goldenback) | <i>Dinopium benghalense psarodes</i>        |   |
| E    | <b>Crimson-backed (Goldenback) Flameback (E)</b>       | <b><i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i></b>    |   |
| Essp | White-naped Woodpecker                                 | <i>Chrysocolaptes festivus tantus</i>       |   |
|      | <b>FALCONS &amp; CARACARAS</b>                         | <b>FALCONIDAE</b>                           |   |
|      | Eurasian (Common) Kestrel                              | <i>Falco tinnunculus objurgatus</i>         |   |
|      | <b>OLD WORLD PARROTS</b>                               | <b>PSITTACULIDAE</b>                        |   |
|      | Alexandrine Parakeet                                   | <i>Psittacula eupatria eupatria</i>         |   |
|      | Rose-ringed Parakeet                                   | <i>Psittacula krameri manillensis</i>       |   |
|      | Plum-headed Parakeet                                   | <i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>              |   |
| E    | <b>Layard's Parakeet (E)</b>                           | <b><i>Psittacula calthropae</i></b>         |   |
| E    | <b>Sri Lanka Hanging-Parrot (E)</b>                    | <b><i>Loriculus beryllinus</i></b>          |   |
|      | <b>PITTAS</b>  | <b>PITTIDAE</b>                             |   |
|      | Indian Pitta   | <i>Pitta brachyura</i>                      | After several calling birds failing to respond to us, we eventually had unbelievably lengthy perched scope views of one individual at Victoria Park |
|      | <b>VANGAS, HELMETSHRIKES &amp; ALLIES</b>              | <b>VANGIDAE</b>                             |   |
| E    | <b>Sri Lanka Woodshrike (E)</b>                        | <b><i>Tephrodornis affinis</i></b>          |   |
| Essp | Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike                           | <i>Hemipus picatus leggei</i>               |   |
|      | <b>WOODSWALLOWS</b>                                    | <b>ARTAMIDAE</b>                            |   |
|      | Ashy Woodswallow                                       | <i>Artamus fuscus</i>                       |   |
|      | <b>IORAS</b>   | <b>AEGITHINIDAE</b>                         |   |
|      | Common Iora  | <i>Aegithina tiphia multicolor</i>          |   |
|      | White-tailed (Marshall's) Iora                         | <i>Aegithina nigrolutea</i>                 |   |
|      | <b>CUCKOOSHRIKES</b>                                   | <b>CAMPEPHAGIDAE</b>                        |   |
|      | 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>                   |   |
|      | <b>SHRIKES</b>   | <b>LANIIDAE</b>                             |   |
|      | Brown Shrike   | <i>Lanius cristatus</i>                     |   |

|                 |  |  |   |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
|                 | Bay-backed Shrike                      | <i>Lanius vittatus</i>                     | One bird at a stake-out near Bundala  |
|                 | <b>OLD WORLD ORIOLES</b>               | <b>ORIOLIDAE</b>                           |   |
| Essp            | Black-hooded Oriole                    | <i>Oriolus xanthornus ceylonensis</i>      |   |
|                 | <b>DRONGOS</b>                         | <b>DICRURIDAE</b>                          |   |
|                 | Ashy Drongo                            | <i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>                |   |
| Essp            | White-bellied Drongo                   | <i>Dicrurus caerulescens leucopygialis</i> |   |
| E               | <b>Sri Lanka Drongo (E)</b>            | <b><i>Dicrurus lophorinus</i></b>          |   |
|                 | <b>FANTAILS</b>                        | <b>RHIPIDURIDAE</b>                        |   |
|                 | White-browed Fantail                   | <i>Rhipidura aureola compressirostris</i>  |   |
|                 | <b>MONARCH FLYCATCHERS</b>             | <b>MONARCHIDAE</b>                         |   |
| Essp            | Black-naped Monarch                    | <i>Hypothymis azurea ceylonensis</i>       |   |
| Essp            | Indian Paradise-Flycatcher             | <i>Terpsiphone paradisi ceylonensis</i>    |   |
|                 | <b>CROWS, JAYS &amp; MAGPIES</b>       | <b>CORVIDAE</b>                            |   |
| E               | <b>Sri Lanka Blue-Magpie (E)</b>       | <b><i>Urocissa ornata</i></b>              | A somewhat-habituated group gave the best views at Sinharaja, coming to a ranger-supplied feeding station. Has to be seen to be believed! |
| Essp            | House Crow                             | <i>Corvus splendens protegatus</i>         | Sandy's favourite   |
|                 | Large-billed Crow (Indian Jungle Crow) | <i>Corvus macrorhynchos culminatus</i>     |   |
|                 | <b>LARKS</b>                           | <b>ALAUDIDAE</b>                           |   |
|                 | Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark              | <i>Eremopterix griseus</i>                 |   |
| SSE             | Jerdon's Bushlark                      | <i>Miraïra affinis</i>                     |   |
|                 | Oriental Skylark                       | <i>Alauda gulgula</i>                      |   |
|                 | <b>SWALLOWS</b>                        | <b>HIRUNDINIDAE</b>                        |   |
|                 | Bank Swallow (Sand Martin)             | <i>Riparia riparia</i>                     | A handful seen at Bundala   |
|                 | Barn Swallow                           | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>                     |   |
| SSE             | Hill Swallow                           | <i>Hirundo domicola</i>                    |   |
| E               | <b>Sri Lanka Swallow (E)</b>           | <b><i>Cecropis hyperythra</i></b>          |   |
|                 | <b>FAIRY FLYCATCHERS</b>               | <b>STENOSTIRIDAE</b>                       |   |
|                 | Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher          | <i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>              |   |
|                 | <b>TITS, CHICKADEES &amp; TITMICE</b>  | <b>PARIDAE</b>                             |   |
|                 | Cinereous (Great) Tit                  | <i>Parus cinereus mahrattarum</i>          |   |
|                 | <b>BULBULS</b>                         | <b>PYCNONOTIDAE</b>                        |   |
| E               | <b>Black-capped Bulbul (E)</b>         | <b><i>Rubigula melanicterus</i></b>        |   |
| Essp            | Red-vented Bulbul                      | <i>Pycnonotus cafer cafer</i>              |   |
| E               | <b>Yellow-eared Bulbul (E)</b>         | <b><i>Pycnonotus penicillatus</i></b>      | Arguably one of Sri Lanka's sexiest endemics - finally seen well in the Hill Country  |
| 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>            |   |
|                 | <b>LEAF-WARBLERS</b>                   | <b>PYLLOSCOPIDAE</b>                       |   |
|                 | Green Warbler                          | <i>Phylloscopus nilidus</i>                |   |
|                 | Greenish Warbler                       | <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>           |   |



|            |  |   |   |
|------------|--|---|---|
|            | <b>REED-WARBLED &amp; ALLIED</b>                     | <b>ACROCEPHALIDAE</b>                       |   |
|            | Blyth's Reed-Warbler                                 | <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>               |   |
| Essp       | Clamorous Reed-Warbler                               | <i>Acrocephalus stentoreus meridionalis</i> | Extremely common at Bundala - though more so by voice than views. That said, we had several good extended encounters                            |
|            | <b>GRASSBIRDS &amp; ALLIED</b>                       | <b>LOCUSTELLIDAE</b>                        |   |
| E          | <b>Sri Lanka Bush-Warbler (E)</b>                    | <i>Elaphrornis palliseri</i>                | Several seen at Horton Plains, a true skulker and one we were very pleased to get great views of  |
|            | <b>CISTICOLAS &amp; ALLIED</b>                       | <b>CISTICOLIDAE</b>                         |   |
| Essp       | Zitting Cisticola                                    | <i>Cisticola juncidis omailurus</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>            |   |
|            | <b>SYLVIDS</b>                                       | <b>SYLVIIDAE</b>                            |   |
|            | Hume's Whitethroat                                   | <i>Sylvia althaea</i>                       |   |
|            | <b>PARROTBILLS, WRENTIT &amp; ALLIED</b>             | <b>PARADOXORNITHIDAE</b>                    |   |
| Essp       | Yellow-eyed Babbler                                  | <i>Chrysomma sinense nasale</i>             |   |
|            | <b>WHITE-EYES, YUHNAS &amp; ALLIED</b>               | <b>ZOSTEROPIDAE</b>                         |   |
| E          | <b>Sri Lanka White-eye (E)</b>                       | <i>Zosterops ceylonensis</i>                |   |
|            | Oriental White-eye                                   | <i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>                |   |
|            | <b>TREE-BABBLERS, SCIMITAR-BABBLERS &amp; ALLIED</b> | <b>TIMALIIDAE</b>                           |   |
| Essp       | Tawny-bellied Babbler                                | <i>Dumetia hypertyhra phillipsi</i>         | Only a single flock found at Udawalawe - luckily they returned and gave second helpings   |
| SSE / Essp | Dark-fronted Babbler                                 | <i>Rhopocichla atriceps nigrifrons</i>      |   |
| E          | <b>Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babbler (E)</b>                | <i>Pomatorhinus melanurus</i>               |   |
|            | <b>GROUND BABBLERS &amp; ALLIED</b>                  | <b>PELLORNEIDAE</b>                         |   |
| E          | <b>Brown-capped Babbler (E)</b>                      | <i>Pellorneum fuscicapillus</i>             |   |
|            | <b>LAUGHINGTHRUSHES &amp; ALLIED</b>                 | <b>LEIOTHRICHIDAE</b>                       |   |
| E          | <b>Orange-billed Babbler (E)</b>                     | <i>Turdoides rufescens</i>                  |   |
| SSE / Essp | Yellow-billed Babbler                                | <i>Turdoides affinis taprobana</i>          |   |
| E          | <b>Ashy-headed Laughingthrush (E)</b>                | <i>Garrulax cinereifrons</i>                | One of the key Sinharaja targets that really did not disappoint. Excellent looks at a small flock foraging one the floor on a bank at eye-level |
|            | <b>OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS</b>                         | <b>MUSCICAPIDAE</b>                         |   |
|            | 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>         | A last-minute addition at Uda Watakele  |
| Essp       | Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher                            | <i>Cyornis tickelliae jerdoni</i>           | A last-minute addition at Uda Watakele  |
| E          | <b>Dull-blue Flycatcher (E)</b>                      | <i>Eumyias sordidus</i>                     | Our final endemic, found at last at Horton Plains NP - much better looking than the name suggests!  |

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|------------|--|---|---|
|            | Indian Blue Robin                                | <i>Larivora brunnea</i>                   |   |
| E          | <b>Sri Lanka Whistling-Thrush (E)</b>            | <i>Myophonus blighi</i>                   | An obliging individual spotted by Barry and Sandy near Horton Plains at a dump site really saved us some effort with this bird.   |
|            | Kashmir Flycatcher                               | <i>Ficedula subrubra</i>                  | One of the Victoria Park specialties - and it sure didn't disappoint  |
| Essp       | Pied Bushchat                                    | <i>Saxicola caprata atratus</i>           |   |
|            | <b>THRUSHES &amp; ALLIED</b>                     | <b>TURDIDAE</b>                           |   |
| E          | <b>Sri Lanka Thrush (E)</b>                      | <i>Zoothera imbricata</i>                 | Easily the trickiest bird of the tour to actually get a look at. Common by voice, but wow are they skulky. Most of the group had fantastic perched views but others had to settle for brief views of a thrush scuttling through the leaf-litter |
|            | Pied Thrush                                      | <i>Geokichla wardii</i>                   | One of the Victoria Park specialties - and it sure didn't disappoint  |
| E          | <b>Spot-winged Thrush (E)</b>                    | <i>Geokichla spiloptera</i>               |   |
|            | Orange-headed Thrush                             | <i>Geokichla citrina</i>                  | A last-minute addition at Uda Watakele  |
| SSE / Essp | Indian Blackbird                                 | <i>Turdus simillimus kinnisii</i>         |   |
|            | <b>STARLINGS</b>                                 | <b>STURNIDAE</b>                          |   |
| E          | <b>Sri Lanka (Hill) Myna (E)</b>                 | <i>Gracula ptilogenys</i>                 |   |
| SSP        | Southern (Lesser) Hill Myna                      | <i>Gracula indica</i>                     |   |
| E          | <b>White-faced Starling (E)</b>                  | <i>Sturnia albofrontata</i>               | One of the Sinharaja specialties. With none seen in the days prior to our visit we were nervous, but Saman quickly eased our nerves by finding one perched in a relatively nearby and very open tree  |
|            | Brahminy Starling                                | <i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>               |   |
| Essp       | Common Myna                                      | <i>Acridotheres tristis melanosternus</i> |   |
|            | <b>LEAFBIRDS</b>                                 | <b>CHLOROPSEIDAE</b>                      |   |
| SSE        | Jerdon's Leafbird                                | <i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>                 |   |
| Essp?      | Golden-fronted (Sri Lanka) Leafbird              | <i>Chloropsis aurifrons insularis</i>     |   |
| E          | <b>FLOWERPECKERS</b>                             | <b>DICAEIDAE</b>                          |   |
|            | <b>White-throated (Legge's) Flowerpecker (E)</b> | <i>Dicaeum vincens</i>                    | Unbeatable looks at this sexy endemic in a low flowering tree on our first morning, and repeatedly from there on  |
| Essp       | Pale-billed Flowerpecker                         | <i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos ceylonense</i> |   |
|            | <b>SUNBIRDS &amp; SPIDERHUNTERS</b>              | <b>NECTARINIIDAE</b>                      |   |
| 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>         |   |
|            | <b>WAGTAILS &amp; PIPITS</b>                     | <b>MOTACILLIDAE</b>                       |   |
|            | Forest Wagtail                                   | <i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>              | One of the Victoria Park specialties - and it sure didn't disappoint  |
|            | Western Yellow Wagtail                           | <i>Motacilla flava</i>                    | The spectacle of thousands upon thousands of Western Yellow Wagtails flying in to roost at Udawalawe is something to behold!  |
|            | Gray Wagtail                                     | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>                  |   |
|            | Paddyfield (Oriental) Pipit                      | <i>Anthus rufulus malayensis</i>          |   |
|            | Blyth's Pipit                                    | <i>Anthus godlewskii</i>                  |   |



|  |  |                                 |  |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--|
|  | <b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>              | <b>PASSERIDAE</b>               |  |
|  | House Sparrow                          | <i>Passer domesticus</i>        |  |
|  | <b>WEAVERS &amp; ALLIES</b>            | <b>PLOCEIDAE</b>                |  |
|  | Streaked Weaver                        | <i>Ploceus manyar</i>           |  |
|  | Baya Weaver                            | <i>Ploceus philippinus</i>      |  |
|  | <b>WAXBILLS &amp; ALLIES</b>           | <b>ESTRILIDAE</b>               |  |
|  | White-rumped Munia                     | <i>Lonchura striata striata</i> |  |
|  | Scaly-breasted Munia (Nutmeg Mannikin) | <i>Lonchura punctulata</i>      |  |
|  | Tricolored (Black-headed) Munia        | <i>Lonchura malacca malacca</i> |  |

|      |   |  |   |
|------|---|--|---|
|      | <b>MAMMALS</b>                            |  |   |
|      | <b>ELEPHANTS</b>                          | <b>ELEPHANTIDAE</b>                          |   |
| Essp | Asian Elephant                            | <i>Elephas maximus</i>                       | I kept my promise to Susan that we'd see elephants in Sri Lanka - and boy did we see elephants! Some very close and very intimate encounters indeed   |
|      | <b>OLD WORLD MONKEYS</b>                  | <b>CERCOPITHECIDAE</b>                       |   |
| E    | Toque Macaque                             | <i>Macaca sinica</i>                         |   |
| SSE  | Tufted Gray Langur                        | <i>Semnopithecus priam</i>                   |   |
| E    | Purple-faced Langur                       | <i>Trachypithecus vetulus</i>                |   |
|      | <b>SQUIRRELS</b>                          | <b>SCIURIDAE</b>                             |   |
| 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>                |   |
|      | <b>RABBITS, HARES</b>                     | <b>LEPORIDAE</b>                             |   |
|      | Indian Hare                               | <i>Lepus nigricollis</i>                     |   |
|      | <b>FLYING FOXES, OLD WORLD FRUIT BATS</b> | <b>PTEROPODIDAE</b>                          |   |
|      | Indian Flying-fox                         | <i>Pteropus giganteus</i>                    | The spectacle of many thousand Indian Flying Foxes leaving roost near Bundala/ Yala is something very special indeed and should not be missed. Comes complete with viewing platform and warm beer - right Barry?  |
|      | <b>OTHER BATS</b>                         | <b>VESPERTILIONIDAE</b>                      |   |
|      | Lesser False Vampire Bat                  | <i>Megaderma spasma</i>                      |   |
| Essp | <b>CATS</b><br><br>Leopard                | <b>FELIDAE</b><br><br><i>Panthera pardus</i> | A total of four individuals were seen at Yale - a female with two cubs - and one large, beautiful male. The session we spent with the male was something very special, and memorable for sure. Walking calmly alongside us far enough away for good views and photos, and then resting in the shade not far from our vehicle - the encounter we had all hoped for, but not expected |
|      | <b>MONGOOSES</b>                          | <b>HERPESTIDAE</b>                           |   |
|      | Indian Gray Mongoose                      | <i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>                   |   |
| SSE  | Indian Brown Mongoose                     | <i>Herpestes fuscus</i>                      |   |

|             |  |                                       |   |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
|             | Ruddy Mongoose                         | <i>Herpestes smithii</i>              |   |
|             | <b>DOGS, FOXES</b>                     | <b>CANIDAE</b>                        |   |
| Essp        | Golden Jackal                          | <i>Canis aureus</i>                   |   |
|             | <b>PIGS</b>                            | <b>SUIDAE</b>                         |   |
|             | Boar                                   | <i>Sus scrofa</i>                     |   |
|             | <b>DEER</b>                            | <b>CERVIDAE</b>                       |   |
| Essp        | Sambar Deer                            | <i>Cervus unicolor</i>                |   |
| Essp        | Chital (Spotted Deer)                  | <i>Axis axis</i>                      |   |
| Essp        | Indian Muntjac                         | <i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>              |   |
|             | <b>BUFFALO, ANTELOPES, GOATS, etc.</b> | <b>BOVIDAE</b>                        |   |
| Introduced? | Wild Asian Water Buffalo               | <i>Bubalus arnee</i>                  |   |
|             | <b>CETACEANS</b>                       | <b>CETACEA</b>                        |   |
|             | Blue Whale                             | <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>          | This year we added a day to the itinerary to make room for a boat trip to see Blue Whale, and it was very very worthwhile. We were treated to multiple close looks and even a surfacing sequence as it came right at the boat. To add to the excitement, we had multiple fluking dives, revealing the entire tailstock - one of Earth's most amazing animal experiences |
|             | (Indian Ocean) Spinner Dolphin         | <i>Stenella longirostris</i>          |   |
|             |  |                                       |   |
|             | <b>REPTILES</b>                        |                                       |   |
|             | <b>AGAMID LIZARDS</b>                  | <b>AGAMIDAE</b>                       |   |
|             | Green Garden Lizard                    | <i>Calotes calotes</i>                |   |
|             | Common Garden Lizard                   | <i>Calotes versicolor</i>             |   |
|             | Kangaroo Lizard                        | <i>Otocryptis wiegmanni</i>           |   |
|             | <b>SKINKS</b>                          | <b>SCINCIDAE</b>                      |   |
|             | Common Skink Mabuya                    | <i>Carinata lankae</i>                |   |
|             | <b>GECKOS</b>                          | <b>GEKKONIDAE</b>                     |   |
|             | Common House Gecko                     | <i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>          |   |
|             | <b>PYTHONS</b>                         | <b>SQUAMATA</b>                       |   |
|             | Indian Rock Python                     | <i>Python molurus</i>                 | We all have Sandy to thank for this one. A tremendous spot of a large adult in Yala NP - wow!   |
|             | <b>TURTLES, TERRAPINS etc.</b>         | <b>GEOMYDIDAE</b>                     |   |
|             | Hard-shelled Terrapin                  | <i>melanochelys trijuga thermalis</i> |   |
|             | Soft-shelled Terrapin                  | <i>Lissemys punctata</i>              |   |
|             | <b>CROCODILES</b>                      | <b>CROCODYLIDAE</b>                   |   |
|             | Marsh Crocodile                        | <i>Cocodylus palustris</i>            |   |
|             | <b>MONITORS</b>                        | <b>VARANIDAE</b>                      |   |
|             | Land Monitor                           | <i>Varanus bengalensis</i>            |   |
|             | Water Monitor                          | <i>Varanus salvator kabaragoya</i>    |   |