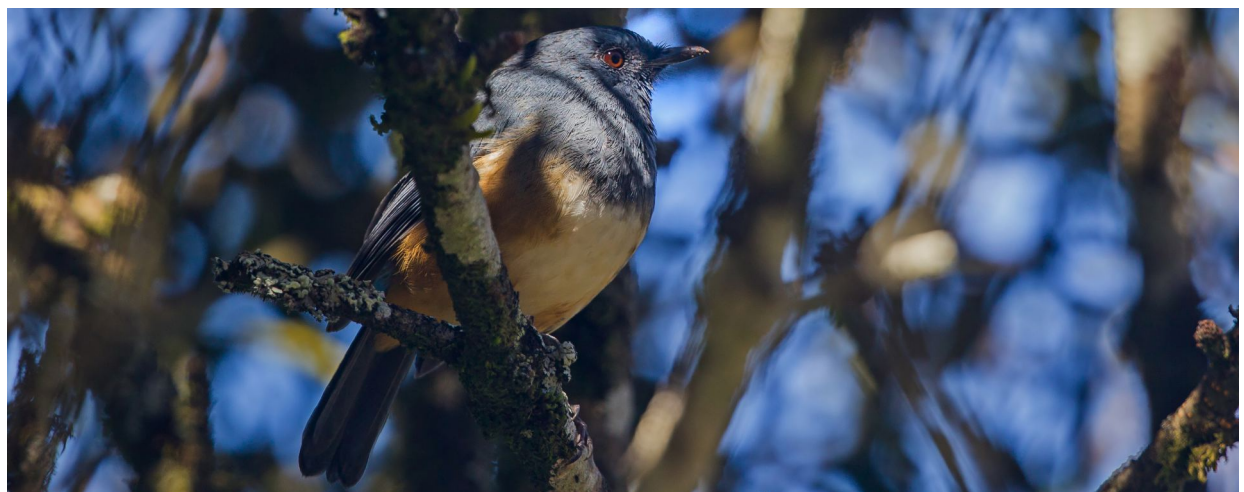


# *Birding India, Bengaluru – Kochi*

december 16-24, 2015





## Participants

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Photos at front page: Upper left: Sri Lanka Bay Owl

Upper right: Sri Lanka Frogmouth

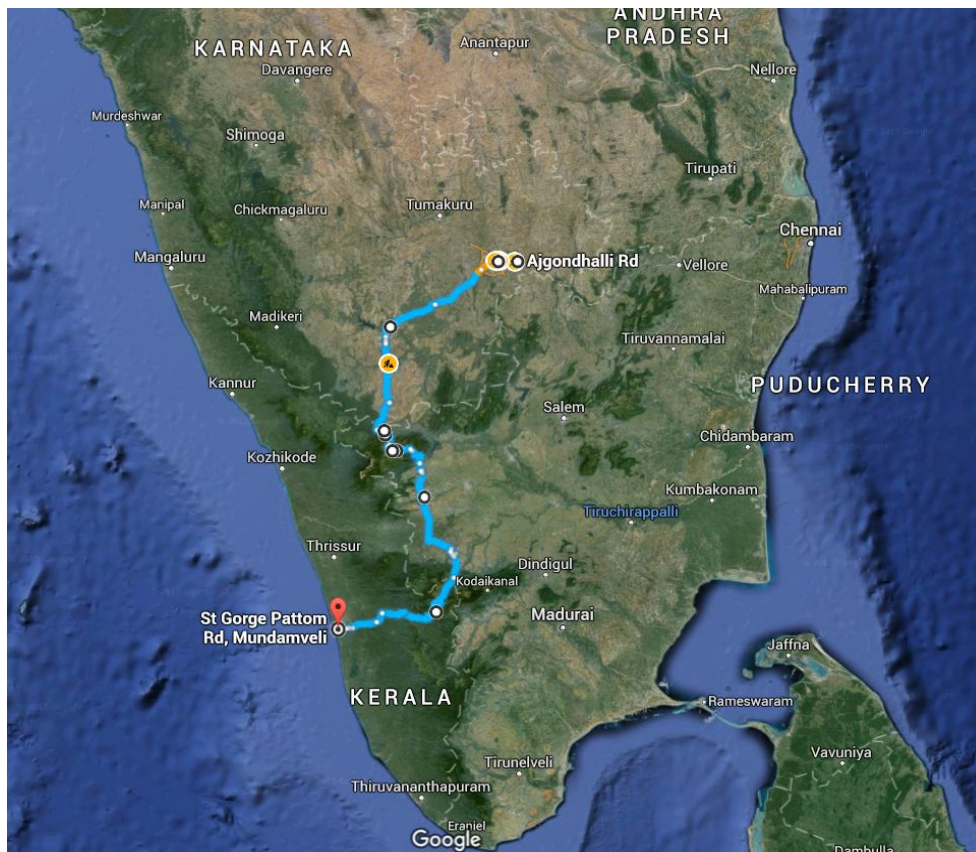
Center: Håkan, Kent and our guide Sudeesh, in Munnar which also has the highest peak in South India, Anamudi, which towers over 2695 m in the background.

Down: Nilgiri Blue Robin



*Abilash, The Driver*

## Overview of the trip



## Background

For many years Håkan has had the opportunity to do some birding in conjunction to his work in southern India. Along with these trips Western Ghats have revealed its treasures piece by piece. After Håkan had been lobbying for some time Kent finally agreed to make a real birding tour with the goal to see as many Western Ghats endemics as possible.

There are many companies in India focusing on setting up birding tours but we went for a slightly different approach. A few years before Håkan had a good guide, Sudeesh from Kerala, as well as own experiences from visits to some of the National parks in Karnataka and Kerala. These parameters were used to tailor the trip.

The first days in India Kent had to go birding on his own as Håkan had to do some "real" work prior to the real tour. Hebbal Lake and Bannerghatta National Park were visited with the result that several of the more common southern birds were seen including a Yellow-browed Warbler.

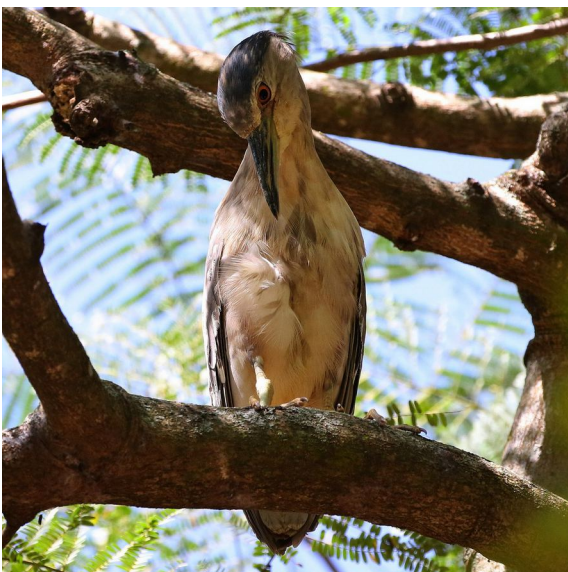
The real tour started in Karnataka's capital city, Bengaluru, and ended in Kerala's capital city, Kochi. A trip over five full days and parts of two.



*Darter, Spot-billed Duck, Indian Cormorant, Hebbal Lake*



*Grey-headed Swamphen, Hebbal Lake*



*Black-crowned Night Heron, Bannerghatta*



*Brown Shrike, outside MGM Mark Hotel*



## Friday December 18 – Day 1

At noon Sudeesh, our fantastic bird guide, and Abilash, our beloved driver; picked us up in Whitefield where we had stayed at a standard business Hotel, MGM Mark. They had driven from Kochin the night before and looked a little tired but we hoped our enthusiasm would cure them.



*Pied Kingfisher, Ranganathittu*



*White-browed Wagtail, Ranganathittu*

To begin with we had expectations to reach some birding ground before sunset. However, due to a Muslim demonstration in Mandya where they blocked the entire highway our plans became void. We got stuck and came too late to Ranganathittu, a nice bird sanctuary and part of the Kaveri river, close to the old English capital city Mysore. Here we expected to see Indian Great Thick-knee and some waterfowls but due to inability and inefficiency (greed) of the park staff we lost almost 35 minutes of precious time and thus missed some target species. Anyway, we got nice close up views of a Peregrine Falcon as well as a Tytler's Leaf Warbler. So the visit was not entirely lost time.

For birders: - we strongly suggest that you “rent” a private boat and then get some extra time instead of going with the bigger public boats which don't focus on birds, but rather in the spectacular high number of water birds, flying dogs and crocodiles. Also, note that this area is better visited in early spring when more birds are breeding.

Other locations that are located along the route and well worth to visit are Ramanagara as well as Kokrebellur with their vulture and stork colonies.

After sunset we left for our hotel in Mysore, Sandesh the Prince, at No.3, Nethra Nivas, Nazarbad Road, 570010 Mysore. An excellent hotel with good food and an extremely service-minded staff. This hotel can be booked through all more common booking tools and have a price around 800 Swedish kronor per night.





*Spot-billed Pelicans, Ranganathittu*



*Mugger Crocodile, Ranganathittu*



*Asian Openbill, Ranganathittu*

In the evening we tried to sum up the birds and concluded that Kent had seen about 60 species before we joined forces. So Håkan had quite some backlog to catch up. A short summary of the more interesting birds seen on the road from Bangalore to Mysore. Tytlers Leaf Warbler, Indian Golden Oriole, White-breasted Waterhen, Common Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher, Black-crowned Night Heron, Asian Openbill, Spot-billed Pelican, Spot-billed Duck, Eurasian Spoonbill, Peregrine Falcon, Eastern March Harrier, Tickells Flycatcher.



## **Dec 19 – Day 2 Traveling to Mudemalai**

Before our driver and guide left for their hotel we decided to start our trip to Bandipur already at 05:30. But due to a traffic accident and a corrupt police and the fact that our car was registered in Kerala and not Karnataka we were delayed almost an hour in the morning. Be careful, India is a beautiful country with wonderful people, but there are always some people who wish to benefit on your lack of wariness. Anyway, we were able to reach the countryside before sunrise and we did see many species that we had not anticipated when we draw our route and wrote down our target list one example of this was a male Pallid Harrier near Gundlupet.



*Wild baby Indian Elephant, Bandipur*



*Crested Serpent Eagle, Bandipur*

Around breakfast we had both entered and left Bandipur National Park, known for its tigers and wildlife. We recommend this park as it is easily accessible but not really for heavy birding. Additionally you are not allowed to stop the car and certainly not to go out from it. Earlier trips have not resulted in any rare species and you also needed a guide that is officially approved. After Bandipur we entered Mudemalai National park, which is directly connected with Bandipur but located on Tamil Nadu side, the most southern state in India. Even here we did not really spot anything extraordinary but we still had the best before us, Masinagudi.

Masinagudi area is extraordinary (and big) with its wide range of nature types, from fairly high altitude hills without trees to deep forests and farmland with large scattered trees. According to our information more than 260 birds species have been seen in the park. As said, the park is really big and we only did birding in the outskirts. Our first stop was near the "village center" just east of Vibudhi Malai Murugan Temple. We spent some time here waiting for our local guide (something you have to have, because of local laws), and we started to search the higher altitude of the village.

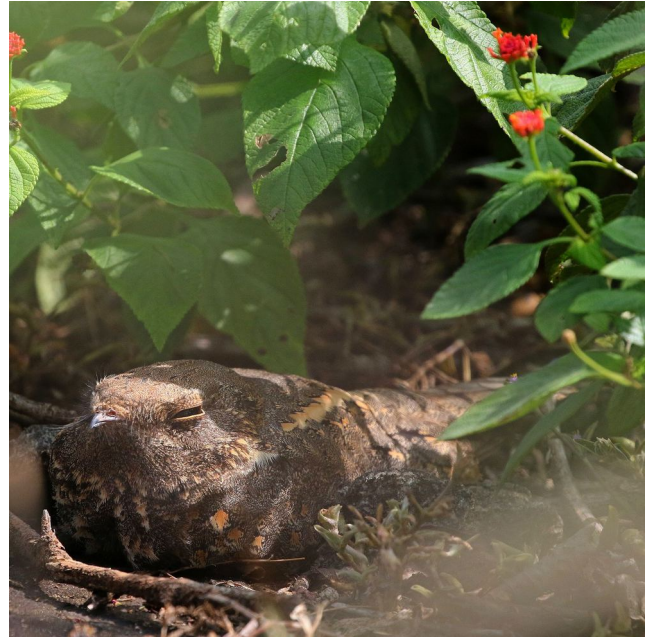
Some extra fun species were Spotted Owlet, Indian White-rumped Vulture and the



endemic Malabar Lark, closely related to the Crested Lark. When the local guide finally came we told him that we targeted to find some Nightjars. After an hour or so in the sun we had found two species, Savanna and Jungle Nightjar one or two kilometers south of the temple. Although Kent had some issue with the steep ravines it eventually went well.



*Jungle Nightjar, Masinagudi*



*Savannah Nightjar, Masinagudi*



*Common Iora*



*Bay-backed Shrike*

Other Western Ghats birds we found there was Common Iora and several Bay-backed Shrikes, before we stumbled into a group of trees with Indian Nuthatch, Hoopoe, Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker and some Purple and Purple-rumped Sunbirds.





*Spotted Owlet, Masinagudi*

After returning to the village, we then took a hike on a few kilometers east of the road for an Owl, and when we reached the boundaries to the forest we saw that this area was perfect for many Indian specialties and soon we spotted a Verditer Flycatcher, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Small Minivets along with several more common Indian species.

But..., when we finally thought we could enter the real forest a DFA-guard, Department of Forest Administration, came and pointed out that we were not allowed to enter the forest at all.



*White-bellied Drongo, Masinagudi*



*Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker*

Despite some half-hearted efforts to make him change his mind, we had to leave. So we reconsidered and instead went upstream the river, or rather creek (connecting Moyar), back towards the road where our car was parked, but with “a slight detour” of a few kilometers and probably not in line with the guards expectations. Anyway, at the tour back we got to see a nice pair of Brown Fish Owl down the creek. And just beside the river did we find a Oriental Turtle Dove, which according to our literature shouldn't be there.

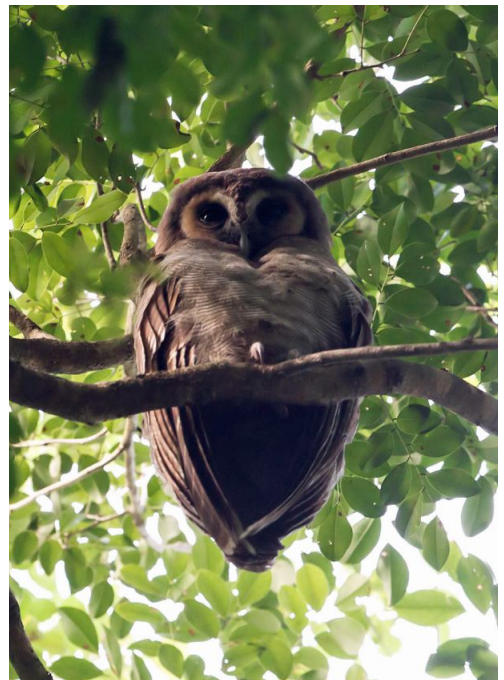
Just about the time when we spotted the Owls and the dove we also saw the Park guards again and we had to hide and as our local guide ran for cover we did too.



Now it was time for finding our camp. But first we made a stop at another Camp to drink, Safari Land Tree House, which really looks good, check it out. When we came we were greeted by two kind dogs and when Håkan dropped dead in a sofa asking for water he immediately had a 50 kg dog in his lap. She probably thought Håkan was a male dog! Håkan drank about one liter water without breathing! It had been a long and warm day and it was not over yet, but time to go to the Jungle Hut, our camp, a nice place with high hospitality rate (also this accommodation available in most booking tools and around 800 SEK for a double room).



*Malabar Lark, Masinagudi*



*Brown Wood Owl, Masinagudi*

We checked in and prepared for the late afternoon birding where we planned to enter the Masinagudi forest again.



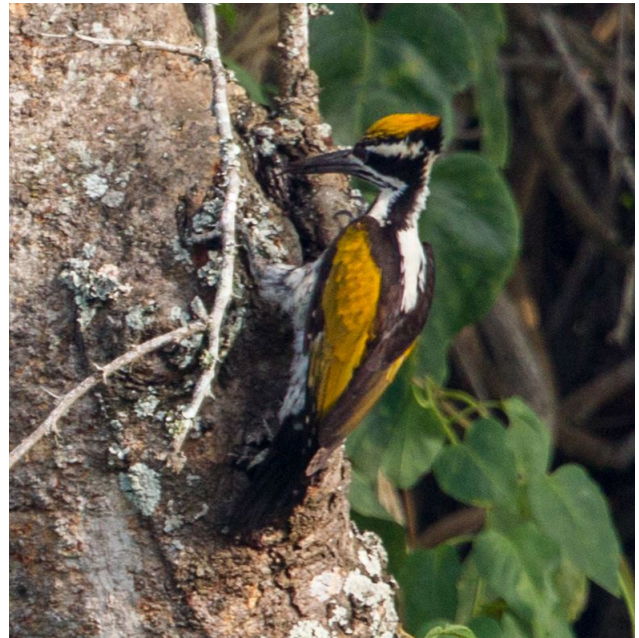
*Malabar Woodshrike, Masingudi*



In the afternoon, at the forest boarder, we were lucky to spot not only an endemic Malabar Woodshrike but also a Jerdon's Leafbird and a White-naped Goldenback. At this time our local guide got information that there was a Brown Wood Owl in the area and we went for this beautiful Owl. With no hesitation we went up the forested hill. Håkan said: “-Kent, things which not kills You, strengthens You”. At least Kent could add two new species to his Lifers List Yelllow-naped Woodpecker and Thy Owl, Brown Wood Owl!



*Lesser Goldenback*



*White-naped Woodpecker*



*Brown Fish Owl*



*Indian Pitta*

On the way back we got several new Woodpeckers too, such as Rufous Woodpecker, Lesser Yellownap, Greater Goldenback and the beautiful Indian Pitta that Kent saw before when Håkan was busy with a Bronzed Drongo. In the last sunlight we also saw a Yellow-crowned Woodpecker closely.





*Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Masinagudi*

### **Dec 20 leaving for Ooty**

After checking out from the Jungle Hut we took the serpentine road over Kllatti up to Ooty. An amazing but also dangerous trip as many cars are going way to fast given the nature of the roads. Along the road we saw a nice Asian Fairy Bluebird.

Ooty is an amazing place, and that was something the British recognized as well. But instead of just enjoying the beauty, the forests were cut down and replaced by tea-plantations.

Our target species for the day was Nilgiri Blue Robin, formerly treated as a Shortwing, as well as Nilgiri

Laughingthrush, formerly Black-chinned Laughingthrush. These should be quite common in ravines so we had good hopes. Unfortunately they were not as easy as we expected and we had to spend quite some time before spotting them. A few ravines were visited but we had to wait until we reached the top station, Doddabetta, until we saw them on display.

In Doddabetta, Ooty, we also saw the Indian Blackbird which was really nice looking with its bluish or slaty-grey color. We saw them right behind all the market stands and the local people selling their food.

Need we say that it smelled marvelous, with all spices?! Here, well above 2000 meters we also saw Cinerous Tit (a split from Great Tit). After being at the top for a little too long time we were now delayed for our next stop, Chinnar National park which we still hoped to reach before sunset.



*Nilgiri Blue Robin, Doddabetta, Ooty*



*Black-chinned Laughingthrush, Doddabetta, Ooty*



Unfortunately the road down from Ooty was crowded and we also were delayed by several car accidents. Also, we had to drive through Coimbatore to reach Chinnar and the GPS sent us out on strange roads. Just before sunset we reached Chinnar but no guide wanted to guide us so close to the closing time but Sudeesh did not give up and finally after some convincing arguments (read Rupees) we got our local guide. He took off at a high speed not suitable for tired Swedes, leaving us way behind on the road without a clue of the directions.

At this time we also thought we heard a tiger, but it might have been a leopard. Soon our guides returned. The guide took us down to the riverbed and we were looking in every tree to find next of our target species, the Spot-bellied Eagle Owl that we had heard should be possible to find here. Just before it got too dark we finally saw a single bird sitting high up in a tree. Wow, what a strange and beautiful bird. Kent got the best pictures as Hakan as usually had his camera in the wrong mode. (Thats not perfectly true. Håkan has tons of fantastic photos of Indian birds. Kents comment.)



*Indian Blackbird, Ooty*



*Spot-bellied Eagle Owl, Chinnar*

Other species seen in Chinnar was Rufous Babbler as well as a Grey-headed Bulbul.

Now we had two hours of driving up the Munnar hills to our next stop, the Eastend Hotel. A nice hotel with strange liquor policy although we succeeded to take our “apple juice” into the restaurant, at least the first evening.

In summary this day held: Asian fairy bluebird, Nilgiri Blue Robin, Black-chinned Laughingthrush, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Oriental White-eye, Indian Blackbird, Indian Scimitar Babbler, Black-and-orange Flycatcher, Tickell's Leaf Warbler, Asian Palm Swift, Southern Coucal,

Indian Roller, Grey-headed Bulbul, Spot-bellied Eagle-owl, Rufous Babbler and a White-browed Bulbul.





*Nilgiri Thar, Eravikulam*



*Indian Scimitar Babbler, Eravikulam*

### **Dec 21 Birding in Munnar**

In order for us to be among the first up to Eravikulam National park we had to leave the hotel well before eight, when the park was supposed to open. The goal at the park was to see the endemic Kerala Laughingthrush, White-bellied Blue Robin as well as the Broad-tailed Grassbird and Nilgiri Pipit.

Even if you are not a birder, this trip is a must if you ever visit Munnar. Beautiful is just the first word! In the park there is another South Indian endemic, the Nilgiri Thar. And just recently an endemic frog was found in the park. The whole population exists within 3 square kilometers! We did not see any of them though.

At the top bus-station we immediately started our hunt for the endemic jewels. After a few hours we unfortunately had only short sightings of the White-bellied Blue Robin as well as the Nilgiri Pipit. But the Laughingthrush was abundant and we also got nice, but short, views of Black-and-orange Flycatcher.



*Kerala Laughingthrush, Eravikulam*



Other species of interest up here in the sholas (trees in the ravines) were the Large-billed Leaf Warbler and Nilgiri Flycatcher. When we were looking for the Grassbird we also saw some nice raptors, including Indian Spotted Eagle and Himalayan Buzzard. Back at the car we noted that we made a good decision to be among the first in line in the morning as now it was probably several hours of waiting queue to get up to the top bus-station.

We drove only a few hundred meters to a small ravine (beside the road from Munnar) to look for flycatchers etc. In the ravine, we could spot many new species for the trip such as Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Indian Scimitar Babbler, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Indian Yellow Tit and Square-tailed Bulbul and also Black-and-orange Flycatcher. There were also a pair of Asian Paradise-flycatchers.



*Square-tailed Bulbul, Pothamedu*

As Sudeesh has been in Munnar many times before he then proposed us to go to something called Pothamedu, along the road going over the river Muthirappuzhayar (signs to Deshadan). Here we visited an old abandoned mine, where fresh water is available all year around and thus attracting birds who wish to drink and bath.



*Black and Orange Flycatcher, Pothamedu*

After breakfast break we left Munnar and headed for a road called "gap road" which goes through the mountain and follows the ridge with its enormous views on the right side of the road. We think the road name is road 49 and we stopped at National Park View Point. Here we saw both Hill Swallow at a parking spot as well as Nilgiri Pipits and Greater Spotted Eagle. On the way back (1 kilometer west from the view point) we stopped right before the gap when we saw a pair of Falcons high up on a rock and decided to mount the Scope. We concluded that we had spotted a nesting pair of Laggar Falcon. Beautiful.





*Nilgiri Flycatcher, Pothemedu*

The road outside is also nice as trees on the steep slopes gives you views of birds sitting in the tops of the trees on just a few meters distance. Here we saw White-bellied Blue Robin, Malabar Whistling Thrush, Orioles, Emerald doves, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Laughingthrushes as well as the Indian Blue Robin. Back at the hotel we just summarized our spottings, 173 species in total.

In summary: Brown-breasted Flycatcher, Kerala Laughingthrush, White-bellied Blue Robin, Indian Spotted Eagle, Himalayan Buzzard, Nilgiri pipit, Velvet-

fronted nuthatch, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Indian Yellow Tit, Square-tailed Bulbul.



*Nilgiri Pipit, Gap Road*



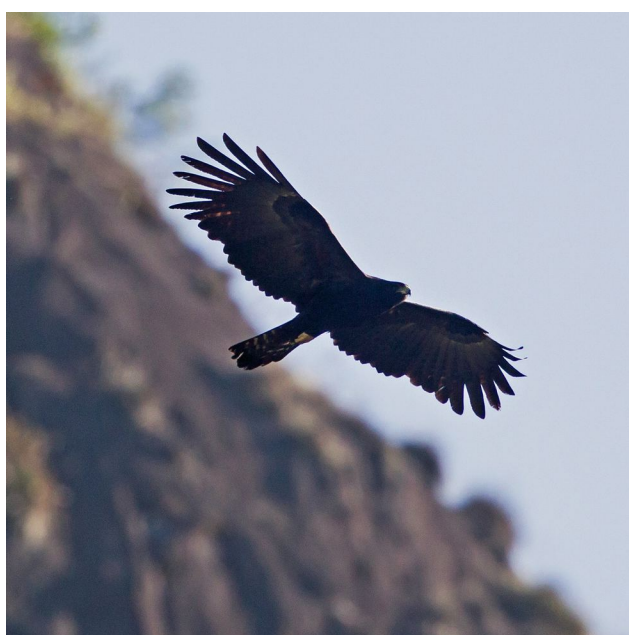
*Brown-breasted Flycatcher*

Gap road: Nilgiri Flycatcher, Hill Swallow, Dusky Crag Martin, Blue Rock Thrush, Common Rosefinch, Brown-headed Barbet, Laggar Falcon, Greater Spotted Eagle, Plain Prinia. Pothamedu: Emerald Dove, Indian Golden Oriole, Indian Blue Robin = 173 species



## **Dec 22 Leaving Munnar for Thattekad**

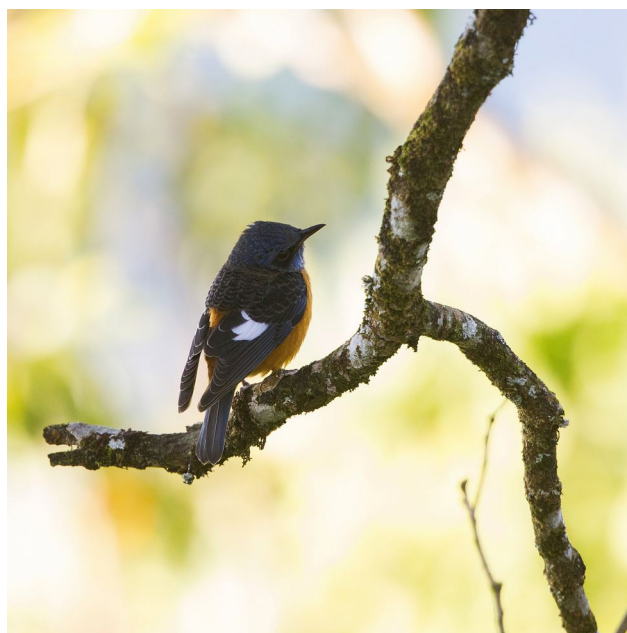
After leaving the hotel we decided to return once more to Pothemadu as well as going up to the nice hotel Deshadan Mountain Resort. This turned out to be an excellent idea as we got to see a pair of Black Eagles soaring close by. This was pure luck as our guide got sudden belly problem and needed a toilet. Thanks to this he sent the driver down to pick us up and we really enjoyed the beauty of these magnificent birds.



*Black Eagle, Pothamedu*

After this it was time to head for Thattekad where Håkan had had such nice birding already 2011.

We booked the same camp as last time, the Hornbill Camp which consist of some semi-tent constructions. A good place with knowledgeable staff and short distances to good birding.



*Blue-capped Rock Thrush, outside Deshadan hotel*

Birds of particular interest here are Orioles, Flycatchers, Warblers, Bulbuls and Babbler. The most interesting and spectacular were one Blue-capped Rock Thrush and one Yellow-browed Bulbul.



*Yellow-browed Bulbul*

Once at the camp we started off by seeing one Lesser Fish Eagle and to lunch Chestnut-headed Bee-eater.





*Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Hornbill Camp*

Then we went for Owl spotting. We had both dreamt about the Bay Owl and had heard it was not impossible so we left for Urulanthanny, a nice area of jungle approximately 15 kilometers from the camp. Here we went into the forest with all its leaches. It did not take long until we had the first leaches on us. But we also had good birding, such as Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, Malabar Trogon, Lesser Coucal, Sri Lanka Frogmouth etc. But unfortunately no Bay Owl. After removing the leaches we started to listen for owls as the sun had set.



*Malabar Trogon*



*Greater Racket-tailed Drongo*

After some minutes we heard the spooky sound of an Bay Owl and decided to get back here the day after.

New birds Dec 22 from Munnar over Pothamedu/Chadain:

Lesser Hill Myna, Blue-capped Rock-thrush, Black Eagle, Orange Minivet, Crimson-backed Sunbird

Pallivasal (Road down from Munnar):

Yellow-browed Bulbul, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo and Grey-headed Babbler

Hornbill Camp, Thattekad:

Lesser Fish Eagle, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater



Urulanthanny:

Indian Swiftlet, Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, Malabar Trogon, Black-naped Monarch, Dark-fronted Babbler, Lesser Coucal, Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, White-bellied Blue Flycatcher, White-bellied Woodpecker, Malabar Barbet, Drongo Cuckoo, Sri Lanka Bay Owl and Jungle Owlet.

197 species – up until now.

### **Dec 23 Birding in Thattekad**

Early in the morning we went back to Urulanthanny. This area is really great and a few hundred meters into the park, which was closed right now (but possible to enter if you payed 100 rupees to a corrupt guy). This rock is amazing and Hakan remembered it from last time as a hit spot. Here



*Southern Flying Lizard,  
Urulanthanny*



*Sri Lanka Bay Owl, Urulanthanny*

we saw Flame-throated Bulbuls, Grey-headed Bulbul but also several raptors including Rufous-bellied Eagle, Black Eagle and Crested Goshawk. What an area.

After a few hours we had enough photographs and aimed for the area where we had heard the Sri Lanka Bay Owl. As we were weary after quite some walk, Sudeesh left us to do some own search. After quite some time he returned and in presence of the "park staff" he states "shall we go back to camp?" but once in the car he says: "I am the best birder in India" and smiles big. He has found the Owl and now we just had to do a short walk in the presence of the leaches. After a quarter of a mile through dense under cover we finally spotted it. Wow! Sri Lanka Bay Owl.





*Rufous Treepie*



*Crested Treeswifts, Teak-plantation*

In the afternoon we left for a nice Teak plantation, near located near a lake where Håkan was last time too. Here we saw Puff-throated Babbler, Crested Tree-swift, White-bellied Treepie and many other birds. The evening was spent around the camp where we heard both Indian Scops Owl, Oriental Scops Owl, Brown Hawk Owl as well as seeing the Great-eared Nightjar hunting for insects.

In summary

Hornbill Camp, Thattekad:  
Indian Scops Owl

Urulanthanny, or temple:

Green Imperial Pigeon, Blyths Starling - Species 200, Flame-throated Bulbul, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Grey-fronted Green Pigeon, White-rumped Spinetail, Oriental Honey-buzzard, Banded Bay Cuckoo, Crested Goshawk, Rufous-bellied Eagle, Golden-fronted Leafbird, Stork-billed Kingfisher and Dollarbird.

Chelamala teak plantation:

Puff-throated Babbler, Crested Tree-swift, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, River Tern, Intermediate Egret, White-bellied Treepie, Red Spurfowl, Great Cormorant

Hornbill Camp:

Great Eared Nightjar, Oriental Scops Owl, Brown Hawk Owl = 222 species





*Malabar Grey Hornbill*



*Gull-billed Tern, Kochi*

## **Dec 24 – Final day**

Last morning is spent again in the Teak plantation Chelamala and today it is a lot busier with birds and we can spot Orange-headed Thrush, Blue-throated Flycatcher, Spangled Drongo, Large Cuckooshrike as well as a short view of the Blue-bearded Bee-eater although one would rather have had it sitting a few more seconds to be fully convinced. Hakan also finally got a view of Loten's Sunbird, a fairly common bird that has been illusive for him, sitting in the nest not even he could miss it anymore. We also got close and nice views of Malabar Grey Hornbill. After this we dropped Sudeesh at his house as he the very same day should go back with a new group to Munnar.

After some short stop we went back to the Hornbill Camp and counted our Western Ghats twitches and checked out early in order to have some time in Cochin (or Kochi which you also can say) where we planned to see Black-capped Kingfisher in the Mangroves. Unfortunately that did not happen but we got around 10 new species of wetland birds.

The road to the harbor is quite some road with a lot of ponds, mud flats, scattered palms and trees. After driving over the "final" bridge we aimed for a small gravel

area near a church. After parking there we went out onto the small paths connecting the fish ponds. Here we saw Greater Crested Tern, Gull-billed Tern as well as Common - and Stork-billed Kingfishers. On the way back to the airport the tide was perfect for resting gulls and we saw plenty of Crested Terns, Brown-headed Gull, Black-headed Gull as well as Reef Heron. A few waders known from Sweden were also seen, for example Common Greenshank, Redshank etc. At this time we felt quite satisfied and we concluded the trip and decided to go to the airport so our dear Abilash could drive home to his mother in Munnar. The traffic was quite crowded and it took around an hour to get there. Plan for two hours. At the airport we had to wait two hours before we could check in. The guards require very clear papers/itineraries and we were accompanied with two guards until an airport representative could explain the word code sharing.

At the airport Håkan had to explain where he had stayed during the entire trip. We then



visited a fast food restaurant, the Curry Tree, where we were served the worst food during the entire trip. Cold chicken and mutton with mostly bone. We both got Delhi-Belly that lasted the entire trip. Shame on them as they took no pride in walking that extra mile. Five persons serving two people and still not doing edible food.

We flew over Abu Dhabi, where we changed plane to go to Dusseldorf which we reached early next morning. From there we continued to Copenhagen with an Air Berlin flight. In Copenhagen we took a train to Sweden, being checked for ID in Hylle.

The trip was a complete success! We saw 245 species, where 30 are endemic to the Western Ghats.

New birds last day Dec 24

Chelamala:

Common Woodshrike, Chestnut-headed Starling, Black-hooded Oriole, Common Hawk Cuckoo, Large Cuckooshrike, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Pale-billed Flowerpecker, Spangled Drongo, Loten's Sunbird, Blue-Throated Flycatcher, Orange-headed Thrush

Kochi harbor and mangrove:

Great Egret, Osprey, Common Greenshank, Gull-billed Tern, Brown-headed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Slender-billed Gull and Greater Crested Tern.

A general advise: Plan for substantially longer time for travels. What in Europe might take 3 hours may very well end up in 6 hours in India. Also avoid discussions with guards in Parks and National Parks. They will halt you effectively.

Also avoid all vegetables and cold food which should be hot!

Don't drink water or juice unless it's bottled.



#	Spices	Scientific Name	End emi c?	First seen date
1	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	E	Dec 23
2	Grey Junglefowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	E	Dec 19
				
3	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>		Dec 19
4	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>		Dec 19
5	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>		Dec 16
6	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		Dec 19
7	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		Dec 19
8	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		Dec 18
9	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>		Dec 18
10	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>		Dec 18
11	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>		Dec 18
12	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>		Dec 18
13	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		Dec 18
14	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		Dec 17
15	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		Dec 16
16	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		Dec 16
17	Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		Dec 16
18	Cattle Egret (eastern)	<i>Bubulcus ibis coromandus</i>	(E)	Dec 16
19	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>		Dec 16
20	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>		Dec 23
21	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		Dec 16
22	Western Reef Egret	<i>Egretta gularis</i>		Dec 24
23	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>		Dec 18
24	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>		Dec 16
25	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>		Dec 16
26	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>		Dec 16
27	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		Dec 16
28	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		Dec 17
29	Laggar Falcon	<i>Falco jugger</i>		Dec 21
30	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		Dec 18
31	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		Dec 19
32	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		Dec 16
33	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>		Dec 16
34	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		Dec 24
35	Lesser Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>		Dec 22
36	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>		Dec 22
37	Oriental (Crested) Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>		Dec 23
38	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>		Dec 19
39	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>		Dec 19
40	Eastern Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>		Dec 18
41	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>		Dec 19



42	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	Dec 23
43	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Dec 18
44	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>	Dec 21
45	Indian Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila hastata</i>	Dec 21
46	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Dec 21
47	Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Lophotriorchis kienerii</i>	Dec 23
48	Crested Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>	Dec 19
49	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Dec 18
50	Purple Swampfen (or Grey-Headed?)	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Dec 16
51	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Dec 16
52	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa Totanus</i>	Dec 24
53	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Dec 24
54	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Dec 16
55	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Dec 16
56	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Dec 16
57	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>	Dec 24



58	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Dec 24
59	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	Dec 24
60	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Dec 24
61	Lesser Crested Tern		Dex 24



62	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Dec 24
63	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	Dec 24



64	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	Dec 16
65	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Dec 16
66	Common Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Dec 16

67 Nilgiri Wood Pigeon



*Columba elphinstonii*

E Dec 21

68 Green Imperial Pigeon

*Ducula aenea*

Dec 23

69 Mountain Imperial Dove

*Ducula badia*

Dec 23

70 Oriental Turtle Dove

*Streptopelia orientalis*

Dec 19



71 Eurasian Collared Dove

*Streptopelia decaocto*

72 Spotted Dove

*Spilopelia chinensis*

Dec 16

73 Laughing Dove

*Spilopelia senegalensis*

Dec 16

74 Grey-fronted Green Pigeon

*Treron affinis*

Dec 23

75 Yellow-footed Green Pigeon

*Treron phoenicopterus*

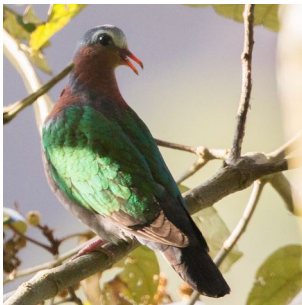
Dec 19



76 Emerald Dove

*Chalcophaps indica*

Dec 21



77 Vernal Hanging Parrot

*Loriculus vernalis*

Dex 23

78 Rose-ringed Parakeet

*Psittacula krameri*

Dec 16

79 Plum-headed Parakeet

*Psittacula cyanocephala*

Dec 19

80 Malabar Parakeet (Blue-winged)

*Psittacula columboides*

E Dec 20

81 Chestnut-winged CUocoo

*Clamator coromandus*

Dec 22

82 Banded Bay Cuocoo

*Cacomantis sonneratii*

Dec 23

83 Drongo Cuocoo

*Surniculus lugubris*

84 Asian Koel

*Eudynamys scolopaceus*

Dec 18



85 Blue-faced Malkoha



*Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*

Dec 19

86 Southern Coucal

87 Lesser Coucal

88 Sri Lanka Bay Owl

89 Indian Scops Owl

90 Oriental Scops Owl

91 Jungle Owlet



*Centropus (sinensis) parroti*

Dec 19

*Centropus bengalensis*

Dec 22

*Phodilus assimilis ripleyi*

Dec 22

*Otus bakkamoena*

Dec 23

*Otus sunia*

Dec 23

*Glaucidium radiatum*

Dec 22

92 Spotted Owlet

93 Spot-bellied Eagle Owl

94 Brown Fish Owl

95 Brown Wood Owl

96 Brown Hawk Owl

97 Sri Lanka Frogmouth

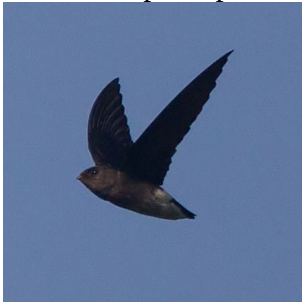
98 Great Eared Nightjar

99 Jungle Nightjar

100 Savanna Nightjar

101 Indian Swiftlett

102 White-rumped Spinetail



*Athene brama*

Dec 19

*Bubo nipalensis*

Dex 20

*Ketupa zeylonensis*

Dec 19

*Strix leptogrammica*

Dec 19

*Ninox scutulata*

Dec 23

*Batrachostomus moniliger*

Dec 22

*Eurostopodus macrotis*

Dec 23

*Caprimulgus indicus*

Dec 19

*Caprimulgus affinis*

Dec 19

*Aerodramus unicolor*

Dex 22

*Zoonavena sylvatica*

Dec 23

103 Asian Palm Swift

104 Crested Treeswift

105 Little Swift

106 Common Hoopoe

107 Malabar Trogon

108 Indian Roller

109 Dollarbird

*Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Dec 18

*Hemiprocne coronata*

Dec 23

*Apus affinis*

Dec 23

*Upupa epops*

Dec 19

*Harpactes fasciatus*

Dec 22

*Coracias benghalensis*

Dec 20

*Eurystomus orientalis*

Dec 23

110 Stork-billed Kingfisher



*Pelargopsis capensis*

Dec 23

111 White-throated Kingfisher

*Halcyon smyrnensis*

Dec 16

112 Common Kingfisher

*Alcedo atthis*

Dec 16

113 Pied Kingfisher

*Ceryle rudis*

Dec 16

114 Blue-bearded Bee-eater

*Nyctyornis athertoni*

Dec 24

115 Green Bee-eater

*Merops orientalis*

Dec 16

116 Blue-tailed Bee-eater

*Merops philippinus*

Dec 18

117 Chestnut-headed Bee-Eater

*Merops leschenaulti*

Dec 22

118 Malabar Grey Hornbill

*Ocyrceros griseus*

E Dec 23

119 Brown-headed Barbet

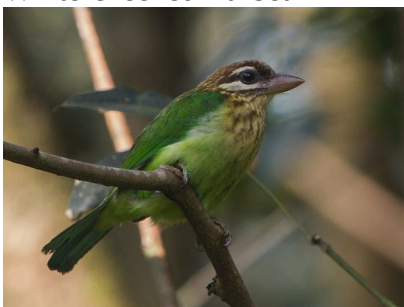
*Megalaima zeylanica*

Dec 21

120 White-cheeked Barbet

*Megalaima viridis*

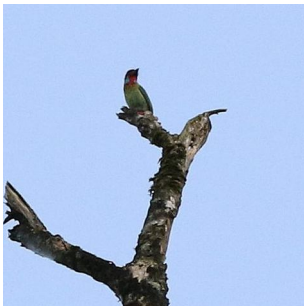
E Dec 23



121 Malabar Barbet

*Megalaima malabarica*

E Dec 22



122 Coppersmith Barbet

*Megalaima haemacephala*

Dec 19

123 Heart-spotted Woodpecker

*Hemicircus canente*

Dec 23

124 Rufous Woodpecker

*Celeus brachyurus*

Dec 19

125 White-bellied Woodpecker

*Dryocopus javensis*

Dec 22

126 Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker

*Dendrocopos nanus*

Dec 19

127 Yellow-crowned Woodpecker

*Dendrocopos mahrattensis*

Dec 19

128 Lesser Yellownappe

*Picus chlorolophus*

Dec 19



129 Common Goldenback



*Dinopium javanense*

Dec 22

130 Lesser Goldenback (Black-rumped FB)

*Dinopium benghalense*

Dec 19

131 Greater Goldenback

*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*

Dec 19

132 White-naped Woodpecker

*Chrysocolaptes festivus*

Dec 19

133 Indian Pitta

*Pitta brachyura*

Dec 19

134 Malabar Woodshrike

*Tephrodornis sylvicola* split

E Dec 19

135 Common Woodshrike

*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*

Dec 24

136 Ashy Woodswallow

*Artamus fuscus*

Dec 23



137 Large Cuckooshrike

*Coracina macei*

Dec 24

138 Black-headed Cuckooshrike

*Coracina melanoptera*

Dec 19

139 Common Iora

*Aegithina tiphia*

Dec 19

140 Small Minivet

*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

Dec 17

141 Orange Minivet

*Pericrocotus flammeus* split

E? Dec 22

142 Brown Shrike

*Lanius cristatus*

Dec 18

143 Red-backed Shrike???

*Lanius collurio*

Dec 18

144 Bay-backed Shrike

*Lanius vittatus*

Dec 19

145 Longtailed Shrike

*Lanius schach*

Dec 19

146 Greater Racket-tailed Drongo

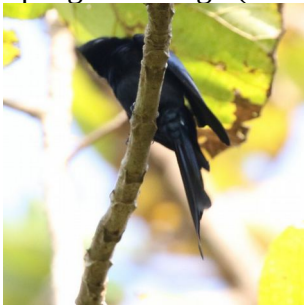
*Dicrurus paradiseus*

Dec 22

147 Spangled Drongo (Hair-crested)

*Dicrurus hottentottus*

Dec 24



148 Black Drongo

*Dicrurus macrocercus*

Dec 16

149 Ashy Drongo

*Dicrurus leucophaeus*

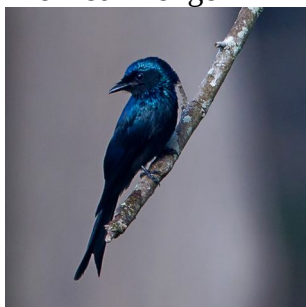
Dec 19

150 White-bellied Drongo

*Dicrurus caerulescens*

Dec 19

151 Bronzed Drongo



*Dicrurus aeneus*

Dec 19

152 Indian Golden Oriole

153 Black-hooded Oriole

155 White-browed Fantail



*Oriolus kundoo*

Dec 21

*Oriolus xanthornus*

Dec 24

*Rhipidura aureola*

Dec 19

156 Asian Paradise-flycatcher

157 Black-naped Monarch

158 Rufous Treepie

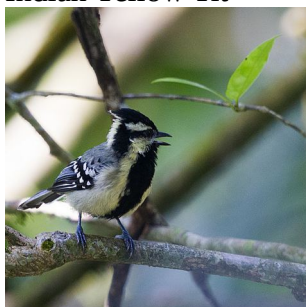
159 White-bellied Treepie

160 Indian Jungle Crow

161 House Crow

162 Cinerous Tit

163 Indian Yellow Tit



*Terpsiphone paradisi*

Dec 17

*Hypothymis azurea*

Dec 23

*Dendrocitta vagabunda*

Dec 17

*Dendrocitta leucogastra*

E Dec 23

*Corvus culminatus*

Dec 16

*Corvus splendens*

Dec 16

*Parus cinereus*

Dec 16

*Parus aplonotus*

E Dec 21

164 Dusky Crag Martin

165 Barn Swallow

166 Hill Swallow

167 Red-rumped Swallow



*Ptyonoprogne concolor*

Dec 16

*Hirundo rustica*

Dec 17

*Hirundo domicola*

Dec 19

*Cecropis daurica*

Dec 19

168 Malabar Lark

169 Grey-headed Bulbul

170 Flame-throated Bulbul

*Galerida malabarica*

E Dec 19

*Pycnonotus priocephalus*

E Dec 20

*Pycnonotus gularis* Split

E Dec 22



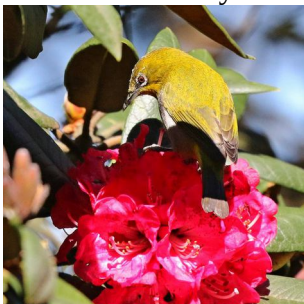
171	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>		Dec 16
172	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>		Dec 16
173	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>		Dec 20
174	Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Acritillas indica</i>		Dec 22
175	Square-tailed Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>		Dec 21
176	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>		Dec 21
177	Ashy prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>		Dec 19
178	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		Dec 18
179	Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>		Dec 16
180	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>		Dec 16
181	Booted Warbler	<i>Iduna caligata</i>		Dec 17
182	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>		Dec 19
183	<b>Yellow-browed Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>		Dec 17
184	Greenish warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>		Dec 16
185	Large-billed Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>		Dec 21
186	Tytler's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus tytleri</i>		Dec 18
187	Hume's Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia althaea</i>		Dec 19
188	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>		Dec 23
189	Dark-fronted Babbler	<i>Rhopocichla atriceps</i>	E	Dec22
190	Indian Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>		Dec 21
191	Rufous Babbler	<i>Turdoides subrufa</i>	E	Dec 20



192	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striata</i>		Dec22
193	Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>		Dec 19
194	Black-chinned Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron cachinnans</i>	E	Dec 20
195	Kerala Laugingtrush	<i>Trochalopteron fairbanki</i>	E	Dec 21



196	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta (Quaker)	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>		Dec 22
197	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>		Dec 20



198 Indian Nuthatch



*Sitta castanea* split

Dec 19

199 Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

*Sitta frontalis*

Dec 21

200 Lesser Hill Myna (Southern H M)

*Gracula indica*

E Dec 22



201 Jungle Myna

*Acridotheres fuscus*

Dec 18

202 Common Myna

*Acridotheres tristis*

Dec 16

203 Chestnut-tailed Starling

*Sturnia malabarica*

Dec 23

204 Blyth's Starling (Malabar S)

*Sturnia blythii*

E Dec 23

205 Brahminy Starling

*Sturnia pagodarum*

Dec 19

206 Malabar Whistling Thrush

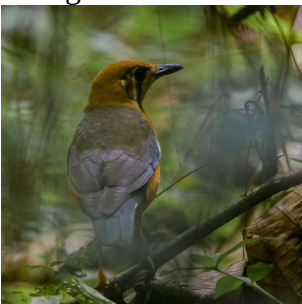
*Myophonus horsfieldii*

E Dec 21



207 Orange-headed Thrush

*Zoothera (Geokichla) citrina cyanota* (E) Dec 24







208 Indian Blackbird

*Turdus simillimus bourdilloni*

(E) Dec 20



209	Indian Blue Robin	<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>		Dec 20
				
210	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>		Dec 19
				
211	White-rumped shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>		Dec 19
212	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>		Dec 19
213	Nilgiri Blue Robin	<i>Myiomela major</i>	E	Dec 20
214	White-bellied Blue Robin	<i>Myiomela albiventris</i>	E	Dec 21
215	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>		Dec 19
				
216	Blue Rock Trush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		Dec 21
				
217	Blue-capped Rock Trush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>		Dec 22
218	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>		Dec 23
219	Brown-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>		Dec 21
220	Red-breasted - or Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula</i>		
221	Black-and-Orange Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula nigrorufa</i>	E	Dec 21
222	Nilgiri Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias albicaudatus</i>	E	Dec 21

223 Verditer Flycatcher



*Eumyias thalassinus*

Dec 19

224 White-bellied Blue Flycatcher

*Cyornis pallipes*

E Dec 22

225 Tickell's Blue Flycatcher

*Cyornis tickelliae*

Dec 18

226 Blue-throated Flycatcher

*Cyornis rubeculoides*

Dec 24

227 Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher



*Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Dec 20

228 Asian Fairy Bluebird

*Irena puella*

Dec 20

229 Jerdon's Leafbird

*Chloropsis jerdoni* split

E Dec 19

230 Golden-fronted Leafbird

*Chloropsis aurifrons*

Dec 23

231 Thick-billed Flowerpecker

*Dicaeum agile*

Dec 18

232 Pale-billed Flowerpecker

*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*

Dec 24

233 Nilgiri Flowerpecker

*Dicaeum concolor*

E Dec 23

234 Purple-rumped Sunbird

*Leptocoma zeylonica*

Dec 19

235 Crimson-backed Sunbird

*Leptocoma minima*

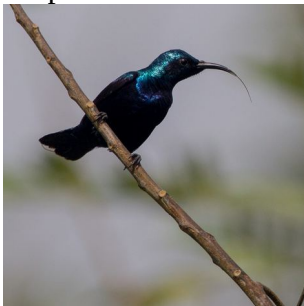
E Dec 16



236 Purple Sunbird

*Cinnyris asiaticus*

Dec 16



237 Loten's Sunbird (Long-billed)

*Cinnyris lotenius*

Dec 16

238 House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus*

Dec 16

239 Chestnut-shouldered Petronia

*Petronia xanthocollis*

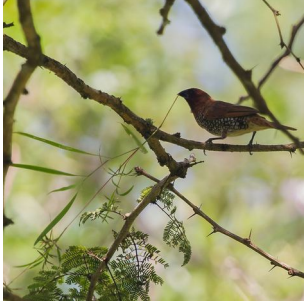
Dec 19



240 Scaly-breasted Munia

*Lonchura punctulata*

Dec 19



241 Yellow Wagtail

*Motacilla flava*

Dec 21

242 Grey Wagtail

*Motacilla cinerea*

Dec 16

243 White Wagtail

*Motacilla alba*

Dec 16

244 White-browed Wagtail

*Motacilla maderaspatensis*

Dec 18

245 Nilgiri pipit

*Anthus nilghiriensis*

E Dec 21

246 Common Rosefinch

*Carpodacus erythrinus*

Dec 21

So all together 245 species of birds plus one we are not sure about.  
Red-backed Shrike.

Literature:

Birds of the Indian Subcontinent -Helm Field Guides

Fågelguiden – Lars Svensson

Internet Resources

Xeno Canto for bird sounds

Among many other things:



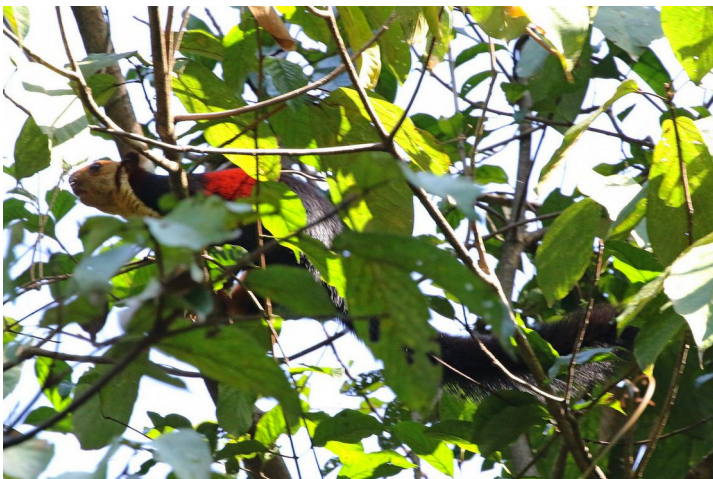
*Indian Palm Squirrel (Three-striped Palm Squirrel), Funambulus palmarum*



*Giant Wood Spider*



*Indian Giant Flying Squirrel*



*Malabar Giant Squirrel*