

Butterfly Tour Report- October 2014



Plumbeous-Silverline



Black-Rajah



Peacock-Pansy



Gladeye-Bushbrown

Tour Leader:
Co Tour Leader / Driver:

Chamara Nuwan Munasinghe
Chaminda Dilruk

Participants:

Anthony Mundell
Patricia Mundell
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Report Compiled by:

Chamara Nuwan Munasinghe & Chaminda Dilruk

Day 1 Sunday 5th October

The group arrived at Colombo Airport after a one hour delay in the flight and left for Singharaja at 2.00 pm via the Katunayake Colombo highway and used the Kottawa Express way to Matugama planning to stop on route to see some butterflies in Kalawana. Heavy rain hampered our hopes of stopping at Kalawana even for a cup of tea; therefore we proceeded to Singharaja trying to catch a few sightings before sundown but couldn't see anything because of the rains. The rains which are not common during this period are due to the depression in the Bay of Bengal which directly affects Sri Lanka. We reached Blue Magpie Lodge at 5.00 pm and were welcomed with a hot cup of tea and got a chance of watching some birds from the Blue Magpie restaurant. Changeable Hawk Eagle, White Breasted Kingfisher, and heard many other species but was too dark to spot any. We were lucky with one butterfly the Evening Brown.

As night approached Chaminda and I started planning for the next day with the rains in mind and looked forward to an early start and fair weather.

Day 2 Monday 6th October

Second day started with heavy rains and delayed our departure to 7.00am. Although it was heavy rain we decided to proceed to Singharaja forest with picnic lunch. From the ticket counter we went to the entrance by foot as on that route we encounter the Red Helen, Sri Lanka Blue Oak Leaf (E), Gladeye Bushbrow, in very heavy rain.

We still didn't give up and proceeded to the Singharaja entrance by 8.00am and as it ceased we were able to see Sri Lanka Tree Nymph (E), Tailed Jay, The large Blue Mormon, Common Mormon, White Four Ring, Common Rose, One Spot Grass Yellow (E), Blue Glassy Tiger, Commander, Clipper, Common Evening Brown, Medus Brown, Plum Judy, Grass Demon, Blank Swift, Grey Pansy, Danaid Eggfly, Gaudy Baron, Dark-Brand Bushbrown, Chestnut Bob, Common Grass darts and Dark Palm Dart.

We also encounter the White-throated Kingfisher, Crimson back Woodpecker, Flame Minivet, Black-hooded Oriole, Sri Lanka Drongo, Sri Lanka Crested Drongo, Yellow Wagtail, Black-naped Monarch, Brown-capped Babbler, Dark-fronted babbler, Ashy-headed Laughing Thrush, Spot-winged Thrush, Oriental Magpie Robin, Legge's Flowerpecker, White-throated Flowerpecker, Red Face Malkoha, Sri Lanka Blue Magpie (E), and Chestnut Backed Owlet,

Kangaroo Lizard, Common Garden Green Lizard, Giant Milipeed, Green Vine Snake, Green Pit Viper. We also encounter the a very rare and Endemic Tree Climbing Crab (*Ceylonthelphusa Scansor*)

We returned back to the hotel at 5.00 pm in the jeep .After a good dinner we went to our rooms for a good night sleep

Day 3 Tuesday 7th October

Once again the day started with rains as we began our journey to do a bit of butterfly watching around the hotel but the weather did not permit us, therefore we left Singharaja at 8.00 am and proceeded to Kandy. We stopped en-route at a way by restaurant for a hot cup of tea where we encounter the Crimson Rose in the restaurant garden.

We reached Kandy by 2.30 pm and had a quick lunch and visited the Royal Botanical gardens in Peradeniya and we enjoyed the orchids, bamboos and other plant varieties along with common butterflies Blue Bottle, Blue Admiral, Nawab,

Other bird species we encounter are Purple Heron, Little Grebe, Little Cormorant, Alexandrine Parakeet, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Crimson-fronted Barbet, Black-rumped Flameback, Black-hooded Oriole, Sri Lanka Swallow, White-bellied Drongo, Yellow Wagtail, Yellow-billed Babbler, Lesser Hill Myna, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, and Purple-rumped Sunbird

After a buffet dinner we retired to our hotel rooms.

Day 4 Wednesday 8th October

We had an early breakfast and left to Knuckles range by 7.00 am with picnic lunch for a full day excursions of a 4 km walk where we encounter Sri Lanka Tree Brown (E), Sri Lanka Forester, Great Eggfly, Common Silverline, Slate Flash, Restricted Demon.

A number of birds were also on our list starting with Sri Lanka Spurfowl (E), Slaty breasted Rail, Rock Pigeon, Spotted Dove, Yellow –fronted Barbet (E), Black-hooded Oriole, Sri Lanka Blue Magpie (E), White-bellied Drongo, Yellow-billed Babler, Sri Lanka Hill Myna (E), Oriental Magpie Robin, Indian Blue Robin, Sri Lanka White Eye (E), Velvet-fronted Nuthatch. On our drive back from Knuckles range we managed to spot an odd shape of wings in a nearby tree which turned out to be an Indian Moon Moth or Indian Luna Moth (*Actias selene*) which not a very common sighting.

We also saw the purple faced tree monkey, Toque Macaque, Grey Langur, Grizzled Giant Squirrel. We came back to the hotel by 4.30pm as the rains increased. At 6.30 pm we went to the Temple of The Tooth and for a history tour of the temple and the Kings Palace. We returned to the hotel at 8.30 pm for dinner and called it a night.

Day 5 Thursday 9th October

After breakfast we left at 7.00am and went to Wasgamuwa via Riverstone (Cloudy forest) where we had a fantastic view of so many important butterflies which are Sri Lanka Bird Wing (E), Five bar Swordtail, Leptosianina Psyche, Jezebel, Common Albatross, Lemon Emigrant, Dark Blue Tiger, Plain Tiger, Common Tiger, Common Crow, Common Castor, Leopard, Chocolate Soldier, Common Sailor and Common Line Blue.

We arrived at the hotel at 1.30 for lunch and set off at 2.00 pm to Wasgamuwa for a Safari in a jeep where we encounter scores of butterflies on the Kara tree at the entrance of the park, out of which some were Common Crow, Jezebel and Blue Glassy Tiger. A herd of elephants with a tusker came up close to the vehicle to our surprise and was the exciting part of the day. We also encounter Indian Grey Mongoose, Ruddy Mongoose, Muntjac, Sambar, Indian Pangolin, Indian Porcupine, and Indian Hare.

We encounter many birds as well which are Jungle Bush Quail, Indian Peafowl, Painted Stork, Woolly-necked Stork, Lesser Adjutant, Black-headed Ibis, Purple Heron, Great Egret, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Indian Cormorant, Black Kite, Gray-headed Fish Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Black Eagle, Changeable Hawk Eagle, Stay-legged Crake, Slaty-breasted Rail, Purple Swamphen, Common Coot, Red-wattled lapwing, Whiskered Tern, Emerald Dove, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Greater Coucal, Green Bee-eater, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Brown Shrike, Common Lora, Large-billed Crow, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Richard's Pipit, Blyth's Pipit, Yellow-eared Bulbul (E), White-browed Bulbul, Zitting Cisticola,

We returned to the hotel at 6.00 pm and meet up for the checklist. After good Sri lankan dinner we head back to our rooms for the night.

Day 6 Friday 10th October

The next day we proceeded to Sigiriya wiuth picnic lunch and stopped in many paddy fields and places including Nawula where we encounter many new species. Common Jay, Spot Swordtail, Pioneer, Common Gull, Yellow Orange Tip, Mottled Emigrants, Common Grass Yellow, Glassy Tiger, Lemon Pansy, Blue Pansy, Peacock Pansy and Common Banded Awl.

In the evening we had a trek at the Kandalama tank bund where we had our picnic lunch and encounter many more common butterflies. We got back to the hotel by 2.30 pm. At 4.00 pm we had a walk near the hotel and once again saw many common butterflies.

The other birds and species we encounter for the day are Cotton-pygmy Goose, Northern Pintail, Asian Openbill, Indian Pond Heron, Spot-billed Pelican, Darter, Black-winged Kite, Brahminy Kite, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Sri Lanka Green Pigeon, Common Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher, Brown-headed Barbet, Jerdon's Leafbird, Common Lora, Ashy Prinia, Plain Prinia, Common Myna, Pale-billed Flowerpecker, House Sparrow, Scaly-breasted Munia, Water Monitor, Common Garden Lizard,

Day 7 Saturday 11th October

We left with picnic lunch to Ritigala for a full day excursion and trekked for 4 – 5 km to the Ritigala Archeological site where we had another encounter with very interesting new species. Banded Peacock, Lime Butterfly, Great Orange Tip, Dark Wanderer, Red-spot Duke, Centaur Oak-blue, Plumbeous Silver-line, Malayan, Lime Blue.

We had a look at the Archeological sites in Ritigala and returned back by foot on the same path. We were back in the hotel by 2.30 pm and then at 4.00 went back to the Sigiriya tanks and visited the foot of the Sigiriya rock and had a good view of some of the common species.

Birds we encounter on the way are Common Teal, White-breasted Water-hen, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Sand Martin, Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler (E),

Day 8 Sunday 12th October

After breakfast we visited Kaludiya Pokuna where we encounter new butterfly species, Black Rajah, Common Bush-brown, Indian Sunbeam, Large Oak Blue, and Bright Babul Blue and we also encounter Green Imperial Pigeon, Blue-faced Malkoha, Giant Squirrel, and Land Monitor. After lunch we drove back to the last hotel Airport Garden where we met Perry and Mukesh to greet us upon arrival. Perry had a good chat with all the participants and had a very good buffet dinner before we said good bye to all.

Day 9 Monday 13th October

After breakfast the clients were dropped at the Airport for departure and Mr./s Mundell proceeded on a private tour with Chaminda.

Species List (E) Endemic

PAPILIONIDAE

1	<i>Troidesdarsius</i>	Sri Lanka Birdwing (E)
2	<i>Pachliopta hector</i>	Crimson Rose
3	<i>Pachliopta jophon</i>	Ceylon Rose (E)
4	<i>Pachlioptaaristolochiae</i>	Common Rose
5	<i>Papiliocrino</i>	Banded Peacock
6	<i>Papiliodemoleus</i>	Lime Butterfly
7	<i>Papiliohelenus</i>	Red Helen
8	<i>Papiliopolytes</i>	Common Mormon
9	<i>Papiliopolymnestor</i>	Blue Mormon

10	<i>Graphium sarpedon</i>	Bluebottle
11	<i>Graphium doson</i>	Common Jay
12	<i>Graphium agamemnon</i>	Tailed Jay
13	<i>Graphium nomius</i>	Spot Swordtail
14	<i>Graphium antiphates</i>	Five bar Swordtail

PIERIDAE

15	<i>Leptosianina Psyche</i>	
16	<i>Delias eucharis</i>	Jezebel
17	<i>Ceporanerissa</i>	Common Gull
18	<i>Appias albino</i>	Common Albatross
19	<i>Appias galene</i>	Lesser Albatross (E)
20	<i>Ixias marianne</i>	White Orange Tip
21	<i>Ixias pyrene</i>	Yellow Orange Tip
22	<i>Hebomoia glaucippe</i>	Great Orange Tip
23	<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i>	Mottled Emigrant
24	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>	Lemon Emigrant
25	<i>Pareronia ceylanica</i>	Dark Wanderer
26	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	Common Grass Yellow
27	<i>Eurema ormistoni</i>	One-Spot Grass Yellow (E)

NYMPHALIDAE

28	<i>Idea iasonia</i>	Sri Lanka Tree Nymph (E)
29	<i>Ideopsis similis</i>	Blue Glassy Tiger
30	<i>Tirumalaseptentrionis</i>	Dark Blue Tiger
31	<i>Parantica aglea</i>	Glassy Tiger
32	<i>Parantica taprobana</i>	Sri Lanka Tiger (E)
33	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Plain Tiger
34	<i>Danaus genutia</i>	Common Tiger
35	<i>Euploea core</i>	Common Crow
36	<i>Ariadne merione</i>	Common Castor
37	<i>Cupha erymanthis</i>	Rustic
38	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>	Leopard
39	<i>Kaniskacanace</i>	Blue Admiral
40	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>	Lemon Pansy
41	<i>Junonia orithya</i>	Blue Pansy
42	<i>Junonia atlites</i>	Grey Pansy
43	<i>Junonia iphita</i>	Chocolate Soldier
44	<i>Junonia almana</i>	Peacock Pansy
45	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>	Great Eggfly
46	<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i>	Danaid Eggfly
47	<i>Kallimaphilarchus</i>	Sri Lanka Blue Oak Leaf (E)
48	<i>Neptishylas</i>	Common Sailor
49	<i>Moduraprocris</i>	Commander
50	<i>Parthenossylva</i>	Clipper
51	<i>Dophlaevelina</i>	Red spot Duke
52	<i>Euthalia lubentina</i>	Gaudy Baron
53	<i>Polyura athamas</i>	Nawab
54	<i>Charaxes solon</i>	Black Rajah
55	<i>Melanitis leda</i>	Common Evening Brown

56	<i>Lethe daretis</i>	Sri Lanka Treebrown (E)
57	<i>Lethe dynsate</i>	Sri Lanka Forester (E)
58	<i>Orsotriaenamedus</i>	Nigger
59	<i>Mycalesis mineus</i>	Dark-Brand Bushbrown
60	<i>Mycalesisperseus</i>	Common Bushbrown
61	<i>Mycalesispatnia</i>	GladeyeBushbrown
62	<i>Ypthimaceylonica</i>	White Four-ring

LYCAENIDAE

63	<i>Curetisthetis</i>	Indian Sunbeam
64	<i>Arhopalaamantes</i>	Large Oakblue
65	<i>Arhopalapseudocentaurus</i>	Centaur Oakblue
66	<i>Spindasisvulcanus</i>	Common Silverline
67	<i>Spindasischistacea</i>	PlumbeousSilverline
68	<i>Rapalamanea</i>	Slate Flash
69	<i>Prosotasnora</i>	Common Lineblue
70	<i>Zizulahlax</i>	Tiny Grass Blue
71	<i>Azanusubaldus</i>	Bright Babul Blue
72	<i>Megisbamalaya</i>	Malayan
73	<i>Chiladeslajus</i>	Lime Blue

RIODINIDAE

74	<i>Abisaraecheirus</i>	Plum Judy
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HESPERIIDAE

75	<i>Hasorachromus</i>	Common Banded Awl
76	<i>Lambrix salsala</i>	Chestnut Bob
77	<i>Udaspesfolus</i>	Grass Demon
78	<i>Notocryptacurvifascia</i>	Restricted Demon
79	<i>Taractrocera maevius</i>	Common Grass Dart
80	<i>Telicota ancilla</i>	Dark Palm Dart
81	<i>Caltoris kumara</i>	Blank Swift