

# Sri Lanka 5<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010

## Derek and Gillian Marsh



Chestnut-headed Bee-eater



Little Green Bee-eater

This was a return trip to Sri Lanka for us to catch up on the six endemics we missed in 2006. Back then we only did an eight-day tour, but this time we went for fourteen days. We managed to see all the six endemics we missed before: Sri Lanka Spurfowl, Serendib Scops-Owl, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush, Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush and Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler. Gillian also wanted to see two other endemics she missed last time which were the Red-faced Malkoha and Green-billed Coucal. We managed to see all the endemics this time apart from Brown-capped Babbler but we did not go out of our way to look for them as we saw them very well on our last trip. The other aim of this trip was not to charge around for a big trip list but to see all the birds well and for me to photograph them whenever possible.

We arranged our tour with A Baur and Co. and Perry (the ground agent e-mail [Perry....tourism@bours.com](mailto:Perry....tourism@bours.com)) booked all our hotels, Blue Whale trips etc. He is very efficient and did not mind us changing our plans a little after our booking. We particularly asked to have Susantha to be our driver /guide because he had been our guide in 2006 and we had become very good friends.

The basic price for the tour had hardly risen since our last trip; 80cents a mile (min 80 miles a day) plus \$18 a day for driver/guide.

### Travelling around

Travel on the roads in Sri Lanka is very slow and this should be considered when planning a tour as it can take several hours to cover short distances.

### Weather

The weather was very hot and sunny with only a couple of nights when it rained and there was only one afternoon at the end of our stay when the rain stopped us from birding.

### Hazards

We encountered no hazards with dogs etc. We did take the usual recommended malaria tablets and we were bitten quite a lot by mosquitoes at Yala. I would recommend taking leech socks to Sinharaja because I decided to take mine off after seeing no leeches but then one attached to my foot and another to my back. Neither of us suffered from 'Deli Belly' and the food was good throughout the tour.

#### Principal Places Visited

Kithugala Forest Reserve 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March  
Hotel Kithugala Rest Home

This is an area of secondary rainforest that hold many of the endemics species, and is bordered by the Kelani River. Here we saw many of our sought after birds; Serendip Scops Owl, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babbler and Sri Lanka Spurfowl. We missed the Serendip on our first evening so Susantha got up at 4.00am the next morning and found their daytime roost and returned to wake us with the good news.

Nuwara Eliya 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>  
Hotel Galway Forest Lodge

From here we visited Victoria Park, Horton Plains, Bomuruella, Hakgala Botanic Gardens, and on route to Yala Surrey Tea Plantations. Our main target birds were Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush, Kashmir Flycatcher and maybe Scaly Thrush. The first place we visited was Victoria Park where we managed to see a stunning male Kashmir Flycatcher and prolonged views of Indian Pitta. As dusk approached we went to a ravine outside of town where Susantha had seen Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush before. We saw a few Blackbirds but alas no Thrush, which meant a 4.30am start the next morning to go to Horton Plains. We arrived as the light was starting to break and just by the Park kiosk we had superb views of Eurasian Otter. We then headed straight for Arrenga pool which is the site for the Thrush. We had brief views of a male which Gillian managed to miss, so we went back up the road to where Susantha had seen them before and sure enough the bird appeared and sunned itself in the open for at least five minutes. Later that day we went to a spot outside Nuwara Eliya for Scaly Thrush and had brief and poor views of one we flushed along a forest track. Next day we managed some good birding in Hakgala Botanic Gardens.

Yala National Park 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>  
Hotel Yala Village Hotel

On route to Yala we visited Surrey Tea Plantation, Bannegamuwa Tank, Weerawila Tank, and stopped for a very good lunch at Susantha's house and met his family.

We saw some good birds at the Surrey Tea Plantation; our only Tickell's Blue Flycatcher of the trip, 2 Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters and 4 Sri Lanka Scimitar Babblers. At Bannegamuwa we managed to see some Pheasant-tailed Jacana in full breeding plumage which were much smarter than our previous sightings in Goa. At the Yala Village Hotel you have to be escorted from your accommodation to the restaurant by young lads to protect you from Leopards. The need for this seem very extreme!

We went on two birding /leopard safaris – an early morning and late afternoon; alas no leopards but a splendid Black-necked Stork which was our target bird here. Yala has a very high density of birds everywhere, both inside and outside the park. We saw many species here.

Sinharaja Rainforest, 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

Hotel, Blue Magpie Lodge

On our journey to Sinharaja we stopped at Bundala National Park and birded for a short time outside the park. Here we saw our only Greater Flamingo and Clamorous Reed Warbler. The whole area looked very good and deserved more time.

Sinharaja is said to be the last remnant of a virgin lowland rainforest in the whole of south Asia. It holds many of Sri Lanka's endemics and is one of the best places to see them. Our star bird here was prolonged views of the elusive Scaly Thrush. We also bagged other goodies such as Spot-winged Thrush, Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon, Ashy-headed Laughing Thrush, Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, Red-faced Malkoha, Green-billed Coucal, Sri Lanka Myna, Orange-billed Babbler, Sri Lanka White-eye and White-faced Starling, just to mention a few.

Galle

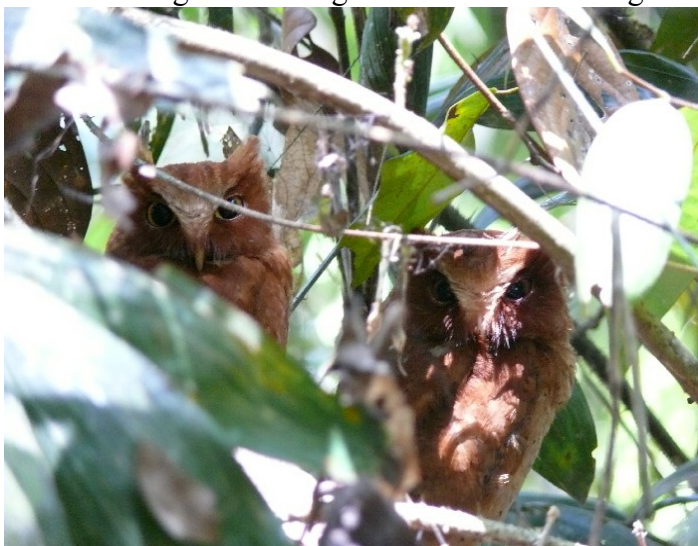
Hotel, Cloisenberg 16th-18th

We stayed here as it was quite near to Mirissa Harbour from where we went on our Blue Whale Pelagic trip. Birding around the hotel gardens was rather quiet, but good numbers of terns were seen along the beaches on our trip to Mirissa. The Blue Whale trip was one of the highlights of our tour with no less than five Blue Whales seen. We also picked up a new bird off the boat - Greater Crested Terns, and also saw a splendid Green Turtle as well as Flying Fish.

Negombo

Taj Airport Garden Hotel 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

We stayed here for our last night because of its close proximity to the airport. It is situated amongst 38 acres of coconut plantations and is next to the Negombo lagoon. The hotel is also very luxurious. We started birding on the afternoon we arrived but had to retreat to the hotel because of a heavy thunderstorm. I got up very early the next day while Gillian packed and got in a couple of hours birding around the gardens which were alive with birds. I managed to see eight Black Bitterns alongside a small ditch in the gardens.



Serindibs Scops-Owl



Crested Hawk-eagle

<b>Birds</b>	
Little Grebe	1 at Bannegamuwa tank. 10/03/10
Spot-billed Pelican	First noted Bannegamuwa tank 10/03/10; common at Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Indian Cormorant	First noted at Sinharaja, 15/03/10
Little Cormorant	Common on all wetlands visited
Oriental Darter	Fairly common with one or two seen on most wetlands.
Grey Heron	First seen near Yala 10/03/10, and seemed to be more common here.
Purple Heron	First noted Bannegamuwa tank. 10/03/10; not scarce
Great Egret	Common seen most days.
Intermediate Egret	Fairly common and seen most days
Little Egret	Common seen most days
Cattle Egret	Very common seen daily.
Indian Pond Heron	Very common seen daily.
Striated Heron	Fairly common and the odd bird seen most days
Black-crowned Night Heron	Not seen till the last day of our trip. 1 at the Taj Airport Hotel Gardens 19/3
Black Bittern	1 Taj Airport Hotel Gardens 18/3/2010; 8 seen along a ditch there early morning 19/3
Painted Stork	Common at Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Asian Openbill	First seen Kithugala Forest Reserve 07/03/10; and the odd bird seen at most wetlands
Black-necked Stork	This is a very scarce bird in Sri Lanka. One was well spotted in flight by our jeep driver at Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Lesser Adjutant	1 Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Wooly-necked Stork	First noted Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Black-headed Ibis	Common at most wetlands especially Yala National Park
Eurasian Spoonbill	12 in wetlands just outside Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Greater Flamingo	1 seen when driving past Bundala National Park 13/03/10
Lesser Whistling-Duck	2 Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Garganey	Very common at and around Yala National Park 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Oriental Honey Buzzard	First encounter at the Surrey Tea Plantations 10/03/10 and the odd bird noted when travelling around the Island
Brahminy Kite	Fairly common, 24 noted in a group soaring above the Capital Colombo on route to the Taj Airport Hotel, 18/03/10
White-bellied Fish Eagle	First noted in the high country with one soaring over Victoria Park, Nuwara Eliya 07/03/10 and easy to see around Yala National Park 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Crested Serpent Eagle	First seen on route from the airport to Kithulgala 05/03/10 and noted when travelling around the Island
Shikra	The most common Accipiter and seen on a number of days.
Black Eagle	2 over Victoria Park, Nuwara Eliya 07/03/10; 2 on route to Sinharaja, 13/03/10; also encountered when travelling around
Booted Eagle	1 over Hakgala Botanic Gardens, 09/03/10
Mountain Hawk Eagle	1 Horton Plains 08/03/10; 1 outside the reserve at Sinharaja 15/03/10
Changeable Hawk Eagle	1 just down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Peregrine	1 seen hawking on the outskirts of Bundala National Park 13/03/10
Sri Lanka Junglefowl	First seen Kithugala Forest Reserve 05/03/10; also seen at Horton Plains, Sinharaja and Yala National Park
Sri Lanka Spurfowl	A bird which is often heard but rarely seen. Heard calling at Kithugala and Sinharaja but a brief view of one at Kithugala 06/03/10
Barred Buttonquail	1 with young Yala National Park 11/03/10

Indian Peafowl	Common at and around Yala National Park 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
White-breasted Waterhen	First seen on route from the airport to Kithulgala 05/03/10 and noted most days in suitable habitats
Purple Swamphen	Fairly Common at Bannegamuwa Tank 10/03/10. Also noted around Yala 10/03/10
Common Moorhen	Not seen until the last day of our trip. 1 Taj Airport Hotel Gardens 19/03/10
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	7 Bannegamuwa Tank, 10/03/10
Pacific Golden Plover	3 just down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Grey Plover	1 just down the road to the entrance of Yala National, 12/03/10
Kentish Plover	Bird seen at and around Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March, also noted on the coast between Galle and Mirissa, 16/03/10
Lesser Sand Plover	First noted Weerawila Tank, 10/03/10; common around Yala National Park 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March. Also noted on the coast between Galle and Mirissa 16/03/10
Greater Sand Plover	Birds noted around Yala National Park 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March. Also noted on the coast between Galle and Mirissa, 16/03/10
Caspian Plover	1 noted on the coast between Galle and Mirissa, 16/03/10
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	Easily seen near and around Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Red-wattled Lapwing	Very common and vocal, seen most days in suitable habitats
Black-tailed Godwit	Birds noted Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Common Redshank	Common near and around Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Common Greenshank	First seen down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Marsh Sandpiper	The odd bird seen at Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Wood Sandpiper	First noted at Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Common Sandpiper	Up to 5 present Victoria Park Nuwara Eliya 07/03/10; Common near and around Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Ruddy Turnstone	Fairly common near and around Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Sanderling	Just one seen down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Little Stint	Fairly common near and around Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Curlew Sandpiper	Small numbers seen Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Black-winged Stilt	A common bird seen on all wetland areas
Eurasian Thick-knee	1 noted, Weerawila Tank 10/03/10
Great Thick-knee	2 just down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 10/03/10; 4, Yala National Park 11/03/10; 4 just down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Small Pratincole	2 just down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Brown-headed Gull	A few birds noted along the south coast, 16 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Gull-billed Tern	Common along the south coast, 16/3 to 17/3
Caspian Tern	Small Numbers seen along the south coast, 16 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Great Crested Tern	8+ seen on a Blue Whale trip from Mirissa Harbour 17/03/10; 2 also seen in the Harbour
Little Tern	Odd bird seen amongst Saunders Terns along the south coast, 17/03/10
Saunders Tern	Common along the south coast, 16 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Whiskered Tern	Most common Tern seen anywhere with large areas of water
White-winged Black Tern	2 Yala National Park, 12/03/10; 4 Mirissa Harbour 17/03/10
Rock Dove/ Feral Pigeon	Common throughout
Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon	2 Horton Plains, 08/03/10; 1, Sinharaja 14/03/10
Spotted Dove	Very Common, seen daily
Emerald Dove	2 Kithulgala 05/03/10; 1 Yala National Park 11/03/10; 1 outside the reserve at Sinharaja 15/03/10
Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	2 Yala National Park, 11/03/10

Pompadour Green Pigeon	4 Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Green Imperial Pigeon	1 Kithulgala 05/03/10; 3 Sinharaja 14/03/10
Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot	2 along the lane by the police station at Kithulgala 06/03/10; 2 Surrey Tea Plantations 10/03/10; 4 outside the Blue Magpie Lodge Sinharaja 14/03/10
Alexandrine Parakeet	2 Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Rose-ringed Parakeet	Common seen or heard most days
Layard's Parakeet	2 Kithulgala, 05/03/10
Pied Cuckoo	1 Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Plaintive Cuckoo	1 Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Asian Koel	Fairly common heard all over. First noted in Susantha's back garden 10/03/10 on a visit to meet his family
Red-faced Malkoha	2 Kithulgala 05/03/10; 2 Sinharaja 14/03/10
Green-billed Coucal	2 Kithulgala 05/03/10; 1 Sinharaja 14/03/10
Greater Coucal	1 Hakgala Gardens 09/03/10; 1 Taj Airport Hotel Gardens 18/03/10; 1 Taj Airport Hotel Gardens 19/03/10
Serendib Scops-owl	After missing this bird on our last trip to Sri Lanka, it was with great relief to see 2 birds at Kithulgala on 06/03/10 - a brilliant find by Susantha, our Driver/Guide, who got up at 4.00am and found them so we could see them at their daytime roost.
Collared Scops-Owl	2 at Centurian Hotel gardens near Udawalawe National Park, 13/03/10
Brown Fish Owl	1 Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Chestnut-backed Owlet	2 Kithulgala 05/03/10
Sri Lanka Frogmouth	1 young bird in nest outside the park Sinharaja 14/03/10; 1 adult bird on another nest with a young bird outside the park Sinharaja 15/03/10 and 16/03/10
Brown-backed Needletail	First noted Kithulgala 05/03/10
Indian Swiftlet	Fairly common at Bumuelia and around Nuwara Eliya, 8 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> March
Asian Palm Swift	First noted around Sinharaja, 15/03/10 and 16/03/10
Little Swift	First noted Kithulgala 05/3/10; fairly common
Crested Treeswift	First seen at Yala 11/03/10; often seen around Sinharaja 14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> March
Malabar Trogon	2 inside the Park Sinharaja 14/03/10
Pied Kingfisher	Often seen in or around Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Common Kingfisher	Common at or around Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
White-throated Kingfisher	Very common seen daily.
Little Green Bee-eater	Very common seen on most days
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	First seen at Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	First encounter at Surrey Tea Plantations 10/03/10 and the odd bird noted when around the Island, also seen at Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Indian Roller	Single birds seen scattered around Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill	1 Kithulgala 05/03/10; 1, Sinharaja 14/03/10
Malabar Pied Hornbill	2 Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Coppersmiths Barbet	First seen at Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Crimson-fronted Barbet	One of the first birds we saw, 1, Kithulgala 5/03/10
Brown-headed Barbet	First noted Sinharaja, 15/03/10
Yellow-fronted Barbet	1 Sinharaja, 15/03/10; also seen around the Blue Magpie Lodge Sinharaja 13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 3 Sinharaja rain forest 15/03/10
Lesser Yellownappe	2 Kithulgala 05/03/10; 1 Surrey Tea Plantations 10/03/10; 3 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Black-rumped Flameback	1 Kithulgala 06/03/10
Indian Pitta	2 Victoria Park, Nuwara Eliya 07/03/10
Jerdon's Bushlark	Common near and around Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March

Oriental Skylark	1 Weerawila Tank, 10/03/10
Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark	4 just down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Barn Swallow	Very common seen on most days
Hill Swallow	Seen in good numbers Horton Plains, 08/03/10
Sri Lanka Swallow	First encountered at Kithulgala 05/03/10; fairly common at and around Yala National Park 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Forest Wagtail	2 Victoria Park Nuwara Eliya 07/03/10
Grey Wagtail	First noted Kithulgala 05/03/10; 2 Victoria Park Nuwara Eliya 07/03/10
Richards Pipit	One or two seen around Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Paddyfield Pipit	Fairly common and seen most days; first noted on route to Kithulgala 05/03/10
Blyth's Pipit	1 Horton Plains, 08/03/10
Black-headed Cuckooshrike	1 Blue Magpie Lodge, Sinharaja 15/03/10
Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike	2 Hakgala Botanic Gardens 09/03/10
Small Minivet	2 Kithulgala 05/03/10; also seen at Surrey Tea Plantations 10/03/10
Flame Minivet	1 Kithulgala 06/03/10; 2 Horton Plains 08/03/10; 2 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Sri Lanka Woodshrike	1 Yala National Park, 11/03/10
Black-headed Yellow Bulbul	1 Kithulgala 05/03/10; 5 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Red-vented Bulbul	Very common seen daily
Yellow-eared Bulbul	First encountered at Victoria Park Nuwara Eliya 07/03/10; 2 Hakgala Botanic Gardens 09/03/10
White-browed Bulbul	3 Surrey Tea Plantations 10/03/10
Yellow-browed Bulbul	2 along the track by the police station Kithulgala 06/03/10; 7 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Black Bulbul	1 Kithulgala 05/03/10; 4 Hakgala Botanic Gardens 09/03/10; 5 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Common Iora	1 outside the park at Yala 10/03/10
Marshall's Iora	2 in Scrub west of Yala 12/03/10
Brown Shrike	1 Yala National Park; 11/03/10, 2 just down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park 12/03/10
Ashy Woodswallow	One of the first birds seen when travelling from the airport to Kithulgala 05/03/10
Oriental Magpie-Robin	Common and seen most days
White-rumped Sharma	2 along the approach road to the Yala Village Hotel 12/03/10
Pied Bushchat	Only seen at Horton Plains. 3 noted there 08/03/10
Black-backed Robin	Common in and around Yala National Park, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush	1 Arrenga pool Horton Plains 08/03/10; 1 male sunning itself about 500 metres up the road from Arrenga pool Horton Plains 08/03/10
Spot-winged Thrush	1 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10; 1 outside the park Sinharaja 15/03/10
Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush	A brief view of one flushed at dusk a Bomuruella, near where they wash the leeks just outside Nuwara Eliya 08/03/10; 1 seen very well near the research centre, Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Eurasian Blackbird	2 just outside Nuwara Eliya, 07/03/10
Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler	1 Kithulgala 06/03/10; 1 Hakgala Botanic Gardens 09/03/10; 4 Surrey Tea Plantations 10/03/10; 1 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Tawny-bellied Babbler	2 down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Dark-fronted Babbler	2 Horton Plains, 08/03/10; 2 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Orange-billed Babbler	1 Kithulgala 06/03/10; 7 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Yellow-billed Babbler	Common and seen daily
Ashy-headed Laughing-Thrush	8 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Sri Lanka Bush-Warbler	2 Horton Plains, 08/03/10

Blyth's Reed Warbler	First noted Kithulgala, 05/03/10
Clamorous Reed Warbler	1 on the outskirts of Bundala National Park, 13/03/10
Zitting Cisticola	Small numbers seen at Horton Plains, 08/03/10
Plain Prinia	1 down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10; 3 at the Taj Airport Hotel Gardens 19/03/10
Ashy Prinia	1 Horton Plains, 08/03/10;
Common Tailorbird	First noted Victoria Park, Nuwara Eliya 07/03/10; 2 near Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Bright-Green Warbler	1 Arrenga pool Horton Plains, 08/03/10
Large-billed Leaf-Warbler	1 Kithulgala 06/03/10
Asian Paradise-flycatcher	First seen in Yala Village Hotel gardens, male white form 11/03/10; brown form noted Sinharaja 15/03/10
White-browed Fantail	1 down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	3 Hakgala Botanical Gardens 09/03/10
Kashmir Flycatcher	1 stunning male along a polluted and smelly stream, Victoria Park, Nuwara Eliya 07/03/10
Dull-blue Flycatcher	2 Horton Plains 08/03/10; 2 Hakgala Botanical Gardens 09/03/10
Brown-breasted Flycatcher	2 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	1 Surrey Tea Plantations 10/03/10
Great Tit	2 Horton Plains, 08/03/10; 2 Hakgala Botanical Gardens 09/03/10
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	2 Horton Plains, 08/03/10; 1 Hakgala Botanical Gardens 09/03/10
Purple-rumped Sunbird	Common and seen most days
Long-billed Sunbird	First seen Hakgala Botanical Gardens 09/03/10
Purple Sunbird	First noted Kithulgala 05/03/10, also noted in the Hill Country and seen around the gardens of the Closenbergh Hotel in Galle 16/03/10 and the Taj Airport Hotel Gardens 19/03/10
Pale-billed Flowerpecker	2 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
White-throated Flowerpecker	1 Kithulgala 05/03/10
Sri Lanka White-eye	1 Victoria Park, Nuwara Eliya 07/03/10; 2 Horton Plains 08/03/10; 2 Hakgala Botanical Gardens 09/03/10; 2 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
White-throated Silverbill	2, down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/3
White-rumped Munia	4 Surrey Tea Plantations 10/03/10
Scaly-breasted Munia	2 Yala National Park 11/03/10
Black-headed Munia	2 Horton Plains 08/03/10
House Sparrow	Common around populated areas
Brahminy Starling	4 down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Rosy Starling	2 near Yala National Park, 10/03/10
White-faced Starling	2 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Common Myna	Common seen most days
Sri Lanka Myna	1 Kithulgala 06/03/10; 2 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Hill Myna	1 Kithulgala 06/03/10
White-vented Drongo	Fairly common seen most days
Sri Lanka Crested Drongo	1 Kithulgala 05/03/10; 1 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Sri Lanka Blue Magpie	1 Kithulgala 06/03/10; 8 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
House Crow	Common seen daily
Large-billed Crow	Seem to be more common in the hill country. Seen most days



<b>Mammals</b>	
Indian Flying Fox	A large roost seen from the whale watching boat near Mirissa Harbour, 17/03/10
Torque Monkey	Common by the entrance Hakgala Botanical Gardens 09/03/10
Sri Lanka Grey Langur	Common at Yala National Park 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> March
Purple-faced Leaf Monkey	The highland race 'Bear' Monkey seen at Horton Plains 08/03/10; and the lowland race noted Hakgala Botanical Gardens 09/03/10
Golden Jackal	1 down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Eurasian Otter	1 in a pool by the entrance to the park at Horton Plains, 08/03/10
Indian Grey Mongoose	1 Bomuruella, 08/03/10
Ruddy Mongoose	7+ around Yala National Park, 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> March
Stripe-necked Mongoose	1 very early in the morning and seen very well between Nuwara Eliya and Horton Plains, 08/03/10
Jungle Cat	1 very lucky sighting of this very shy and timid animal near the entrance of Yala National Park, 12/03/10
Blue Whale	The Whale watching trip we went on sailing out of Mirissa Harbour, just west of Donda point, was one of the highlights of our trip. After travelling South for about 4 hours our first Blue Whale was spotted and in total we saw five of these magnificent mammals, 17/03/10.
Asian Elephant	18+ around Yala National Park, 11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Wild Boar	Very common at Yala National Park, 11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> March, and many seen scavenging at Yala Village Hotel gardens during our stay there.
Sambhur Deer	A few seen at Horton Plains, 08/03/10
Indian Muntjak	1 Bomuruella 08/03/10
Spotted Deer	Very common Yala National Park, 11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Water Buffalo	Common Yala National Park 11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>h</sup> March. A lot of feral and domesticated herds seen elsewhere.
Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel	1 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Indian Palm Squirrel	Common throughout
Layard's Striped Squirrel	1 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Dusky Striped Squirrel	1 Bomuruella 08/03/10
Black-naped Hare	Common at Horton Plains, 08/03/10; 2 down the road to the entrance of Yala National Park 12/03/10
<b>Reptiles</b>	
House Gecko	Common wherever we stayed
Black-cheek Lizard	1 Horton Plains, 08/03/10
Common Garden Lizard	1 Blue Magpie Lodge, Sinharaja 14/03/10; 2 Blue Magpie Lodge Sinharaja 15/03/10
Flapshell Terrapin	1 seen crossing the road when driving past Bundala National Park 13/03/10
Marsh Crocodile	Very common at Yala National Park, 11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Land Monitor	Common throughout, especially Yala National Park, 11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Water Monitor	2 on route from the airport to Kithulgala 05/03/10
<b>Butterflies</b>	Many seen but only a few identified
Common Birdwing	Common, Kithulgala 06/03/10; and Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Crimson Rose	Common, Kithulgala 06/03/10; and Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Blue Mormon	First seen Kithulgala 05/03/10

Common Jezebel	First seen Kithulgala 05/03/10 - good numbers seen throughout
Three-spot Grass Yellow	Common Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10 and nearby 15/03/10
Tree Nymph	Common Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
White-four Ring	1 Kithulgala 05/03/10
Plain Tiger	1 Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Great Eggfly	First seen Kithulgala 05/03/10, also noted Hakgala Botanical Gardens 09/03/10
Danaid Eggfly	First seen Kithulgala 05/03/10
Indian Red Admiral	1 Victoria Park, Nuwara Eliya 07/03/10
Common Sailor	1 Victoria Park, Nuwara Eliya 07/03/10; 1 Hakgala Botanical Gardens 09/03/10
<b>Dragonflies</b>	Many seen, only one identified
Shining Gossamerwing	1 Kithulgala 05/03/10
<b>Fish</b>	
Flying Fish	Several seen on the Whale watching trip 17/03/10
Mamba Black-barred	Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Cat Fish	Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Stone Sucker	Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10
Comb Fish	Sinharaja rain forest 14/03/10



Yellow-wattled Lapwing



Golden Jackel



Blue Whale



Last but not least our trusty guide and friend Susantha