

ABU DHABI “Finally Gypo in the pocket”

This is a small report from a special trip to see Egyptian Nightjar (one the last “normal” occurring bird species of the UAE I did not see, on my way to Sri Lanka.



THE “Gypo” by Steve James, finally on my list!

Itinerary:

02-02 Arrived in the morning in Abu Dhabi (AD) and was picked up by local birder Steve James around 15.00 hours to bird at and around the 48+ KM south east of AB situated Al Wathba camel track.

03-02 Birded at Mushrif Palace Gardens park (MPG) in the morning and at the afternoon picked up by Steve to bird again over there and at some coastal sites of AD

04-03 Birded all day with Steve mainly at Al Ain (180 NE of AB) and on the way back at several sites also at Al Wathba Lake (AWL).

Legenda:

***AAAA** = New (Holarctic) Species (1)

AAAA = Good bird species

The Bird list

001 SAND PARTRIDGE – *ammoperdix heyi*

04-02 A total of 4 ex. seen well at Al Ain in a small group.

002 GREY FRANCOLIN – *francolinus pondicerianus*

Common in small groups all over the days.

003 EURASIAN WIGEON – *anas penelope*

04-02 about 20 birds seen on one of the reservoirs at Al Ain

004 NORTHERN SHOVELER – *anas clypeata*

The commonest duck in quite big flocks.

005 GADWALL – *anas strepera*

04-02 2 ex. at Al Ain quite a rare duck in the UAE.

006 MALLARD – *anas platyrhynchos*

Common seen all suitable habitats.

007 NORTHERN PINTAIL – *anas acuta*

A total of 50 birds mainly at Al Wathba.

008 EURASIAN TEAL - *anas crecca*

Common at all suitable places.

009 COMMON POCHARD – *aythya farina*

A little flock of 30 birds together at a waterplant near Al Ain.

010 RUDDY SHELDUCK – *tadorna ferruginea*

04-02 2 birds together at Al Wathba, a good species in the UAE.

011 SHELDUCK – *tadorna tadorna*

About 120 at Al Wathba lake.

012 LITTLE GREBE – *tachybaptus ruficollis*

Common on suitable places.

013 RED-NECKED GREBE – *podiceps grisegena*

04-02 70 ex. in two flocks at Al Wathba lake.

014 GREATER FLAMINGO – *phoeniconaias minor*

Common at Al Wathba and AB coastal area's

---- AFRICAN SACRED IBIS – *threskiornis aethiopicus*

04-02 5 birds at the Hooded Wheatear site near Al Ain, presumed introduced.

015 GLOSSY IBIS – *plegadis falcinellus*

04-02 17 ex. at a reservoir near Al Ain.

016 WESTERN CATTLE EGRET – *bubulcus ibis*

About 50 seen spread over the trip.

017 GREY HERON – *ardea cinerea*

04-02 1 ex. seen at Al Wathba lake.

018 GREAT WHITE EGRET – *egret alba*

04-02 1 ex. at Al Wathba lake.

019 WESTERN REEF EGRET – *egretta gularis*

03-02 A total of 5 seen, both white and dark birds at the coast from AD.

020 GREAT CORMORANT – *phalacrocorax carbo*

About 20 birds seen mainly at sea from AD.

021 CRESTED HONEY BUZZARD – *pernis ptilorhynchus*

03-02 2 ex., quite dark Birds, one adult and one immature at MPG, seen in flight.

022 EGYPTIAN VULTURE – *neophron percnopterus*

04-02 5 ex. seen at Jebel Hafit.

023 WESTERN MARSH HARRIER – *circus aeruginosus*

A total of 15 ex. seen spread over the trip.

024 GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE – *aquila clanga*

04-02 1 ad. sitting in a tree at Al Wathba Lake.

025 COMMON KESTREL – *falco tinnunculus*

About 5 birds seen spread over the days.

026 COMMON MOORHEN – *gallinula chloropus*

04-02 A total of 5 seen at Al Wathba Lake.

027 EURASIAN COOT – *fulica atra*

04-02 1 ex. at the Al Ain water plant.

028 PIED AVOCET – *recurvirostra avosetta*

04-02 60 ex. in one flock together at Al Wathba Lake.

029 BLACK-WINGED STILT – *himantopus himantopus*

Common on all suitable places.

030 RED-WATTLED LAPWING – *vanellus indicus*

A very common species all over the stay.

031 WHITE-TAILED LAPWING – *vanellus leucurus*

04-02 a total of 7! Birds seen very well at Al Wathba Lake.



032 PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER – *pluvialis fulva*

04-02 1 ex, in winter plumage at Al Wathba Lake.

033 COMMON RINGED PLOVER – *caradrius hiaticula*

About 20 ex at coastal area's and at Al Wathba Lake.

034 KENTISH PLOVER – *charadius alexandrinus*

Common along the coast, some very pale birds and birds with a pale lore.

035 JACK SNIPE – *limnocryptes minimus*

A total of 2 birds seen, one at Al Wathba Cameltrack in flight and a nice perched bird at the lake later on.

036 COMMON SNIPE – *gallinago gallinago*

1 seen at the camel track in flight.

037 BLACKTAILED GODWIT – *limosa limosa*

04-02 1 ex. in flight at the AW Lake.

038 WHIMBREL – *numenius phaeopus*

A total of 5 birds was seen at AD in one of the harbours.

039 EURASIAN CURLEW – *numenius arquata*

03-02 1 ex. with the Whimbrels.

040 SPOTTED REDSHANK – *tringa erythropus*

02-02 1 heard while waiting for the Gypo at Al Wathba Cameltrack.

041 COMMON REDSHANK – *tringa totanus*

A common wader mostly at Al Wathba Lake.

042 MARSH SANDPIPER – *tringa stagnatilis*

04-02 4 ex. in Total at Al Wathba Lake.

043 COMMON GREENSHANK – *tringa nebularia*

04-02 5 ex. in Total at Al Wathba Lake.

044 GREEN SANDPIPER – *tringa ochropus*

04-02 2 ex. seen on the day.

045 WOOD SANDPIPER – *tringa glareola*

04-02 2 ex. at Al Wathba Lake.

046 COMMON SANDPIPER – *actitis hypoleucos*

A Total of 3 birds seen during the stay.

047 LITTLE STINT – *calidris minuta*

The commonest wader seen at al suitable places in small flocks al in winter plumage.

048 TEMMINCK'S STINT – *calidris temminckii*

About 10 birds seen at AWL.

049 DUNLIN – *calidris alpina*

Common along the coast and AWL.

050 RUFF – *philomachus pugnax*

Common at Al Ain water plant and at AWL.

051 COMMON BLACK HEADED GULL – *croicocephalus ridibundus*

The commonest gull in the area with large flock gathering at open water places to sleep.

052 CASPIAN GULL – *larus cachinnans*

03-02 2 ex. one immature and an adult at a coastal place in AD.

053 STEPPE GULL – *larus barabensis*

03-02 1 adult seen in flight at a coastal site at AB. A rather stocky bird.

054 CASPIAN TERN – *sterna caspia*

2 birds seen spread over the trip.

055 SAUNDER'S TERN – *sternula albifrons*

03-02 10 ex., in one flock near a sandbar at AD. All in winter plumage so no real ID features seen but this is the only little tern along the coast. Little is a rare migrant.

056 WHISKERED TERN – *chlidonias hybrida*

04-02 25 birds at AWL all in winter plumage.

057 CHESNUT-BELLIED SANDGROUSE – *pterocles exustus*

04-02 5 ex, drinking in the morning at a little puddle. We hoped to see more but they did not arrive. Great flight views though.

058 ROCK DOVE – *columba livia*

04-02 10 ex. seen in the mountains of Al Ain, looking like no feral genes in them..

059 EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE – *streptopelia decaocto*

Common spread over the trip.

060 LAUGHING DOVE – *spilophelia senegalensis*

The most common dove.

---- ROSE RINGED PARAKEET – *psittacula krameri*

Quite common in AD, introduced.

----- ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET – *psittacula eupatria*

03-02 25 ex. flying in small groups to a roost in the evening at MPG.

061 EGYPTIAN NIGHTJAR – *CAPRIMULGUS AEGYPTIUS

02-02 2 ex., seen very well in the evening (after dusk) at AW Camel track. One bird was seen on the ground several times and one bird seen very well flying for 15+ minutes above some lights of an advertisement board. A pale quite unmarked bulky nightjar, with on one bird pale grey “spots” in the undertailcorners. The other bird had white throat/moustache patches, divided in two parts, seen when flying over.



One of the gypo's by Steve James.

062 COMMON SWIFT - *apus apus*

02-02 1 ex, over the camel track. Presumed to be this species. The strange thing is that there are records of Common swifts in February and then no records until April??

063 PALLID SWIFT – *apus pallidus*

A total of 25 seen in small flocks spread over the trip.

064 INDIAN ROLLER – *coracias benghalensis*

04-02 6 ex. seen at Jebel Hafit.

065 EURASIAN HOOPOE – *upupa epops*

A total of 2 ex. seen during my stay.

066 LITTLE GREEN BEE-EATER – *merops orientalis* ssp: *muscatensis*

A total of 25 seen spread over the trip.

067 DAURIAN SHRIKE – *lanius isabellinus*

2 birds in total seen during my stay, one adult male.

068 ASIAN GREY SHRIKE – *lanius lahtora* ssp: *aucheri*

02-02 1 adult at Al Wathba Camel track.

069 ASIAN GREY SHRIKE – *lanius lahtora* ssp: *pallidirostris*

02-02 2 ex. at the Al Wathba Camel track, strange to see two totally different subspecies together now considered one species....

070 ARABIAN BABBLER – *turdoides squamiceps*

04-02 1 bird flying over the road driving to Al Ain.

071 HOUSE CROW – *corvus splendens*

2 ex. seen spread over the day, not considered as an introduced species?

072 WHITE-EARED BULBUL – *pycnonotus leucotis*

Common throughout the trip.

073 WHITE-SPECTACLED BULBUL – *pycnonotus xanthopygos*

04-02 40 ex. mainly at Jebel Hafit.

---- **RED-VENTED BULBUL** – *pycnonotus cafer*

Common throughout the trip.

074 BLACK-CROWNED SPROW LARK – *eremopterix nigriceps*

04-02 a total of 20 birds in one flock (males and females) at a place where they dried grass, nice views.

075 BIMACULATED LARK – *melanocorypha leucoptera*

02-02 3 ex. at the Al Wathba Camel track, great views and a good bird in the UAE.



One of the birds photographed by Khalifa Al Dhaheer

076 CRESTED LARK – *galerida cristata*

Common spread over the visited locations.

077 EURASIAN SKYLARK – *alauda arvensis*

A total of 25 seen spread over the trip in small flocks.

078 DESERT LARK – *ammomanes deserti* ssp: *deserti*

Common in the real desert places.

079 PALE CRAG MARTIN – *ptyonoprogne obsoleta*

Quite commonly seen spread over the trip.

080 COMMON HOUSE MARTIN – *delichon urbicum*

04-02 1 ex. at Al Wathba Lake.

081 BARN SWALLOW – *hirundo rustica*

A Total of 5 seen spread over the days.

082 GRACEFUL PRINIA – *prinia gracilis*

A common bird also in the city.

083 CLAMOROUS REED WARBLER – *acrocephalus stentoreus* ssp: *brunnescens*

Common at Al Wathba Lake, seen well this time, very brown on the underparts.

084 EASTERN OLIVACEOUS WARBLER – *iduna pallida*

03-02 3 ex. in total at MPG. Seen very well, classic birds. These birds are said to belong to a resident population.

085 COMMON CHIFFCHAFF – *phylloscopus collybita*

Common winterer, al abietinus like birds.

086 PLAIN LEAF WARBLER – *phylloscopus neglectus*

04-02 1 ex. seen very well in a wadi near Jebel Hafit. Small, grey and short-tailed.

087 ASIAN DESERT WARBLER – *sylvia nana*

A total of 3 birds seen spread over the day, again often following Desert Wheatears..., great views.

088 DESERT?? LESSER WHITETHROAT – *sylvia curruca?* *halimodendri?* *minula?*

About 10 birds seen spread over the trip. All birds looked like the bird pictured and had a Bluetit like call. This particular bird was accused of being a Hume's (Lesser) White Throat by two leaders of Birdfinders on song..



Lesser Whitethroat spec, in song considered Hume's, not in my opinion

089 MENETRIES'S WARBLER – *sylvia mystacea*

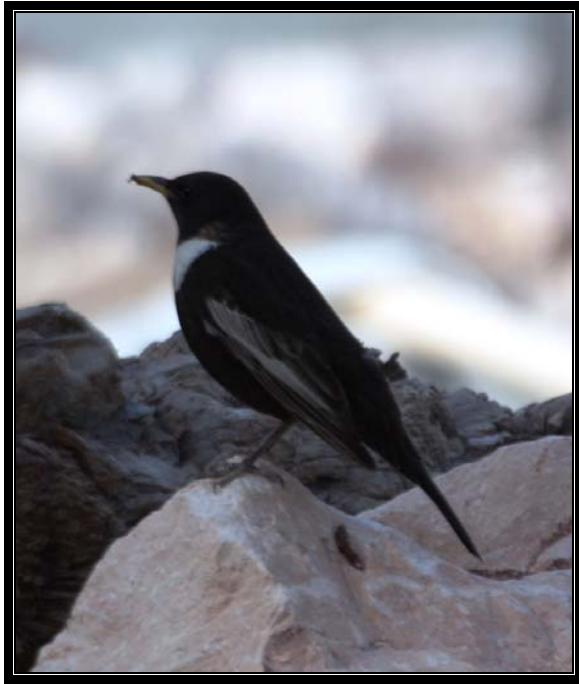
02-02 2 ex, two males, together at Al Wathba Camel track, very nice views of these males interacting, one was more adult like in plumage than the other bird.

---- COMMON MYNA – *acridotheres tristis*

Common throughout the trip, introduced.

090 RINGOUZEL – *turdus torquatus* ssp: *amicorum*

04-02 4 ex, seen at Jebel Hafit, at the top. Very striking subspecies, with the males looking like a superlative of this species.



The most striking Amicorom male by Steve James

091 BLUETHROAT – *luscinia svecica*

A total of 4 birds seen all in winter plumage so no subspecies known.

092 RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL – *tarsiger cyanurus*

03-02 1 immature male (because it song) at MPG. Seen very well, the second for the UAE (I by accident also saw the first)



The Bluetail by Khalifa Al Dhaheiri

093 BLACK REDSTART – *phoenicurus ochrurus* ssp: *semirufus*

04-02 About 10 birds seen spread over the day.

094 ISABELLINE WHEATEAR – *oenanthe isabellina*

About 10 birds seen spread over my stay.

095 HUME'S WHEATEAR – *oenanthe albonigra*

04-02 About 20 birds seen very well around Jebel Hafit. Very nice birds

096 HOODED WHEATEAR – *oenanthe monacha*

04-02 1 first year male, seen very well catching insects in flight and sitting on the rocks near Jebel Hafit. The brown wings aged this bird. This was one of my target species last seen in 1990!

097 BLUE ROCK TRUSH – *monticola solitarius*

04-02 5 birds seen spread over the day.

098 PURPLE SUNBIRD – *cinnyris asiaticus*

Common even in AD.

099 HOUSE SPARROW – passer domesticus

Common throughout, quite pale birds.

100 INDIAN SILVERBILL – lonchura malabarica

About 30 birds seen spread over the days.

101 WHITE WAGTAIL – motacilla alba

Common throughout.

102 CITRINE WAGTAIL – motacilla citreola

04-02 1 moulting male at Al Wathba Lake.

103 TAWNY PIPIT – anthus campestris

About 30 birds seen in small flocks spread over the days.

104 WATER PIPIT – anthus spinoletta ssp: coutelli

Common in small flocks throughout.

105 MEADOW PIPIT – anthus pratensis

02-02 2 ex. in a flock of Eurasian Skylarks at Al Wathba Camel track, good species in the UAE.

SRI LANKA “with a difference”

This is a small report from a special trip to see a few special Holarctic species wintering or occurring on this beautiful island.



Kashmir Flycatcher at Hakgala Gardens, a good photographic opportunity for this hyper active species.

Itinerary:

05-02 Arrived in the early morning at Colombo and went to a close hotel to fresh up and have two hours of sleep before the guide picked me up around. 9.30. Later on drove with birding stops to Sinharaja NP.

06-02 All day birding in Sinharaja.

07-02 Early morning birding at Sinharaja, later on drove to Tissa, with an afternoon birding in a jeep (and rain) at Udawalawe NP.

08-02 Morning birding at Bundala NP, and afternoon birding at several marshy places outside the park.

09-02 Drove with birding stops to Nuwara Eliya and birded there for the rest of the day.

10-02 Birded all day around Nuwara Eliya (Victoria Park several times and Hakgala Gardens).

11-02 Birded in the morning at several places at Nuwara Eliya and later on drove to the lower down Kithulgala for some late afternoon birding.

12-02 Birded in the morning at Kithulgala and drove to Colombo to fly via Abu Dhabi back home.



1. Colombo airport
2. Kitulgala - moist tropical lowlands
3. Sinharadja - moist hill region
4. Tissa + Bundala National Parks - dry climate zone
5. Nuwara Eliya highlands

See also: <http://gallicissa.blogspot.com/> and <http://dutchbirding.nl/news.php?id=523>

Legend:

***AAAA** = New (Holarctic) Species (11)

***AAAA** = New species (75)

AAAA = Good bird species

The Bird list

(Based on the latest taxonomic proposals by P.C. Rasmussen)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Little grebe | Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis | 1 bird seen in Bundala |
| *Spot-billed pelican | Pelecanus philippensis | A total of 17 birds seen in small flocks, nice spots on the upper bill |
| Little cormorant | Phalacrocorax niger | Quite commonly seen at all wet places visited (even high in the mountains) |
| Indian shag | Phalacrocorax fuscicollis | Seen in low numbers lower than Little at marshy places, nice green eye in adults. |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Great cormorant | Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis | Seen in low numbers lower than Indian at marshy places |
| Oriental darter | Anhingha melanogaster | Quite common, often solitary seen at the visited marshy places |
| Little egret | Egretta garzetta garzetta | Several birds seen at Bundala |
| Great egret | Egretta alba | Quite common |
| Intermediate egret | Egretta intermedia intermedia | One of the most common white egrets |
| Grey heron | Ardea cinerea cinerea | Several seen spread over the trip |
| Purple heron | Ardea purpurea manilensis | Several seen spread over the trip, also immature birds. |
| Eastern cattle egret | Bubulcus coromandus | A common bird throughout all in winter plumage. |
| Indian pond heron | Ardeola grayii grayii | One of the commonest herons, they are everywhere |
| Striated heron | Butorides striata javanicus | A total of 2 birds seen |
| Black-crowned night heron | Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax | A total of 3 birds seen |
| Yellow bittern | Ixobrychus sinensis | A total of 3 birds seen at two different sites. |
| *Black bittern | <u>Dupetor flavicollis flavicollis</u> | 08-02 3 birds seen very well under overhanging trees near Tissa, very nice birds. |
| Painted stork | Mycteria leucocephala | About 40 seen at three days, some very close |
| Asian openbill | Anastomus oscitans | Quite common at visited big marshy areas |
| Black-headed ibis | Threskiornis melanocephalus | Quite common seen on most days at marshy places. |
| Eurasian spoonbill | Platalea leucorodia leucorodia | 08-02 10 ex. at Bundela. |
| Lesser whistling duck | Dendrocygna javanica | The commonest duck seen daily in pairs in low wetland places, also heard whistling. |
| Garganey | Anas querquedula | A flock of 15 birds seen at Bundela, some males coming into summer plumage |
| Oriental honey-buzzard | Pernis ptilorhynchus | A total of 4 birds seen, obviously big birds. |
| Black-winged kite | Elanus caeruleus vociferus | A total of 5 birds seen (very well) at Udawalawe NP |
| *Grey-headed Fish-eagle | <u>Icthyophaga ichthyaetus</u> | 1 ex. nicely sitting in a tree at Udawalawe NP, not completely adult. |
| Brahminy kite | Haliastur indus indus | The most common raptor, seen daily in mainly adult plumage. |
| White-bellied sea-eagle | Haliaeetus leucogaster | A total of 4 birds seen spread over the trip, surprisingly also in the mountains as I know this species to be coastal. |
| Crested serpent-eagle | Spilornis cheela spilogaster | A total of 8 birds seen spread over the trip., often nicely perched. |
| *Besra | <u>Accipiter virgatus</u> | 1 ex. at Victoria Park, sitting in a tree. Dark grey upperparts, four tail bands, more bulky than Shikra. |
| Shikra | Accipiter badius badius | 1 ex. at Bundela NP, nice views, close by. |
| Rufous-bellied eagle | Hieraaetus kienerii | 09-02 1 immature (did not see the right belly) along the way into the mountains. |
| Black eagle | Ictinaetus malayensis perniger | 06-02 1 immaturish bird flying over the forest at Sinharaja, seen from the balcony! |
| Crested hawk-eagle | Spizaetus cirrhatus ceylonensis | The commonest big raptor seen al over the trip, mostly in the lowlands |
| <u>"Legge's" hawk-eagle</u> | <u>Spizaetus nipalenses kelaarti</u> | 07-02 1 immature (pale underparts) seen very well sitting in a tree at Sinharaja, an impressive raptor. |
| <u>Pallid Harrier</u> | Circus macrourus | 1 immature (almost adult but with tail bands) male sitting in a tree at Udawalawe, nice views, not common in SL |
| Common kestrel | falco tinnunculus | 07-02 1 ex. along the way. |
| Peregrine falcon (Shaheen) | falco peregrinus peregrinator | 09-02 1 seen along the way near the waterfalls in the mountains, nice views, very red belly. |

***Ceylon spurfowl**

Galloperdix bicalcarata

***Ceylon junglefowl**

Gallus lafayetii

Indian peafowl

Pavo cristatus

Barred buttonquail

Turnix suscitator leggei

***Slaty-legged crane**

Rallina eurizonoides amauroptera

White-breasted waterhen

Amauornis phoenicurus phoenicurus

Watercock

Gallicrex cinerea cinerea

Grey headed purple swamphen

Porphyrio poliocephalus

Pheasant-tailed jacana

Hydrophasianus chirurgus

Eurasian oystercatcher

Haematopus ostralegus

Black-winged stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Pacific golden plover

Pluvialis fulva

***Small pratincole**

Glareola lactea

***Great Thick-knee**

Esacus recurvirostris

***Indian stone-curlew**

Burhinus indicus

Common ringed plover

Charadrius hiaticula

Little ringed plover

Charadrius dubius curonicus

Kentish plover

Charadrius alexandrinus

Lesser sand plover

Charadrius mongolus albifrons

Greater sand plover

Charadrius leschenaultii

Yellow-wattled lapwing

Vanellus malabaricus

Red-wattled lapwing

Vanellus indicus lankae

Pintail snipe

Gallinago stenura

Eastern Black-tailed godwit

Limosa (limosa) melanuroides

Common redshank

Tringa totanus

Common greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Marsh sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

Wood sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Common sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Ruddy turnstone

Arenaria interpres interpres

Little stint

Calidris minuta

A common bird in forested area's sometimes very confiding

07-02 2 birds a pair seen very well at a spot driving down on the road from Sinharaja

Common in the lowlands, seen often perched on trees.

Seen in low numbers and in little flocks (often crossing the track) at Udawalawe good views

06-02 1 ex. The bird of the trip! Seen preening for several minutes under vegetation near a small stream. A quite big crane with a long bill and slaty grey legs, barred belly and reddish breast and head

The commonest crane seen at most (small) wet places.

08-02 1 immature or female seen at one of the "Black bittern" marshes. Mostly the head was seen sticking out.

Quite common in the lowland places

08-02 seen at many of the visited places that day also some nice males in breeding plumage.

08-02 1 ex. seen at Bundela at the fishponds, good bird on SL.

Seen on two days with the most on 08-02

08-02 60+ seen in one flock all in winter plumage at the fishponds at Bundela

08-02 a total of 6 birds seen very well on the sandy places of the fishponds at Bundela, great views also in flight

08-02 8 ex. in total often in pairs, great views (and picks)

07-02 3 ex. in a small flock along the way 08-02 2 ex. at Bundela. As Stone-curlew, with longer legs and slimmer

08-02 2 ex. at Bundela fish ponds in winter plumage

Seen in low numbers in the lowlands, mainly in Bundela

Seen in reasonable numbers in the lowlands mainly in the fishponds of Bundela

Seen in reasonable numbers in the fishponds of Bundela, all in winter plumage and not ID to species

08-02 about 15+ birds present in the fishponds of Bundela

08-02 1 ex. seen at Bundela at very close range

The commonest lapwing of the trip

08-02 3 ex. at Bundela and Tissa, also heard, like a marsh tern

08-02 quite common at Bundela

08-02 quite common at Bundela

08-02 2 ex. at Bundela fish ponds in winter plumage

08-02 quite common at Bundela

Seen in low numbers at the lowland marshes

Seen in low numbers along streams also in the mountains

08-02 3 ex at the fishponds of Bundela

08-02 The commonest stint of the day

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Temminck's stint | Calidris temminckii | 08-02 1 ex. seen very well with the Little stints at Bundela |
| Curlew sandpiper | Calidris ferruginea | 08-02 common at the fishponds of Bundela |
| <u>Broad-billed sandpiper</u> | Calidris falcinellus | 08-02 2 ex. at Bundela fish ponds in winter plumage |
| Ruff | Philomachus pugnax | 08-02 1 male in winter plumage at Bundela |
| Red-necked phalarope | Phalaropus lobatus | 08-02 a flock of 10 birds in winter plumage at Bundela fishponds |
| Brown-headed gull | Larus brunnicephalus | 08-02 quite common at Bundela all in winter plumage |
| Gull-billed tern | Gelochelidon nilotica nilotica | Seen around Bundela in small flocks in winter plumage |
| Caspian tern | Hydroprogne caspia | 08-02 20 ex., in winter plumage at Bundela |
| Great-crested tern | Thalasseus bergii | 08-02 About 250+ birds present in the fishponds of Bundela |
| Lesser crested tern | Thalasseus bengalensis | 08-02 40 ex. at Bundela at the fishponds |
| Common tern | Sterna hirundo ssp?? | 08-02 100+ ex in winter plumage at Bundela fishponds |
| Little tern | Sterna albifrons | 08-02 10 ex. at Bundela fishponds |
| Whiskered tern | Chlidonias hybrida | The commonest tern seen on the trip all in winter plumage in lowland marshes. |
| White-winged tern | Chlidonias leucopterus | 08-02 about 20 seen mixed in with the Whiskered terns at Bundela |
| *Ceylon woodpigeon | <u>Columba torringtonii</u> | 09-02 2 ex. at a private forested site on the drive to Nuwara Eliya |
| Spotted dove | Streptopelia chinensis ceylonensis | The most common dove (maybe bird) of the trip, they were everywhere. |
| Emerald dove | Chalcophaps indica robinsoni | Seen in low numbers in the forested area's, often coming near the lodges. |
| *Orange-breasted green-pigeon | <u>Treron bicinctus leggei</u> | Common in the lowlands in small flocks |
| *Ceylon green-pigeon | <u>Treron pompadora</u> | Seen in the more forested area's in the hills and highlands |
| *Green imperial-pigeon | <u>Ducula aenea pusilla</u> | Quite common in the lowland and lowland hills often heard in courtship |
| *Ceylon hanging-parrot | <u>Loriculus beryllinus</u> | Seen in low numbers in Sinharaja and Kithulgala, often found on their high pitched call |
| Alexandrine parakeet | Psittacula eupatria eupatria | A total of 29 seen during the trip, with the most at the hotel at Tissa, smaller than the introduced Abu Dhabi birds |
| Rose-ringed parakeet | Psittacula krameri millanensis | Quite commonly seen in small flocks almost daily |
| *Plum-headed parakeet | <u>Psittacula cyanocephala cyanocephala</u> | 06-02 4 x in a small flock at Sinharaja |
| *Layard's parakeet | <u>Psittacula calthropae</u> | 06-02 4 ex in a small flock at Sinharaja + 11-02 commonly seen in small flocks. |
| *Green-billed coucal | <u>Centropus chlororhynchus</u> | 11-02 2 ex. seen quite well (with the greenish bill) at Kithula |
| Greater (southern) coucal | Centropus (sinensis) paroti | Seen on four days with the most on 06-02 in the lowlands |
| *Sirkeer malkoha | <u>Taccocua leschenaultii leschenaultii</u> | 08-02 2 ex at Bundela, great birds to see |
| *Red-faced malkoha | <u>Phaenicophaeus pyrocephalus</u> | 07-02 3 ex. joining the flocks at Sinharaja + 12-02 1 ex. seen in a flock during a birding stop. |
| *Blue-faced malkoha | <u>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</u> | 08-02 1 ex. seen very well at Bundela |
| <u>Pied cuckoo</u> | <u>Clamator jacobinus jacobinus</u> | 08-02 2 ex, seen very well at Bundela, sitting close to the jeep |
| Chestnut-winged Crested Cuckoo | Clamator coromandus | 08-02 4 ex. at Bundela, seen well coming into the tape |
| Asian koel | Eudynamis scolopacea scolopacea | Quite common during the trip |
| Common Hawk Cuckoo | Hierococcyx varius cicelliae | 09-02 1 ex. at a birding stop. |

***Grey-bellied cuckoo**

Cacomantis passerinus

07-02 4 ex. seen well at Udawalawe park sitting in the low bushes, nicely showing the tail pattern + 09-02 1 ex.

***Serendib scops owl**

Otus thilohoffmanni

07-02 1 female seen calling at Sinharaja + 12-02 1 ex. sitting in a dayroost, a very nice reddish small owl.

Indian scops owl

Otus bakkamoena bakkamoena

08-02 2 seen well during a dayroost near Bundela + 11-02 1 ex. coming in to call and seen well at Kithulgala

***Brown fish-owl**

Ketupa zeylonensis zeylonensis

07-02 1 seen very well close to the jeep at Udawalawe cracking views and not as dark as I expected

Jungle Owlet

Glaucidium radiatum

09-02 4 ex, one seen very well during a birding stop.

Chestnut-backed owlet

Glaucidium castanonotum

07-02 1 ex. at Sinharaja + 12-02 2 ex. seen very well at Kithulgala

***Ceylon frogmouth**

Batrachostomus moniliger

05-02 3 ex, seen together facing me at a day roost at Sinharaja

Little indian nightjar

Caprimulgus asiaticus

07-02 1 ex. seen very nice on the ground during daytime at Udawalawe + 08-02 another at Bundala under the same conditions.

Indian swiftlet

Aerodramus unicolor

Quite common throughout, the commonest swift often in mixed flocks

***Brown-throated needletail**

Hirundapus giganteus indica

A total of 6 birds seen on three days, mostly in forested area's a very nice big Needletail

Asian palm-swift

Cypsiurus balasiensis balasiensis

06-02 1 ex. along the way to Sinharaja + 12-02 2 ex. over the river at Kithulgala

Alpine swift

Tachymarptis melba bakeri

08-02 40 ex, in a big mixed flock of swifts at the hotel in Tissa

Little swift

Apus affinis singalensis

08-02 Common in a big evening flock of swift above the hotel at Tissa.

***Malabar trogon**

Harpactes fasciatus fasciatus

07-03 3 ex. in a mixed feeding flock at Sinharaja, one very nice male.

Common kingfisher

Alcedo atthis taprobana

A total of 14 seen spread over the trip

Stork-billed kingfisher

Pelargopsis capensis capensis

Quite common and seen and heard on most days of the trip.

White-throated kingfisher

Halcyon smyrnensis fusca

The commonest Kingfisher of the trip seen on almost every day.

Lesser pied kingfisher

Ceryle rudis leucomelanura

05-02 1 ex. along the way at a visited pond + 08-02 1 ex. at Bundela

Little green bee-eater

Merops orientalis orientalis

Quite common during the trip seen on four days of the trip

Blue-tailed bee-eater

Merops philippinus philippinus

The commonest bee-eater during the trip, seen in many wintering flocks in the lowlands

***Chestnut-headed bee-eater**

Merops leschenaulti leschenaulti

A total of 31 seen on three days, this bee-eater is confined to forests often in (low) hills

Indian roller

Coracias benghalensis indica

06-02 1 ex. along the way + 09-02 1 ex. along the way

Common hoopoe

Upupa epops ceylonensis

08-02 2 ex. at Bundela

Ceylon grey hornbill

Ocyceros gingalensis

06-02 3 ex. at Sinharaja + 07-02 1 ex. along the way

Malabar pied hornbill

Anthracoceros coronatus

07-02 1 ex. at Udawalawe sitting in a tree during the jeep safari

Brown-headed barbet

Megalaima zeylanica zeylanica

The commonest barbet seen and heard daily

***Yellow-fronted barbet**

Megalaima flavifrons

Seen on four days with the most on 06-02 near Kithulgala, often seen close by

***Ceylon small barbet**

Megalaima rubricapillus

05-02 1 ex. seen quite far in a tree at Sinharaja + 06-02 1 ex. at Sinharaja closer by

Coppersmith barbet

Megalaima haemacephala indica

A total of 2 birds seen in the lowlands

Indian pygmy woodpecker

Dendrocopus nanus gymnophthalmus

09-02 1 ex. seen very well during a birding stop in a lowland wood.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Lesser yellownape | Picus chlorolophus wellsi | 12-02 1 ex. at Kithulgala |
| Rufous woodpecker | Micropternus brachyurus jerdoni | 09-02 1 ex. seen during a birding stop. |
| Black-rumped flameback | Dinopium benghalense | A total of 6 birds seen spread over the trip |
| *<u>Crimson-backed flameback</u> | <u>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</u> | 3 ex. seen well on the jeep safari at Udawalawe |
| *<u>Indian pitta</u> | <u>Pitta brachyura brachyura</u> | 07-02 4 ex. seen, one at a stakeout behind a shop (great views) and tree more during the jeep safari at Udawalawe + 1 ex at Victoria Park. Great bird and also heard calling |
| *<u>Jerdon's bushlark</u> | <u>Mirafra affinis ceylonensis</u> | 07+ 08-02 commonly seen during the jeep safari's. like quails in flight |
| Ashy-crowned finch-lark | Eremopterix griseus | 08-02 15 ex. at Bundela during the jeep safari |
| Oriental skylark | Alauda gulgula | 08-02 2 ex. seen quite well at Bundela |
| Sand martin | Riparia riparia | 08-02 2 ex. at Bundela, I did not check for Pale Martin features.. |
| *<u>Crested treeswift</u> | <u>Hemiprocne coronata</u> | A total of 14 seen on four days on this trip, with some birds very nicely perched giving great views, male and female |
| Barn swallow | Hirundo rustica rustica | Quite commonly seen daily during the trip |
| *<u>Hill swallow</u> | <u>Hirundo domicola</u> | 09+10-02 A total of 3 birds seen, a small barn swallow like swallow |
| *<u>Ceylon swallow</u> | <u>Hirundo hyperythra</u> | A total of 13 seen on three days in various landscapes (often hills), a very obvious swallow |
| <u>Forest wagtail</u> | Dendronanthus indicus | A total of 20 birds seen, near Tissa and in Victoria park, what a cracking bird (because of this underlined) |
| White wagtail | Motacilla alba <u>dukhunensis</u> | 07-02 1 ex. at a birding stop near to Tissa. |
| Yellow wagtail | Motacilla flava thunbergi | Common at Udawalawe and a few at Bundela |
| Grey wagtail | Motacilla cinerea melanope | A total of 4 bird seen spread over the trip, the birds showed an obvious white line on the primaries |
| Paddyfield pipit | Anthus rufulus malayensis | 07-02 2 (at least) at Udawalawe, short tail giving the bird a different appearance, also less buff on the mid belly |
| Blyth's pipit | Anthus godlewskii | 07-02 10 ex. seen well at and near to Udawalawe, also hear (good practice) |
| *<u>Ceylon woodshrike</u> | <u>Tephrodon affinis</u> | 08-02 1 ex seen at a little village near Tissa, seen very well |
| *<u>Large cuckooshrike</u> | <u>Coracina macei layardi</u> | 08-02 1 ex. along the way +09-02 1 ex. seen very well (very barred) at a birding stop |
| Small minivet | Pericrocotus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus | 07-02 10 ex, in one flock at Udawalawe |
| *<u>Orange minivet</u> | <u>Pericrocotus flammeus flammeus</u> | Quite common throughout the trip |
| *<u>Pied-flycatcher shrike</u> | <u>Hemipus picatus leggei</u> | 07-02 1 ex. at Udawalawe + 11-02 3 ex. at Hakgala gardens, very nice views |
| Asian paradise flycatcher | Terpsiphone paradisi | Seen almost daily with 4 birds on a day at the most, also some very nice white birds. |
| Black-naped blue monarch | Hypothymis azurea ceylonensis | A total of 5 birds seen in the forests spread over the trip |
| White-browed fantail | Rhipidura aureola compressirostris | A total of 4 birds seen spread over the trip. |
| *<u>Black-capped bulbul</u> | <u>Pycnonotus melanicterus</u> | Quite common in flocks in Sinharaja, nice yellow bulbul with a black head without crest. |
| Red-vented bulbul | Pycnonotus cafer haemorrhousus | The commonest bulbul mostly in the lowlands |
| *<u>Yellow-eared bulbul</u> | <u>Pycnonotus penicillatus</u> | Common in the Kithulgala are in small flocks |
| *<u>White-browed bulbul</u> | <u>Pycnonotus luteolus insulae</u> | Quite common in the first half of the trip often solitaire |
| *<u>Yellow-browed bulbul</u> | <u>Lole indica</u> | Quite common in the forested area's in small flocks |

***Square-tailed black bulbul**

Common iora

Marshall's iora

Gold-fronted leafbird

***Jerdon's leafbird**

Brown shrike

***Pied ground-thrush**

***Spot-winged thrush**

***Ceylon scaly thrush**

***Indian blackbird**

***Ceylon whistling-thrush**

Asian brown flycatcher

***Brown-breasted flycatcher**

***Kashmir flycatcher**

***Dull blue flycatcher**

Tickell's blue flycatcher

Grey-headed canary-flycatcher

***Indian blue robin**

Oriental magpie-robin

***Whire-rumped shama**

Indian black robin

Pied bushchat

***Ashy-headed laughingthrush**

***Brown-capped babbler**

***Ceylon scimitar babbler**

***Yellow-eyed babbler**

***Tawny-bellied babbler**

***Dark-fronted babbler**

Hypsipetes ganeesa

Aegithina tiphia multicolor

Aegithina nigrolutea

Chloropsis aurifrons insularis

Chloropsis jerdoni

Lanius cristatus cristatus

Zoothera wardii

Zoothera spiloptera

Zoothera imbricata

Turdus simillimus kinnisii

Myophonus blighi

Muscicapa dauurica

Muscicapa muttui muttui

Ficedula subrubra

Eumyias sordidus

Cyornis tickelliae jerdoni

Culicicapa ceylonensis ceylonensis

Luscinia brunnea

Copsychus saularis ceylonensis

Copsychus malabaricus leggei

Saxicoloides fulicatus leucoptera

Saxicola caprata atrata

Garrulax cinereifrons

Pellorneum fuscicapillus

Pomatorhinus melanurus

Chrysomma sinense

Dumetia hypertyra

Rhopocichla atriceps

One of the commonest bulbuls of the trip, often in forested areas

Quite commonly seen in the lowlands

08-02 1 ex. seen briefly at Bundela + 09-02 2 birds seen very well (with white in the tail) at a birding stop

11-02 1 ex. at Kithulgala

A total of 6 (in two flocks) seen on 08+09-02, a lowland leafbird

Seen daily in low numbers, surprisingly pale birds.

10-02 1 male seen very well at on the ground at Victoria Park, "Mother all thrushes"..

A total of 3 seen in well forested highland area's

11-02 1 seen at Victoria Park, a quite big scaly thrush with a steep forehead, big bill with a straight under bill, underparts yellowish buff barred.

11-02 1 male seen at Hakgala gardens, striking bird of the southern more dark group, with obvious yellow eyering and legs

09-02 1 male seen very close a stop near the village of Nuwara Eliya + 10-02 2 ex. at a different spot in the same town. A striking dark stocky whistling thrush, blue with white eyelids.

A total of 3 birds seen on two days of the trip

A total of 4 birds seen, looking like Asian br. but browner (mainly on the upperp.), with all yellowish bill and legs

10+11-02 a total of 4 males, one immature male the rest adults. Cracking birds, from behind much like Red B.F.

09-02 3 ex. seen well during a birding stop + 11-02 1 ex. near a nest at Hakgala Gardens

A total of 4 birds seen on two days, seen in forested area's in hills, great birds.

09-02 1 ex. seen during a birdingstop

07-02 1 male at Sinharaja + 10-02 3 males spread over the day (also in Victoria park) at Nuwara Eliya. All walking on the road in the shade. What a species and not so easy in its breeding habitat I heard.

Common throughout the trip

08-02 1 ex. at Bundela + 09-02 1 ex. along the way, nicely males in song

07+08-02 common during the jeep safari's at Udawalawe and Bundela mostly on the ground

10+11-02 5 ex. at Nuwara Eliya aria

07-02 1 ex. at Sinharaja, in the neighbourhood of a feeding flock

07-02 1 ex. at Sinharaja + 12-02 2 ex. seen very well at Kithulgala

A total of 4 seen on tree days seen spread over the trip.

07-02 4 ex. in one flock at a birding stop along the way

08-02 2 ex. around Tissa both solitaire birds in reeds

06+07-02 Seen in several flocks in Sinharaja

***Ceylon rufous babbler**

***Yellow-billed babbler**

Zitting cisticola

Ashy prinia

Grey-breasted prinia

Plain prinia

Jungle prinia

Common tailor-bird

***Sri Lanka bush warbler**

Blyth's reed warbler

Indian (Clamorous) reed warbler

Sykes's warbler

Bright-green warbler

Large-billed leaf warbler

Great tit

Velvet-fronted nuthatch

Thick-billed flowerpecker

***Legge's flowerpecker**

***Pale-billed flowerpecker**

Purple-rumped sunbird

Purple sunbird

Loten's sunbird

***Ceylon white-eye**

Oriental white-eye

White-rumped munia

Scaly-breasted munia

***Black-throated Munia**

***Tricoloured Munia**

House sparrow

Baya weaver

***White-faced starling**

Turdoides rufescens

Turdoides affinis taprobanus

Cisticola juncidis cursitans

Prinia socialis brevicauda

Prinia hodgsoni

Prinia inornata insularis

Prinia sylvatica vailda

Orthotomus sutorius

Elaphrornis palliseri

Acrocephalus dumetorum

Acrocephalus stentoreus (br.) meridionalis

Iduna rama

Phylloscopus nitidus

Phylloscopus magnirostris

Parus major maharattarum

Sitta frontalis frontalis

Dicaeum agile zeylonicum

Dicaeum vincens

Dicaeum erythrorhynchos ceylonense

Leptocoma zeylonica zeylonica

Cinnyris asiaticus asiatica

Cinnyris lotenius lotenia

Zosterops ceylonensis

Zosterops palpebrosus egregia

Lonchura striata striata

Lonchura punctulata punctulata

Lonchura kelaarti kelaarti

Lonchura malacca

Passer domesticus indicus

Ploceus philippinus philippinus

Sturnia albofrontata

Seen at Sinharaja in feeding flocks and in the Kithulgala area in flocks but not mixed with other species.

Quite common in flocks in the lowlands

07+08 a total of 6 birds seen on these days, all with the two toned call very different from the birds "at home"

A total of 6 birds seen on three days, in all sorts of habitat often in song

09-02 2 ex. seen well at birding stops along the way, quite striking breast band

Common in the lowlands mostly during the jeep safaris

07+08-02 4 birds seen and heard well during the jeep safaris

Common throughout the trip

10-02 1 ex. seen very well (after some effort for me..) near Nuwara Eliya. Found with tape on the explosive call

06-02 1 ex. seen very well at Sinharaja, heard and seen briefly at other locations.

08-02 1 ex. seen well at Bundela, grey large reed warbler.

10+11-02 3 birds seen at Victoria Park, not easy to see well, saw one bird eventually very well very pale cream bird with unmarked tertials, less pronounced supercilium in front of the eye and long tail.

A total of 8 seen spread over the trip in the visited forests, heard many more.

3 birds seen in the visited forests, often found on call, large bill obvious.

A total of 4 seen in the high lands, all very grey birds

11-02 1 bird heard at Victoria Park

08-02 2 ex. in the gardens of the hotel at Tissa

3 ex. seen at Sinharaja and Kithulgala

Common at Sinharaja

A total of 7 birds seen spread over the trip mainly in the lowlands and cultivated areas

08-02 common all over the day.

3 birds seen (two males) in the Nuwara Eliya, very long bills

Common in the Nuwara Eliya area in flocks.

09-02 common on that day along the way + quite common in the Kithulgala area

07-02 10 ex. seen near Tissa in one flock

Quite common often near rice fields spread over the trip

A total of 10 birds seen on three occasions in small flocks in the higher hills, like Scaly but with a dark face and upper breast

A total of 14 birds seen in small flocks at Nuwara Eliya and Tissa (hotel), nice birds I once kept in a cage

Quite common in the Nuwara Eliya area

08-02 3 ex. near a colony near Tissa in a marshy area

07-02 2 ex. a pair seen from the terrace at the lodge in Sinharaja

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Common myna | Acridotheres tristis melanosternus |
| Rosy starling | Sturnus roseus |
| *Ceylon hill-myna | <u>Gracula ptilogenys</u> |
| *Lesser hill-myna | <u>Gracula indica</u> |
| Black-hooded oriole | Oriolus xanthornus ceylonensis |
| White-bellied drongo | Dicrurus caerulescens |
| *Ceylon crested drongo | <u>Dicrurus lophorinus</u> |
| Ashy woodswallow | Artamus fuscus |
| *Ceylon blue magpie | <u>Urocissa ornata</u> |
| House crow | Corvus splendens protegatus |
| Indian jungle crow | Corvus [macrorhynchos] culminatus |

Common throughout the trip

08-02 15 ex in one flock at Bundela during the jeep safari, in winter plumage

06-02 10 ex. in pairs at Sinharaja

09-02 10 ex. seen often in pairs along the way up to Nuwara Eliya + 11-02 1 ex. along the way

A total of 8 birds seen on three days in the lowlands

The commonest drogue seen on almost every day, often associated with birding flocks

07-02 6 birds seen with birding flocks at Sinharaja

05-02 5 ex. on a wire along the way.

06-02 7 ex. seen very well at several centimetres at the terrace of the lodge in Sinharaja

Common throughout the trip

Common throughout the trip



Male Black Bittern, the first I saw.



Mother all thrushes, a male Pied Thrush along the stream in Victoria Park



Great Thick-Knee, at Bundela finally added to the list



Brown Fish Owl, I expected them darker at this part of the world



No dip on the Serendip at a day roost



Missed in the UAE two years ago, easy in Bundela, Pied Cuckoo



Forest Wagtail allways hard to photograph at Victoria Park



A bird thought to be a Sykes warbler, I probably saw this bird but this one was photographed by Amila Salgado twenty days later



Blyth's Pipit, not easy to ID from the buff Paddyfield pipits there. Quite pale Brown Shrike's in my opinion, this one at Bundela.

The Hairy list:

- Palm Squirrel – *Funambulus palmarum* – Quite common in the Sinharaja area
- Giant Squirrel – *Ratufa macroura* – A total of 4 ex. seen in the highland forests, great animals
- Toque Macaque – *Macaca sinica* – A total of 5 seen in Sinharaja
- Tufted Grey Langur – *Semnopithecus priam* – Quite common at Udawalawe and at Bundela
- Purple-faced Leaf Monkey – *Trachypithecus vetulus* – Seen at Nuwera Eliya
- Ruddy Mongosse – *Herpestes smithii* – 1 seen on the road at Bundela
- Asian Elephant – *Elephas maximus* – About 40 seen at Udawalawe (some aggressive females and young males + bull at Bundela)
- Spotted Deer – *Axis axis* – A total of 6 seen at Udawalawe and at Bundela
