### SRI LANKA - 2016

6th Nov - 19th Nov 2016

#### HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, endemic, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Ebony Gem
- Adam's Gem
- Green's Gem
- Ultima Gem
- Light-tipped Demon
- Restless Demon
- Pruinosed Bloodtail
- Brook Hooktail
- Rivulet Tiger
- Rapacious Flangetail
- Foggy-winged Twister
- Elusive Adjutant
- Black-tipped Percher
- Sapphire Flutterer
- Variegated Flutterer
- Painted Waxtail
- Yellow Waxtail
- Black-tipped Percher
- Blue Percher

- Sri Lanka Cascada
- Burmeister's Glider
- Shining Gossamerwing
- Closed-wing Reedling
- Sri Lanka Midget
- Red-striped Threadtail
- Yellow Featherleg
- Elephant Emperor
- Crimson Dropwing
- Sri Lanka Frogmouth
- Spot-winged Thrush
- Sri Lanka Spurfowl
- Slaty-legged Crake
- Collared Scops Owl
- Layard's Parakeet
- Sri Lanka Woodshrike
- Sri Lanka WoodshrikSri Lanka Swallow
- Yellow-eared Bulbul
- Jerdon's Nightjar

- Sri Lanka Wood-Pigeon
- Red-faced Malkoha
- Sri Lanka Blue Magpie
- Dull-blue Flycatcher
- Sri Lanka Junglefowl
- Sri Lanka Green Pigeon
- Malabar Pied Hornbill
- Sri Lanka Hanging-Parrot
- Sri Lanka White-Eye
- Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babbler
- Ashy-headed Laughingthrush
- Legge's Flowerpecker
- Grey-bellied Cuckoo
- Velvet-fronted Nuthatch
- Green Vine Snake
- Grey Slender Loris
- Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel
- Blue Whale
- Spinner Dolphins

#### SUMMARY:

Our first dragonfly tour was a great success, partly due to our luck with the weather and also due to the skills of Wicky and the sharp eyes of Tom Bird. We found nearly 70 species including many endemics and all species were seen well by everyone, and most of the species photographed well. Highlights included several very rarely seen species such as Ebony Gem (*Libellago corbeti*), Light-tipped Demon (*Indothemis carnatica*), Restless Demon (*Indothemis* 

limbata), Sapphire Flutterer (Rhyothemis triangularis) and Brook Hooktail (Paragomphus henryi). Other memorable sightings included the Rapacious Flangetail (Ictinogomphus rapax), Elusive Adjutant (Aethriamanta brevipennis), lots of Pruinosed Bloodtails (Lathrecista asiatica), Rivulet Tiger (Gomphidia pearsoni), Sri Lanka Cascader (Zygonyx iris ceylonicum) and the great Foggy-winged Twister (Tholymis tillarga). Our evening out near Sigiriya in search of the Grey Slender Loris was a success with great views of the third animal we found. This cute long-legged animal represents the most primitive of all primates. Before



breakfast walks and some birding in the afternoon when dragonfly activity had ceased managed to find us a good selection of species that included many endemics such as Greenbilled Coucal, a pair of Sri Lanka Frogmouth's on a day roost, Red-faced Malkohas, the elusive Slaty-legged Crake, Sri Lanka Blue Magpies, Sri Lanka Woodpigeon and even a pair of Sri Lanka Spurfowl that came to a house for scraps! We enjoyed great views of several

Indian Pittas as well as a male Kashmir Flycatcher and Orange-headed Thrush. Other memorable birds included Malabar Pied and Sri Lanka Grey Hornbills, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Sri Lanka Woodshrike and other non birding delights included Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel, Purple-faced Leaf Monkey and hundreds of Indian Flying Foxes. For those that added a few days on to go whale watching from Mirissa we had fabulous views of 3 Blue Whales and many Long-snouted Spinner Dolphins. To add to our impressive list were several reptiles and 40 species of butterfly. Wow when you add all this up I can now see why this was such a great trip.

We cannot wait to return to this fabulous island and its truly outstanding wildlife.



### Tamarind Tree Hotel - Sinharaja - 6th Nov

For those that had arrived a day earlier we all met up before breakfast and had a look at some of the birds frequenting the hotel garden. We only spent about 1 hour and saw several **Pale-billed Flowerpeckers, Asian** 

Brown Flycatcher and White-bellied Drongo perched up. In the top of a tall tree we watched both Loten's Sunbird, as well as Common Myna, House and Large-billed Crows. A Green Warbler called constantly and a pair of Common Ioras showed well, while an Asian Koel stayed half hidden in a tree. Spotted Doves and an Green Imperial Pigeon were seen well and then we headed for a great breakfast. The remaining two persons Michael and Steve then arrived from an early morning flight and we were soonpacked onto our coach and on our way to our first stop at the Thalangama wetlands not too far from Colombo. It was raing most of our journey to the wetlands but on arrival it had stopped but was still cloudy. Worried that the conditions would not be conducive to finding our first odes, we were soon pleasantly surprised when our first Orange-winged Groundlings



(*Brachythemis contaminata*) were found. We then scoped our first **Malabar Sprites** (Pseudagrion malabaricum), followed by **Asian Pintail** (Acisoma panorpoides) and some nice **Yellow Waxtails** (Ceriagrion coromandelianum). Further searching found us a **Common Bluetail**, and several male **Pied Parasols**. There were plenty of birds present with numerous **Grey-headed Swamphens**, **White-breasted Waterhens** and **Cattle**, **Little** and **Great Egrets**. **Indian Pond Herons** were everywhere and we soon spotted the first of about



6 Yellow Bitterns. Asian Palm Swifts flew around and Bluetailed Bee-eater, Black-hooded Orioles, White-throated and Common Kingfisher were all seen. We then jumped in the bus just before a heavy downpour of rain and drove the short distance to another section of wetland. We had our picnic lunch while waiting for the rain to stop which it did in about half an hour. Outside a couple Water Monitor lizards showed well and eventually the first dragonflies appeared including Asian Pintail (Acisoma panorpoides) and Malabar Sprite (Pseudagrion malabaricum). On a small stream we found female Painted Waxtail (Ceriagrion cerinorubellum), and then several Sri Lanka Orange-faced Sprites (Pseudagrion rubriceps ceylonicum). Resting in the nearby bushes were Spine-legged Redbolt (Rhodothemis rufa), and then a couple of male

**Variegated Flutterers** (Rhyothemis variegata). Tom then found our target species a beautiful stunning male **Elusive Adjitant** (Aethriamanta brevipennis).

Job done we then continued our drive to Sinharaja.

# Sínharaja 7th Nov

This morning we had an early breakfast and look around the gardens. A **Slaty-legged Crake** showed pretty well by a small stream, and **Yellow-browed** and **White-browed Bulbuls**, plus **Spotted Doves** and some



White-rumped Munias were seen. We had breakfast and then met our 2 Jeeps which took us to the ticket office for Sinharaja National Park. Here on a small pond we found Spine-tufted Skimmer (Orthetrum chrysis), Crimson Dropwing (Trithemis aurora) and 5 Keel-backed Water Snakes and a Bronze-backed Water Snake. We then drove high into the park and at halfway pond the sun was out and we made a stop soon finding several Socialble Gliders (Tramea limbata). There were lots of Scalloped Spreadwings (Lestes praemorsus) around then the first of a couple of Pale-spotted Darners (Anax guttatus) were seen. As the sun warmed up then so did the activity and we were soon seeing Indigo Dropwing (Trithemis festiva), Marsh Skimmer (Orthetrum luzonicum), Asian Skimmer (Orthetrum glaucum), Burmeister's

Glider (Tramea basilaris burmeisteri), Amber-winged Glider (Hydrobasileus croceus), Asian Pintail (Acisoma panorpoides) and a Black-tipped Percher (Diplacodes nebulosa). Moving on up we got to the entrance gate. From here we walked to the research station. Along the way we saw a group of Orange-billed Babblers and then a roosting pair of Sri Lanka Frogmouths were seen but little else until we got near the research station.

Here on a small stream we found Jungle Threadtail (Elattoneura caesia), and beside a small bridge we had Shining Gossamerwing (Euphaea splendens), Darkglittering Threadtail (Elattoneura centralis), Red-striped Threadtail (Elattoneura tenax) and unbelivably we had a male Ebony Gem (Libellago corbeti) land beside us and give brief views before it disappeared and never returned. This critically endangered endemic species has hardly ever been seen and was first identified in 2007. Walking the stream found us a Black-tipped Flashwing (Vestalis apicalis nigrescens), and a female Ebony Gem (Libellago corbeti). Several Sri Lanka Junglefowl and a Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill



were seen as we returned to the Jeeps and headed back down the mountain. At the bottom by the ticket office we found a lone **Spine-tufted Skimmer** (Orthetrum chrysis). Back for lunch then afterwrds a look on the nearby river where we found a small patch of lillies. Here we got **Sri Lanka Midget** (Mortonagrion ceylonicum), **Black-tipped Flashwing** (Vestalis apicalis nigrescens) and a female **Marsh Skimmer** (Orthetrum luzonicum). Finally a **Crested Hawk-Eagle** was seen and showed well by the lodge.

### Sínharaja - 8th Jan

This mornings pre-breakfast birding in the gardens found us **Plum-headed Parakeets**, a perched **Layard's Parakeet** and eventually a perched **Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot**. A **Ruddy Mongoose** showed and we also saw **White-browed Bulbul**, **Black-heaed Bulbuls** and some **Yellow-fronted Barbets**. After breakfast we set off up



the hill again in our jeeps to the Sinharaja Forest Reserve. We stopped by the information centre and checked out a small pond. Here we found several **Crimson Dropwings** (Trithemis aurora), lots of rare **Sapphire Flutterers** (Rhyothemis triangularis), **Spinetufted Skimmer** (Orthetrum chrysis) and plenty of **Painted Waxtails** (Ceriagrion cerinorubellum). We then had the first of three **Rapacious Flangetails** (Ictinogomphus rapax), followed by numerous **Restless Demons** (Indothemis limbata sita). From the pond we drove to the entrance gate and walked the track to the research station. A **Spot-winged Thrush** was seen well, along with a **Black-naped Monarch**. We then made our way to the small stream and waited for the sun to appear.

While waiting we found Velvet-fronted Nuthatches and an interesting black and white Indian Wolf Snake

(Lycodon aulicus). With the sun out we checked the stream and had Shining Gossamerwings (Euphaea splendens), Black-tipped Flashwing (Vestalis apicalis nigrescens), our first Two-spotted Threadtail (Elattoneura oculata), Red-striped Threadtail (Elattoneura tenax), Jungle Threadtail (Elattoneura caesia) and some Dark-glittering Threadtails (Elattoneura centralis). With little else showing we slowly reurned back to the entrance gate. A nice bird flock was a distraction and we found Orange-billed Babblers, a couple of skulky Red-faced Malkohas, Sri Lanka Drongo and Ashy-headed Laughing Thrushes, Dark-fronted Babbler and Indian Scimitar Babbler. Back near the gate we got to see a Green Vine Snake and then we had a quick picnic lunch. Walking down past several small waterfalls there was little activity so we headed for the tickert office pond. A strange



looking frog was seen along the way. No more sun so we headed back to the lodge an relaxed a while as the rains started.

#### Sínharaja - Kítulgala - 9th Nov

This morning we took an early morning visit to an area where a local man had the endemic and difficult to see **Sri Lanka Spurfowl** coming to his house. We arrived shortly after dawn with a quick stop nearby for a group of **Sri Lanka Blue Magpies** flying over. A **Greater Coucal** was seen and then we went into the house to view his feeding area. Plenty of **Sri Lanka Jungle Fowl** were already present as was a **Spot-winged Thrush** and a **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**. After about twenty minutes a pair of **Sri Lanka Surfowl** came in and fed in front of us. We also had close **Emerald Doves** and a female **Indian Blue Robin**. As we returned to the hotel we stopped for a small flock that held **Orange-billed Babblers**, **Sri Lanka Drongos**, Lesser Yellownape and

Crimson-backed Flameback. Back at the lodge we had breakfast, saw two more Lesser Yellownapes and then set off on the drive to Kitulgala. A roadside stop along the way took us to a small stream were we found Black-tipped Flashwings (Vestalis apicalis nigrescens), a Two-spotted Threadtail (Elattoneura oculata), Stripe-headed Threadtail (Prodasineura sita), several male Yellow Featherlegs (Copera marginipes),



**Pied Parasol** (Neurothemis tullia), **Wandering Glider** (Pantala flavescens), **Spine-tufted Skimmer** (Orthetrum chrysis), **Dark-glittering Threadtail** (Elattoneura centralis) and a **Green Skimmer** (Orthetrum



sabina). Continuing on we drove to Kitulgala and visited an area alongside the edge of the river where we found a couple of male **Green's Gems** (Libellago greeni), some tiny **Wandering Wisps** (Agriocnemis pygmaea) and a **Crimson Dropwing** (Trithemis aurora). We then drove the short distance to our hotel. Here we checked in and had a late lunch. A few of us took a look at the nearby river edge just after lunch but it seemed to hot and cloudy with very little flying. We did see a couple of **Green's Gems** (Libellago greeni) and then Tom found a single **Adam's Gem** (Libellago adami) which was difficult to photo as there was deep water between it and us. So we then retired to the hotel.

# Kítulgala - 10th Nov

Today we had a quick pre breakfast look around the gardens of our hotel where a fruiting tree attracted Legge's Flowerpecker, Golden-fronted Leafbirds, a Blyth's Reed Warbler, and some Orange-billed Babblers. Green Imperial Pigeons were seen perhed in a tree top, a Stork-billed Kingfisher sat on a wire overlooking the river and a couple of Brahminy Kites landed in a tree top. Out in the front of the hotel we got super views of a Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill feeding on some berries and a close Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot on a low bush. After breakfast we set off in a convoy of Tuktuks up into the hills. Eventually we arrived at our destinations beside a large waterfall. Here we walked through a tea plantation seeing Chestnut-headed

Bee-eater, Plum-headed Parakeet and Yellow-fronted Barbet until we arrived at a tiny pool that held Pink

Skimmer (Orthetrum pruinosum neglectum). The nearby stream became a hotspot of activity as we found several <u>Ultima Gems</u> (Libellago finalis), Green's Gems (Libellago greeni) and our first Sri Lanka Cascada (Zygonyx iris ceylonicum). Oriental Greenwings (Neurobasis chinensis) and Shining Gossamerwings (Euphaea splendens) were common, and we also found Indigo Dropwing (Trithemis festiva). We checked a nearby waterfall but it was quiet. As we returned Mick found a <u>Rivulet Tiger</u> (Gomphidia pearsoni) which posed nicely on a fallen log and



then Tom found a <u>Brook Hooktail</u> (Paragomphus henryi) which also showed well perched on rocks in a small stream. Finally before we left we got great looks at a **Paddyfield Parasol** (Neurothemis intermedia).





Back at a small mountain hotel set beside a waterfall we had our lunch and some cooling drinks. We then headed back to our own hotel in the late afternoon.

# Kítulgala - Newera Elíya - 11th Nov

This morning we had an early look around the hotel garden and saw pretty much the same as yestrday morning. **Oriental White-eyes, Golden-fronted Leafbirds, Blyth's Reed Warbler**, nice views of **Layard's** 

Spreadwin

Parakeet, Alexandrine Parakeets flying over and up to 10 Sri Lanka Grey Hornbills. After breakfast we set off across the river and went into the forest. An Indian Pitta showed itself before we made our way to an area of waterfalls. Here in a patch of sunlight we found several Sri Lanka Cascadas (Zygonyx iris ceylonicum) including one that perched nicely for us. There were also Spine-tufted Skimmers (Orthetrum chrysis) and Indigo Dropwings (Trithemis festiva) plus a couple of Green's Gems (Libellago greeni) perched high in a tree. Moving from here we went to an area of marshy meadow which held many Asian Pintails (Acisoma panorpoides), and Marsh Skimmers (Orthetrum luzonicum) plus lots of Painted Waxtails (Ceriagrion cerinorubellum). A single Scalloped



Eliya where it was decidedly cooler.

g (Lestes praemorsus) was found as well as a couple of Dark-glittering Threadtails (Elattoneura centralis), while Wandering Gliders (Pantala flavescens) flew around. A Chestnut-backed Owlet called from the forest as did a Crimson-backed Flameback. We returned to the river and crossed backed to the hotel hoping to find some more gems on the riverside but it was very quiet. After lunch we packed up and headed through endless tea plantations to Newera

#### Newera Eliya - 12th Nov

This morning after an early breakfast we set off to the nearby Hatgala Botanical Gardens with our fingers crossed that the sun would come out. It wasn't log before the first rays appeared and our first **Mountain Reedling** (Indolestes gracilis). Then on the first pond we had several **Red-veined Darters** (Sympetrum

fonscolombii) appear, while down on the lower pond the first of many Triangle Skimmers (Orthetrum triangulare) was seen and an Elephant Emperor (Anax indicus) showed for about 10 minutes. As we went back and forth between ponds we added a Sociable Glider (Tramea limbata), Indigo Dropwing (Trithemis festiva) and then another Elephant Emperor (Anax indicus). A small flock pf birds included Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, Greyheaded Canary Flycatcher, Dull Blue Flycatcher and Yellow-eared Bulbuls. We then drove to Victoria Park where the sun was slowly being taken over by clouds. We found lots of Common Bluetails (Ischnura senegalensis), a Sociable Glider (Tramea limbata), Mountain Reedling



(Indolestes gracilis) and a couple more **Elephant Emperors** (Anax indicus) before cloud cover made



everything disappear. An Indian Pitta showed well and then we left for lunch back at our hotel. After lunch it was too cool and cloudy for dragonflies so some of the group went to a nearby patch of woodland for some birding. We found some showy Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, a Large-billed Leaf Warbler and some Sri Lanka White eyes. Further on Wicky spotted a close Sri Lanka Woodpigeon feeding in a tree. Moving on we got great looks at a male Kashmir Flycatcher, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Forest Wagtail and a Mountain Hawk Eagle. Several Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrikes were also seen. We then returned to an area near the hotel and got some great looks at Yellow-eared Bubuls while

an **Indian Blue Robin** showed reasonably well inside a bush. Back at the hotel a **Grey-bellied Cuckoo** was

# Newera Eliya - Sigiriya 13th Nov

We departed after an early breakfast and headed north towards Sigiriya. A stop just outside Kandy beside a



flowing river produced several Adam's Gems (Libellago adami), about 10

Pruinosed Bloodtails (Lathrecista asiatica) and some Close-winged Reedlings (Indolestes divisus). Nearby some rice paddies produced Blue Persuer (Potamarcha congener) and Blue Percher (Diplacodes trivialis), plus White-tipped Spreadwing (Lestes elatus), Sociable Glider (Tramea limbata) and plenty of Wandering Gliders (Tramea limbata). Moving on we made a quick stop for some King Coconuts and in a pool beside the stall we saw Elephant Emperor (Anax indicus), while Tom was sure he spotted a

female **Light-tipped Demon** (Indothemis carnatica) but it disappeared. We then had lunch and continued on to our hotel. It was still hot out so we met up and took a walk to a nearby grassy pool. It began to rain so most of us took shelter while others hastely retreated back to the hotel. The shower stopped and we soon found **Pruinosed Bloodtail** (Lathrecista asiatica) again, plus **Blue Percher** (Diplacodes trivialis) and out on a

lily cover lake edge we got a <u>Dancing Dropwing</u> (Trithemis pallidinervis) and up to 50 Foggy-winged Twisters (Tholymis tillarga). Some Malay Lilysquaters (Paracercion malayanum) were also seen, while there were plenty of birds present with a pair of Indian Thick-knees, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Brahminy Kites, a Black Drongo and two Grey-bellied Cuckoos. As we returned several Indian Duskhawkers (Gynacantha dravida) were seen flying around.



# Sigiriya - 14th Nov

This morning we did a little birding before breakfast and near the hotel we saw several **Common Ioras**, **Ashy Prinia**, **Yellow-eyed Babblers**, an **Indian Roller** and a **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** that flew over. **Tri-coloured Munias** showed well and we found **Coppersmith Barbet** and **Brown-headed Barbet**. Further along the road



we got Brown Shrike, two Black-backed Flamebacks and lots of Zitting Cisticolas. Sri Lanka Green Pigeons were also seen. After breakfast we drove towards the famous landmark attraction of Lion Rock where we visited the surrounding moats. This area held Blue Persuers (Potamarcha congener), Orange-winged Groundlings (Brachythemis contaminata), Scarlet Basker (Urothemis signata) and surprisingly some Elusive Adjutants (Aethriamanta brevipennis). Sociable Gliders (Tramea limbata) were seen perched, and an Elephant Emperor (Anax indicus) flew around. Several Rapacious Flangetails (Ictinogomphus rapax) were seen, plus Variegated Flutterer (Rhyothemis variegata) and Oriental Scarlet (Crocothemis

servilia). Moving to a pond we found it dry but still there was **Burmiester's Glider** (Tramea basilaris burmeisteri) present. Finally on our way back toward the hotel we found male **Oriental Scarlets** (Crocothemis servilia), **Rapacious Flangetail** (Ictinogomphus rapax) and another **Burmeister's Glider** 

(Tramea basilaris burmeisteri). In the afternoon we again visited the wetlands near our hotel. Pretty much the same things were seen as before but we did get perched Foggy-winged Twister (Tholymis tillarga), while a White-bellied Sea Eagle was seen catching a fish. Some of us returned in time to set off on a drive to the Smithsonian Primate Center where we arrived shortly after dark. We met Dr Wolfgang Dittus a zoologist working with these mammals. We then walked into the forest in search of the elusive rare and primitive primate – the **Grey Slender Loris**. We had a quick glimpse as one disappeared into the trees and then an hour later another fairly quick view of one that looked at us and then also disappeared. As we were about to give up the guides found another one which gave us a fantastic show as it fed in the top of a bush. We could not get any photos as we were restricted to using red light only so as to not distress the Loris. During our search we also saw a Collared Scops Owl and a perched Jerdon's **Nightjar**. We then returned to our hotel for a late dinner.



#### Sigiriya - Colombo - 15th Nov

This morning we did a little birding before brakfast. **Indian Pitta** and **Tawny-bellied Babblers** showed well as did **Ashy Prinias**, **Coppersmith Barbets**, and **Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**. After breakfast we set off back towards Colombo. A stop at an archeological site where there was a fantasic pool revealed around 12





species including the rarely seen <u>Light-tipped Demon</u> (Indothemis carnatica), plus great views of <u>Burmeister's Glider</u> (Tramea basilaris burmeisteri), and a host of others. A large dragonfly seen flying overhead as we left was identified by photos later a <u>Blue-eyed Pondcruiser</u> (Epophthalmia vittata cyanocephala).

We then drove back towards our hotel near Colombo and stopped at a wetland but very little was seen bar a **Black Bittern**, two **Yellow Bitterns** and some **Whiskered Terns**.

#### TOUR EXTENSION:

# Tamarind Tree Hotel - Marissa - 16th Nov

This morning after breakfast those on the extension set off on the drive south to Marissa. Along the way we stopped at a couple of small ponds and walked the edges. There plenty of **Scarlet Baskers** (Urothemis signata), and **Orange-winged Groundlings** (Brachythemis contaminata), plus **Sombre Lieutenant** (Brachydiplax sobrina) and <u>Pied Parasols</u> (Neurothemis tullia). We then continued on to our beach side





hotel for lunch. Afterwards we met up and headed out to the Kirala Kela Sanctuary. The weather had clouded over as usual in the afternoon but we still walked the canal edges and looked at several large ponds. Orange-winged Groundlings (Brachythemis contaminata) were common as were Pied Parasols (Neurothemis tullia). There were also Wandering Wisps (Agriocnemis pygmaea), Asian Pintail (Acisoma panorpoides) and a Spine-legged Redbolt (Rhodothemis rufa). Out on the lake were hundreds of Lesser Whistling Ducks, along with Pintail and Garganey. A Comb-crested Duck was seen and lots of egrets, a few Purple Herons, lots of Grey-headed Swamphens and the occasional Yellow Bittern seen in flight. It then started raining so we took cover in the bus and drove alongside a stream seeing a few birds including more

Yellow Bitterns, Black-crowned Night Herons and Common Kingfisher. When the rain eventually stopped we got out and walked. A Black Bittern took flight and another two were seen later. Another 6 Yellow Bitterns were seen, Stork-billed Kingfisher, a very nice and unexpected Orange-headed Thrush, Indian Pitta, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Asian Koels, Blyth's Reed Warblers and Mick saw and photographed a Clamorous Reed Warbler. We then returned to our hotel.

# Marissa - Whale watching - 17th Feb

Those on the whale watching trip were up early and soon made our way to the harbour. Once on board our



boat we set off. It was quite quiet apart from a few **Crested Terns**. Then we foiund a group of **Long-snouted Spinner Dolphins** which put on a good show bow-riding and jumping around. We then waited and after 20 minutes a huge **Blue Whale** was seen blowing in the distance. We sailed over to where it was last seen and after a while it came to the surface and gave fabulous views. We watched this whale on and off for about and hour and then left it alone and headed back to the harbour for around lunch time. After lunch we set off on the coach to meet the other 2 who had been dragonflying in the wetlands. We went to a pond and saw **Black-tipped Perchers** (Diplacodes nebulosa) and a **Foggy-winged Twister** (Tholymis tillarga), plus many **Yellow Waxtails** (Ceriagrion coromandelianum), while Mick got his wanted **Crimson-fronted Barbet**.

# Marissa - Whale watching - Tamarind Tree Hotel - 18th Feb

This morning we embarked on our second boat trip with the same crew and same boat. We again encountered several Long-snouted Spinner Dolphins, but the highlight was seeing two close Blue Whales. An excellent end to a fabulous tour where we saw many exciting and rare dragonflies and a whole host of other wildlife.





Many thanks to all who participated in what an excellent trip to a wonderful island.

# CHECKLIST FOR SRI LANKA 6<sup>th</sup> Nov - 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016

	ngonfly SPECIES Endemic Species		Scientific Name	No of days out of 13	Highest daily
Es=	= Endemic sub species			recorded	Count
	Calopterygidae (Jewelwings)				
1	Oriental Greenwing		Neurobasis chinensis chinensis	2	10
2	Black-tipped Flashwing	Es	Vestalis apicalis nigrescens	5	6
	Chlorocyphidae (Jewels)				
3	Adam's Gem	Е	Libellago adami	2	3
4	Ebony Gem	Е	Libellago corbeti	1	2
5	Ultima Gem	Е	Libellago finalis	1	10
6	Green's Gem	Е	Libellago greeni	4	6
	Euphaeidae				
	(Gossamerwings)				
7	Shining Gossamerwing	Е	Euphaea splendens	4	20
	Lestidae (Spreadwings)				
8	White-tipped Spreadwing		Lestes elatus	1	4
9	Scalloped Spreadwing	<u> </u>	Lestes praemorsus	3	30
10	Closed-wing Reedling	Е	Indolestes divisus	1	4
11	Mountain Reedling	Es	Indolestes gracilis gracilis	1	6
	Coenagrionidae (Pond Damselflies or Bluets)				
12	Wandering Wisp		Agriocnemis pygmaea	5	4
13	Sri Lanka Midget	Е	Mortonagrion ceylonicum	1	2
14	Marsh Dancer		Onychargia atrocyana	3	2
15	Malay Lilysquatter		Paracercion malayanum	5	20+
16	Common Bluetail		Ischnura senegalensis	3	6
17	Painted Waxtail		Ceriagrion cerinorubellum	6	20+
18	Yellow Waxtail		Ceriagrion coromandelianum	6	15
19	Malabar Sprite		Pseudagrion malabaricum	5	10
20	Blue Sprite		Pseudagrion microcephalum	1	2
21	Sri Lanka Orange-faced Sprite	Es	Pseudagrion rubriceps ceylonicum	2	4
	Platycnemididae (Featherlegs)				
22	Yellow Featherleg		Copera marginipes	4	3
	Protoneuridae (Threadtails)				
23	Two-spotted Threadtail	Е	Elattoneura oculata	3	2
24	Jungle Threadtail	Е	Elattoneura caesia	5	2
25	Dark-glittering Threadtail	Е	Elattoneura centralis	5	6
27	Red-striped Threadtail	Е	Elattoneura tenax	2	3
28	Stripe-headed Threadtail	Е	Prodasineura sita	1	1
	Gomphidae (Cluibtails)				
29	Brook Hooktail	Е	Paragomphus henryi	1	1
30	Rivulet Tiger	Е	Gomphidia pearsoni	1	1
31	Rapacious Flangetail		Ictinogomphus rapax	3	3
22	Aeshnidae (Hawkers)			1	
32	Pale-spotted Emperor		Anax guttatus	3	2
33	Magnificent (Fiery) Emperor		Anax immaculifrons	1	1
34	Lesser Green (Elephant) Emperor		Anax indicus	4	4
35	Indian Duskhawker Corduliidae (Emeralds)		Gynacantha dravida	2	3
36		Ea	Epophthalmia vittata	1	1
50	Blue-eyed Pondcruiser	Es	∟ρυρπιπαιπια νιιιαία		

			cyanocephala		
	Libellulidae (Chasers)		,		
37	Sombre Lieutenant		Brachydiplax sobrina	5	10
38	Pruinosed Bloodtail		Lathrecista asiatica asiatica	1	10
39	Spine-tufted Skimmer		Orthetrum chrysis	5	8
40	Asian Skimmer		Orthetrum glaucum	3	1
41	Marsh Skimmer		Orthetrum luzonicum	7	6
42	Pink Skimmer		Orthetrum pruinosum neglectum	1	1
43	Green Skimmer		Orthetrum sabina sabina	6	1
44	Triangle Skimmer		Orthetrum triangulare triangulare	1	10
45	Blue Persuer		Potamarcha congener	2	4
46	Asian Pintail		Acisoma panorpoides	8	50+
47	Orange-winged Groundling		Brachythemis contaminata	7	20+
48	Oriental Scarlet		Crocothemis servilia servilia	2	5
49	Black-tipped Percher		Diplacodes nebulosa	2	4
50	Blue Percher		Diplacodes trivialis	2	3
51	Light-tipped Demon		Indothemis carnatica	1	3
52	Restless Demon		Indothemis limbata sita	1	10
53	Paddyfield Parasol		Neurothemis intermedia	2	1
54	Pied Parasol		Neurothemis tullia tullia	11	40+
55	Spine-legged Redbolt		Rhodothemis rufa	4	2
56	Red-veined Darter		Sympetrum fonscolombii	1	30
57	Crimson Dropwing		Trithemis aurora	4	6
58	Indigo Dropwing		Trithemis festiva	6	4
59	Dancing Dropwing		Trithemis pallidinervis	2	1
60	Sapphire Flutterer		Rhyothemis triangularis	1	12
61	Variegated Flutterer		Rhyothemis variegata variegata	6	10
62	Amber-winged Glider		Hydrobasileus croceus	2	1
63	Wandering Glider	1	Tramea limbata	10	30+
64	Burmeister's Glider		Tramea basilaris burmeisteri	3	8
65	Sociable Glider		Tramea limbata	8	10
66	Foggy-winged Twister		Tholymis tillarga	5	50+
67	Elusive Adjutant		Aethriamanta brevipennis	2	6
68	Scarlet Basker		Urothemis signata signata	3	20
69	Sri Lanka Cascader	Es	Zygonyx iris ceylonicum	2	6







Indigo Dropwing

Shining Gossermawing

Variegated Flutterer

Bir E=	d SPECIES Endemic Species		Scientific Name	No of days out of 13 recorded	Highest daily count C.= Common LC = Locally Com H.= Heard only N/C.= No count EX = Extension only
1.	Lesser Whistling Duck		Dendrocygna javanica	2	5,000 Ex
2.	Cotton Pygmy Goose		Nettapus coromandelianus	1	3
3.	Sri Lanka Spurfowl	E	Galloperdix bicalcarata	1	2
4.	Sri Lanka Junglefowl	E	Gallus lafayettii	7	6
5.	Indian Peafowl		Pavo cristatus	4	6
6.	Little Grebe		Tachybaptus ruficollis	3	3
7.	Painted Stork		Mycteria leucocephala	2	4
8.	Asian Openbill		Anastomus oscitans	6	6
9.	Black-headed Ibis		Threskiornis melanocephalus	6	12
10.	Yellow Bittern		Ixobrychus sinensis	5	10
11.	Black Bittern		Ixobrychus flavicollis	4	3
12.	Black-crowned Night Heron		Nycticorax nycticorax	3	6
13.	Striated Heron		Butorides striata	2	1
14.	Indian Pond Heron		Ardeola grayii	10	С
15.	Eastern Cattle Egret		Bubulcus coromandus	11	С
16.	Grey Heron		Ardea cinerea	4	3
17.	Purple Heron		Ardea purpurea	7	3
18.	Great Egret		Ardea alba	8	10
19.	Intermediate Egret		Egretta intermedia	3	1
20.	Little Egret		Egretta garzetta	6	30
21.	Little Cormorant		Phalacrocorax niger	6	6
22.	Indian Cormorant		Phalacrocorax fuscicollis	6	5
23.	Oriental Darter		Anhinga melanogaster	4	4
24.	Spot-billed Pelican		Pelecanus philippensis	2	20
25.	Black-winged Kite		Elanus caeruleus vociferus	1	1
26.	Crested Serpent Eagle		Spilornis cheela spilogaster	4	2
27.	Changeable Hawk Eagle		Nisaetus cirrhatus ceylanensis	3	2
28.	Legge's Hawk Eagle		Nisaetus kelaarti	1	1
29.	Black Eagle		Ictinaetus malaiensis	3	2
30.	Crested Goshawk		Accipiter trivirgatus	1	1
	Shikra		Accipiter badius	2	1
31.	Brahminy Kite		Haliastur indus	9	LC
33.	White-bellied Sea Eagle		Haliaeetus leucogaster	5	2
		-	Rallina eurizonoides	1	1
34.	Slaty-legged Crake White-breasted Waterhen	-	Amaurornis phoenicurus	9	LC
35.		-	Porphyrio poliocephalus	2	
36.	Grey-headed Swamphen		Burhinus indicus	2	40 2
37.	Indian Thick-knee		Himantopus himantopus	2	10
38.	Black-winged Stilt		Vanellus indicus	7	10
39.	Red-wattled Lapwing		Hydrophasianus chirurgus		
40.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana		Actitis hypoleucos	5	6
41.	Croon Sandpiper		Tringa ochropus	1	3
42.	Green Sandpiper	_		1	1
43.	Common Greenshank	_	Tringa nebularia	2	1
44.	Marsh Sandpiper		Tringa stagnatilis	1	1
45.	Wood Sandpiper		Tringa glareola	1	2
46.	Eurasian Curlew		Numenius arquata	1	1
47.	Pin-tailed Snipe		Gallinago stenura	1	3

48.	Gull-billed Tern		Sterna nilotica	2	N/C
49.	Whiskered Tern		Chlidonias hybridus	3	12
50.	Great Crested Tern		Sterna bergii	2	12
51.	Feral Pigeon		Columba livia domesticus	3	N/C
52.	Sri Lanka Woodpigeon	Е	Columba torringtoni	1	1
53.	Spotted Dove	+-	Streptopelia chinensis	12	C
54.	Emerald Dove		Chalcophaps indica	5	4
55.	Orange-breasted Pigeon		Treron bicincta	2	8
56.	Sri Lanka Green Pigeon	E	Treron pompadora	4	10
57.	Green Imperial Pigeon	1	Ducula aenea	6	4
58.	Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot	Е	Loriculus beryllinus	7	6
59.	Alexandrine Parakeet	+-	Psittacula eupatria	3	10
60.	Rose-ringed Parakeet		Psittacula krameri	5	10
61.	Plum-headed Parakeet		Psittacula cyanocephala	2	4
62.	Layard's Parakeet	E	Psittacula calthropae	3	4
63.	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	-	Hierococcyx varius	1	1
64.	Indian Cuckoo		Cuculus micropterus	1	1
65.	Gray-bellied Cuckoo		Cacomantis merulinus	3	2
05.			passerinus		
66.	Asian Koel		Eudynamys scolopacea	4	2
67.	Red-faced Malkoha	E	Phaenicophaeus	1	2
68.	Greater Coucal		pyrrhocephalus Centropus sinensis	6	2
	Green-billed Coucal	E	Centropus chlororhynchus	1	1
69.	Indian Scops-Owl		Otus bakkamoena	1	<u> </u>
70. 71.	Chestnut-backed Owlet	E	Glaucidium castanotum	1	Heard
72.			Batrachostomus moniliger	+	
	Sri Lanka Frogmouth		Caprimulgus atripennis	1	<u>2</u> 1
73.	Jerdon's Nightjar Asian Palm Swift		Cypsiurus balasiensis	7	20
74.	Indian Swiftlet		Aerodramus unicolor	1	4
75.	Little Swift		Apus affinis	3	10
76.	Crested Tree Swift		Hemiprocne coronata	1	
77.			Harpactes fasciatus		1
78.	Malabar Trogon		Alcedo atthis	5	2 2
79.	Common Kingfisher		Ceyx erithaca		
80.	Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher		Pelargopsis capensis	5	1
81.	Stork-billed Kingfisher		Halcyon smyrnensis	12	2 C
82.	White-throated Kingfisher		Ceryle rudis		
83.	Pied Kingfisher Croop Ros pater		Merops orientalis	2 2	2 2
84.	Green Bee-eater		Merops philippinus		
85.	Blue-tailed Bee-eater		Merops pnilippinus  Merops leschenaulti	10	10
86.	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater		Coracias benghalensis	3	2 2
87.	Indian Roller	-	Ocyceros gingalensis	1 5	
88.	Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill	E	Anthracoceros coronatus	5	10
89.	Malabar Pied Hornbill		Megalaima zeylanica	1	4
90.	Brown-headed Barbet	+	Megalaima flavifrons	5	2
91.	Yellow-fronted Barbet	E	Megalaima rubricapilla	4	1
92.	Crimson-fronted Barbet	=	malabarica	1	1
93.	Coppersmith Barbet		Megalaima haemacephala	2	2
94.	Brown-capped Pygmy		Dendrocopus nanus	2	1
	Woodpecker				
95.	Lesser Yellownape		Picus chlorolophus	1	3
96.	Black-rumped Flameback		Dinopium benghalense	3	2
97.	Crimson-backed Flameback	Е	Chrysocolaptes stricklandi	2	1
98.	Indian Pitta		Pitta brachyura	5	3

99.	Barn Swallow		Hirundo rustica	3	N/C
	Sri Lanka Swallow	Е	Hirundo hyperythra	6	2
	Paddyfield Pipit		Anthus richardi rufulus	3	1
	Forest Wagtail		Dendronanthus indicus	1	1
	Grey Wagtail		Motacilla cinerea	7	1
	Eastern Yellow Wagtail		Motacilla tschutschensis	1	1
	Sri Lanka Woodshrike	Е	Tephrodornis affinis	1	1
	Black-headed Cuckooshrike		Coracina melanoptera	3	2
107.			Pericrocotus cinnamomeus	1	4
	Orange Minivet		Pericrocotus flammeus	4	2
	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike		Hemipus picatus	1	3
	Brown Shrike		Lanius cristatus	7	4
	Black-capped Bulbul	Е	Pycnonotus melanicterus	5	4
	Red-vented Bulbul	-	Pycnonotus cafer cafer	12	C
	Yellow-eared Bulbul	Е	Pycnonotus penicillatus	2	2
	White-browed Bulbul	-	Pycnonotus luteolus insulae	4	1
	Yellow-browed Bulbul		Hypsipetes indicus	5	4
	Square-tailed Bulbul	$\vdash$	Hypsipetes ganeesa	3	2
117.	•	$\vdash$	Aegithina tiphia	4	2
118.			Chloropsis cochinchinensis	2	2
	Golden-fronted Leafbird		Chloropsis aurifrons	3	2
	Indian Blue Robin		Luscinia brunnea	3	2
	Indian Robin		Copsychus fulicatus	5	2
			Copsychus saularis	10	6
122.		E	Zoothera spiloptera	3	2
123.	<del>_</del>	_	Geokichla citrina	1	1
	Orange-headed Thrush	-	Cisticola juncidis	4	10
-	Zitting Cisticola Grey-breasted Prinia		Prinia hodgsonii leggei	1	2
	•		Prinia socialis brevicauda	2	2
127.	Plain Prinia		Prinia subflava insularis	4	2
	Common Tailorbird		Orthotomus sutorius	7	2
			Acrocephalus dumetorum	7	2
	Blyth's Reed warbler Green Warbler		Phylloscopus nitidus	7	1
131.			Phylloscopus magnirostris	3	<u>l</u> 1
	Large-billed Leaf Warbler		Acrocephalus stentoreus	1	<u> </u>
133.			Muscicapa dauurica	7	1
	Asian Brown Flycatcher	-	Muscicapa muttui	1	2
	Brown-breasted Flycatcher	1	Ficedula parva subrubra	1	1
	Kashmir Flycatcher	E	Eumyias sordida	1	1
137.			Cyornis tickelliae jerdoni	3	2
	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	1	Culicicapa ceylonensis	+	2
	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	-	Rhipidura aureola	1	3
	White-browed Fantail	╀	Hypothymis azurea	2	2
141.	Black-naped Monarch		nypotnymis azurea ceylonensis	1	1
142	Indian Paradise-flycatcher		Terpsiphone paradise	9	2
	Ashy-headed Laughingthrush	Е	Garrulax cinereifrons	1	3
144.		Ε	Pomatorhinus melanurus	1	1
	Tawny-bellied babbler	t	Dumetia hyperythra phillipsi	2	4
146.	•	1	Rhopocichla atriceps	1	2
147.		1	Chrysomma sinense nasale	2	4
	Orange-billed Babbler	Е	Turdoides rufescens	5	10
	Yellow-billed Babbler	1	Turdoides affinis taprobanus	10	20+
	Cinereous Tit	t	Parus cinereus	1	2
	Purple-rumped Sunbird	t	Leptocoma zeylonica	8	4
	•	-			

152.	Loten's Sunbird		Cinnyris lotenius	4	2
153.	Legge's Flowerpecker	Е	Dicaeum vincens	2	2
154.	Pale-billed Flowerpecker		Dicaeum erythrorhynchos ceylonese	7	4
155.	Sri Lanka White-eye	Ε	Zosterops ceylonensis	5	4
156.	Oriental White-eye		Zosterops palpebrosus	5	6
157.	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch		Sitta frontalis	2	4
158.	Black-hooded Oriole		Oriolus xanthornus ceylonensis	7	5
159.	White-bellied Drongo		Dicrurus caerulescens insularis	8	8
160.	Sri Lanka Drongo	Ε	Dicrurus lophorhinus	3	2
161.	Black Drongo		Dicrurus caerulescens	1	1
162.	Sri Lanka Blue Magpie	Е	Urocissa _alacc	2	6
163.	House Crow		Corvus splendens	7	N/C
164.	Large-billed Crow		Corvus macrorhynchos	8	N/C
165.	Southern Hill Myna		Gracula indica	1	1
166.	Common Myna		Acridotheres tristis	9	N/C
167.	House Sparrow		Passer domesticus	3	N/C
168.	White-rumped Munia		Lonchura striata	7	10
169.	Black-throated Munia		Lonchura kelaarti kelaarti	1	2
170.	Scaly-breasted Munia		Lonchura punctulata	7	6
171.	Tricolored Munia		Lonchura alacca	3	4





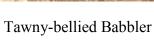


Sri Lanka Spurfowl

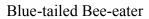
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot











Yellow Bittern

#### **OTHER WILDLIFE**

Blue Whale	3 seen well on boat trip from Marissa
Long-snouted Spinner Dolphin	Up to 20 seen on 2 days from boat trip off Marissa
Indian Elephant	Seen distantly as we drove toward the Smithsonian Primate Center
Flying Fish sp	Plenty seen from boat trip off Marissa
Giant Squirrel	Seen on 4 days, with several good views
Indian Palm Squirrel	Very common and seen on 9 days.
Purple-faced Leaf Monkey	Seen on 3 days with best views at Sinharaja.
Toque Macaque	Seen on 4 days. Good views at Sinharaja and along roadside.
Indian Elephant	Upt to 12 seen at Udawalawe.
Grey Slender Loris	3 seen with one very well at night at the Smithsonian Primate Center
Ruddy Mongoose	Seen on 3 days.
Indian Flying Fox	Seen on 4 days at various places, with one roost of 200 or more.
Land Monitor	Several seen on 4 days.
Water Monitor	Seen on 3 days.
Green Forest Lizard	Seen on 6 days
Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard	Endemic. Seen at Kitulgala.
House Gecko	Common!
Common Skink	Seen on a few days.
Giant Millipede	Several seen.
Firefly	Seen.
Keelback Water - snake sp	4 seen at Sinharaja.
Bronzeback - snake sp	5 seen at Sinharaja.
Rat Snake	A few seen
Indian Wolf Snake	This small black-and-white snake seen at Sinharaja
Green Vine Snake	2 seen well at Sinharaja
Giant Wood Spider	Many seen







Common Wolf Snake

Green Vine Snake

Green Forest Lizard







Unknown Frog - Sinharaja

#### **BUTTERFLIES**

Blue Mormon	Seen well on at least 4 days
Clipper	Seen on 1 day
Common Sailor	Seen on 2 days
Common Grass Yellow	Seen on 9 days
Common Jezabel	Seen on at least 2 days
Common Crow	Seen on at least 2 days
Southern Birdwing	This huge butterfly seen on 2 days
Psyche	Seen on 6 days
White Fore-ring	Seen on 5 days
Cruiser	Seen once
Ceylon Tree Nymph	Seen at Sinharaja on 2 days
Lemon Emigrant	Seen on 1 day
Grey Pansy	Seen on 4 days
Peacock Pansy	Seen on 1 day
Common Bluebottle	Seen on 2 days
Ceylon (Common) Rose	Seen on 1 day
Crimson Rose	Seen on 1 day
Red Helen	Seen on 1 day
Plain Tiger	Seen on 4 days
Common Tiger	Seen on 6 days
Danaid Eggfly	Seen on 1 day
Dark Cerulean	Seen on at least 2 days
Common Hedge Blue	Seen on 1 day
Hampson's Hedge Blue	Seen once
Common Palmfly	Seen once
Lime	Seen once
Medus Brown	Seen once
Tamil Yeoman	Seen once
Common Bush Brown	Seen on 1 day
Blue Glass Tiger	Seen on 3 days
Tiny Grass Blue	Seen once
Gram Blue	Seen once
Bush Hopper	Common and seen many places
Angle Castor	Seen once
Tawny Costa	Seen once
Chocolate Soldier	Seen once
Chestnut Bob	Seen once
CHICKHIAN BOO	
Red Pierot	Seen once







Asian Pintail Blue Mormon Giant Wood Spider