

Special Species Accounts

Painted Bush-Quail *Perdica erythrorhyncha*..... Endemic

Three seen well from the roadside just below the Kalhatty checkpoint at Sighur Ghat; recorded again from the roadside at Rajamalai.

Red Spurfiowl..... *Galloperdix spadicea* Endemic

Reported from two sites- four at Nagarhole and two from Top Slip. On the broad firebreak/ road shoulder at dawn and dusk at Nagarhole, where most easily viewed.

Gray Junglefowl *Gallus sonneratii*.....Endemic, Near-threatened

Seen on 12 days, often in numbers exceeding fifteen per day such as at Nagarhole, Top Slip and Periyar.

White-cheeked Barbet..... *Megalaima viridis*..... Endemic

Fairly common at Nagarhole, Top Slip and Periyar.

Crimson-fronted Barbet *Megalaima malabarica* Endemic

Fairly common at Top Slip, less so at Periyar.

Malabar Gray-Hornbill *Ocyrceros griseus*.....Endemic, Near-threatened

Fairly common at Top Slip and Periyar.

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*..... Near-threatened

Seen well only at Top Slip, where perches on treetop snags were located from their booming vocalizations.

Malabar Trogon..... *Harpactes fasciatus*Near-endemic

Seen well only at Karian Shola (Top Slip) and at Periyar.

Blue-faced Malkoha..... *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*.....Near-endemic

Several individuals seen at Cuddapah and at Nagarhole.

Sirkeer Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*Near-endemic

Two birds were encountered briefly in the dry forest scrub at Cuddapah.

Plum-headed Parakeet..... *Psittacula cyanocephala*.....Near-endemic

were recorded on ten days, with greatest numbers at Nagarhole.

Malabar Parakeet..... *Psittacula columboides*..... Endemic

were recorded on nine days, most frequently at Periyar but also fairly common at Nagarhole and Top Slip.

Indian Swiftlet..... *Aerodramus unicolor*Near-endemic

were seen on five occasions, being fairly common at Nagarhole, Top Slip and Periyar.

White-rumped Needletail *Zoonavena sylvatica*..... Endemic

were seen at Nagarhole, Top Slip and Periyar.

Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl *Bubo nipalensis* Near-threatened

One was flushed and subsequently seen well in the forest near the road in the dusk while returning via jeep after the game drive in Nagarhole.

Ornifolks in Peninsular India

Sri Lanka Frogmouth.....*Batrachostomus moniliger*.... Near-endemic, Near-threatened

We sent our forest service guide out to check possible roost sites. He returned in about an hour and took us to a daytime roost in an area of young trees in low canopy. One was a gray-phase, the other reddish-brown; both snuggled against each other on the perch about 10' above the deck. Scope views.

Jerdon's Nightjar *Caprimulgus atripennis*.....Near-endemic

We heard and saw this diminutive caprimulgid as we stumbled around the Jerdon's Courser site. They were also present (in lower densities) at Top Slip.

Nilgiri Wood-Pigeon..... *Columba elphinstonii*Endemic, Near-threatened

Two failed attempts of two hours each at the potato research station diminished our enthusiasm for this taxon until we stumbled across a perched bird in the canopy near the rest house at Top Slip.

Indian Bustard *Ardeotis nigriceps* Endemic, Endangered

Five at Rollapadu, in ones and twos, in the grassy (prairie) areas.

Jerdon's Courser *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus* Endemic, Endangered

After meticulous planning, cutting through bales of red tape, constant application of baksheesh, etc. we finally lined up the appropriate guide and set off at 9PM to search the proper haunts and habitats for about 6 hours. Results the first night and morning were disappointing and exhausting. Finally, after nearly quitting at 0130 the following morning, we flushed a single bird which showed its long dangling legs and white wings in our light after it launched itself straight up and flew directly away upon hearing our approach.

Indian Courser..... *Cursorius coromandelicus* Endemic

Several seen from our vantage point on top of the bus en route to Rollapadu.

Black-bellied Tern..... *Sterna acuticauda*..... Near-threatened

One was spotted flying along the ??? river on our drive from Kurnool to Rollapadu. Two more were recorded along the ??? river between Kurnool and Cuddapah.

Gray-headed Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*..... Near-threatened

One on the boat ride at Nagerhole.

White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*..... Critical

A 'Leader only' during the drive to Mudumalai.

Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* Near-threatened

Three while en route from Mudumalai to Ooty, and one at Nagarhole, at the lakeside.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* Near-threatened

We estimated about sixty amongst the much more numerous Montague's at the famed 'Harrier Roost' at Rollapadu.

Greater Spotted Eagle..... *Aquila clanga*..... Vulnerable

Seen on two or three occasions at Nagerhole.

Crested Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus cirrhatus*Near-endemic

Individuals recorded at Nagerhole, Ooty and Top Slip.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*..... Vulnerable

A tight flock of 15 birds were perched for scope looks at Rollapadu.

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*..... Near-threatened

Reported on five occasions from Nagerhole and Periyar.

Ornifolks in Peninsular India

- Black-headed Ibis..... *Threskiornis melanocephalus*..... Near-threatened
Three occasions from Rollapadu and Nagerhole.
- Red-naped Ibis..... *Pseudibis papillosa*..... Near-threatened
Three occasions from Rollapadu and Nagerhole.
- Spot-billed Pelican..... *Pelecanus philippensis*..... Vulnerable
More than ten pairs nesting (with young) in the trees of the village of Kokkarebellur.
- Painted Stork..... *Mycteria leucocephala*..... Near-threatened
Three occasions: en route to Rollapadu, and from Cuddapah and Nagerhole.
- Asian Openbill..... *Anastomus oscitans* Near-threatened
About 140 soaring between Kurnool and Cuddapah. More seen at Nagarhole.
- Indian Pitta *Pitta brachyura*Near-endemic
Seen well at the Jungle Hut at Mudumalai but also recorded at Ooty and Periyar.
- White-bellied Treepie *Dendrocitta leucogastra*Endemic, Near-threatened
Most easily seen at Periyar but also recorded at Top Slip.
- Spot-breasted Fantail *Rhipidura albogularis*..... Endemic
Seen frequently at Ooty and once at Nagerhole.
- White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola* Endemic
Single birds seen at Cuddapah and at Mudumalai
- White-bellied Drongo..... *Dicrurus caerulescens*.....Near-endemic
Less than 15 per day recorded at Nagerhole and Mudumalai.
- Malabar Whistlingthrush..... *Myiophonus horsfieldii*..... Endemic
Recorded frequently but in low numbers from Ooty, Top Slip (where seen well), Munnar and Periyar.
- Rusty-bellied Shortwing..... *Brachypteryx hyperythra*..... Vulnerable
One was seen by several of our group at 'the Ravine' at Ooty (Cairnhill Reseve Forest) and another was reported by CGB at the brook/ bridge below the traffic barricade at Rajamulai.
- Brown-breasted Flycatcher..... *Muscicapa muttui* Near-threatened
Single birds reported from Ooty and from Periyar.
- White-Bellied Flycatcher..... *Cyornis pallipes*Endemic, Near-threatened
Two were recorded at Karien Shola and a female was seen at Periyar.
- Black-and-rufous Flycatcher..... *Ficedula nigrorufa*.....Endemic, Near-threatened
As many as four at Ooty (Cairnhill Reserve Forest and Naduvattam; also recorded at Karian Shola and Rajamulai.
- Nilgiri Flycatcher..... *Eumyias albicaudata*Endemic, Near-threatened
Recorded on five occasions. Sighur Ghat and Rajamulai offered greatest numbers.
- Black-lored Tit *Parus xanthogenys*..... Endemic
I was the only observer of one feeding young in the low forest canopy above the shortwing ravine below the traffic barricade at Rajamalai.

Ornifolks in Peninsular India

- Hill Swallow *Hirundo domicola* Near-endemic
Recorded only from Rajahmalai, where apparently fairly common.
- Gray-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus priocephalus*..... Endemic
Despite repeated efforts at three known sites (Mudumalai, Ooty, Munnar, etc.) we failed to locate this endemic.
- Yellow-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus xantholaemus*..... Near-threatened
Recorded only from Bodi Ghat, where seen as it fed young on the slopes below a temple.
- White-browed Bulbul *Pycnonotus luteolus* Near-endemic
Most frequent at Ooty (five) but also recorded at Bodi Ghat.
- Yellow-browed Bulbul *Iole indica* Near-endemic
Recorded from Top Slip and Periyar, but apparently uncommon.
- Jungle Prinia *Prinia sylvatica* Near-endemic
A singing individual on the slopes of Bodi Ghat.
- Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis* Near-endemic
Recorded on five occasions at Rollapadu, Cuddapah, Ooty and Pallachi.
- Wynaad Laughingthrush..... *Garrulax delesserti*Endemic, Near-threatened
A mobile flock at Karian Shola was possibly this species, but these were not seen conclusively by all of us. Eventually we afforded great looks thanks to our guide who possessed an incredible ear and ability to solicit a response from a flock of these shy and fast-moving undergrowth skulkers near Periyar.
- Rufous-breasted Laughingthrush .. *Garrulax cachinnans*.....Endemic, Near-threatened
Three at Naduvattam provided the only encounter.
- Gray-breasted Laughingthrush..... *Garrulax jerdoni*.....Endemic, Near-threatened
Recorded from Munnar, Rajamalai, and Bodi Ghat.
- Dark-fronted Babbler *Rhopocichla atriceps* Near-endemic
As many as ten near the lodge at Top Slip, and uncommon at Periyar.
- Large Gray Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi* Endemic
Recorded on three occasions from Shamirpet Lake near Hyderabad and from Cuddapah.
- Rufous Babbler *Turdoides subrufus*..... Endemic
Eventually we all saw these well at both Top Slip and Periyar.
- Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus striatus*..... Near-endemic
Generally fairly common at Nagerhole, Top Slip and Periyar.
- Yellow-billed Babbler *Turdoides affinis* Near-endemic
Reported on four occasions: Cuddapah, Rollapadu, Ooty and most numerous at Top Slip.
- Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix grisea* Near-endemic
Common and frequently heard at Rollapadu, but also recorded at Cuddapah and Nagerhole.
- Rufous-tailed Lark *Ammomanes phoenicurus*..... Endemic
Common at Rollapadu but also recorded from Cuddapah.

Ornifolks in Peninsular India

Malabar Lark *Galerida malabarica* Endemic

One bird seen on each day at Nagerhole.

Tawny Lark..... *Galerida deva*..... Endemic

Fairly common at Rollapadu.

Crimson-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia minima*..... Endemic

Most frequent at Top Slip, but also recorded from Periyar.

Long-billed Sunbird *Nectarinia lotenia*..... Near-endemic

One male at the grounds of the forest service office in Pollhachi and seen both days at Top Slip

Nilgiri Pipit *Anthus nilghiriensis*..... Endemic

Six were recorded from the highlands above the traffic barricade at Rajamalai.