

Sri Lanka - Blue Whales & Leopards

Naturetrek Tour Report

4 - 11 March 2012



Blue Whale by Mary Robins



Spinner Dolphin by Chris Hutchinson



Leopard by Anne-Marie Kalus



Green Bee-eater Chris Hutchinson

Report compiled by Nick Acheson
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Day 1

Sunday 4th March

The clients arrived very early this morning, and in good humour which was an impressive achievement in itself. They then dozed and kipped for a short while at a stylish hotel close to Colombo's international airport at Negombo. More impressively still, they got up, after only a couple of hours of rest, had breakfast, watched birds in the car park (Southern Hill Myna and Purple-rumped Sunbird) and jumped into a waiting mini-bus with energy and enthusiasm. Naturetrekkers never cease to amaze me!!

Driving from Colombo's international airport at Negombo, through the capital, and from there through miles of farmland, is fascinating. The city's streets are immaculately tarmacked, the gardens are full of frangipanis in fleshy coral flower and, despite the muggy tropical heat, there is an air of wholesomeness and purpose. This is a stylish sea-front city, with architectural wonders, old and new, including a dramatic new arts pavilion, funded by China, the old parliament building gazing out to sea, and the stylish new parliament, designed by prominent Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa.

There were natural delights here too: a Spot-billed Pelican perched on a lamppost over a bustling street, three Painted Storks feeding in a manicured urban tank right by the corridors of power, and a crowd of Indian Flying Foxes were making slow-motion circuits over their roost in a park. Just outside the city, as we entered the rice paddies, where the harvest was taking place, a Chequered Keelback snake swam across a storm drain.

Along the edges of the rubber plantations to the south of the city, where fringes of natural vegetation remain, were several Southern Purple-faced Leaf-Monkeys, but it was all but impossible to show them to you as we moved along the excellent highway south from the capital. Highways are a buzzword here, the World Bank having financed an enormous expansion program. They also seem to have funded a White-throated Kingfisher scheme as there's one on a power line every mile along the whole length of the road!

Reaching our hotel in Mirissa, we made a plan to walk in the late afternoon as the heat abated. It didn't but we walked anyway. Trees rustled with Toque Macaques and with more southern Purple-Faced Leaf-Monkeys, this time very easy to see and very dapper with it. Here too was a big roost of Indian Flying Foxes, their fur the joyous gold of demerara sugar. A male Loten's Sunbird paid a visit and brick-red resident Sri Lankan Red-rumped Swallows hawked overhead the while.

Day 2

Monday 5th March

There are creatures so magnificent that words and pictures cannot capture them, experiences so vivid they must be lived. This morning the creatures we saw were too magnificent and the experience too vivid, but try to express them in words I must. This morning we saw Blue Whales!

That the Blue Whales found in the Indian Ocean are the laughably named Pygmy Blue Whale is taxonomically interesting (though their taxonomy is far from clear) but irrelevant. Smaller than the Blue Whales of high latitude seas they may be; magnificent they are no less for it.

We sailed from Mirissa port in a storm of terns: Whiskered, Gull-billed, Common, Great Crested and, a little further offshore, exquisitely long-winged Bridled Terns. Not long after sailing our spotters called to the captain to guide him towards distant blows; but distant blows soon became not distant blows and we found ourselves in the company of Pygmy Blue Whales. A tall, columnar blow, the ridge of the whale's back and three seconds (always three seconds) after the blow the diminutive and diagnostic dorsal fin. After a dozen or more blows, a stronger curve to the back, a raised tail and perfect stillness on the ocean's surface once more. For two hours we watched a small group of these phenomenal animals, seeing three identifiable whales and perhaps a fourth. The one we saw most – five times – had a large notch cut from its already tiny dorsal fin. Another had a big pale splodge in its tail. And at least one other had no notch and no splodge. Each had Whalesuckers *Remora australis* attached to its tail or back: another extraordinary creature, on an extraordinary morning.

As we sailed elated home we passed through a feeding flock of Whiskered Terns, containing numerous smaller, perkier White-winged Terns. Six species of tern in a morning! But when blessed with the company of Pygmy Blue Whales, who's counting?

This afternoon we visited the Kiralakale Marsh, which pulsed with exciting birds, including many new to our tour. First though, as we waited to leave for the marsh, we watched a tiny Green Turtle hatchling flap himself down the beach towards the sea and, eventually, tumble away on a rushing wave. Good luck little one; it's an ocean out there...

At Kiralakale Blue-tailed Bee-eaters looped over the marsh where Purple Gallinules, Black-headed Ibis, Intermediate Egrets and Watercock plied their several trades. White-browed Bulbuls bounced through the trees,

a female Loten's Sunbird picked at flowers with her ridiculously long bill, and both Blyth's and Clamorous Reed Warblers wove through stands of marshy grass. Four dazzling kingfishers were here too; White-throated, Stork-billed, Common (what a dreadful name for such a creature) and Pied. Three Yellow Bitterns in turn burst from waterside vegetation at our approach, a male Asian Paradise Flycatcher quivered his silver ribbon of a tail through a banana palm, and a Plain Prinia buzzed out his little song. Everywhere we looked there were birds, or sometimes squirrels, but always somebody, up to something. As we climbed back into the bus a pair of the splendid crimson Sri Lankan subspecies of Black-rumped Flameback called in to a nearby tree and, with the morning's whales still blowing and diving in our heads, we drove home happy.

Day 3

Tuesday 6th March

More Blue Whales today, as amazing, beautiful and humbling as yesterdays. As we sailed back from our morning with these giants, news came that ahead, around a group of small fishing boats, was a pod of Spinner Dolphins. It doesn't seem possible that anything in the sea could upstage a Blue Whale but this morning I think the dolphins pulled it off. Let me set the scene: half a dozen puny fishing boats in a cloud of terns – Whiskered, Gull-billed, Little and Bridled – and two Pomarine Skuas floating nearby, waiting no doubt for a foolish tern to pass with a fish in its bill. All around the boats, under the maelstrom of terns were Spinners, dozens and dozens and dozens of them, right at the water's surface. They kept in tight groups of twenty or thirty, rolling over the water with their long beaks, their inky-dark backs and their sharp dorsal fins. Occasionally a dolphin, often a youngster, would leap from the sea and spin or cartwheel dramatically. All the while our crew whistled to them as this, they believe, attracts the dolphins' attention. For minutes on end we watched astounded and delighted until, when it was clear the spectacle wasn't stopping soon, we thanked the dolphins and sailed for home.

This afternoon we visited Galle, a port town with an imposing fort occupied and modified by successive colonial powers. Over the 18th century Dutch church flew an Indian Swiftlet, in company with a House Swift. On the ramparts were House Sparrows, the first we had seen in Sri Lanka.

Day 4

Wednesday 7th March

For two hours this morning we watched a single Pygmy Blue Whale, with no other boats in sight, as it repeatedly surfaced, blew and dived. Bliss!

This afternoon, a different strain of bliss: a visit to the beautiful Buddhist temple of Wawurukannala near Matara.

Day 5

Thursday 8th March

Our drive from Mirissa in southwest Sri Lanka to Yala in the southeast was a journey from the sweaty, green heat of the wet zone to the scalding sun and acacia scrub of the dry zone. It was also a journey through the lives of countless smiling, laughing people who inhabit this peerlessly beautiful stretch of coast. Here were fishermen plying their ancient trade, rice farmers, buffalo herds and great pans of salt dotted with wading birds. In the dry scrub were pink pom-pommed *Mimosa* trees in flower and *Cassia* bushes blazing yellow.

An Indian Monitor Lizard, with papery grey skin hanging about his neck, plodded by the roadside and in the dry country were new birds and mammals for our trip. The Purple-faced Leaf-Monkeys of the wet zone were

replaced by Tufted Grey Langurs, sitting on their haunches on the grass, like old men at a village meeting. Little Green Bee-eaters made their entrance too and lightened every bush in the scrub. Two female Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Larks burst into flight from a dry pan of rust-red soil, and a Yellow-crowned Woodpecker bounded over the track ahead of us.

As we approached our lodge a sounder of Wild Boar tentatively crossed the track around our bus, the half-grown young still stripy. Dhammi pointed out where he had recently seen a Leopard right by the entrance road. Our lodge is spectacular and its grounds were bustling with wildlife on our arrival. Three-striped Palm-Squirrels hurtled through the trees, a Scaly-breasted Munia wove its haphazard nest by the swimming pool, Pale-billed Flowerpeckers snapped loudly all around and a White-browed Bulbul sat hesitantly in a tree's shade by reception.

In the afternoon we watched waders in the ponds and salt pans along the entrance road to Chaaya: Wood, Marsh, Common and Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stint, Kentish Plover and Lesser Sandplover, Black-tailed Godwit and lots of Redshank (oh, and a glorious Indian Pitta).

Late in the evening we ventured out for a night drive along the same road: several Indian Nightjars (including one singing, with a Jerdon's Nightjar heard singing nearby), four Black-naped Hares (with much blacker napes than they have in north India) and, most excitingly of all, a Jungle Cat. A very fine end to a fine day...

Day 6

Friday 9th March

Ten things we loved about our first safari in Yala today:

- 1) Flower-filled forests reaching the sea. Who would have thought to put a wondrous national park on the beach? Good thinking!
- 2) Grizzled Giant Squirrels, hoarily lovely, slipping through the trees beside us.
- 3) Herds of Chital in the grassland and plentiful families of Wild Boar; after all, those Leopards have to eat something!
- 4) Our bus-driver's assistant Tharanga. He had been polite, efficient and gravely quiet all week but once in our jeeps in the forest, in his element, he opened up, laughed heartily, spotted many distant shapes and shared his stories of travels and wild animals: 'I see leopard this tree; this one, that one too.'
- 5) Sri Lanka Junglefowl cocks trotting on pencil-thin legs along the road. Stunning!
- 6) Our first Leopard (third Leopard for one lucky jeep!), dozing in a tree. Not the best of views but, as Leopards always are, heart-breakingly beautiful and, a bonus for us, seen by our whole group.
- 7) A second Leopard, also seen by the whole group; the leopard to end all leopards. For an hour and a half a sturdy male sat close to us in the grass, in full view, dozing, yawning and occasionally fixing his gaze on a herd of Chital nearby. In Sri Lanka lives the subspecies *Panthera pardus kotiya*, named for the Sinhala word for a Leopard: kotiya. These Leopards are intensely marmalade-coloured, closely spotted with black, and staggeringly lovely.

When ready, our male stood up, stretched indulgently and strolled away into the bush. As with the Blue Whales, sometimes words fail.

8) The first year Crested Hawk-eagle which flew into a tree above this Leopard and the White-browed Fantail which, offended by the eagle's presence, grew so agitated it twice landed on its back!

9) A Golden Jackal having a snooze in the short grass as we drove out of the park.

10) Ruddy Mongooses scurrying past the jeep as the evening light faded.

Day 7

Saturday 10th March

Ten more things we loved about Yala today:

1) Tufted Grey Langurs, with Beckhamesque crests (circa 1994) and soot-black faces, drooping and dangling from the trees.

2) Toque Macaques, as yesterday, hearing the sound of jeeps at the lunchtime picnic spot, clambering along a branch over the river, dropping into the water to wade the final metres, and bullying tourists for their leftovers.

3) Weird-faced Great Thick-knees along the edges of the water-bodies, in company with Greenshanks, Ruddy Turnstones and Common Snipe.

4) Innumerable Orange-breasted Green-Pigeons whirring between trees. If you looked at a blueprint for a bird this colourful you would say it could never work. But it does.

5) Elephants, Elephants, Elephants; everywhere we looked, Asian Elephants. Bulls with no tusks and a bull with tusks, families of females with their young, mudbaths, scratching posts, dustbaths, wallows, little ele-infants; everywhere we looked, wonderful Elephants!

6) Two Indian Pittas having a tiff, bobbing through the bushes, flashing their celestial rumps.

7) A Mugger Crocodile grinning from every pool of warm milky-tea water.

8) Skies sliced by swifts: Crested Treeswifts (what a bird!), House Swifts and powerfully handsome Brown-backed Needletails.

9) A House Gecko in every room at our splendid lodge.

10) Oh, and our final two Leopards, at the eleventh hour. One, big-necked and broad-faced, a male, draped over the branch of a tree; the other, slender and agile, his female, bouncing through the tree around him before, getting no response, settling beside him to doze.

Long may they prowl here in Yala, these priceless cats, and all the creatures with whom they share their jungle

Day 8

Sunday 11th March

Even the best of times must come to an end and today, with Blue Whales blowing in our minds and Leopards drooped in the trees of our hearts, we drove back to Negombo in readiness for our flights the following day.

Our thanks for this wonderful tour go to all of the people who helped us along the way – in lodges, jeeps, buses and boats – and to those who love and protect the beautiful wildlife of Sri Lanka. Thanks to you all too for your delightful, witty, uncomplaining company during our week of Blue Whale and Leopard watching... Dhammi and I both hope to travel again with you soon.

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Malabar Pied Hornbill by Chris Hutchinson



Baby Elephant by Chris Hutchinson

Species List

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

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

	Common name	Scientific name	March							
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
48	Lesser Sand-Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>					✓			✓
49	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>						✓	✓	✓
50	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					✓	✓	✓	
51	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>						✓		
53	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>					✓	✓	✓	
54	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					✓	✓	✓	
55	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
56	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓	✓	✓	
57	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					✓		✓	
58	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					✓			
59	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					✓			
60	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>			✓					
61	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
62	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
63	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					✓		✓	
64	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
65	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
66	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		✓		✓				
67	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>		✓						
68	Great Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>		✓	✓	✓				
69	Bridled Tern	<i>Sterna anaethetus</i>		✓	✓	✓				
70	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
72	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Sri Lanka Hanging-Parrot	<i>Loriculus beryllinus</i>		✓						
75	Pied Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>		✓					✓	
76	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	✓	✓						
77	Blue-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>							✓	
78	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	h	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
79	Brown Fish-Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>						✓		
80	Jerdon's Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus atripennis</i>					h		h	
81	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>					✓	✓		
82	Indian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓				
83	Brown-backed Needletail	<i>Hirundapus giganteus</i>							✓	
84	Asian Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
85	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>					✓	✓	✓	
87	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>		✓						
88	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
90	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
91	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>					✓	✓	✓	
92	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
93	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>						✓	✓	
94	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>				✓				
95	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>							✓	
96	Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoeros coronatus</i>						✓	✓	
97	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
98	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>		h			h	h		

	Common name	Scientific name	March							
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
99	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>					✓	✓		
100	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>		✓						
101	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>					✓		✓	
102	Jerdon's Bush-Lark	<i>Mirafraga affinis</i>						✓	✓	
103	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>					✓		✓	
104	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	✓							
106	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
107	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
108	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pyconotus cafer</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pyconotus luteolus</i>		✓				✓	✓	
110	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>					✓	✓	✓	
111	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
112	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
113	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>		✓						
114	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>						✓	✓	
115	Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Tersiphone paradisi</i>						✓	✓	
116	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	h	✓			h	✓	✓	✓
117	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>		✓			✓			
118	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓						
119	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>		✓						
120	Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>		✓						
121	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>							✓	
122	Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
123	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
124	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
125	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris lotenius</i>	✓	✓		✓				
126	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	
127	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>					✓			
128	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	
129	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	✓					✓	✓	
130	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>							✓	
131	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
132	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
133	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
134	Southern Hill Myna	<i>Gracula indica</i>	✓							
135	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>					✓	✓		
136	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>					✓		✓	
137	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
138	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
139	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	

Mammals

142	Toque Macaque	<i>Macaca sinica</i>	✓					✓	✓	
143	Tufted Grey Langur	<i>Semnopithecus priam thersites</i>					✓	✓	✓	
144	Purple-faced Leaf-Monkey	<i>Presbytis vetulus</i>	✓							
145	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>						✓		
146	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>						✓	✓	
147	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>					✓			
148	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>						✓	✓	
149	Indian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>						✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	March							
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
150	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>					✓	✓	✓	
151	Indian Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>						✓	✓	
152	Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>						✓	✓	
153	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>						✓	✓	
154	Water Buffalo (feral)	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>						✓	✓	
155	Three-striped Palm-Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
156	Grizzled Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>						✓	✓	✓
157	Black-naped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>					✓	✓	✓	
158	Indian Flying-Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	✓							✓
159	Pygmy Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus indica</i>		✓	✓	✓				
160	Gray's Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris longirostris</i>			✓					

Reptiles

163	Chequered Keelback	<i>Xenochropis piscator</i>	✓							
164	Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>		✓						
165	Indian Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>					✓	✓	✓	
166	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>								✓
167	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
168	Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>					✓	✓	✓	
169	Indian Flapshell Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>							✓	



Toque Macaque by Anne-Marie Kalus



Great Thick-knee by Anne-Marie Kalus



Indian Monitor by Anne-Marie Kalus



Painted Stork by Mary Robins