

WHALE & DOLPHIN TRIP REPORT



Spinner Dolphins

MALDIVES NORTHERN ATOLLS MARINE WILDLIFE CRUISE

7 to 19 Feb 2023

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MALDIVES NORTHERN ATOLLS

MARINE WILDLIFE CRUISE

M.V. Keana, 7 to 19 Feb 2023

Our 12-night marine wildlife cruise took us all the way from Malé up to the very far north of the Maldives, and back down again. We had mostly good weather, which provided excellent viewing conditions in which we spotted no less than nine different cetacean species. These included particularly large numbers of Spinner Dolphins, Risso's Dolphins and Spotted Dolphins, as well as smaller numbers of both Common Bottlenose and Indo-pacific Bottlenose Dolphins. Among the larger species: Sperm Whale, Shortfin Pilot Whale and Cuvier's Beaked Whale as well as Dwarf Sperm Whale. Among the seabirds encountered were good numbers of Lesser Noddies, plus several other interesting species including Tropical Shearwater, White-tailed Tropicbird and Long-tailed Skua. The snorkelling was fabulous, with highlights including close encounters with Manta Rays, Stingrays and Eagle Rays, Reef Sharks and Nurse Sharks, Hawksbill Turtles and Green Turtles, exquisite coral reefs and an extraordinary diversity of colourful reef fishes. All from the safety and comfort of our floating home from home, MV Keana.

Day 1, Tues 7 Feb 2023

We met at Malé international airport, and at 11am were on the *dhoni* and on our way to MV Keana. Following a safety and orientation briefing, there was time to get settled into our cabins, then lunch, and then we were off.

There were several seabirds spotted as we moved northwards past the islands of North Malé Atoll, including **Black-naped Terns** feeding over the reefs.

After anchoring we were soon back onto the *dhoni* for our afternoon snorkel on the nearby reef. Among the many species seen were a **Blacktip Reef Shark**, Giant Moray, Clown Triggerfish, Oriental Sweetlips, Emperor Angelfish and Moorish Idols. There was also an Octopus and **Hawksbill Turtle**, as well as many Purple-nobbed Seasnails (*Coriocella*) and Cushion Stars.

With some people still tired following their flights in, after our delicious buffet dinner we had an early night.

Day 2, Wed 8 Feb 2023

Our day started with a delightful morning snorkel, on the house reef of Hembadhoo Island. The table corals here were superb, and the whole reef glowed under the bright morning light. Other highlights included a feeding **Hawksbill Turtle** and a sleeping **Nurse Shark**, as well as a splendid diversity of reef fishes.



Table corals

Crossing over between North Malé and Baa Atolls we soon had an exhilarating encounter with a large school of **Spinner Dolphins**. They were heading east, and we turned to

travel with them – many riding our bow wave while others leapt and spun all around. It was an extraordinary show, but we eventually had to turn back on course.

As we moved away, *Keana* flushed a Jaeger that had been sitting on the water. It flew directly away from us, which made identification difficult, but later examination of our photos showed it to be a **Long-tailed Skua**.

Not long afterwards we crossed paths with another large dolphin school heading east, this time **Common Bottlenose Dolphins**. Again they leapt alongside and bowrode in numbers. And again we eventually had to leave them and turn back on course.



Common Bottlenose Dolphin

As we approached Goidhoo Atoll, a final school of **Spinner Dolphins** provided more bow-riding entertainment.

After anchoring near Fulhadhoo Island, we were once more into the *dhoni* for our late afternoon snorkel. The wonderful diversity of massive Brain Corals here was quite unlike anything seen on most Maldivian reefs.

Evening presentation: Atolls of the Maldives, on the top deck. Followed by plankton- and fish-watching off the stern deck.

Day 3, Thursday 9 Feb 2023

A great day, which started with sightings of **Spinner Dolphins** and **Indo-pacific Bottlenose Dolphins**, even before our snorkel on the outer reef of Goidhoo Atoll. As anticipated, we spotted **Manta Rays** from the snorkel *dhoni*, jumped in just up-current from them, and were treated to some wonderful views as they glided past and underneath us. Once these magnificent creatures moved on, in the shallower water we spotted **Hawksbill Turtles**, **Blacktip Reef Sharks**, a **Fantail Stingray**, plus plenty of surf-zone reef fishes, including Surge Hawkfish, Five-lined Wrasse and Blue Palette Surgeonfish.



Fantail Stingray

During breakfast *Keana* cruised around the western end of Goidhoo Atoll. Nearing the outer reef of the main part of Baa Atoll we spotted some fins ahead. It was a small group of **Risso's Dolphins**. They were not at all interested in us, so we soon moved on. We soon spotted another small group of **Risso's Dolphins**, and they too avoided us. But then some splashing ahead led us to the most extraordinary, massive school of **Risso's Dolphins**. There were hundreds, spread out over a vast area of ocean, many breaching synchronously, others head-banging, tail-slapping, and surfing inside the waves. We also enjoyed a particularly good show of tails-up. All-in-all a quite extraordinary display and by the time we finally had to leave we had spent 1½ hours with these exuberant dolphins.



Risso's Dolphin

Keana nipped inside the atoll for lunch, passing a school of **Spinner Dolphins** on the way. Then out again and on up to Raa Atoll, with many good bird sightings en route. These included particularly good numbers of **Black-naped Terns** and **Lesser Noddies**, as well as smaller numbers of **Lesser Crested Tern**, **Lesser Frigatebird**, **White-tailed Tropicbird** and **Tropical Shearwater**.

We finally headed in towards the south end of Raa Atoll and our night's anchorage, where we enjoyed our evening snorkel on the house reef of Fenfushi. Here we found plenty of nice corals and reef fishes, as well as several **White-spotted Eagle-rays** and two large **Dogtooth Tunas** in the deeper water off the slope. While we were in the water, an **Asian Koel** was calling from the island, where **Grey Herons** and **Maldivian Little Herons** patrolled the shore.

Evening talk: Dolphins of the Maldives.

Day 4, Friday 10 Feb 2023

We snorkelled this morning inside the wide lagoon of Maamunagaa, an area frequented by Mantas. We did have a fantastic view of **Manta Rays** from the *dhoni*, but no larger groups which we could have snorkelled with. So we went instead to a nearby submerged reef, which was coated with superb foliaceous corals. And the fish life was excellent too, with a wonderful diversity of species.

Back on board *Keana*, breakfast was ready and then we were off out into the ocean. Leaving the channel we first encountered a small group of **Indo-pacific Bottlenose Dolphins** (which bowrode, unusually for this species) and then a school of **Spinner Dolphins** heading into the atoll.

With such a start we expected to find plenty of cetaceans along the outer atoll slope, but it was not to be. Despite our hours of searching no more cetaceans were seen today. However, we did find plenty of seabirds, including hundreds of **Lesser Noddies** (many memorably feeding over a noisy, boiling school of **Skipjack Tuna**, which was also visited by a large **Sailfish**). There were also many **Great Crested Terns**, **Lesser Crested Terns**, **Common Tern**, **Black-naped Tern**, **Tropical Shearwater** and **White-tailed Tropicbird**.

Inside north Raa Atoll *Keana* anchored adjacent to a large circular reef (faro in Maldivian language), which proved to be an excellent snorkelling site. The reef had a nice selection of hard corals, but the real attraction was its amazing diversity of fishes. And with dusk gathering, red Featherstars (typical of the northern atolls) started to emerge, while Sea Cucumbers rose up to spawn.

Evening talk: An introduction to reef corals and fishes of the Maldives.



Featherstar

Day 5, Saturday 11 Feb 2023

What a great day! It was calm first thing, and the wind stayed light all day. Our morning snorkel on the nearby reef of Kuda Faru was a delight. The clear water, bright morning light, gentle drift and stupendous corals all combined to make this our best snorkel so far. The fishlife as ever was wildly diverse, and we also encountered a squadron of Squid, a gorgeous *Jorunna* (formerly *Kentrodoris*) seaslug and plenty of Featherstars still out. And as icing on the cake, the reef supported a small sand bank thick with resting **Lesser Noddies** and other terns. Wonderful!



Sea slug *Jorunna rubescens*

Back on board, a massive **Manta Ray** circled our boat as we set off, giving those on deck a fantastic view. Then as we left the atoll, surfacing **Cuvier's Beaked Whales** were spotted just offshore.



Cuvier's Beaked Whale

There were four individuals: one mature male with a distinctively white head, and three other presumed females. They rolled several times and then dived. We waited and 26 minutes later they reappeared, some way off. We moved the boat closer, and after another 29 minutes they surfaced again, concluding an excellent encounter.

At this point we moved on, and it was not too long before we came across a small school of **Spinner Dolphins**. Very soon after this, a big blow (perhaps 6m high) was spotted in the distance. As we approached we could see blow after blow. This was clearly a large whale and the apparently vertical blow suggested a baleen whale. However, when it eventually fluked, it proved to be a **Sperm Whale**. The animal must have been at an angle to us, so that its normally left-slanted blow appeared vertical from our position. We continued at a slow speed in the same direction that the whale appeared to be travelling, hoping to see it when it surfaced. But unfortunately this time we did not see the whale again.

Soon afterwards we approached the isolated Makunudhoo Atoll. The channel entrance had many reefs, making manoeuvring to anchor tricky. But once the anchor was safely down, we were into the *dhoni* for our evening snorkel. The inner reef here was thickly carpeted with stupendous growths of foliaceous corals. There were also plenty of reef fishes, with the green-tinted water suggesting plenty of plankton too.

Evening talk: Mantas in the Maldives, presented by Tiana and Fauz from the Manta Trust project on Makunudhoo. And appropriately enough, a **Reef Manta** appeared under our stern light after dinner.

Day 6, Sunday 12 Feb 2023

Our morning snorkel, on the outer reef of Makunudhoo Atoll, was wonderful, with clear water and bright morning sunlight. Three **Manta Rays** were seen from the *dhoni* on our

way out, with one being seen underwater by most. Also spotted: **White-tailed Stingray**, **Marbled Stingray**, **Nurse Shark**, **Hawksbill Turtle**, several **Napoleon Wrasse**, plus a great diversity of smaller reef fishes and rich coral growths, especially in the shallower water.

Back on board *Keana*, we took breakfast (which today included freshly made doughnuts) while heading north up the outside of the atoll. Where, off the north-western tip we encountered a large group of **Spinner Dolphins**, which were heading south. We turned and for some time they seemed content to bowride and play alongside. But then they suddenly all shot off with long flying leaps. Spectacular!

Crossing over towards Haa Dhaalu Atoll, we passed several **White-tailed Tropicbirds**, some sitting on the water with tails cocked. Then a local tuna fishing boat was spotted ahead. Drawing closer we could see dolphins splashing. As expected this was a large **Yellowfin Tuna** boat, fishing with handlines, and surrounded by **Spotted Dolphins**.



Spotted Dolphins, mother and calf

We stayed with them for a nearly an hour, until lunch was called, enjoying the Spotted Dolphins' characteristic leaps, as well as the less common sight of large Yellowfin Tunas jumping.

As soon as we left the Spotted Dolphins, we encountered a school of **Spinner Dolphins**, several which came in to bowride. And then a small pod of **Common Bottlenose Dolphins**, which also approached *Keana* and bowrode.

These were immediately followed by a sighting of **Dwarf Sperm Whales**. One was close to our cruise track and soon disappeared. Two others, logging just a little further off, stayed up allowing everyone a good view.

Keana carried on into Ihavandhippolhu Atoll, anchoring right in the middle near Medhafushi Island. This is a classic Maldivian islet with palm trees, white sandy beach and a glowing turquoise lagoon. We snorkelled on the southern reef, finding plenty of interesting fishes, including a large **Nurse Shark** sleeping under a coral bommie, with a coterie of young Golden Trevallies loitering nearby. Other fishes of note included False Stonefish, Longfin Grouper and Blue-and-Yellow Grouper. All topped off with a gorgeous sunset.

Evening talk: Beaked Whales of the Maldives. And appropriately enough there were Squid (Beaked Whale food) under the stern light after dinner.

Day 7, Monday 13 Feb 2023

Another wonderful day! We moved first thing from our anchorage across to Gallandhoo Island, to snorkel on its southern reef. A gentle drift floated us in clear water along the reef, over corals and an excellent diversity of fishes, ending amongst massive schools of Fusiliers.

As we came out from our snorkel, tens and then hundreds of **Spinner Dolphins** were playing in the channel. We spent time with them before moving out into the open ocean, passing a large Indian Hydrographic Survey vessel on our way. Conditions were good, so we were hoping to find some cetaceans fairly quickly, but it was 1½ hours before we did. Then we converged with a large school of **Spotted Dolphins**, plus a few **Spinner Dolphins** in tow, heading east at speed. We turned to travel with them, and soon had large numbers bowriding and leaping alongside. The school was accompanied by a gorgeous

White-tailed Tropicbird, plunge-diving on small fishes flushed by the dolphins. At one point the Tropicbird flew right over us, offering great views and photographic opportunities.



White-tailed Tropicbird

Eventually it was time for lunch, and we turned back on course. Almost immediately, **Pilot Whales** were spotted ahead. This was a large group of about 40-50 individuals, heading north in a wide line abreast. Again we turned to travel with them, and again we soon had several individuals riding alongside and under our bows. This included two enormous males, perhaps 6m long and very powerfully built, which repeatedly turned on their sides under water, watching us watching them. We stayed with these splendid creatures for a full hour before reluctantly turning back on course.



Pilot Whales alongside

When we finally anchored near the fishing island of Marandhoo, it was in good time for drinks as the sun set over the tranquil lagoon.

Evening talk: Blackfish in the Maldives. Many **Sea Skaters** (the World's only truly marine insects) under our stern light.

Day 8, Tuesday 14 Feb 2023

The house reef of Marandhoo Island, the site of our morning snorkel, had the most dramatic spur-and-groove formations we had yet encountered. Indicating that, although we had calm conditions today, this reef is exposed to powerful swells during the southwest monsoon season. Snorkel highlights included **Blacktip Reef Shark**, **Whitetip Reef Shark**, several Giant Moray Eels, a couple of particularly large Clown Triggerfish, Octopus and some nice corals,

Keana got underway during breakfast and we were soon outside the atoll, in deep water. We almost immediately passed through an area with hundreds of **Lesser Noddies**. Next up, splashing was spotted ahead: a large group of **Pilot Whales** heading north. We turned to travel in the same direction, and soon had many swimming alongside with a few coming in to bowride. We spent a full hour with these animals before turning back on course.

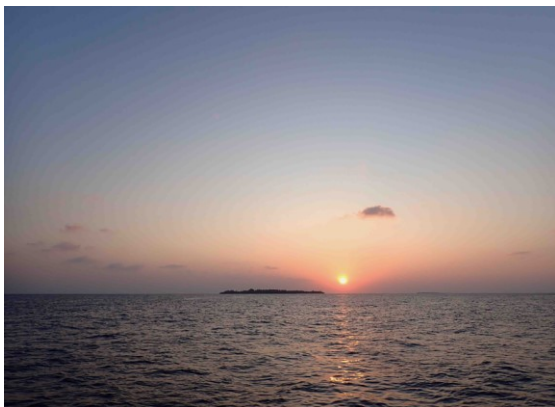


Lesser Noddy

Not long after this two **Long-tailed Skuas** were spotted, harassing **Lesser Noddies**. They flew off as we approached, but not before photos were secure to confirm identification. The wind now picked up a bit, although this did not dampen our celebration of St Valentine's Day, with a freshly baked pink, heart-shaped cake to accompany afternoon tea.

It was now time to head in to anchor near the local island of Maaroshi, in good time for our late afternoon snorkel. The shallower part of the reef here again showed prominent spur-and-groove formations. Numerous Indian Triggerfishes were nesting in the sand at the bottom of the grooves, which were also home to Sand Tilefish, several Grouper species and **Whitetip Reef Shark**. Then as the light faded, spawning Sea Cucumbers appeared on the tops of the spurs.

Evening talk: Whales of the Maldives.



Valentine's Day Sunset

Day 9, Wednesday 15 Feb 2023

There were **Indo-pacific Bottlenose Dolphins** feeding near *Keana* first thing this morning, before our snorkel, on the nearby uninhabited island of Medhukunburudhoo. And what a snorkel! Clear blue water, bright morning sunlight, lush coral growths along the short but dramatic drop-off, and a multitude of colourful reef fishes. Particularly impressive were the schools along the drop-off, including Black Pyramid Butterflyfish, Evans Anthias, Golden Chromis and Neon-striped Fusiliers as well as Hunchback Red Snapper and swarms of Maldivian Anemonefishes carpeting the reef itself.

Heading out to sea, the viewing conditions were good, and on the way past Alifushi and down the western side of Raa Atoll we saw plenty of seabirds. These included more

Lesser Noddies, both **Great Crested Tern** and **Lesser Crested Tern**, **Black-naped Tern** and **Common Tern**. And heading in to Raa Atoll, we passed a sandbank with numerous resting **Great Crested Terns**, **Black-naped Terns** and **Saunders' Terns**.

The reefs were glowing a beautiful luminous turquoise as we approached our anchorage near the small, deserted island of Kandolhudhoo. This was formerly an important fishing centre, and probably the most densely populated island in the Maldives. But it was washed over by the 2004 tsunami, after which the people chose to move to another, much larger island, on the other side of Raa Atoll.

Our afternoon snorkel on the outside of Kandolhudhoo was particularly sheltered, behind the island's sea wall. We had a moderate current to start with, but this soon died away as we drifted around to the lee side. There was plenty of debris from the abandoned island on the bottom, but also many fine coral specimens showing the regenerative power of nature. On the seawall itself, those who looked found many interesting creatures including several shell species, Reef Lobster and two Spotfin Lionfish.

Evening talk: Seasons in the Maldives, on the top deck under the stars. Masses of crab zoea larvae under stern light during dinner.

Day 10, Thursday 16 Feb 2023

We started this morning with a visit to Bandaveri islet. Some swam ashore, for a short walk, while most were content to snorkel over the reef. Here were masses of boulder corals, as well as Octopus, another *Kentrodoris* seaslug, pipefishes, schooling Bannerfish and **Hawksbill Turtle**.

Leaving the atoll after breakfast (during which the crew displayed a large Milkfish which had met its end after jumping on board during the

night!) *Keana* passed a seabird sandbank, hosting nearly one hundred **Great Crested Terns**, as well as smaller numbers of **Lesser Crested Terns**, **Black-naped Terns**, **Lesser Noddies** and **Saunders' Tern**.

Out at sea we found plenty more seabirds. In addition to the species already seen we spotted many **Tropical Shearwaters** (including several searching for food in our wake), **Bridled Tern** and **Common Tern**, as well as many more **Saunders' Tern** flying alongside.

Our first cetacean sighting was of a very large and boisterous group of **Risso's Dolphins** (including many white-headed males). They were heading northwest, so we turned to travel with them. We soon had many riding alongside, with many head-bangs, tail-slaps and tails-up, while (most unusually) one briefly bowrode. This big dolphin school had many **Tropical Shearwaters** in attendance, ducking their heads beneath the surface in search of scraps.



Tropical Shearwater

Soon after moving on, we came across a second, much smaller and much quieter group of **Risso's Dolphins**. These were all grey, presumably females, with at least one calf in attendance, no doubt keeping out of the way of the more boisterous males.

As we approached Baa Atoll, splashes were spotted ahead – **Spinner Dolphins** coming out of the atoll for their night's fishing. Several were spinning, and many bowrode. However, they were heading in the opposite direction to

us. So we eventually turned back on course and headed into the atoll, passing exquisite turquoise reef flats and lagoons on the way in.

Keana met up with our *dhoni* near the uninhabited island of Muthaafushi, for a snorkel on the western part of the reef. The fishlife here was superb. Among the great diversity of species, we noted **White-tailed Stingray**, **Whitetip Reef Shark**, Spotfin Lionfish, Blotched Porcupinefish, several enormous Starry Pufferfish and a school of large silver Mulletts.

Evening talk: Tuna fisheries and cetaceans of the Indian Ocean. Followed after dinner by pond-dipping off the stern, where we found tiny squidlets, crab larvae, Snake-eels, Flyingfish, Silversides and many other small fishes.



Starry Pufferfish

Day 11, Friday 17 Feb 2023

Our morning snorkel was on the house reef of Embudhoo Island, where we drifted gently over rich corals along the reef edge and slope. There were plenty of schooling fishes here including Kashmir Snapper, Hunchback Red Snapper, Black Pyramid Butterflyfish, Schooling Bannerfish and Convict Surgeonfish. The reef edge also had dense aggregations of both Clarks and Maldive Anemonefishes, as well as a squadron of ten Squid. Among the larger creatures seen were a **Hawksbill Turtle** and **White-tailed Stingray**.

Then we were off, heading out of the atoll, and around the outer reef past the island of Thulaadhoo. The sea was calm in the shelter of the reef, but as we moved further offshore it soon got choppy. Even in these conditions we were able to spot **Pilot Whales** and **Common Bottlenose Dolphins** charging along, and then just a little later **Risso's Dolphins** leaping through the waves.

As we moved into the shelter of Goidhoo Atoll, the sea calmed and we were able to enjoy the passing seabirds, including **Bridled Tern**, **Saunders' Tern** and **Black-naped Tern**.

After lunch, once the *dhoni* had caught up with us, there was time for an early afternoon snorkel on the outer reef of Goidhoo Atoll. Here in bright light we enjoyed a gentle drift over the reef, among other things spotting two **Hawksbill Turtles**, a large **Nurse Shark** and a large school of massive Parrotfishes.



Hawksbill Turtle

From here we moved into Goidhoo Atoll, anchoring near Fulhadhoo Island, and going ashore for a walk around the island. The island was richly vegetated, with many interesting plants including Frangipani and Bougainvillea, Breadfruit, Banana and Sugar Cane. Birds included **Asian Koel**, **House Crow**, **Grey Heron** and **Cattle Egret**, as well as several pet birds: free-flying Cockatiels and Rose-ringed Parakeets plus wing-clipped Great Crested

Terns. While we waited by the jetty for our ride back to *Keana*, **Maldivian Fruit Bats** were feasting on the fruiting Banyan Trees (*Ficus bengalensis*). And as the sun set, we were entertained by giant **Whiptail Stingrays** and a huge school of jumping Silversides under the jetty.

Evening talk: Other cetacean-watching opportunities in the Indo-west Pacific.

Day 12, Saturday 18 Feb 2023

Yesterday's winds had abated this morning as we raised our anchors at sunrise. Heading out of Goidhoo Atoll we passed a flock of **Black-naped Terns** feeding along the reef edge. After more birds on the crossing, when we arrived in North Malé Atoll we were treated to a most gorgeous final snorkel on Makunudhoo Island house reef. It was nearly midday, and the bright sunlight, the clear blue water, the rich coral cover and the abundance of fishes all combined to make this one of our very best snorkels. Among the fishy highlights: a dense gang of Convict Surgeonfishes on the reef flat, schools of Fusiliers, Yellow-lined Goatfish, Kashmir Snappers and Schooling Bannerfish, as well as **Blacktip Reef Sharks**, Porcupinefish, Batfish, a particularly large Orange-finned Emperor and **Hawksbill Turtles**.

Evening: Trip recap and highlights (with Manta Rays claiming the top spot, closely followed by Pilot Whales). Followed by a big thank-you to the crew after dinner.

Day 13, Sunday 19 Feb 2023

After breakfast there were final farewells and two transfers to the airport by *dhoni* at different times. But not before our final wildlife encounter: a **Green Turtle** surfacing astern of the *Keana* in the crowded (but seagrass-rich) lagoon of Hulumalé.

CETACEAN SUMMARY

During our cruise we recorded a respectable total of 9 different species, from 37 sightings (which made 40 records since two species were seen together on three occasions):

Species	Scientific Name	No. Sightings	Est. no. Individuals
Spinner Dolphins	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	15	1200
Spotted Dolphins	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	2	400
Common Bottlenose Dolphins	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	3	259
Indo-pacific Bottlenose Dolphins	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	4	10
Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	8	522
Shortfin Pilot Whales	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>	3	92
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	1	1
Dwarf Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia sima</i>	1	3
Cuvier's Beaked Whale	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	1	4
Unidentified dolphins		1	2
Unidentified cetaceans		1	3
		40	2496



Spinner Dolphin



Pilot Whale



Spinner Dolphin

BIRDS

Maldives does not have a great diversity of birds, so our total of just 21 species seen in February is not unexpected. These included good numbers of Lesser Noddies, plus several other interesting seabirds including Tropical Shearwater, White-tailed Tropicbird and Long-tailed Skua. Also endemic subspecies of Little Heron and House Crow.

1	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna pacifica</i>
2	Tropical Shearwater	<i>Puffinus bailloni</i>
3	White-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>
4	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
6	Maldivian Little Heron	<i>Butorides striata didii</i>
7	Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>
8	White-breasted Waterhen (H)	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
9	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
10	Saunders Tern	<i>Sterna saundersi</i>
11	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
12	Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>
13	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>
14	Great Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>
15	Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>
16	Lesser Noddy	<i>Anous tenuirostris</i>
17	Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>
18	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>
19	Pom/Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius sp.</i>
20	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
21	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens maledivicus</i>

Order follows: www.indianbirds.in/pdfs/IB_Mono3_Anderson_Shimal_Maldives.pdf



Common Tern



Great Crested Tern



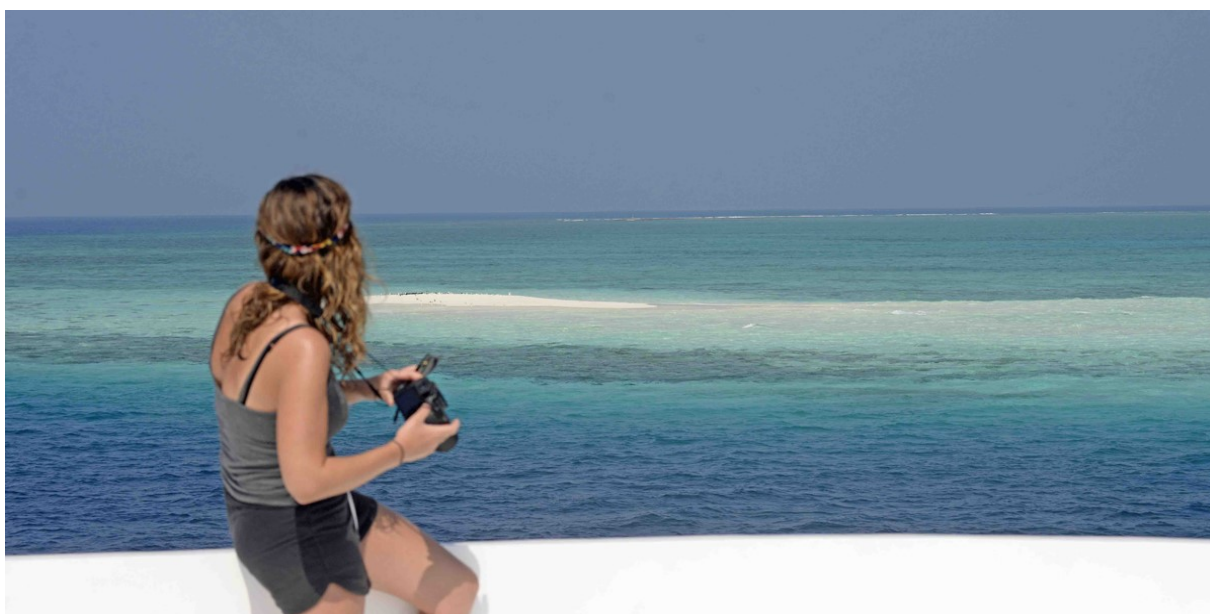
Saunders Tern



Lesser Crested Tern

ANCHORAGES

Day 1	7 Feb 2023	Hembadhoo	North Malé Atoll
Day 2	8 Feb 2023	Fulhadhoo	Goidhoo Atoll
Day 3	9 Feb 2023	Maamunagaa	Raa Atoll
Day 4	10 Feb 2023	Kuda Faru	Raa Atoll
Day 5	11 Feb 2023	Makunudhoo	Makunudhoo Atoll
Day 6	12 Feb 2023	Medhafusi	Haa Alifu Atoll
Day 7	13 Feb 2023	Marandhoo	Haa Alifu Atoll
Day 8	14 Feb 2023	Maaroshi	Shaviyani Atoll
Day 9	15 Feb 2023	Kandolhudhoo	Raa Atoll
Day 10	16 Feb 2023	Muthafushi	Baa Atoll
Day 11	17 Feb 2023	Fulhadhoo	Goidhoo Atoll
Day 12	18 Feb 2023	Hulumalé	North Malé Atoll
Day 13	19 Feb 2023	Disembark	



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