

## Endemic Tour Report- March 2015



**Photo Credits:**

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**Tour Leader:**

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## Highlights

The highlight of the tour was cleaning up the 33 Endemics in 7 days and having a very light paced tour. At Nuwara Eliya we got lucky with the shy Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush on two days and at Singharaja we were able to see 8 Endemics including the elusive Scaly Thrush and the Serendib Scops Owl on the same day.

## **Day 1 Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February.**

The group met at the Airport and boarded the flight to Sri Lanka for their 10 day Endemic bird watching tour.

## **Day 2 Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

The group arrived at Colombo Airport at 12.45 pm and we left the airport at 2.00pm. En-route to Kithulgala we encounter House Crow, Spotted Dove, Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Indian Pond Heron, Spot-billed Pelican, Asian Open Bill, Common Myna and Red Vented Bulbul.

We reach Kithulgala at 4.30pm and are greeted with a hot cup of tea. After settling in we started birding around the hotel property where we encounter Black-headed Ibis, Brahminy Kite, Green Imperial Pigeon, Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Indian Swiftlet, House Swift, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, White-throated Kingfisher, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Black-hooded Oriole, White-bellied Drongo, Yellow-Billed babbler, Oriental Magpie Robin, Pale-billed Flowerpecker, Purple Sunbird and Oriental White-eye.

We come back to the hotel at 6.00pm and meet for the checklist at 7.00pm. We have dinner after the briefing for the next day.

## **Day 3 Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.**

We started the day with tea at 5.45 and head out at 6.00am for some pre-breakfast birding near the hotel. We encounter Chestnut-backed Owlet, Little Cormorant, Indian Cormorant, Black Eagle, Booted Eagle, Changeable Hawk Eagle, White-breasted Waterhen, Emerald Dove, Sri Lanka Green Pigeon, Greater Coucal, Alpine Swift, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, Lesser Yellow Nape and Black-rumped Flameback.. We return to the hotel for breakfast and then set out to the Kithulgala Makandawa forest to start the rest of the days birding.

Our journey to the forest starts with a boat trip in a narrow dugout canoe which takes us across the Kelaniya river. Once on shore we hike through a small village which leads up to the forest entrance. At the forest we encounter Common Iora, Jerdon's Leafbird, Golden-fronted Leafbird, Sri Lanka Swallow, Black Drongo, Sri Lanka Drongo, Grey Wagtail, Black-capped Bulbul, Yellow Browed Bulbul, Black Bulbul, Common Tailor Bird, Black-naped Monarch, Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Brown-capped Babbler, Orange-billed Babbler, Sri Lanka Hill Myna, Spot-winged Thrush, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Brown-breasted Flycatcher, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Purple-rumped Sunbird, Loten's Sunbird and White-rumped Munia.

We head back to the hotel at 6.15pm and meet up for the checklist at 7.00pm. After dinner the group head back to their rooms for another early start.

## **Day 4 Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.**

We started our day at 5.45 am with tea and head out for another pre-breakfast birding session. We crossed over a suspension bridge to a nearby village where we encounter Sri Lanka Jungle Fowl, Shikra, Crested Serpent Eagle, Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon, Alexandrine Parakeet, Green-billed Coucal, Scarlet Minivet, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Large-billed Crow, Paddyfield Pipit, Ashy Prinia, Greenish Warbler, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler, Dark-fronted Babbler, Dull-blue Flycatcher, Great Tit, House Sparrow and Scaly-breasted Munia.

After a very successful birding session we head back to the hotel for breakfast and leave for Nuwara Eliya at 9.45 am. Our Journey takes us through the winding roads to the central hills and the scenery changes at every bend we take. We reach our next hotel at 1.30 pm and have lunch before setting out to a nearby forest for

some more birding. We encounter Pied Bushchat, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Yellow-eared Bulbul and Sri Lanka White Eye.

We head back to the hotel at 6.00 pm and meet up for the check list for 7.00 pm. After dinner we head back to our rooms as we will be leaving for Horton Plains at 5.00 am.

## **Day 5 Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March.**

At 5.00 am after tea we left for Horton Plains. We reached Horton Plains entrance by 6.00 am and proceeded to an area outside the park to see the elusive Whistling Thrush. We also encounter Common Sandpiper, Rock Pigeon, Indian Pitta, Brown Shrike, Hill Swallow, Sri Lanka Bush Warbler, Pied Thrush, inside the park. We see some Sambhar Deer as we exit the park and on our journey back to the hotel we see the Bear Monkey.

We reached the hotel at 2.30 pm for lunch and set out again to Victoria Park at 3.30 pm where we see the Kashmir Flycatcher, Forest Wagtail, Zitting Cisticola and Indian Black Bird. We come back to the hotel at 6.00 pm and after the check list we have dinner and head to bed.

## **Day 6 Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Once again we started the day early with a pre-breakfast birding session and returned to the hotel for breakfast at 7.00am. After breakfast we checked out of the hotel and proceeded to Embilipitiya en-route stopping Surrey Estate for some birding. We reach Ella at 12.30 pm and have lunch at the picturesque Ella Motel which overlooks the mountain range of Ella.

Before reaching the hotel we stop at a tank where we encounter Indian Peafowl, Lesser-whistling Duck, Painted Stork, Woolly-necked Stork, Little Egret, Common Kestrel, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Black-winged Stilt, Red-wattled lapwing, Whiskered Tern, Collared Scops Owl, Brown Wood Owl, Asian Palm Swift, Common Kingfisher, Coppersmith Barbet, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Barn Swallow, White-browed Bulbul and Booted Warbler. We reach the hotel at 6.00 pm and meet at the restaurant at 7.00 pm and after dinner head back to our rooms.

## **Day 7 Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

At 5.30 am we left Centauria Hotel and proceed to Udawalawa National Park for a Jeep Safari. We encounter Barred Buttonquail, Grey Heron, Intermediate Egret, Great Cormorant, Darter, Black-winged Kite, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Little Tern, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Plum-headed Parakeet, Layard's Parakeet, Asian Koel, Blue-faced Malkoha, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Brown Fish Owl, Indian Roller, Green Bee-eater, Crimson-fronted barbet, Sri Lanka Woodshrike, Marshall's Iora, Yellow Wagtail, Jerdon's Bushlark, Jungle Prinia, Plain Prinia, Blyth's Reed Warbler, White-browed Fantail, Tawny-bellied Babbler, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Indian Robin and Thick-billed Flowerpecker. We had lunch in Udawalawe and left to Singharaja at 2.30 pm. By 6.30 pm we reach Singharaja and are greeted with a hot cup of tea. After checking in the group meet for the checklist at 7.00pm and conclude the day with dinner.

## **Day 7 Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

After an early breakfast at 5.30 am we leave to the Singharaja Rainforest with picnic lunch. Our journey to the entrance of the rainforest is by jeep as the roads are very steep and narrow. The walk started out with us seeing the Sri Lankan Spurfowl, Red-faced Malkoha, The famous Serendib Scops Owl, a couple of Malabar

Trogon's, Crimson-backed Goldenback, Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, Ashy-headed Laughingthrush, White-faced Starling, the elusive Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush and Legge's Flowerpecker. By the end of the day we had covered all the 33 endemics and returned to the hotel.

We returned to the hotel at 5.30 pm and met for the checklist at 7.00pm which followed by dinner.

## Day 8 Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November

Since we had covered the 33 endemics the day before the group decided to do some lite birding around the hotel. After lunch we checked out of the hotel and proceeded to Colombo. On the way we see many more birds that we had encountered during the first few days of our trip.

We reached our hotel at 5.30 pm and met for dinner at 8.00pm.

## Day 9 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November

After breakfast the group checked out in time to reach the airport for their flight.

Total number of birds seen 162

Total number endemics birds seen 33

### Bird List

	Common name
1	Barred Buttonquail
2	<b>Sri Lanka Spurfowl</b>
3	<b>Sri Lanka Junglefowl</b>
4	Indian Peafowl
5	Lesser Whistling-duck
6	Painted Stork
7	Asian Openbill
8	Woolly-necked Stork
9	Black -headed Ibis
10	Indian Pond Heron
11	Grey Heron
12	Cattle Egret
13	Great Egret
14	Intermediate Egret
15	Little Egret
16	Spot-billed Pelican

17	Little Cormorant
18	Indian Cormorant
19	Great Cormorant
20	Darter
21	Common Kestrel
22	Black-winged Kite
23	Brahminy Kite
24	White-bellied Sea Eagle, White-bellied Fish Eagle
25	Gray-headed Fish Eagle
26	Shikra
27	Crested Serpent Eagle
28	Black Eagle
29	Booted Eagle
30	Changeble Hawk Eagle
31	Mountain Hawk Eagle
32	White-breasted Waterhen
33	Pheasant-tailed Jacana
34	Black-winged Stilt
35	Red-wattled lapwing
36	Common Sandpiper
37	Little Tern
38	Whiskered Tern
39	Common Pigeon, Rock Pigeon
40	<b>Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon</b>
41	Spotted Dove
42	Emerald Dove
43	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon
44	Sri Lanka Green Pigeon
45	Green Imperial Pigeon
46	<b>Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot</b>
47	Alexandrine Parakeet

48	Rose-ringed Parakeet
49	Plum-headed Parakeet
50	<b>Layard's Parakeet</b>
51	Asian Koel
52	Blue-faced Malkoha
53	<b>Red-fased Malkoha</b>
54	Greater Coucal
55	<b>Green-billed Coucal</b>
56	Sri Lanka Frogmouth
57	<b>Serendib Scops Owl</b>
58	Collared Scops Owl
59	<b>Chestnut backed Owlet</b>
60	Brown Fish Owl
61	Brown Wood Owl
62	Indian Swiftlet
63	Asian Palm Swift
64	Alpine Swift
65	House Swift, Little Swift
66	Indian Roller
67	Green Bee-eater, Little Green Bee-eater
68	Blue-tailed Bee-eater
69	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater
70	White-throated Kingfisher
71	Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher
72	Common Kingfisher
73	Malabar Trogon
74	<b>Yellow-fronted Barbet</b>
75	<b>Crimson-fronted Barbet</b>
76	Coppersmith Barbet
77	<b>Sri lanka Grey Hornbill</b>
78	Malabar Pied Hornbill

79	Lesser Yellownape
80	Lesser Goldenback, Black-rumped Flameback
81	Crimson-backed Goldenback, Crimson-back Woodpecker
82	Indian Pitta
83	Sri Lanka Woodshrike
84	Scarlet Minivet, Flame Minivet
85	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike
86	Brown Shrike
87	Common Iora
88	Marshall's Iora
89	Jerdon's Leafbird
90	Golden-fronted Leafbird
91	Black-hooded Oriole
92	<b>Sri Lanka Blue Magpie</b>
93	House Crow
94	Large-billed Crow
95	Barn Swallow
96	Hill Swallow
97	Sri Lanka Swallow
98	Black Drongo
99	White-bellied Drongo
100	Sri Lanka Drongo, Sri Lanka Crested Drongo
101	Forest Wagtail
102	Yellow Wagtail
103	Grey Wagtail
104	Paddyfield Pipit
105	Jerdon's Bushlark
106	Black-capped Bulbul, Black-headed Yellow Bulbul
107	Red-vented Bulbul
108	<b>Yellow-eared Bulbul</b>
109	White-browed Bulbul

110	Yellow-browed Bulbul
111	Black Bulbul
112	Jungle Prinia
113	Ashy Prinia
114	Plain Prinia
115	Common Tailorbird
116	Zitting Cisticola
117	<b>Sri Lanka Bush Warbler</b>
118	Blyth's Reed Warbler
119	Booted Warbler
120	Greenish Warbler
121	Large-billed Leaf Warbler
122	White-browed Fantail
123	Black-naped Monarch
124	Asian Paradise-flycatcher
125	<b>Brown-capped Babbler</b>
126	<b>Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler</b>
127	Dark-fronted Babbler
128	Tawny-bellied Babbler
129	Yellow-eyed Babbler
130	<b>Orange-billed Babbler</b>
131	Yellow-billed Babbler
132	<b>Ashy-headed Lughingthrush</b>
133	<b>Sri Lanka Hill Myna, Sri Lanka Myna</b>
134	Common Myna
135	<b>White-faced Starling</b>
136	<b>Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush</b>
137	Pied Thrush
138	<b>Spot-winged Thrush</b>
139	<b>Sri Lanka Thrush, Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush</b>
140	Indian Blackbird



141	Oriental Magpie Robin
142	Indian Robin, Black-backed Robin
143	Pied Bushchat
144	Asian Brown Flycatcher
145	Brown-breasted Flycatcher
146	Kashmir Flycatcher
147	<b>Dull-blue Flycatcher</b>
148	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher
149	Gray-headed Canary Flycatcher
150	Thick-billed Flowerpecker
151	<b>Legge's Flowerpecker, White-throated Flowerpecker</b>
152	Pale-billed Flowerpecker
153	Purple-rumped Sunbird
154	Purple Sunbird
155	Loten's Sunbird, Long-billed Sunbird
156	Oriental White-eye
157	<b>Sri Lanka White-eye</b>
158	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch
159	Great Tit
160	House Sparrow
161	White-rumped Munia
162	Scaly-breasted Munia