### **SRI LANKA** SIGHTINGS & SPECIES LIST

30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY - 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022



INDIAN PANGOLIN Manis crassicaudata, Sigiriya region. 5/2/2022 02.30

#### **NOTES:**

- In early 2022 my wife and I spent just short of 3 weeks in Sri Lanka.
- We were guided throughout by Uditha Hettige of the Bird and Wildlife Team, without doubt one of the best wildlife guides on the planet.
- Unfortunately, a covid related issue meant we didn't spend as much time in the wet zone as we would have liked, hence one of our main target species a Rusty-spotted Cat ssp. phillipsi was not observed, however the dry zone ssp. koladivius was observed in the buffer zone around Wilpattu N.P.
- Mirissa, proved less than fertile in our search for cetaceans mainly as a result of an oil spillage further up the coast several months earlier.
- We visited just as covid restrictions had been eased, Yala N. P. was relatively quiet, we enjoyed our time there very much, free from the chaos around sightings often associated with this park.
- 62 different species of mammals were recorded, 67 including primate ssp. 225 species of Birds (19 endemic) and 18 species of reptiles.
- All 4 species of Cats were recorded, all 3 ssp. of Toque Macaque and all 4 ssp. of Purple-faced Leaf Monkey.

- We will certainly return to Sri Lanka at some time in the near future to hopefully record the few wet zone species we missed.
- Sri Lank is a great wildlife viewing location, with a good guide it is possible to record lots of species either on a short or long stay expedition. Night drives are essential to maximise sightings.



FISHING CAT nominate ssp. Genetically sound. Sigiriya region. 4/2/2022 01.45

• Felid enthusiasts beware there are lots of domestic cat hybrids about crossed with the smaller cats, Fishing, Jungle and Rusty-spotted.



SRI LANKA LEOPARD ssp. kotiya Yala N.P. up to 16 individuals seen on this trip

### MAMMAL SPECIES RECORDED IN SRI LANKA 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY TO 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022

#### TABLE 1.

Species listed in order observed.

\* Validity of species in Sri Lanka doubtful, some morphological similarities to those observed in Kaziranga (2020) which are genetically sound, noted. Must be doubtful, but is usually included in species list for the island.

Night drive sightings highlighted in red under LOCATION OBSERVED.

Key to locations: W Wilpattu N.P., WB Wilpattu Buffer Zone, SI area around Sigiriya Moat, H Habarana Eco Park, K Kandy suburbs, P Pussallawa (Highlands), NE Nuwara Eliya, HP Horton Plains N.P., UW Udawalawe N.P., T Tissa, RY Ruhunu (Yala) N. P. Blocks 1,5 & buffer zone BZ, MG Mirissa garden, OC Outskirts of Colombo.

#### E Endemic species

Indian Palm Squirrel	COMMON NAME	SPECIES	SUBSPECIES	LOCATION OBSERVED	BEHAVIOUR / SIGHTING FREQUENCY	NOTES
Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer) Grey (Tufted) Langur priam Spotted Deer (Chital) Wild Water Buffalo Ruddy Macaca sinica Macaque Macaque Macaque Macafa Semonica Macaque Macaque  Pipistrellus Indian Gerbil Tatera indica Small Indian Civet indica Fulvous Fruit Bat Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii Brown Bat Mouse Indian Black- Indian Muntjac Small Harian Muntjak W, RYS, Shy. Not common W, RYS, RYS, Shy. Not common W, RYS, RYS, Shy. Not common W, SI, RYS, Shy. Not common RY1, Common W, SI, RYS, RY1,  W, WB, UW, RY1,  W, UW, RY1,  W, UW, RY1,  W, UW, RY1, Common All 3 ssp observed during the trip. See Table 2. SI dusk. SI dusk.  WB, SI, Relatively common WB, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB, Common  WB,	Indian Palm	Funambulus		W, WB, NE,	Common	ssp range not
Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	Squirrel	palmarum		RY1,	_	•
(Barking Deer)muntjakcommonGrey (Tufted) LangurSemnopithecus priamthersitesW, SI, RY5, RY1,CommonSpotted Deer (Chital)Axis axisW, WB, UW, RY5, RY1CommonWild Water BuffaloBubalus arneeW, RY1,*Ruddy MongooseUrva smithiizeylanius?W, UW, RY1,CommonToque MacaqueMacaca sinicaW, SI, K, P, NE, HP, RY5, RY1,CommonAll 3 ssp observed during the trip. See Table 2.Pygmy 					the island.	not used.
Grey (Tufted) Langur Spotted Deer (Chital) Wild Water Buffalo Ruddy Mongoose Toque Macaque Macaque  Pipistrellus tenius Indian Gerbil Small Indian Civet Burlous Fruit Bat Bat Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii My, SI, RY5, RY1  W, WB, UW, RY1, W, WB, UW, RY1, W, RY1, W, RY5, RY1  W, UW, RY1, Semnon  W, SI, K, P, NE, HP, RY5, RY1, See Table 2.  WB, SI, Relatively common  WB, SI, Relatively common  WB, SI, SI dusk.  WB, SI, WB, SI, WB, SI, WB, SI, WB, SI, WB, SI, SI dusk. SI dusk.  WB, SI, SI dusk. SI du	1	Muntiacus	malabaricus	W, RY5,	Shy. Not	
Langur priam RY1,  Spotted Deer (Chital) Axis axis W, WB, UW, RY5, RY1 *  Wild Water Buffalo Ruddy Urva smithii zeylanius? W, UW, RY1,  Mongoose Toque Macaca sinica Macaque E  Pygmy Pipistrellus tenius Indian Gerbil Tatera indica ceylonica? WB, SI, Relatively common Civer indica Eschenaulti  Bat leschenaulti Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii WB, SI, UW, Common WB, SI, UW, Common Civeracea Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala WB, SI, UW, Common Common Common WB, SI, UW, Common	(Barking Deer)	•			common	
Spotted Deer (Chital)  Wild Water Buffalo  Ruddy Urva smithii zeylanius? W, UW, RY1, Common  Mongoose  Toque Macaca sinica W, SI, K, P, NE, HP, RY5, RY1,  Pipistrellus tenius  Indian Gerbil Tatera indica ceylonica? WB, SI, Relatively common  Small Indian Viverricula indica Civet indica Rousettus  Bat leschenaulti  Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii  Asiatic Long-tailed Climbing Mouse  Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala  WM, WB, UW, RY1, Common  W, SI, K, P, NE, Common  WW, SI, K, P, NE, Common  WB, SI, SI dusk.  WB, SI, Relatively common  WB, SI, WB, SI, Relatively common  WB, SI, WB, SI, Common  WB, SI, Common  WB, SI, Common  WB, SI, WB, Common  WB, SI, UW, Common	Grey (Tufted)	Semnopithecus	thersites	W, SI, RY5,	Common	
(Chital)RY5, RY1*Wild Water BuffaloBubalus arneeW, RY1,*Ruddy MongooseUrva smithiizeylanius?W, UW, RY1,CommonToque MacaqueMacaca sinicaW, SI, K, P, NE, HP, RY5, RY1,CommonAll 3 ssp observed during the trip. See Table 2.Pygmy Pipistrellus teniusWB, SI,SI dusk.Indian GerbilTatera indicaceylonica?WB,CommonSmall Indian Civet indicaWB, SI,Relatively commonFulvous Fruit Bat leschenaultiWB,WB,Bat Myotis hasseltiiWB,WB,Asiatic Long-tailed Climbing MouseVandeleuria oleraceaWB, SI, UW,CommonIndian Black- Lepus nigricollissinghalaWB, SI, UW,Common	Langur	priam		RY1,		
Wild Water Buffalo  Ruddy Mongoose  Toque Macaca sinica  Macaque  Macaca sinica  My, SI, K, P, NE, HP, RY5, RY1,  E  Pygmy Pipistrellus Indian Gerbil Small Indian Civet Indica Fulvous Fruit Bat Bubalus arnee  Wy, RY1,  Wy, UW, RY1,  Common  All 3 ssp observed during the trip. See Table 2.  Wy, SI, Wy, NE, Common  Wy, SI, Wy, NE, Common  Wy, SI, Si dusk.  Si dusk.  Si dusk.  Wy, SI, Relatively common  Wy, SI, Wy, Common  Wy, SI, SI, SI, SI, SI, SI, SI, SI, SI, SI	Spotted Deer	Axis axis		W, WB, UW,	Common	
Buffalo Ruddy Mongoose Toque Macaca sinica Macaque Macaca sinica Macaca sinica Macaque Macaca sinica Macaque Macaca sinica Mall 3 ssp observed during the trip. See Table 2. SI dusk. SI dusk.  SI dusk.  SI dusk.  SI dusk.  SI dusk.  WB, SI, WB, SI, WB, SI, WB, SI, WB, SI, UW, Common	(Chital)			RY5, RY1		
Ruddy Mongoose  Toque Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque  Macaca sinica Macaque Macaca sinica Macaque Macaca sinica Macaque Macaca sinica Macaque Macaca sinica Macaque Macaca sinica Macaque Macaca sinica Macaca sinica Macaque Macaca sinica Mall Struct Macaca sinica Mall Struct Macaca sinica	Wild Water	Bubalus arnee		W, RY1,		*
MongooseMacaca sinicaW, SI, K, P, NE, HP, RY5, RY1,Common Observed during the trip. See Table 2.Pygmy Pipistrelle Indian Gerbil Tatera indica Civet indicaWB, SI, Relatively common Civet indicaWB, SI, Relatively common Civet indicaFulvous Fruit Bat Bat Asiatic Long-tailed Climbing MouseWouse Not and the property observed during the trip. See Table 2.Indian Gerbil Tatera indica Ceylonica?WB, SI, Relatively common Civet Common Civet Civ	Buffalo					
Toque Macaca sinica W, SI, K, P, NE, HP, RY5, RY1, Common Observed during the trip. See Table 2.  Pygmy Pipistrellus tenius WB, SI, SI dusk.  Indian Gerbil Tatera indica ceylonica? WB, Common Small Indian Viverricula indica WB, SI, Relatively common Fulvous Fruit Rousettus Bat leschenaulti  Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii WB, SI, WB, SI, Sidusk.  WB, SI, Relatively common WB, SI, WB, SI, WB, SI, Sidusk.  WB, SI, Relatively common WB, SI, SI, Sidusk.  WB, SI, SI, SI, SI, SI, SI, SI, SI, SI, SI	Ruddy	Urva smithii	zeylanius?	W, UW, RY1,	Common	
Macaque  E  HP, RY5, RY1,  observed during the trip. See Table 2.  Pygmy Pipistrellus tenius  Indian Gerbil Tatera indica Civet indica Fulvous Fruit Bat Ieschenaulti Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii WB, Asiatic Long-tailed Climbing Mouse Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis SI dusk.  WB, SI, Relatively common  WB, SI, Relatively common  WB, WB, WB, WB, Common  WB, SI, Relatively common  WB, WB, Common  WB, Common  WB, Common	Mongoose					
Pygmy Pipistrellus tenius WB, SI, SI dusk.  Indian Gerbil Tatera indica ceylonica? WB, Common  Small Indian Viverricula indica wB, SI, Relatively common  Fulvous Fruit Rousettus Bat leschenaulti  Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii WB,  Asiatic Long-tailed Climbing Mouse  Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala WB, SI, UW, Common	Toque	Macaca sinica		W, SI, K, P, NE,	Common	All 3 ssp
Pygmy Pipistrellus tenius WB, SI, SI dusk.  Indian Gerbil Tatera indica ceylonica? WB, Common  Small Indian Viverricula indica WB, SI, Relatively common  Fulvous Fruit Rousettus Bat leschenaulti  Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii WB,  Asiatic Long-tailed Climbing Mouse  Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala WB, SI, UW, Common	Macaque			HP, RY5, RY1,		observed
Pygmy Pipistrellus tenius WB, SI, SI dusk.  Indian Gerbil Tatera indica ceylonica? WB, Common  Small Indian Viverricula WB, SI, Relatively common  Fulvous Fruit Rousettus Bat leschenaulti  Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii WB,  Asiatic Long-tailed Climbing Mouse  Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala WB, SI, UW, Common						
Pipistrelle tenius Indian Gerbil Tatera indica ceylonica? WB, Common  Small Indian Viverricula WB, SI, Relatively common  Fulvous Fruit Rousettus Bat leschenaulti  Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii WB,  Asiatic Long-tailed Climbing Mouse  Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala  WB, Common  WB, SI, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB	Е					See Table 2.
Pipistrelle tenius Indian Gerbil Tatera indica ceylonica? WB, Common  Small Indian Viverricula WB, SI, Relatively common  Fulvous Fruit Rousettus Bat leschenaulti  Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii WB,  Asiatic Long-tailed Climbing Mouse  Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala  WB, Common  WB, SI, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB, WB	Pygmy	Pipistrellus		WB, SI,		SI dusk.
Indian Gerbil Tatera indica ceylonica? WB, Common  Small Indian Viverricula WB, SI, Relatively common  Fulvous Fruit Rousettus Ieschenaulti  Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii WB,  Asiatic Long-tailed Climbing Mouse  Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala  WB, SI, WB, Common  WB,		•				
Small Indian Viverricula indica WB, SI, Relatively common  Fulvous Fruit Rousettus Bat leschenaulti WB,		Tatera indica	ceylonica?	WB,	Common	
Fulvous Fruit Rousettus Bat leschenaulti  Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii WB,  Asiatic Long- Vandeleuria oleracea Mouse  Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala  WB,  WB,  WB,  WB,  WB,  WB,  WB,  WB	Small Indian	Viverricula		WB, SI,	Relatively	
Bat leschenaulti  Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii WB,  Asiatic Long- Vandeleuria oleracea  Mouse  Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala  Myotis hasseltii WB,  WB,  WB,  WB,  Common	Civet	indica			common	
Bat leschenaulti Brown Bat Myotis hasseltii WB, Asiatic Long- Vandeleuria oleracea Mouse Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala WB,	Fulvous Fruit	Rousettus		WB,		
Asiatic Long- tailed Climbing oleracea  Mouse  Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala  WB,  WB,  WB,  WB,  Common	Bat	leschenaulti				
tailed Climbing oleracea	Brown Bat	Myotis hasseltii		WB,		
tailed Climbing oleracea  Mouse  Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala  WB, SI, UW, Common	Asiatic Long-	-		WB,		
Mouse Indian Black- Lepus nigricollis singhala WB, SI, UW, Common	_	oleracea				
	_					
	Indian Black-	Lepus nigricollis	singhala	WB, SI, UW,	Common	
	naped Hare			RY5,		
Little Indian Mus booduga WB,		Mus booduga				
Field Mouse						

Long-armed Sheath-tailed	Taphozous longimanus		WB, SI		Dusk
Bat					
Indian	Hipposideros		WB, SI,		
Roundleaf Bat	lankadiva	44-1	)	N	
Grizzled Giant	Ratufa	dandolena	W, WB, SI,	Not common.	Dry zone ssp.
Squirrel Sri Lankan	macroura	leation.	RY1,	Carranal	Laurantana
Leopard	Panthera pardus	kotiya	W, RY5, RY1, RYBZ,	Several outstanding sightings, 13 individuals recorded. RYBZ mating pair.	Largest ssp markings outstanding.
Indian Wild Boar	Sus scofa	cristatus	W, NE, RY1,	Common.	
Sri Lankan	Elephas	maximus	W, H, UW,	Only reliable	Largest Asian
Elephant	maximus		RY5, RY1,	N.P. for sightings is Uda Walawa.	ssp. Those at UW appeared small?
Sri Lankan	Canis aureus	naria	W, SI, SI, NE,	Seen in most	
Jackal			UW,	locations,	
				diurnal.	
Sambar	Cervus unicolor		W, HP, RY5,	Not common	
			RY1,	until later	
				locations.	
Dusky	Hipposideros		WB,		Observed in
Roundleaf Bat	ater		_		derelict house.
Cantor's	Hipposideros		WB, SI,		Ditto.
Roundleaf Bat	galeritus		) A (D C)		5
Schneider's	Hipposideros		WB, SI,		Ditto.
Leaf-nosed Bat	speoris		WD		
Eastern House	Mus musculus		WB,		
Mouse Indian Crested	Hystrix indica		WB, SI,		
Porcupine	Hystrix illuica		VV D, 31,		
Eurasian Otter	Lutra lutra		WB,	Single animal observed.	
Purple-faced	Semnopithecus		W, NE, HP,		All 4 ssp.
Leaf Monkey	(Trachypithecus)		MG, OC,		observed
(Langur)	vetulus				during the trip see Table 2.
White-striped	Moschiola		WB, SI,	Quite	Dry Zone.
Mouse Deer	meminna		, - ,	common.	'
(Chevrotain) E					
Rusty-spotted	Prionailurus	koladivius	WB,	Observed	Dry Zone ssp.
Cat	rubiginosus	KOIAUIVIUS	WD,	hunting in a fallow field. A good sighting but from distance. The	Several dom. cat hybrids observed

				only sighting	
			14/5	of this species.	
Greater Short- nosed Fruit Bat	Cynopterus sphinx		WB,		
Indian Grey Mongoose	Urva edwardsii	lanka	WB,	Single animal observed on main road.	
Lesser False Vampire Bat	Megaderma spasma		SI,		
Grey Slender Loris	Loris lydekkerianus	nordicus	SI,		Dry Zone.
Lesser Woolly Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus beddomei		SI,		
Fishing Cat	Prionailurus viverrinus	viverrrinus	SI,	An excellent sighting, only sighting of this species.	Larger than anticipated, an impressive cat. Hybrids observed.
Pouch Bearing Tomb Bat	Saccolaimus saccolaimus		SI,		Dusk
Short-nosed Fruit Bat	Cynopterus brachyotis		SI,		Dusk
Indian Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus coromandra		SI,		Dusk
Eastern Bent- winged Bat	Miniopterus fuliginosus		SI,		Dusk
Tickell's Bat	Hesperoptenus tickelli		SI,		Dusk
Rufous Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus rouxii		SI,		
Indian Pangolin	Manis crassicaudata		SI,	Rarely observed. An outstanding sighting.	An unexpected highlight of the trip.
Asian (Common) Palm Civet	Paradoxurus hermaphroditus	hermaphroditus	SI,		
Black-bearded Tomb Bat	Taphozous melanopogon		SI,		Dusk
Sri Lankan Brown Palm Civet	Paradoxurus montanus		SI,		Not usually seen during the day
Jungle Cat	Felis chaus	keelarti (disputed)	SI,	Good sighting, only sighting of this species.	Hunting in field. Many hybrids observed.
Golden Palm Civet (Dry Zone)	Paradoxurus stenocephalus		SI,	Good sighting	On the ground in secondary forest.
Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	Ptaurista philippensis	lanka?	SI, K,		Actually, seen flying at K.

Dusky Striped Squirrel	Funambulus obscurus		NE,	Single animal observed.	Wet Zone.
Stripe-necked Mongoose	Urva vitticollis	Vitticollis?	HP,		A surprisingly large mammal.
House Rat	Rattus rattus	kelaarti?	NE,		Highland form seen at dusk.
Lesser Bandicoot Rat	Bandicota bengalensis		NE,		Seen at dusk in close proximity to House Rat.
Kelaart's Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus ceylonicus		NE,		Dusk in Victoria Park.
Feral Water Buffalo	Bubalus bubalus		UW, RY1,		Possibly more acceptable than 'arnee'.
Indian Flying Fox	Pteropus medius		Т,		Huge colony on the outskirts of Tissa. 400+
Soft-furred Rat	Millardia meltada		RYBZ,		
Sloth Bear	Melursus ursinus	inornatus	RY1,		Smaller than Indian ssp.
Indian Brown Mongoose	Urva fuscus	rubidor	MG,		
Long-snouted Spinner Dolphin	Stenella longirostris		MIB,		Mirissa Bay very quiet during this visit.

**62** MAMMAL SPECIES RECORDED.

# TOQUE MACAQUE & PURPLE-FACED LANGUR (MONKEY) SUBSPECIES OBSERVED

Table 2

COMMON NAME (ALL ENDEMIC)	SPECIES	SUBSPECIES	LOCATION OBSERVED	NOTES
Dry Zone Toque Macaque	Macaca sinica	sinica	W, SI, UW, RY5, RY1,	The 3 ssp. are distinctly different with regard to pelage and cap colouration. Nominate form possibly smaller and tends to have a pinker face.

Wet Zone Toque Macaque	Macaca sinica	aurifrons	К,	All 3-ssp. relatively common within their own zone.
Hill Zone Toque Macaque	Macaca sinica	opisthomelas	P, NE, HP,	All 3 classified as endangered.
Dry Zone Purple- faced Leaf Monkey (Langur)	Semnopithecus (Trachypithecus) vetulus	philbricki	W, SI,	All 4 ssp.classified as endangered. Morphological differences noted.
Montane Purple- faced Leaf Monkey	Semnopithecus vetulus	monticola	NE, HP,	Good numbers at both locations.
Southern Lowland Wet Zone Purple- faced Leaf Monkey	Semnopithecus vetulus	vetulus	MG,	Small troop including young in garden on the outskirts of Melissa.
Western Purple- faced Leaf Monkey	Semnopithecus vetulus	nestor	OC,	20km SE of Colombo in secondary palm forest. This is possibly the most endangered ssp.

## 67 MAMMAL SPECIES/SUBSPECIES RECORDED WHEN INCLUDING THE ABOVE PRIMATES.

Taxonomy taken from a variety of contemporary sources it should however be viewed with some caution as some of the species are currently under review.

John Weir 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, revised October 2022.

This was our first trip when we have been in a position to accurately record Bat species, Uditha (guide) was very skilled in this area. His capacity to locate mammal species throughout the trip was unbelievable.

The above table is a copy of my notes I make after a location visit, the notes column reflects my own experiences / thoughts.

For a more detailed narrative and lots of images on the trip please visit safaritalk.net, under Trip reports. Worldwide. 'The Pearl of the Indian Ocean'.

JOHN WEIR OCTOBER 2022. john.weir51@gmail.com

### Additional images: HORTON PLAINS N.P.



**STRIPE-NECKED MONGOOSE Herpestes vitticollis** 



PURPLE-FACED LEAF MONKEY (MONTANE) Trachypithecus vetulus monticola