



9/2A, Station 1st Lane
Udahamulla
Nugegoda
Sri Lanka
Tel: 01 817370
E-mail:
drongo@sltnet.lk

THE BIRD SOUNDS OF SRI LANKA

An identification guide

Part 1 Non-passerines :

Little Grebe to Woodpeckers

Second edition, Dec 2001

Vocalisations of 74 species
including 10 endemics

Recorded and compiled by

DEEPA WAKAGODA

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Bird sounds: calls, songs, and mechanical sounds The distinction between a call and a song is not arbitrary, but it is sometimes not easy to make. In general, calls are short notes uttered for communication between a pair, family or flock. They are usually made to be in contact, to indicate food availability, hunger (of nestlings), approaching danger, etc. A song is a longer sequence of notes repeated at regular intervals. It is uttered mostly by the male, and is important in breeding behaviour, to establish and defend territories and attract mates. Songs of the true songbirds, such as larks, thrushes and robins among Sri Lankan birds, are musical and pleasant, and usually complex and varied. Mechanical sounds are non-vocal sounds associated with territorial and breeding behaviour. Examples in Sri Lanka are bill clattering in storks, wing clapping in junglefowl, pigeons and doves, and drumming of woodpeckers by very rapid striking of the bill on a resonant tree.

Note Because of restrictions of tape time available, natural pauses between repeated phrases have been shortened in editing for some birds.

'E' denotes an endemic species.

SIDE A

1. Little Grebe ගෙඩිසරා
Tachybaptus ruficollis
Song / duet of courting pair, Talangama, June 1997
2. Yellow Bittern කහ මැඩියොකා
Ixobrychus sinensis
Calls, Tissamaharama, Dec 2001
3. Black Bittern කළු මැඩියොකා
Dupetor flavicollis
Call in flight, Bellanwila, Apr 1997
4. Lesser Whistling Teal / Lesser Whistling Duck කඩිසරා
Dendrocygna javanica
Flight call, Bellanwila, June 1997
5. Crested / Oriental Honey-Buzzard බිහිරිලකුස්සා
Pernis ptilorhynchus
Call / song, Bodhinagala, Sep 1997
6. Brahminy Kite හුක්කා ලකුස්සා
Haliastur indus
Flight call / song, Udahamulla, Nov 2001
7. Crested Serpent Eagle සර්ප රාජාලියා
Spilornis cheela
Call / song, Udawalawe, Dec 2001
8. Shikra කුරුණූගොනා *Accipiter badius*
Song, Udahamulla, Mar 1994
9. Besra Sparrowhawk පුංචි කුරුණූගොනා
Accipiter virgatus
Song, Bodhinagala, Jan 1998
10. Crested Hawk-Eagle කොස්බිරාජාලියා
Spizaetus cirrhatius
Call / song of adult, Udawalawe, Nov 2001;
Song of immature, Udawalawe, July 1999
11. Painted Partridge / Painted Francolin පතනකුකුලා
Francolinus pictus
Song, Nilgala, Apr 2001

12. Indian Grey Partridge / Grey Francolin
පසවිටුවා *Francolinus pondicerianus*
Song, Nawadankulama, Dec 2001
13. Ceylon Spurfowl කඩිනකුකුලා
Gallus bicalcaratus E
Song / duet of pair, Bodhinagala, Oct 1992
14. Ceylon Junglefowl චිලිකුකුලා
Gallus lafayettii E
Song of male, Udawalawe, Dec 2001
15. Indian Peafowl මොනරා *Pavo cristatus*
Song of male, Yala, Jan 2000
16. Barred Bustard-Quail / Barred Button-Quail මොලුවිටුවා *Turnix suscitator*
Song of female, Udawalawe, Dec 2001
17. White-breasted Waterhen කොරවත්තා
Amaurornis phoenicurus
Calls (two types) and courting duet, Tissa, Oct 2000; Song, Sinharaja, Apr 2000
18. Purple Coot / Purple Swampphen කිකුලා
Porphyrio porphyrio
Calls (two types), Tissa, Nov 2001; Call (third type), Polgasowita, June 1997
19. Pheasant-tailed Jacana බළලුපේරා
Hydrophasianus chirurgus
Song of female (louder at end of track), Yala, Dec 1997; Calls (four types), Tissa, Oct 2000
20. Black-winged Stilt කලපුකිරිලා
Himantopus himantopus
Calls (two types), Wirawila, Oct 2000 and Bundala, Apr 1997
21. Great Stone-Plover / Great Thick-knee මහ ගොළුකිරිලා *Esacus recurvirostris*
Call / song, Kalametiya, Apr 1997
22. Yellow-wattled Lapwing කහකැලි කිරිලා
Hoplopterus malabaricus
Call / song, Yala, Jan 2000

23. Red-wattled Lapwing කිරිලා
Hoplopterus indicus
Song, Tissa, Dec 2001
24. Large Crested / Greater Crested Tern මහකොස්බි මුහුදුලිහිණියා *Sterna bergii*
Call, Yala, July 1998
25. Whiskered Tern රැවුල් මුහුදුලිහිණියා
Chlidonias hybridus
Call, Kalametiya, Jan 1996
26. Ceylon Wood Pigeon මිහිලගොනා
Columba torringtonii E
Song, Horton Plains, Mar 1999
27. Collared Dove මාලු කොරවිහියා
Streptopelia decaocta
Song, Nawadankulama, Dec 2001
28. Spotted Dove අළු කොරවිහියා
Streptopelia chinensis
Songs (two types), Udahamulla, Dec 2001

29. Emerald Dove කිලු කොරවිහියා
Chalcophaps indica
Song, Kitulgala, Feb 1999
30. Orange-breasted Green Pigeon ලුහිරිත් විටගොනා *Treron bicincta*
Song, Bundala, Dec 1997
31. Pompadour Green Pigeon පිටරතු විටගොනා *Treron pompadora*
Song, Bodhinagala, Jan 1998
32. Green Imperial Pigeon මහ කිලුගොනා
Ducula aenea
Songs (six types), Udawalawe, Nov 1999, Bodhinagala, Oct 1992 and Sinharaja, Nov 2001
33. Ceylon Lorikeet / Sri Lanka Hanging-Parrot ලිරාචිලිස්සා *Loriculus berylus*
Calls, Bodhinagala, Dec 1998 E

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SIDE B

34. Alexandrine Parakeet ලුහු ගිරවා
Psittacula eupatria
Calls (four types), Udawalawe, Nov 1999,
Udahamulla, Sep 1999 and June 1998
35. Rose-ringed / Ring-necked Parakeet
මාලු / රැක ගිරවා *Psittacula krameri*
Flight call, perched call and chatterings,
Udahamulla, Sep 2000 and June 1999
36. Blossom-headed Parakeet පහු ගිරවා
Psittacula cyanocephala
Call and song, near Ratnapura, Feb 1999
37. Layard's Parakeet අළු ගිරවා
Psittacula calthropae E
Perched call, Kitulgala, Feb 1998 and
Kandy, Dec 2001; Flight call (middle of
track), Gilimale, Nov 2001
38. Pied Crested / Pied Cuckoo
කොණ්ඩ කොකා *Clamator jacobinus*
Song, Tissa, Dec 2001
39. Common Hawk-Cuckoo ලකුණ කොකා
Hierococcyx varius
Song, Halgolla off Yatiyantota, Jan 1997
40. Indian Cuckoo කොකා කොකා
Cuculus micropterus
Song, Nilgala, Apr 2001
41. Bay-banded / Banded Bay Cuckoo
වසිරණ කොකා *Cacomantis sonneratii*
Song and scolding song, Kitulgala,
Feb 1998
42. Drongo-Cuckoo කඩුඩු කොකා
Surniculus lugubris
Song, Yala Block III, Feb 1999
43. Indian / Asian Koel කොකා / කොඩුලා
Eudynamis scolopacea
Song, call of female, and call of male,
Udahamulla, May 2001
44. Red-faced Malkoha වතරතු මල්කොකා
Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus E
Contact / courting call, Sinharaja, Nov 1993;
Agitated call, Sinharaja, Nov 2001
45. Green-billed Coucal හිටි අළුකුකුලා
Centropus chlororhynchos E
Song, Sinharaja, Jan 2001; Scolding /
courting call, Sinharaja, Oct 2000
46. Common / Greater Coucal අළුකුකුලා
Centropus sinensis
Songs (two types) and scolding call,
Udahamulla, June 2001
47. Indian Scops Owl මස්සා
Otus bakkamoena
Song, Udahamulla, Aug 2001
48. Brown Fish Owl මාළු බිහිමුණා
Ketupa zeylonensis
Song / duet of pair, Udawalawe, Nov 1999
49. Brown Hawk Owl ලකුණ මස්සා
Ninox scutulata
Song, Udahamulla, June 1999
50. Indian / Common Nightjar විමිමස්සා
Caprimulgus asiaticus eidos
Song, Yala, Dec 1997
51. Long-tailed / Jerdon's Nightjar
පෙදුළු විමිමස්සා *Caprimulgus atripennis*
Song, Udawalawe, Dec 2001
52. Crested Tree-Swift / Grey-rumped
Swift රුක්කුරිකා *Hemiprocne coronata*
Call, Yala Block III, Nov 2001
53. Palm / Asian Palm Swift කල් කුරිකා
Cypsiurus balasienis
Call, Yala, July 1998
54. Ceylon / Malabar Trogon
මහගිනිකුරුලා *Harpactes fasciatus*
Call / song of male, Bodhinagala, Dec 1998;
Call mostly by female, Sinharaja, May 1998
55. Stork-billed Kingfisher මහ පිළිකුඩුවා
Pelargopsis capensis
Song, Udawalawe, Mar 1996 and Kandy,
Jan 1999; Scolding call, Tissa, Jan 1999
56. White-breasted / White-throated
Kingfisher පිළිකුඩුවා *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Song, Udahamulla, Aug 2000; Scolding call,
Udahamulla, June 1999
57. Pied Kingfisher ගෝමර පිළිකුඩුවා
Ceryle rudis
Flight call / song, Bellanwila, June 1997
58. Little Green Bee-eater
හික් කුරුමිකුරුලා *Merops orientalis*
Calls (four types), Udawalawe, Dec 2001
59. Blue-tailed Bee-eater
මහ කුරුමිකුරුලා *Merops philippinus*
Call, Udahamulla, Sep 2000
60. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater කෙටිපෙදු
කුරුමිකුරුලා *Merops leschenaulti*
Call, Bodhinagala, Sep 1994
61. Hoopoe / Eurasian Hoopoe
පොරොකුරුලා *Upupa epops*
Song, Yala Block III, Mar 2001
62. Ceylon Grey Hornbill අළු කැඳුක්කා
Ocyrceros gingalensis E
Song, Gilimale, Feb 2001; Call, Sinharaja,
Dec 1995
63. Malabar Pied Hornbill පොරො කැඳුක්කා
Anthraceroceros coronatus
Call / song: often in duet as here, Tissa,
Jan 1999
64. Brown-headed Barbet පොළොක් / පමුඩු
කොරිවොරුවා *Megalaima zeylanica*
Songs (two types) Udahamulla, Dec 2001;
Agitated / scolding call, Udahamulla,
June 2001
65. Yellow-fronted Barbet මුහුලු
කොරිවොරුවා *Megalaima flavifrons* E
Songs (two types), Bodhinagala, Jan 1998
and Sinharaja, Dec 1995
66. Ceylon Small / Crimson-fronted Barbet
හික් කොරිවොරුවා *Megalaima rubricapilla*
Songs (two types), Udahamulla, Sep 2001
and Dec 2001 E
67. Crimson-breasted / Coppersmith
Barbet මල් කොරිවොරුවා
Megalaima haemacephala
Songs (two types), Nilgala, Apr 2001 and
Udawalawe, July 1999
68. Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker
මුරි කැරලා *Dendrocopos nanus*
Call / song, Bundala, June 1998
69. Yellow-fronted Pied / Yellow-crowned
Woodpecker ගෝමර කැරලා
Dendrocopos mahrattensis
Call / song, Bundala, June 1998
70. Lesser Yellow-naped Woodpecker /
Lesser Yellownape කොළ කැරලා
Picus chlorolophus
Call / song, Bodhinagala, Jan 1997
71. Rufous Woodpecker දුඹුරු කැරලා
Celeus brachyurus
Call / song, Udawalawe, July 1999
72. Red-backed Woodpecker / Black-
rumped Flameback රතු කැරලා
Dinopium benghalense psarodes
Calls / songs (three types), Udahamulla,
Dec 2001, Jan 1991 and Oct 1999
73. Crimson-backed Woodpecker /
Greater Flameback මහ රතුකැරලා
Chrysocolaptes lucidus
Call / song, Bodhinagala, Feb 1996;
Drumming, Kandy, Dec 2001
74. Black-backed Yellow / White-naped
Woodpecker මහ රත්කැරලා
Chrysocolaptes festivus
Call / song, Udawalawe, Dec 2001

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