



## **SOUTH INDIA & ANDAMAN ISLANDS TOUR REPORT 2022**

**19 November - 4 December 2022**

BY CRAIG ROBSON

Over 100 Indian Subcontinent endemics and near-endemics were seen, out of a trip total of 314 species, during our latest tour of these popular South Asian destinations, including a clean-sweep on South Andaman. Numerous highlights included Painted Bush Quail, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Nilgiri and Andaman Wood Pigeons, Malabar Imperial Pigeon, Andaman Crake, Andaman Serpent-Eagle, Andaman Scops, Spot-bellied Eagle and Mottled Wood Owls, Malabar Flameback, Indian Pitta, White-bellied Minivet, White-bellied and Andaman Treepies, Indian Black-lored Tit, Yellow-throated Bulbul, Malabar Lark, Western Crowned and Booted Warblers, Nilgiri and Palani Laughingthrushes, Rufous Babbler, Nilgiri and White-bellied Blue Robins, Nilgiri Thrush, White-bellied, Rusty-tailed, Kashmir and Black-and-orange Flycatchers, Jerdon's Leafbird, and Nilgiri Pipit. The 20 species of mammal that we observed included Asian Elephant, a superb pack of Dhole, Blackbuck, the immense Gaur, and Nilgiri Tahr. Additionally, there were nearly 70 species of butterflies, nearly 20 dragonflies, and 12 reptiles.

Once we had all met-up at Port Blair Airport on South Andaman, we made our way to our hotel, tucked-in by the ocean, and prepared ourselves for the afternoons birding. We had four and a half days to find all the endemics here, so it made for comfortable birding. Much of our time was spent to the south of town, around Chidiyatapu. Exploring various areas of forest along the roadside and at the Biological Park, we found Andaman Coucal, Andaman Wood Pigeon, Andaman Green Pigeon, Andaman Woodpecker, Andaman Drongo, Andaman Treepie, Andaman Bulbul, White-headed Starling, Andaman Shama, and Andaman Flowerpecker, as well as the more wide-ranging Long-tailed Parakeet. At nightfall, we added Andaman Nightjar and Hume's and Andaman Boobooks. A short ferry ride was required to transport us to Khartang Reserved Forest, where Andaman Cuckoo-Dove, Andaman Crake and Andaman Cuckooshrike were all eventually tracked down. Andaman Serpent Eagle proved to be our trickiest endemic, but thanks to our driver, we had great views of one perched at nearby Mount Harriet; where Andaman Crake also showed much better. Three more endemic owls were found at more localised sites, and all showed well: Andaman Masked, Andaman Scops, and Walden's Scops (the latter still lumped in Oriental). Ograbraj Wetlands proved to be the best wetland location, with around 200 Andaman Teal, as well as many other interesting marsh and open country birds, such as Ruddy-breasted Crake, a range of migratory shorebirds, Indian (or Clamorous) Reed Warbler, Black-browed Reed and Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers, and Red-throated and Richard's Pipits.

The following morning, we flew back to Chennai and then onwards to Coimbatore, before driving up to our hotel in Ooty, in the Nilgiri Hills. Several hulking great Gaur were in the hotel grounds that evening and had to be shooed-away by staff. We were up for dawn, birding the hotel environs and along the road nearby. Five Painted Bush Quails were well received, as were Nilgiri Laughingthrush, Indian Blackbird, the amazing Black-and-orange Flycatcher, and Nilgiri Blue Robin. At Ooty Lake, we found the smart White-spotted Fantail, and an unexpected male Kashmir Flycatcher. We descended the Nilgiris, and continued on to Jungle Hut, close to Mudumalai National Park, with Red-headed Vulture, Malabar Grey Hornbill, and Nilgiri Flowerpecker bagged en route. In the afternoon, we were led by excellent local guide Sidha around the Murugan Temple Hill area. An excellent variety of birds, in mixed habitats, included Indian Peafowl, Grey Francolin, Indian Swiftlet, Brown-capped Pygmy and Yellow-crowned Woodpeckers, Black-rumped Flameback, a pair of White-naped Woodpeckers, Plum-headed Parakeet, Indian Pitta, Orange Minivet, Black-headed Cuckooshrike, White-bellied Drongo, Malabar Lark, Hill Swallow, Yellow-billed Babbler, Indian Nuthatch, Malabar Starling, Indian Robin, Purple-rumped Sunbird, and White-browed Wagtail. After nightfall, he somehow managed to show us four species of nightjar (Jungle, Jerdon's, Indian and Savanna) without using playback, and we also lucked-in on a superb pack of Dhole and a group of Blackbuck.

We still had a full day and a morning to explore various sites around Jungle Hut, and the outskirts of Mudumalai NP. Our local guides knew all the good places and we had a very successful birding experience. Oriental Scops, Spot-bellied Eagle and Brown Fish Owls were all seen well in daytime, and Sudheesh managed to find us the tricky Nilgiri Thrush. We also added Red Spurfowl, Grey Junglefowl, Jungle Bush Quail, Blue-faced Malkoha, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, White-rumped Vulture, White-cheeked Barbet, Streak-throated Woodpecker, a rather too brief pair of White-bellied Minivets, Indian Paradise Flycatcher, Jerdon's Bush Lark, wintering Booted Warbler and Hume's Whitethroat, Indian Scimitar Babbler, Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, Indian Blue Robin, Malabar Whistling Thrush, and Jerdon's Leafbird (after a lot of effort!).

We returned to Ooty for another overnight stay, before continuing our journey southwards to Munnar in the High Range, crossing the Kerala border in the process. Large Grey Babbler and Jacobin Cuckoo were noted en route and, once at the outskirts of town, we birded some patches of roadside forest near some tea-stalls. Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Yellow-browed Bulbul, Brown-breasted Flycatcher, Blue-capped Rock Thrush and Western Crowned Warbler were among the species that popped up. The next morning, in order to visit Eravikulam National Park, we rode up a narrow road in and official park bus along with other visitors. Despite our best efforts we weren't to be the first on the scene, and visitors are now only allowed to walk along the road at the top. Fortunately, this did not prevent us from finding some of our targets. At the top level, despite the hordes, we had good views of the endemic Nilgiri Tahr, Palani Laughingthrush, Malabar Whistling Thrush, and Nilgiri Flycatcher. Further afield, in the vicinity of Lockhart Gap, we finally found the much-wanted Nilgiri Pipit and White-bellied Blue Robin, as well as Dusky Crag Martin and Southern Hill Myna.

The following morning saw us winding our way downhill towards our hotel close to Periyar National Park. A site for the restricted-range Yellow-throated Bulbul was visited along the way. The birds were hard to find here, and it was seeming like a waste of time, until Heidi miraculously spotted a pair quietly feeding in some bushes. Our first Loten's Sunbirds were also seen. At Periyar, we had a day and a half to find the specialities. Exploring various trails at the edge of the park with our allotted guide, during both afternoons, we enjoyed Grey-fronted Green Pigeon, Jungle Owlet, Malabar Barbet, Blue-winged Parakeet, and White-bellied Treepie, as well as Jungle and the more localised Rufous Babblers. Elephants are an ever-present delight and danger here, and we were lucky enough to encounter some working their way through a patch of bamboo. Further afield at Thekkady Boat Landing, the very knowledgeable Raj Kumar guided us for the morning. Thanks to his skills we found Malabar Imperial Pigeon, Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, Malabar Trogon, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Malabar Woodshrike, Indian Black-lored Tit, and White-bellied Blue and Rusty-tailed Flycatchers.

From Periyar, we took the back roads to our final destination at Thattekad, currently perhaps the best-known and birdiest place in the south. On the way there, we birded along the excellent Neriamangalam Painavu Road, and we were to make several return visits here. Highlights in the roadside forest included Red Spurfowl, Malabar Flameback, Indian Golden Oriole, the tricky Grey-headed Bulbul (but fleetingly), Flame-throated Bulbul, Dark-fronted and Rufous Babblers, and Crimson-backed Sunbird. Around Thattekad itself, we were guided to a number of sub-locations in search of our various specialty targets, with this year's haul highlighted by Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Mottled Wood Owl, Grey-headed Bulbul (again fleetingly), and Black-throated Munia.

Our time in South India ended the following morning, as we drove the relatively short distance to Kochi (Cochin) Airport and connected with our onward flights home.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

### BIRDS

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

Indian Spot-billed Duck (Burmese S-b D) *Anas poecilorhyncha*

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Andaman Teal ◊ *Anas albogularis* Near-endemic. Maximum of 200 at Ograbraj, S Andaman.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* Endemic.

Red Spurrow ◊ *Galloperdix spadicea* Endemic. Pairs at Jungle Hut and Periyar NP.

Grey Junglefowl ◊ *Gallus sonneratii* Endemic.

Grey Francolin *Ortygornis pondicerianus* Endemic.

Jungle Bush Quail ◊ *Perdica asiatica* Endemic. A male at Jungle hut.

Painted Bush Quail ◊ *Perdica erythrorhyncha* Endemic. A total of 7 in the High Range

Great Eared Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis* Heard-only.

Jungle Nightjar ◊ (Indian J N) *Caprimulgus indicus* Endemic. One near Jungle Hut.

Jerdon's Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus atripennis* Endemic. Ditto.

Andaman Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus andamanicus* Endemic. Four seen on S Andaman.

Indian Nightjar (I Little N) *Caprimulgus asiaticus* One near Jungle Hut.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* Ditto.

Sri Lanka Frogmouth ◊ (Ceylon F) *Batrachostomus moniliger* Endemic. A roosting bird at Thattekad.

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*

Plume-toed Swiftlet ◊ *Collocalia affinis*

Indian Swiftlet ◊ *Aerodramus unicolor* Endemic.

Edible-nest Swiftlet ◊ *Aerodramus fuciphagus*

Brown-backed Needletail (B-throated N, Brown N) *Hirundapus giganteus*

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

Andaman Coucal ◊ *Centropus andamanensis* Endemic. At least five seen and many heard.

Blue-faced Malkoha ◊ *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris* Endemic. One near Jungle Hut.

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* Two performed at Periyar; a tour write-in.

Jacobin Cuckoo (Pied C) *Clamator jacobinus*

Asian Koel (Common K) *Eudynamis scolopaceus*

Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus* Non-leader. One at Mount Harriet, S Andaman.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* Heard-only.

Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo ◊ *Surniculus dicruroides* Endemic. One seen Periyar; heard at Thattekad.

Common Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius* Heard-only. Near-endemic.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* Heard-only.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Nilgiri Wood Pigeon ◊ *Columba elphinstonii* Endemic. Three seen well near Munnar.

Andaman Wood Pigeon ◊ *Columba palumboides* Endemic. Two at Chidiyatapu.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*

Andaman Cuckoo-Dove ◊ *Macropygia rufipennis* Endemic. Just one seen well at Khartang RF.

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

Grey-fronted Green Pigeon ◊ *Treron affinis* Endemic.

Andaman Green Pigeon ◊ *Treron chloropterus* Endemic. Four seen and a couple more heard.

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicopterus*

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

Malabar Imperial Pigeon *Ducula cuprea* Endemic. One seen really well at Periyar.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Eurasian Coot (Common C) *Fulica atra*

Grey-headed Swampphen (G-h Gallinule) *Porphyrio poliocephalus*

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Zapornia fusca*

Andaman Crake ◊ *Rallina canningi* Endemic. Seven seen and as many heard. Seen very well.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Yellow-wattled Lapwing ◊ *Vanellus malabaricus*

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Tibetan Sand Plover *Charadrius atrifrons*

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura*

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*  
Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*  
Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*  
Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*  
Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger*  
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*  
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*  
Cinnamon Bittern (Chestnut B) *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*  
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Heard-only.  
Striated Heron (Little H) *Butorides striata*  
Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*  
Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*  
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*  
Great Egret *Ardea alba*  
Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*  
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Pacific Reef Heron (Eastern Reef Egret) *Egretta sacra*  
Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*  
Crested Honey Buzzard (Oriental H B) *Pernis ptilorhynchus*  
Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes*  
White-rumped Vulture (Indian W-backed V) *Gyps bengalensis* A total of nine were logged this year.  
Red-headed Vulture ◊ *Sarcogyps calvus* Two en route from Ooty to Jungle Hut.  
Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*  
Andaman Serpent Eagle ◊ *Spilornis elgini* Endemic. A total of three seen. Best one perched at Mt Harriet.  
Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus [cirrhatu] limnaeetus*  
Changeable Hawk-Eagle ◊ (Crested H-E) *Nisaetus [cirrhatu] cirrhatu*  
Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*  
Greater Spotted Eagle ◊ *Clanga clanga* A couple near Jungle Hut; a tour write-in.  
Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*  
Shikra *Accipiter badius*  
Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*  
Black Kite *Milvus [migrans] govinda*  
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*  
White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*  
Lesser Fish Eagle ◊ *Haliaeetus humilis*

Himalayan Buzzard ◊ *Buteo refectus*

Andaman Masked Owl ◊ (A Barn O) *Tyto deroepstorffi* Endemic. One seen well at dusk in Port Blair.

Brown Boobook (B Hawk-Owl) *Ninox scutulata* One spotlighted at Thattekad.

Hume's Boobook ◊ (H's Hawk-Owl) *Ninox obscura* Endemic. Six seen and more heard. Super close views.

Andaman Boobook ◊ (A Hawk-Owl) *Ninox affinis* Endemic. Two seen well at Chidiyatapu.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*

Jungle Owlet ◊ *Glaucidium radiatum* Near-endemic. Two seen at Periyar, and one at Thattekad.

Andaman Scops Owl ◊ *Otus balli* Endemic. Brilliant views of one on South Andaman.

Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* One roosting near Jungle Hut.

Oriental Scops Owl ◊ (Walden's S O) *Otus [sunia] modestus* Endemic. Two seen well, south of Port Blair.

Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl ◊ (Forest E-O) *Bubo nipalensis* One seen really well near Jungle Hut.

Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* Two roosting near Jungle Hut.

Mottled Wood Owl ◊ *Strix ocellata* Near-endemic. Super views of one after dark at Thattekad.

Malabar Trogon ◊ *Harpactes fasciatus* Endemic. Three seen.

Eurasian Hoopoe (Common H) *Upupa epops*

Great Hornbill (G Pied H) *Buceros bicornis* Heard-only.

Malabar Grey Hornbill ◊ *Ocyroceros griseus* Endemic. Four seen at scattered locations; others heard.

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

Oriental Dollarbird (Common D) *Eurystomus orientalis*

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*

White-throated Kingfisher (W-breasted K) *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting* One on South Andaman (endemic *rufigastra*).

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*

Asian Green Bee-eater (Little G B-e) *Merops orientalis*

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*

White-cheeked Barbet ◊ *Psilopogon viridis* Endemic. Common.

Malabar Barbet ◊ *Psilopogon malabaricus* Endemic. Five logged at Periyar. Heard more widely.

Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus*

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* One near Jungle Hut.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*

Heart-spotted Woodpecker ◊ *Hemicircus canente*

Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker ◊ (Indian P W) *Yungipicus nanus* Endemic.

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker ◊ (Y-fronted Pied W) *Leiopicus mahrattensis*

Freckle-breasted Woodpecker ◊ (Spot-b Pied W) *Dendrocopos analis*

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* A pair at Periyar (*hodgsonii*).

Andaman Woodpecker ◊ *Dryocopus hodgei* Endemic. Just a single male seen; others heard.

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*

Streak-throated Woodpecker ◊ *Picus xanthopygaeus*

Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense* Near-endemic.

Malabar Flameback *Chrysocolaptes socialis* Endemic. A handful in the Thattekad area.

White-naped Woodpecker ◊ (W-n Flameback) *Chrysocolaptes festivus* A pair seen well near Jungle Hut.

Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus*

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Plum-headed Parakeet ◊ *Psittacula cyanocephala* Endemic.

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*

Long-tailed Parakeet ◊ *Psittacula longicauda* Ten logged on South Andaman (*tytleri*).

Blue-winged Parakeet ◊ (Malabar P) *Psittacula columboides* Endemic. Not uncommon in South India.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

Rose-ringed Parakeet (Ring-necked P) *Psittacula krameri*

Vernal Hanging Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*

Indian Pitta ◊ *Pitta brachyura* Endemic. Three seen in the Jungle Hut area.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike (Pied F-s) *Hemipus picatus*

Malabar Woodshrike *Tephrodornis sylvicola* Endemic. We caught up with a single bird at Periyar NP.

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*

White-bellied Minivet ◊ *Pericrocotus erythropygus* Endemic. A pair near Jungle Hut.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

Orange Minivet ◊ *Pericrocotus flammeus* Endemic. Common in South India.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus* Small numbers on South Andaman.

Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei*

Andaman Cuckooshrike ◊ *Coracina dobsoni* Endemic. Four at Khartang RF.

Black-headed Cuckooshrike ◊ *Lalage melanoptera* Near-endemic.

Mangrove Whistler *Pachycephala cinerea* One in suitable habitat south of Port Blair.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

Bay-backed Shrike ◊ *Lanius vittatus*

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*

Indian Golden Oriole ◊ *Oriolus kundoo* Endemic. Small numbers Neriamangalam Painavu Rd – Thattekad.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*

Andaman Drongo ◊ *Dicrurus andamanensis* Endemic. Common.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

White-bellied Drongo ◊ *Dicrurus caerulescens* Endemic.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

White-spotted Fantail ◊ (Spot-breasted F) *Rhipidura albogularis* Endemic. Three seen well.

White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*

Black-naped Monarch (B-n Blue M) *Hypothymis azurea*

Indian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

White-bellied Treepie ◊ *Dendrocitta leucogastra* Endemic. Many seen; Periyar – Thattekad.

Andaman Treepie ◊ *Dendrocitta bayleii* Endemic. Common.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*

Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus levaillantii*

Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus culminatus* Endemic.

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Cinereous Tit (Grey Tit) *Parus cinereus*

Indian Black-lored Tit ◊ (I Yellow T) *Machlolophus aplanotus* Endemic. A single lucky sighting at Periyar.

Jerdon's Bush Lark ◊ *Mirafra affinis* Endemic. A couple eventually found near Jungle Hut.

Malabar Lark ◊ *Galerida malabarica* Endemic. Great views of five near Jungle Hut.

Yellow-browed Bulbul ◊ *Acritillas indica* Endemic. Good numbers in the SW.

Square-tailed Bulbul ◊ (S-t Black B) *Hypsipetes ganeesa* Endemic.

Grey-headed Bulbul ◊ *Brachypodius priocephalus* Endemic. Several seen but a struggle this year.

Andaman Bulbul *Brachypodius fuscoflavescens* Endemic. Fairly common.

Flame-throated Bulbul ◊ *Rubigula gularis* Endemic. Good numbers this year in the SW.

White-browed Bulbul ◊ *Pycnonotus luteolus* Endemic. A pair near the next species.

Yellow-throated Bulbul ◊ *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* Endemic. A pair at the roadside en route to Periyar.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Dusky Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne concolor* Five near Lockhart Gap.

Pacific Swallow (House S) *Hirundo tahitica*

Hill Swallow ◊ *Hirundo domicola* Endemic. Good numbers in the SW.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* Several on South Andaman.

Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Two-barred Warbler (T-b Greenish W) *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus* A couple on South Andaman.



Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Large-billed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris*

Western Crowned Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus occipitalis* Near-endemic. One near Munnar.

Clamorous Reed Warbler ◊ (Indian R W) *Acrocephalus [stentoreus] brunnescens* South Andaman.

Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* Three seen and others heard at Ograbraj.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

Thick-billed Warbler *Arundinax aedon*

Booted Warbler ◊ *Iduna caligata* About five near Jungle Hut.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (Rusty-rumped W) *Helopsaltes certhiola* Several at Ograbraj, S Andaman.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

Hume's Whitethroat ◊ *Curruca althaea* One briefly near Jungle Hut.

Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense*

Indian White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Dark-fronted Babbler ◊ *Dumetia atriceps* Endemic. A handful along the Neriamangalam Painavu Rd.

Indian Scimitar Babbler ◊ *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii* Endemic. Widespread.

Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*

Brown-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe poiocephala*

Nilgiri Laughingthrush ◊ *Montecincla cachinnans* Endemic. Six logged.

Palani Laughingthrush ◊ *Montecincla fairbanki* Endemic. At least 15 seen.

Large Grey Babbler ◊ *Argya malcolmi* Endemic. Five before we reached the Kerala border.

Rufous Babbler ◊ (Indian R B) *Argya subrufa* Endemic. Several groups Periyar-Thattekad.

Jungle Babbler *Argya striata* Endemic.

Yellow-billed Babbler ◊ *Argya affinis* Endemic. Common around Jungle Hut etc.

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

Indian Nuthatch ◊ *Sitta castanea* Endemic. A total of three near Jungle Hut.

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*

Southern Hill Myna ◊ (Lesser H M) *Gracula indica* Endemic. Widespread in the SW.

Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

White-headed Starling ◊ (Andaman W-h S) *Sturnia erythropygia* Endemic. Common.

Malabar Starling ◊ (M White-headed S) *Sturnia blythii* Endemic. Frequently seen.

Brahminy Starling *Sturnia pagodarum*

Nilgiri Thrush ◊ *Zoothera neilgherriensis* Endemic. Thattekad. One in a huge bamboo clump.

Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* Several at various locations.

Indian Blackbird ◊ (Nilgiri B) *Turdus simillimus* Endemic. Quite a few in the Nilgiris.

Indian Robin (I Black R) *Copsychus fulicatus* Endemic.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*

Andaman Shama ◊ *Copsychus albiventris* Endemic. Often heard; a couple seen.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*

Brown-breasted Flycatcher ◊ *Muscicapa muttui* Scattered winterers in the SW.

White-bellied Blue Flycatcher ◊ *Cyornis pallidipes* Endemic. Two nice males at Periyar.

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae* Endemic.

Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides*

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*

Nilgiri Flycatcher ◊ *Eumyias albicaudatus* Endemic. Small numbers seen well in the SW.

Indian Blue Robin *Larvivora brunnea*

Nilgiri Blue Robin ◊ *Sholicola major* Endemic. Two or three males in the Nilgiris.

White-bellied Blue Robin ◊ *Sholicola albiventris* Endemic. Six logged for the High Range.

Malabar Whistling Thrush ◊ *Myophonus horsfieldii* Endemic. Quite common.

Rusty-tailed Flycatcher ◊ *Ficedula ruficauda* Endemic. Three winterers in the SW.

Taiga Flycatcher (Red-throated F) *Ficedula albicilla*

Kashmir Flycatcher ◊ *Ficedula subrubra* Endemic. A smart male wintering at Ooty Lake.

Black-and-orange Flycatcher ◊ *Ficedula nigrorufa* Endemic. A male seen well at Ooty; others heard.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* Non-leader.

Blue-capped Rock Thrush *Monticola cinclorhyncha* Endemic.

Amur Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri* One at Ograbraj. South Andaman.

Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata*

Jerdon's Leafbird ◊ *Chloropsis jerdoni* Endemic. After much effort, a pair near Jungle Hut.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*

Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile* One near Jungle Hut.

Pale-billed Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos* Near-endemic. Several near Jungle Hut.

Nilgiri Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum concolor* Endemic. Not uncommon at times.

Andaman Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum virescens* Endemic. Four seen and several heard.

Purple-rumped Sunbird ◊ *Leptocoma zeylonica* Endemic.

Crimson-backed Sunbird ◊ (Small S) *Leptocoma minima* Endemic. Best at Neriamangalam Painavu Rd.

Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus*

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

Loten's Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris lotenius* Endemic. Occasional in the SW.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*

Yellow-throated Sparrow (Chestnut-shouldered Petronia) *Gymnoris xanthocollis*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

**Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*

**Black-throated Munia** ♦ *Lonchura kelaarti* Endemic. Thattekad; good numbers at roosts.

**White-rumped Munia** *Lonchura striata*

**Forest Wagtail** *Dendronanthus indicus*

**Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla tshutschensis*

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* Non-leader.

**White-browed Wagtail** ♦ *Motacilla maderaspatensis* Near-endemic.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*

**Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus*

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus* Small numbers on South Andaman.

**Nilgiri Pipit** ♦ *Anthus nilghiriensis* Endemic. Two tracked-down near Lockhart Gap.

## MAMMALS

**Asian Elephant (indian E)** *Elaphus maximus* Three near Jungle Hut and one at Periyar.

**Dhole** *Cuon alpinus* A pack of eight at Murugan Temple Hill.

**Wild Boar** *Sus scrofa*

**Spotted Deer (Chital)** *Axis axis*

**Northern Red Muntjac (Indian M)** *Muntiacus vaginalis*

**Sambar Deer** *Rusa unicolor*

**Blackbuck** *Antelope cervicapra* Eight after dark at Murugan Temple Hill.

**Gaur (Indian Bison)** *Bos gaurus* Total of 27 logged at several locations.

**Nilgiri Tahr** *Nilgiritragus hylocrius* 8 at Eravikulam NP and 1 scoped from Neriamangalam Painavu Rd.

**Indian Flying Fox** *Pteropus giganteus*

**Bonnet Monkey** *Macaca radiata*

**Southern Plains Gray Langur** *Semnopithecus dussumieri*

**Nilgiri Langur** *Semnopithecus johnii* Not uncommon in the SW.

**Tufted Gray Langur** *Semnopithecus priam* Just five en route from Ooty to Munnar.

**Indian Hare (Black-naped H)** *Lepus nigricollis*

**Common Palm Squirrel (Three-striped P S)** *Funambulus palmarum*

**Five-striped Palm Squirrel (Northern Palm S)** *Funambulus pennantii*

**Western Ghats Striped Squirrel** *Funambulus tristriatus*

**Indian Giant Squirrel** *Ratufa indica*

**Grizzled Giant Squirrel (Grizzled Indian S)** *Ratufa macroura*

## REPTILES

**Common Water Monitor** *Varanus salvator* Chidiyatapu etc., South Andaman.

**Indian Chameleon** *Chamaeleo zeylanicus* Mudumalai NP.

**Roux's Forest Lizard** *Monilesaurus rouxii* Heidi photographed one along the Neriamangalam Painavu Rd.

Rock Agamid *Psammophilus dorsalis* Thattekad.  
 Common Green Forest Lizard *Calotes calotes* Thattekad.  
 Oriental Garden Lizard *Calotes versicolor* At the hotel, South Andaman.  
 Western Ghats Flying Lizard *Draco dussumieri* 2-3 Thattekad and Neriamangalam Painavu Road.  
 Short-crested Bay Island Forest Lizard *Coryphophylax subcristatus* Chidiyatapu.  
 Andaman Day Gecko *Phelsuma andamanensis* Mount Harriet.  
 Dussumier's Litter Skink *Sphenomorphus dussumieri* Thattekad.  
 Large-scaled Viper *Craspedocephalus macrolepis* Eravikulam NP.  
 Hump-nosed Viper *Hypnale hypnale* Sudheesh found us one at Thattekad.

## BUTTERFLIES

Common Birdwing *Troides helena* Mount Harriet, South Andaman.  
 Andaman Mormon *Papilio mayo* South Andaman.  
 Blue Mormon *Papilio polymnestor* Scattered in S India.  
 Common Mormon *Papilio polytes* S Andaman.  
 Paris Peacock *Papilio paris* Thattekad.  
 Common Rose *Pachliopta aristolochiae* Periyar NP.  
 Andaman Clubtail *Losaria rhodifer* Chidiyatapu, S Andaman.  
 Common Bluebottle *Graphium sarpedon* Periyar NP.  
 Glassy Tiger *Parantica aglea* Chidiyatapu, S Andaman and Periyar NP.  
 Blue Tiger *Tirumala limniace* Periyar NP.  
 Andaman Tree Nymph *Idea agamarschana* Mount Harriet.  
 Malabar Tree Nymph *Idea malabarica* A beauty at Periyar NP.  
 Psyche *Leptosia nina* Widespread.  
 Yellow Orange Tip *Ixias pyrene andamana* Chidiyatapu.  
 Great Orange Tip *Hebomoia glaucippe* Widespread.  
 Common Gull *Cepora nerissa* Periyar NP.  
 Common Grass Yellow *Eurema hecabe* Widespread.  
 Common Jezebel *Delias eucharis* Thattekad.  
 Dark Wanderer *Pareronia ceylanica naraka* S Andaman.  
 Long-banded Silverline *Cigaritis lohita* Chidiyatapu.  
 Peablue *Lampides boeticus* Lockhart Gap.  
 Common Yamfly *Loxura atymnus* Mount Harriet.  
 Common Pierrot *Castalius rosimon* Jungle Hut.  
 Quaker *Neopithecops zalmora* Jungle Hut.  
 Indian Cupid (Small C) *Chilades parrhasius* En route to Munnar.  
 Gram Blue *Euchrysops cnejus* Thattekad.  
 Common Cerulean *Jamides celeno* South Andaman.

White Hedge Blue *Udara akasa* Lockhart Gap.

Purple Leaf Blue *Amblypodia anita* Kallarkutty-Pambla Road.

Lesser Grass Blue *Zizina otis* Peerless Resort, S Andaman.

Andaman Crow *Euploea andamanensis* Mount Harriet.

Common Crow *Euploea core* Thattekad at least.

Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus* Periyar NP.

Grey Pansy *Junonia atlites* Widespread.

Chocolate Pansy *Junonia iphita* Periyar to Thattekad.

Lemon Pansy *Junonia lemonias* Periyar Tiger Reserve.

Grey Pansy *Junonia atlites* Periyar NP.

Common Evening Brown *Melanitis leda* Breakfast stop en route to Munnar.

Clipper *Parthenos sylvia* Common on South Andaman.

Small Leopard *Phalanta alcippe* S Andaman.

Common Leopard *Phalanta phalantha* Jungle Hut.

Southern Sullied Sailer *Neptis clinia* Mount Harriet NP, South Andaman.

Common Sailer *Neptis hylas* Widespread.

Common Lascar *Pantoporia hordonia* Widespread.

Andaman Viscount *Tanaecia cibaritis* Forest sites on South Andaman.

Common Palmfly *Elymnias hypermnestra cottonis* South Andaman, at the hotel etc.

Common Yeoman *Cirrochroa tyche* Mount Harriet NP.

Tamil Yeoman *Cirrochroa thais* Periyar NP.

Rustic *Cupha erymanthis* Periyar NP to Neriambangalam Painavu Road,

Malabar Glad-eye Bushbrown *Mycalesis junonia* Periyar NP.

Dingy Bushbrown *Mycalesis perseus* South Andaman.

Smooth-eyed Bushbrown *Oreotriaena medius* Neriambangalam Painavu Rd, Kerala.

Palni Bushbrown *Telinga davisoni* Rajmalai NP.

Red-disc Bushbrown *Telinga oculus* Eravikulam NP.

Whitebar Bushbrown *Mycalesis anaxias* Periyar NP.

Common Bushbrown *Mycalesis janardana* Periyar NP.

Common Four-ring *Ypthima huebneri* Jungle Hut.

Bamboo Treebrown *Lethe europa* Mount Harriet, S Andaman and Periyar NP.

Andaman Oakleaf *Kallima albofasciata* Chidiyatapu.

Sahyadri Dartlet *Oriens concinna* Rajmalai NP.

Dart *Potanthus sp.* Neriambangalam Painavu Road.

Paintbrush Swift *Baoris farri* Neriambangalam Painavu Road.

Banded Redeye *Gangara lebadea* Mount Harriet.

Indian Ace *Halpe homolia* Jungle Hut.

Suffused Snow Flat *Tagiades gana* Mount Harriet, South Andaman.

**Pied Flat** *Tagiades japetus* Chidiyatapu, South Andaman.

**Chestnut Bob** *Iambrix salsala* Jungle Hut.

## MOTHS

**Snouted Tiger Moth** *Asota plana* Caterpillar at Periyar NP.

**Drury's Jewel** *Cyclosia papilionaris* Chidiyatapu.

**Fruit-sucking Moth** *Eudocima homaena* Amazing caterpillars at Periyar.

## DRAGONFLIES

**Clear-winged Forest Glory** *Vestalis gracilis* Mount Harriet NP.

**Green Metalwing** *Neurobasis chinensis* Jungle Hut.

**Stream Ruby** *Heliocypha bisignata* Jungle Hut.

**Forest Spreadwing** *Lestes dorothea* Jungle Hut.

**Coromandel Marsh Dart** *Ceriagrion coromandelianum* Jungle Hut.

**Yellow Featherlegs** *Copera marginipes* Chidiyatapu.

**Travancore Bambootail** *Esme mudiensis* Neriamangalam Painavu Rd.

**Blue Midget** *Mortonagrion aborensis* Chidiyatapu.

**Common Parasol** *Neurothemis fluctuans* Chidiyatapu.

**Russet Percher** *Neurothemis fulvia* Periyar to Thattekad.

**Common Picturewing** *Rhyothemis variegata* Periyar NP.

**Emerald-banded Skimmer** *Cratilla lineata* Mount Harriet, S Andaman.

**Chalky Percher** *Diplacodes trivialis* Jungle Hut.

**Brown-backed Red Marsh Hawk** *Orthetrum chrysis* Widespread.

**Slender Skimmer** *Orthetrum sabina* S Andaman.

**Slender Blue Skimmer** *Orthetrum luzonicum* Periyar NP.

**Wandering Glider** *Pantala flavescens* Widespread.

**Twister** *Tholymis tillarga* South Andaman.



*Yellow-billed Babbler (image by Craig Robson)*



*White-spotted Fantail (image by Craig Robson)*



*Sri Lanka Frogmouth (image by Craig Robson)*



*Walden's (Oriental) Scops Owl (image by Craig Robson)*





*Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl (image by Craig Robson)*



*Palani Laughingthrush (image by Craig Robson)*



*Nilgiri Blue Robin (image by Craig Robson)*



*Nilgiri Laughingthrush (image by Craig Robson)*



*Nilgiri Pipit (image by Craig Robson)*



*Nilgiri Tahr (image by Craig Robson)*



*Oriental Scops Owl (image by Craig Robson)*



*Painted Bush Quail (image by Craig Robson)*



*Malabar Whistling Thrush (image by Craig Robson)*



*Indian Blackbird (image by Craig Robson)*



*Andaman Cuckooshrike (image by Craig Robson)*



*Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo (image by Craig Robson)*



*Malabar Lark (image by Craig Robson)*



*Long-banded Silverline (image by Craig Robson)*



*Common Palm Squirrel (image by Craig Robson)*



*Large Scaled Viper (image by Craig Robson)*





*Brown Fish Owl (image by Craig Robson)*



*Indian Chameleon (image by Craig Robson)*



*Andaman Serpent Eagle (image by Craig Robson)*



*Andaman Scops Owl (image by Craig Robson)*



*Indian Blackbird (image by Craig Robson)*