

Sri Lanka Whales and Leopards

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 21 March 2011



Malabar Pied Hornbill by Colin Johnson



Asian Elephant by Sandra Hunt



Leopard by Neil Lane



Blue Whale by Rowan Hillson

Report compiled by Rob Murray

Images courtesy of Rowan Hillson, Sandra Hunt, Colin Johnson and Neil Lane



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Tour Summary

The wintry weather of Britain was a distant memory. We found ourselves on a peaceful, tropical beach of palm trees and blue sea basking in temperatures of 27°C. The first three days of pelagic trips led to many encounters with spectacular Blue Whales, dolphins and turtles. Breath-taking, close-up views of blowing and arching whales were frequent during our voyages on the vast Indian Ocean. By contrast our exploits to track down leopards and elephants took place in a landscape of dense, shrubby bush-land in the world famous Yala National Park.

The birdlife was both diverse and exotic with rare storks, hornbills and jungle fowl mingling with gaudy rollers, bee-eaters and parakeets. Water birds were numerous. Pelicans, egrets, jacanas and stilts jostled for space with herons, ibises and cormorants. However, it was the mammalian fauna that we were especially keen to observe. Grey Langurs and Toque Macaques provided endless entertainment. A single leopard on the first excursion by jeep raised our hopes of further encounters. Asian Elephants, Giant Squirrels, Golden Jackals and Wild Boar rivalled Spotted Deer, Sambar and Water Buffalo for our attention. A huge roost of enormous Indian Flying Foxes dispersed above us as we were driven back to Colombo in our comfortable, air-conditioned bus. A few cultural stops at buildings of historical interest and at places of religious significance were enjoyable diversions from our pursuit of Sri Lankan wildlife during a holiday that passed by all too quickly and left all of us longing to stay for more.

Day 1

Saturday 12th March

Cold and miserable at London Heathrow

As our flight departed images of the exciting odyssey ahead played on our minds. Precisely where right now were the individual whales and leopards whose paths we were destined to cross?

Images of exotic birds rose up from the pages of the field guides on our knees and floated tantalizingly before us as we cat-napped during the long flight. It was a mere 5410 miles to go before such images would transform into life forms.

Day 2

Sunday 13th March

26°C in Colombo. Humid. Rain shower later

At 5am it was still dark. We bungled ourselves into a spirit-lifting, air-conditioned, comfortable bus and began the journey southwards. The only re-assuring and familiar aspect of transportation in Sri Lanka is that the plentiful action takes place on the left; more or less! Three-wheeled, ornately decorated tuk-tuks weaved in and out of the path of our bus. The concept of multiple-occupancy applies not only to houses, but extends to mopeds too. A cacophony of horns greeted every manoeuvre and seemed to convey meaning to responsive ears, although we were unable to crack the code. Dawn came and with it myriad of House Crows emerged to forage in the city streets and perch on the gigantic, road-side advertising boards. Dammi, our local naturalist guide, began to point out new and exotic birds. His warm, beaming smile and cheerful personality were to become memorable features of the tour. He has sharp eyes and enviable identification skills. The journey was enlivened by sightings of birds saddled with ludicrous names by humans and incongruous designs by evolution. The White-bellied Drongo and Red-vented Bulbul are examples of the former and Long-billed Sunbirds and Peacocks the later.

Dammi pointed out rope-ways linking the crowns of palm trees and he explained how locals swing across from tree to tree to collect blooms for making alcoholic drinks. He declined to demonstrate! Indian Flying Foxes are so large that when they fly into electricity lines they contact two wires simultaneously and become frazzled! Several were hanging lifelessly and in various stages of decay. As the road hugged the coastline we could see brightly coloured fishing boats of an unusual design, and areas festooned with poles in the sea with a basket on top in which fishermen squatted precariously. It seems that all they actually catch are passing tourists!

We had made good progress and arrived at the Paradise Beach Hotel in Mirissa with time to settle into our rooms and to explore the beautiful gardens. Lizards, Palm Squirrels, tree-climbing hermit crabs in decorative shells and alluring flowers caught our attention. After our long and tiring journey we idled away the early afternoon relaxing by the pool, on the beach, strolling around looking for birds or napping peacefully in the cool of our hotel rooms.

Day 3

Monday 14th March

Sunny and warm (27°C). No wind

As dawn broke we were assembled on the quayside at Mirissa eager to embark upon our first pelagic trip to see marine life and impatient to devour our thin-sliced, white bread, processed cheese sandwiches. A Striated Heron was peering into the clear, blue water willing one of the myriad of small fish to venture that crucial micron closer to the surface to within striking range of its dagger-like bill. Whiskered Terns dipped gracefully to the surface film to devour insects blown off the land. At last the engines of the canopy-covered vessel throbbed into life and the tropical skyline of distant hills and palm fringed beaches receded as we approached the first shipping lane some eight nautical miles offshore.

The pale grey back and wings of Great Crested Terns appeared much whiter as they mingled with the chocolate brown Bridled Terns. Flying fish easily broke through the interface between water and air to glide like shearwaters skimming across the waves before plunging back to the denser medium. Suddenly the reverie induced by the gentle rise and fall of the boat was punctured sharply. A dark shape loomed beneath a plume of white vapour that shot skywards with a whoosh. The grey, mottled skin of a majestic whale contrasted with the blue tints of the ocean and sky. It arched its back to display a small dorsal fin of such diminutive size as to be inconsequential as an aid to steering this gigantic beast across the world's oceans. As an aid to identification it is of greater significance. About seven different Blue Whales were encountered. We had as many as 15-16 sightings. The boat turned for port, but that was not the end of our whale-watching. A mother Bryde's Whale with her calf cruised across our bow eliciting upwelling of tears of emotion in those humble people peering down at this touching sight. A school of 15 Spinner Dolphins frolicked around the boat. One leapt clear of the foamy brine and spun in the air showing us the behavioural trait that has given rise to its name. An Olive Ridley Turtle drifted alongside, but the discovery of a sea snake squirming at the surface was the most exciting end to the voyage imaginable. All this and there was still an afternoon of tropical birding to enjoy ashore!

On our way to an eco-tourist reserve at Kirala Kele, we paused to view a roadside pool known as a tank. The highlight was a Pheasant-tailed Jacana with bizarrely elongated tail feathers and toes to match! Its alternative name of Lily-trotter is equally appropriate. At the reserve we exited the bus and walked along a track-way bordering a marsh. Trying to absorb the details of so many different species was challenging as Dammi reeled off name after name with impressive accuracy and expertise. It was difficult to keep up! Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, Black-hooded Orioles, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Asian Paradise Flycatcher and sunbirds were all greeted with glee.

Day 4

Tuesday 15th March

Cloud cover but some sunshine. 32°C. Humid. A thunderstorm later

This morning's pelagic trip surpassed yesterday and left us numb with disbelief at the awesome contact we had with at least 7-8 different Blue Whales and 18-19 sightings. They surfaced at such close quarters that we could see the distribution of goose barnacles on the torso enabling us to be sure we were seeing different individuals. We remained at a respectful distance, but were close enough to note that one had circular calluses on its back. Some performed deep dives, raising their exquisitely sculptured flukes clear of the rippling waves so that glistening beads of seawater drained from the flat, smooth tail. Today, a diffuse cloud cover gave subtle, pastel shades of light lacking the harshness of yesterday's bright sunshine, so that the intense turquoise blue shimmer in the water betraying the whale lurking below could be fully appreciated. The colour is extraordinarily beautiful, but, alas all too ephemeral. A school of Bottle-nosed Dolphins rode the bow wave for a while and an Olive Ridley Turtle surfaced alongside. As we peered down upon this ancient relic of evolution, it raised its head and returned a doleful stare as if in despair at the destruction evolution's greatest triumph has brought to its world. As we chugged the final nautical mile back to Mirissa Harbour I glanced around at my whale-watching companions. There was a subdued, reverential atmosphere. No one spoke. Each was immersed in deep thought and overcome with the emotion that only close contact with whales can induce.

After lunch the mood lightened when one group member related an incident on the beach. She was strolling along the strand line enjoying the sensation of smooth, coral sand oozing between her toes, when her fantasies were dispelled by the flapping and gasping of a stranded fish.

She seized the hapless castaway and returned it tenderly to the sea. As it swam away she felt pride well up inside her for the compassion she had shown. A good deed was done. Well, no. Not exactly! She had just liberated the lunch of the irate fisherman who was rapidly making strides towards her, angrily proclaiming that he had just caught that fish. International incidents have such small beginnings...

In the afternoon we returned to Kirala Kele, but ventured deeper into the marsh. A number of Sri Lankan birds lumber under cumbersome names. Black-rumped Flameback Woodpecker is one that we saw and it did have all of those features. At the marsh sightings of Watercock, Black Bittern, Spot-billed Pelican, Purple Swampheens and Indian Darters enthralled us all. There were dense growths of a bright purple water lily known as *Nymphaea stellata* smothering all zones of open water. This is the national flower of Sri Lanka and is known as the Blue Water lily despite its purple sheen.

Day 5

Wednesday 16th March

Some cloud. 27°C Humid

At dawn whilst waiting at the harbour to board our boat we were enthralled by the sinister, languid shapes of huge Flying Foxes slowly flapping in front of Venus, the bright, twinkling, morning star. They made an unhurried retreat to their daytime lair winging their way to roost as highlights appeared in the eastern sky. Today we have been left in a state of emotional frenzy after experiencing intimate contact with 10 Blue Whales and enjoying 27 sightings, many of which were prolonged and simply breath-taking. One leviathan raised its flukes to reveal two hitch-hiking Remoras clinging to the underside, braced for the slap as the beast sank to the depths. The turquoise shimmering in the broiling sea above the whale lingered like a Monet sky as an after image to be run and re-run through our minds. Several whales spent time cruising alongside us in convoy with our boat, before raising their immense flukes and slipping below. Every one of the coprologists on board leapt for joy as the vessel skirted a reddish-brown slick of fresh whale excrement. What appeared to be a school of dolphins on the horizon transformed into a shoal of huge tuna porpoising across the foam. A brown-winged, rippling form in the clear water was a delightfully majestic Golden Ray which seemed to be flying gracefully through the blue surface waters. A turtle bobbed up to glare wistfully at us as we drifted slowly past. It may have been the same one that we dismayed yesterday, still rueing his evolutionary misfortune as he gazed up at what might have been. We docked in silence each of us inwardly ecstatic and lost in our own flood of beautiful images of the largest creature the planet has known.

In the afternoon we visited the town of Galle which was so cruelly smashed by the tsunami. The old Dutch fort and commercial buildings were most interesting to visit for their architecture, history and colony of Indian Swiftlets. Ornithophilistines were contented! Cricket enthusiasts photographed the international ground where test matches are played.

Day 6

Thursday 17th March

Some cloud and some sunshine. 30°C. Humid

Our maritime adventures were over and today we re-located to the dry zone reserve of Yala. On the way we stopped to admire one of the huge Buddha statues and then looked at the Chamal Rajapaksha eco-technology park which had a portal of immense hands made of bricks.

A poolside stop enabled us to marvel at a Jacana's nest containing four eggs just resting on a lily pad. Weaver birds' nests were of particular interest as two species were present. Each had a completely different design of nest. The Baya Weaver had pendulous, oval nests suspended from a tree whereas the Streaked Weaver selected a site lower down in reeds for its globular nest.

By midday we had arrived at the edge of the Bundala Reserve. Its lagoons support a rich, aquatic avifauna. Waders, egrets, storks and spoonbills held our attention, but it was our first meeting with a troop of Grey Langur monkeys that really captivated us. White-browed Fantail Flycatchers have an uncannily accurate name. One observer quipped that it does what it says on the tin.

We passed our first Mugger Crocodile as we entered the grounds of Yala Village Hotel. As it was 1.50pm we went straight in for a splendid buffet lunch. The Jezebel, Plain Tiger and white Psyche butterflies fluttering around the entrance had to wait to receive the attention they merited. The remainder of the daylight hours was spent walking around the lagoons, dunes and beach in the vicinity of the hotel. Giant Squirrels, crocodiles, monitor lizards, Indian Black-naped Hare, Wild Boar and a variety of waders kept us alert. The bill, plumage and leg adaptations of the Great Thick-knee were bizarre enough to suspect Alice would have befriended it in Wonderland. The experienced birders in the group enjoyed the identification challenges presented by the pipits. At this stage we identified only Paddyfield Pipit with confidence.

Day 7

Friday 18th March

Some cloud and some sunshine. 32°C. Humid

We were all finally escorted from our "huts" to the awaiting land rovers by 5.30am. Wild animals do wander through the hotel gardens. Wild Boar, buffalo and elephants sauntered past our doors. Apparently the bull elephant was not a naughty boy. What a relief! Our full day of game driving began with an Indian Nightjar fleeing from the penetrating beam of the headlights. The morning sun quickly raised the temperature and we were glad to be in open sided vehicles with an overlying canopy. Little Green Bee-eaters were perched at eye level flanking both sides of the jeep like a pageant. A resplendent Sri Lanka Junglefowl strutted from cover displaying his red-fringed, yellow crown and red wattles. Shafts of light struck the deep blue plumes of its tail and wings giving a cascade of iridescence that is so challenging to capture on camera or with an artist's palette. An overnight shower had dampened the dust so the rusty-coloured, deeply rutted trackways were firm as we bounced along them in our quest for a Leopard. Birds were abundant. The intermingling of colourful and exotic bee-eaters with familiar birds such as Grey Herons, Greenshanks and Redshanks was a source of delight.

The group was divided into three parties. Each had differing encounters. One saw an extremely rare Lesser Adjutant Stork; another stumbled upon two White-rumped Shamans. A Cobra, two metres in length, slithered across the path of one jeep. This highly venomous snake was being mobbed by anxious bee-eaters who were dive-bombing its head. Fortunately, all groups experienced the intensely penetrating, yellow-eyed stare of a roosting Brown Fish Owl burning into our consciousness and defiantly holding its ground as we peered up to its sanctuary in a tall tree. By 2.30pm most of us had seen some impressive mammals such as Spotted Deer, Sambar, Asian Elephants and Golden Jackal. A fortuitous glance at the bole of a thick-trunked tree revealed a long rope-like tail of black, pale orange and white, dangling as if awaiting the pull of a campanologist. A large, lithely Leopard lay listlessly draped across the intersection of three, thick trunks.

Its huge front paws hung either side of the branch and its head was propped up uncomfortably against the upright trunk. It twitched a little and shuffled its head into a more snug position. It tantalised us by revealing only its black nose and white whiskers and jaw-line. A full view of its head was only briefly revealed to a few fortunate onlookers. More jeeps arrived and we jostled for the best position from which to imbibe the beauty of this indolent beast! As the adrenalin drained away and we bounced our way back to base, we were left to contemplate the 76 species of birds and 10 species of mammals that we had been privileged to see today. Upon wearily pushing open our room doors some of us raised a smile. The room boy had displayed his considerable skill and artistic talent by fashioning an elephant design out of grass stalks and flowers onto the bedspread. Delightful!

Day 8

Saturday 19th March

Some cloud and some sunshine. 30°C. Humid

Some of the group opted for a morning drive; others a whole day. There would be anxious moments when we compared notes this evening! The morning group lingered beneath a shade-giving tree to spend a long time enjoying intimate views of a troop of Grey Langur monkeys as they engaged in fighting, threatening, playing and tender maternal behaviour. Toque Macaque monkeys gave similar entertainment during a break by the Manik River.

Our drivers fought the wheels of these heavy vehicles, as we ventured down neglected trackways in a valiant effort to visit every tree that a Leopard has ever climbed. One driver sent waves of panic reverberating around the back of the jeep when he yelled “Sloth Bear – middle middle!” We leapt from our seats obscuring each other’s line of vision to the rock face where the bear was scampering about. Still the driver was watching it. Still none of us could locate it. “Which middle?” “Where?” “How high up the rock face?” Our frustration was finally curbed when the bear disappeared into a cave. None of us saw it and we had to be content with some fresh bear prints in the sand seen later. The remainder of the day yielded some wonderful birds such as a large flock of Malabar Pied Hornbills, another Brown Fish Owl and a Gull-billed Tern grappling with a bulky frog which it eventually gulped down. Elephants, Wild Boar, Golden Jackals, Ruddy Mongoose, Spotted Deer and Mugger Crocodiles all featured in the day’s tally.

Day 9

Sunday 20th March

Humid and sunny with temperatures up to 35°C

We departed from The Yala Village Hotel at 8.30am and headed for Mirissa where lunch would be waiting. A Grey Mongoose crossed the road and Grey Langur monkeys watched warily from the tree tops. A large Land Monitor with its primitive, swaying gait protruded its forked tongue as it sampled the air hoping to detect a few molecules exuding from something edible. A diversion inland delivered us to an impressive Stupa at the Tooth Relic Shrine near Tissamaharama. This white-domed creation is 1500 years old. The next stop was at Kalamatiya which is a mangrove forest reserve. A Coppersmith Barbet was calling. There were many butterflies and dragonflies at the water’s edge. The Variable Flutterer dragonfly, with its dark brown and yellow wings, caught the eye. The opportunity to walk for a while was much appreciated. From the bus we saw Oriental Honey Buzzards and a spectacular Crested Serpent Eagle.

It was interesting to see the extensive paddy fields festooned with egrets and other waterbirds. Rice was laid out on sheets for husk removal and to dry out. The process was machine assisted. After lunch at Mirissa we said farewell to Dammi, our truly wonderful guide. He had worked extremely hard to ensure that all of our plans came to fruition and his calm, friendly personality shone through. He was a companion to us all and his immense knowledge and efficient organisation ensured the success of the holiday.

At 3.30 we were making steady progress towards Colombo when we noticed hundreds of huge Indian Flying Foxes flitting chaotically above their roost. They must have been disturbed and were flapping in panic in all directions. As dusk fell and we approached the outskirts of Colombo several more we seen flying leisurely above the city streets. It was 7.45pm when we checked into the Airport Garden Hotel clutching our gifts of Ceylon tea, polo shirts, caps and mouse-mats. After a splendid meal we retired to our rooms until the wakeup call at midnight summoned us to the bus for the short journey to the airport.

Day 10

Monday 21st March

The flight back to UK departed on time at 0345. We had a very comfortable flight and met for our final farewells at the baggage collection point. All agreed that it had been a wonderful holiday, thanks principally to Dammithra Samarasinghe, a first class guide!

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Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	March							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			1		4			3
2	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>			2		11	150	100	20
3	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	10	7	100	1	12	6	10	12
4	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>			9			4	9	
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			1		2	3	4	
6	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	4	2	2		1	5		
7	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	6		1	2	2	2	7	10
8	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>		2	3		3	10	3	4
9	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1		30		30	25	20	10
10	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	50	50	40	10	✓	✓	25	✓
11	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		6	6		15	13	10	6
12	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		1			1			
13	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>							1	
14	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>		2						
15	Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>		2	1					
16	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	1	15	15		20		17	5
17	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>			2		3	7	9	4
18	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>						1		
19	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>						1		
20	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>			1			1		
21	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>		1	8		4	40	45	2
22	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			7		40	5	6	
23	Lesser Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	12	10	72		7	30	8	7
24	Cotton Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>			2					
25	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>			9					
26	Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>								2
27	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	10	5	20	2	1	5	4	2
28	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	2	1		1		1	3	1
29	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>						2	1	
30	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>						2		1
31	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>			1	1		1	1	
32	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>						2	1	
33	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>						1		
34	Sri Lanka Junglefowl	<i>Gallus lafayetii</i>						5	4	
35	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>		1			3	40	40	20
36	Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>						2	4	
37	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	4	8	10		1	2		
38	Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>			2					
39	Purple Swampfen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>		1	20	2	2			
40	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>		2	2		4	5	4	
41	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		7	2			35	30	25
42	Great Thick-Knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>					2	40	30	
43	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>					5	6	6	2
44	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>				3	12	12	8	4
45	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>						2	1	2
46	Little Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					2			
47	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>					6	3	9	

	Common name	Scientific name	March							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
48	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>					60		30	6
49	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>						2	1	
50	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>			35			1	1	
51	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					3	3	3	1
52	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>						1		7
53	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					1	3		1
54	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>					2	8	4	2
55	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					4	2		1
56	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			4		12	2	4	4
57	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					8	1	1	1
58	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					9		2	
59	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					3			
60	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	1	10	4	2	40	10	8	
61	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>						1	7	
62	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>						1		
63	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	5	45	15	12	55	50	30	20
64	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	4	30	30	6				
65	Great Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	1							
66	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	2	✓	✓			✓
67	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>		2	2		2	2	2	
69	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>			2		1	2	3	
70	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	20	25	12	5		✓	✓	8
71	Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus beryllinus</i>	5	6	4					
72	Pied Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>						1		
73	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	2	2	2				1	1
74	Blue-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>						2	2	
75	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	1	2	1		1		1	
76	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>						1	1	
77	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>						1		
78	Indian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>				20				
79	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	8				6	6		2
80	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>						2		
81	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	15			6		20	12	8
82	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>					6	12	10	
83	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	2	1	1					
84	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smymensis</i>	12	15	12	8	20	30	20	9
85	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>						2		
86	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	3	4	4		3	1		
87	Little Green Bee-Eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	3				7	60	70	5
88	Blue-tailed Bee-Eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	11	6	2		8	12	15	4
89	Chestnut-headed Bee-Eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	2	2	2	1	1	2		
90	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>					3	2	1	
91	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>						3	4	
92	Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>						2	35	
93	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	4	2	2			1	1	
94	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>								H
95	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>			1				1	
96	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>						1		
97	Jerdon's Bushlark	<i>Mirafra affinis</i>						7	6	
98	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>					15		9	

	Common name	Scientific name	March							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
99	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	4	4			100s	100s	100s	50
100	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		2			3	15		
101	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>					1	2	4	
102	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>								2
103	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>					2			
104	Large Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	1							
105	Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>							1	
106	Common Wood-Shrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>							1	
107	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	4	4	4	4	8	✓	✓	✓
108	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>		2				□	□	□
109	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>					1	1	4	
110	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	2	3	3			3		
111	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>						3		
112	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>					4	10	8	
113	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>					3	4	4	
114	Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	1	4	2			4	2	
115	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		1			H			
116	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>						1	1	
117	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1							
118	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>						1		
119	Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>		8	6		5	20	14	
120	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>	8	6	4		4	6	6	
121	Long-billed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris lotenius</i>	2	1	2		2			
122	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	1				3			
123	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	6	4	2		1	2	2	
124	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>						8	6	
125	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>	✓	30	25	7	2			1
126	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
127	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	12	15	✓			1		1
128	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>						1		
129	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	20	50	50	100	25	30	20	10
130	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				2	1	3		
131	Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manyar</i>					1			
132	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>					10	5	4	
133	Scaly Breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>			2			6	10	
134	Bridled Tern	<i>Sterna anaethetus</i>		200	100					
135	Red-billed Tropic Bird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>		1						
136	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		1		3				
137	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		7						

Mammals

139	Toque Macaque	<i>Macaca sinica</i>		1			7	30	10	
140	Grey Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>					30	60	50	
141	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>						4	5	
142	Indian Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>	1							1
143	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>						5	1	
144	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>						1		
145	Indian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>						11	3	
146	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>					6	50	15	
147	Spotted Deer (Chital)	<i>Cervus axis</i>						50+	50+	
148	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>						3	2	

	Common name	Scientific name	March							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
149	Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>					12	40	30	20
150	Indian Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	8	10	10	6	8	2	1	
151	Grizzled Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>					2			
152	Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>					1	2		
153	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus gigantea</i>	25			40	2			100s

Cetaceans

1	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>		7	8	10				
2	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>		2						
3	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>			12					
4	Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>		20						

Additional species

1	Flying Fish			20	2	3				
2	Olive Ridley Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>		1	1	1				

Other species recorded

Mugger Crocodile

Land Monitor

Cobra

Rat Snake

Sea Snake

Golden Ray

Garden Lizard

House Gecko