

Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours



SRI LANKA: Endemic Birds & Wilpattu NP Leopards Saturday 6th - Saturday 20th January 2018

3 Wise Birding Clients

Leaders: Ryan Irvine & Saman Kumara Gamage

HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP

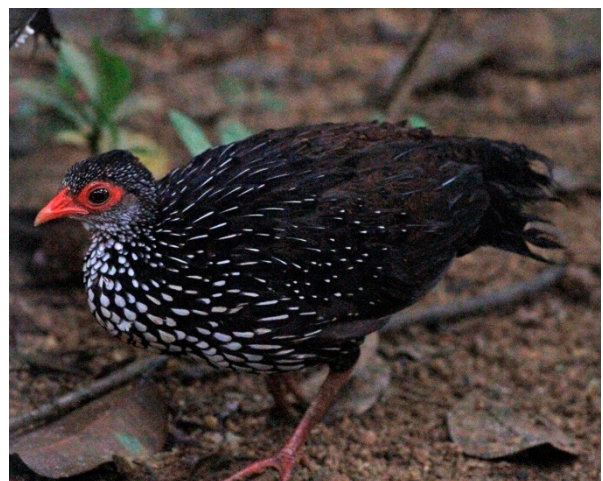
Leopard: Fantastic views of three animals on our second day at Wilpattu NP was a fantastic start to the trip and an undoubted highlight of the tour.

Serendib Scops Owl: Great views of this mythical owl day roosting in the Sinharaja Forest was most certainly one of the tour highlights.

Sri Lanka Whistling-thrush: After several hours searching for this difficult species, we were rewarded with fantastic views of a stunning male near Nuwara Eilya.

Sri Lanka Spurfowl: Seeing both male and female birds at very close range in the Sinharaja Forest was a real treat for what is often a very difficult species to see.

Food: No trip to Sri Lanka can pass without reference to the fantastic and varied food that is always so well presented and tastes delicious!



Leopard at Wilpattu NP and Male Sri Lanka Spurfowl, Sinharaja Forest

Saturday 6th January

We arrived into a pleasantly warm Colombo airport just after midday and were quickly on our way up to Wilpattu NP. Our first stop was an impromptu one as a stunning Indian Roller sat on a road sign near Madampe. The roadside paddy fields were home to many egrets and herons including Asian Openbill. We were soon arriving at Anawilundawa Bird Sanctuary, a stunning RAMSAR wetland site. A short stroll in the mid-afternoon sun along the wetland saw us quickly adding new species for the trip. Highlights included a flock of Ashy-headed Sparrow-larks, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Grey-headed Swampheens, Lesser Whistling-ducks, White-breasted Kingfishers and a few Orange-breasted Green-pigeon. A small number of Indian Flying Foxes left their roost early and the walk ended with point blank views of a Crested Serpent Eagle, which was soon to become a running theme of the whole trip! A nice gentle way to start the trip and acclimatise to the heat. We arrived at our hotel near the entrance to Wilpattu NP in the early evening and enjoyed the first of many fantastic currys.

Sunday 7th January

It was an early start and into a jeep for our first day in Wilpattu NP. At the entrance it quickly became apparent that the park would be nowhere near as busy as Yala NP. As we slowly birded our way along the main track in the early morning we soon had the majority of the day in the park all to ourselves. Wilpattu NP has an incredible diversity of birds and throughout the day we caught up with many of the commoner species and a couple rarer/hard to see species, recording 95 species for the day. Amongst these were eight endemics: Sri Lanka Junglefowl, Sri Lanka Green Pigeon, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, Crimson-fronted Barbet, Lesser Sri Lanka Flameback, Sri Lanka Swallow, Sri Lanka Wood-shrike and Brown-capped Babbler.

The wetland areas of the National Park were alive with birds! Herons and egrets were everywhere, including stunning views of Woolly-necked Stork, Painted Stork, Great Thick-knees and an excellent opportunity to compare Little, Intermediate and Great Egrets at close quarters. Waders were in lower numbers but high in diversity with great views of Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Lesser Sand-plover, Kentish Plover, Little Stint and Marsh Sandpiper, often right next to the jeep totally unfazed by our presence. A secretive Black-capped Kingfisher was a great find by Saman.

The woodland areas were also fantastic and produced many highlights of the day including a skulking Indian Pitta, many Black-naped Monarchs and Indian Paradise-flycatchers, Forest Wagtails, White-rumped Shama and a male Tickell's Blue Flycatcher. Watching a pair of Jerdon's Leafbirds feeding a juvenile was particularly enjoyed by the group.

It wasn't just all birds in the park as we saw a great variety of mammals including herds of Spotted and Sambar Deer, a few Indian Muntjac Deer and two species of monkey, Toque Macaque and Tufted Grey Langur. A couple of Golden Jackal rounded off the day nicely. Tomorrow we would be concentrating on finding Leopards.....

Monday 8th January

First light saw us heading to the far side of Wilpattu NP, the known area favoured by Leopards. Fresh footprints on the tracks and alarm calling Toque Macaques soon indicated we were in the right area but dense undergrowth made it hard to see any signs of a Leopard. While searching we enjoyed good views of many birds that we saw the day before when and then just after 11:00am we found a Leopard right out in the open, slowly walking into the undergrowth. A truly fantastic sight made even more memorable when we noticed two Golden Jackal standing guard watching the Leopard!

After a lovely packed lunch watching Mugger Crocodiles and Toque Macaques we soon found another trail of Leopard tracks and were soon watching our second one at close range through the undergrowth. Incredible to see two in the middle of the day! The rest of the day was a relaxed tour of the park, picking up a few new bird species including great close views of a roosting Brown Fish-owl.

As we slowly headed back to the entrance in the late afternoon unbelievably we found another Leopard drinking at a small watering hole. It slinked into the undergrowth where it stopped and watched us for a few minutes. A fantastic end to the day and all three Leopards found with no other jeep in sight!

Tuesday 9th January

Today was marked down as a travel day but we still managed to get quite a bit of birding done. We started with a some post breakfast birding in the hotel gardens with a roost of at least eight Malabar Pied Hornbills, Coppersmith Barbet, Indian Robin and White-browed Bulbul, all just outside our rooms. On our way to Dambulla we saw a few Black Drongos and a Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel at the roadside. A brief stop at the Golden Temple of Dambulla was followed by lunch at Matale. The gardens of the restaurant were fantastic and we had great views of Chestnut-backed Owlet, Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard and another Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel. Three quality endemics whilst eating lunch!

The final stop of the day was on the outskirts of Kandy, Udawattakele Royal Forest Park. We were greeted by many Toque Macaques at the entrance and had a very enjoyable two hours birding the forest. We found an area on the forest edge where we could look down on the canopy and managed to get great views of Southern Hill Myna, Crimson-fronted and Yellow-fronted Barbet, Layard's Parakeet, Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot and Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike. An obliging male Tickell's Blue Flycatcher and a skulking White-rumped Shama entertained us as we left the forest. Final bird of the day was a Spot-billed Pelican on the river in the middle of Kandy as we made our way to our hotel.

Wednesday 10th January

An early start saw us heading to the Hanthana Mountain area for some roadside birding at a tea plantation. There was a good movement of Rose-ringed and Alexandrine Parakeets, Southern Hill and Common Mynas coming out of their roost. As the morning warmed up birds started to become active in the tea plantation and we soon added Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and Jungle Prinia. It was a great site for some endemics and we enjoyed good views of Crimson-fronted and Yellow-fronted Barbet and a Lesser Sri Lanka Flameback. An enjoyable bit of pre-breakfast birding.

We managed to negotiate the Kandy rush hour, enjoying good views of Crested Serpent Eagle, Black-crowned Night-heron, Little and Great Cormorant along the river as we went. We later arrived at Kitulgala and arrived at our hotel where we enjoyed our lunch on the river bank. A truly stunning location for a restaurant.

We used a rustic footbridge to cross the 'River Kwai' for an afternoon birding session in the secondary rainforest of Kitulgala. We got caught in a heavy rainstorm but it barely lasted 30 minutes and it was the only rain we saw all tour (bar a bit of drizzle at Nuwara Eilya). Once the rain stopped and the sun came out the birds became active and we had a fantastic few hours, at times not knowing which way to look as birds popped up everywhere! Highlights included Yellow-fronted Barbet, Spot-winged

Thrush, Indian Pitta, Sri Lanka Swallow, Black Bulbul and a pair of Lesser Yellownapes woodpeckers in full courtship display.

Thursday 11th January

We headed back over the foot bridge just before first light, arriving in the rainforest area as the sun came up, for a pre breakfast walk. As soon as it was daylight the forest was alive with movement, Black-capped Babblers skulking in the low vegetation, Brown-headed Barbets singing from the treetops, mixed flocks of Buleuls and Babblers moving through, Sri Lanka Hanging Parrots noisily making their presence known, all to the backdrop of a calling Chestnut-backed Owlet. It was a good morning for woodpeckers too; we caught up with the same pair of Lesser Yellownapes, an Indian Pygmy Woodpecker and best of all, a Greater Sri Lanka Flameback.

After breakfast we moved down river into another part of the forest, crossing the river by canoe type 'ferry'. As we waited for a ferry a Blyth's Reed Warbler lurked in the undergrowth while we were surrounded by Psyche butterflies. The walk in the forest during the heat of the day was fantastic for butterflies, Ceylon Birdwing the clear standout. As we approached the end point of the walk and just before turning back we managed to see a Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, a bird that is never easy to see in the Kitulgala region. Buoyed up by this we made our way back to the river, a Black Eagle flew over and Purple-faced Leaf Monkeys constantly howled in the distance. Our final stop of the day was on the other side of the river, birding the hotel gardens which proved to be very fruitful. Highlights included three Spot-winged Thrush, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, Black-capped Bulbul, Yellow-fronted Barbet and a pair of Asian Koels.

Friday 12th January

We were up early and crossing the footbridge one last time in the hope of catching up with a few more endemics before we left Kitulgala. The morning started well with two Southern Hill Mynas and it just kept getting better. Great views of Lesser Sri Lanka Flameback, Scarlet Minivets, Dark-fronted Babblers, Sri Lanka Hanging Parrots, Common Hawk-cuckoo and Black Bulbul started the walk off well but it was further along the trail that we hit gold. First, Saman found a Chestnut-backed Owlet out in the open and as we watched it another appeared. Fantastic views of both were being enjoyed when Saman again called us along the path and there out in the open was a Green-billed Coucal! What a morning and what a way to end our time in Kitulgala.

After breakfast we were soon heading through the tea plantations on our way up the hills to Nuwara Eilya, enjoying the beautiful scenery (and some chocolate cake) on the way. After lunch at our hotel in Nuwara Eilya we visited Victoria Park. It was a local holiday so quite busy, but that didn't stop us from adding some new endemic birds for the trip with Yellow-eared Bulbul and Sri Lanka White-eye. Other highlights in the park included a female Kashmir Flycatcher, Cinereous Tit and Scarlet Minivet.

Saturday 13th January

It was a very early start as we set off for the Horton Plains, a stunning area of cloud forest and plains and home to many endemic birds. Our first stop was on the edge of the park just as it was getting light. Through the dawn murk we managed to pick out a Sri Lanka Woodpigeon, our target here. As the light improved more birds started to move and we were soon watching a male Kashmir Flycatcher and an added bonus of a Sri Lanka Bush-warbler out in the open! As we made our way back to the bus a male Indian Blackbird showed well and the Sri Lanka Woodpigeon was soon joined by seven more! It was incredible to see eight of these endangered birds together. On the way to the entrance of Horton Plains we managed to see Sri Lanka White-eyes, Grey Wagtail and Brown Shrike. Whilst waiting at the entrance three Indian Blackbirds and a Yellow-eared Bulbul entertained us.

Our next stop was by some pools between the entrance and the visitor centre of the park. This area was fantastic for birds, Sri Lanka White-eyes moving through in flocks, Yellow-eared Bulbuls, Common Tailorbirds and Velvet-fronted Nuthatches following them. Brief views of a male Indian Blue Robin and a Dull-blue Flycatcher were soon upstaged by point blank views of a pair of Sri Lanka Scimitar-babblers. It was a fantastic couple hours of birding.

As we arrived at the visitor centre we were soon watching Hill Swallows and Pied Bushchats. A Mountain Hawk-eagle and Common Kestrel were soaring over the plains while a Purple Sunbird and Indian Blackbird fed on the bushes next to the visitor centre. As we walked along the plains towards the cloud forest we added Zitting Cisticola and Paddyfield Pipit and in the cloud forest we managed to see Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, three Sri Lanka Bush-warblers, four Sri Lanka Scimitar-babbler, a Greater Sri Lanka Flameback and many Yellow-eared Bulbuls. The drive back to Nuwara Eilya was brightened up by fantastic views of a Purple-faced Leaf Monkey and then unexpectedly, a Long-legged Buzzard!

In the late afternoon we headed to a site near Nuwara Eilya, hoping to see Sri Lanka Whistling-thrush. We staked out the stream area that they are known to favour and after a couple false alarms including another obliging Sri Lanka Bush-warbler we finally managed to see a male Sri Lanka Whistling-thrush, first skulking along the stream and then it started to show very well in the fading light. The hard work and patience had paid off!

Sunday 14th January

We started the day with a pre-breakfast trip back to Victoria Park in the hope of seeing the rest of the specialties that can be found here. The park was deserted at 6am and we enjoyed a relaxing couple hours birding with many highlights including a male Pied Thrush, two Indian Pittas, Forest Wagtail and Indian Blue Robin. The Pied Thrush was absolutely stunning, feeding out in the open for at least 30 minutes!

After breakfast we were on our way to our hotel in Tissa, stopping off at the Surrey Bird Sanctuary to see two Brown Wood Owls roosting. Then a stop at Ella for lunch where Loten's Sunbirds were our lunchtime companions. Saman had planned this to be an owl day and as we arrived in the Tissa area we visited one of his friends houses and were soon watching an Indian Scops Owl roosting under their roof! On the same street and with the help of keen local youngsters we were enjoying great views of a Jungle Owlet. To finish it all off we moved on no more than 1km and were soon watching a pair of Brown Fish Owls. After thanking the locals we drove to nearby Lake Debarawewa to look at some wetland birds. The lake was alive with herons and egrets with the highlights including Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Yellow Bittern, Black Bittern, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Spot-billed Pelican and Lesser Whistling Duck. As dusk approached thousands of Indian Flying Foxes left their daytime roost and flew over our heads; an amazing spectacle. The day finished off with a pair of Barn Owls leaving their nest hole just as the light began to go. Five species of owl in one day.....

Monday 15th January

Today we had our jeep drive in Bundala NP. It took us a long time to get to the entrance as we drove through the wetlands, mesmerised by the sheer numbers of waterbirds, Cattle, Little, Great and Intermediate Egrets, Black-crowned Night-herons, Black-headed Ibis, Purple and Grey Herons and Grey-headed Swampheens seemed to be everywhere you looked! In amongst the more common species we picked out Black Bittern, Watercock and Clamorous Reed Warbler. Waders were in good supply too, Marsh Sandpipers, Black-winged Stilts, Redshank and Black-tailed Godwits while a

roosting flock of Barn Swallows also held a couple Sand Martins. All this before we had even reached the entrance to the park! We were then greeted by Little Swifts and Tufted Grey Langurs and the numbers of Langurs in the park was incredible as we enjoyed many sightings of them.

As we drove around the park the diversity and numbers of birds seemed to increase, especially waders as we added Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Lesser Sand Plover, Greenshank, Pacific Golden Plover, Kentish Plover etc. It wasn't just about waterbirds though, we managed to see Rosy Starling, Blue-faced Malkoha, White-browed Fantail and then we had a heart stopping encounter with an Asian Elephant. It slowly walked out of a watering hole and past our jeep and within touching distance, no more than a few feet from Polly and Billie, its eye constantly watching them!

We then went to the saltpan section of the park and enjoyed large numbers of waders including a few new species for the trip including Little Pratincole, Curlew Sandpiper, Common Ringed Plover, Grey Plover and Pied Kingfisher. On our way out of the park we came across a group of three Asian Elephants.

On our way to our next hotel in Embilipitya we briefly stopped off at Lake Tissa to look at the Indian Flying Fox roost. An incredible sight as thousands roosted on a few trees on the edge of the lake. The drive to the hotel took us past the edge of Udawalawe NP (our destination for the next day) and we managed to see five Asian Elephants from the main road. As we parked up at the hotel Saman found a pair of roosting Indian Scops Owls in the car park! A relaxing evening by the lake ended the day as we watched thousands of egrets come to roost near the hotel.

Tuesday 16th January

Another early morning saw us meet our jeep near Udawalawe NP and after a brief wait at the entrance we were on our way. Two hours later and we had barely moved a few hundred metres! There were birds everywhere and many of them new and all of them gave fantastic views. Black-winged Kites and Crested Serpent Eagles roosted on dead trees while a Crested Hawk-eagle soared over. At one point we were watching four species of Prinia in one small group of bushes, Plain, Jungle, Grey-breasted and Ashy along with Marshall's Iora, Indian Silverbills and nearby Jacobin and Grey-bellied Cuckoos. A Sirkeer Malkoha was a more distant but out in the open and both Tawny-bellied and Yellow-eyed Babblers showed very well.

At the first watering hole we saw our first Asian Elephants of the day but were soon distracted by yet more fantastic birds there, Blue-faced Malkoha, Forest Wagtail, White-browed Fantail, Scaly-breasted and Black-headed Munias and Plum-headed Parakeets. We started to see more and more Asian Elephants, about 33 in total for the morning, our first wild Water Buffalos of the trip and the quality birds just kept coming! A light morph Booted Eagle drifted through, a Baya Weaver briefly appeared and a Woolly-necked Stock flew over. At the edge of the main lake we were enthralled for over half hour by a herd of Asian Elephants, the younger ones enjoying the water while the adults fed nearby. Our time in the park was completed as two Brown-backed Needletails flew past us at great speed.

The rest of the day was planned as a travel day as we headed to the Blue Magpie Lodge, Sinharaja. A brief view of an Indian Cobra crossing the road was the highlight before we stopped at some rice fields near Pothupitya. A flock of Munias were flying around but proving hard to pin down but we eventually saw White-rumped, Black-headed and Scaly-breasted. The last couple hours of daylight were spent birding in and around the gardens of the Blue Magpie Lodge. Crested Treeswifts and Sri Lanka

Swallows soared around while Yellow-fronted Barbets, Orange-billed Babblers, Oriental Magpie Robins, Black Bulbuls, White-bellied Drongos and Sri Lanka Hanging Parrots fed around the garden. The highlight went to three obliging Sri Lanka Hill Mynas and some Plum-headed Parakeets giving fantastic scope views.

Wednesday 17th January

A 5am start saw us heading up into the jungle hoping to see Sri Lanka Spurfowl. We arrived at the site in darkness and enjoyed the sounds of the jungle, three Chestnut-backed Owlets, Sri Lanka Blue Magpies, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbills and Purple-faced Leaf Monkeys all calling. As it became light we soon started seeing some special species, two Spot-winged Thrush, a Slaty-legged Crake, a group of 12+ Ashy-headed Laughingthrushes, Black Bulbuls and an Indian Pitta all came to the feeding station! Sri Lanka Blue Magpies were flying through the trees and a male and female Sri Lanka Junglefowl with three young arrived and then finally the female Sri Lanka Spurfowl joined them quickly followed by the male. We enjoyed fantastic close and prolonged views of them before heading off to a neighbouring garden to be treated to great views of Green-billed Coucal. Added to all this we saw Sri Lanka Hanging Parrots, Orange-billed Babblers and Layard's Parakeets, 11 endemics seen or heard within 50m of each other and it didn't end there! On the drive back to the Lodge we stopped at the side of the track and after a short trek up a steep slope we were watching two Serendib Scops Owls. Endemic number 12 of the morning and it wasn't even 9am!!

After breakfast we headed to Sinharaja Forest Reserve. Along the track leading to the reserve we stopped off a couple of times and were rewarded with a male Legge's Flowerpecker. Other highlights on the way to the reserve were a Sri Lanka Swallow, four Purple-faced Leaf Monkeys and a Green Vine Snake.

As we entered Sinharaja by foot we were soon seeing some fantastic wildlife. Sri Lanka Scimitar-babblers, Sri Lanka Tree Nymphs, Blue-naped Monarchs and the highlight of the walk, a pair of Sri Lanka Frogmouths. Unbelievably camouflaged and confiding. Sinharaja isn't just about birds and during our walk in the afternoon sun we managed to see many butterflies and reptiles including Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard, Hump-nosed Lizard and Water Monitor. Spot-winged Thrushes lurked on the edge of the path and we came across one mixed flock of birds which held the tricky Red-faced Malkoha, Black-capped Bulbul, Ashy-headed Laughingthrush and Sri Lanka Crested Drongo. Another two endemics for the day!

Thursday 18th January

We had a full day in the forest today, arriving at 6:30am with two main targets in mind, White-faced Starling and Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush, the last two endemics we had not yet seen. On the drive up the steep track to the entrance we saw up to four Sri Lanka Blue Magpies and then onto a favoured spot for the starlings. We had just got out of the jeep when the first starling was heard and soon we were watching 6 sitting on top of a bare tree. Stunning views of a bird that is often hard to see. Whilst watching the starlings a male Legge's Flowerpecker also showed well. A superb start!

In the main part of the reserve we again enjoyed great views of the pair of Sri Lanka Frogmouths and throughout the morning we caught up with a couple travelling flocks of birds including Brown-fronted and Orange-billed Babblers and Ashy-headed Laughingthrush. However, the Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush was proving elusive despite our best efforts. Spot-winged Thrushes were feeding on the track, a Black Eagle flew over the canopy and a Greater Sri Lanka Flameback called in the distance.

Again, there were butterflies everywhere and while we were enjoying them Saman pinned down a Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush. Despite skulking in the deep undergrowth we all managed to get great views of this hard to see super skulker. It even perched out briefly despite the best efforts of a nearby Common Bronze Back to scare it off!

The birding didn't finish there either, as we were soon watching a male Malabar Trogon and Sri Lanka Crested Drongo on the same tree. On the walk back to the entrance the local guide spotted a Lantern Fly resting on a tree, a truly remarkable looking insect. On the drive back to the lodge we stopped off at a site for Black-throated Munias and managed to see four flitting around the area. The good birds continued to show at the Blue Magpie Lodge in the last hour of daylight, Sri Lanka Green Pigeons, Sri Lanka Hanging Parrots and Plum-headed Parakeets. A fantastic end to the day and most importantly, **the 33 true endemics were in the bag!**

Friday 19th January

Our last full day of the tour started with a leisurely stroll around the Blue Magpie Lodge. In total we saw 44 species of bird in the small area around the hotel and although there were no new birds for the trip it was nice to savour more views of species like Scarlet Minivet, Jerdon's Leafbird and Yellow-fronted Barbet. An Indian Pitta and Sri Lanka Crested Drongo also put in brief appearances for the lucky ones amongst us. A nice relaxing way to end our time in Sinharaja.

After lunch it was time to head to our hotel near Columbo airport. Arriving after dark we enjoyed one last meal together and discussed the highlights of the last two weeks in the wonderful country that is Sri Lanka!

Saturday 20th January

A quick pre-breakfast walk around the hotel gardens provided a last tick of the trip, as a Black-naped Hare ran across the lawn, an unexpected end to our trip. Then after breakfast we headed to the airport for our daytime flight back to the UK.

Conservation Donation – Following this tour to Sri Lanka £125 was transferred to the Wise Birding Holiday's central conservation fund. This will be used to support a conservation project in the future, yet to be determined.

For the last three years Wise Birding Holidays has been supporting a number of small conservation projects. However, we now believe that to make a bigger difference to conservation it seems best to pool the donations from most of our tours into one central fund. Once a target amount has been reached this money will be used to support one single project in the hope of achieving more for species conservation. Currently this amounts to around £4,000. Some tours will continue to donate money to help some of the smaller projects that we feel will still benefit from smaller donations. Please visit our [Conservation News](#) and [Latest News](#) links to find out more.





The endemic Chestnut-backed Owlet (above) and Jungle Owlet (below)





The endemic Ashy-headed Laughingthrush (above) and Sri Lanka Frogmouth (below)





**Green-billed Coucal (above) and Yellow-eared Bulbul (below)
Both Endemics**





The endemic Purple-faced Leaf Monkey (above) Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel (below)





Black-naped Monarch (above) and the endemic Black-capped Bulbul (below)





Asian Woollyneck (above) and Sri Lanka Green Pigeon (below)





Indian Peafowl (above) and Indian Scops Owl (below)





**Sri Lanka or Crimson-fronted Barbet (above) and Yellow-fronted Barbet (below)
Both Endemics**





Asian Green Bee-Eater (above) and Jacobin Cuckoo (below)





Asian Elephants were seen at various sites during the tour





Golden Jackal (above) and Indian Flying Fox (below)





Marshall's Iora (above) and Pacific Golden Plover & Little Stint (below)





Spot-billed Pelican (above) and Little Pratincole (below)





The endemic Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard (above) and Lantern Fly (below)





Crested Serpent Eagle (above) and Changeable or Crested Hawk Eagle (below)





Tufted Grey Langur (above) and Mugger or Marsh Crocodile (below)





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WISE BIRDING HOLIDAYS: Bird, Mammal, Reptile & Butterfly Checklist for Sri Lanka 6th - 20th January 2018

This bird checklist follows the nomenclature and classification from HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World and the associated online resource, HBW Alive

Orange = full endemic

Red = considered by some authorities to be a full endemic

#	Species Name	Scientific Name	#	Species Notes
1	Sri Lanka Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>	1	Fabulously close views of both male and female on the 17th.
2	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	2	Recorded on 7 days during the tour including displaying males at Bundala NP and Uda Walawe NP.
3	Sri Lanka Junglefowl	<i>Gallus lafayettii</i>	3	Recorded on 8 days including some very young juveniles.
4	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	4	Recorded on 5 days, mostly in the Wilpattu NP, Bundala NP and Uda Walawe NP.
5	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	5	Two at Wilpattu NP on the 7th.
6	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	6	Two recorded at Wilpattu NP on the 8th.
7	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	7	Recorded on 9 days mostly as feral birds around habitation, though birds in a few locations were thought to be pure.
8	Sri Lanka Woodpigeon	<i>Columba torringtoniae</i>	8	A flock of 8 birds on one tree in the Horton Plains on the 13th.
9	Western Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia suratensis</i>	9	A very common but beautiful dove recorded daily.
10	Grey-capped Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	10	A very beautiful dove recorded on 9 days with the best views at the Blue Magpie Lodge and Wilpattu NP.
11	Orange-breasted Green-pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>	11	Another stunning pigeon, seen at Anavilundawa on the 6th and the next 3 days at Wilpattu NP. Finally at Bundala NP and Uda Walawe NP on the 15th & 16th.
12	Sri Lanka Green-pigeon	<i>Treron pompadora</i>	12	Recorded on 5 days, mainly at Wilpattu NP and the wet zone forests.
13	Green Imperial-pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	13	Sri Lanka's largest pigeon recorded on 10 days from forests to gardens.
14	Sri Lanka Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>	14	A superb daylight encounter with both male and female at a day roost in Sinharaja on the 17th and 18th.
15	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	15	Recorded on 7 days at Wilpattu NP, Uda Walawe NP and Sinharaja.
16	Brown-backed Needletail	<i>Hirundapus giganteus</i>	16	Two flew over at close quarters at Uda Walawe NP on the 16th and another two were recorded over Sinharaja on the 17th.
17	Indian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>	17	Recorded almost daily.
18	Asian Palm-swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	18	Recorded at Bundala NP, Uda Walawe NP and Sinharaja.
19	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	19	Very localised with birds (including birds at the nest) in Bundala on the 15th.
20	Green-billed Coucal	<i>Centropus chlororhynchos</i>	20	Heard at Kitugala on the 11th and seen very well on the 12th, also seen very well at Sinharaja on 17th and 18th.
21	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	21	The much commoner cousin of the above species was recorded on 7 days.
22	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>	22	Two birds seen perched at Uda Walawe on the 16th.
23	Red-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus</i>	23	Recorded moving through the canopy in Sinharaja on the 17th.
24	Blue-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus</i>	24	Recorded on 3 days, at Wilpattu NP, Bundala NP and Uda Walawe NP.
25	Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	25	Fantastic views of 2 birds at Uda Walawe on the 16th.
26	Western Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	26	A pair seen at Kitulgala on the 11th.
27	Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>	27	One bird seen briefly at the hotel in Kitulgala on the 12th.
28	Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	28	Recorded on 4 days whilst birding Wilpattu NP, Uda Walawe and Bundala NPs.
29	Common Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	29	Seen on the 11th and 12th at Kitulgala and heard on the 19th at the Blue Magpie Lodge.
30	Slaty-legged Crake	<i>Rallina eurizonoides</i>	30	One seen at the Spurfowl site at Sinharaja on the 17th.
31	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	31	A common species associated with water recorded on at least 11 days.
32	Watercock	<i>Gallix cinerea</i>	32	One recorded at Bundala NP on the 15th.
33	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	33	Seen well at Anvilundawa on the 6th and at Tissa and Bundala NP on the 14th and 15th.
34	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	34	Very localised and recorded on just 1 day in Bundala NP.
35	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	35	Seen well at Anvilundawa on the 6th only.
36	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	36	This beautiful Stork is always a highlight of the wetland areas.
37	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	37	Recorded on 10 days in the wetland areas.
38	Asian Woollyneck	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	38	Seen each day at Wilpattu NP and on the 16th at Uda Walawe NP.
39	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	39	Singles recorded on the 15th and 16th.
40	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis</i>	40	Recorded on 5 days at wetlands and paddyfields throughout the country.
41	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	41	Recorded on 2 days, near Tissa and at Bundala NP.
42	Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	42	Recorded on 2 days, near Tissa and at Bundala NP.
43	Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	43	Recorded on 4 days. Best views near Tissa and abundant at Bundala NP and Uda Walawe NP.
44	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	44	One of the commonest heron species recorded on 12 days in any wet areas and paddy fields.
45	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	45	Recorded daily.
46	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	46	Recorded on 6 days in small numbers.
47	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	47	A relatively common species in wetland areas recorded on 5 days.
48	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	48	Recorded on 8 days.

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49	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	49	Less common than its great white cousin and recorded on 6 days.
50	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	50	Recorded on 11 days.
51	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	51	Common in the NPs of Udawalawe and Bundala, recorded on 6 days.
52	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	52	A very common species recorded almost daily.
53	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	53	The scarcest of the cormorants recorded on just two days.
54	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	54	Slightly less common than Little Cormorant and recorded on 6 days.
55	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	55	Recorded on 6 days in most wetland areas.
56	Indian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>	56	One recorded at Wilpattu NP on the 8th and one at Bundala NP on the 15th.
57	Great Thick-knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	57	Recorded in the NPs of Wilpattu and Bundala.
58	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	58	Recorded on 4 days at various wetland sites.
59	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	59	Recorded at the salt pans near Bundala NP on the 15th.
60	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	60	Recorded in Wilpattu and Bundala NPs with the largest numbers at Bundala on the 15th.
61	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	61	A single bird at Bundala NP on the 15th was a good record.
62	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	62	Small numbers in Wilpattu and Bundala NPs.
63	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	63	Recorded in good numbers at Wilpattu and Bundala NPs.
64	Lesser Sandplover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	64	Recorded at Wilpattu and Bundala NPs.
65	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	65	Sightings were confined to Wilpattu and Bundala NPs.
66	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	66	Much commoner than the above species and recorded throughout the tour on 7 days.
67	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	67	Recorded on 3 days on suitable wetlands with lily pads near Tissa and in Wilpattu NP.
68	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	68	Recorded in small numbers at Wilpattu and Bundala NPs.
69	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	69	Small numbers recorded at Bundala NP.
70	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	70	Small groups recorded in Bundala NP on the 15th.
71	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	71	Recorded daily at Wilpattu and Bundala NPs.
72	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	72	Singles seen at Wilpattu and Bundala NPs.
73	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	73	A common wader recorded on 6 days.
74	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	74	Singles seen near Tissa and Wilpattu, Uda Walawe and Bundala NPs.
75	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	75	Small numbers recorded at Wilpattu and Bundala NPs.
76	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	76	Small numbers recorded at and Bundala NP.
77	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	77	Small numbers recorded at Wilpattu, Uda Walawe and Bundala NPs.
78	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	78	Small numbers recorded at Wilpattu, Uda Walawe and Bundala NPs.
79	Little Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	79	Great views of this lovely pratincole whilst in Bundala NP on the 15th.
80	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	80	Recorded on 5 days at Wilpattu, Bundala and Uda Walawe NPs.
81	Common Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	81	Recorded on at least 4 days at Wilpattu, Udawalawe and Bundala NPs.
82	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	82	At least 5+ birds seen very well at Bundala NP on the 15th.
83	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	83	Good numbers recorded at suitable wetlands.
84	Common Barn-owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	84	Great views at dusk of a pair at the entrance to their nest hole near Tissa.
85	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	85	Great views of this beautiful owl near Tissa on the 14th.
86	Chestnut-backed Owlet	<i>Glaucidium castanotum</i>	86	Seen very well on 2 days and heard on a further 3 days. Fantastic view of 2 together at Kitulgala on the 12th.
87	Serendib Scops-owl	<i>Otus thilohoffmanni</i>	87	One of the tour highlights was scoping a close day roosting pair in Sinharaja Forest on the 17th.
88	Indian Scops-owl (Collared)	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	88	Great views of a day roosting bird near Tissa and a pair near Uda Walawe.
89	Brown Wood-owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>	89	Fantastic views of a pair day roosting at the Surrrey Bird Sanctuary on the 14th.
90	Brown Fish-owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>	90	Amazing close views of one at Wilpattu NP on the 8th and of a pair near Tissa on the 14th.
91	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	91	Several birds seen well at Uda Walawe NP on the 16th.
92	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	92	One bird recorded at Wilpattu NP on the 7th.
93	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	93	One recorded hunting over farmland on the drive back to Nuwara Eilya from the Horton Plains. A Great record for Sri Lanka.
94	Crested Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela spilogaster</i>	94	Recorded on 8 days including some incredible views of perched birds at Wilpattu NP, down to a few metres from the jeep.
95	Mountain (Legge's) Hawk-eagle	<i>Nisaetus nipalensis kelaarti</i>	95	One bird seen at Horton Plains NP on the 13th.
96	Changeable (Crested) Hawk-eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatu</i>	96	Good views on several occasions, recorded on 5 days.

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#	Species Name	Scientific Name	#	Species Notes
97	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>	97	Single birds on the 11th,12th, 18th and 19th.
98	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	98	A single light phase bird showed well on our first evening in Uda Walawe on the 16th.
99	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	99	One bird at Wilpattu NP on the 7th and a perched bird in the hotel gardens near Columbo on the last morning.
100	White-bellied Sea-eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	100	Some excellent views of this impressive Sea-eagle recorded throughout the tour on 6 days
101	Grey-headed Fish-eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	101	Less common than the above species and confined mostly to the NPs of Wilpattu and Bundala on 3 days.
102	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	102	A common raptor seen well and recorded on 6 days.
103	Malabar Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>	103	A calling male was seen very well on the 18th at Sinharaja.
104	Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros gingalensis</i>	104	Recorded on 5 days, at Wilpattu NP, Kitulgala, Surrey Bird Sanctuary and Sinharaja.
105	Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthraceroceros coronatus</i>	105	This impressive hornbill was seen very well in Uda Walawe and Wilpattu NPs on 4 days.
106	Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	106	A stunning bee-eater and very common in Wilpattu, Uda Walawe and Bundala NPs.
107	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	107	The least common of all the bee-eaters recorded on 2 days at Wilpattu NP.
108	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	108	By far the commonest bee-eater seen on 9 days.
109	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	109	This colourful species was recorded on 2 days.
110	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	110	Mostly single birds common in the right habitat and recorded 5 days.
111	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	111	Locally common recorded on 2 days.
112	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	112	The most impressive of the kingfishers recorded on 5 days sometimes heard only.
113	White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	113	The commonest kingfisher and not always associated with water seen on 11 days.
114	Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>	114	Distant views of a long staying individual at Wilpattu NP. A great record for Sri Lanka.
115	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>	115	Seen very well on 3 days.
116	Sri Lanka (Crimson-fronted) Barbet	<i>Psilopogon rubricapillus</i>	116	Seen near Kandy on the 9th and 10th and heard each day at Wilpattu NP.
117	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>	117	A familiar call from the tour from various wooded areas recorded on 8 days and seen very well.
118	Yellow-fronted Barbet	<i>Psilopogon flavifrons</i>	118	Seen on 7 days, near Kandy, Kitulgala and the Blue Magpie Lodge. Fantastic views of a pair on a bird table at the Lodge.
119	Greater Sri Lanka Flameback (Crimson-	<i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i>	119	Seen on 2 days and heard on a further 3 days. Best views at Kitulgala on the 11th.
120	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	120	Great views at Wilpattu NP on the 7th.
121	Lesser Sri Lanka Flameback (Lesser	<i>Dinopium psarodes</i>	121	This impressive woodpecker was recorded on 8 days during the tour.
122	Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	122	This attractive woodpecker was seen on 2 days including a pair in courtship display.
123	Indian (Sri Lanka) Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nanus</i>	123	Singles seen at Wilpattu NP on the 7th and at Kitulgala on the 11th.
124	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>	124	A single bird was seen well in Uda Walawe NP on the 16th.
125	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	125	A seemingly scarce species recorded on the first day day.
126	Sri Lanka Hanging-parrot	<i>Loriculus beryllinus</i>	126	Excellent views of this tiny parrot seen well on 8 days, mainly at Kitulgala and Sinharaja.
127	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	127	This beautiful parakeet was seen at Uda Walawe on the 16th and at the Blue Magpie Lodge on the 18th.
128	Emerald-collared (Layard's) Parakeet	<i>Psittacula calthrapae</i>	128	Recorded on 7 days with the best views from the Blue Magpie Lodge area.
129	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	129	This larger cousin of the Rose-ringed Parakeet was only recorded on the 10th near Kandy.
130	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	130	The commonest of all the parakeets recorded throughout the tour on 10 days.
131	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	131	Seen on 5 days of the tour, briefly at Wilpattu NP, fantastic views at Victoria Park and good views at Kitulgala and Sinharaja.
132	Jerdon's Bushlark	<i>Mirafra affinis</i>	132	The high pitched song became a familiar sound at Wilpattu, Bundala and Uda Walawe NPs.
133	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>	133	A feeding flock at Anavilundawa on the first day of the tour.
134	Collared Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	134	Two birds at Bundala NP on the 15th.
135	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	135	A very common species recorded almost daily.
136	Pacific Swallow (Hill)	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	136	Superb views of this very attractive harrundine as birds collected mud for nests on the Horton Plains on the 13th.
137	Red-rumped Swallow (Sri Lanka Swallow)	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	137	This stunning swallow considered by some as an endemic was recorded on 5 days.
138	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	138	A very common pipit in suitable habitat first recorded on the Wilpattu NP and seen on 6 days.
139	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>	139	Very good views in Bundala and Uda Walawe NPs on the 15th and 16th and also good to hear the call.
140	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>	140	This very attractive wagtail was recorded on 3 days in Wilpattu NP, Victoria Park and Uda Walawe NP.
141	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	141	Small numbers seen on 3 days in Uda Walawe, Bundala and Wilpattu NPs.
142	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	142	Fairly common during the second half of the tour and recorded on 5 days.
143	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	143	Some excellent views of this colourful flycatcher recorded on 4 days.
144	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	144	Excellent views of birds on the 11th and 12th whilst at Kitulgala.

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145	Common Wood-shrike (<i>Sri Lanka Wood-</i>	<i>Tephrodornis</i>	145	Another species considered by some as an endemic and recorded on 3 days.
146	Black-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>	146	This colourful bulbul with distinct black cap was recorded on 5 days.
147	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer cafer</i>	147	The commonest of all the bulbuls seen almost daily on at least 13 days.
148	Yellow-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus penicillatus</i>	148	Undoubtedly the best looking bulbul recorded between the 12th to 14th whilst in the highlands.
149	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	149	Recorded on 4 days and first recorded at Wilpattu NP.
150	Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Acritillas indica guglielmi</i>	150	Another colourful bulbul recorded throughout the tour on 7 days.
151	Square-tailed Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes ganeesa humii</i>	151	A very distinctive bulbul often singing from high points recorded on 7 days.
152	Jerdon's Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>	152	Watched a pair feed a fledgling at Wilpattu NP on the 7th and 3 birds together in the garden of the Blue Magpie Lodge.
153	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	153	This colourful species sits in its own unique family and was recorded throughout the tour on 6 days.
154	Marshall's Iora	<i>Aegithina nigrolutea</i>	154	A stunning male seen well at Uda Walawe on the 16th.
155	Indian Blackbird	<i>Turdus simillimus kinnisii</i>	155	Several birds of this endemic subspecies were seen on the 13th at the Horton Plains.
156	Pied Thrush	<i>Zoothera wardii</i>	156	A stunning male showed very well for prolonged views at Victoria Park on the 14th.
157	Spot-winged Thrush	<i>Zoothera spiloptera</i>	157	First seen very well at Kitulgala on the 10th and also seen several times at Sinharaja.
158	Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera imbricata</i>	158	After much searching a skulking bird was located at Sinharaja on the 18th and it eventually gave itself up and sat out in the open. Incredible camouflage!
159	Sri Lanka Whistling-thrush	<i>Myophonus blighi</i>	159	Heard near Nuwara Eilya on the 12th and then just before dusk on the 13th in the same area where the male showed very well.
160	Indian Blue Robin	<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>	160	A brief view of a male at Horton Plains on the 13th and good views of a female on the 14th at Victoria Park.
161	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	161	A very common species throughout recorded on at least 13 days.
162	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	162	Several birds seen skulking in the undergrowth at Wilpattu NP over 3 days.
163	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>	163	This distinctive species was seen on 5 days.
164	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata atratus</i>	164	Seen very well on the Horton Plains on the 13th.
165	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	165	Fairly common in the forests recorded on at least 2 days.
166	Brown-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>	166	Similar to the above species though the pale legs are good feature to look for, recorded on 9 days.
167	Dull Verditer (Dull Blue) Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias sordidus</i>	167	A singing bird seen briefly at the Horton Plains on the 13th.
168	Tickell's Blue-flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae jerdoni</i>	168	This stunning flycatcher was seen very well on 4 days at Kitulgala and Wilpattu NP.
169	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	169	Another very beautiful flycatcher seen very well on 1 day whilst in the Highlands.
170	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	170	Also known as the drunken piper, this obliging species was recorded on 2 days.
171	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	171	Yet another great flycatcher recorded on 4 days from Sinharaja and Wilpattu NP.
172	Asian Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	172	Both the brown and spectacular white forms were seen well, recorded on 7 days.
173	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	173	More often heard than seen and with us throughout the tour and recorded on 7 days.
174	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii pectoralis</i>	174	Seen very well at Uda Walawe on the 16th.
175	Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica valida</i>	175	Recorded on 3 days with best views at Uda Walawe on the 16th.
176	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis brevicauda</i>	176	Seen very well at Bundala and Uda Walawe NPs on the 15th and 16th.
177	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata insularis</i>	177	The commonest of the Prinias seen at various locations and recorded on 3 days.
178	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis omalurus</i>	178	First recorded on the Horton Plains and later seen at Uda Walawe.
179	Sri Lanka Bush-warbler	<i>Elaphrornis palliseri</i>	179	Fantastic views while we were looking for Sri Lanka Woodpigeon at Horton Plains and also near Nuwara Eilya while we searched for the Whistling Thrush.
180	Blyth's Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	180	Typically skulking but a number of good views during the tour and recorded on 3 days.
181	Clamorous Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	181	A singing bird performed really well in the reeds at Bundala NP on the 15th.
182	Green Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>	182	A familiar sound of the forests and seen well on occasions, recorded on 4 days.
183	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	183	Recorded on 2 days.
184	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	184	Seen very well in Uda Walawe on the 16th.
185	Dark-fronted Babbler (C and SW forms)	<i>Rhopocichla atriceps</i>	185	This smart babbler was recorded on 3 days with the best views in Kitulgala and Sinharaja.
186	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	186	Seen very well in Uda Walawe on the 16th.
187	Sri Lankan Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus melanurus</i>	187	This very distinctive babbler with yellow down-curved bill was recorded on 3 days. First seen very well in the Horton Plains on the 13th.
188	Brown-capped Babbler	<i>Pellorneum fuscocapillus</i>	188	One of the more skulking babblers but seen very well each day at Wilpattu NP.
189	Orange-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides rufescens</i>	189	This distinctive ginger babbler was recorded on 6 days in the forests of Kitulgala and Sinharaja.
190	Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>	190	The most common of all the babblers recorded almost daily.
191	Ashy-headed Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax cinereifrons</i>	191	Recorded on 2 days in Sinharaja with a flock of 10+ on the 17th being a fantastic sight.
192	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	192	This very grey subspecies is considered by some to be a distinct species (Cinereous Tit) and was recorded on the 12th and 13th.

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193	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	193	This very attractive species was seen well on 2 days at the Horton Plains and near Kandy with a max. count of 3 birds on the 13th.
194	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>	194	The commonest of all the Sunbirds recorded throughout the tour on 11 days.
195	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	195	Seen at Horton Plains on the 13th.
196	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris lotenius lotenius</i>	196	The largest of the three Sunbirds recorded on 4 days of the tour.
197	White-throated (Legge's) Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum vincens</i>	197	Some excellent views of this attractive species at Sinharaja on 2 days.
198	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	198	A very common flowerpecker recorded in both the wet and dry zones and seen on 6 days.
199	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	199	Recorded on 8 days.
200	Sri Lanka White-eye	<i>Zosterops ceylonensis</i>	200	Confined mostly to the Highlands and Mid Hills and recorded on 3 days.
201	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	201	A common species encountered in most wooded areas recorded on 7 days.
202	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	202	A common species recorded on 9 days.
203	Sri Lanka Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus lophorinus</i>	203	Seen well in the Sinharaja Forest on 3 days.
204	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	204	A common species seen throughout the tour and recorded on a least 8 days.
205	Sri Lanka Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa ornata</i>	205	Recorded on 3 days, mainly at Sinharaja. Also a single bird at Kitulgala on the 11th and a difficult species to see at this site.
206	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	206	A common species found mostly in the lowland areas recorded on 6 days.
207	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	207	A common species recorded on 12 days.
208	Southern (Lesser) Hill Myna	<i>Gracula indica</i>	208	Small groups seen well near Kandy twice on the 9th and 10th and at Kitulgala on the 12th.
209	Sri Lanka Hill Myna	<i>Gracula ptilogenys</i>	209	Seen on three days at Sinharaja, on two occasions from the Blue Magpie Lodge.
210	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	210	A single bird seen at Bundala NP on the 15th.
211	White-faced Starling	<i>Sturnornis albofrontatus</i>	211	Excellent views in Sinharaja Forest on the 18th with a flock of 6 birds seen.
212	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	212	A very common species recorded on 12 days.
213	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	213	A locally common species mostly around habitation recorded on 4 days.
214	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	214	Only one bird seen, at Uda Walawe NP on the 16th.
215	Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	215	Only two birds seen, at Uda Walawe NP on the 16th.
216	Black-throated Munia	<i>Lonchura kelaarti kelaarti</i>	216	Brief views on at least two days near Sinharaja.
217	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	217	A very attractive Munia recorded on 2 days.
218	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	218	A distinctive Munia recorded on 5 days.
219	Tricoloured (Black-headed) Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	219	Recorded at both Bundala and Uda Walawe NPs.
	MAMMALS			
1	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	1	Recorded on 3 days with the most impressive sighting being the tree roosting groups near Tissa.
2	Toque Macaque	<i>Macaca sinica</i>	2	Recorded on 10 days.
3	Tufted Grey (Hanuman) Langur	<i>Semnopithecus priam</i>	3	The most impressive of the primates recorded on 3 days in Wilpattu and Bundala NPs.
4	Purple-faced Leaf Monkey	<i>Trachypithecus vetulus</i>	4	An impressive looking primate seen well on at least 4 days with the closest views in Sinharaja Forest.
5	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	5	Several seen at Wilpattu NP on the 7th and 8th, including two following a Leopard.
6	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>	6	The commonest mongoose with some good views and recorded on 5 days.
7	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus kotiya</i>	7	A highlight of the trip, THREE seen in one day at Wilpattu NP. Great views with the first two sightings in the middle of the day!
8	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	8	Some fabulous encounters including very young animals. Small numbers at Bundala NP and many at Uda Walawe NP.
9	Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	9	Recorded on 3 days whilst in Wilpattu NP.
10	Spotted Deer	<i>Cervus axis</i>	10	Small groups seen on 4 days, best views in Wilpattu NP.
11	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolour</i>	11	Seen at Wilpattu and Horton Plains NP. Also saw one crossing the track at dawn at Sinharaja, a rare sight for the area.
12	Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>	12	Recorded throughout, though this species is mostly considered to stem from domesticated animals rather than truly wild specimens in Sri Lanka. The most 'wild' examples were at Uda Walawe
13	Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	13	A very common mammal recorded everyday.
14	Dusky Striped Squirrel	<i>Funambulus sublineatus</i>	14	Recorded in the Highlands on the 13th.
15	Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>	15	Recorded on 4 days including both the Highland and wet lowlands races
16	Indian Hare/Black-naped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>	16	One seen on the last morning in the hotel gardens near Colombo.

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#	Species Name	Scientific Name	#	Species Notes
REPTILES				
1	Common Bronze Back	<i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i>	1	One recorded moving slowly past the Scaly Thrush at Sinharaja on the 18th.
2	Indian Cobra	<i>Naja naja</i>	2	One seen crossing the road as we travelled through a tea plantation on the way to Kitulgala on the 16th.
3	Rat Snake	<i>Ptyas mucosus</i>	3	Individuals recorded on the 16th and 17th.
4	Green Vine Snake	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>	4	Fantastic views of this beautiful small snake at Wilpattu NP and Sinharaja.
5	Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	5	Recorded on at least 6 days.
6	Bark Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus Leschenaultii</i>	6	Seen in the shelter at the lunch stop in Wilpattu NP.
7	Common Skink	<i>Eutropis carinata lankae</i>	7	Recorded at Sinharaja.
8	Green Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes calotes</i>	8	Recorded on at least 3 days.
9	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	9	Recorded on at least 2 days.
10	Devaka's Fan-throated Lizard	<i>Sitana devakai</i>	10	Recorded at Wilpattu NP on the 7th, a recently described species.
11	Hump-nosed Lizard	<i>Lyriocephalus scutatus</i>	11	Seen very well on 3 days, each one had at least one mosquito feeding on it.
12	Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard	<i>Otocryptis wiegmanni</i>	12	Seen very well on 5 days.
13	Land Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	13	Recorded on 4 days.
14	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator salvator</i>	14	Recorded on 2 days at Sinharaja.
15	Parker's Hard-shelled Terrapin/	<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>	15	Seen on all 3 days at Wilpattu NP.
16	Indian Star Tortoise	<i>Geochelone elegans</i>	16	Recorded on 1 day at Wilpattu NP.
17	Mugger or Marsh crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>	17	Recorded on 4 days whilst in Wilpattu, Bundala and Uda Walawe NPs.
BUTTERFLIES				
Nymphalidae - Brush-footed				
1	Ceylon Tree Nymph	<i>Idea iasonia</i>	1	Recorded in Sinharaja only.
2	Blue Glassy Tiger	<i>Ideopsis similis</i>	2	Recorded in Sinharaja only.
3	Glassy Tiger	<i>Parantica aglea</i>	3	Recorded in Sinharaja only.
4	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	4	Recorded in Wilpattu, Bundala and Uda Walawe NPs.
5	Common Crow	<i>Euploea core</i>	5	Recorded in Uda Walawe, Kitulgala and Sinharaja.
6	Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>	6	Recorded in Kitulgala only.
7	Cruiser	<i>Vindula erota</i>	7	Recorded in Sinharaja only.
8	Common Sailor	<i>Neptis hylas</i>	8	Recorded in Kitulgala and Uda Walawe.
9	Gladeye Bushbrown	<i>Nissanga patnia</i>	9	Recorded in Sinharaja only.
10	Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i>	10	Recorded in Kitulgala only.
11	White Four-ring	<i>Ypthima ceylonica</i>	11	Recorded in Kitulgala only.
12	Common Palmfly	<i>Elymnias hypermnestra</i>	12	Recorded in Sinharaja only.
Papilionidae - Swallowtails				
1	Ceylon Birdwing	<i>Troides darsius</i>	1	Recorded in Kitulgala, Uda Walawe and Sinharaja.
2	Crimson Rose	<i>Pachliopta hector</i>	2	Recorded in Wilpattu, Kitulgala, Bundala and Sinharaja.
3	Common Rose	<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i>	3	Recorded in Sinharaja, Kitulgala and Uda Walawe.
4	Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes</i>	4	Recorded at Wilpattu and Bundala.
5	Blue Mormon	<i>Papilio polymnestor</i>	5	Recorded in Wilpattu and Sinharaja.
6	Common Jay	<i>Graphium doson</i>	6	Recorded in Sinharaja only.
Pieridae - Whites & Sulphurs				
1	Psyche	<i>Leptosia nina</i>	1	Recorded in Kitulgala only.
2	Jezebel	<i>Delias eucharis</i>	2	Recorded in Kitulgala and Sinharaja.
3	White Orange Tip	<i>Ixias marianne</i>	3	Recorded in Bundala only.
4	Great Orange Tip	<i>Hebomoia glaucippe</i>	4	Recorded in Uda Walawe only.
5	Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i>	5	Recorded in Wilpattu only.
6	Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	6	Recorded in Kitulgala, Sinharaja and Uda Walawe.

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Other Butterflies				
1	Tawny Coster	<i>Acraea violae</i>	1	Recorded at Wilpattu and Uda Walawe.
2	Clipper	<i>Parthenos sylvia cyaneus</i>	2	Recorded in Kitulgala and Sinharaja.
3	Common Lascar	<i>Pantoporia hordonia</i>	3	Recorded in Kitulgala only.
4	Lesser Albatross	<i>Appias paulina galene</i>	4	Recorded in Uda Walawe only.
5	Great Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>	5	Recorded in Sinharaja only.
6	Conjoined Swift	<i>Pelopidas conjuncta</i>	6	Recorded in Sinharaja only.
DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES				
Chasers				
1	Crimson Dropwing	<i>Trithemis aurora</i>	1	Recorded at the Wilpattu only.
2	Spine-tufted Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysis</i>	2	Recorded at the Blue Magpie Lodge only.
3	Asian Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum glaucum</i>	3	Recorded at the Blue Magpie Lodge only.
Gossamerwings				
1	Shining Gossamerwing	<i>Euphaea splendens</i>	1	Recorded in Sinharaja only.

Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours

