

SRI LANKA : March 20th to 26th 2017

For my 4th trip to Sri Lanka, the 2nd with Michel Lejard, the main target was to look after 2 species missed during the previous visits: Rusty spotted Cat and Fishing Cat.

For that, I asked a Sri Lankan receptive different from those used during the previous stays: Bird and Wildlife Team. I didn't choose them before because their price was much higher than their colleagues. But after one week with Dulan, our guide, I understood why : a perfect knowledge of the sites used by the different species and an unfailing availability - after a Night drive from 10pm to 4am, he was still OK for another hour to look after the European Otter fishing in the pond in front of the reception of our hotel...!!!

The 6 nights - with 40 hours of Night drive - were shared equally between around Wilpattu and Sigirya.

- Indian Hare *Lepus nigricollis* : Every day around Wilpattu and Sigirya
- Sri Lankan Giant Squirrel *Ratufa macroura* Near Wilpattu and Sigirya
- Indian Palm Squirrel *Funambulus palmarum* Near Wilpattu and Sigirya
- Asiatic Long-tailed Climbing Mouse *Vandeleuria oleracea* Near Wilpattu and Sigirya
- Indian Gerbil *Tatera indica* Near Wilpattu
- Indian Crested Porcupine *Hystrix indica* Near Sigirya
- Small Indian Civet *Viverricula indica* Near Wilpattu and Sigirya
- Asian Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* 1 near Sigirya on March 25th
- Golden Dry-Zone Palm Civet *Paradoxurus stenocephalus* 1 near Wilpattu and 2 near Sigirya
- Jungle Cat *Felis chaus* 1 or 2 every night around Wilpattu and Sigirya
- **Rusty-spotted Cat** *Felis rubiginosa* Probably 1 on March 24th along a road inside a tall forest near Sigirya, not far from the site where we saw a Fishing Cat on March 23rd. Another one, with a very good sight, on March 25th at about the same place.
- **Fishing Cat** *Felis viverrina* 1 on March 22nd at 11pm15 walking at about 4 meters on an embankment in a dry zone near Wilpattu. 1 on March 23rd watching alongside a pond near Sigirya
- Leopard *Panthera pardus* 1 on March 22nd at 6pm inside Wilpattu National Park
- Indian Grey Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii* 1 near Wilpattu and 1 near Sigirya
- Ruddy Mongoose *Herpestes smithii* 2 times around Wilpattu
- Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra* One fishing in the pool just in front of the reception of Sigirya Village Hotel at night
- Indian Flying-fox *Pteropus giganteus* Near Sigirya
- Black-bearded Tom Bat *Taphozous melanopogon* In and around Popham Arboretum near Dambulla
- Dekhan Leaf-nosed Bat *Hipposideros galeritus* In and around Popham Arboretum
- Schneider's Leaf-nosed Bat *Hipposideros speoris* In and around Popham Arboretum
- Lesser False Vampire Bat *Megaderma spasma* In and around Popham Arboretum
- Great Horse-shoe Bat *Rhinolophus beddomei* In and around Popham Arboretum
- Rufous Horse-shoe Bat *Rhinolophus rouxii* In and around Popham Arboretum
- Grey Slender Loris *Loris lydekkerianus* Every night around Wilpattu and Sigirya
- Toque Macaque *Macaca sinica* Common in the site of Sigirya
- Tufted Grey Langur *Semnopithecus priam* Seen in and around Wilpattu and Sigirya
- Purple-Faced Leaf Monkey *Trachypithecus vetulus* Seen at the moat of Sigirya
- Eurasian Wildboar *Sus scrofa* Near Wilpattu and Sigirya
- White-striped Chevrotain *Moschiola meminna* At night near Wilpattu and Sigirya

- Sambar *Cervus unicolor* During the day in Wilpattu National Park and at night near Sigirya
- Chital *Axis axis* Common around Wilpattu and Sigirya
- Indian Muntjac *Muntiacus muntjak* 1 inside Wilpattu National Park
- Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus* 1 female inside Wilpattu National Park