

# South India 7th December 2007 – 2nd January 2008

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I visited South India in December 2007 for the third time. Like the visits before it wasn't only a birding trip. With my wife I also visited friends and enjoyed South Indian culture. However 5 days in Kerala were pure birding and I also made some trips around Pondicherry (our base) and to Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary and Pulicat Lake.



Birding:  
11.12. Thattakad  
12.12. Thattakad  
13.12. Thattakad  
14.12. Munnar  
15.12. Eravikulam and Bodi Ghats  
20.12. Lake Ousteri  
21.12. Kaliveli Tank and Yeduyanthittu estuary  
23.12. Lake Ousteri  
30.12. Pulicat Lake  
31.12. Vedanthangal

I recorded a total of 248 species of which 58 were new for me. During the five days with my guide Eldhose we saw most of the South Indian endemics and a good range of mammals, including the endangered Nilgiri Thar.

## Itinerary

### *11th December: Thattakad*

I arrived in the morning at Cochin Airport and met my driver Babu. We arrived at Hornbill Camp in time for a nice lunch and some time to rest. In the afternoon I met Eldhose, my guide at the entrance of the Thattakad (or Thattakad) Bird Sanctuary.

First we explored the sanctuary. Just after the entrance Eldhose showed me a roosting Brown Hawk Owl. The first endemic I spotted was a Malabar Parakeet, followed by two Malabar Grey Hornbills. We also found a male Blue-throated Flycatcher, a Black Baza and a Sri Lanka Frogmouth, sitting motionless in a bush. A flock of White-bellied Treepies passed through noisily.



South of the river we followed the track to Eldhose's house, where we could observe a pair of Red Spurfowls. Two roosting Mottled Wood Owls were harrassed by some Chestnut-tailed Starlings of the South Indian subspecies blythii.

Finally we spent some time around the radar of the Cochin Airport. We saw a Streak-throated Woodpecker and heard an Indian Pitta

and a Collared Scops Owl.

Sri Lankan Frogmouth *Brachostomus moniliger*, male

#### *12th December: Thattekad*

In the morning we drove to a forest area above Kotampuzha. The ride on the bad track was rewarded with some wonderful, pristine forest. Here we recorded Grey Junglefowl, White-bellied Woodpecker, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, Crimson-fronted Barbet, Vernal Hanging Parakeet, Indian Swiftlet, Besra, Small and Scarlet Minivet, White-bellied Blue Flycatcher, Hill Myna, Puff-throated Babbler, Dark-fronted Babbler, Crimson-backed Sunbird and Little Spiderhunter. Giant Squirrel and some Leaches were also noticed, the latter without much enthusiasm.

Before Lunch we found Grey-headed and Yellow-browed Bulbul near the sanctuary. In the afternoon we paid a second visit to the sanctuary itself. With some effort we found Malabar Trogon, Crested Goshawk and a Blue-faced Malkoha. A Speckled Piculet came as a surprise as it is usually not recored in the sanctuary. As we heard Elephants approaching we had to return.

South of the bridge we explored the area around the radar once more, finding a Jungle Owlet of the rufous southern form. Near the river we managed to attract an Indian Pitta and finally we heard and saw a flying Jerdon's Nightjar.

#### *13th December: Idamalayar Project Area and Thattekad*

Today we made a longer drive to the Idamalayar Project Area. This area is closed but obviously Eldhose is allowed to enter. With a short stop for Plum-headed Parakeets we drove to the Idamalayar dam (also called Edamalayar). Here we noticed Dusky Crag

Martins, Indian Swiftlets and White-rumped Swifts. We joined a truck, which brought us up to some good forest. After some time Eldhose heard the call of Indian Scimitar Babbler. We found them and they were together with a group of Wynaad Laughingthrushes! Other birds were Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Rusty-tailed Flycatcher, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker.

In the afternoon we birded around the airport radar, finding a White-browed Bulbul (rare here) and a Rufous Woodpecker. We passed the sanctuary with the car and walked through some rubber tree plantations to the forest. On a small hill we saw a White-bellied Woodpecker, a Green Imperial Pigeon and a very



Map of the region. From the village Thattakad it's about 2km to the bridge and the entrance of the sanctuary.

nice Brown-cheeked Fulvetta. Later we drove past the Hornbill Camp up the river. Just after a Forest Department checkpost we went a bit uphill and waited for Nightjars. Our patience was rewarded with some good views of a Jerdon's Nightjar and a Grey Nightjar. Additionally we heard a Great Eared Nightjar.

#### *14th December: Munnar*

In the morning we drove to Munnar which we reached in 2,5 hours. Just before Munnar we saw two Rufous Babbler at the roadside. We did some birding at the Cardamom Estate Shola. After some minutes we saw our first Grey-breasted Laughingthrush and some time later Eldhose spotted a Nilgiri Wood Pigeon! We drove onwards to the Olive Brook Hotel where a Malabar Whistling Thrush was sitting outside, singing beautifully.

Later we took the road in direction of Rajamalai (Eravikulam National Park). Just after Munnar we saw Black Bubluls and Nilgiri Flycatchers. We stayed for some hours in a small Shola. Easily seen were Blue-capped Rock Thrush, Indian Scimitar Babbler and Tytler's Leaf Warbler. Finally we managed to get a sight of a White-bellied Shortwing and a very brief view of a Black-and-Orange Flycatcher. The dinner at Olive Brooks was excellent.

*15th December: Rajamalai and Bodi Ghat*

After Breakfast we drove up to Eravikulam National Park. We arrived in time before 8 o'clock to be the firsts in the queue. From the entrance at the 5<sup>th</sup> mile we took the bus and walked up under the Anamudi, the highest mountain in South India. Grey-breasted Laughingthrushes and Nilgiri Flycatchers were easy to see. After some time we spotted our target: 2 Nilgiri Pipits at close distance. A Nilgiri Tahr far away was a nice addition to the mammal list.

We went back down and started our drive to Bodi Ghat. At the Sterling Hotel we changed our car (from Ambassador to Jeep) and noticed some Pacific Swallows. We drove through thick fog over the pass into Tamil Nadu and down the scary hairpin bends. We started our search for the Yellow-throated Bulbul. We saw a Black Eagle, a



Blue-winged Leafbird, many White-browed Bulbuls (their song is very similar to the Yellow-throated), a Hume's Warbler, a Thick-billed Flowerpecker but no Yellow-throated Bulbul. In the end Eldhose was pretty sure that he heard one, but we failed to see it. Unfortunately we had to go back and after a rough jeep ride and a long (but comfortable) drive in Babu's Ambassador it was time to say goodbye to the best guide I ever had. I arrived in time at Cochin Airport and took the flight back to Chennai.

Blue-capped Rock Thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus*

*20th December: Lake Ousteri*

Lake Ousteri is an old artificial lake west of Pondicherry. I spent the morning at the Lake Garden of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. I did some digiscoping and a Grey-bellied Cuckoo, a Black-headed Cuckooshrike and a lonely Spot-billed Pelican were nice additions to the list.



Yellow-billed Babbler *Turdoides affinis*



White-browed Bulbul *Pycnonotus luteolus*

*21st December: East Coast Road*

With a taxi I drove north along the East Coast Road. Some marshes near Kaliveli Tank and a great saltlagoon at the Yeduyanthittu Estuary harboured ducks and waders. Some Pacific Golden Plover and a Lesser Sand Plover were the highlights among the waders. A Caspian Tern and four Great Crested Terns were a nice sight too.

*23th December: Lake Ousteri*

With some friends from Pondicherry I visited Lake Ousteri again. First we spotted a lonely Rosy Starling then a Purple Swamphen. A wintering Osprey was a nice surprise.



Around Pondicherry

*30th December: Pulicat Lake*



Early in the morning I left Chennai, heading for Pulicat Lake in Andhra Pradesh (Taxi including permit for Andhra about 2300 RS). From Sullurpet we took the road to Sriharikota Island. Shortly after Sullurpet we entered birder's paradise. A large area of swamp and mudflats, holding thousands of birds. Ducks and waders were absolutely abundant.

First I stopped at a marsh to the left where I found Grey-headed Lapwings two years ago. However I had no luck this time. At a drier site I found a mixed flock of Ashy-crowned Finch-larks and Greater Short-toed Larks of the eastern race *dukhunensis*. Two Jerdon's Bushlarks also appeared, so did a young male Pallid Harrier and a Pied Cuckoo.

After some stops for terns I scanned a huge flock of Flamingos near Sriharikota. Among the thousand or so Greater Flamingos I found 4 Lesser Flamingos. At the information centre I took the track south to the island of Venadu. among the thousands of Little Stints I found a

Marsh Sandpipers were common and

Curlew Sandpiper. Some Lesser Sand Plovers, two Greater Sand Plovers and some Pacific Golden Plovers were present too.

The island itself is much drier. A White-eyed Buzzard surveyed the area and so did a pair of Montagu's Harriers.

With a day list of 90 species, including 22 Waders I return to Chennai.

*31th december: Vedanthangal*

Today I left at 5.30 am with a taxi to Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary. We arrived after seven to find the landscape in thick fog. The fog lifted quickly and I did some birding on the road to the sanctuary. There wasn't much activity but two perching Red-necked Falcons were a very good sight as they are pretty rare in Tamil Nadu. On the spot where I've seen Indian Coursers two years ago some workers were building something. A Grey Francolin and a White-eyed Buzzard were the only birds to notice here.

The Sanctuary itself was filled with water. After paying the entrance fee (5Rs, 10 for parking, 25 for the camera) I went up to the dam. The sound background was fantastic. Thousands of birds were breeding in the heronry: Painted Storks, Openbills, Spot-billed Pelicans, Spoonbills, Grey Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Intermediate Egrets, Little Egrets, Cattle Egrets and Little Cormorants. In a big bamboo some Flying Foxes were sleeping.



Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*



Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

## Organisation

My trip to Kerala was organised by Thomas Zacharias from [Kalypso Adventures](http://www.kalypsoadventures.com/) in Kerala. He was very helpful and I was very satisfied.

In Thattekad I stayed at the Hornbill Camp where food and view were excellent. The Olive Brooks in Munnar also provided outstanding food. My guide Eldhose was an incredible good birder, I can highly recommend him.

In Pondy I enjoyed birding with Dilip Patel and Atma.

In Chennai we stayed with our friend Mahendra. I thank him for his generous hospitality.

More on the internet:

<http://www.kalypsoadventures.com/>

<http://www.thehornbillcamp.com/>

<http://www.olivebrookmunnar.com/>

## Books

In the field I used Inskipp, but I also made some copies out of Rasmussen (eg larks, pipits and prinias) who were very helpful at times. All three available guides have their pros and cons.

**Grimmett, R., Inskipp C. & Inskipp T.** 1999. Pocket Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent. Christopher Helm, London.

**Kazmierczak K. & Sing R.** 1998. A Birdwatcher's Guide to India. Oxford University Press, New Dehli.

**Kazmierczak K. & van Perlo, B.** 2000. A Field Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent. Yale University Press, New Haven and London.

**Rasmussen, P.C. & Anderton, J.C.** 2005. Birds of South Asia. The Ripley Guide. Vols. 1 and 2. Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Editions, Washington, D.C. and Barcelona.



Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

## Systematic List

This list follows Grimmet, Inskipp and Inskipp in order and names. Proposed splits by Rasmussen are mentioned. Species in bold were lifers for me.

1	Grey Francolin	Francolinus podicerianus	Lake Ousteri, Vedanthangal, Pulicat, common in Tamil Nadu
2	<b>Red Spurfowl</b>	Galloperdix spadicea	11. Dec, pair behind Eldhos' house, <i>stewarti</i>
3	<b>Grey Junglefowl</b>	Gallus sonneratii	6 obs, mainly in Thattekad, 1 in Munnar
4	Indian Peafowl	Pavo cristatus	1 male Lake Ousteri, others heard
5	Lesser Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna javanica	about 30 in Thattekad
6	Cotton Pygmy-Goose	Nettapus coromandelianus	common at Lake Ousteri
7	Gadwall	Anas strepera	some at Pulicat Lake
8	Eurasian Wigeon	Anas penelope	common, Lake Ousteri & Pulicat
9	Spot-billed Duck	Anas poecilorhyncha	some at Lake Ousteri, one m at Vedanthangal
10	Common Teal	Anas crecca	common at Pulicat Lake
11	Garganey	Anas querquedula	common at Pulicat Lake
12	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	most numerous duck, eg >1000 Pulicat Lake
13	Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata	common Pulicat Lake, some Lake Ousteri
14	Speckled Piculet	Picumnus innominatus	12. Dec one in Thattekad Bird Sanctuary
15	<b>Rufous Woodpecker</b>	Celeus brachyurus	13. Dec one near CIAL radar, Rasmussen: <i>Micropternus b.</i>
16	<b>White-bellied Woodpecker</b>	Dryocopus javensis	4 observations around Thattekad
17	<b>Heart-spotted Woodpecker</b>	Hemicircus canente	12. Dec. one flying
18	<b>Brown-capped Pygmy Woodp.</b>	Dendrocopus nanus	13. Dec one Idamalayar, Rasmussen: Indian Pygmy Wp.
19	Lesser Yellownappe	Picus chlorolophus	13. Dec one Idamalayar, <i>chlogaster</i>
20	Streak-throated Woodpecker	Picus xanthopygaeus	3 observations around Thattekad
21	Black-rumped Flameback	Dinopium benghalense	3 observations around Thattekad
22	Greater Flameback	Chrysocolaptes lucidus	1 Thattekad, 2 Munnar
23	<b>Brown-headed Barbet</b>	Megalaima zeylanica	1 heard Bodi Ghat
24	<b>White-cheeked Barbet</b>	Megalaima viridis	3 observations Thattekad, 1 Munnar
25	<b>Crimson-fronted Barbet</b>	Megalaima rubricapilla	12. Dec. 1 and more heard, proposed spilt: Malabar Barbet <i>Megalaima malabarica</i>
26	<b>Malabar Grey Hornbill</b>	Ocyrceros griseus	8 observations Thattekad
27	Common Hoopoe	Upupa epops	some Lake Ousteri and Pulicat Lake
28	<b>Malabar Trogon</b>	Harpactes erythrocephalus	12. Dec ca. 4 birds in Thattekad Sanctuary
29	Indian Roller	Coracias benghalensis	Roadside bird in Tamil Nadu
30	Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis	2 observations Thattekad
31	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	some Peryiar River, Lake Ousteri, Pulicat
32	White-throated Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrnensis	common
33	Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	some Peryiar River and Lake Ousteri
34	Green Bee-eater	Merops orientalis	common
35	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	Merops philippinus	Lake Ousteri, Vedanthangal, Pulicat
36	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	Merops leschenaulti	some Thattekad and Munnar

37	Pied Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	3 birds Pulicat Lake, Rasmussen: Jacobin Cuckoo common
38	Common Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	20.Dec. 1 Lake Garden
39	Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	13.12. 1 heard
40	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>	12.2. 2 observations, proposed split: Fork-tailed Drongo-cuckoo, <i>Surniculus dicruroides</i>
41	Drongo Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>	1 Thattekad, common Lake Ousteri, 1 Vedanthangal
42	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	12. Dec. 1 Thattekad
43	<b>Blue-faced Malkoha</b>	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>	Common, proposed split: Southern Coucal, <i>C. parroti</i>
44	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	12.12. 2 Kotampuzha, 13.12. 5 Idamalayar
45	<b>Vernal Hanging Parrot</b>	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	Common Tamil Nadu
46	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Some around Thattekad and Idamalayar
47	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	quite common around Thattekad
48	<b>Malabar Parakeet</b>	<i>Psittacula columboides</i>	Some Thattekad, common around Munnar
49	<b>Indian Swiftlet</b>	<i>Collocalia unicolor</i>	13. Dec. ca 5 around Idamalayar dam
50	<b>White-rumped Needletail</b>	<i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i>	Common in Tamil Nadu
51	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	Hundreds in Madurai, some Chennai, also called Little Swift.
52	House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Some around Thattekad
53	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	1 heard 13. Dec.. near Thattekad
54	<b>Oriental Scops Owl</b>	<i>Otus sunia</i>	1 heard 11. Dec near Thattekad, Rasmussen: Indian Scops-owl
55	<b>Collared Scops Owl</b>	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	11. Dec 2 at roosting site near Thattekad
56	<b>Mottled Wood Owl</b>	<i>Strix ocellata</i>	12. Dec 1 heard, 3 seen near Thattekad, <i>malabaricum</i>
57	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	23. Dec. 1 heard near Lake Ousteri
58	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	11., 12. Dec. 1 seen roosting Thattekad
59	<b>Brown Hawk Owl</b>	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	11. Dec, 1 seen at roosting site Thattekad
60	<b>Sri Lanka Frogmouth</b>	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>	13. Dec, 1 heard
61	<b>Great Eared Nightjar</b>	<i>Eurostopodus macrotis</i>	13. Dec, 1 seen at dawn, Rasmussen: Indian Jungle N.
62	<b>Grey Nightjar</b>	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	13. Dec, 1 seen and more heard
63	<b>Jerdon's Nightjar</b>	<i>Caprimulgus atripennis</i>	Common
64	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia f. domesticus</i>	14. Dec, 1 between Munnar and Olive Brooks
65	<b>Nilgiri Wood Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba elphinstonii</i>	13. Dec, 1 around Thattekad
66	<b>Green Imperial Pigeon</b>	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	13. Dec, 3 Idamalayar, more heard
67	Mountain Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>	15. Dec, 4 Bodi Ghats, 30. Dec 2 Pulicat
68	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Common
69	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	30. Dec 2 Pulicat, 31. Dec 1 Vedanthangal
70	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	13. Dec 1m 2f around Thattekad, proposed split: Grey-fronted Green-pigeon, <i>Treron affinis</i>
71	Pompadour Green Pigeon	<i>Treron pompadora</i>	3 obs. around Thattekad
72	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	23. Dec min 2 Lake Ousteri
73	Purple Swamphe	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	2 Munnar, some wetlands Tamil Nadu
74	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	

75	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Some Lake Ousteri, many Pulicat
76	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Min 500 Lake Pulicat
77	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Min 2 Pulicat Lake
78	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Some Pulicat Lake
79	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Some Pulicat Lake
80	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Very common Pulicat Lake
81	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Some ECR, common Pulicat Lake
82	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Some Pulicat Lake
83	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Min 50 Pulicat Lake
84	Common Sandpiper	<i>Acitis hypoleucos</i>	1 Thattekad, some Pulicat, some ECR
85	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Common ECR, numerous Pulicat Lake
86	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Some ECR, some Pulicat Lake
87	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	1 2Y Pulicat Lake
88	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Min 50 Pulicat Lake
89	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Common, even in Chennai
90	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Min 30 Pulicat Lake
91	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Some Lake Ousteri, ECR, Pulicat
92	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	10 ECR, 150 Adyar, 50 Pulicat
93	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1 ECR
94	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Some Pulicat and Vedanthangal
95	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	1 ECR, numerous Pulicat Lake
96	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	1 ECR, min 40 Pulicat Lake
97	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Min 2 Pulicat Lake
98	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Common
99	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>	Min 1 ad Pulicat Lake
100	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	2 ad Pulicat Lake
101	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Some Pulicat Lake, 6 ECR
102	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	1 ECR, min 3 Pulicat
103	Great Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	4 ECR
104	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Ca. 50 Pulicat Lake
105	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Ca. 50 Pulicat Lake
106	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Some Peryiar River, ECR, Pulicat Lake
107	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	23. Dec 1 Lake Ousteri
108	<b>Black Baza</b>	<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>	11. Dec 1, 12. Dec 2 Thattekad
109	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Quite common Tamil Nadu
110	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Common
111	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	Some Pondy and Lake Ousteri
112	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	15. Dec 1 Bodi Ghats
113	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	15. Dec 1 Bodi Ghats
114	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1 Pulicat Lake, 1 Vedanthangal
115	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	1 young male Pulicat Lake
116	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	1m, 1f Pulicat Lake
117	<b>Crested Goshawk</b>	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	12. Dec 1 Thattekad
118	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	1 Thattekad, 1 Lake Ousteri
119	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	12. Dec 2 near Thattekad
120	Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	11. Dec 1 Thattekad
121	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	1 Pulicat Lake, 1 near Vedanthangal
122	<b>Changeable Hawk Eagle</b>	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	13. Dec 1 heard, 15. Dec 1 heard, Rasmussen: Crested Hawk-eagle
123	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Tamil Nadu
124	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	One pair near Vedanthangal

125	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	One <i>calidus</i> at Pulicat Lake
126	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1 Munnar, 1 Lake Ousteri
127	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Common at Vedanthangal
128	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Common
129	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Common
130	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Quite common
131	Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	Quite common
132	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Very common, proposed split: Eastern Cattle Egret, <i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
133	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Common
134	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Some ECR, Pulicat, common Vedanthangal
135	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	1 ECR, 2 Pulicat
136	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	10 Lake Ousteri, common Vedanthangal
137	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	Min 3000 Pulicat Lake
138	<b>Lesser Flamingo</b>	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>	4 Pulicat Lake
139	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Common Vedanthangal
140	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	1 Pulicat, common Vedanthangal
141	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Some Vedanthangal
142	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	1 Lake Ousteri, 50 Pulicat, many Vedant.
143	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	100 Pulicat Lake, common Vedanthangal
144	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Common ECR, Pulicat, Vedanthangal
145	<b>Indian Pitta</b>	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	11. Dec 1 heard, 12. Dec 1 seen Thattekad
146	Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	15. Dec 2 Bodi Ghats; proposed split: Jerdon's Leafbird, <i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>
147	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	4 observations Thattekad
148	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	1 Thattekad, 1 Munnar, 1 Bodi Ghat, 1 Ousteri
149	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	1 Pulicat Lake
150	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	Common Munnar
151	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Common Thattekad, Lake Ousteri, Vedant.
152	<b>White-bellied Treepie</b>	<i>Dendrocitta leucogastra</i>	11. Dec 8 Thattekad
153	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	Very common
154	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Common, proposed split: Indian Jungle Crow, <i>Corvus culminatus</i>
155	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	Common Thattekad, 1 Lake Ousteri
156	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	2 Thattekad, 4 Lake Ousteri, proposed split: Indian Golden Oriole, <i>Oriolus kundoo</i>
157	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	Some Thattekad
158	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	5 Thattekad
159	Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	1 male Lake Ousteri
160	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	2 Thattekad
161	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	Ca 4 Thattekad, proposed split: Orange Minivet
162	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Common Tamil Nadu
163	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	Common Thattekad
164	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	2 near Thattekad
165	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	1 near Thattekad, Rasmussen: Hair-crested Drongo
166	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	Quite common Thattekad
167	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	3 Thattekad

168	Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	Terpsiphone paradisi	2 Thattekad
169	Common Iora	Aegithina tiphia	1 Thattekad, 2 Bodi Ghats, some Ousteri
170	Large Woodshrike	Tephrodornis gularis	4 Thattekad, proposed split: Malabar Woodshrike, <i>Tephrodornis sylvicola</i>
171	Common Woodshrike	Tephrodornis pondicerianus	1 heard Bodi Ghats
172	<b>Blue-capped Rock Thrush</b>	Monticola cinclorhynchus	Min 2 Birds Munnar
173	<b>Malabar Whistling Thrush</b>	Myophonus horsfieldii	Heard in Thattekad, nicely seen in Munnar
174	<b>Orange-headed Thrush</b>	Zoothera citrina	5 Thattekad
175	Eurasian Blackbird	Turdus merula	1 male Munnar, proposed split: Indian Blackbird, <i>Turdus simillimus</i>
176	<b>White-bellied Shortwing</b>	Brachypteryx major	1 Munnar, proposed split: White-bellied Blue Robin, <i>Myiomela albiventris</i>
177	Asian Brown Flycatcher	Muscicapa dauurica	1 Thattekad
178	Rusty-tailed Flycatcher	Muscicapa ruficauda	Some Thattekad
179	<b>Brown-breasted Flycatcher</b>	Muscicapa muttui	Some Thattekad
180	<b>Black-and-orange Flycatcher</b>	Ficedula nigrorufa	1 male Munnar
181	Verditer Flycatcher	Eumyias thalassina	2 Thattekad
182	<b>Nilgiri Flycatcher</b>	Eumyias albicaudata	7 Munnar and Ernavikulam
183	<b>White-bellied Flycatcher</b>	Cyornis pallipes	4 Thattekad
184	<b>Blue-throated Flycatcher</b>	Cyornis rubeculoides	1m, 1f Thattekad
185	<b>Indian Blue Robin</b>	Luscinia brunnea	Several heard Munnar
186	Oriental Magpie Robin	Copsychus saularis	Common
187	Indian Robin	Saxicoloides fulicata	1 Bodi Ghat, some Lake Ousteri, Vedant.
188	Pied Bushchat	Saxicola caprata	Some Munnar
189	Chestnut-tailed Starling	Sturnus malabaricus	10+2 Thattekad, proposed split: Malabar White-headed Starling, <i>Sturnia blythii</i>
190	Brahminy Starling	Sturnus pagodarum	Some Lake Ousteri
191	Rosy Starling	Sturnus roseus	1 Lake Ousteri
192	Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	Common
193	Jungle Myna	Acridotheres fuscus	Some Munnar
194	Hill Myna	Gracula religiosa	Some Thattekad, proposed split: Lesser Hill-myna, <i>Gracula indica</i>
195	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	Sitta frontalis	3 Thattekad
196	Great Tit	Parus major	2 Idamalayar, 2 Thattekad
197	<b>Dusky Crag Martin</b>	Hirundo concolor	Ca 30 Idamalayar dam
198	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Common
199	Pacific Swallow	Hirundo tahitica	Ca 10 near Munnar, proposed split: Hill Swallow, <i>Hirundo domicola</i>
200	Red-rumped Swallow	Hirundo daurica	2 Thattekad, 10 Munnar, some Lake Ousteri
201	<b>Grey-headed Bulbul</b>	Pycnonotus priocephalus	1 Thattekad
202	Black-crested Bulbul	Pycnonotus melanicterus	3 Thattekad, proposed split: Flame-throated Bulbul, <i>Pycnonotus gularis</i>
203	Red-whiskered Bulbul	Pycnonotus jocosus	Common around Munnar
204	Red-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer	Common
205	White-browed Bulbul	Pycnonotus luteolus	Quite common Tamil Nadu
206	<b>Yellow-browed Bulbul</b>	Iole indica	3 Thattekad
207	Black Bulbul	Hypsipetes leucocephalus	Ca. 20 around Munnar, proposed split: Square-tailed Black Bulbul, <i>Hypsipetes ganeesa</i>
208	Grey-breasted Prinia	Prinia hodgsonii	4 Thattekad, 1 Bodi Ghat

209	Plain Prinia	Prinia inornata	Some Lake Ousteri, Pulicat
210	Ashy Prinia	Prinia socialis	Min 1 Pulicat Lake
211	Oriental White-eye	Zosterops palpebrosus	Some around Munnar
212	Thick-billed Warbler	Acrocephalus aedon	1 heard Thattekad
213	Booted Warbler	Hippolais caligata	1 near Vedanthangal
214	Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca	1 Bodi Ghats, proposed split: Hume's Whitethroat, <i>Sylvia althaea</i>
215	Common Tailorbird	Orthotomus sutorius	Common
216	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus affinis	1 Munnar
217	Greenish Warbler	Phylloscopus trochiloides	1 Munnar
218	Large-billed Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus magnirostris	3 Thattekad, 1 Munnar
219	<b>Tytler's Leaf Warbler</b>	Phylloscopus tytleri	5 Munnar
220	Western Crowned Warbler	Phylloscopus occipitalis	Some Thattekad
221	<b>Wynaad Laughingthrush</b>	Garrulax delesserti	12. Dec 1 seen more heard Idamalayar
222	<b>Gey-breasted Laughingthrush</b>	Garrulax jerdoni	Some around Munnar, proposed split: Kerala Laughingthrush, <i>Trochalopteron fairbanki</i>
223	Puff-throated Babbler	Pellorneum ruficeps	1 Thattekad
224	<b>Indian Scimitar Babbler</b>	Pomatorhinus horsfieldii	1+ Idamalayar, 2 Munnar
225	<b>Dark-fronted Babbler</b>	Rhopocichla atriceps	Some Thattekad and Idamalayar, often heard
226	<b>Rufous Babbler</b>	Turdoides subrufus	2 Munnar
227	Jungle Babbler	Turdoides striatus	Some Thattekad
228	Yellow-billed Babbler	Turdoides affinis	common
229	<b>Brown-cheeked Fulvetta</b>	Alcippe poioicephala	1 Idamalayar, 1 Thattekad, more heard
230	Jerdon's Bushlark	Mirafraga affinis	2 Pulicat Lake, split from Rufous- winged Bushlark, <i>M. assamica</i>
231	Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark	Eremopterix grisea	Ca 30 Pulicat Lake
232	Greater Short-toed Lark	Calandrella brachydactyla	Min 50 Pulicat Lake
233	Oriental Skylark	Alauda gulgula	Ca 5 Pulicat Lake
234	<b>Thick-billed Flowerpecker</b>	Dicaeum agile	1 Bodi Ghats
235	Plain Flowerpecker	Dicaeum concolor	2 Idamalayar, proposed split Nilgiri Flowerpecker
236	<b>Crimson-backed Sunbird</b>	Nectarinia minima	One pair Thattekad, Rasmussen: Small Sunbird
237	Purple Sunbird	Nectarinia asiatica	Quite common
238	Loten's Sunbird	Nectarinia loteni	Some Lake Ousteri
239	<b>Little Spiderhunter</b>	Arachnothera longirostra	4 Thattekad
240	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Not very common but widespread
241	Forest Wagtail	Dendronanthus indicus	1 Thattekad
242	White-browed Wagtail	Motacilla maderaspatensis	Some Thattekad, some Tamil Nadu
243	Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava	Some Pulicat Lake
244	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	Some Thattekad, common Munnar
245	Paddyfield Pipit	Anthus rufulus	1 Vedanthangal, 2 Pulicat Lake
246	<b>Nilgiri Pipit</b>	Anthus nilghiriensis	2 Ernavikulam
247	Black-headed Munia	Lonchura malacca	Some Pulicat Lake, proposed split Tricoloured Munia
248	Common Rosefinch	Carpodacus erythrinus	1 Munnar, 3 Ernavikulama