

THE BIRD SOUNDS OF SRI LANKA

An Identification Guide.

Part 1 : Non-Passerines Little Grebe to Woodpeckers.

Recorded and Compiled by
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Bird Sounds : calls, songs, and mechanical sounds.
Some times the distinction between a call and a song of certain species of birds is not easy to make. In general, *calls* are short notes uttered by birds for social communication between a pair, family or a flock. In this way the calls are usually uttered to indicate food availability, hunger (of nestlings), approaching danger, etc. A *song* is a long phrase of sounds which is composed of several similar or different notes in succession. The song is usually repeated at regular intervals and is an important component of breeding behavioral activities such as for claiming territories and attracting mates. Songs of the true songbirds, in Order Passeriformes, are usually complex and varied in their repertoires but are musical and pleasant sounds. *Drumming* is a mechanical sound made by Woodpeckers, by very rapid hammering of the bill on a hollow tree trunk or branch. Like songs, drumming is associated with breeding behavior.

Note to Listeners: The Sole object of this cassette is to provide an identification guide to bird sounds heard in the field. The recordings were edited and filtered to

remove or minimize background noise. However, in preserving the natural quality of the bird sounds, presence of some background noise was unavoidable. In some cases a slight change in the natural pause between calls or songs may be noticed due to editing. Listeners are requested to kindly tolerate such occurrences as they do not greatly affect the value of the sound as an aid to identification.

Technical note: The natural quality of the bird sounds on this tape is best obtained by setting the Tone or Graphic equalizer controls of your Cassette player to flat level (i.e. controls in the middle or 0dB position).

Comments and suggestions on this tape are most welcome.

Side A:

1. Little Grebe
song
Brown-headed Barbet, House Crows, Common mynah and Jacana.
Talangama tank, June1997
2. Yellow Bittern
calls
Tailorbird and White-breasted Waterhen.
Bellanwila, April 1997.

3. Black Bittern
call
White-browed Prinia, Blyth's Reed warbler and House Crow.
Bellanwila, April 1997.
4. Night Heron / Black-crowned Night Heron
call
Rose-ringed Parakeet, Koel and White-breasted Waterhen.
Bellanwila, June1997.
5. Little Egret
call
Spotted Dove and Black-headed Oriole.
Anaiwilundawa, Nov1992
6. Grey Heron
call
Bellanwila, June1997.
7. Purple Heron
call
White-breasted Kingfisher, Purple-rumped Sunbird and White-breasted Waterhen.
Bellanwila, April 1997.
8. Lesser Whistling Teal / Lesser Whistling Duck
call; call of a flock
House Crow; Koel and purple Coot.
Polgasowita tank, June1997; Kalametiya, April1997.
9. Cotton Teal / Cotton Pygmy-Goose
Song: a small flock in courtship flight.
Jungle Crow, W.b. Waterhen, Koel and Magpie-Robin.
Polgasowita tank, June1997.
10. Crested Honey-Buzzard / Oriental Honey-Buzzard
call / song
second Honey-Bazzard and Black-capped Bulbul.
Bodhinagala, Sept1994.
11. Brahminy Kite
call
Common Babbler and Blyth's Reed Warbler.
Bellanwila, April1997.
12. Crested Serpent Eagle.
call / song
Yellow-fronted Barbet, Purple-rumped Sunbird and Crested Drongo.
Sinharaja, Dec1995.
13. Shikra
call / song
Common Tailorbird
Udahamulla, March1994.

14. Crested Hawk-Eagle / Changeable Hawk-Eagle
song
White-browed Bulbul and Brown-headed Barbet.
Uda-walawa, March1996.
15. Indian Grey Partridge / Grey Francolin
song
Jungle Crow and Rose-ringed Parakeet.
Anaiwilundawa, Nov1992
16. Ceylon Spurfowl
E song : duet of the pair
Emerald Dove.
Kitulgala, Feb1995.
17. Ceylon Junglefowl
E song of the cock
Crested Drongo.
Sinharaja, Feb1996.
18. White-breasted Waterhen
song : duet of the pair
Bellanwila, April1997.
19. Purple Coot / Purple Swampphen
three types of calls
Common Mynah; Clamorous Reed Warbler; and Red-backed Woodpecker.
Bellanwila, Apr.& May 1997;
Polgasowita tank, June1997.
20. Peasant-tailed Jacana
three types of calls
Stork-billed Kingfisher, House crow; Rose-ringed Parakeet and Common Babbler.
Talangama tank, June1997.
21. Black-winged Stilt
call : two birds calling
White-browed Bulbul, Junglefowl and Redshank.
Bundala, April1997.
22. Great Stone-Plover / Great Thick-knee
call : two birds calling
Clamorous Reed Warbler, Rose-ringed Parakeet and Spotted Dove.
Kalametiya, April1997.
23. Kentish Plover
call
Bundala, April1997.
24. Yellow-wattled Lapwing
call / song
Junglefowl and Spotted Dove.
Bundala, April1997.
25. Red-wattled Lapwing
call / song
second Lapwing and White-browed Prinia.
Bellanwila, April1997.

26. Little Stint
call
Greater Flamingo.
Bundala, April1997.
27. Common Redshank
call
Tailorbird; and Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler.
Bundala, Apr. & May1997; Kalametiya, Jan1996
28. Marsh Sandpiper
call
Fantail Warbler; and Red-wattled Lapwing.
Kalametiya, Jan1996.
29. Common Greenshank
flight call
Little Terns.
Bundala, May1997.
30. Little Tern
song : pair in courtship flight
Bundala, May1997.
31. Whiskered Tern
call
Clamorous Reed Warbler and White-breasted Waterhen.
Kalametiya, Jan1996.
32. Ceylon Wood Pigeon
E song : distant song
Horton Plains, Nov1996.
33. Spotted Dove
song
Red-vented Bulbul and Red-backed Woodpecker.
Udahamulla, Feb1991.
34. Emerald Dove
song
Black Bulbuls, Ceylon Hill-Mynah and Layard's Parakeets.
Kitulgala, Feb1995.
35. Green Imperial Pigeon
three types of songs
Yellow-fronted Barbet, Black Bulbul ; Crimson-breasted Barbet, Shama, Brown-headed Barbet ; Black-capped Bulbul and Green Leaf Warbler.
Kitulgala, Feb1995; Uda-walawa, March1996;
Bodhinagala, Oct 1992.
36. Ceylon Lorikeet / Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot
E call
Koslanda, Jan1997.

Side B:

37. Alexandrine Parakeet
two types of calls
Bodhinagala, Sept1994.
38. Rose-ringed Parakeet / Ring-necked Parakeet
two types of calls
Loten's Sunbird.
Udahamulla, Feb1991; Bellanwila, Apr1997.
39. Layard's Parakeet
E two types of calls
Rufous Babbler, Ashy-headed Laughing-Thrush, Ceylon Hill-Mynah; and Yellow-fronted Barbet.
Sinharaaja, July & Dec1995.
40. Pied Crested Cuckoo / Pied Cuckoo
call / song
House Crow.
Bellanwila, April1997.
41. Common Hawk-Cuckoo
song
Yellow-fronted Barbet and Cicadas.
Yatiantota, Jan1997.
42. Bay-banded Cuckoo / Banded Bay Cuckoo
call / song, and scolding song
Spotted Dove, White-browed Prinia; and Lorikeet.
Galge (Yala), Feb1996; Koslanda, Jan1997.
43. Drongo-Cuckoo
song
Black-headed Oriole, Common Mynah and Tailorbird.
Bibile, Sept1996.
44. Indian Koel / Asian Koel
call of the male, call of the female and song of the male
Brown-headed Barbet; and Magpie-Robin.
Udahamulla, May1992 & June1997.
45. Red-faced Malkoha
E call
Rufous Babbler, Scimitar Babbler, Black-naped Flycatcher; Yellow-fronted Barbet and Cicadas.
Sinharaaja, Nov1993 & Dec1995.
46. Green-billed Coucal
E call / song
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher and Black Bulbul.
Bodhinagala, Jan1993.
47. Common Coucal
call / song : pair calling
White-bellied Drongo.
Udahamulla, June1997.

48. Collared Scops Owl / Indian Scops Owl
song
Udahamulla, Sept1994.
49. Brown Fish Owl
song : duet of the pair
Uda-walawa, March1996.
50. Brown Hawk Owl
song : pair singing
Black-headed Oriole.
Udahamulla, Sept1994.
51. Indian Nightjar / Common Nightjar
song
Yala, June1992.
52. Long-tailed Nightjar / Jerdon's Nightjar
song
Anaivilundawa, Nov1992.
53. Crested Tree-Swift
call / song : male courting
White-browed Bulbul, Spotted Dove and Purple-rumped Sunbird.
Bundala, April 1997.
54. House Swift / Little Swift
call
Jungle Crow.
Rathnapura, March1995.
55. Ceylon Trogon / Malabar Trogon
two types of calls / songs
Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Crested Drongo and Yellow-fronted Barbet.
Kitulgala, Dec1992; Sinharaja, Dec1995.
56. Stork-billed Kingfisher
call / song : pair singing ; laughing call
Brown-headed Barbet; and Tailorbird.
Uda-walawa, March1996.
57. White-breasted Kingfisher / White-throated Kingfisher
song and alarm call
Magpie-Robin, Common Coucal, Brown Hawk Owl; and Koel.
Udahamulla, May1992.
58. Pied Kingfisher
call / song : pair in flight
Koel.
Bellanwila, June1997.
59. Little Green Bee-eater
call
Clamorous Reed Warbler and Jungle Crow.
Kalametiya, Jan1996.

60. Blue-tailed Bee-eater
call
Yellow-browed Bulbul.
Sinharaaja, Feb1996.
61. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater
call
Common Iora and Purple-rumped Sunbird.
Bodhinagala, Sept1994.
62. Hoopoe / Eurasian Hoopoe
song : distant song
Tailorbird and Rose-ringed Parakeet.
Yala, Feb1997.
63. Ceylon Grey Hornbill
E call and song
Ceylon Hill-Mynah.
Sinharaaja, Dec1995.
64. Malabar Pied Hornbill
call / song
Red-vented Bulbul.
Yala, Feb1997.
65. Brown-headed Barbet
call and song
Magpie-Robin, Common Coucal, Jungle Crow; Common Mynah and Common Babbler.
Udahamulla, Jan1991 & June1997.
66. Yellow-fronted Barbet
E two types of songs
second Barbet, Orange Minivets, Yellow-browed Bulbul, Scimitar Babbler, Crested Drongo; and White-headed Starling.
Sinharaaja, Dec1995.
67. Ceylon Small Barbet / Crimson-fronted Barbet
E two types of songs
Koel, Rose-ringed Parakeet and Jungle Crow.
Udahamulla, June1993.
68. Crimson-breasted Barbet / Coppermith Barbet
song
Common Mynah.
Yala, Feb1997.
69. Rufous Woodpecker
call / song
White-browed Bulbul and White-bellied Drongo.
Uda-walawa, March1996.
70. Lesser Yellow-naped Woodpecker / Lesser Yellownap
call / song
Common Mynah and Chestnut-headed Bee-eater.
Bodhinagala, Jan1997.

71. Red-backed Woodpecker / Black-rumped Flameback
call / song ; and drumming
Brown-headed Barbet, Jungle Crow; and Common Babbler.
Udahamulla, Jan1991 & June1992.
72. Crimson-backed Woodpecker / Greater Flameback
call / song ; and drumming
Jungle Crows, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Brown-headed Barbet, Yellow-browed Bulbuls; Common Iora and Purple-rumped Sunbird.
Bodhinagala, Feb1996 & Sept1994.

Guide to text:

E - Endemic species.

(*italics*) - Species heard in the background.



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