

South India
5 – 19 January 2016
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Introduction

This is a brief account of our 14-day trip to South India, including the Western Ghats of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Tadoba Tiger Reserve near Nagpur. Our itinerary, accommodation, transport and guides were all very ably arranged by Jo Thomas at Wild About Travel <http://www.wildabouttravel.co.uk/>. Our guide during the Western Ghats stage of the trip was Jijo Mathew, who was recommended as the best of the local bird guides. We were not disappointed and, thanks to Jijo's exceptional bird-finding skills and his seemingly inexhaustible enthusiasm and perseverance, we managed to see all the birds endemic to the Western Ghats, along with a good many other notable species. He is also knowledgeable about mammals, butterflies and plants and he gave us a fantastic insight into the cultivation and preparation of different spice plants during our trip. Both Wild about Travel and Jijo are thoroughly recommended for those planning a birding trip to South India.

We flew direct from London Heathrow to Mumbai with British Airways . We booked three internal flights from Mumbai to Kochi, Bangalore to Nagpur and Nagpur back to Mumbai. All flights were hassle-free and on time, although beware the amount of time taken to pass through airport security, especially if you have camera equipment. Road conditions, inevitably, resulted in slow journeys, so we spent much time travelling between locations, particularly from Munnar to Ooty and from Mudumalai to Bangalore, each taking much of the day but with several breaks. Our driver was safe and steady, coping with all sorts of traffic conditions. All accommodation was of a high standard, including the tented accommodation at Hornbill Camp. The food was invariably excellent, although hotels and restaurants do tend hold back on the spices when serving European tourists. The weather in January is relatively cool and never exceeded the high 20s during our visit, although bird activity was still often much reduced from mid-day to around 4.00pm. Conditions were usually sunny and we had no rain. Biting insects were few and far between, with only a few mosquitoes seen, mostly around Hornbill Camp. We were surprised to see quite a few leeches at some locations, particularly at Urulanthanni and Periyar. Leech socks are available at the latter, although they were not really necessary during our visit.

In total we saw a respectable 278 species of bird, including 25 species restricted or largely restricted to the Western Ghats, and identified 23 species of mammal.

Thattekkad

We were picked up from Kochi airport by our driver and delivered to our accommodation at Hornbill Camp about two hours later. Here we met Jijo and went for a short walk near the camp before lunch, seeing a good range of the more widespread species including Crested Serpent-eagle, White-breasted Kingfisher, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, White-cheeked Barbet, Black-rumped Flameback, Black-hooded Oriole, Brown Shrike and Loten's or Long-billed Sunbird. Jungle Babblers were numerous and were accompanied by Rufous Treepies and a Raquet-tailed Drongo, apparently taking invertebrates flushed by the babblers. We also saw some Brown-backed Needletails and a Crested Treeswift overhead.

After the first of many enjoyable curries at lunchtime we met up with Jijo again at 3.30pm, when temperatures were starting to drop. We first drove a short distance to a small rubber plantation with some mature trees in search of a Mottled Wood Owl. After inadvertently flushing the bird Jijo spotted it flying into some adjacent trees and Sue eventually found it again, high up and well

concealed behind the foliage. We next explored some nearby scrubby areas with scattered trees where we saw Green Imperial Pigeon, Malabar Parakeet, Southern Coucal (a race of Great Coucal), Green Bee-eater, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Streak-throated Woodpecker, Nilgiri Flowerpecker and Stork-billed Kingfisher. Finally, as the sun was setting, we waited by another area of roadside scrub until we eventually saw a Jerdon's Nightjar.



Mottled Wood-owl



Jerdon's Nightjar

Edamalayar

The next morning we set off early with a packed breakfast to a huge teak plantation about an hour's drive from the camp. This government-owned plantation is on a private road and it was remarkably free of people and traffic. As we drove deeper into the plantation towards some more naturally forested areas we first saw a Crested Hawk-eagle and, shortly after, our first new bird of the trip, a Legge's Hawk-eagle (split from Mountain Hawk-eagle and restricted to SW India and Sri Lanka). With the nearby sound of wild elephants tearing down bamboo in the adjacent forest, we spent some time investigating a huge flowering Silk Cotton Tree with many White-bellied Treepies as well as Grey-fronted Green Pigeon, Vernal Hanging-parrot, Plum-headed Parakeet, Indian Golden and Black-naped Orioles, Golden-fronted Leafbird and Orange Minivet.

As we walked down the road following breakfast we searched the adjacent forest, seeing an impressive variety of species including Heart-spotted Woodpecker, Common (or Malabar) Flameback, Malabar Trogon, Drongo Cuckoo, Rufous Babbler, Dark-fronted Babbler, Thick-billed Warbler, Yellow-browed Bulbul, the first of many Blyth's Reed Warblers, Green Warbler (obviously brighter than Greenish), Cinereous Tit, Malabar Whistling-thrush, Blue-throated Flycatcher and Malabar Woodshrike. We also saw Malabar Giant Squirrel, Three-striped Palm Squirrel and heard some distant Nilgiri Langurs. Back at the camp we also saw Dusky Palm Squirrel and two Common Grey Mongooses.

Later in the afternoon we drove a short distance to an open rocky area with adjacent forest to wait until dusk for nightjars and owls. On the way we stopped for views of Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Malabar Barbet and Indian Pitta. As dusk fell we stood on a flat area of open rock, with music drifting from the loudspeaker of a nearby church, waiting for nightjars to appear. However, although we heard Jerdon's Nightjar, there was no sign of the hoped for Great Eared Nightjar that often flies over this area on its way to foraging habitats. With the rapid onset of darkness we abandoned the quest for nightjars and set off into the forest to look for Spot-bellied Eagle-owl. Unfortunately, although we spent much time searching the forest in the dark, we could not find the owl, although we did see a roosting Indian Pitta and a Sri Lanka Frogmouth.



Legge's Hawk-eagle



Malabar Giant Squirrel



Dark-fronted Babbler

Urulanthanni

This area of natural forest alongside planted and cultivated areas and gardens supports the scarce Sri Lanka Bay Owl. We set off early from Hornbill Camp, arriving about 90 minutes later while temperatures were still cool. At first Jijo accompanied us as we pursued other sought-after species, eventually finding Crested Goshawk, Grey Junglefowl, White-bellied Woodpecker, Rusty-tailed Flycatcher and White-throated Ground-thrush, amongst many other species. We then visited another area where Jijo set off into the forest alone to search for roosting owls, while we birded from the main track. We eventually found another target species, Western Crowned Warbler, while Jijo, joined by a gradually increasing number of guides from other birding groups, continued his search. Alas it was not to be, and despite many man-hours of searching in the leech-ridden forest, the Bay Owl could not be found.

After lunch back at the camp, and a quick review of options, we decided to head back to Urulanthanni in the late afternoon for another try for the owl. This time we walked a bit further into the forest, to an area away from the other bird groups. Jijo again searched for roosting birds until dusk, while we watched Bonnet Macaques in the trees high above us. Again the search was fruitless so we headed out of the forest to wait until dark. As night fell we set off into the forest for one last attempt, with judicious use of play-back in hope of provoking a response. However, although we saw a Brown Hawk-owl and a flying squirrel, we did not even hear a single Bay Owl.



White-bellied Woodpecker



Sri Lanka Frogmouth



Brown-breasted Flycatcher

Periyar Tiger Reserve

We packed our bags and checked out of Hornbill Camp after breakfast, enjoying views of a wild elephant on the opposite bank of the river as we were leaving. On the way to the Periyar Tiger Reserve near Kumili, about 80km to the southwest as the Jungle Crow flies, we stopped for some birding in roadside forest trees, seeing a good number of species including a single Grey-headed Bulbul.

After checking into our comfortable and spacious room at the Wildernest Hotel in Thattekad, and taking lunch in town, we drove the short distance to the Periyar Tiger Reserve. Here we completed our disclaimer forms, picked up a tracker and headed off on foot into the reserve. We first made a quick detour to look at an Oriental Scops-owl roosting in a small tree before continuing into the reserve. The only target species for us at Periyar was the endemic Wynaad Laughingthrush and Jijo took us to some streamside bamboo thickets favoured by the species. After about an hour it became clear that the birds were not going to make it easy for us, so we began to make our way back, checking out other likely spots on the way. There was no sign of the laughingthrush, though we did add a few species to the trip list including Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Indian Tit and, in a grassy field by the entrance road, several Pintail Snipes.

The next day we visited a different part of the reserve, necessitating a short ferry ride across a lake on a rather rustic bamboo raft. The first animal we saw on our arrival on the other side of the lake was a Stripe-necked Mongoose, making its way along the lakeshore at a leisurely pace, but still too quick to photograph in the gloomy early morning light. We walked the trails for a couple of hours, not expecting to see the laughingthrush in this area, although we had good views of other birds including Jungle Owlet, Large Hawk-cuckoo, Malabar Whistling-thrush and an overhead Bonelli's Eagle. Back in town Jijo took us to see a couple of roosting Indian Scops-owls at the Tree Tops Hotel, where we also stayed to eat.

A return visit to the area we visited yesterday afternoon, as well as an area of more mature forest higher up the hill, still did not result in even a hint of the laughingthrush. It was looking fairly terminal as we left the reserve in the evening but Jijo had a plan. Although he could not secure permission for an unscheduled return visit to the reserve the next morning over the phone, a personal visit to the booking office in town was more successful (although he feigned failure and disappointment on returning to the car before triumphantly revealing the permits).

So, our last morning at Periyar and our last chance for the laughingthrush. We first headed off to the streamside bamboos visited on our first afternoon, except this time we continued walking up the hill and deeper into the reserve. With nothing of interest seen, apart from a female Indian Blue Robin



Indian Scops-owl



Jungle Owlet



Oriental Scops-owl

on the way up, Jijo decided we should backtrack to the more forested area visited the day before. On reaching this area Jijo received a call from another tracker to tell us some birds had been found, a little higher and further up the path than where we turned back about an hour before! Our tracker was instructed to return to the area as soon as he could and find the birds, while we followed behind with Jijo. When we eventually returned to the spot it was mid-morning and getting hot but, thankfully, the birds were still there and, with a bit of crawling through the leech infested bamboos, we were at last rewarded with good views of our target bird.

Munnar

On leaving Periyar we dropped down to lowlands to the east and travelled north before climbing back in to the mountains through Bodi Ghats towards Munnar. On the twisting mountain road at Bodi Ghats we spent some time looking at White-browed Bulbuls, Yellow-billed and Tawny-bellied Babblers and a single Jungle Prinia, along with our first Bay-backed Shrike and a Blue-faced Malkoha. We gradually ascended into Yellow-throated Bulbul habitat and Jijo soon spotted a distant pair, which very obligingly, and in contrast to most birds, flew towards us and settled in a roadside bush a few feet away.

Our next stop, just a few miles before Munnar town, was a viewpoint parking area thronging with tourists and various food stalls. Jijo explained that the extensive carpets of rubbish beneath the viewpoint often attracted Nilgiri Pipit, which can be difficult to see elsewhere. We had no luck with the pipit but did see a single Kerala Laughingthrush along with passing Hill Swallows and Dusky Crag Martins, a Blue Rock Thrush and a flock of Common Rosefinches feeding on seeding flowerheads amongst the squalor. As evening approached we travelled through the extensive tea and cardamom plantations around Munnar, arriving at our accommodation at the Olivebrook Hotel on the outskirts of town at dusk.

The following morning we drove a few kilometres to Erivakulum National Park took the Park bus up to the visitor centre (private vehicles are not allowed, although we saw plenty of traffic using the road to reach nearby plantations when we were there). Access in the park is restricted to a short stretch of road above the visitor centre which passes through mostly open grassland and rocky slopes, with small patches of forest. Although short, this route is sufficient to find all the main species of interest. We spent some time watching an area of forest just below the visitor centre, where we saw several Kerala Laughingthrushes and Indian Blackbirds, along with our first Nilgiri Flycatcher and several Tickell's Leaf-warblers. We had good views of a White-bellied Blue Robin further up the hill and a passing Pallid Harrier. Eventually, thanks to Jijo's sharp eyes, we also found a Nilgiri Pipit on the open rocks below the track. The Park speciality, the Nilgiri Tahr, was quite numerous and, with an estimated 750 individuals, the Park apparently holds the largest population of this goat-like mammal in the world. On our return to the hotel for lunch we stopped to investigate some low trees over-hanging the road, where we saw a single Nilgiri Wood Pigeon.

In the afternoon we walked up a grassy hillside above the hotel to look for the notoriously difficult Broad-tailed Grassbird. This bird is incredibly skulking outside the breeding season (which coincides with the rainy season avoided by foreign birders) and the only way to see it is to sit in some suitable habitat and wait for it to show itself. This we did, finding a suitable vantage point on some large boulders and scanning the surrounding tall grassy vegetation. We saw plenty of Plain and Ashy Prinias during or vigil, as well as a Grasshopper Warbler and even a flock of Painted Bush Quails, which quickly flew in and disappeared from view, but we had to wait until almost dusk for a grassbird to make an appearance. Our view was rather distant but the bird stayed in sight for several minutes allowing us to confirm identification as it quietly flew between grass tussocks.



White-bellied Blue Robin



Nilgiri Wood Pigeon

Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary

We checked out and departed the hotel early the following morning, stopping briefly to photograph some roadside Nilgiri Wood Pigeons and an obliging Crested Goshawk. We arrived at Chinnar at around 10.30 and it was already quite hot when we picked up our tracker and headed into the sanctuary. Our main target here was Spot-bellied Eagle-owl, having missed it at Thattekkad. We spent much time looking up into enormous trees on the banks of the river and, just as the point where we were thinking the birds must have gone, the tracker spotted a bird tucked away in the leaves of the canopy high above us. Even Jijo was surprised that the tracker managed to find the owl in such a high and well concealed place. We also saw a Brown Fish-owl nearby, as well as a Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Pale-billed Flowerpecker and our first Gaur.



Spot-bellied Eagle-owl



Brown Fish-owl

In the afternoon we again descended into the lowlands before making our way up to the highlands around Ooty. While in the lowlands we saw several new species for the trip, including Indian Spotted Eagle, Booted Eagle, Common Peafowl and Rose-ringed Parakeets. We also made brief stop at a small area of scrubby grassland where we saw a Jerdon's Bushlark and a small flock of Large Grey Babblers. The road from here to Ooty was very winding and slow with little opportunity for birding before the light failed, although we did stop to look a family of Guar feeding next to the road including an immense adult male and some very young calves. We arrived at the rather grand Fern Hill Palace (it really was a palace at one time) around 8.00 pm and made straight for the restaurant.

Ooty

We went out before breakfast this morning, in search of Painted Bush Quails on some cultivated terraces a short distance below the town. Seeing that the first area of low scrub was already occupied by a birder and his guides we went down through a group of houses to some other areas of scrubby vegetation between the cultivated fields. We could hear some birds calling here but it took some time to spot a pair running in the small open areas between the patches of scrub.

After a quick breakfast we headed to the nearby Cairnhill Reserved Forest, basically a pine plantation with abundant dense undergrowth. We spent much time walking through the fairly uniform habitat, seeing little but an enormous Gaur which we, alarmingly, almost bumped into as we walked around the bend in the narrow trail. We made a hasty retreat and waited for it to pass, taking a few snaps in the meantime. We were almost back at the entrance to the reserve when we at last found a Nilgiri Blue Robin. We eventually managed good views of this skulker and we surprised when it was joined by a stunning Black-and-Orange Flycatcher. After nearly two hours of searching we found two target birds within five minutes of each other and right next to the entrance gate!



Nilgiri Blue Robin



Black-and-Orange Flycatcher

With no sign of the other target endemic, the Black-chinned Laughingthrush, Jijo decided to abandon Cairnhill and we drove up to an alternative location at the nearby Doddabetta viewpoint. It was late morning by this time and, predictably, there was a large gathering of Indian tourists there, along with the inevitable collection of food and souvenir stalls. We walked amongst the stalls looking into the fenced-off forest behind them. Not a particularly promising place to find the laughingthrush but it was not long before Jijo heard a bird calling and we quickly managed to get good views of one perched above some discarded fruit behind one of the stalls. Having seen the bird we made a hasty retreat and started our journey downhill to Mudumalai, stopping on the way to look for Pied Thrush and seeing, instead, a Tytler's Leaf-warbler and Rufous Woodpecker.

Mudumalai

After checking into the Jungle Hut and eating lunch we met up with Jijo to explore the adjacent areas of the Mudumalai National Park. Firstly we checked a nearby area of mature bamboo on the off-chance of finding a Nilgiri Thrush. The thrush is a seasonal migrant to the Nilgiri area and Jijo was not at all optimistic that it would be present in January. So we did not hold out much hope when we cautiously peered beneath the bamboo and we were astonished when Jijo quickly spotted a bird warily skulking in the near darkness of the thicket. With our confidence suitably boosted we drove a short distance to an area of dry grassland with some enclosed fields and hedgerows to look for

Jungle Bush Quails. Here we saw a pair of Spotted Owlets peering from a tree-hole and Malabar Larks and Blyth's Pipits in the open grassland. The main target species proved more difficult to see. Concentrating on the tall grassy areas in the enclosed fields we eventually had good views of a group of six emerge from a hedge and feed on grass seeds a short distance from our hidden position behind a tree trunk.

The following morning we drove deeper into the park accompanied by a local guide. Roadside birds on the way to the White-bellied Minivet stake-out included Grey Francolin, numerous Indian Robins and a group of about ten Jungle Bush Quails. At our destination we quickly saw at least five White-bellied Minivets along with Small Minivet, Hume's Whitethroat and Booted Warbler and a flock of Woolly-necked Storks, uncharacteristically foraging next to the road. Other species seen in this area included White-eyed Buzzard (an unusual record according for this area) and Rufous-winged Lark.

In the afternoon we first visited an area of forest where we saw Brown Wood-owl, Indian Pitta, Indian Blue Robin and Puff-throated Babbler. We then travelled a bit further to another area of dry grassland and thorny scrub where Jijo showed us an Indian Nightjar roosting in a tree. Savannah Nightjars roost on rocks here but were not to be found during our visit. Other species seen here were Pale-billed Flowerpecker, Lesser Whitethroat (noticeably much paler than Hume's) and Bay-backed Shrike.



Jungle Bush-quail



Bay-backed Shrike

The following day we checked out early for the long journey to Bangalore via Mysore. Initially we travelled through some other tiger reserves, one with incredibly extensive thickets of the introduced *Lantana camara*, native to so South America and now rampant in this part of India. As we entered more open, cultivated countryside we saw our first Indian Silverbills and a flock of four Indian Grey Hornbills. Small wetlands on our approach to Mysore held Black and Black-headed Ibis, Asian Openbill, Spot-bellied Pelican and Indian Spotted Eagle.

It was around mid-day by the time we reached the outskirts of Mysore, where we searched a rocky channel for a roosting Indian Owl which was eventually spotted by Sue. We then visited a small area of grassy fields encroached on all sides by ostentatious new buildings, evidence of India's currently booming economy. Here we first saw some larks perched on overhead wires, which we eventually identified as Indian Bushlarks. Our main target, the Sykes' Lark, was less obliging as it tends to stay out of view in the taller grass. It was not long before we accidentally flushed a bird which, thankfully, landed and started to forage in some shorter vegetation, allowing us to confirm its identification.

After lunch we visited a large lake and adjacent paddyfields not far from Mysore. Here we topped up the trip list with a good number of ducks and waders, including Cotton Pygmy Goose, Greenshank

and Little Ringed Plover. Finally we checked some rocky hills for vultures, seeing three Indian Vultures and a single immature Egyptian Vulture perched on the rock faces.

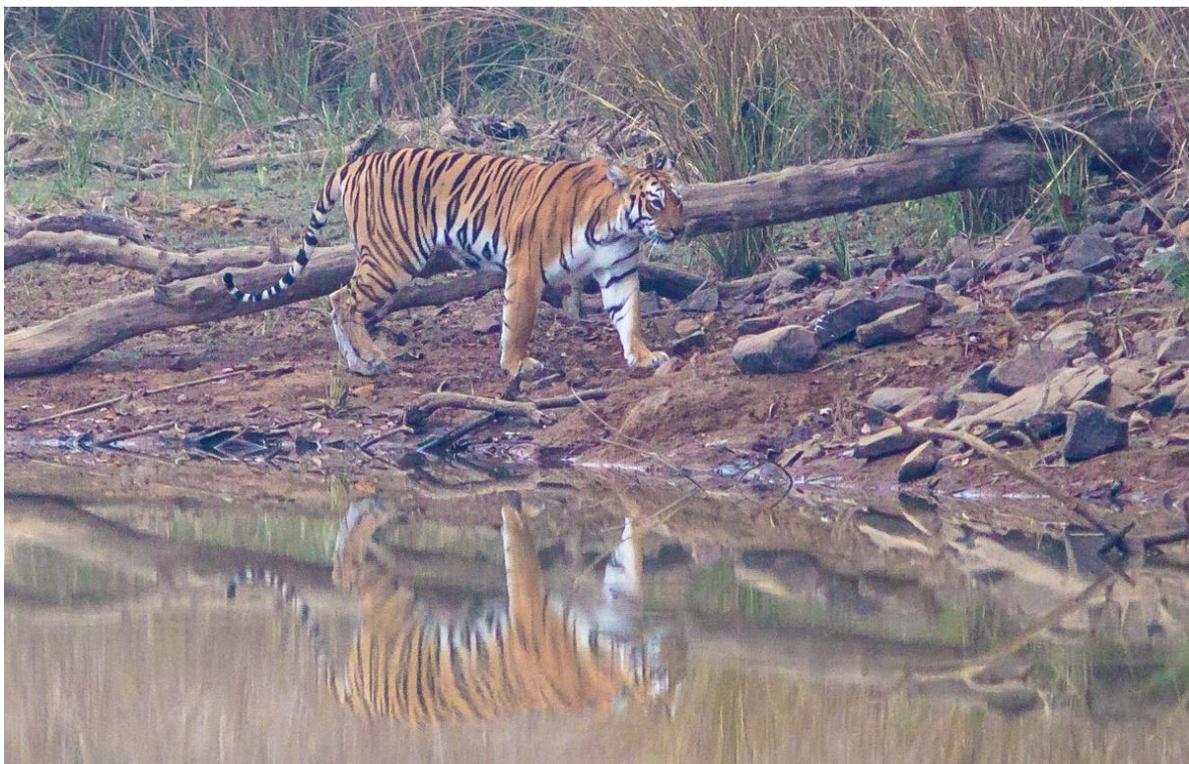
Arriving at Bangalore and checking into our hotel near the airport we made our sad goodbyes to Jijo and our driver, wishing Jijo all the best for his return tour with another group in a couple of days' time.

Tadoba Tiger Reserve

After an early night we took the 6.00 am flight from Bangalore and arrived at Nagpur at around 8.00 am, when we were collected by our driver and transported to the tiger reserve, a journey of about two hours. After checking in at the Svasara resort we were introduced to our naturalist guide Kaptan Singh and arranged to meet him at just before 2.00 pm for our first jeep ride into the reserve. The gates to the reserve are open from 6.00 to 11.00 am and again from 2.00 to 6.00 pm. Vehicles queue at the gates while visitors show their passports and pay the camera fee (200 Rupees for each 'large' camera).

Our main purpose in visiting Tadoba was, of course, to see tigers, although there were potentially some new birds to be seen as well. In the event it did not take very long to see our first tiger, as there was a female resting by her favourite waterhole during our first safari. On later visits over the next two days we were to see this female again, along with her three 6 month old cubs, and another female further south into the reserve with her two 8 month old cubs.

Notable birds seen in the reserve during our five safaris included Red Spurfowl, White-rumped Vulture, White-eyed Buzzard, Indian Thick-knee, Alexandrine Parakeet, numerous Yellow-footed Green-pigeons, Olive-backed Pipit, Rufous-tailed Bushlark and a Bluethroat. Interesting mammals in addition to the tigers included Jungle Cat, Ruddy Mongoose, Nilgai antelopes and Tree Shrews. The grounds of the hotel were also quite good for munias, including Indian Silverbill and Red Avadavat, as well as Red-throated Flycatcher, Black Redstart and a very approachable Common Hawk-cuckoo.



Bengal Tiger, Tadoba Tiger Reserve

Checklist of birds recorded

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) – 5 on wetlands around Mysore
Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*) – regular in wetland areas
Indian Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*) – 1 on a lake near Mysore
Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – 1 Periyar
Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) – 1-2 on five dates
Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*) – 1 on a lake near Mysore
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) – 2 on two dates
Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) – 1-2 on three dates
Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) – singles on two dates in the Thattekkad area
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) – 1-2 on four dates
Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) – 1-4 on four dates
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) – common and widespread
Indian Pond-heron (*Ardeola grayii*) – common and widespread
Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*) – 2 Thattekkad
Black-crowned Night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – 1 on a lake near Mysore
Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) – 12 seen from the road between Nagpur and Tadoba
Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*) – 2 on a lake near Mysore
Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) – 6 Mudumalai
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – 10 on wetlands near Mysore
Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) – 20 on wetlands near Mysore
Black/Red-naped Ibis (*Pseudibis papillosa*) – up to 10 daily near Mysore and at Tadoba
Lesser Whistling-duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*) – flocks of up to 50 on four dates
Cotton Pygmy-goose (*Nettapus coromandelianus*) – 6 on wetlands near Mysore
Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) – 200 on wetlands near Mysore
Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) – 50 on wetlands near Mysore
Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) – 50 on wetlands near Mysore
Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) – 2 on wetlands near Mysore
Crested Honey-buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) – 1-2 on five dates
Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) – 2-8 daily at Tadoba
Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) – small numbers around towns and cities and abundant around Mysore
Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) - up 5 on five dates
Lesser Fish-eagle (*Ichthyophaga humilis*) – 1 Thattekkad
Grey-headed Fishing-eagle (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*) – 1 Munnar
Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) – 1 on rocky hills near Mysore
Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps Himalayensis*) – 2 immature birds on two dates roosting in trees at Tadoba
Indian Vulture (*Gyps indicus*) – 3 on rocky hills near Mysore
Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) – 1 Tadoba
Crested Serpent-eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) – 1-2 on six dates
Eurasian Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) – 2 on wetlands near Mysore
Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) – singles at Erivakulum, Munnar and Tadoba
Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) – singles at Urulanthanni and Munnar
Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) – singles on five dates
White-eyed Buzzard (*Butastur teesa*) – singles at Mudumalai and Tadoba
Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) – 1 Munnar
Black Eagle (*Ictinaetus malayensis*) – 1-2 on four dates
Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*) – singles on four dates
Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) – singles on two dates
Crested Hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*) – singles at Idamalayar and Mudumalai and up to six daily at Tadoba



Crested Goshawk



White-eyed Buzzard



Shikra

- Legge's Hawk-eagle (*Nisaetus kelaartii*)** – 1 Idamalayar
Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) – 3-10 on two dates at Mudumalai
Jungle Bush-quail (*Perdica asiatica*) – two groups of 4 and 6 birds in a grassy field and another group of around 10 in roadside vegetation at Mudumalai
Painted Bush-quail (*Perdica erythrorhyncha*) – 4 in flight over a grassy hill above Munnar and 2 in scrubby area amongst cultivated terraces below the town
Red Spurfowl (*Galloperdix spadicea*) – 1-2 on two dates at Tadoba
Grey Junglefowl (*Gallus sonneratii*) – common and widespread
Common Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) – common between Munnar and Ooty and at Tadoba
Barred Buttonquail (*Turnix suscitator*) – a flock of at least 5 flew over the road at Bodighat
White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) – common and widespread
Indian Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) – 1 on roadside pools at Thattekkad
Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) – singles daily at Tadoba
Common Coot (*Fulica atra*) – 2 at Mysore wetlands
Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*) – 2 Tadoba
Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) – 10 on wetlands near Mysore
Indian Stone-curlew (*Burhinus indicus*) – 2 Tadoba
Little Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) – 6 on wetlands near Mysore
Yellow-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus malabaricus*) – 2-4 on three dates at Mysore and Tadoba
Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*) – up to 10 on eight dates
Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*) – at least 4 on two dates at Periyar
Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) – 2 on wetlands near Mysore
Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – 2 on wetlands near Mysore
Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) – 2 on wetlands near Mysore
Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) – at least 20 on wetlands near Mysore
Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – 2 on wetlands near Mysore
River Tern (*Sterna aurantia*) – 1 Tadoba
Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybridus*) – 2-6 on four dates at Hornbill Camp and at Mysore wetlands
Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) – common and widespread
Nilgiri Wood-pigeon (*Columba elphinstonii*) – Restricted to the Western Ghats; 1-2 on two dates in roadside trees at Munnar
Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) – common at Mudumalai, Mysore and Tadoba
Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) – common and widespread
Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) – 2-4 on five dates at Mudumalai and Tadoba
Grey-fronted Green Pigeon (*Treron affinis*) – Largely restricted to the Western Ghats; up to 20 on four dates at Thattekkad and Periyar
Yellow-footed Green-pigeon (*Treron phoenicoptera*) – common at Tadoba

Green Imperial-pigeon (*Ducula aenea*) – 1 daily at Thattekkad
Mountain Imperial-pigeon (*Ducula badia*) – 2-3 on two dates at Periyar
Vernal Hanging-parrot (*Loriculus vernalis*) – 2-10 on three dates at Thattekkad and Munnar
Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) – 3 on two dates at Tadoba
Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) – common at Mudumalai and Tadoba
Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*) – common and widespread
Malabar Parakeet (*Psittacula columboides*) – Restricted to the Western Ghats; common around Thattekkad and Munnar
Chestnut-winged Cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*) – 1 briefly at Periyar
Large Hawk-cuckoo (*Cuculus sparverioides*) – 1 Periyar
Common Hawk-cuckoo (*Cuculus varius*) – 1-2 on six dates
Banded Bay Cuckoo (*Cacomantis sonneratii*) – 1 heard at Idamalayar
Grey-bellied Cuckoo (*Cacomantis (merulinus) passerinus*) – 1 Bodighat
Drongo Cuckoo (*Surniculus lugubris*) – 1 with a juvenile at Idamalayar
Asian Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*) – 1-2 on four dates
Blue-faced Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*) – 1 Bodighat
Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*) – common and widespread (note race *parroti* sometimes known as 'Southern Coucal')
Oriental Scops-owl (*Otus sunia*) – heard at Thattekkad and a roosting bird seen at Periyar
Indian Scops-owl (*Otus bakkamoena*) – 2 roosting birds at the Treetops Hotel, Munnar
Rock/Indian Eagle-owl (*Bubo bengalensis*) – 1 roosting on a rocky slope near Mysore
Spot-bellied Eagle-owl (*Bubo nipalensis*) – heard at Thattekkad and 1 roosting bird seen high in a tree at Chinnar
Brown Fish-owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*) – 1 Chinnar
Mottled Wood-owl (*Strix ocellata*) – 1 roosting bird at Thattekkad
Brown Wood-owl (*Strix leptogrammica*) – 1 near the Jungle Hut, Mudumalai
Jungle Owlet (*Glauclidium radiatum*) – 1-4 on four dates
Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*) – 2 in a tree hole at Mudumalai
Brown Hawk-owl (*Ninox scutulata*) – 1 Thattekkad
Sri Lanka Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus moniliger*) – restricted to the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka; singles on two dates at Thattekkad
Jerdon's Nightjar (*Caprimulgus atripennis*) – largely restricted to South India and Sri Lanka; 1 seen and others heard at Thattekkad
Indian Nightjar (*Caprimulgus asiaticus*) – largely restricted to Western Ghats and Sri Lanka; 1 roosting in a tree at Mudumalai and another flushed from reeds by a tiger at Tadoba
Crested Treeswift (*Hemiprocne coronata*) – 1-4 on five dates
Indian Swiftlet (*Collocalia unicolor*) – largely found in the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka; common at Thattekkad, Ooty and Mudumalai
White-rumped Spinetail (*Zoonavena sylvatica*) – 2 Thattekkad
Brown-backed Needletail (*Hirundapus giganteus*) – 1-4 on two dates near Thattekkad
Asian Palm-swift (*Cypsiurus (parvus) balasiensis*) – 2 in lowland area between Chinnar and Ooty
Alpine Swift (*Tachymarptis melba*) – 50 Munnar
Little/House Swift (*Apus affinis*) – 20 Munnar
Malabar Trogon (*Harpactes fasciatus*) – singles at Idamalayar and Periyar
Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) – 1-2 on seven dates
Stork-billed Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis*) – 1 Thattekkad
White-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) – 1-6 on nine dates
Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) – 1-2 on two dates at Tadoba
Little Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) – up to 15 on seven dates, and particularly numerous at Mudumalai and Tadoba
Blue-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*) – 1-2 on three dates at Thattekkad, Mysore and Tadoba

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (*Merops leschenaulti*) – 2 on three dates at Thattekkad
Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) – up to 10 on five dates in lowland areas
Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) – singles on two dates at Thattekkad
Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) – 1-10 on four dates at Mudumalai and Tadoba
Malabar Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrocus griseus*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 1-4 daily at Thattekkad
Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrocus birostris*) – 5 roadside birds between Mudumalai and Mysore and 1 Tadoba
Brown-headed Barbet (*Megalaima zeylanica*) – heard daily at Tadoba
White-cheeked Barbet (*Megalaima viridis*) – heard and up to 6 seen on nine dates
Malabar Barbet (*Megalaima malabarica*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; singles seen and others heard on five dates
Coppersmith Barbet (*Megalaima haemacephala*) – heard on three dates at Mudumalai and Tadoba
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos nanus*) – singles at Thattekkad and Mudumalai
Rufous Woodpecker (*Celeus brachyurus*) – 1 near Ooty
White-bellied Woodpecker (*Dryocopus javensis*) – 1 seen at Urulanthanni and another heard at Periyar
Lesser Yellownape (*Picus chlorolophus*) – 1 Periyar
Streak-throated Woodpecker (*Picus xanthopygaeus*) – 2 Thattekkad
Common Flameback (*Dinopium javanense*) – 2 Thattekkad and 6 Periyar
Black-rumped Flameback (*Dinopium benghalense*) – 2-4 on three dates at Thattekkad and Tadoba
Greater Flameback (*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*) – 1-2 on three dates at Thattekkad and Munnar
Heart-spotted Woodpecker (*Hemicircus canente*) – 2 Thattekkad and 2 Periyar
Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*) – 2 Thattekkad, 2 Mudumalai and heard at Chinnar
Indian Bushlark (*Mirafra erythroptera*) – 3 near Mysore
Jerdon's Bushlark (*Mirafra affinis*) – singles on three dates at lowland area between Munnar and Mudumalai, at Mudumalai and at Tadoba
Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark (*Eremopterix grisea*) – pairs at Mudumalai and Mysore and a male at Tadoba
Rufous-tailed Lark (*Ammomanes phoenicurus*) – 2 Tadoba
Malabar Lark (*Galerida malabarica*) – largely restricted to the Western Ghats; 2 Mudumalai



Indian Nightjar



Indian Pitta



Malabar Lark

Tawny/Sykes' Lark (*Galerida deva*) – 1 Mysore
Dusky Crag-martin (*Hirundo concolor*) – 6 from viewpoint near Munnar
Eurasian Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) – up to 20 on six dates
Hill Swallow (*Hirundo domicola*) – common in the Munnar area
Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) – small numbers on two dates at Tadoba
Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis duarica*) – common and widespread

Paddyfield Pipit (*Anthus rufulus*) – 2 Ooty and 1 Mysore
Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) – 1-2 on three dates at Mudumalai and Tadoba
Blyth's Pipit (*Anthus godlewskii*) – 5 Mudumalai
Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*) – 3 Tadoba
Nilgiri Pipit (*Anthus nilghiriensis*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 3 Erivakulum
Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*) – singles at Thattekkad and Periyar
White-browed Wagtail (*Motacilla madaraspatensis*) – singles at Munnar and Mudumalai
Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) – at least 20 in wetlands at Mysore
Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) – 1-6 on seven dates
Large Cuckooshrike (*Coracina macei*) – singles on three dates at Thattekkad and Tadoba
Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*) – 10 Mudumalai and 2 Tadoba
White-bellied Minivet (*Pericrocotus erythropygius*) – 5 distantly at Mudumalai
Orange Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*) – 1-3 on seven dates
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike (*Hemipus picatus*) – 3 in the Lower Periyar area
Grey-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus priocephalus*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; heard at
 Urulanthanni and Mudumalai and 1 seen in the Lower Periyar area
Flame-throated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus gularis*) – 4-6 on four dates
Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) – common and widespread
Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) – common and widespread
Yellow-throated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xantholaemus*) – 2 Bodighat
White-browed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus luteolus*) – 4 Bodighat and 1 Chinnar
Yellow-browed Bulbul (*Iole indica*) – restricted to the Western Ghat and Sri Lanka; 2-4 on four dates
 at Thattekkad and Munnar
Square-tailed Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes ganeesa*) – 10 in the Munnar area
Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*) – 1-2 on four dates at Urulanthanni, Mudumalai and Tadoba
Asian Fairy-bluebird (*Irena puella*) – 1-3 on three dates at Thattekkad and Periyar
Jerdon's Leafbird (*Chloropsis jerdoni*) – 2 Bodighat
Golden-fronted Leafbird (*Chloropsis aurifrons*) – 10 Idamalayar
White-bellied Blue Robin (*Myiomela albiventris*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 3 in patches of
 forest at Erivakulum
Nilgiri Blue Robin (*Myiomelia major*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 1 seen well at Cairnhill
Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) – 1 Tadoba
Indian Blue Robin (*Luscinia brunnea*) – singles at Periyar and Mudumalai
Oriental Magpie-robin (*Copsychus saularis*) – common and widespread
White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) – 2 Mudumalai
Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris*) – 2 Tadoba
Common Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*) – 2 on two dates at Tadoba
Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*) – 1-10 on eight dates at Munnar, Mudumalai and Tadoba
Indian Robin (*Saxicoloides fulicata*) – common at Mudumalai and Tadoba
Malabar Whistling-thrush (*Myiophonus horsfieldii*) – 1-2 on five dates at Idamalayar, Periyar and
 Munnar
White-throated Thrush (*Zoothera citrina*) – 1-3 on three dates at Urulanthanni, Periyar and Tadoba
Nilgiri Thrush (*Zoothera nilgherriensis*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 1 in a bamboo thicket at
 Mudumalai
Indian Blackbird (*Turdus simillimus*) – 10 Erivakulum and 6 Cairnhill
Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) – 1-2 on four dates at Mysore and Tadoba
Grey-breasted Prinia (*Prinia hodgsonii*) – 2-4 on three dates at Bodighat and Tadoba
Jungle Prinia (*Prinia sylvatica*) – 1 Bodighat
Ashy Prinia (*Prinia socialis*) – 1-8 on four dates at Munnar and Tadoba
Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*) – 2-10 on five dates at Bodighat, Munnar and Tadoba
Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*) – 1 Munnar

Blyth's Reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) – common and widespread
Clamorous Reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*) – heard at wetlands near Mysore



Nilgiri Pipit



Yellow-throated Bulbul



Nilgiri Thrush

Thick-billed Warbler (*Acrocephalus aedon*) – 2 Idamalayar and 1 Bodighat
Booted Warbler (*Hippolais caligata*) – 2 Mudumalai
Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) – 2 Mudumalai
Hume's Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia althaea*) – 2 Mudumalai and 2 Tadoba
Broad-tailed Grassbird (*Schoenicola platyura*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 1 on grassy hillside above Munnar
Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) – 1-4 on seven dates
Tickell's Leaf-warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis*) – 1-10 on three dates at Erivakulum, Ooty and Tadoba
Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) – common and widespread
Green Warbler (*Phylloscopus nitidus*) – 3 Idamalayar and 1 Mudumalai
Large-billed Leaf-warbler (*Phylloscopus magnirostris*) – 1 Periyar
Tytler's Leaf-warbler (*Phylloscopus tytleri*) – 1 near Ooty
Western Crowned-warbler (*Phylloscopus occipitalis*) – 2 Urulanthanni and 1 Erivakulum
Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa dauurica*) – 1-2 on five dates
Rusty-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscicapa ruficauda*) – 2 Urulanthanni and 1 Periyar
Brown-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa muttui*) – 1-4 on three dates at Urulanthanni, Periyar and Mudumalai
Red-throated Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva albicilla*) – 1-3 daily at Tadoba
Black-and-orange Flycatcher (*Ficedula nigrorufa*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 2 Cairnhill
Verditer Flycatcher (*Eumyias thalassina*) – 1 Periyar
Nilgiri Flycatcher (*Eumyias albicaudata*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 3 Erivakulum and 1 Munnar
White-bellied Blue-flycatcher (*Cyornis pallipes*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 1-3 on three dates at Urulanthanni, Periyar and Mudumalai
Blue-throated Flycatcher (*Cyornis rubeculoides*) – 1-2 on three dates Thattekkad and Periyar
Tickell's Blue-flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelliae*) – singles at Periyar and Mudumalai
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*) – 4 Munnar and 1 Cairnhill
White-throated Fantail (*Rhipidura albicollis*) – 1-2 on two dates at Chinnar and Cairnhill
White-browed Fantail (*Rhipidura aureola*) – 1-2 on two dates at Tadoba
Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*) – singles on three dates
Asian Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) – 1-3 on seven dates
Wynaad Laughingthrush (*Garrulax delesserti*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; a group of at least 6 in dense bamboo at Periyar
Black-chinned Laughingthrush (*Garrulax cachinnans*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 1 at Doddabetta viewpoint, Ooty

Kerala Laughingthrush (*Garrulax jerdoni*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 1 at viewpoint near Munnar and at least 10 at Erivakulum

Puff-throated Babbler (*Pellorneum ruficeps*) – 3 Munnar

Indian Scimitar-babbler (*Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*) – heard at Periyar

Tawny-bellied Babbler (*Dumetia hyperythra*) – heard at Periyar

Dark-fronted Babbler (*Rhopocichla atriceps*) – restricted to the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka; 1-6 on five dates

Yellow-eyed Babbler (*Chrysomma sinense*) – 1 Mudumalai and 6 Tadoba

Large Grey Babbler (*Turdoides malcolmi*) – a group of 4 in lowland area between Chinnar and Ooty

Rufous Babbler (*Turdoides subrufus*) – Largely restricted to the Western Ghats; 6 Idamalayar

Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides striatus*) – common and widespread

Yellow-billed Babbler (*Turdoides affinis*) – restricted to South India and Sri Lanka; 2-10 on three dates

Brown-cheeked Fulvetta (*Alcippe poiocephala*) – 2-4 on three dates

Cinereous Tit (*Parus cinereus*) – 1-4 on nine dates

Indian Tit (*Parus aplonotus*) – 1-10 on three dates

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*) – 1-2 on three dates

Purple-rumped Sunbird (*Nectarinia zeylonica*) – common and widespread

Crimson-backed Sunbird (*Nectarinia minima*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 1-3 on six dates

Purple Sunbird (*Nectarinia asiatica*) – common and widespread

Loten's/Long-billed Sunbird (*Nectarinia lotenia*) – restricted to South India and Sri Lanka; singles on three dates

Little Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera longirostra*) – 1-2 on three dates

Pale-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*) – 2 Chinnar and 1 Mudumalai

Nilgiri Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum concolor*) – restricted to the Western Ghats (split from Plain Flowerpecker); 1-2 on three dates at Thattekkad and Periyar

Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*) – up to 10 on four dates at Munnar and Mudumalai

Indian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus kundoo*) – 1-3 on five dates

Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*) – 2 Idamalayar

Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*) – 1-5 on five dates

Common Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*) – 4 on three dates

Malabar Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis sylvicola*) – restricted to the Western Ghats (split from Large Woodshrike); 1-5 on four dates



Kerala Laughingthrush



Malabar Woodshrike

Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*) – 1-3 on six dates

Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) – 1-3 on four dates

Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*) – common and widespread

Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*) – 1 in the lowland area between Chinnar and Ooty
Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) – common and widespread
Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) – common and widespread
White-bellied Drongo (*Dicrurus caeruleus*) – singles on two dates at Bodighat and Tadoba
Bronzed Drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*) – common and widespread
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*) – 1-2 on eight dates
Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*) – 1-5 on eight dates
White-bellied Treepie (*Dendrocitta leucogastra*) – restricted to the Western Ghats; 5-20 on four dates at Idamalayar and Periyar
House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) – common and widespread
Large-billed/ Jungle Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) – common and widespread
Chestnut-tailed Starling (*Sturnia malabarica*) – 5 on two dates at Mudumalai
Malabar Starling (*Sturnia blythii*) – restricted to the Western Ghats (split from Chestnut-headed Starling); 10-20 on three dates at Thattekkad and Periyar
Brahminy Starling (*Sturnus pagodarum*) – 10-20 on five dates at Mudumalai and Tadoba
Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) – up to 20 on seven dates
Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*) – up to 20 on six dates
Southern Hill Myna (*Gracula indica*) – 4-20 on five dates
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) – common and widespread
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia (*Petronia xanthocollis*) – 2-20 on six dates
Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*) – 6 Tadoba
Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*) – 6-8 on two dates at Tadoba
Indian Silverbill (*Lonchura malabarica*) – 4 between Mudumalai and Bangalore and up to 10 daily at Tadoba
White-rumped Munia (*Lonchura striata*) – 2-4 on two dates Tadoba
Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*) – 1 Mudumalai
Indian Black-headed Munia (*Lonchura malacca*) – a flock of 40 at Tadoba
Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) – 6-10 on three dates at Bodighat, Erivakulum and Cairnhill



White-bellied Treepie



Indian Silverbill

Mammals

Bonnet Macaque (*Macaca radiata*) – troops seen at several tourist locations and less often in the forest

Nilgiri Langur (*Trachypithecus johnii*) – small numbers heard and seen almost daily in the Thattekkad area and at Periyar

Grey-tufted Langur (*Semnopithecus priam*) – 2 Chinnar and 2 between Mudumalai and Mysore

Grey Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*) – common at Tadoba

Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*) – 1 Urulanthanni and up to 30 daily at Tadoba

Indian Muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*) – singles on three dates near Ooty and at Tadoba

Spotted Deer (*Axis axis*) – common at Mudumalai and Tadoba

Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) – up to six daily at Tadoba

Nilgiri Tahr (*Hemitragus hylecrius*) – at least 15 at Erivakulum NP

Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) – up to 18 on two dates in the Ooty area and 1-15 daily at Tadoba



Gaur



Nilgiri Langur

Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) – common at Mudumalai and Tadoba

Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) – 1 Hornbill Camp, 1 or more unseen at Edamalayar, 3 in a tea plantation at Munnar and a group of 4 at Mudumalai

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) – two females with cubs at Tadoba

Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*) – 1 Tadoba

Grey Mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsii*) – 2 Hornbill Camp and at least 4 at the Jungle Hut

Ruddy Mongoose (*Herpestes smithii*) – 1-2 on two dates at Tadoba

Stripe-necked Mongoose (*Herpestes vitticollis*) – Periyar

Indian Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*) – 1 between Nagpur and Tadoba

South Indian Tree Shrew (*Anathana elliotti*) – 2 Tadoba

Malabar Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa indica*) – up to four on two dates in the Thattekkad area

Three-striped Palm Squirrel (*Funambulus palmarum*) – widespread

Dusky Striped Squirrel (*Funambulus sublineatus*) – singles on three dates

Indian Giant Flying Squirrel? (*Petaurista philippensis*) – 1 at night at Urulanthanni

For more photographs visit <https://www.flickr.com/photos/allandrewitt/>

Itinerary

Mon 4 Jan	Depart London Heathrow 10.00
Tues 5 Jan	Arrive Kochi airport via Mumbai and transported to Hornbill Camp; birding areas close to the camp. o/n Hornbill Camp
Wed 6 Jan	Edamalayar am and forest area near Hornbill Camp pm. o/n Hornbill Camp
Thur 7 Jan	Urulanthanni. o/n Hornbill Camp
Fri 8 Jan	Travel to Kumili via Lower Periyar. Periyar Tiger Reserve pm. o/n Wildernest Hotel
Sat 9 Jan	Periyar Tiger reserve. o/n Wildernest Hotel
Sun 10 Jan	Periyar Tiger Reserve am. Travel to Munnar pm via Bodighat. o/n Olivebrook Hotel
Mon 11 Jan	Eriyakulum am. Broad-tailed Grassbird location pm. o/n Olivebrook
Tues 12 Jan	Travel Munnar to Ooty via Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary. o/n Fernhills Palace
Wed 13 Jan	Cairnhill Reserved Forest and Doddabetta viewpoint am. Travel to Mudumalai pm. Birding Mudumalai pm. o/n Jungle Hut
Thur 14 Jan	Mudumalai National Park. o/n Jungle Hut
Fri 15 Jan	Travel to Bangalore via Mysore o/n Presidency Hotel
Sat 16 Jan	Arrive Nagpur and transported to Svasara Lodge am. Tadoba Tiger Reserve pm. o/n Svasara Jungle Lodge
Sun 17 Jan	Tadoba Tiger Reserve o/n Svasara Jungle Lodge
Mon 18 Jan	Tadoba Tiger Reserve o/n Svasara Jungle Lodge
Tues 19 Jan	Travel to Mumbai via Nagpur. Depart Mumbai 13.15 Arrive London Heathrow 18.00