



In the 2025 Easter half term holidays Royle Safaris director (Martin Royle) took his family on a trip to Sri Lanka, invited by our local ground agents there to try some of their new accommodation (which was luxurious and very fun) we decided to try and find some of the smaller mammals which have made Sri Lanka a real gem of a location for so many mammalwatchers in recent years. In deed Royle Safaris has sent several clients to Sri Lanka in search of these rare mammals over the years, but the last time Martin was in Sri Lanka many of these species where not reliable or even tried for on the island.

It was a combination cultural, relaxing and wildlife watching tour where we did some whale watching, visited various cultural sites and also enjoyed Martin's son (Tiger)s' 11th Birthday. So the list is not as comprehensive as we would have expected if this was a full on mammalwatching trip, and we were also affected by a full moon festival which landed right on top of our time in Sigiriya where we had high hopes for many of our targets, as a result it took way longer to find fishing cat than expected and it left no time for us to look for Indian pangolin which our local guide claimed to have a semi reliable place for. But even including that dip, the trip was great, many lifers for all three of us and key targets such as **fishing cat, leopard, sloth bear, Asiatic elephant, jungle cat, grey slender loris, white-spotted mousedeer and Layard's palm squirrel** all ticked.

All in all we visited Wilpattu National Park, Trincomolee (for some dolphin watching), Sigiriya and Gal Oya National Park and saw a total of 35 species of mammals, 101 species of birds, 11 species of reptiles, 4 species of amphibians and 17 species of fish.

Royle Safaris offers various options for Sri Lanka, which can combine any interests, whether they are purely wildlife (generalist, mammals, birds, whale watching, herping etc) cultural, including great food tour options; so if you are interested in visiting Sri Lanka for any reason, please let us know and we would be more than happy to provide an itinerary for you to have a look over. Please just email me direct at info@royle-safaris.co.uk for more information on how to visit this stunning island and enjoy the jewel of the Indian Ocean.

Species List Sri Lankan Exploration

April 2025

Mammals († = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>
2	Wild water buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>
3	Domestic water buffalo	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>
4	Golden jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
5	Lesser short-nosed fruit bat	<i>Cynopterus brachyotis</i>
6	Greater short-nosed fruit bat	<i>Cynopterus sphinx</i>
7	Asiatic elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
8	Jungle cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>
9	Layard's palm squirrel	<i>Funambulus layardi</i>
10	Three-striped palm squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
11	Schnieder's roundleaf bat	<i>Hipposideros speoris</i>
12	Black-necked hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>
13	Grey slender loris	<i>Loris lydekkerianus</i>
14	Eurasian otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>
15	Toque macaque	<i>Macaca sinica</i>
16	Sloth bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>
17	Common soft-furred rat	<i>Millardia meltada</i>
18	White-spotted mousedeer	<i>Moschiola meminna</i>
19	Northern Red muntjac	<i>Muntiacus vaginalis</i>
20	Indian field mouse	<i>Mus booduga</i>
21	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
22	Common palm civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>
23	Kelaart's pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus ceylonicus</i>
24	Fishing cat	<i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i>
25	Indian flying fox	<i>Pteropus medius</i>
26	Sri Lankan giant squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>
27	Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>
28	Tufted langur	<i>Semnopithecus priam</i>
29	Spinner dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>
30	Eurasian wild pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>

Key: WIL (Wilpattu National Park) / TRI (Trincomolee) / KAN (Kandy / Highlands) / SIG (Sigiriya) / GAL (Gal Oya National Park)				
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31	Long-winged sheath-tailed bat	<i>Taphozous longimanus</i>
32	Indian grey mongoose	<i>Urva edwardsii</i>
33	Ruddy mongoose	<i>Urva smithii</i>
34	Asiatic long-tailed climbing mouse	<i>Vandeleuria oleracea</i>
35	Small Indian civet	<i>Viverricula indica</i>

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NB 1: Some bats identified 100% at roosts or with good views. Others identified with spectrograms in combination with sightings (no spectrograms without visual confirmation are recorded), behaviour and habitat – so not 100% but best educated guesses. For more information please email me.

Birds († = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Tickell's blue flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
2	Common myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
3	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
4	Eurasian kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
5	Asian openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
6	Oriental darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
7	Malabar pied hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>
8	Paddyfield pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
9	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
10	Intermediate egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
11	Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
12	Indian pond heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
13	Common babbler	<i>Argya caudata</i>
14	Ashy woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
15	Eastern cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
16	Little stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
17	Indian nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>
18	Jerdon's nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus atripennis</i>
19	Grey nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i>
20	Great coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
21	Pied kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
22	Common emerald dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
23	Caspian plover	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>
24	Little ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
25	Greater sand plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
26	White-winged tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
27	Greater flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>

28	Asiatic woolly-necked stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
29	Pied cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
30	Rock pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
31	Indian robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>
32	White-rumped Shana	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>
33	Oriental magpie robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
34	Indian magpie robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
35	Indian roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
36	Large cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>
37	Jungle crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
38	House crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
39	Asian palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
40	Lesser whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
41	White-bellied drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
42	Black drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
43	Imperial green pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>
44	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
45	Greater thick knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>
46	Asian koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
47	Sri Lankan jungle fowl	<i>Gallus lafayettii</i>
48	Orange-headed thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>
49	Lesser hill mynah	<i>Gracula indica</i>
50	Sri Lankan hill myna	<i>Gracula ptilogenys</i>
51	White-throated kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
52	Grey-headed fish eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichhyaetus</i>
53	White-bellied sea eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
54	Brahminy kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
55	Crested treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>
56	Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
57	Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
58	Caspian tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
59	Brown fish owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
60	Purple-rumped sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>
61	Lesser adjutant stork	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
62	Chestnut-headed bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
63	Asiatic green bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
64	Little cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>
65	Black-headed bulbul	<i>Microtarsus melanocephalos</i>
66	Painted stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
67	Brown hawk owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>

68	Changeable hawk eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
69	Black-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
70	Sri Lankan grey hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros gingalensis</i>
71	Black-hooded oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
72	Common tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
73	Collared Scops owl	<i>Otus lettia</i>
74	Oriental Scops owl	<i>Otus sunia</i>
75	Indian peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
76	Stork-billed kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
77	Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
78	Indian pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>
79	Jerdon's bush lark	<i>Plocealauda affinis</i>
80	Pacific golden plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
81	Scimitar babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>
82	Purple swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
83	Alexandrine parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
84	Rose-ringed parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
85	Red-vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
86	Spotted dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
87	Crested serpent eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
88	Little tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
89	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
90	Brown wood owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>
91	Srikeer malkoha	<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>
92	Little crested tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
93	Black-headed ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
94	Orange-breasted green pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>
95	Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
96	Common greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
97	Common redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
98	Yellow-billed babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>
99	Barred buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>
100	Eurasian hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
101	Red-wattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>

Reptiles († = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Forest green lizard	<i>Calotes calotes</i>
2	Common garden lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
3	Mugger crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
4	Haly's tree skink	<i>Dasia haliana</i>
5	Hawksbill turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>
6	Indian star tortoise	<i>Geochelone elegans</i>
7	Crocodile rock gecko	<i>Hemidactylus kimbulae</i>
8	Tropical house gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
9	Sri Lankan flap-shelled turtle	<i>Lissemys ceylonensis</i>
10	Parker's black turtle	<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>
11	Land monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>

Amphibians († = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Indian skittering frog	<i>Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis</i>
2	Indian five-fingered frog	<i>Euphlyctis hexadactylus</i>
3	Sri Lankan wood frog	<i>Hydrophylax gracilis</i>
4	Chunum tree frog	<i>Polypedates maculatus</i>

Fishes († = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Black-spot surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus bariene</i>
2	Convict surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus triostegus</i>
3	Blacktip reef shark	<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>
4	Dusky angelfish	<i>Centropyge multispinis</i>
5	Peacock hind	<i>Cephalopholis argus</i>
6	Threadfin butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon auriga</i>

7	Raccoon butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon lunula</i>
8	Indian double-saddle butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon ulietensis</i>
9	Daisy parrotfish	<i>Chlorurus sordidus</i>
10	Striated surgeonfish	<i>Ctenochaetus striatus</i>
11	Indian Ocean bird wrasse	<i>Gomphosus caeruleus</i>
12	Clouded rainbow fish	<i>Halichoeres nebulosus</i>
13	Longfin bannerfish	<i>Heniochus acuminatus</i>
14	Common bluestripe snapper	<i>Lutjanus kasmira</i>
15	Longfin batfish	<i>Platax teira</i>
16	Sri Lanka sweetlips	<i>Plectorhinchus ceylonensis</i>
17	Five saddle parrotfish	<i>Scarus scaber</i>



Asiatic Elephant



Water Buffalo



Sambar



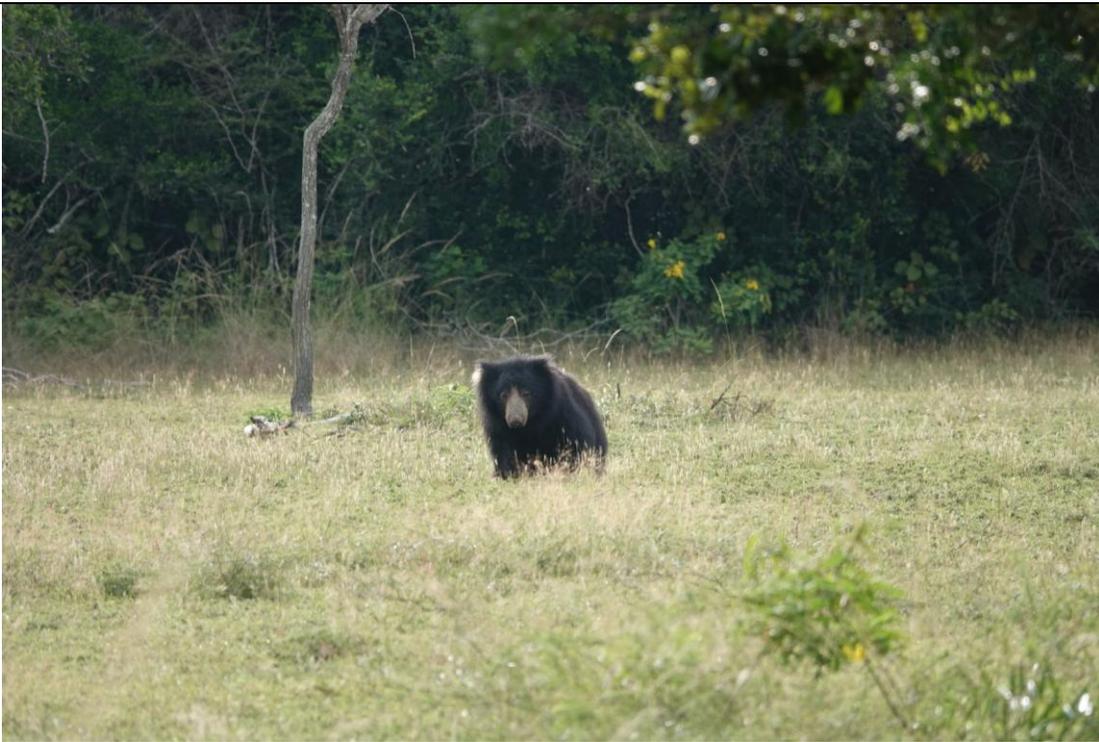
Chital



Northern Red Muntjac



White-spotted Mouse-deer (apologises for the awful picture)



Sloth Bear



Small Indian Civet



Jungle Cat



Leopard



Ruddy Mongoose



Eurasian Otter



Toque Macaque



Tufted Langur



Black-naped Hare



Grey Slender Loris



Lesser Short-faced Fruit Bat



Greater Short-faced Fruit Bat



Schneider's Roundleaf Bat



Indian Field Mouse



Spinner Dolphin



Great Egret



Indian Pond Heron



Grey Heron



Lesser Adjutant Stork



Asian Woolly-necked Stork



Indian Thick-knee



Black-winged Stilt



Red-wattled Lapwing



Little Cormorant



Indian Peafowl



Sri Lankan Junglefowl



Barred Buttonquail



Grey-headed Fish-eagle



Changeable Hawk Eagle



Crested Serpent Eagle



Brown Fish Owl



Oriental Scops Owl



Malabar Pied Hornbill



Asiatic Green Bee-eater



White-throated Kingfisher



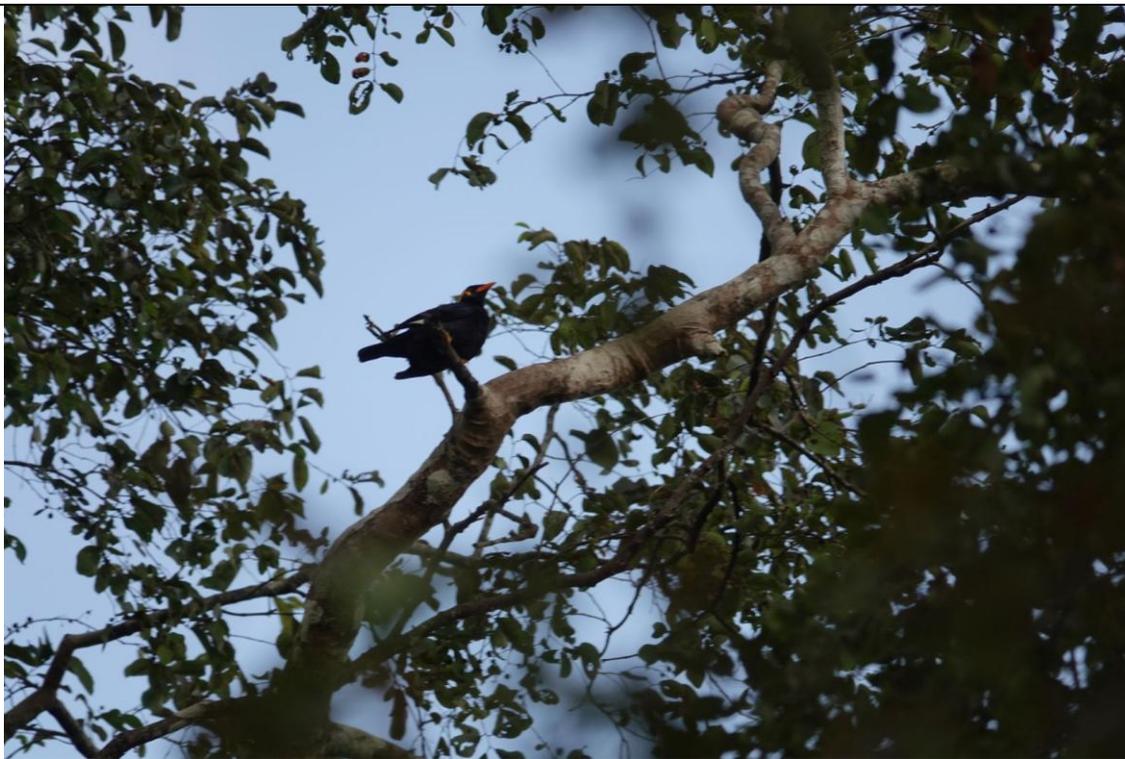
Indian Roller



Sri Lankan Shama



Common Mynah



Sri Lankan Hill Mynah



Scimitar Babbler



Mugger Crocodile



Indian Star Tortoise



Sri Lankan Flap-shelled Turtle



Crocodile Rock Gecko



Common Garden Lizard



Chunum Tree Frog



Sri Lankan Wood Frog



Indian Skittering Frog