

Butterflies of Sri Lanka

27th February - 8th March 2019

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Butterflies of Sri Lanka 2019 Trip Report

Highlights

We recorded 117 butterfly species and had very good views of some of the 'flutterers' whilst settled. Close sightings of Sri Lanka Birdwing, Sri Lanka Tree Nymph, and Five-bar Swordtail were delightful. Additionally, 114 bird species, 14 mammal species and 11 species of reptiles and amphibians made it an all-round, action packed tour.

Day 1 Monday 25th February

Group members departed from London on an overnight flight to Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka

Day 2 Tuesday 26th February

Sinharaja

The flight arrived at 12.55 pm and after meeting the tour leader we left the airport at 1.45pm and en route to Sinharaja, we encountered Brahminy Kites and Black-headed Ibis and some Cattle Egrets. We reached the Blue Magpie Lodge in Sinharaja at 05.00 pm and saw a Common Evening Brown near the hotel reception. Black bulbuls and spotted dove also were seen around the hotel garden. After a briefing about the next day, we had dinner before calling it a day.

Day 3 Wednesday 27th February

Sinharaja

We had breakfast at 7.15 am and proceeded to the Sinharaja Rainforest ticket counter. Some of the birds encountered here were Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Sri Lanka Drongo, Orange Minivet and Orange-billed Babbler. Both inside and outside the rainforest we encountered lots of butterflies including Sri Lanka Birdwing, Blue Mormon, Bluebottle, Jezebel, Common Albatross, Lemon Emigrant, Sri Lanka Tree Nymph, Blue Glassy Tiger, King Crow, Common Sailor, Clipper, Larval stages of Commander, Gladeye Bushbrown, White Four-ring, Common Lineblue, Dark Cerulean, Common Cerulean, Metallic Cerulean Angled Pierrot, Grizzled Skipper and Tropic Dart, and Blue Day Moth. We also encountered more birds, mammals and reptiles that included Sri Lanka Junglefowl, White-throated Kingfisher, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, White-bellied Drongo, Yellow-billed Babbler, along with Purple-faced Leaf Monkey, Indian Palm and Grizzled Giant Squirrels, Water Monitor, Oriental & Green Garden Lizards and Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard.

We returned to the hotel at 04.30pm, relaxed until 7pm and thereafter did the checklist, followed by dinner and the next day's briefing.

Day 4 Thursday 28th February

Kandy

We had breakfast at 7am and left for Pitakale, which is a small village bordering the Sinharaja Rainforest. En route we saw several butterflies including Sri Lanka Birdwing, Common Mormon, Bluebottle, Jezebel, Sri Lanka Tree Nymph, Common Sailor, Clipper, Great Eggfly, White Four-ring, Psyche, Chestnut Bob, Little Brand Swift, Smallest Swift and Restricted Demon. The birds we encountered included Crested Serpent Eagle, Brown Shrike, Sri Lanka Swallow, Common Tailorbird, Sri Lanka Hill Myna, Oriental Magpie-Robin, Purple Sunbird and Scaly-breasted Munia. As the sun started to rise we had more butterfly activity which included sightings of Club Beak, Common Palmfly, Common Lineblue, Dark Cerulean, Common Cerulean, Angled Pierrot, Indian Cupid, Common Hedge Blue, Hedge Hopper, Chestnut Bob, Indian Skipper, Common Grass Dart and Conjoined Swift.

We returned to the hotel at 10.30am and after having a quick shower, we checked out and proceeded to Kandy. En route, we stopped at a restaurant in Ratnapura and enjoyed a Sri Lankan rice and curry lunch. At 6pm we were in Kandy. We visited the Temple of the Tooth and were just in time for the display of the tooth casket and the evening ceremony. We reached Hotel Thilanka at 7pm and after dinner and the briefing, retired for the night.

Day 5 Friday 1st March

Matale / Riverstone

We had breakfast at 7am and then checked out of the hotel and proceeded to Matale. En route saw a big migration of Albatrosses flying all around the road. We arrived at Riverstone and started butterfly watching. We were able to cover few highland species such as Tamil Tree Brown, Sri Lankan Black Flat, Blue Admiral and some common butterflies including, Sri Lanka Tree Nymph, and Blue bottle, Red Helen, Leopard, and Common Crow. We reached Sir John Bungalow Hotel at 12.30am and had lunch before setting off for the afternoon session. It was a very scenic drive up the misty mountain range and we encountered Hill Swallows, Sri Lanka Swallow, Yellow-eared Bulbul, Square tail bulbul on the way. We reached the Pitawala Pathana plains and set off in search of butterflies. Our finds here included Common Rose, Blue Mormons, Psyche, Blue Glassy Tiger, Common Sailor, Common Evening Brown, Pea Blue and Red Pierrot, Black Prince, Ceylon Lacewing, Blue Tiger, Lesser Grass Blue and Great Orange Tip.

We reached the hotel at 4.45pm and had a hot cup of tea before meeting up for the checklist and dinner at 7pm.

Day 6 Saturday 2nd March

Riverstone / Knuckles

After having our breakfast, we left to Knuckles village with picnic lunch and did a walk and encountered Dark Wanderer, Stripe Albatross, Cruiser, Tamil Yeoman, Rustic, Common Lascar, Chestnut Streak Sailor, Commander, Malayan, Plains Cupid, Angle Blue Pierrot, Sri Lankan Hedge Blue, Common Bushbrown, Large Brand Swift and Banded Peacock. After having the lunch we visited another village road and saw lots of butterflies including the

Purple leaf blue, Pointed Ciliated blue, Sri Lanka One spot grass yellow, Tailed Jay, Psyche, Great Orange Tip, Lemon Emigrants, Three-spot Grass Yellows, Pea Blue, Wallace's Swift, and a glimpse of a rare Five-bar Swordtail. Birds seen included Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Blue faced Malkoha, Little cormorants and Peafowl. In the evening we followed our usual routine of checklist, dinner and briefing.

Day 7 Sunday 3rd March

Riverstone / Wasgamuwa

After breakfast at 7.00 am we left Knuckles with a picnic lunch. It was a successful butterfly watching in knuckles scoring more the 70+ species of butterflies. En route to Wasgamuwa, we stopped by a roadside and did a little butterfly watching till lunch. We saw Plumbeous Silverline, Tailless Line blue, Drak Grass Blue, Conjoined Swift, Crimson Rose, Sri Lanka Birdwing, Malayan, Common Hedge blue, Tawny Coster, Common Grass Dart, Tiny Grass Blue, Common Mormon, and a beautiful sighting of two Five-bar Swordtails. It was one of the highlights of the tour as it is a rare butterfly from the Papilionidae family. After a wonderful morning butterfly session, we had lunch and enjoyed some local sweets from a food stall on our way to Wasgamuwa.

After arriving at Wasgamuwa hotel at around 2.00 pm, we left back in to the field searching for some dry zone butterflies and be encountered Peacock Pansy, Spotless Grassyellow, Grey Pansy, Lime Butterfly and Common Jezebel. Some birds were also seen such as Zitting Cisticola, Plain Prinia, Chestnut headed bee-eater, Common Kingfisher, Grey Headed Swamp hen and Black Headed Ibis.

By 5.30pm we reached the hotel and thereafter met for the checklist which followed by dinner and the briefing.

Day 8 Monday 4th March

Wasgamuwa

We had breakfast at 7.00am and left for our jeep safari in Wasgamuwa National Park. We saw many Streaked Weavers building their nests besides a stream. Grey-bellied Prinia, Tricolored Munia, Indian Peafowl and White-breasted Waterhen were seen before we entered the park. Inside we saw a herd of 15 plus Spotted Deer, Land Monitor, Blue-faced Malkoha, Indian Pond Heron, Lesser Adjutant, Lesser Whistling Duck, and Water Buffalo. As the sun rose the butterflies became active and we saw Lime Butterfly, Blue Bottle, Jezebel, Lesser Albatross, Lemon Emigrant, Dark Wanderer, Glassy and Plain Tigers, Angled Castor, Tawny Coster, Common Palmfly, Common Tiger and Common Jay.

We returned to the hotel at 12.30 pm, had lunch at 1.30 pm and then checked out. We reached Hotel Sigiriya by 4.00 pm and checked in. We met again for the checklist at 7pm before dinner.

Day 9 Tuesday 5th March

Ritigala

We had breakfast at 7.30am and left for the Ritigala Strict Forest Reserve with our packed lunch. During our walk, sightings included Black Rajah, Crimson Rose, Lime Butterfly, Bluebottle, Common Jay, Lesser Albatross, Dark Wanderer, Blue Glassy Tiger, Common Crow, Angled Castor, Leopard, Peacock Pansy, Great Eggfly, Indian Sunbeam, Common Cerulean, Pea Blue, Monkey Puzzle, Tiny Grass Blue and Lime Blue. On the way back we were lucky to see a small herd of Asian elephants by the roadside.

We returned to the hotel at 5.00pm and met up for the checklist and dinner at 7.00 pm.

Day 10 Wednesday 6th March

Kaludiya Pokuna

We had early breakfast and went to Kaludiya pokuna area for butterfly watching and we were able to encounter Brown King Crow, Common Silver line, Dark Blue Tiger, Lesser Albatrosses, Common Albatrosses, Purple Leaf Blue, Mottled Emigrant, Pale-six Line Blue. After a long walk in the hot sun, we had a cool King Coconut on our way back to the hotel before lunch. After lunch in the hotel, we had a little walk around the famous Lion rock in Sigiriya. We saw Grey Langurs, and Toque Macaques, Black Headed Cuckoo shrike, Brown Headed Barbet and Green Imperial Pigeon. After dinner we went for a night drive near the Sigiriya forest and encountered two Ring tailed Civets, few Black Naped Hares, crested Porcupine and a Jerdon's Nightjar. We returned to the hotel at 11pm and called it a night.

Day 11 Thursday 7th March

Sigiriya/ Katunayake

We had breakfast at 8am and then checked out of the hotel and left for a morning birding walk. Near the hotel we saw many Sri Lanka Grey Hornbills and Malabar Pied Honrbills. Butterflies encountered included Lime Butterfly, Common and Blue Mormons, Common Jay, Psychel, Lemon Pansy, Chocolate Soldier, Tamil Bushbrown, Indian Sunbeam and Lesser Grass Blue.

After lunch, we checked out of the Hotel and proceeded to Katunayake. We reached the Hotel in Katunayake at 6pm. We took a night walk around the Hotel before dinner, and we saw Brown Hawk Owl and Indian Scops Owl.

Day 12 Friday 8th March

We checked out of the hotel and proceeded to the airport in time to catch our flight back to the UK, where the first Greenwings butterfly tour came to a successful end.

Species Lists

Butterflies [(E) denotes Endemic]

- 1 *Troides darsius* Sri Lanka Birdwing (E)
- 2 *Pachliopta hector* Crimson Rose
- 3 *Pachliopta jophon* Ceylon Rose (E)
- 4 *Pachliopta aristolochiae* Common Rose
- 5 *Papilio crino* Banded Peacock
- 6 *Papilio demoleus* Lime Butterfly
- 7 *Papilio helenus* Red Helen
- 8 *Papilio polytes* Common Mormon
- 9 *Papilio polymnestor* Blue Mormon
- 10 *Graphium sarpedon* Bluebottle
- 11 *Graphium doson* Common Jay
- 12 *Graphium agamemnon* Tailed Jay
- 13 *Graphium antiphates* Five bar Swordtail
- 14 *Leptosia nina* Psyche
- 15 *Delias eucharis* Jezebel
- 16 *Cepora nerissa* Common Gull
- 17 *Appias libythea* Striped Albatross
- 18 *Appias albino* Common Albatross
- 19 *Appias galene* Lesser Albatross (E)
- 20 *Ixias pyrene* Yellow Orange Tip
- 21 *Hebomoia glaucippe* Great Orange Tip
- 22 *Catopsilia pyranthe* Mottled Emigrant
- 23 *Catopsilia pomona* Lemon Emigrant
- 24 *Pareronia ceylanica* Dark Wanderer
- 25 *Eurema laeta* Spotless Grass Yellow
- 26 *Eurema hecabe* Common Grass Yellow
- 27 *Eurema blanda* Three Spot Grass Yellow
- 28 *Eurema ormistoni* One-Spot Grass Yellow (E)
- 29 *Idea iasonia* Sri Lanka Tree Nymph (E)
- 30 *Ideopsis similis* Blue Glassy Tiger
- 31 *Tirumala limniace* Blue Tiger
- 32 *Tirumala septentrionis* Dark Blue Tiger
- 33 *Parantica aglea* Glassy Tiger
- 34 *Danaus chrysippus* Plain Tiger
- 35 *Danaus genutia* Common Tiger
- 36 *Euploea core* Common Crow
- 37 *Euploea phaenareta* King Crow
- 38 *Euploea klugii* Brown King Crow
- 39 *Ariadne ariadne* Angled Castor
- 40 *Ariadne merione* Common Castor
- 41 *Cupha erymanthis* Rustic
- 42 *Phalanta phalantha* Leopard
- 43 *Vindula erota* Cruiser

- 44 *Cirrochroa thais* Tamil Yeoman
- 45 *Cethosia nietneri* Ceylon Lace Wing
- 46 *Kaniska canace* Blue Admiral
- 47 *Junonia lemonias* Lemon Pansy
- 48 *Junonia hierta* Yellow Pansy
- 49 *Junonia atlites* Grey Pansy
- 50 *Junonia iphita* Chocolate Soldier
- 51 *Junonia almana* Peacock Pansy
- 52 *Hypolimnas bolina* Great Eggfly
- 53 *Pantoporia hordonia* Common Lascar
- 54 *Neptis hylas* Common Sailor
- 55 *Neptis jumbah* Chestnut Streaked Sailor
- 56 *Moduza procris* Commander
- 57 *Parthenos sylvia* Clipper
- 58 *Euthalia aconthea* Baron
- 59 *Rohana parisatis* Black Prince
- 60 *Polyura athamas* Nawab
- 61 *Charaxes solon* Black Rajah
- 62 *Charaxes psaphon* Tawny Rajah
- 63 *Libythea celtis* Beak
- 64 *Libythea myrrha* Club Beak
- 65 *Acraea violae* Tawny Coster
- 66 *Melanitis leda* Common Evening Brown
- 67 *Lethe drypetis* Tamil Treebrown
- 68 *Orsotriaena medus* Nigger
- 69 *Mycalesis perseus* Common Bushbrown
- 70 *Mycalesis patnia* Gladeye Bushbrown
- 71 *Ypthima ceylonica* White Four-ring
- 72 *Elymnias hypermnestra* Common Palmfly
- 73 *Curetis thetis* Indian Sunbeam
- 74 *Surendra vivarna* Common Acacia Blue
- 75 *Amblypodia anita* Purple Leaf Blue
- 76 *Rathinda amor* Monkey-puzzle
- 77 *Spindasis vulcanus* Common Silverline
- 78 *Spindasis schistacea* Plumbeous Silverline
- 79 *Anthene lycaenina* Pointed Ciliate Blue
- 80 *Nacaduba berenice* Rounded Six Lineblue
- 81 *Nacaduba sinhala* Pale Ceylon Six Lineblue (E)
- 82 *Prosotas nora* Common Lineblue
- 83 *Prosotas dubiosa* Tailless Lineblue
- 84 *Jamides bochus* Dark Cerulean
- 85 *Jamides alecto* Metallic Cerulean
- 86 *Jamides celeno* Common Cerulean
- 87 *Catochrysops strabo* Forget-me-not
- 88 *Lampides boeticus* Pea Blue
- 89 *Castalius rosimon* Common Pierrot
- 90 *Discolampa ethion* Banded Blue Pierrot

- 91 *Caleta decidia* Angled Pierrot
- 92 *Zizeeria karsandra* Dark Grass Blue
- 93 *Zizina otis* Lesser Grass Blue
- 94 *Zizula hylax* Tiny Grass Blue
- 95 *Talicerca nyseus* Red Pierrot
- 96 *Everes lacturnus* Indian Cupid
- 97 *Acytolepis lilacea* Hampson's Hedge Blue
- 98 *Acytolepis puspa* Common Hedge Blue
- 99 *Neopithecops zalmora* Quaker
- 100 *Megisba malaya* Malayan
- 101 *Chilades pandava* Plains Cupid
- 102 *Chilades lajus* Lime Blue
- 103 *Sarangesa dasahara* Common Small Flat
- 104 *Ampittia dioscorides* Bush Hopper
- 105 *Iambrix salsala* Chestnut Bob
- 106 *Notocrypta curvifascia* Restricted Demon
- 107 *Spialia galba* Indian Skipper
- 108 *Taractrocera maevius* Common Grass Dart
- 109 *Oriens goloides* Common Dartlet
- 110 *Potanthus pallida* Indian Dart
- 111 *Potanthus confucius* Tropic Dart
- 112 *Borbo cinnara* Wallace's Swift
- 113 *Pelopidas agna* Little Branded Swift
- 114 *Pelopidas thrax* Large Branded Swift
- 115 *Pelopidas conjuncta* Conjoined Swift
- 116 *Parnara bada* Smallest Swift
- 117 *Mycalesis subdita* Tamil Bushbrown

Photo Gallery



Common Jezebel



Common Pierrot



Common Sailor



Five-bar Swordtail



King Crow



Indian Sunbeam



Lascar



Plumbeous Silverline



Purple Leaf Blue



Sri Lanka Lesser Albatross



Tropic Dart



Common Bushbrown



Blue Admiral



Blue Glassy Tiger



Blue Tiger



Commander



Common Hedgeblue