

Tripreport Sri Lanka, October 19th-November 1st

Participants: Ingmar vander Brugge
Eldert Groenewoud

Flights: Easyjet 5110 Amsterdam-London Gatwick at October 17th
Qatar Airways QR76 Gatwick-Doha, QR300 Doha-Colombo on October 18th-19th.
Qatar Airways QR303 Colombo-Doha, QR 75 Doha-London Gatwick on November 1st-2nd.
Easyjet 5103 London Gatwick-Amsterdam on November 2nd.

Hotel: Europa Hotel, Maidenbower (near Gatwick) on October 17th-18th.

We compared the prices for flights from Amsterdam-Colombo and flight from other cities. Leaving from Amsterdam was around 1150 euro, the flight via Gatwick, including the hotel was around 820 euros

Tour operator: Bauer

Trip: 14 days bird trip called "rainforest rendezvous".

Driver/guide: Sunil de Alvis

Currency: Roepy, 100Roepy = \$1

Our intention was to do a 14 days birding trip so we looked at some places around the world. Bauer in Sri Lanka offered a 14 day trip including car, driver, hotels, breakfast and dinner, entrance fees to parks, but excluding lunch and drinks for \$1500 p.p. Asia was a new destination for Ingmar and Sri Lanka was a new destination for me, after trips to The Philippines and China.

I had read very good things about Sunil de Alvis, so I asked for Sunil and fortunately he was available. He is a good guide with good knowledge of birds and sound, very good eyes and ears and he is a friendly person. Thanks to him we were able to see 31 of the 33 endemics and we heard one, Sri Lanka Bush Warbler. We only missed Crimson-Backed Flameback.

We saw crocodiles, apes, snakes, butterflies, elephants, lots of Leeches and a total of 220 bird species.

Day by day report:

19/10. After a good flight we arrived at 8.15h at Colombo, the national airport of Sri Lanka. The weather was good, a little cloudy, 25 C, but moist. We were picked up by a representative of Bauer and Sunil, our driver. After some paperwork, and paying the \$3000,00 for the trip (Bauer didn't want us to pay in advance, but on arrival. "Paying in advance cost money and you can lose your money", is the company-policy. I've never encountered this, but it's very customer aimed) we left in a minibus, large enough to carry 6 persons. This is also company-policy, "never put to much people in a minibus".

With some stops for birds like **Asian Openbill, Little Cormorant, Brahimi Kite, White-breasted Waterhen, Red-wattled Lapwing, Indian Pond-Heron, Grey Hornbill, Greater Coucal, Indian Swiftlet, Sri Lanka Swallow, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Large-billed Crow, Brown-headed Barbet, Oriental Magpie-, Stork-billed- and White-throated Kingfishers, Long-billed Sunbird, White-bellied Drongo and Common Myna** we drove in about 4 hours to Sisiras River Lodge near Kithulgala, where we arrived at 13.00h and had lunch, the first of many excellent Rise and Curry's. Every time we ordered this in the next two weeks, the ingredients were different. Unfortunately it rained by the time we arrived there but the rain stopped at 15.00h, allowing us to do some birding in the area near the Lodge. It was good birding here, adding a lot of birds **Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike, Black Bulbul, Common Iora, Green imperial Pigeon** and 7 endemics; **Spot-winged Trush, Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, Layard's Parrakeet, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Black-rumped Flameback, Sri Lanka Crested Drongo and Orange-billed Babbler** to the list. Here we also had our first contact with *Leeches*.

We left the lodge at 16.30h, arriving at 17.00h at Kithulgala Rest House, famous for the movie "Bridge over the River Quai" that was shot there. It was raining again.

We had another great Rice and Curry dinner. After dinner we looked for tree-frogs and found 3 very small ones in the garden.
B.O.D: Chestnut-backed Owlet, Grey Hornbill

20/10. We had breakfast at 6.30h. After breakfast we saw a **Golden-fronted Leafbird** near the rest house. The weather was good, sunshine and a nice temperature but very moist. At 07.00h we took a boat and went to the other side of the river where we arrived in a small village. We started birding here, seeing some nice birds, after this we continued to Kithulgala Forest Reserve where we met an old man near the entrance. He had caught a *Green Pit Viper* and kept it in a bottle. After proudly showing it he released the snake. We also saw our first **Southern Hill-Myna**.

We entered the reserve and stayed there for a few hours. Sunil tried to locate a Serendib Scops-owl, but after an hour he returned without a trace of the bird. We would try it again in the evening. In the meantime we saw **Dollarbird, Crested Serpent Eagle, and Yellow-fronted Barbet**. When Sunil returned from his quest, he heard a **Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler** that gave good views. We continued and entered an area with some land used for farming. Here we saw **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Red-faced Malkoha, Malabar Trogon, Black-naped Monarch, Pale-billed Flowerpecker and Common Tailerbird**.

We entered the rest house at 13.00h, rain started at 14.00h and it did not stop for the rest of the day not that night. We were not able to bird again and there was no owling this night.

B.O.D: Red-faced Malkoha, Malabar Trogon.

21/10. We had breakfast at 06.00h and it was still raining. Fortunately the rain stopped at 06.30h. We met Mr. Perry who I already met in August at the Lelystad Birdfair. In August he promised me Serendib Scops-owl, and because Sunil was unsuccessful the day before, he came all the way from Colombo with a guide to help us find the Serendib Scops-owl. After breakfast a female **Asian Koel** flew into trees for shelter, followed by attacking **Large-billed Crows**.

We crossed the river again, and while birding slowly to the roost area of the owl, we saw a **Green-billed Coucal, Dark-fronted Babbler** and 2 **Lesser Yellownapes**, Mr Perry already went ahead for the owl. When we reached the spot, they had already located a **Serendib Scops-owl**. I'm amazed they could find it, hidden in the leaves and close to the tree, but we saw it perfect. After finding the Owl Mr Perry left for Colombo, while we continued birding.

We slowly moved towards the village where we heard the first **Indian Pitta**, but it did not show itself. There were more nice birds in the village; a **Black Eagle** flying over the mountains, **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, Brown-capped Warbler** and **White-rumped Munia**.

At 11.15h we arrived at the Rest House, but because the birding at The Sisiras River Lodge was good, we decided to have lunch there and do some birding there. Unfortunately rain started early this day and at 12.00 it was raining again. We had a dry period from 14.30h till 14.45h, but by 15.00h we were back in the rest house. At 15.30h it was dry again, not enough time

to go to the other side of the river, so we birded a little near the Rest House. This was not bad, we had a large flock of *Munia* at the other side of the river, most were **White-rumped-** but also 2 **Black-throated Munias** among them. We also had good views of a **Rufous Woodpecker** flying over our heads to the other side of the river, but the best birds were a male **Sri Lanka Green Pigeon** and a **Sri Lanka Hill Myna** in the same tree at the other side of the river. At 17.00h we stopped and took a shower before having our dinner, but first we did the traditional "listing".

B.O.D.: Serendib Scops-owl, Green-billed Coucal.

22/10. We had breakfast at 6.15h. and it was still raining but fortunately this stopped at 7.00h. At this time we had decided to leave for Sisira's River Lodge and wait there for the Pygmy Kingfisher. When we left for the car, 2 **Sri Lanka Pied Hornbills** were sitting in the trees in front of the Rest House. We waited at the River Lodge from 7.15h till 8.10h but no sign of the kingfisher.

Our next place was Sinharaja. We first drove to Rathana Pura, the Gem City, where we bought some food. Again heavy rain started but only for short showers. At around 11.00h we made a first sanitary stop at a rest house where we had some snacks and saw some **Nutmeg Munia**, the second stop was near a paddy field with **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters**, **White-throated Kingfisher**, **Layard's Parrots** and **Golden-fronted Leafbirds**.

At 13.00h we arrived at a small village near Sinharaja and with a 4x4 we drove the last 3 km. to Martins Place where we would stay a few days. There were still showers, but I saw a **Crested Treeswift** flying here.

When we arrived at Martins Place I was lucky so see 2 **White-faced Starlings** in a tree, but they took off before Ingmar could see them. There was an English birding group, they were not successful with the birds, due to the rain. We had another tasteful Rice and Curry for lunch, and while staying at the veranda, we saw **Purple-rumped Sunbirds**, **Legge's Flowerpecker** and **Asian Brown Flycatcher**. When the rain stopped we walked to the entrance of the reserve where we had splendid views of a few male **Sri Lanka Junglefowl**.

In the evening we looked for and had good views of **Sri Lanka Frogmouth** but also lots of Leeches.

We had dinner at 19.30h

B.O.D.: Sri Lanka Frogmouth,

23/10.

We had breakfast at 6.00h and it was still raining. Shortly after breakfast the lodge was visited by 4 **Sri Lanka Blue Magpies**. We left Martins Place at 7.00h and after a few minutes rain started again. After a 30 minutes walk we arrived at the Ranger Station and we were soaked, but the rain stopped at 8.00h so we could bird here. While waiting for the guide, we ran into a flock with **Malabar Trogons**, **Red-faced Malkohas**, **Asian Paradise Flycatcher**, **White-faced Starlings**, **Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler**, and **Large-billed Leaf-Warbler**. There was still no guide so we walked a loop, where we saw about 10 **Ashy-headed Laughing Thrushes**.

At 10.30h the guide arrived at the Ranger Station and we slowly walked back to Martins Place without seeing good birds.

We had lunch, had some showers and stayed at the lodge and at the veranda where we saw 2 **Velvet-fronted Nuthatches** together with some **Flame Minivets**. At 15.30h we left again for the Ranger Station to look for the Scaly Thrush. We arrived at the Station at 16.15h. We took the last path on the right with the local guide who joined us, Sunil was checking near the Ranger Station. We had another (or the same) flock of **Ashy-headed Laughing Thrushes** and pretty soon the guide did hear a **Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush**, and a little later we had good views.

We returned to Martin's Place, making plans for the next day, do some listing and have dinner at 19.30h.

BOD. Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush, Ashy-headed Laughing Thrush.

24/10.

We had breakfast again at 06.00h, and it was raining. The rain did not bother 2 **Crested Treeswifts** and the small flock of **Sri Lanka Blue Magpies** that visited the Lodge again. After breakfast we slowly walked down to the village. We stopped at a place for **Sri Lanka Spurfowl**. We heard a few birds very close by, but were unable to see them. In this place was also the entire Sri Lanka population of Leeches, they were walking over our shoes, pants and everywhere. This was the worse place we did see in Sri Lanka.

We saw nice birds while we were walking down, and 2 very huge *Water Monitors*, at close range a juvenile **Crested Hawk Eagle** calling in a tree as a new trip bird.

In the village we had a tea, after tea the 4X4 drove us back to Martin's Place.

After lunch we stayed around Martin's Place where we saw another large *Water Monitor*. Ingmar was very pleased with it. In the afternoon we decided to give the **Sri Lanka Spurfowl** another try. While walking down the path behind Martin's Place, Sunil saw a Spurfowl running across the road. We taped it and 2 birds answered, but they stayed in the vegetation until Ingmar briefly saw one. We waited for some time and suddenly Ingmar saw a birds slowly crossing the road about 20 meters away from us, we had very good views of it. We walked down the road, seeing other nice birds like **Layard's Parakeet**, **Blue-tailed Bee-eater** and **Legge's Flowerpecker**, until we did hear some noise above us. We looked up and saw 8 **Great Crested Terns** slowly circling north.

BOD: Sri Lanka Spurfowl, Great Crested Tern

25/10

We had breakfast at 07.00h, no Magpie this day, and left at 7.30h and it was dry. Entering the village, a truck was stuck in the mud, we had to wait for some time, but at 08.00h we were at the bridge. We walked to "The Blue Magpie Lodge" but, it was a nice walk but not a lot of birds. We left the village at 08.30h for our next place, Uda Walawa.

At 12.00h we stopped at a hotel along the road to have lunch. Lunch would take 45 minutes to make so we birded a little in the garden, where we saw a **Gray-breasted Prinia**, some **Sunbirds** and a large snake.

After lunch we continued to Uda Walawa. Close to Uda Walawa we saw a colony with **Little Egrets** and **Black-crowned Night Herons**. We arrived at the reserve at 13.30h for a jeep safari. Near the entrance we saw **Green Bee-eaters**, **Coppersmith Barbets**, **Jerdon's Bushlarks**, 3 **Spot-billed Pelicans** and 5 **Painted Storks** flew over. During our 4 hour jeep safari we saw large numbers of *Asian Elephants* and the reserve was loaded with birds. New trip birds were: 1 **Wholy-necked Stork**, 3 **Black-shouldered Kites**, a **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**, a few **Indian Peafowl**, no less than 23 **Barred Buttonquails**, **Baya Weavers**, **Black-headed Munias**, a **Black-winged Stilt**, lots of **Orange-breasted Pigeon**, a **Brown-capped Woodpecker**, an **Alexandrine Parakeet**, a **Plumb-headed Parakeet**, 3 **Pied Cuckoos**, 3 **Blue-faced Malkohas**, an **Indian**

Roller, Zitting Cisticolas, a few **Ashy Prinias**, lots of **Black-backed Robins**, a singing **White-rumped Shama** that unfortunately stayed inside the vegetation, **Yellow-eyed Babbler** and excellent views of a singing **Indian Pitta**.
At 17.15h we left for our hotel; Centuria Hotel in Embilipitiya.
BOD: Indian Pitta, Barred Buttonquail.

26/10

When we got out of bed at 06.30h, it was raining again. After breakfast we stayed near the veranda and looked over a large lake with **Indian Cormorants**, lots of **herons**, a few **Spot-billed Pelicans**, a **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** and many **Whiskered- and Gull-billed Terns**. The rain stopped at 07.15h so we could walk through the hotel gardens till 07.45h when we left the hotel for our next place, Tissamaharama.

We birded at several stops along the road and despite the frequent rain showers (fortunately the last day with rain) we saw good birds like **Yellow-bittern**, **Eurasian Spoonbill**, **Oriental Darter**, **Lesser Whistling-Ducks**, **Grey-headed Fish-Eagle**, **Shikra**, **Little Greebe**, **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**, **Great Thick-knee**, **Common- and Pied Kingfisher**, **White-browed Fantail** and **Sri Lanka Woodshrike**.

Around noon we arrived in Tissamaharama and checked in at The Waterfront Hotel. The hotel was situated at the shores of a lake.

We birded around the shores and in the neighbourhood of the hotel till 15.00h. There were a lot of waders like **Greenshank**, **Marsh- and Wood Sandpipers**, **Common Redshank**, **Little Stint**, **Little Ringed Plover**, **Pintail Snipe** and a group of 10 **Indian Thick-knees**, **Little Terns**, **Paddyfield Pipits** and **Black-headed Munias**.

At 15.00h we left the hotel for another spot. We stopped at a house, picked up a boy who knows the roosting spot of **Collared Scops-owl**. We entered a private garden where the boy pointed out 2 roosting **Collared Scops-owls**. After this success we continued to another spot, an abandoned palm plantation. Before the plantation we passed a few trees, loaded with *Indian Flying Foxes*, thousands of them. When we stopped at the plantation the owned of the house and his neighbour came to us, talking very rapid telling us the "bird" was there. This turned out to be a **White-naped Woodpecker**. But the "bird" just left. We ran in the direction where it went. After some minutes looking here we heard a call from the owned at the other side of the plantation. Running again. But..... the "bird" just left. Where to look?? The neighbour shouted the "bird" was in a tree. Running again and there it was. Sitting for about one minute in a tree giving us good opportunities to look at it. It left again and this was all we could see of it, despite visiting the place several times in the next 2 days.

We continued to the Tissamaharama Bird Sanctuary. We saw large flocks of **Little Cormorants**, **Alexandrine- and Rosy-ringed Parakeets** flying to their roosting places. We saw the only 2 **Black Bitterns** of the trip. Late in the evening, the light was fading away, an immature **Crested Hawk Eagle** landed in a tree about 7 meters away giving excellent views for 10 minutes.

At night we had breakfast, did some listing and went to bed early. The next day we had an early start, we should leave at 05.30h.

BOD: White-naped Woodpecker, Sri Lanka Woodshrike.

27/10

We had an early start and there was no rain. We had a take-away breakfast and drove to Yala National Park, reaching the park-entrance at 06.30h where we saw 2 **Brahminy Starlins** and entering the park at 07.00h sharp. We drove around for hours till around 11.15h seeing: a **Lesser Adjutant**, 2 **Yellow-wattled Lapwings**, **Pacific Golden-, Kentish- and Black-bellied Plover**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Caspian Tern**, **Sri Lanka Green Pigeon**, **Brown-backed Noddies**, **Little Swifts**, **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker**, **Ashy-crowned Sparrowlarks**, **Oriental Skylarks**, **Forest Wagtail**, **Yellow Wagtails**, good views of **White-rumped Shama**, **Tawny-bellied Babbler**, but best "bird" was a *Sloth Bear* that was looking for food and walked around for more than 10 minutes. Other mammals were *Golden Jackals*, *Elephants*, *Wild Boars*, *Spotted Deere* and *Mongoose*. When we drove back an adult **Crested Hawk Eagle** with a living **Cattle Egret** in it claws sat on the ground, next to the road. After a few minutes the driver could not face this any longer and he chased away the eagle. First the eagle took off with the egret in it's claws landing 10 meters further. By the drivers next attempt the eagle could not hold the struggling egret and let it go. The egret took cover in the reed, the eagle flew to a tree. At 12.30h we were back at the hotel, after lunch we relaxed till 15.00h when we left for the plantation again. Despite hours of waiting, no woodpecker. But when I was standing there, an **Indian Pitta** landed in a bare branch about 5 meters to the right. It stayed there for 30 seconds.

This was the first day without rain, it was rather hot.

We also paid the Bird Sanctuary a brief visit and saw 2 **Ashy Woodswallows**.

BOD: Crested Hawk Eagle with Cattle Egret, White-rumped Shama.

28/10

We left the hotel at 04.30h to look for nightjars before our visit to Bundala National Park. It was still dark when we passed the entrance-gate of B.N.P. While driving slowly an **Indian Thick-knee** crossed the road. There were also a few *Indian Hare*, a species we never saw during the day. Suddenly Ingmar saw something on the road, it turned out to be an **Indian Nightjar**. It stayed some time on the road and in the flashlight we could see it perfect. While driving back, we saw another and could hear a few others. We also could hear **Jerdon's Nightjar**.

Near the entrance we heard **Indian Pittas** and it was still dawn, 06.00h, when we entered B.N.P. using a driver with a 4x4. Shortly after entering we saw a **Plaintive Cuckoo**. There were other new trip birds on the drive; **Common Moorhen**, 6 **Small Pratincoles**, a **Broad-billed Sandpiper**, a few **Black-tailed Godwits**, 8 **Red-necked Stints**, 2 **Common- and 4 Lesser-crested Terns**, and a **Clamorous Reed-Warbler**.

We left the park at 09.45h, this was a disappointment so Ingmar and I stayed at the watch-out till 10.30h. Here we saw about 15 **Common Coots**, a male **Small Minivet** and some **Purple Sunbirds**.

On our way to Tissamaharama we stopped at a lake where we had a lot of birds including 8 **Cotton Pygmy-goose**. Over the lake we also saw a large flock of hundreds **Oriental Pratincoles** circling on the **termiek**. In the afternoon we saw the same flock again in Tissamaharama.

We were back at the hotel at 11.45h, had lunch at 12.30h and walked the same area we were the day before yesterday. Birds had changed, less waders but a nice **Temminck's Stint** at close range and still 5 **Indian Thick-knees**. We also had a pair of **Blue-faced Malkohas** that entertained us for more than 10 minutes. They were not aware of our presence and displayed very nice, including one bird sunbathing for more than 30 seconds.

At 15.30h we drove to the plantation again, but no special birds this afternoon.
This was another god day, sunshine and about 30 degrees.
B.O.D. Small Pratincole, Cotton Pygmy-goose.

29/10

We had breakfast at 07.00h, left the hotel at 07.30h. to drive to the next place: Nuwara Eliya.

But first we visited a tea-factory and the Surry-estate. The estate is famous for migrating birds, we saw the first female **Indian Blue Robin, Brown Wood-owl, Great Tit, Dull-blue Flycatcher** and a white morph **Asian Paradise Flycatcher**. Sunil also had a Sri Lanka Woodpigeon, this it was missed by Ingmar and me.

We drove on to Nuwara Eliya and checked in our next hotel: The Rock at 13.45h. It was situated on a slope at the south side of the village. Near the hotel was a pair of resident **Pied Bushchat**. After lunch we went to one of Sunil's secret places, a place for the **Sri Lanka Whistling-Thrush** near a stream. We stayed here for a few hours, saw the **Sri Lanka Whistling-Thrush** very briefly, but we had nice views of a few **Yellow-eared Bulbuls** and some **Sri Lanka Yellow-eyes** and heard **Sri Lanka Bush-Warbler**.

We were back at the hotel at 18.30h, had dinner, this time no Rice & Curry, but fish with some vegetables and chips. I preferred the Rice Curry we had at lunch. A day with good weather.

B.O.D. Brown Wood-owl, Yellow-eared Bulbul.

30/10

Left the hotel with a take-a-way breakfast at 05.30h and were at the Whistling-Thrush place at 05.45h. A **Sri Lanka Whistling-Thrush** was singing at very close range for a few minutes but stayed hidden in the vegetation. Around 06.45 we left for Victoria Park where we arrived at 07.15h. After a short walk Sunil heard a **Kashmir Flycatcher** and after a quick search we found a gorgeous male. We walked around for an hour, seeing birds like **Sri Lanka White-eye, Gray-headed Canary-flycatcher, Pale-billed Flowerpecker** and **Yellow-eared Bulbul**. Next place was a forest south-west of Nuwara Eliya where Sunil had seen Woodpigeons a few times before. We walked a path downhill for some times, seeing a singing **Large-billed Leaf-Warbler** and 4 **Black-throated Munias**, but despite our tape-luring, we did not see a Woodpigeon.

There was another and last place, about an hour drive from Nuwara Eliya but did we want to drive for an hour to this other place? We had tried very hard for the Woodpigeon at a lot of places, by this time I thought The Woodpigeon was something that came out of the imagination of an illustrator. But it was our last chance, so we did it.

The road was very bad, there were a lot of holes, but the landscape was beautiful. While driving we saw a 3 **Hill Swallows** and a **Common Buzzard**.

When we entered the place Sunil heard a **Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush** singing and we could see it briefly. We also had good views of an **Indian Blackbird**. Ingmar and I walked a path, Sunil stayed to the car because there was a man smoking a cigarette close to the car and Sunil had a bad feeling about it, and after some 50 meters 2 **Sri Lanka Woodpigeons** flushed from the path and landed at the fallen tree about 20 meters inside the forest, showing itself to us perfect. They DO exist!

After this success we drove back to the hotel where we had lunch at 13.00h. We would leave for Victoria Park at 15.30h, so Ingmar and I walked a little around the hotel, making a lot of video and pictures. We only had **Common Tailorbird, Long-billed Sunbird, Ashy Prinia, Pied Bushchat** and **Great Tit**, but they kept us busy for nearly 2 hours.

In Victoria Park we hoped to see Pied Thrush, but this was in vain. We had another **Kashmir Flycatcher**, a **Booted warbler**, 3 **Forest Wagtails**, but the best bird was an **Indian Pitta** that was responding to another calling one and stayed out in the open till we left at dusk. And again a day with very good weather.

BOD: Sri Lanka Woodpigeon, Kashmir Flycatcher

31/10

Another driving-day to Kandy. We left the hotel at 7.30h and drove for hours through tea-plantations. We also visited a tea factory.

A little before noon we arrived at The Botanical Gardens near Kandy. Here we walked around for about 2 hours seeing a perched **Oriental Honey Buzzard**, a few **Sri Lanka Small Barbets**, a few **Southern Hill Mynas**, a **Large Cuckooshrike**, **Sri Lanka Hanging Parrots** at close range and other nice birds. We left the gardens at around 14.00h, arriving at Hotel Suisse in Kandy at 14.30h. Here Sunil left us and we walked around the lake where the hotel was situated. We saw **Little- and Indian Cormorants, House- and Large-billed Crows, Common Kingfishers** and **Black-hooded Orioles**, 2 very large **Water Monitors** and **Indian Fruit Bats**. The weather was good again, a few days earlier the rain had stopped. It had rained in Kandy for the last two weeks.

After dinner we went to sleep again.

BOD: Sri Lanka Small Barbet, Large Cuckooshrike.

1/11

Our final day and driving day back to the airport.

We were waken up by a few *Hanuman Languor* that were making a lot of noise in the hotel gardens, and after breakfast Sunil picked us up to go to the airport. The weather was good again and we reached the airport at around noon.

The airport is close to the beach and we had a lot of time to kill so we went to the beach to see some gulls. This was fruitless.

My first bird trip without a single gull, but a new trip species, a **Whimbrel**

But we managed to see our 222th trip species, a **Common Kestrel**.

We had lunch in a hotel near the airport, and after changing our cloths, we drove to the airport where Sunil dropped us at around 14.30h.

We had a few hours left before our departure. Fortunately there is a nice garden and behind large windows we saw some birds and a *Ruddy Mongoose* that was not aware of our presence.

After a good flight we landed in Gatwick, where we nearly missed our plane to Amsterdam because we had to wait more than 40 minutes before we got our luggage. It was very tight, there were only 6 minutes left before the check-in counter closed, but we got the flight.

					19-10	20-10	21-10	22-10	23-10	24-10	25-10	26-10	27-10	28-10	29-10	30-10	31-10	01-11	TOTAL
1	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis										D		F	D				F
2	Spot-billed Pelican	Pelecanus philippensis									B	E	D	E					F
3	Indian Cormorant	Phalacrocorax fuscicollis										C	A	C			F		F
4	Little Cormorant	Phalacrocorax niger		D	B	D	B			A		H	G	G	C	B	D		H
5	Darter	Anhinga melanogaster										C	B	F					F
6	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea									B	C	C	D	C	A		A	F
7	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea		A								B		D	A			A	D
8	Great Egret	Egretta alba		C			B				B	D	C	D	C	A	B	B	F
9	Intermediate Egret	Egretta intermedia		B			B				B	B		A			A		D
10	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta		B			B				D	C	C	D			C	B	F
11	Indian Pond-heron	Ardeola grayii		E							B	D	D	F	B	C	B	C	G
12	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis		F		F	E				G	G	G	G	G	B		F	H
13	Striated Heron	Butorides striatus												B					B
14	Black-crowned Night-heron	Nycticorax nycticorax									E	E	B	C	A		A	A	F
15	Yellow Bittern	Ixobrychus sinensis										A		B					B
16	Black Bittern	Ixobrychus flavicollis										B							B
17	Painted Stork	Mycteria leucocephala									B	C	D	D					E
18	Asian Openbill	Anastomus oscitans		D	A	A	A				C	D	D	E	B			B	F
19	Woolly-necked Stork	Ciconia episcopus									A				B				B
20	Lesser Adjutant	Leptoptilos javanicus											A						A
21	Black-headed Ibis	Threskiornis melanocephalus		A								F	E	D	D				F
22	Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia										A	B	D					D
23	Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus ruber												B					B
24	Lesser Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna javanica										G	G	G					G
25	Cotton Pygmy-goose	Nettapus coromandelianus												C					C
26	Oriental Honey-buzzard	Pernis ptilorhynchus			B	A				A	B				A	A	A		C
27	Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus caeruleus									B								B
28	Brahminy Kite	Haliastur indus		B			A				B	B	B	B			A	B	D
29	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster									A	A	A	B			A		C
30	Grey-headed Fish-Eagle	Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus										A	B	A					B
31	Crested Serpent-Eagle	Spilomis cheela			B	A	A				A		A			A	A		C
32	Shikra	Accipiter badius										A							A
33	Eurasian Buzzard	Buteo buteo														A			A
34	Black Eagle	Ictinaetus malayensis				A	B				A						A		B
35	Crested Hawk-Eagle	Spizaetus cirrhatus								A	A	A	B	B					C
36	Eurasian Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus																A	A
37	Ceylon Spurfowl	Galloperdix bicalcarata	E							B	A								B
38	Ceylon Junglefowl	Gallus lafayetii	E		A		C	D	B				A	A					E
39	Indian Peafowl	Pavo cristatus									D	D	D	E					F
40	Barred Buttonquail	Turnix suscitator									D		B	A					E
41	White-breasted Waterhen	Amaurornis phoenicurus		A	A					B	A	C	C	D			A	B	F
42	Purple Swampfen	Porphyrio porphyrio		B								D		D					E
43	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus												C					C
44	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra												A					A
45	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	Hydrophasianus chirurgus										E	C	G	D				G
46	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus									A	E	E	F	D				G
47	Indian Thick-knee	Burhinus indicus										C		C					D
48	Great Thick-knee	Esacus (Burhinus) recurvirostris										A	C	D					D
49	Oriental Pratincole	Glareola maldivarum												G					G
50	Small Pratincole	Glareola lactea												B					B
51	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus malabaricus											B						B
52	Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus		D							B	D	B	E	A			B	F

