

Southern India's Western Ghats and Andaman Islands Species List | November 3-20, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Chris Harbard with local guides Avijit Sarkhel and Dhanish Trogon. Our clients included John, Daryl, Louis, Diana, Nancy, Harriet, Linda and Mariel.

Five guests arrived early to enjoy the fabulous extension to the Andaman Islands, with four full days birding looking for their special endemic birds. The range of habitats from coastal wetlands to dense forest, meant that there were lots of different species to look for and our local guides Avijit Sarkhel and Dhanish Trogon did a great job in finding so many of them. We saw a total of 135 bird species including all of the endemics found in the southern Andamans. The weather was very kind to us and we dodged most of the rain and the food was delicious and not too spicy. Highlights included the endemic birds - Andaman Teal, Andaman Wood-Pigeon, Andaman Cuckoo-Dove, Andaman Green Pigeon, Andaman Coucal, Andaman Nightjar, Andaman Crake, Andaman Serpent-Eagle, Andaman Masked Owl, Andaman Scops Owl, Andaman's and Hume's Boobooks, Andaman Woodpecker, Andaman Cuckoo-Shrike, Andaman Drongo, Andaman Treepie, Andaman Bulbul, White-headed Starling, Andaman Shama and Andaman Flowerpecker. Other special birds included Oriental (Walden's) Scops Owl, Cinnamon Bittern, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Ruddy Kingfisher (very rare in India), Long-tailed Parakeet, Scarlet Minivet and Forest Wagtail. The Big Tree Lodge was a great place for birding with many owls and several of the endemics seen along the road and our two trips into the forest around Mount Harriet were also very enjoyable. Avi's thermal imaging camera picked up not only owls but also bats, including two species of flying fox.

Three guests joined the other five from the Andaman Islands extension for the main trip, with Avi and Dhanish our local guides. We set out from Bangalore to undertake a lengthy journey taking us south and west to explore the Western Ghats and other parts of Southern India. The focus was the endemic birds of the region, but in looking for these we also saw an incredible range of other birds and wildlife. Sadly, our opportunity to see tigers was not to be, as just before we started out, the tiger reserves were all closed to safaris, and staying at a lodge without a jeep to explore in would be pointless. Our guide Avi set up a fabulous plan B, which meant we saw lots of incredible things with extra time in the highlands. Highlights among the birds were Nilgiri Wood-Pigeon, Sholakili, Laughingthrush, Flycatcher, Flowerpecker and Pipit (all endemics of the Nilgiri region) and also most of the Malabar endemics, including Malabar

Trogon, Gray Hornbill, Barbet, Flameback, Parakeet and Whistling-Thrush. Other outstanding sightings were Painted Bush-Quail, Blue-faced Malkoha, the amazingly camouflaged Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Great-eared Nightjar, Asian Woolly-necked Stork, Great Hornbill, Black Baza, Crested Serpent-Eagle, seven more outstanding owl species (Including Jungle and Spotted Owlets, Rock Eagle-Owl, Brown Fish-Owl and Brown Boobook), nine wonderful woodpecker species, including the tiny Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker and the large flamebacks, the amazing Indian Paradise-Flycatcher, many other flycatchers and warblers (especially Brown-and-Orange and Tickell's Blue Flycatchers, plus Tytler's Leaf Warbler), Indian Tit, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Orange-headed Thrush and four sunbirds. Mammal highlights were amazing giant squirrels, the huge Gaurs, an Indian Elephant, lots of deer, including Spotted Deer, Blackbuck and Sambar, Nilgiri Tahr, three langurs and two macaques, and Brown Palm Civets. The total number of bird species was 310, with 246 (31 endemics) on the main trip and 135 (20 endemics) on the Andaman Island extension.

The eBird links below details the species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Andaman Islands extension 2-7 November 2025](#)

[Western Ghats 8-21 November 2025](#)

[Andaman Islands and Western Ghats 2-21 November 2025](#)

Following is a list of the mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the two trips.

MAMMALS (26):

Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus*

Seen in trees from parking lot of the Periyar National Park, Kerala on November 18

Black-eared Flying Fox *Pteropus melanotos*

Identified by Avi near Big Tree resort, S Andaman on November 3

Andaman Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus cognatus*

A small bat, probably this species, was seen while looking for owls near Big Tree resort, S Andaman on November 5

Three-striped Palm Squirrel *Funambulus palmarum*

Seen commonly on both Andaman Islands and mainland India, smaller than the Jungle Palm Squirrel

Jungle Palm Squirrel *Funambulus tristriatus*

Seen in trees by road near Varattuparai, November 15

Nilgiri Striped Squirrel *Funambulus sublineatus*

One seen clearly at Lockhart Gap, Kerala on Nov 17.

Indian Giant Squirrel *Ratufa indica*

Seen on many days in Tamil Nadu and Kerala

Grizzled Giant Squirrel *Ratufa macroura*

Seen in Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary on November 15.

Indian Crested Porcupine *Hystrix indica*

A quill was found in the Masinagudi grasslands on November 10.

Nilgiri Langur *Semnopithecus johnii*

Seen near Valparai on November 14 and 18

Tufted Gray Langur *Semnopithecus priam*

Seen in Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary on November 15

Malabar Gray Langur *Semnopithecus hypoleucos*

Seen in Bandipur National Park on November 9 and 10

Lion-tailed Macaque *Macaca silenus*

Seen near Valparai on November 14

Bonnet Macaque *Macaca radiata*

Seen commonly in Western Ghats

Gray Slender Loris *Loris lydekkerianus*

Rare sighting in Inchathotti Forest on November 19

Indian Gray Mongoose *Urva edwardsii*

At Gantiganahalli Kere on November 3, and crossing road on November 8

Brown Palm Civet *Paradoxurus jerdoni*

Seen at Sinna Dorai's on the evening of November 14, and also at Niraamaya Retreat on evening of November 18

Masked Palm Civet (I) *Paguma larvata*

Seen by some on Andaman Islands on November 5

Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*

One seen while driving through Bandipur National Park on November 9

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*

Seen a few times by roadsides

Gaur *Bos gaurus*

This huge bovine was seen on many occasions between November 9 and 18

Nilgiri Tahr *Nilgiritragus hylocrius*

Several seen in Eravikulam National Park on November 16

Northern Red Muntjac (Barking Deer) *Muntiacus vaginalis*

One seen near Valparai on November 14

Sambar (Deer) *Rusa unicolor*

Seen on November 13, 15 and 18

Chital (Spotted Deer) *Axis axis*

Common in many of the National Parks

Blackbuck *Antelope cervicapra*

One with a fawn seen in Bandipur National Park on November 10

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (14):

Asian Common Toad *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*

Seen at Banyan Tree Lodge on November 13

Indus Valley Bullfrog *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*

Heard at Banyan Tree Lodge on November 13

Malabar Gliding Frog *Rhacophorus malabaricus*

November 8

Skittering Frog *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*

Seen at Banyan Tree Lodge on evening of November 13

Bush Frog *Raorchestes sp*

Seen on November 15

Indian Black Turtle *Melanochelys trijuga*

Seen at the Periyar National Park, Kerala on November 18

Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*

Heard at several lodges

Andaman Day Gecko *Phelsuma andamanensis*

Heard at lodges November 3 and 5

Day Gecko sp *Phelsuma sp*

Seen in cave and photographed at Lockhart Gap, Kerala on November 17

Keeled Grass Skink *Eutropis carinata*

Seen in Eravikulam National Park on November 16

Bengal Monitor *Varanus bengalensis*

Seen at Anamalai Tiger Reserve on November 15

Western Ghats Flying Lizard *Draco dussumieri*

Seen at Urulanthanni on November 20 and 21

Short-crested Bay Island Forest Lizard *Coryphophylax subcristatus*

Seen at Mt Harriet on November 6

Anaimalai Spiny Lizard *Salea anamallayana*

At least three seen near Munna on November 16, all different ages