

January 13-27, 2020.

<p>Fauna of Srilanka</p> <p>Srilanka is bird watcher's paradise. My friend, who lives here in Chiang Mai and we often go for birdwatching together, had told me the abundance of birds that can be seen without much effort in Srilanka. I had believed him but had no idea of the abundance he was talking about. On the first evening of our arrival in Colombo, we went for a walk by the body of water in Kawdana East. Within first fifteen minutes we had seen most of the birds listed below. We watched several Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, among other birds, in the water plants a bit far from the shore. Bird were at ease without fear of people and went about their business carefree. Next morning, we went for a walk around a lake in Bellanwila Park and we were not disappointed. Pea Fowl is the national bird and we had our hearts content watching them, in all form and shape, in the Yala national park.</p> <p>Yala National Park was exciting. Wild life was rich, particularly water birds. We were concentrating on land animals and missed out spotting many water birds. Most exciting of course was the Leopard, for which Yala is famous for. There are about 35-40 Leopards in the park. We were lucky to site three different leopards on our two safari drives on the same day. And a number of sightings of elephants on all the safaris. Our guide told us that there were about 15 sloth bears. We hadn't seen the Sloth Bear on our runs, but the bear graced us by walking past our bungalow on the last day.</p>		<p>In Colombo: around Kawdana East and Bellanwila Park</p> <p>White-breasted Kingfisher Pied Kingfisher Grey Heron Black-winged Stilts Egrets: Little, Intermediate and Great Open-bill Stork Chestnut-headed Bee-eater Chinese Pond Heron White-breasted Water Hen Black-hooded Oriole Ceylon Red-backed Woodpecker Imperial Pigeon Red-wattled Lapwing Turns Sandpiper, common Brown Fishing Kite Little Cormorant Purple Heron Pheasant-tailed Jacana Thick-kneed Stone Plover</p>
<p>In Haputale</p> <p>Hanging parrot White-bellied Drongo Common small Barbett Layard's Parakeet Plum-headed Parakeet Drongo, black Red-vented Bulbul Grey Tit</p> <p>At Yala National Park</p> <p>Greater Coucal Purple Swamphen Dusky Warbler Purple-rumped Sunbird Black Crow Red-rumped Bulbul Emerald Dove Sooty Tern Brown Shrike</p>	<p>Ceylon Paradise Flycatcher Oriental Magpie Robin Yellow-billed Babbler Streaked weaverbird Common Myna Spoonbill Black-tailed Godwit Changeable Hawk Eagle Bush Lark Paddy field Pipit Yellow Bittern Sirkeer Malkoha Orange-breasted green Pigeon Pied Hornbill Blue-tailed Bee-eater Green Bee-eater Chestnut-headed Bee-eater Indian Robin Loten's Sunbird Orange Minivet</p>	<p>Spotted Dove Jungle Fowl Black-necked Ibis Ceylon Spur Fo-eater w/ Indian darter Bird Painted Stork Lesser whistling duck Hoopoe Brahminy Kite Crested Serpent Eagle White-bellied Sea Eagle Common Moorhen Pin-tailed Snipe Spotted Dove White-rumped Munia Fan-tailed Flycatcher White-bellied Drongo Indian Robin</p>

Animals in Yala National Park

Leopard; Elephant; Sloth Bear; Spotted Deer; Sambar Deer; Hare; Land Monitor Lizard; Ruddy Mongoose; Wild Boar; Crocodile
Rock Squirrel (in Haputale and Yala); Grey Langur; Resus Monkey; Water Buffalo and Wild Buffalo; Green tree snake (in Haputale).

