

VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS



LIST OF BIRDS

&

OTHER WILDLIFE RECORDED IN

Southern India & the Andaman Islands

January 11 – 30, 2006



compiled by

K. David Bishop

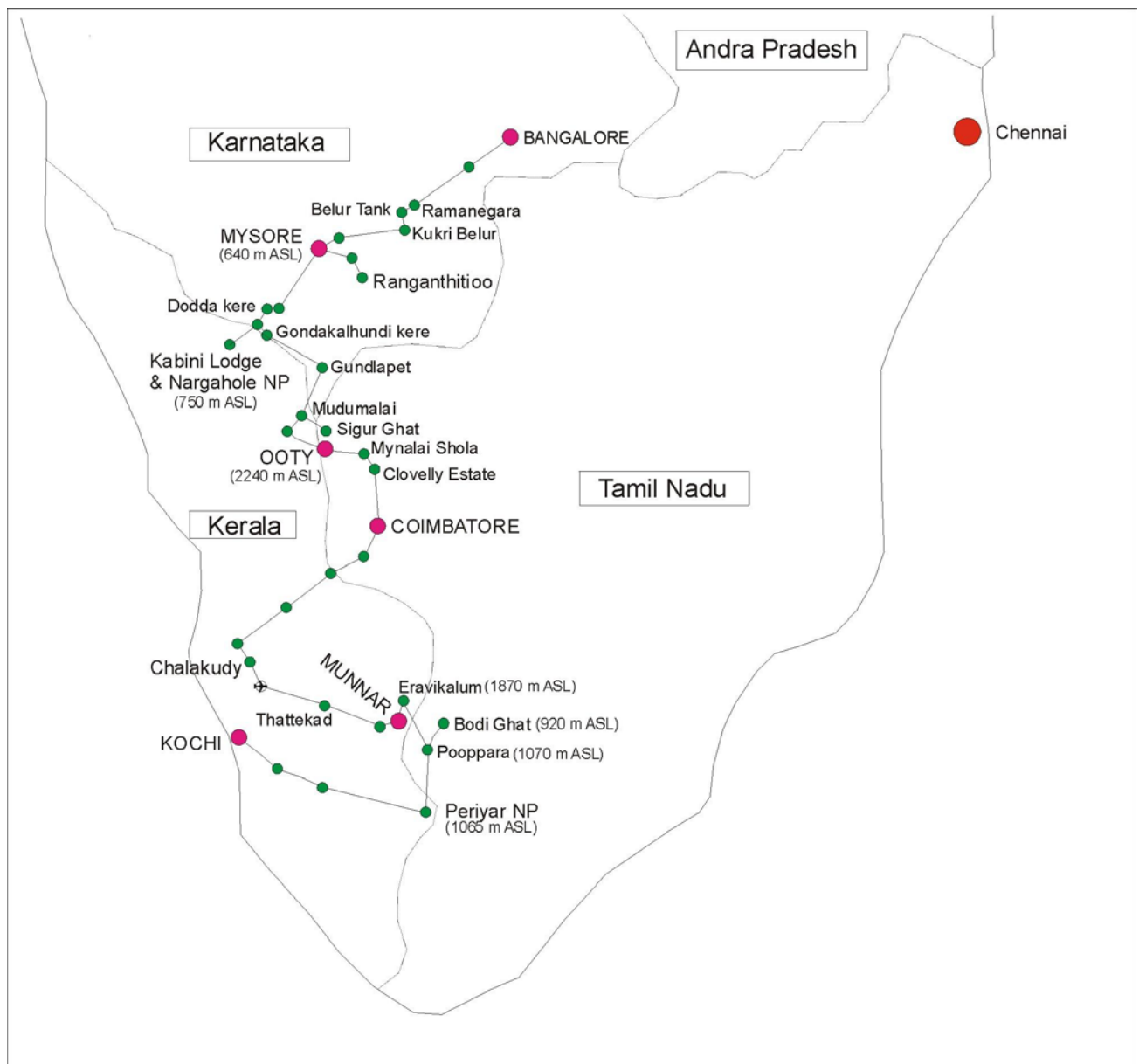
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Leaders: K. David Bishop & Susan D. Myers

Our thanks to everyone who participated in this very special and very exciting tour. We enjoyed ourselves enormously and this is only tempered by the knowledge that this will be a very hard tour to upstage. The wonderful food, charming landscapes and seeming never-ending melange of birds, mammals, forests, marshes, people and antiquities encapsulate what we have both independently come to love about this incredible country.

David Bishop

Susan Myers



Daily Itinerary

- 11 January 2006 Departed from Bangalore at 07.30 and spent the entire day travelling to Mysore. Stopped at numerous wetlands and the village of Kukri Belur, where there is a large Spot-billed Pelican and Painted Stork colony.
- 12 January Visited nearby Rangathitoo Bird Sanctuary where we birded the small area of riverine woodland and viewed the nesting colonies from a rowboat on the Kabini River. Visited the Maharajah's Palace in the late morning. In the afternoon we drove to Nagarhole National Park, birding *en route*.
- 13 January A morning and afternoon jeep safari in the Nagarhole National Park with spotlighting at dusk.
- 14 January Another jeep safari in the morning at Nagarhole, followed by a boat trip on the Kabini River in the afternoon.
- 15 January A morning and afternoon jeep safari in Nagarhole National Park.
- 16 January Departed Nagarhole, travelling via Bandipur to Mudumalai. Birded around the Jungle Retreat at Mudumalai during the afternoon.
- 17 January Birded the periphery of Mudumalai National Park.
- 18 January Birded the periphery of Mudumalai National Park in the morning. Departed for Ooty in the afternoon birding *en route* via Sighur Ghat.
- 19 January Birded the Avalanche and 8 Mile Shola in the morning and Naduvittum Shola in the afternoon.
- 20 January Picked up our new crew and headed out of Ooty birding along the Kotagiri road and the Clovelly Estate. Continued on a long but interesting drive to our hotel near Kochi airport.
- 21 January Excellent birding in Thattekad Sanctuary along the Periyar River with Vinod, our local guide.
- 22 January Departed very early to explore Chalakady Forest Reserve – one of the highlights of the entire tour! Returned to our hotel for lunch before making the attractive drive up to Munnar.
- 23 January Drove up to Rajamalai and Eravikalum National Park above Munnar and birded the grasslands and shola forests.
- 24 January Drove from Munnar to the small town of Bodi Mattu at the head of the Bodi Ghat. Jeeps shuttled us down the switchbacks in search of the very restricted range endemic Yellow-throated Bulbul. In the afternoon we continued on to Periyar National Park.
- 25 January Birded in Periyar with two tribal trackers, Rajkumar and Jeyan where we encountered a memorable mixed flock.
- 26 January Boat trip on the Periyar followed by a long drive to Kochi in the afternoon.
- 27 January After a relaxed breakfast we flew to Chennai.

- 28 January Very early flight from Chennai to Port Blair in the Andaman Islands. Birded along the Chiriyappa road in the afternoon.
- 29 January Another morning birding along the Chiriyappa road. After lunch we took the vehicle ferry to Mount Harriott where we stayed until dark spotlighting. Caught the car ferry back across the bay to our hotel.
- 30 January Flew back to Chennai where after a fine farewell dinner our tour concluded.

Southern India and the Andaman Islands 2006 Annotated Bird List

Bold = Endemic to South India; Common names in bold = Endemic to South India and Sri Lanka; **A** = Endemic to the Andaman Islands; **I** = Endemic to the Indian Sub-continent; **T** Classified by Birdlife International as Globally Threatened or near-threatened. Species highlighted in bold were of special interest.

Birds seen in the telescope have NOT been indicated as the vast majority were seen through the marvellous Leica 'scopes.

1. Little Grebe *Podiceps ruficollis*
Several between Bangalore and Mysore; also seen in small numbers at various wetlands *en route* to Nagarhole; Mudumalai, at Thattekad and between Kochi and Munnar and behind our hotel in Munnar.
2. Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* **T**
Fabulous views of ca. 20 pairs nesting at a colony in the small rural village of Kukri Bellur.
3. Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Very common at Kukri Bellur, only one at Ranganthitoo, many nesting on dead trees within the Kabini Lake Dam at Nagarhole and on the lake at Periyar.
4. Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*
A colony of 200+ birds at Ranganthitoo.
5. Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*
Generally widespread and common, recorded at most water bodies.
6. Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* **T**
This is a declining species in Asia which we saw in low numbers at Ranganthitoo (10), Nagarhole (4+), Thattekad (3) and Periyar (26).

NOTE: The Old World populations of Darter represent one of a handful of species whose taxonomic status has flipped back-and-forth at the vagary of taxonomic opinion. Some authorities treat the three Old World forms of Darter which inhabit Africa, Asia and Australia as a single species, *Anhinga melanogaster*. Other authorities treat the taxa of each region as separate species. Clearly the three taxa represent a super species, whether or not these taxa have yet evolved into fully-fledged species is open to conjecture. The taxon found in the Americas, *Anhinga anhinga* is widely regarded as specifically distinct from Old World form(s).
7. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Recorded almost daily throughout.
8. Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*
One dark morph, Chiriya Tappu, Andaman Is.
9. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Mostly in ones and twos at various wetlands from Bangalore to Mudumalai.
10. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
Rather uncommon; three at Ranganthitoo; several individuals *en route* to Nagarhole; two *en route* to Mudumalai.
11. Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*
Widespread and moderately common; several individuals in breeding plumage at Ranganthitoo.
12. Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*
Widespread and moderately common.
13. Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*
Very common and recorded daily at all sites south to Kochi except Mudumalai and Ooty.

NOTE: Consistent differences between *B. ibis* and *B. coromandus* in breeding plumage, proportions and vocalisations indicate they are better treated as two species. Rasmussen & Anderton. 2005 'Birds of South Asia The Ripley Guide' indicate that birds in north America are referable to Western or Common Cattle Egret *B. ibis*.

14. Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*
Very common and recorded most days.
15. Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*
It is possible we saw this species on the Andaman Islands but as all pond-herons were in non-breeding plumage it is virtually impossible to be certain.
16. Little Heron *Butorides striatus*
Two seen well just behind the beach at Chiriya Tappu, Andaman Is.
NOTE: The A.O.U. now treats North America populations of the *Buteroides* super species as a separate species: Green-backed Heron *B. virescens*. *B. striatus* continues, for the time being, to apply to the rest of this widespread super species.
Also known as Striated Heron.
17. Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Twenty at Ranganthitoo including several in breeding plumage.
18. Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* **T**
A total of 50+ at Kukri Bellur including many pairs nesting; several at Ranganthitoo; six on the Kabini Dam at Nagarhole.
19. Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* **T**
Several pairs nesting at Ranganthitoo; ca. 25 between Nagarhole and Mudumalai; several between Kotagiri and Kochi.
20. Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*
Two between Mysore and Nagarhole; 1-7 recorded daily within Nagarhole; one between Kotagiri and Kochi; one pair nesting in a huge *Bombax* sp tree outside our accommodations in Periyar.
21. Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Ten between Mysore and Nagarhole.
22. Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* **T**
Several between Bangalore and Mysore, Ranganthitoo and between Mysore and Nagarhole; one pair nesting within Nagarhole and other scattered individuals seen, also between Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
23. Red-naped Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* **I**
Seen in good numbers at the beginning of the tour including a flock of 18 between Bangalore and Kukri Bellur and 12 at Kukri Bellur; also recorded at Ranganthitoo, between Mysore and Nagarhole and several pairs nesting near villages between Kabinin Lodge and Nagarhole; six between Nagarhole and Mudumalai. A wonderfully evocative and primitive looking species.
24. Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
A spectacular breeding colony of 50+ at Ranganthitoo and up to 10 on the Kabini River at Nagarhole.
25. Lesser Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*
Approximately 70 at Thattekad.
26. Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*
A flock of 20 in flight over the Cauvery River near Ranganthitoo.
27. Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotus*
one very distant bird scoped in wetlands between Bangalore and Kukri Bellur.
28. Cotton Pygmy-Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*
A few at Kukri Bellur tank; also seen between Nagarhole and Mudumalai.

29. Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*
Several in wetlands between Bangalore and Kukri Bellur.
30. Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*
Common between Bangalore and Mudumalai with a maximum count of 20 on the Kabini Dam.
31. Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
Several between Mysore and Nagarhole.
32. Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*
Several most days between Bangalore and Mudumalai including 20 on the Kabini Dam.
33. Garganey *Anas querquedula*
Over 60 on tanks near Kukri Bellur; 20 on Kabini Dam and just two between Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
34. Common Teal *Anas crecca*
Twelve on Kabini Dam and four between Nagarhole and Mudumalai.

NOTE: Evidently very distinct from North American Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* which is now treated as a separate species from populations in the Old World.

35. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Two or three seen daily, Nagarhole.
36. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*
One soaring over Bhodi Ghat; a rare species anywhere in India.
37. Oriental Honey-Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
One of the most common birds of prey we encountered, seen almost daily except Ooty and Periyar. Daily totals included as many as six at Nagarhole and between Nagarhole and Mysore. Two observed at Chiriya Tappu, Andaman Is.
38. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
One, Nagarhole; three between Nagarhole and Mudumalai including superb close views of an adult hunting.
39. Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Abundant almost throughout, especially around human habitation. Not recorded in the area around Ooty and the area from Munnar to Periyar.
40. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
Common, locally very common seen at every site and almost daily except the Andaman Islands.
41. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
Two pairs seen daily in the Andaman Is.
42. Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*
Two seen by Paul in Mysore.
43. White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* T
Three together with other vultures seen superbly in rather degraded scrubby woodland at the edge of Mudumalai National Park.

Until barely ten years ago this species was very common and widespread throughout India, however, as result of a whole variety of factors but largely secondary poisoning from a cattle medication known as Diclofenac this species has declined by more than 95% of its entire population. As a result it is now categorised as **Critically Endangered**. One piece of good news is that the Indian government have recently banned further use of this drug.

44. Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus* T
A total of eight soaring over rather degraded, scrubby woodland at the edge of Mudumalai National Park. This species has declined from being widespread and common ten years ago to critically endangered.

NOTE: The treatment of the Indian and Slender-billed vultures as one species under the name Long-billed Vulture *Gyps indicus* has been shown to be grossly incorrect (Rasmussen & Parry 2001). Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus* is endemic to the Indian subcontinent and occurs from extreme SE Pakistan through the hills of NW, W, Cen India to the Niligiris of S India. Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris* occurs in the sub-Himalayan terai zone from the state of Uttaranchal east to the Assam valley and Ganges Delta. It also occurs in extremely low numbers in Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia.

45. Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* **T**
One adult in flight, Nagarhole; one adult with other vulture over rather degraded, scrubby woodland at the edge of Mudumalai National Park. This species too is declining but perhaps not as precipitously as the *Gyps* vultures.
46. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
Widespread and moderately common with 1-3 seen on most days except at high elevations.
47. **Andaman Serpent Eagle *Spilornis elgini* T**
A total of three seen near Chiriya Tappu, Andaman Islands.
48. Western Marsh Harrier *Circus approximans*
One male between Bangalore and Kukri Bellur; one near Ranganthitoo and one between Mysore and Nagarhole.
NOTE: There has been and probably will be much dispute as to whether the 'marsh harriers' of Europe and Asia should be treated as one or two species. The evidence is inconclusive either way and in consequence we prefer to treat the two, generally clearly identifiable taxa, as good species so that more exact information is available for future studies of this group.
49. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*
One seen briefly at Thattekad; and then superb views of one within Chalakady Forest Reserve.
50. Shikra *Accipiter badius*
One between Bangalore and Kukri Bellur; one at Nagarhole; one between Nagarhole and Mudumalai and one in scrubby woodland near Mudumalai.
51. Besra *Accipiter virgatus*
Great scope views of an adult male near Mudumalai; also Thattekad; Chalakady Forest Reserve; Munnar and Bodhi Ghat.
52. White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa*
Good looks at this uncommon species in lightly wooded farmland between Bangalore and Nagarhole.
53. Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*
Good looks at two soaring over Sighur Ghat; one immature in flight over Periyar Lake.
54. Indian Spotted Eagle *Aquila hastata* **T**
Single adults seen on two occasions at Nagarhole and an immature seen from our boat at the edge of Kabini Dam.
NOTE: The resident population in the Indian Sub-continent is treated as separate species from the migrant population that inhabits Africa and southern Europe – *A. pomarina*.
55. Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*
Two seen well in flight between Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
56. Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*
Fabulous views of an adult as it soared below us at Erivakulam National Park.
57. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*
One between Mysore and Nagarhole; one at Nagarhole; two between Nagarhole and Mudumalai; and one adult soaring as we drove up the ghats to Munnar.
58. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii*
One at Nagarhole; one immature in flight over Periyar Lake.
59. Crested Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
A total of three seen on our first day at Nagarhole and then a pair observed attending a large stick

nest set in the crotch of a tall tree deep within the forest and well below the forest canopy, also at Nagarhole; two seen over degraded dry, scrubby woodland near Mudumalai and singles seen on two days at Periyar.

60. Changeable Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus limnaeetus*
A single juvenile in flight over a forested ridge near Chiriya Tappu, Andaman Islands.
NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) in the new 'Birds Of South Asia Ripley Guide' show that birds with relatively short crests and that occur along the base of the Himalayas and NE India to SE Asia should be treated as a separate species from the distinctly long-crested birds of India south of the Ganges River, hence Crested and Changeable hawk-eagles.
61. Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*
Great looks at a low soaring bird just out of Ooty on the Kotagiri Road.
NOTE: The South Indian sub-species *kelaarti* may well be better treated as a separate species.
62. Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Scattered individuals near Ranganthitoo; Mudumalai; Eravikalum and Bhodi Ghat.
Also known as Eurasian Kestrel
63. Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*
Undoubtedly one of the unexpected highlights of the VENT South India tour; superb views of a pair of these uncommon and rarely seen birds as they hunted and attended their nest near Kukri Bellur.
64. Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*
Possibly this species seen in flight at dusk low over Kabini Dam, Nagarhole.
65. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
One adult seen nicely over Periyar Lake.
66. Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*
Heard commonly, daily between Ranganthitoo and Mudumalai but only finally seen when Susan taped six in within farmland near Nagarhole.
67. Jungle Bush Quail *Perdica asiatica* I
A covey of twelve put on a great show as they scuttled around feeding in a small paddock near our lodge below the Nilgiris; a further six seen at the edge of Mudumalai National Park.
68. **Painted Bush Quail *Perdica erythrorhyncha***
A male and female were seen all too briefly on a couple of occasions at the entrance to Erivakalum Nat. Pk.
69. **Red Spurfowl *Galloperdix spadicea***
Single males seen on two days within a bamboo brake, Nagarhole; one heard in dense cover at the edge of Mudumalai and one seen by a lucky few as we ascended Sighur Ghat.
70. **Grey Junglefowl *Gallus sonneratii* T**
Delightfully common almost throughout. Seen daily from Nagarhole to Periyar.
71. Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* I
Locally common and widespread including at Ranganthitoo, Nagarhole, Mudumalai and along the Kotagiri Road.
72. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
One or two at Ranganthitoo, Nagarhole, Thattekad, between Kochi and Munnar and behind our hotel at Munnar.
73. Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*
One at Kukri Bellur Tank; several *en route* to Nagarhole; Mudumalai and Kochi.
74. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Two on two days at the wetland behind our hotel in Munnar; also at Chiriya Tappu, Andaman Islands.

75. Common Coot *Fulica atra*
Very common on the tanks near Kukri Bellur, Ranganthitoo and *en route* to Nagarhole and Mudumalai (several pairs with chicks).
76. Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
One at Ramanegara tank near Kukri Bellur; several on small wetlands between Mysore and Nagarhole; one *en route* to Mudumalai.
77. Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*
Two on small wetlands between Mysore and Nagarhole – this is a very uncommon species in South India, away from the coast; four at Thattekad.
78. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
More than 30 at Ramanegara tank near Kukri Bellur.
79. Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris*
A total of seven on rocky islands in the Ranganthitoo Sanctuary.
80. Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Several seen well near Chirriya Tappu, Andaman Islands.
81. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
A total of 12 between Mysore and Nagarhole.
82. Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
3-4 at Chirriya Tappu, Andaman Islands.
83. Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
Widespread and moderately common at all lowland sites.
84. Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*
One near Ooty; ca. 20 in wet fields at Periyar.
85. Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Four, Andaman Islands.
86. Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
One, Nagarhole.
87. Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularis*
Small numbers recorded daily between Bangalore and Nagarhole.
88. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Two, Ranganthitoo; two between Mysore and Nagarhole.
89. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Good numbers, daily between Bangalore and Nagarhole.
90. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
One or two recorded at several sites including the Andaman Islands.
91. Temminck's Stint *Calidris temmincki*
Two between Mysore and Nagarhole.
92. River Tern *Sterna aurantia*
Observed at several lowland wetland sites with maxima of 7 on the lake at Periyar.
93. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*
30 on the dam, near Kukri Belur; one, Nagarhole; two, near Cochin and ca. 50 at Thattekad.
94. Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*
95. **Andaman Wood Pigeon *Columba palumboides* T A**
A total of six seen in tall forest near Chirriya, Andaman Islands.
96. **Nilgiri Woodpigeon *Columba elphinstonii***
Heard in Shola Forest, Erivakulam National Park

97. Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
Two at Nagarhole.
98. Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Several, daily between Mysore and Mudumalai.
99. Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
Arguably the most common bird of the trip! Seen daily at all sites – except the Andamans.
100. Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
This species seems to replace the former on the Andaman Islands, where it is very common.
101. **Andaman Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia rufipennis* T A**
Good views of two on Mt. Harriott.
102. Emerald Ground-Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
Singles between Nagarhole and Mudumalai; Thattekad, Chalakady, Periyar and Andaman Islands.
103. **Grey-fronted Green Pigeon *Treron affinis***
A total of six seen at Thattekad, four at Chalakady and good looks at a single male at Periyar.
NOTE: Formerly treated as a sub-species of Pompadour Green Pigeon *T. pompadora*, however, this taxon is sufficiently different morphologically that it is best regard as a separate species (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
104. **Andaman Green Pigeon *Treron chloropterus* A**
Several seen well, Andaman Islands.
NOTE: Formerly treated as a sub-species of Pompadour Green Pigeon *T. pompadora*, however, this taxon is sufficiently different morphologically that it is best regard as a separate species (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
105. Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*
Common, several seen daily Nagarhole; one Mudumalai.
106. Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*
Widespread and common at most lowland forested sites plus the Andaman Islands.
107. Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*
Excellent views of 3-4 daily, Periyar.
108. Vernal Hanging Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*
Several seen and/or heard daily including some fine 'scope views of this diminutive parrot.
109. Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*
Common at Nagarhole and in the Andaman Islands.
110. Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*
Several seen between Bangalore and Nagarhole and at Nagarhole.
111. Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*
This lovely parakeet was delightfully widespread and common being seen almost daily except in the Andaman Islands.
112. **Malabar Parakeet *Psittacula columboides***
Widespread and moderately common, seen most days except at high elevations and on the Andaman Islands.
113. Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*
Moderately common on the Andaman Islands.
114. Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda*
Moderately common on the Andaman Islands. This is essentially a Sundaic species.
115. Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus sparveroides*
Great views of a single bird at Thattekad thanks to some good work by Susan.

116. Common Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus varius*
One or two seen and several heard at Nagarhole; heard at Periyar.
117. Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*
One at Bodhi Ghat.
118. Grey-bellied Cuckoo *Cacomantis passerinus*
One at Nagarhole; one at Mudumalai; a female seen at Bhodi Ghat.
Heard at Boghi Ghat.
119. Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*
Seen or heard daily at all sites visited except Munnar.

Seen or heard on most days.
120. **Blue-faced Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*
Good views, daily, of one or two of these rather skulking but very attractive species at Nagarhole;
one seen nicely at Thattekad.
121. **Southern Coucal** *Centropus parroti*
Widespread, seen and heard commonly daily.

NOTE: Differences in structure, plumage (especially the immature) and vocalisations between
sinensis and *parroti* suggest that specific status may be warranted for *parroti* (Rasmussen &
Anderton 2005).
122. **Brown Coucal** *Centropus andamensis* T
After much ado we finally all enjoyed good views of this handsome Andaman Islands near-endemic.
123. **Andaman Scops Owl** *Otus balli* T
Good looks for some of the group at this diminutive endemic.
124. Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia*
Heard only, Nagarhole, Periyar and Mt. Harriott, Andaman Islands.
125. Indian Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena*
Good looks at a roosting bird at Thattekad. Also heard at Nagarhole.
126. Forest Eagle-Owl *Bubo nipalensis*
Likely this species heard at the Chalakady Forest Reserve.
127. Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*
A single adult and immature seen very nicely at Nagarhole and a further two seen in riverine
woodland at Mudumalai.
128. Jungle Owlet *Glaucidium radiatum*
As many as four seen daily at Nagarhole; two at Thattekad; one heard at Periyar.
129. Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*
One found by Linda near Kukri Bellur; a total of three in the Ranganthitoo/Mysore area; and two at
Mudumalai
130. Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata*
Great looks at a very responsive individual at Nagarhole; heard at Periyar.
131. **Andaman Hawk-Owl** *Ninox affinis* T
Amazing views of this endemic owl on the Andamans at Chiriya Tappu.
132. **Hume's Hawk-Owl** *Ninox obscura*
**After quite a battle we eventually enjoyed great looks at a couple of this distinctive species,
Mt. Harriott, Andaman Islands.**

NOTE: Although its song sounds much like Brown Hawk-Owl, evidently differing only in minor details,
Hume's is treated as specifically distinct from *N. scutulata* on account of its numerous striking
differences in plumage and other aspects of morphology (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).

133. **Sri Lanka Frogmouth** *Batrachostomus moniliger* T
Fabulous views of two pairs of this species at their roost at Thattekad.
134. **Jerdon's Nightjar** *Caprimulgus atripennis*
One seen well at Nagarhole and Chalakady.
135. Indian Little Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus*
Great views of single birds at Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
136. Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*
Very common on the Andaman Islands.
137. **Indian Swiftlet** *Collocalia unicolor*
Widespread and locally common; Nagarhole, Mudumalai, Thattekad, Chalakady (100+) and Periyar.
138. Edible-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia fuciphaga*
Very common on the Andaman Islands.
139. **Indian White-rumped Spinetail** *Zoonavena sylvatica*
Several seen over our lodge on the first afternoon at Nagarhole.
140. Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*
One seen at Nagarhole and several seen at Erivakalum National Park, soaring evocatively against the cliffs, but the best views of this spectacular swift were on our first afternoon in Port Blair where large numbers of birds put on a great show highlighting this species' incredible agility in flight.
141. Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
Common near Cochin and Thattekad.
142. Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis (Apus) melba*
Some excellent sightings *en route* to Nagarhole, daily at Nagarhole and 50-60 at Bodhi Ghat.
143. House Swift *Apus affinis*
Several around Bangalore and Nagarhole.
144. Crested Tree-Swift *Hemiprocene longipennis*
This attractive and evocative species was seen well on several occasions at Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
145. **Malabar Trogon** *Harpactes fasciatus*
Fabulous views of two males and a female at Thattekad and even better views of several males and females on both days at Periyar.
146. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
Seen daily in low numbers between Bangalore and Nagarhole, Mudumalai, *en route* to Cochin, and Periyar.
147. Stork-billed Kingfisher *Halcyon capensis*
Several fine views of this impressive beast at Ranganthitoo, Nagarhole, Thattekad and Periyar.
148. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Recorded almost daily in good numbers at all sites visited except Munnar.
149. Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*
Regularly observed in the Andaman Islands.
150. Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*
Notably rather uncommon this year with low numbers recorded between Bangalore and Nagarhole and at Periyar.
151. Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctornis athertoni*
Just a single bird seen at Mudumalai by a lucky few.
152. Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*
The most common and widespread of the bee-eaters we encountered, seen at most sites except Munnar and Periyar.

153. Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
Common and widespread and seen at most sites except Munnar and Periyar.
154. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*
A group of six seen superbly at the bottom of Sighur Ghat; also recorded at Thatekad and Bhodi Ghat.
155. Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*
Widespread and common in open and lightly wooded country except at Ooty.
156. Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
Low numbers recorded daily between Bangalore and Mudumalai.
157. Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyroceros (Tockus) birostris* I
A total of ten seen in riverine woodland near Ranganthitoo.
158. **Malabar Grey Hornbill *Ocyroceros (Tockus) griseus* T**
Two seen at Mudumalai and then several between Ooty and Kotagiri, Thattekad, Chalakady and Periyar.
159. Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*
Great looks at two of these magnificent birds on our first morning in Mudumalai.
160. **Malabar Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros coronatus* T**
Rather scarce in Nagarhole National park where just two were seen but put on a great show.
161. **White-cheeked Barbet *Megalaima viridis***
Very common and seen or heard in good numbers on most days in South India. We enjoyed some delightful views of this characterful bird on a number of occasions.
162. **Malabar Barbet *Megalaima malabarica***
This striking species was seen exceptionally well only in Chalakady (2) and Periyar National Park (3).
NOTE: Treated as a separate species from Crimson-fronted or Ceylon Small Barbet on the basis of striking differences in plumage, habitat preference and song (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005)
163. Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*
Seen or heard almost daily although it appeared to be absent around Ooty
164. Indian Pygmy Woodpecker *Picoides nanus* I
Moderately common at Nagarhole and Mudumalai where several seen and heard daily; also recorded Thatekad; Chalakady and Periyar.
165. Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Picoides mahrattensis*
One male seen nicely at Mudumalai.
166. **Spot-breasted Pied Woodpecker *Picoides analis* A**
Wonderful views of this pretty woodpecker on the Andaman Islands.
NOTE: Treated as a separate species from Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *P. macei* on the basis of several strikingly different characters (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
167. Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*
Single birds seen on two days at Nagarhole.
168. White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*
Super views of this sensational woodpecker drumming and foraging in dry tall and semi-evergreen forest at Nagarhole.
169. **Andaman Woodpecker *Dryocopus hodgei* T A**
Happily, we enjoyed many great views of this very exciting endemic in the Chiriya Tappu forest on the Andamans Islands.
170. Lesser Yellownappe *Picus chlorolophus*
One male with a mixed species flock at Thattekad and another at Periyar.

171. Streak-throated Woodpecker *Picus xanthopygaeus*
Excellent views of this species on a number of occasions in Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
172. Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*
A single female and a pair at Nagarhole; two at Chalakady and one at Periyar.
173. Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense*
The most common woodpecker of the tour, seen at most localities.
174. Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*
Superb views of this spectacular woodpecker at Nagarhole (3), Naduvattum Shola, and Periyar.
175. White-naped Woodpecker *Chrysocolaptes festivus* I
Fabulous looks at a very territorial pair in dry woodland at Mudumalai.
176. Heart-spotted Woodpecker *Hemicercus canente*
Notably common this year with 1-2 seen and/or heard daily at Nagarhole, Chalakady and Periyar.
177. Indian Pitta *Pitta brachyuran* I
A total of six seen and/or heard in the grounds of our lodge at Nagarhole; four seen at Thatekad and yet another at Periyar. What a gem!
178. **Jerdon's Bushlark** *Mirafra affinis*
Incredible looks at two birds foraging in farmland between Nagarhole and Mudumalai and another at Mudumalai.
179. **Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark** *Eremopterix grisea*
Several of these dapper looking birds seen between Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
180. **Malabar Crested Lark** *Galerida malabarica*
One in farmland between Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
181. Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*
Several in open country at Nagarhole and *en route* to Mudumalai.
182. Dusky Crag Martin *Hirundo concolor*
Several on two days at Mudumalai.
183. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Recorded daily between Bangalore and Mudumalai; also Periyar.
184. **Hill Swallow** *Hirundo domicola*
Several in the Ooty area; also near Thatekad and Erivakalam.
NOTE: The resident population inhabiting the upland areas of the Western Ghats is treated by some authorities as a separate species viz: Hill Swallow *Hirundo domicola*.
185. Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*
Two at Ranganthitoo and one at Mudumalai.
186. Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*
Several recorded at Ranganthitoo, Nagarhole, between Nagarhole and Mudumalai, Mudumalai, Ooty to Kotagiri and Bhodi Ghat.
187. Streak-throated Swallow *Hirundo fluvicola* I
Approximately 500+ of these pretty birds attending a colony under a rock in the Cauvery River at Ranganthitoo.
188. Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indica*
Two on our last morning at Chiriya Tappu, Andaman Islands.
189. Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
Singles seen on just two days at Nagarhole and between Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
190. White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis*
Widespread, seen almost daily in modest numbers.

191. Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
Scattered small groups and 1s and 2s between Mysore and Nagarhole and at Nagarhole.
192. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
Widespread and seen almost daily in modest numbers including the Andaman Islands.
193. Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*
One between Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
194. Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*
Two between Mysore and Nagarhole and one at Periyar.
195. Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*
Good 'scope views of four birds between Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
196. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
Two at Erivakalam.
197. **Nilgiri Pipit *Anthus nilghirensis***
Superlative, repeated studies of a total of at least ten birds at Eravikulam Nat. Pk.
198. Indian Golden Oriole *Oriolus kundoo* **I**
A scattering of individuals seen at Nagarhole, Mudumalai, between Ooty and Cochin, Thatakad, Chalakady, Bodhi Ghat and Periyar.
NOTE: Differences in morphology and (evidently) vocalisations from European Golden Oriole plus the fact that these two do not appear to intergrade suggests they are better treated as separate species (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
199. Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*
Recorded remarkably widely in low numbers: between Bangalore and Mysore; Ranganthitoo (imm.); Nagarhole (imms.); Ooty to Cochin; Thatekad; Chalakady and the Andaman Islands.
200. Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*
One or two on several occasions at Nagarhole, Thatekad and Periyar.
201. Large Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina macei*
One or two seen daily at Nagarhole, Mudumalai and Periyar.
202. **Andaman Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina dobsoni* **A****
Great looks at several individuals at Chirriya Tappu.
NOTE: Long treated as a subspecies of Bar-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *C. striata* of SE Asia but plumages and proportions are very different and sufficiently distinct as to warrant specific status (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
203. Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina melanoptera*
Scattered individuals recorded most days at Nagarhole and a single female at Thatekad.
204. Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
A characteristic bird of the dry woodlands seen most days at Nagarhole, Mudumalai and Periyar. Also recorded commonly on the Andaman Islands at Chirriya Tappu.
205. White-bellied Minivet *Pericrocotus erythropygus* **T I**
A group of three seen well by some but all too briefly, Mudumalai Nat. Pk.
NOTE: The Indian population is very different in many ways from the disjunct population in Burma and is best treated as a separate species.
206. Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*
Common in tall forest on the Andaman Islands.
207. **Orange Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus***
Widespread and common, seen almost daily throughout south India.
NOTE: For a discussion of the taxonomy of this taxon and the *P. flammeus* complex see Rasmussen & Anderton 2005.

208. Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus picatus*
Moderately common at Mudumalai and in the Ooty area.
209. **Malabar Woodshrike *Tephrodornis sylvicola***
Low numbers recorded at Nagarhole, Mudumalai, Thattekad and Periyar.
NOTE: The woodshrikes require a major taxonomic review and clearly involve several more species than treated up to the publication of Birds of South Asia. For a preliminary discussion see Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).
210. Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
One or two seen nicely at Nagarhole, Mudumalai and Periyar.
NOTE: See above.
211. **Grey-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus priocephalus* T**
A rather shy and retiring South India endemic that favours dense bamboo stands, we saw two along the banks of the Sighur River at Mudumalai.
212. **Andaman Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus fuscoflavescens* A**
This striking endemic is common on the Andaman Islands.
NOTE: Differs considerably in plumage and especially vocalisations from *P. atriceps* and better considered a full species (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
213. **Flame-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus gularis***
Two seen by Bernie at Thattekad; two at Chalakady and several seen in Periyar.
NOTE: The *P. melanicterus* group is better treated as a super species comprising five allopatric species, *P. gularis* is confined to the western Ghats (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
214. Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*
Arguably the most common bird in South India, we saw them every day of the tour.
215. **Yellow-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* T**
A total of six of this very restricted-range endemic was seen remarkably well on the Bhodi Ghat.
216. **White-browed Bulbul *Pycnonotus luteolus***
Seen by Bernie at Nagarhole and then seen fairly commonly at Mudumalai and Bhodi Ghat.
217. Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*
Recorded almost daily except around Ooty and on the Andaman Islands.
218. **Yellow-browed Bulbul *Hypsipetes indicus* T**
Heard at the Clovelly Estate; seen very nicely at Thattekad, Chalakady, Munnar and Periyar.
219. **Square-tailed Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes ganeesa***
Small numbers recorded around Ooty, Eravikulam Nat. Pk. and Bhodi Ghat.
NOTE: Marked differences in morphology and vocalisations between Himalayan and SW Indian/Sri Lankan subspecies indicate that they are better treated as separate species (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
220. Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella*
Wonderful looks a gorgeous male plus two females near the Clovelly Estate; two at Thattekad and heard in Mudumalai.
221. **Jerdon's Leafbird *Chloropsis jerdoni***
Scattered ones and twos seen between Nagarhole and Mudumalai; in and around Mudumalai; Thattekad; Chalakady; Bhodi Ghat and Periyar.
NOTE: The numerous consistent differences in morphology and lack of intergradation indicate that *jerdoni* is best treated as a separate species from *C. cochinchinensis* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
222. Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*
Low numbers recorded at Nagarhole, Mudumalai, Clovelly Estate and Thattekad.

223. Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*
Heard at Nagarhole and finally seen *en route* to Mudumalai; moderately common in Mudumalai, Clovelly Estate, Thattekad and Periyar.
224. Blue-capped Rock-Thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus*
Arguably one of the most unexpected sightings of the tour. In fact our observation of a female in tall forest in the Chalakady Forest Reserve is the first time we have ever recorded this species on a South India tour.
225. **Malabar Whistling Thrush *Myophonus horsfieldii***
Fine looks at this local endemic at Mudumalai and then heard and occasionally seen at Eravikulam Nat. Pk. and Periyar.
226. Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*
Fabulous looks at a total of three at Thattekad; two at Chalakady and one near Chirriya Tappu in the Andaman Islands.
NOTE: More than one species is probably involved in this relatively widespread taxon.
227. **Indian Blackbird *Turdus simillimus***
Fine looks at one on our first morning at Mudumalai and a total four on our final morning; one at Thattekad and several at Chalakady.
NOTE: Formerly treated as a subspecies of Blackbird *Turdus merula*. For a discussion of this split and the status of the various other Asian populations see Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).
228. **White-bellied Blue Robin *Myiomela albiventris***
Fabulous views of a very responsive bird deep in shola forest on the edge of Eravikulam Nat. Pk.
NOTE: Erroneously placed with shortwings in *Brachypteryx*, much closer *Cinclidium*, but pending thorough study this and the next taxon are placed in the genus to which they bear most resemblance *Myiomela*. Marked and consistent morphological and vocal differences indicate that this and the next taxon are treated as separate and not as one such as before e.g. Rufous-bellied Shortwing. (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005)
229. **Nilgiri Blue Robin *Myiomela major***
At least two birds heard but unfortunately only glimpsed as we worked our way through a variety of shola forests out of Ooty.
230. Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
One in non-breeding plumage at a wetland *en route* to Mudumalai.
231. Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*
Widespread, common, recorded daily.
232. White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*
One adult male seen at Nagarhole and heard at Mudumalai.
233. **Andaman Shama *Copsychus albiventris* A**
Several heard and one or two seen albeit briefly, Andaman Islands.
NOTE: Consistent differences in morphology and vocalisations indicate that *albiventris* is better considered a separate species (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005)
234. Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata* I
Scattered individuals near Kukri Bellur, Ranganthitoo and Mudumalai.
235. Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*
Widespread and common in open country, recorded daily at all sites except in the Andaman Islands.
236. Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
Several seen and/or heard daily as far south as Ooty and just one record at Periyar.
237. Indian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus brunnescens* I
Several in reed beds surrounding the dam near Kukri Belur.

NOTE: Certainly a separate species from Australian Reed-Warbler *A. australis* (Helbig & Seibold 1999) and differs strikingly in morphology (much longer wing, much shorter, heavier bill and general colour) and possibly song from western Palearctic *A. stentoreus* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). Further study is needed.

238. Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon*
One seen by Bernie between Bangalore and Mysore; one in the grounds of our lodge at Nagarhole and again seen by Bernie in the Andaman Islands.
239. Syke's Warbler *Hippolais rama*
Several seen daily between Bangalore and Nagarhole.
- NOTE:** Breeds sympatrically with Booted Warbler in Central Asia (Svensson 2001) and genetic distance between the two is relatively large (Helbig & Seibold 1999).
240. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*
Several seen most days between Bangalore and Mudumalai; also seen at Periyar.
241. Tickell's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*
Good looks on most at several of this fairly distinctive species between Ooty and Periyar.
242. Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus*
Thanks to some good work by Susan, we all enjoyed good looks at this species, outside its normal winter range at Erivakulam Nat. Pk.
243. Hume's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*
One in the grounds of our hotel in Bangalore.
244. Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
One seen by Bernie at Nagarhole, others recorded at Mudumalai, Erivakulam Nat. Pk. and Bhodi Ghat.
245. Large-billed Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris*
Scattered individuals between Nagarhole and Periyar.
246. Tytler's Warbler *Phylloscopus tytleri* T I
One seen well at Nagarhole.
247. **Indian Broad-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola platyura* T**
Pretty fair looks at this ultra-skulker as it was delicately flushed by yours truly from dense bracken slopes at Erivakulam Nat. Pk. This is the first time we have recorded this rarely seen endemic.
248. Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*
Nagarhole, Mudumalai, Thattekad, Periyar.
249. Jungle Prinia *Prinia sylvatica* I
One at Eravikulam Nat. Pk.
250. Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis* I
Bangalore to Mysore, Ranganthitoo and Nagarhole,
251. Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*
Nagarhole and Eravikulam Nat. Pk.
252. Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*
Seen in ones and twos at Nagarhole, Mudumalai, Ooty, Thattekad, Periyar and the Andaman Islands.
253. Rusty-tailed Flycatcher *Muscicapa ruficauda*
Excellent looks at this easily overlooked species at Periyar.
254. Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* T
Great looks at one over a small forest-lined stream, Chalakady and another at Periyar.
255. Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
One or two seen near Ranganthitoo and *en route* to Nagarhole.

NOTE: Plumage, soft-part colours, and vocalisations differ strikingly from Red-throated or Taiga Flycatcher *F. albicilla* and the treatment of the two taxa as conspecific is unwarranted ((Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).

256. **Black-and-orange Flycatcher *Ficedula nigrorufa* T**
Superb views of at least two handsome males in sholas around Ooty.
257. Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*
Surprisingly just a single male seen at Mudumalai.
258. **Nilgiri Flycatcher *Muscicapa albicaudata* T**
Nice looks at two individuals in sholas around Ooty and Eravikulam Nat. Pk.
259. **White-bellied Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis pallipes* T**
Fine looks at a male at Eravikulam Nat. Pk., and one at Periyar.
260. Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*
Great views of this pretty bird on a number of occasions near Ranganthitoo, Nagarhole, Mudumalai - where it was notably common; and Periyar.
261. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicacapa ceylonensis*
Particularly common around Ooty and Thattekad.
262. White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*
Two seen near Ranganthitoo and good looks at a very obliging pair at Mudumalai.
263. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*
Heard commonly in most wooded areas but only seen at Clovelly Estate; Thattekad and Chalakady.
264. Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*
Superb views of lovely, silvery males at Thattekad and Chalakady.
265. Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*
Good looks at a very responsive pair at Nagarhole where heard commonly; also Mudumalai, Thattekad and Periyar.
266. **Indian Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus horsfieldi***
Widespread and moderately common; seen or heard most days at Nagarhole and Mudumalai; also Clovelly Estate; Eravikulam Nat. Pk. and Periyar.
267. Tawny-bellied Babbler *Dumetia hyperythra* I
A rather scarce babbler that typically proved somewhat elusive. Nevertheless, everyone eventually had excellent looks at a couple of groups: five in the grounds of our lodge at Nagarhole and four in the grounds of the Jungle Retreat at Mudumalai.
268. Dark-fronted Babber *Rhopocichla atriceps*
The infamous Rubber Chicken! Even more elusive than the previous species, four were seen very nicely at Chalakady.
269. Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense*
Great views of this skulking character in the gardens of our lodge at Mudumalai.
270. **Indian Rufous Babbler *Turdoides subrufus***
Another babbler with lots of character, we enjoyed great looks at this species on two mornings at Nagarhole and then fine looks at a very confiding group of four at Periyar.
271. Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus* I
Very common at all lowland sites.
272. Yellow-billed Babbler *Turdoides affinis*
A group of seven in scrub between Bangalore and Kukri Belur; several recorded daily at Mudumalai.
273. Brown-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe poioicephala*
Several of this rather demure babbler seen in the Ooty area; Chalakady and Periyar.
274. **Wynaad Laughingthrush *Garrulax delesserti* T**
This beauty completed our triumvirate of endemic laughingthrushes! Seen very well and watched for

half an hour or so as it foraged in (under?) the leaf litter in Periyar. Twelve or so birds were seen including a pair or more attending a nest!

275. **Nilgiri (Black-chinned) Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron cachinnans* T**
Crunching views of a spectacular endemic laughingthrush at various shoal sites around Ooty.
276. **Grey-breasted (Kerala) Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron fairbanki* T**
It was amazing to see this confiding but very restricted-range, globally-threatened species at such close quarters within the Erivakulam Nat. Pk.
NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) have completely reorganised the laughingthrushes into a series of unfamiliar genera but that were used in earlier times and are likely more appropriate than being placed in a single genus *Garrulax*.
277. Great Tit *Parus major*
Seen or heard almost daily during our tour except on the Andaman Islands where it was unrecorded.
278. **Indian Yellow Tit *Parus aplonotus***
Just one seen at Periyar.
NOTE: Separated from Black-lored Tit on the basis of strikingly different vocalisations. For a discussion of this complex see (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005)
279. Indian Nuthatch *Sitta castanea* I
One pair seen well at Nagarhole and a single male with a mixed species flock at Mudumalai.
NOTE: Markedly different from Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta cinnamoventris* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
280. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*
Several seen most days except at Chalakady and Munnar.
281. Purple-rumped Sunbird *Leptocoma zeylonica* I
This lovely species was widespread and common, being seen almost daily.
NOTE: Previously placed in *Nectarinia*.
282. **Crimson-backed Sunbird *Leptocoma minima***
Fine looks at this especially attractive species at Naduvattum Shola; also observed at Thattekad, Chalakady, Erivakulam Nat. Pk., and Periyar.
NOTE: Previously placed in *Nectarinia*.
283. Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*
Widespread and common, recorded almost daily.
284. **Loten's Sunbird *Nectarinia lotenia***
Two seen very well at Bhodi Ghat.
285. Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*
Very common on the Andaman Islands.
286. Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostris*
Just one bird seen at Thattekad.
287. Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*
One in the grounds of our lodge at Mudumalai; two at Bhodi Ghat.
288. Pale-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos* I
Common at most sites except the Andaman Islands.
289. **Nilgiri Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor***
Ones and twos at Nagarhole, Ooty area and Erivakulam Nat. Pk.
NOTE: Markedly different from the much smaller Plain Flowerpecker *D. minullum* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).

290. **Andaman Flowerpecker *Dicaeum virescens* A**
Several seen near Chiriya Tappu, Andaman Islands
NOTE: Markedly different from the much smaller Plain Flowerpecker *D. minullum* which may not be its closest relative (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
291. Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosa*
Commonly recorded between Mudumalai and Bhodi Ghat; several seen in the Andaman Islands.
292. Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
Low numbers recorded at all sites except Mudumalai and Ooty.
293. Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*
Superb views of this dapper bird between Nagarhole and Mudumalai and at Mudumalai.
294. Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
Widespread and moderately common from Nagarhole to Bhodi Ghat.
295. Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*
One between Mysore and Nagarhole; one at Nagarhole.
296. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocerus*
Common and recorded almost daily at all sites including the Andaman Islands.
297. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
Slightly less common and widespread than the above species, we recorded it at Nagarhole, Mudumalai, Thattekad, Chalakady, Erivakulam Nat. Pk., Bhodi Ghat and Periyar.
298. White-bellied Drongo *Dicrurus caerulescens* I
Recorded in modest numbers at Nagarhole, Mudumalai and the Ooty area.
299. Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*
Common in more forested areas at Nagarhole, Mudumalai, Thattekad and Periyar.
300. **Andaman Drongo *Dicrurus andamanensis* A**
Several seen well in the Chiriya Tappu forest on the Andaman Islands.
301. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*
Recorded almost daily from Nagarhole to the Andaman Islands except at Ooty and Munnar.
302. Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*
Widespread and locally common at Nagarhole, *en route* to Mudumalai, Thattekad and Periyar.
303. Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
Widespread and generally common in wooded areas except Ooty and Munnar.
304. **White-bellied Treepie *Dendrocitta leucogastra* T**
Several excellent views of this striking endemic including four at Thattekad, two at Chalakady and several at Periyar.
305. **Andaman Treepie *Dendrocitta bayleyi* T**
Two groups of five at Chiriya Tappu, Andaman Islands.
306. House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Recorded daily except on the Andaman Islands where unrecorded.
307. Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus culminates* I
Recorded daily throughout.
NOTE: For a discussion of the 'Large-billed Crow' complex see Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).
308. Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus levaillantii*
Several in the Andaman Islands.
NOTE: See above.
309. Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*
Very common on the Andaman Islands.

310. Chestnut-tailed (Grey-headed) Starling *Sturnus malabaricus*
Very common at a number of lowland sites including Nagarhole, Mudumalai, Thattekad and Periyar.
311. **Malabar White-headed Starling** *Sturnia blythii*
Widespread and generally common. Absent from Ooty and Munnar areas.
NOTE: Split from Chestnut-tailed Starling by Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).
312. **Andaman White-headed Starling** *Sturnus erthropygius* **A**
Several nice' scope studies of this striking Andaman Islands endemic.
313. Brahminy Myna *Sturnus pagodarum* **I**
Common in and around Mudumalai.
314. Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus*
Several near Ranganthitoo.
315. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*
Very common, recorded daily.
316. Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*
Not quite as common as the above, recorded at all sites except on the Andaman Islands.
317. Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*
Very common at all forested sites on the Andaman Islands.
318. Southern Hill Myna *Gracula indica*
Moderately common at Nagarhole, Thattekad, Chalakady and Periyar.
319. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Recorded daily.
320. Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Petronia xanthocollis*
One or two most days at Nagarhole; several between Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
321. White-throated Munia *Lonchura malabarica*
Two seen by Bernie between Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
322. **Black-throated Munia** *Lonchura kelaarti*
A flock of ca. 30 feeding on seeding bamboo within shoal forest, Erivakulam Nat. Pk. This is an exceptional observation of this increasingly rare species.
323. White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*
Several on the Andaman Islands.
324. Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Widespread and rather common from Mudumalai to Bhodi Ghat including fine looks at some very handsome males.

Mammal List

1. **Malabar Giant Squirrel** *Ratufa indica*
Seen in low numbers on most days in Nagarhole, Mudumalai and Periyar.
2. Indian Palm Squirrel *Funambulus palmarum*
Common and seen daily at most lowland sites.
3. Dusky Striped Squirrel *Funambulus sublineatus*
One in Periyar.
4. Indian Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista philippensis*
Sensational close views of at least six of these wonderful squirrels just right around our lodge at Periyar.

5. Common Palm-Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*
Andaman Islands.
6. Common Leopard *Panthera pardus*
Thanks to some amazing spotting by Susan half the group got to enjoy exceptional day-time views of this spectacular predator at Nagarhole.
7. Stripe-necked Mongoose *Herpestes vitticollis*
Two at Nagarhole and one at Mudumalai.
8. Indian Grey Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii*
One at Nagarhole.
9. Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus*
Several colonies observed between Bangalore and Mysore, Ranganthitoo, Nagarhole and Thattekad.
10. Southern Plains Grey Langur *Semnopithecus dussumieri*
What a great animal! Very common around Nagarhole and Mudumalai; also seen on the Bodi Ghat.
NOTE: Formerly treated as a sub-species of Common or Hanuman Langur.
11. **Nilgiri Langur** *Presbytis johnii*
Wonderful looks at this attractive primate around Ooty, Chalakady, Erivakulam and Periyar.
12. **Bonnet Macaque** *Macaca radiata*
Arguably the most common and widespread mammal we encountered on our trip; seen everywhere except Munnar.
13. Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*
Very common in Nagarhole and Periyar.
14. Common Barking Deer *Muntiacus muntjak*
One at Ranganthitoo; very common in Nagarhole; two at Periyar.
15. Sambar *Cervus unicolor*
Common at Nagarhole, one or two at Mudumalai and Periyar.
16. **Spotted Deer** *Axis axis*
This gorgeous animal was happily very common at Nagarhole and Mudumalai.
17. **Nilgiri Tahr** *Hemitragus hylocrius*
Nice close looks of many animals in Eravikalum Nat. Pk.
18. Gaur *Bos gaurus*
We enjoyed outstanding close views of this amazingly impressive beast in Nagarhole.
19. Asian Elephant *Elaphus maximus*
Relatively small numbers this year possibly due to the widespread availability of water. Nevertheless we all enjoyed some wonderful and exciting encounters with elephants including several 'mock' charges and young being escorted to waterholes by mother and aunt. Recorded at Nagarhole, Mudumalai and Periyar.
20. Greater Bandicoot Rat *Bandicoota indica*
Fine looks at this widespread but rarely seen specialty.
21. Linda's Brown Rat *Rattus* sp
Several at the wharf on the Andaman Islands.

Herps

1. House Gekko *Hemidactylus frenatus*
2. Mugger Crocodile *Crocodylus palustris*
3. *Bufo* sp.
4. Indian Pond Terrapin *Melanochelys trijuga*

5. Nilgiri Green Calotes *Calotes calotes*
6. Green Calotes *Calotes jerdoni*
7. Brown Calotes *Calotes rouxi*
8. Gliding Lizard *Draco blandfordi*
One in the forests of Chiriyappu.
9. Brown Tree Snake *Debdrelaphis tristis*
10. Indian Rat Snake *Ptyas mucosa*