

B2A Sri Lanka 2018 tour report. 20 February – 2 March

Participants ; Amaryllis Rice and Ann Esmas from USA

Tour leaders ; Stijn De Win and Sri Lankan guides

Kitulgala FR, Sinharaja World Heritage and Forest Reserve,
Uda Walawe NP, Yala NP, Tissa area, Surrey, Nuwara Eliya, Horton Plains

This file contains our tour bird and mammal list only.
You may enjoy our full trip report incl. plenty photos and some impressions of
the great atmosphere and superb places visited on our website at;
<http://www.birding2asia.com/tours/reports/SriLanka18.html>

*Quick note of highlights; All **endemics** seen + many top species like Pied Thrush, Indian Pitta, Woolly-necked Stork, Slaty-legged Crake, Great Thick-knee, Alexandrine Parakeet, Brown Fish Owl and Brown Wood Owl, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Malabar Trogon, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Marshall's Iora, Kashmir Flycatcher... + two unexpected finds; Citrine Wagtail (scarce winterer) and the first Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush for Sri Lanka. And the two top-mammals; Leopard and Sloth Bear with 2 sightings.*

Little Grebe ; Few in Tissa area

Spot-billed Pelican ; Few at Uda Walawe and Tissa, 200+ breeding colony in Yala NP

Indian Cormorant ; Small numbers daily Tissa and Yala

Great Cormorant ; Only two seen, at Uda Walawe

Little Cormorant ; Common

Darter ; Regular sightings at dry zone wetlands

Grey Heron ; Few each day at Uda Walawe, Tissa and Yala

Purple Heron ; Single at Kitulgala, common dry zone wetlands ; 1 observed with huge tilapia catch

Great Egret ; Few at Tissa and Yala

Intermediate Egret ; Common throughout

Little Egret ; Fairly common throughout

Indian Pond-Heron ; Regular sightings but small numbers only

Cattle Egret ; Common

Black-crowned Night-Heron ; Singles seen at Tissa and at hotel near airport

Yellow Bittern ; 1 seen at Tissa tanks

Painted Stork ; Fair numbers in Tissa area and Yala NP

Asian Openbill ; Regular throughout except high mountains

Woolly-necked Stork ; Two at Yala NP and a single enroute Kandy to Colombo airport

Lesser Adjutant ; Only one but a brilliant close sighting, at Uda Walawe NP

Black-headed Ibis ; Small numbers in dry zone wetlands

Eurasian Spoonbill ; 50+ Tissa and Yala NP

Lesser Whistling-Duck ; Rather common in dry zone wetlands

Garganey ; Good numbers along Yala entrance road

Oriental Honey-buzzard ; Regular sightings

Black-shouldered Kite ; 3 Uda Walawe, 1 Yala

Brahminy Kite ; Fairly common

White-bellied Sea-Eagle ; Few daily dry zone but also 1 surprise sighting in the high mountains

Grey-headed Fish-Eagle ; Two sightings at Yala NP

Crested Serpent-Eagle ; Couple sightings only

Montagu's Harrier ; 1 immature at Yala NP

Shikra ; Common
Black Eagle ; 3 birds seen
Changeable Hawk-Eagle [Crested] ; Quite common throughout
Legge's [Mountain] Hawk-Eagle ; 1 brief fly-over at Surrey bird sanctuary
Ceylon Spurfowl ; Brief sighting Kitulgala, excellent views of a pair at Sinharaja, more heard
Ceylon Junglefowl ; Regular in small numbers in wet zone and mountains
Indian Peafowl ; Couple at Sinharaja, common dry zone
Barred Buttonquail ; Pair at Yala NP
Slaty-legged Crake ; Two birds at Sinharaja FR
White-breasted Waterhen ; Few in wetlands
Watercock ; Single bird found at Tissa tanks
Grey-headed Swampfen ; Common in some Tissa tanks, scarce at other wetlands
Common Moorhen ; Just two seen at Tissa
Pheasant-tailed Jacana ; Common in some Tissa tanks
Black-winged Stilt ; Small numbers Yala approach road
Eurasian Thick-knee ; 4 birds seen at Uda Walawe
Great Thick-knee ; 4 at Uda Walawe, 4 + 9 + 2 + 2 at Yala NP
Oriental Pratincole ; Just 1 bird in Yala NP
Small Pratincole ; Two in Yala NP
Yellow-wattled Lapwing ; Few sightings but 1 group of about 20 together was nice
Red-wattled Lapwing ; Regular throughout dry zone
Pacific Golden-Plover ; Small numbers Yala area
Grey Plover ; Single bird only at Yala entrance road
Little Ringed Plover ; Small numbers Yala
Kentish Plover ; Few Yala area
Lesser Sandplover ; Small numbers Yala area
Greater Sandplover ; One bird at Yala and a good find as it is scarce here
Black-tailed Godwit ; Few Yala area
Common Sandpiper ; Few throughout
Green Sandpiper ; Few at Uda Walawe and Yala
Common Greenshank ; Few Uda Walawe, single at Yala
Marsh Sandpiper ; Small numbers dry zone wetlands
Wood Sandpiper ; Fairly common
Common Redshank ; Few Yala area
Ruddy Turnstone ; two birds in Yala NP
Little Stint ; Small number Yala area
Curlew Sandpiper ; Two sightings Yala area
Little Tern ; Few Yala area
Gull-billed Tern ; Small numbers Uda Walawe, Tissa and Yala
Caspian Tern ; couple birds Tissa tanks area, 10+ Yala NP
White-winged Tern ; Small numbers Tissa and Yala area
Whiskered Tern ; Good numbers Uda Walawe, Tissa, Yala
Great Crested Tern ; Two birds at the beach on lunch stop in Yala NP
Rock Pigeon ; One sure wild bird inside Yala NP
Sri Lanka Wood-Pigeon ; We were lucky to find 1 bird perched in forest at the Surrey Bird Sanctuary
Spotted Dove ; very common
Emerald Dove ; daily sightings in wet zone forests
Orange-breasted Pigeon ; Regular daily sightings at Yala NP
Sri Lanka Green-Pigeon ; Quite a few seen at Kitulgala and Sinharaja
Green Imperial-Pigeon ; Fairly common with almost daily sightings

Alexandrine Parakeet ; 1 seen at Kitulgala, 20 at Uda Walawe was excellent for this threatened species, also 3 in Yala NP

Rose-ringed Parakeet ; Common dry zone

Plum-headed Parakeet ; 3 at Kitulgala and a few good observations at Sinharaja

Layard's Parakeet ; 3 + 2 at Kitulgala, seen daily at Sinharaja

Sri Lanka Hanging-Parrot ; common in wet zone forests

Pied (Jacobin) Cuckoo ; 2 birds seen Tissa tanks area

Indian Cuckoo ; An immature bird at Kitulgala was the only sighting

Banded Bay Cuckoo ; We found a pair perched on our way out of Sinharaja Reserve

Plaintive Cuckoo (Grey-bellied) ; Regular sightings at Yala NP

Drongo-Cuckoo ; 1 bird seen Sinharaja

Asian Koel ; Singles seen on 5 tour dates

Red-faced Malkoha ; Excellent encounter of 4 birds together at Sinharaja

Greater Coucal ; fairly common

Green-billed Coucal ; Perfect observations of 1 bird at Sinharaja, more heard also Kitulgala

Serendib Scops-Owl ; A little off trail expedition was required this time to find a roosting bird which was well hidden in foliage of a low bush. It was also good to hear one on our Kitulgala owling session because daytime sightings at Sinharaja don't feature this.

Brown Fish-Owl ; 1 daytime roost at Uda Walawe

Brown Wood-Owl ; 1 daytime roost at Surrey bird sanctuary

Chestnut-backed Owlet ; Rather perfect long looks of a pair at Kitulgala

Brown Hawk-Owl ; heard only at Kitulgala

Sri Lanka Frogmouth ; The regular pair on the roost at Sinharaja was a highlight.

Indian Nightjar ; Two birds seen from the jeep on the way in and out Yala NP

Indian Swiftlet ; common

Brown-backed Needletail ; lucky with 3 birds performing above the hotel at Kitulgala

Asian Palm-Swift ; quite common

Alpine Swift ; about 5 birds overhead at Horton Plains

Little Swift ; Noted on 4 tour days

Crested Treeswift ; almost daily sightings

Malabar Trogon ; heard at Kitulgala, at least 5 seen Sinharaja

Common Kingfisher ; regular Uda Walawe, Tissa and Yala area

Stork-billed Kingfisher ; 2 Tissa tanks

White-throated Kingfisher ; common

Pied Kingfisher ; 2 Uda Walawe, 1 Tissa

Little Green Bee-eater ; common dry zone

Blue-tailed Bee-eater ; common throughout

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater ; few both wet and dry zone forests

Indian Roller ; Surprisingly only 3 seen but 1 was showing very close at Uda Walawe

Eurasian Hoopoe ; 1 seen Yala and 1 other bird heard Yala

Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill ; small numbers Kitulgala, Sinharaja and Surrey bird sanctuary

Malabar Pied-Hornbill ; regularly encountered at Uda Walawe and Yala NP

Brown-headed Barbet ; fairly common

Yellow-fronted Barbet ; good numbers at both Kitulgala and Sinharaja

Crimson-fronted Barbet ; heard Kitulgala, 3 seen Sinharaja and 1 excellent close bird near Kandy

Coppersmith Barbet ; few Uda Walawe, Yala, Nuwara Eliya

Brown-capped Woodpecker ; a pair at nest Sinharaja, 1 Nuwara Eliya

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker ; two birds seen Yala NP

Lesser Yellownape ; heard Kitulgala, 2 birds seen well at Sinharaja

Red-backed Flameback (Lesser Sri Lanka F); fairly common

Crimson-backed Flameback (Greater SL F) ; 3 fly-over Kitulgala, 2 pairs inside Sinharaja FR, 4 males seen together edge of Sinharaja forest

Indian Pitta ; 1 Kitulgala, 1 Sinharaja, 1 Yala, 1 Surrey bird sanctuary

Jerdon's Bushlark ; common Uda Walawe and Yala

Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark ; 2 brief sightings at Yala NP

Oriental Skylark ; just 1 bird in Yala NP

Barn Swallow ; common

Hill Swallow ; Horton Plains only where fairly common

Sri Lanka Swallow ; few Kitulgala, Sinharaja area, hotel near airport...

Red-rumped Swallow ; 5 birds flying above the hotel at Uda Walawe was a surprise find

Paddyfield Pipit ; few dry zone and Horton Plains

Forest Wagtail ; 2 birds at Victoria Park in Nuwara Eliya

Yellow Wagtail ; few Uda Walawe and Yala

Grey Wagtail ; few encountered

Citrine Wagtail ; a single bird at Uda Walawe was a surprise find

Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike ; 3 at Kitulgala, 2 in Yala NP

Small Minivet ; nice flock of 20+ in Yala NP

Orange Minivet (Flame) ; regular Kitulgala and Sinharaja

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike ; few Kitulgala, Sinharaja, Surrey bird sanctuary

Black-capped Bulbul ; common Kitulgala and Sinharaja

Red-vented Bulbul ; common throughout

Yellow-eared Bulbul ; quite a few sightings Nuwara Eliya and Horton Plains NP

White-browed Bulbul ; 1 Kitulgala, 2 Sinharaja, quite few in Yala area

Yellow-browed Bulbul ; quite common Kitulgala and Sinharaja

Black Bulbul ; very common Kitulgala and Sinharaja

Jerdon's Leafbird ; a couple birds seen Kitulgala and 1 single Yala NP

Golden-fronted Leafbird ; single bird Kitulgala, 2 seen Sinharaja

Common Iora ; few Kitulgala, Sinharaja, Uda Walawe, Yala

Marshall's Iora ; a female Uda Walawe, 3 displaying males at Yala NP was nice

Sri Lanka Whistling-Thrush ; absolutely brilliant performance of a pair at Horton Plains, also a male seen briefly at a roadside stake-out near Nuwara Eliya

Pied Thrush ; 4 birds at Victoria Park took some work tracking down but a rather perfect observation in the end as we watched the birds foraging on the open ground.

Spot-winged Thrush ; two birds at Kitulgala and 2 at Sinharaja, also heard singing

Sri Lanka Thrush ; two birds first detected by sound gave brief looks at Sinharaja

Indian Blackbird ; 4 birds seen Horton Plains

Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush ; 1 showed well in the hotel grounds at Uda Walawe ; vagrant and first record for Sri Lanka (bird had been present since 22 January 2018)

Zitting Cisticola ; heard Kitulgala, seen Uda Walawe and Horton Plains

Grey-breasted Prinia ; just 1 encountered, at the beach in Yala NP

Jungle Prinia ; few Uda Walawe and Yala

Ashy Prinia ; two seen in Uda Walawe

Plain Prinia ; fairly common in dry zone

Sri Lanka Bush-Warbler ; 2 birds Horton Plains, 1 gave perfect close views in the open

Blyth's Reed-Warbler ; 1 showed well Sinharaja area, also Tissa, Nuwara Eliya area

Clamorous Reed-Warbler ; 1 at Tissa tanks

Common Tailorbird ; few Kitulgala, Sinharaja etc.

Green Warbler ; few seen Sinharaja and Horton Plains

Large-billed Leaf-Warbler ; sightings Kitulgala and Sinharaja

Asian Brown Flycatcher ; 3 single birds noted

Brown-breasted Flycatcher ; quite common in wet zone forests

Kashmir Flycatcher ; 1 immature bird at Victoria Park
Dull-blue Flycatcher ; few seen Horton Plains
Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher ; 2 seen Kitulgala, heard Sinharaja and Surrey bird sanctuary
Indian Blue Robin ; single bird Sinharaja, 1 Victoria Park, singing bird Horton Plains
Oriental Magpie-Robin ; quite common and seen daily
White-rumped Shama ; heard only Yala NP
Indian Robin ; common in dry zone
Pied Bushchat ; few at Horton Plains
White-browed Fantail ; few Uda Walawe and Yala NP
Black-naped Monarch ; few seen Sinharaja
Indian Paradise-Flycatcher ; seen regularly wet zone and Tissa ('white' males)
Sri Lanka Paradise-Flycatcher ; couple only at Sinharaja, more in Yala NP
Ashy-headed Laughingthrush ; 1 group 5+ seen at Sinharaja
Brown-capped Babbler ; 5 at Kitulgala, 2 seen Sinharaja, more heard
Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babbler ; 3 sightings at Sinharaja
Dark-fronted Babbler ; quite a few at Sinharaja
Yellow-eyed Babbler ; 1 bird seen only, at Uda Walawe
Orange-billed Babbler ; common Kitulgala and Sinharaja inside forest
Yellow-billed Babbler ; very common throughout
Cinereous Tit ; 1 Nuwara Eliya Victoria Park, 5 at Horton Plains
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch ; heard + fly-over only at Sinharaja
Purple-rumped Sunbird ; common wet zone, less so in dry zone
Purple Sunbird ; fairly common Uda Walawe and Yala NP
Long-billed Sunbird ; two sightings only, 1 en-route to Uda Walawe and 1 at Horton Plains
Thick-billed Flowerpecker ; few in Yala NP
White-throated Flowerpecker ; few sightings Sinharaja
Pale-billed Flowerpecker ; fairly common throughout
Sri Lanka White-eye ; 1 sighting Sinharaja, common Nuwara Eliya and Horton Plains
Oriental White-eye ; Kitulgala and dry zone
Black-hooded Oriole ; fairly common throughout
Brown Shrike ; small numbers throughout
Sri Lanka Woodshrike ; 2 Uda Walawe, 2 + 1 Yala NP
White-bellied Drongo ; common Kitulgala and Sinharaja area
Sri Lanka Drongo ; few daily at Kitulgala and Sinharaja
Ashy Woodswallow ; 1 sighting enroute to Kitulgala
Sri Lanka Magpie ; 1 at Kitulgala and 4 seen well Sinharaja FR, also heard forest edge
House Crow ; common
Large-billed Crow ; common
Southern Hill Myna ; 1 near Kitulgala, 5 at Surrey bird sanctuary
Sri Lanka Myna ; daily sightings of a few at both Kitulgala and Sinharaja
Common Myna ; common
White-faced Starling ; 2 birds perched high in forest along Sinharaja main track
Brahminy Starling ; 3 + 2 + 4 in Yala NP
House Sparrow ; few daily dry zone and central mountains
Streaked Weaver ; small colony in Yala NP
Baya Weaver ; Uda Walawe and Yala NP
White-rumped Munia ; common
Black-throated Munia ; single bird fly-over at Horton Plains
Scaly-breasted Munia ; fairly common
Black-headed Munia ; few Uda Walawe, Yala NP and Horton Plains

Mammals;

Asian Elephant ; good numbers at Uda Walawe and Yala NP

Toque Macaque ; Kitulgala, Sinharaja, enroute

Tufted Grey Langur ; quite a few Yala NP

Southern Purple-faced Langur ; several sightings in Sinharaja

Highland Purple-faced Langur (Bear Monkey) ; superb sighting of a small group at Horton Plains

Grizzled Giant Squirrel ; heard Kitulgala, few seen Sinharaja and single animal Horton Plains

Indian Palm Squirrel ; rather common

Layard's Palm Squirrel ; few Sinharaja

Dusky Palm Squirrel ; a couple at Sinharaja and two sightings at Horton Plains

Indian Black-naped Hare ; 2 at Yala NP

Leopard ; 1 big adult resting on a rocky outcrop in Yala NP

Ruddy Mongoose ; 5 seen total in Yala NP

Golden Jackal ; two at waterhole in Ua Walawe

Sloth Bear ; 2 brilliant sightings in Yala NP

Indian Boar ; quite common in Yala NP

Sri Lanka Yellow-striped Chevrotain (Mouse Deer) ; 1 showed only meters away at forest edge in Sinharaja

Sambar Deer ; Yala NP and Horton Plains

Chital ; Uda Walawe and Yala NP

Wild Asian Water Buffalo ; Yala NP

A few reptiles noted;

Hump-nosed Lizard

Common Skink

Green Forest Lizard

Softshell Terrapin

Marsh Crocodile (Mugger)

Water Monitor

Butterflies;

Glassy Tiger

Sri Lanka Forest Nymph

Great Crow

Sri Lanka Birdwing

Great Crow

Clipper

Common Albatros (emerging in the millions at Yala NP one morning)