

# **TROPICAL BIRDING**

## **Sri Lanka Endemic Clean-up Tour**

**15 - 24 February 2011**

**Guided by Iain Campbell and Alan Davies**

**Report by Ruth Miller and Allen Davies (The Biggest Twitch)**

**Photos by Iain Campbell**



*Ceylon Frogmouth*

Iain has visited many places, so when he says that Sri Lanka is one of his favorite countries he's birded in the whole world, you know it's going to be very special. And he's not wrong, Sri Lanka has got the lot! If you've not birded in Asia before, Sri Lanka is the perfect introduction. You can enjoy all the excitement of discovering outstanding and vibrant Asian birds without the noise and bustle that may be slightly overwhelming in other countries if it's your first visit to this part of the world. If you've birded in other Asian countries before, Sri Lanka is still the perfect destination. You'll find yourself birding in a mix of habitat ranging from dense forest to open wetland, beaches and tea plantations as you tick off one after another of the 25 endemic species. If you add to the fabulous birds in interesting birding locations, the friendly people, good infrastructure, comfortable accommodation and delicious local food including the best rice and curry in the world, Sri Lanka really does have so much to offer.

Our birding started as soon as we left the airport, as we stopped on our journey to Kitulgala to get our eye in to the color of Asian birding with the ubiquitous White-breasted Kingfisher and Blue-tailed Bee-eater. If our destination looked vaguely familiar, that's because the Bridge over the River Kwai had been filmed here. Taking a dugout canoe rather than a bridge across the river, we entered the Kitulgala Forest Reserve and quickly added two of the most-prized endemics, Chestnut-backed Owlet and Spot-

winged Thrush, to our rapidly growing list. Birding the trails as they wound through the forest, the endemics just kept coming, including Ceylon Myna, and the enigmatic and recently discovered Serendib Scops-Owl, before the failing light meant we had to head back to our hotel.



*Spot-winged Thrush*

We birded the forest again in the early morning cool the next day adding more amazing creatures in the form of Black-backed Kingfisher before we'd even crossed the river and endemic Layard's Parakeet and Yellow-fronted Barbet in the tiny village on the other side. Plunging back into the forest, we birded all morning, enjoying a great array of new birds including a bristling pair of roosting Ceylon Frogmouths, the tricky-to-see Ceylon Spurfowl, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater and two more wonderful Serendib Scops-Owls at their day time roost. Even in the shade of the forest, the midday temperatures rose and the birding slowed so we returned to our hotel for lunch and a chance to check our photos and relive the brilliant birds we had encountered. Once the hottest part of the day had passed, we headed out birding again, this time to the higher altitude and cooler air of the tea plantations. Still new birds came thick and fast including Ceylon Small Barbet hooting incessantly from a shade tree, a pair of Gray-rumped Treeswifts building their tiny cup-shaped nest out of spit and feathers, Jerdon's Leafbird and White-browed Fantail.

Our next destination was the magical Sinharaja World Heritage Wilderness Area, with our accommodation, Blue Magpie Lodge, giving a clue as to one of the target birds here. Amongst the tea plantations outside the reserve we encountered White-browed Bulbuls passing through the shade trees, a Crested Serpent Eagle sat upon its nest, and Ceylon Small Barbet showed off for the camera. But it was inside the park once we'd picked up our reserve guide and 4x4 jeep that the birding really started to hot up. Catching up with a mixed feeding flock passing through the forest made for breathtaking birding as a riot of color filtered through the trees. First up, Ceylon Blue Magpie, an inquisitive, cobalt blue and brown bird with a long blue-and-white tail, a red bill and red bare skin around the eye and matching legs. Next our attention was caught by Crimson-backed Flameback, a dynamic endemic woodpecker, but soon a gang of the stunning Red-faced Malkoha, a charismatic, dark endemic with a bare red face, were vying for our attention. If all this color was too much, we could rest our eyes on the more subtle hues of the skulking Scaly Thrush and Ceylon Crested Drongo, while a male Ceylon Junglefowl stalking haughtily across the path ahead of us looking for all the world like a farmyard rooster. As if this panoply of birds wasn't enough, we also added reptiles such as Kangaroo



Lizard and Green Forest Lizard to our list, and had a first-hand demonstration by one of the locals of how to collect palm juice for a heady home brew.



*Ceylon Blue Magpie*

Moving on to the Udawalawa area, we had a complete change of scene as we birded the Udawalawa National Park in a more savanna-like habitat. Driving around the tracks in a 4x4 jeep, we regularly encountered family groups of wild elephants shading themselves under the trees while water buffalo lounged in muddy pools. From the elevated position of the jeep, we added good numbers of new birds to our list including Yellow-eyed Babblers, Blue-faced Malkoha, Sirkeer Malkoha, roosting Brown Fish Owl, and displaying Indian Peacocks. At the lunchtime picnic stop we explored on foot and caught up with a skulking Orange-headed Ground-Thrush and White-rumped Shama, while toque monkeys eyed up our picnic basket.

From here we moved on to the amazing wetland area at Tissamaharama, a wader-, waterbird- and wildfowl-lovers dream. Where to look first? On the extensive reservoir areas, fringed with reed and partly covered in lily pads and water hyacinth, were a myriad of birds. Yellow Bitterns skulked amongst the reeds, bizarre Pheasant-tailed Jacanas walked on water, Lesser Whistling-Ducks perched in a line on exposed logs while Little and Great Cormorants spread themselves out to dry in the sun, Asian Openbills and Painted Storks stood on sentry duty while Eurasian Spoonbills scythed the water and Spot-billed Pelicans cruised by like galleons. Saunders, Common and Whiskered Terns circled and swooped, shorebirds including Lesser Sand Plover, Black-tailed Godwit and Common and Wood Sandpipers pattered in the shallows, while the local residents pedaled past on their bikes or pattered by in tuc-tucs, always friendly and interested but never pushy or intrusive. In the evening, we also visited

what must be one of the best sites in the world to see and photograph Indian Pitta, as we found ourselves in a prime position between two obliging birds.



*Indian Pitta*

An early morning start saw us lucky enough to catch up with the outstanding White-naped Woodpecker and a very close encounter with a Black Bittern. The best part of the day though was spent in Yala National Park, about which we'd heard so many positive tales. It didn't disappoint. Driving around in our jeep, we encountered Malabar Pied Hornbill, Great Thick-knee and Barred Buttonquail, with many superb photo opportunities in this vast national park. Stretching our legs at a picnic point, we walked out onto the soft golden sands of the beach and scoped White-bellied Sea-Eagle. Bird of the day though was undoubtedly leopard, a magnificent male who showed off in full view as he sunned himself on a rock. The day wasn't finished with us though as we spotlighted both Jerdon's and Indian Little Nightjar on our way out of the park.

We just had time to visit the saltpans the next day where we encountered masses of waders and terns including Little Pratincole, a gorgeous bird. The views of the birds here, in the morning sun, were wonderful. All too soon we headed off on the drive to Nuwara Eliya, a former hill station in the British colonial era, often referred to as 'Little England'. The air was clear and fresh and the views breathtaking.

A very early start the next morning meant that we arrived at Horton Plains National Park before dawn and before the gate was due to open. But birding waits for no timetable and in the surprisingly chilly pre-dawn air we were fortunate to get good views of both Ceylon Whistling Thrush and Ceylon Bush Warbler around the entrance, before they melted away into the forest. Yellow-eared Babbler, Eurasian Blackbird, a potential split, very different from the European version, and Ceylon Wood Pigeon were also seen here. Entering the park, we drove through a bizarre landscape of tussocky grassland kept short by Sambar deer, while Pied Bushchat sat up on top of the larger bushes and as the temperatures rose, Hill Swallows swooped and dived all around us. Walking the trail out to the dramatic Mini and Great World's End viewpoints on the edge of a sheer cliff gave us the chance to stretch our legs as well as proving good photo opportunities for Ceylon White-eye and Dull-blue Flycatcher, a far more colourful bird than its name suggests.



*Malabar Pied Hornbill*

Returning to Victoria Park, a very 'English-feeling' urban park of ornate flowerbeds, winding paths and ornamental trees, we were thrilled to get amazing views of the most-wanted male Pied Thrush as it crouched close to a stream, while a male Indian Blue Robin lurked nearby. There was just time to catch up with Kashmir Flycatcher in an area of dry woodland before we began the long drive back to Colombo via Kandy. Having seen so many tea plantations and drunk so many cups of Ceylon tea during our stay, it was fascinating to visit a tea factory and see how it was made, but of course it was the incredibly close encounters with Hill Swallows that was the real reason for our stop here. We arrived back in Colombo early evening where our tour ended, with a full memory card in the camera and 240 species including all 25 endemics on our list (7 additional species seen pre-tour, see bird list for details).

So would we recommend Sri Lanka? Without hesitation; the birds are fantastic, the locations stunning and varied, the country is safe, the infrastructure is good, the people are welcoming and friendly and the food is delicious. What more could you ask for? And would we go back there again? Just as soon as we can!



## Sri Lanka Trip List

Number of species: 247

Number of endemics: 25 (33 endemics according to some taxonomies as listed below)

### **ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae**

Lesser Whistling-Duck

[Dendrocygna javanica](#)

Cotton Pygmy-Goose

[Nettapus coromandelianus](#)

Garganey

[Anas querquedula](#)

### **GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae**

Gray Francolin \*

[Francolinus pondicerianus](#)

**Ceylon Spurfowl**

[Galloperdix bicalcarata](#)

**Endemic**

**Ceylon Junglefowl**

[Gallus lafayetii](#)

**Endemic**

Indian Peafowl

[Pavo cristatus](#)

### **PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae**

Little Grebe

[Tachybaptus ruficollis](#)

### **CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae**

Asian Openbill

[Anastomus oscitans](#)

Painted Stork

[Mycteria leucocephala](#)

**Near-threatened**

### **SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**

Indian Cormorant

[Phalacrocorax fuscicollis](#)

Great Cormorant

[Phalacrocorax carbo](#)

Little Cormorant

[Phalacrocorax niger](#)

### **SULIFORMES: Anhingidae**

Oriental Darter

[Anhinga melanogaster](#)

**Near-threatened**

### **PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae**

Spot-billed Pelican

[Pelecanus philippensis](#)

**Near-threatened**

### **PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae**

Yellow Bittern

[Ixobrychus sinensis](#)

Black Bittern

[Ixobrychus flavicollis](#)

Gray Heron

[Ardea cinerea](#)

Purple Heron

[Ardea purpurea](#)

Great Egret

[Ardea alba](#)

Intermediate Egret

[Mesophoyx intermedia](#)

Little Egret

[Egretta garzetta](#)

Cattle Egret

[Bubulcus ibis](#)

Indian Pond-Heron  
Striated Heron  
Black-crowned Night-Heron

[Ardeola grayii](#)  
[Butorides striata](#)  
[Nycticorax nycticorax](#)

**PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**

Black-headed Ibis  
Eurasian Spoonbill

[Threskiornis melanocephalus](#) Near-threatened  
[Platalea leucorodia](#)

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**

Oriental Honey-buzzard  
Black-shouldered Kite  
Brahminy Kite  
White-bellied Sea-Eagle  
Gray-headed Fish-Eagle  
Crested Serpent-Eagle  
Shikra  
Black Eagle  
Booted Eagle  
Rufous-bellied Eagle  
Changeable Hawk-Eagle  
Mountain Hawk-Eagle

[Pernis ptilorhynchus](#)  
[Elanus caeruleus](#)  
[Haliastur indus](#)  
[Haliaeetus leucogaster](#)  
[Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus](#) Near-threatened  
[Spilornis cheela](#)  
[Accipiter badius](#)  
[Ictinaetus malayensis](#)  
[Hieraaetus pennatus](#)  
[Lophotriorchis kienerii](#)  
[Nisaetus cirrhatus](#)  
[Nisaetus nipalensis](#)

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

Eurasian Kestrel  
Peregrine Falcon

[Falco tinnunculus](#)  
[Falco peregrinus](#)

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

Slaty-legged Crake  
White-breasted Waterhen  
Watercock  
Purple Swampphen  
Common Moorhen

[Rallina eurizonoides](#)  
[Amaurornis phoenicurus](#)  
[Gallicrex cinerea](#)  
[Porphyrio porphyrio](#)  
[Gallinula chloropus](#)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae**

Eurasian Thick-knee  
Great Thick-knee

[Burhinus oediconemus](#)  
[Esacus recurvirostris](#)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

Yellow-wattled Lapwing  
Red-wattled Lapwing  
Black-bellied Plover  
Pacific Golden-Plover  
Lesser Sand-Plover  
Greater Sand-Plover  
Snowy Plover

[Vanellus malabaricus](#)  
[Vanellus indicus](#)  
[Pluvialis squatarola](#)  
[Pluvialis fulva](#)  
[Charadrius mongolus](#)  
[Charadrius leschenaultii](#)  
[Charadrius alexandrinus](#)

Common Ringed Plover  
Little Ringed Plover

[Charadrius hiaticula](#)  
[Charadrius dubius](#)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

Black-winged Stilt

[Himantopus himantopus](#)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**

Pheasant-tailed Jacana

[Hydrophasianus chirurgus](#)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

Terek Sandpiper \*  
Common Sandpiper  
Common Greenshank  
Marsh Sandpiper  
Wood Sandpiper  
Common Redshank  
Whimbrel \*  
Eurasian Curlew  
Black-tailed Godwit  
Bar-tailed Godwit \*  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Sanderling \*  
Little Stint  
Temminck's Stint  
Curlew Sandpiper  
Ruff  
Pin-tailed Snipe  
Red-necked Phalarope

[Xenus cinereus](#)  
[Actitis hypoleucos](#)  
[Tringa nebularia](#)  
[Tringa stagnatilis](#)  
[Tringa glareola](#)  
[Tringa totanus](#)  
[Numenius phaeopus](#)  
[Numenius arquata](#)  
[Limosa limosa](#)  
[Limosa lapponica](#)  
[Arenaria interpres](#)  
[Calidris alba](#)  
[Calidris minuta](#)  
[Calidris temminckii](#)  
[Calidris ferruginea](#)  
[Philomachus pugnax](#)  
[Gallinago stenura](#)  
[Phalaropus lobatus](#)

Near-threatened

Near-threatened

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae**

Barred Buttonquail

[Turnix suscitator](#)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae**

Small Pratincole

[Glareola lactea](#)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

Brown-headed Gull  
  
Little Tern  
Saunders's Tern  
Gull-billed Tern  
Caspian Tern  
Black Tern  
White-winged Tern  
Whiskered Tern  
Common Tern

[Chroicocephalus  
brunnicephalus](#)  
[Sternula albifrons](#)  
[Sternula saundersi](#)  
[Gelocheidon nilotica](#)  
[Hydroprogne caspia](#)  
[Chlidonias niger](#)  
[Chlidonias leucopterus](#)  
[Chlidonias hybrida](#)  
[Sterna hirundo](#)



Great Crested Tern  
Lesser Crested Tern

[Thalasseus bergii](#)  
[Thalasseus bengalensis](#)

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

Rock Pigeon

[Columba livia](#)

**Ceylon Wood-Pigeon**

[Columba torringtoni](#)

**Endemic Vulnerable**

Spotted Dove

[Streptopelia chinensis](#)

Emerald Dove

[Chalcophaps indica](#)

Orange-breasted Pigeon

[Treron bicinctus](#)

**Pompadour Green-Pigeon**

[Treron pompadora](#)

**Some taxonomies consider this an endemic split**

Green Imperial-Pigeon

[Ducula aenea](#)

**PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae**

Alexandrine Parakeet

[Psittacula eupatria](#)

Rose-ringed Parakeet

[Psittacula krameri](#)

Introduced species

Plum-headed Parakeet

[Psittacula cyanocephala](#)

**Layard's Parakeet**

[Psittacula calthropae](#)

**Endemic**

**Ceylon Hanging-Parrot**

[Loriculus beryllinus](#)

**Endemic**

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

Pied Cuckoo

[Clamator jacobinus](#)

Indian Cuckoo

[Cuculus micropterus](#)

Asian Koel

[Eudynamis scolopaceus](#)

Blue-faced Malkoha

[Phaenicophaeus viridirostris](#)

Sirkeer Malkoha

[Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii](#)

**Red-faced Malkoha**

[Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus](#)

**Endemic Vulnerable**

Greater Coucal

[Centropus sinensis](#)

**Green-billed Coucal**

[Centropus chlororhynchus](#)

**Endemic Vulnerable**

**STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae**

Barn Owl \*

[Tyto alba](#)

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

**Serendib Scops-Owl**

[Otus thilohoffmanni](#)

**Endemic Endangered**

Indian Scops-Owl

[Otus bakkamoena](#)

Brown Fish-Owl

[Ketupa zeylonensis](#)

Jungle Owlet

[Glaucidium radiatum](#)

**Chestnut-backed Owlet**

[Glaucidium castanonotum](#)

**Endemic Near-threatened**

Brown Wood-Owl

[Strix leptogrammica](#)

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Podargidae**

Ceylon Frogmouth

[Batrachostomus moniliger](#)

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

Jerdon's Nightjar

[Caprimulgus atripennis](#)

Indian Nightjar

[Caprimulgus asiaticus](#)**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**

Brown-backed Needletail

[Hirundapus giganteus](#)

Indian Swiftlet

[Aerodramus unicolor](#)

Little Swift

[Apus affinis](#)

Asian Palm-Swift

[Cypsiurus balasiensis](#)**APODIFORMES: Hemiprocnidae**

Crested Treeswift

[Hemiproctne coronata](#)**TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae**

Malabar Trogon

[Harpactes fasciatus](#)**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

Common Kingfisher

[Alcedo atthis](#)

Black-backed Kingfisher

[Ceyx erithaca](#)

Stork-billed Kingfisher

[Pelargopsis capensis](#)

White-throated Kingfisher

[Halcyon smyrnensis](#)

Pied Kingfisher

[Ceryle rudis](#)**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**

Green Bee-eater

[Merops orientalis](#)

Blue-tailed Bee-eater

[Merops philippinus](#)

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

[Merops leschenaulti](#)**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**

Indian Roller

[Coracias benghalensis](#)**CORACIIFORMES: Upupidae**

Eurasian Hoopoe

[Upupa epops](#)**CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae****Ceylon Gray Hornbill**[Ocyroceros gingalensis](#)**Endemic**

Malabar Pied-Hornbill

[Anthracoseros coronatus](#)**Near-threatened****PICIFORMES: Megalaimidae**

Brown-headed Barbet

[Megalaima zeylanica](#)**Yellow-fronted Barbet**[Megalaima flavifrons](#)**Endemic****Crimson-fronted Barbet**[Megalaima rubricapillus](#)**Some taxonomies consider this an endemic split, known as Small Barbet**

Coppersmith Barbet

[Megalaima haemacephala](#)

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker

[Dendrocopos mahrattensis](#)

Rufous Woodpecker

[Celeus brachyurus](#)

Lesser Yellownape

[Picus chlorolophus](#)

Black-rumped Flameback

[Dinopium benghalense](#)

**Greater Flameback**

[Chrysocolaptes lucidus](#)

*Some taxonomies consider this an endemic split, known as Crimson-backed Woodpecker*

White-naped Woodpecker

[Chrysocolaptes festivus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae**

Indian Pitta

[Pitta brachyura](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Prionopidae**

**Common Woodshrike**

[Tephrodornis pondicerianus](#)

*Some taxonomies consider this an endemic split, known as Sri Lankan/Ceylon Woodshrike*

**PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae**

Ashy Woodswallow

[Artamus fuscus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae**

Common Iora

[Aegithina tiphia](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae**

Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike

[Coracina melanoptera](#)

Small Minivet

[Pericrocotus cinnamomeus](#)

Scarlet Minivet

[Pericrocotus flammeus](#)

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike

[Hemipus picatus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae**

Brown Shrike

[Lanius cristatus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae**

Black-hooded Oriole

[Oriolus xanthornus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae**

White-bellied Drongo

[Dicrurus caeruleus](#)

**Sri Lanka Crested Drongo**

[Dicrurus lophorinus](#)

*Some taxonomies consider this an endemic split from Greater Racket-tailed Drongo*

**PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae**

White-browed Fantail

[Rhipidura aureola](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae**

Black-naped Monarch

[Hypothymis azurea](#)

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher

[Terpsiphone paradisi](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**

**Ceylon Magpie**

House Crow

Large-billed Crow

[Urocissa ornata](#)

**Endemic Vulnerable**

[Corvus splendens](#)

[Corvus macrorhynchos](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**

Jerdon's Bushlark

Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark

Oriental Skylark

[Mirafra affinis](#)

[Eremopterix griseus](#)

[Alauda gulgula](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**

Barn Swallow

Hill Swallow

**Red-rumped Swallow**

[Hirundo rustica](#)

[Hirundo domicola](#)

[Cecropis daurica](#)

*Some taxonomies consider this an endemic split, known as Sri Lankan/Ceylon Swallow*

**PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae**

Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher

[Culicicapa ceylonensis](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Paridae**

Great Tit

[Parus major](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae**

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

[Sitta frontalis](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae**

**Black-crested Bulbul**

[Pycnonotus melanicterus](#)

*Some taxonomies consider this an endemic split, known as Black-capped Bulbul*

Red-vented Bulbul

[Pycnonotus cafer](#)

**Yellow-eared Bulbul**

[Pycnonotus penicillatus](#)

**Endemic Near-threatened**

White-browed Bulbul

[Pycnonotus luteolus](#)

Yellow-browed Bulbul

[Iole indica](#)

Black Bulbul

[Hypsipetes leucocephalus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae**

Green Warbler

[Phylloscopus nitidus](#)

Greenish Warbler

[Phylloscopus trochiloides](#)

Large-billed Leaf-Warbler

[Phylloscopus magnirostris](#)

Rare/Accidental

**PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae**

Blyth's Reed-Warbler

[Acrocephalus dumetorum](#)

Clamorous Reed-Warbler

[Acrocephalus stentoreus](#)



**PASSERIFORMES: Megaluridae**

**Ceylon Bush-Warbler**

[Bradypterus palliseri](#)

**Endemic Near-threatened**

**PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae**

Zitting Cisticola

[Cisticola juncidis](#)

Common Tailorbird

[Orthotomus sutorius](#)

Gray-breasted Prinia

[Prinia hodgsonii](#)

Jungle Prinia

[Prinia sylvatica](#)

Ashy Prinia

[Prinia socialis](#)

Plain Prinia

[Prinia inornata](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**

Yellow-eyed Babbler

[Chrysomma sinense](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

Asian Brown Flycatcher

[Muscicapa dauurica](#)

Brown-breasted Flycatcher

[Muscicapa muttui](#)

Kashmir Flycatcher

[Ficedula subrubra](#)

**Dull-blue Flycatcher**

[Eumyias sordidus](#)

**Vulnerable**

**Endemic Near-threatened**

Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher

[Cyornis tickelliae](#)

Indian Blue Robin

[Luscinia brunnea](#)

Oriental Magpie-Robin

[Copsychus saularis](#)

White-rumped Shama

[Copsychus malabaricus](#)

Indian Robin

[Saxicoloides fulicatus](#)

Pied Bushchat

[Saxicola caprata](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**

**Ceylon Whistling-Thrush**

[Myophonus blighi](#)

**Endemic Endangered**

Pied Thrush

[Zoothera wardii](#)

Orange-headed Thrush

[Zoothera citrina](#)

**Spot-winged Thrush**

[Zoothera spiloptera](#)

**Endemic Near-threatened**

Scaly Thrush

[Zoothera dauma](#)

**Some taxonomies consider this an endemic split, known as Ceylon Scaly Thrush, zoothera imbricata**

Eurasian Blackbird

[Turdus merula](#)

**Some taxonomies consider this a potential endemic split**

**PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae**

**Ashy-headed Laughingthrush**

[Garrulax cinereifrons](#)

**Endemic Vulnerable**

**Brown-capped Babbler**

[Pellorneum fuscicapillus](#)

**Endemic**

**Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babbler**

[Pomatorhinus melanurus](#)

**Endemic**

Tawny-bellied Babbler

[Dumetia hyperythra](#)

Dark-fronted Babbler

[Rhopocichla atriceps](#)

**Orange-billed Babbler**

[Turdoides rufescens](#)

**Endemic Near-threatened**

Yellow-billed Babbler

[Turdoides affinis](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**

**Ceylon White-eye**

Oriental White-eye

[Zosterops ceylonensis](#)

**Endemic**

[Zosterops palpebrosus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**

Southern Hill Myna

[Gracula indica](#)

**Ceylon Myna**

[Gracula ptilogenys](#)

**Endemic Near-threatened**

Common Myna

[Acridotheres tristis](#)

**White-faced Starling**

[Sturnia albofrontata](#)

**Endemic Vulnerable**

Brahminy Starling

[Temenuchus pagodarum](#)

Rosy Starling

[Pastor roseus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae**

Jerdon's Leafbird

[Chloropsis jerdoni](#)

Golden-fronted Leafbird

[Chloropsis aurifrons](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae**

Thick-billed Flowerpecker

[Dicaeum agile](#)

**White-throated Flowerpecker**

[Dicaeum vincens](#)

**Endemic Near-threatened**

Pale-billed Flowerpecker \*

[Dicaeum erythrorhynchos](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**

Purple-rumped Sunbird

[Leptocoma zeylonica](#)

Purple Sunbird

[Cinnyris asiaticus](#)

Long-billed Sunbird

[Cinnyris lotenius](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**

Western Yellow Wagtail

[Motacilla flava](#)

Gray Wagtail

[Motacilla cinerea](#)

White Wagtail

[Motacilla alba](#)

Richard's Pipit

[Anthus richardi](#)

Oriental Pipit/Paddyfield Pipit

[Anthus rufulus](#)

Forest Wagtail

[Dendronanthus indicus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**

House Sparrow

[Passer domesticus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae**

Baya Weaver

[Ploceus philippinus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**

Indian Silverbill \*

[Euodice malabarica](#)

White-rumped Munia

[Lonchura striata](#)

Black-throated Munia

[Lonchura kelaarti](#)

Nutmeg Mannikin/Scaly-breasted Munia

[Lonchura punctulata](#)

Tricolored Munia/Black-headed Munia

[Lonchura malacca](#)

247 species, 7 seen on pre-tour only \*

### **Mammals**

Indian Flying Fox  
Toque Monkey  
Hanuman Langur  
Purple-faced Leaf Monkey  
Ruddy Mongoose  
Indian Brown Mongoose  
Leopard  
Asian Elephant  
Wild Boar  
Sambar  
Spotted Deer  
Water Buffalo  
Sri Lankan Giant Squirrel  
Indian Palm Squirrel  
Dusky Striped Squirrel  
House Mouse  
Roof Rat/House Rat/Ship Rat  
Indian Hare  
Mouse Deer

Pteropus giganteus  
Macaca sinica  
Semnopithecus entellus  
Semnopithecus senex  
Herpestes smithii  
Herpestes fuscus  
Panthera pardus kotiya  
Elephas maximus  
Sus scrofa  
Cervus unicolor  
Axis axis  
Bubalus bubalis  
Ratufa macroura  
Funambulus palmarum  
Funambulus sublineatus  
Mus musculus  
Rattus rattus  
Lepus nigricollis  
Moschiola memmina

### **Reptiles and Amphibians**

Green Forest Lizard  
Rhino-horn Lizard  
Kangaroo Lizard  
Common Skink  
Soft-shelled Terrapin  
Star Tortoise  
Marsh Crocodile  
Land Monitor  
Water Monitor

Calotes calotes  
Ceratophora stoddartii  
Otocryptis wiegmanni  
Mabuya carinata lankae  
Lissemys punctata  
Testudo elegans  
Crocodylus palustris  
Varanus bengalensis  
Varanus salvator kabaragoya