

# BIRD WATCHING

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## GUIDE





# BIRDWATCHING AT MAHAWELI REACH HOTEL

Sri Lanka Is A Bird Paradise.

Kandy Is the Capital of The Central Hill Country of Sri Lanka, Which Is Famous for Its Extensive Avifauna. When You Are Staying at Mahaweli Reach Hotel, You Can Easily Spot 40 To 50 Bird Species (Endemic, Resident and Migrants) By Taking the Mahaweli River Cruise and Strolling Around the Garden. If You Are Ready to Spend Two to Three Days with Us, We Assure You Will See Nearly 100 Bird Species (Endemic, Resident and Migrants).

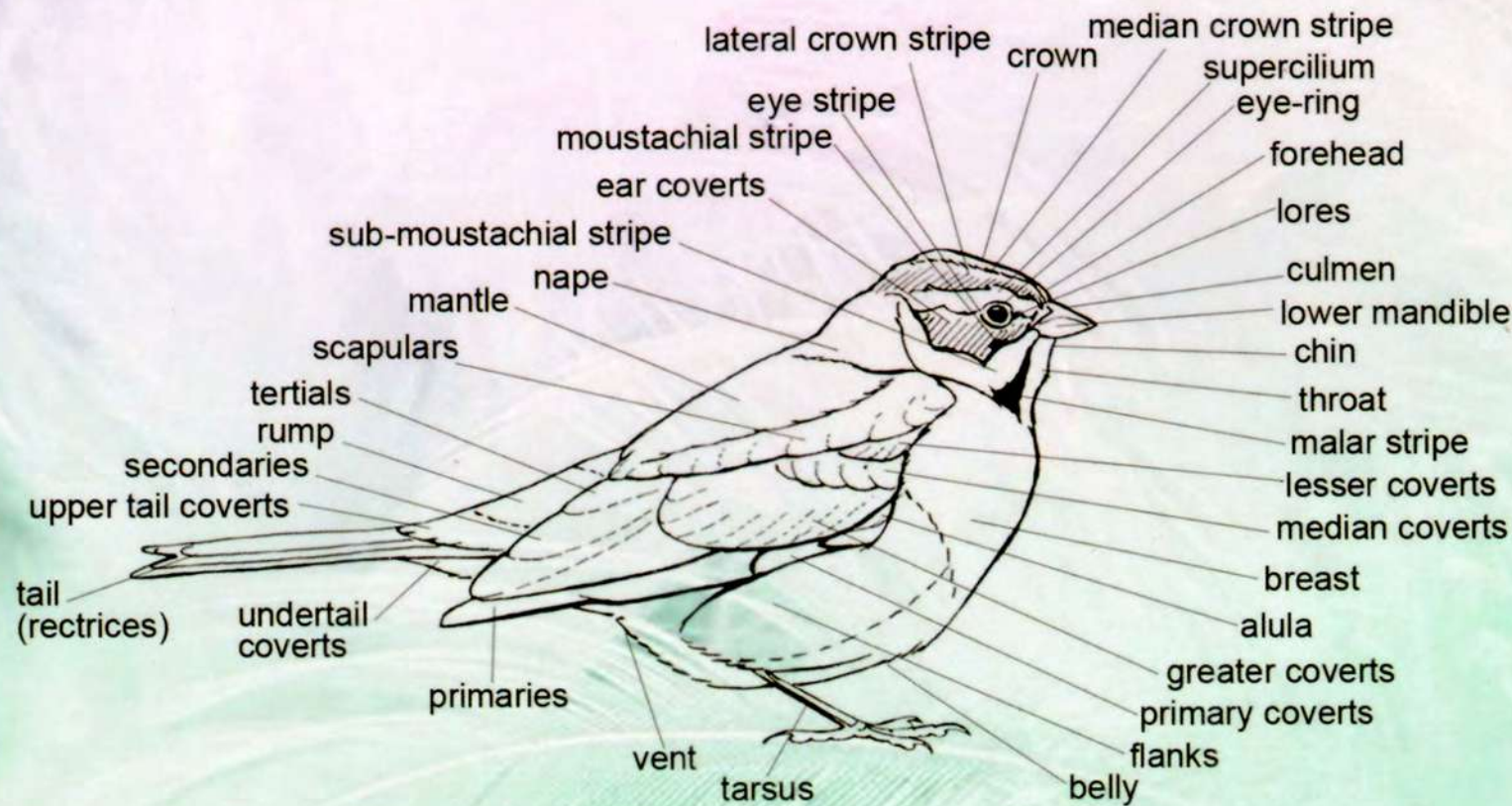
Please Speak to The Front Office Manager to Book the Magnificent River Cruise and Plan Your Bird Watching Tour.

You Can Enter Your Observations,  
Details of The Species to The Web-Based Database; [www.worldbirds.org/srilanka](http://www.worldbirds.org/srilanka)



# BIRD TOPOGRAPHY

The Illustrations Below Show the Main Parts of a Bird Used in Descriptions of Plumage and Anatomy.  
A Knowledge of These Terms Will Be Useful for Identification Purposes.





# THE PICTORIAL GUIDE FOR BIRDS AROUND MAHAWELI REACH HOTEL

Ardeidae (Hérons and Egrets):



**Black Bittern**  
(*Ixobrychus Flavicollis*)

Long Dagger Bill. Dark with Characteristics Buff Shading to White Patch on Sides of Neck. Heavily Streaked Breast. Yellow Neck Stripe and Yellow Streaking on Fore – Neck.

Size: 54 – 61 cm



**Black-Crowned Night-Heron**  
(*Nycticorax*)

Stocky. Black Above, Grey on Sides and White Below. Juvenile Has Paler Crown. Striated and Heavy Spotting on Mantle. A Few Long White Plumes Develop on The Nape of Breeding Adults and The Legs Turn Reddish For A Few Days. Red Eyes.

Size: 58 – 65 cm



**Indian Pond-Heron (*Ardeola Grayii*)**

Well Camouflaged When Standing. White Wings and Tail Obvious in Flight. Breeding Plumage Mainly Soft Greyish – Buff, With Maroon Mantle and Blue Facial Skin, And A Few Long White Plumes on The Nape.

Size: 42 - 45 cm



# THE PICTORIAL GUIDE FOR BIRDS AROUND MAHAWELI REACH HOTEL

Ardeidae (Herons and Egrets):



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus Ibis*)

Small and Sturdy with Stout Bill and Deep Jowl. Golden Buff Head, Neck and Dorsal Plumage During Breeding. Smallest of The Egrets. In Breeding Season, Beak Becomes Brighter and Head, Neck and Mantle Turn Golden – Buff.

Size: 48 – 53 cm



Grey Heron (*Ardea Cinerea*)

Appears Pale with Grey Above and White Neck. Black Flight Feathers Contrasting with Pale Grey Coverts. The Yellow Beak Develops A Crimson Plush and Yellow Legs Become Crimson During the Breeding Season.

Size: 90 – 98 cm



Purple Heron (*Ardea Purpurea*)

Well Camouflaged When Standing. White Wings and Tail Obvious in Flight. Breeding Plumage Mainly Soft Greyish – Buff, With Maroon Mantle and Blue Facial Skin, And A Few Long White Plumes on The Nape.

Size: 42 - 45 cm



# THE PICTORIAL GUIDE FOR BIRDS AROUND MAHAWELI REACH HOTEL

Ardeidae (Hérons and Egrets):



Great Egret (*Casmerodius Albus*)

Much Larger Than Other White Egrets. Long Bill, Gape Line Extends Behind Eye. Long Neck with Prominent Kink on Fore – Neck.

Size: 85 – 102 cm



Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx Intermedia*)

Bill Shorter and Less Pointed Than Great Egret. Black Legs and Feet. Black Bill with Yellow Base and Long Filamentous Plumes Emerging from The Scapulars During Breeding.

Size: 65 – 72 cm



Little Egret (*Egretta Garzetta*)

Black Bill All Seasons. Black Legs with Yellow Feet. In the Breeding Season, It Develops Nuptial Plumes on Head, Breast and Back.

Size: 55 – 65 cm



# THE PICTORIAL GUIDE FOR BIRDS AROUND MAHAWELI REACH HOTEL

Ardeidae (Herons and Egrets):



Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax Niger*)

Small, Relatively Short, Deep Based Bill Making an Almost Conical Head. Long Tail. Breeding Adult Has Small Crest on Forehead And A Few White Filaments on The Face.

Size: 51 cm



Indian Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax Fuscicollis*)

Medium Size, Long Thin Bill. Speckled Throat and Scaly Pattern on Wings. Larger Size, Heavier Build.

Size: 64 cm

Anhingidae (Anhingas):



Great Egret (*Casmerodius Albus*)

Large with Very Thin, Kinked Neck. Sits Very Low in Water. Black Upper Parts Are Streaked Strongly with Silvery Filaments.

Size: 85 -97 cm



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Accipitridae (Osprey, Kites, Hawks and Eagles):



Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur Indus*)

A Medium Sized Raptor. Red Backed, White Head and Breast. Broad Wings. Chestnut – Brown Body.

Size: 44 – 52 cm



Crested Serpent-Eagle (*Spilornis Cheela*)

Dark Body and Underwing Coverts. Broad Rounded Wings with Bold Black and White Pattern from Below, Double Band on Carpals. Underwings Coverts Brown with White Spots and Tail Has Black and White Bands.

Size: 56 – 74 cm

Rallidae (Rails, Crakes and Allies):



White-Breasted Waterhen (*Amauromis Phoenicurus*)

White Face, Throat and Breast, Dark Grey Back. Chestnut Belly and Vent.

Size: 32 cm



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Charadriidae (Plovers):



Red-Wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus Indicus*)

Red Wattles and Eye Ring. Black Tipped Red Bill. Black Crown, Throat and Bib, White Ear Patch. Broad Diagonal White Wing – Bar.

Size: 32 – 35 cm

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies):



Common Sandpiper (*Actitis Hypoleucos*)

Long, Fine, Straight Bill. White Eyebrow. Broad White Wing – Bar. Bobbing Stance.

Size: 18 – 20 cm

Laridae (Gulls and Terns):



Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias Hybrida*)

Black on Head Continues to Nape. Pale Underwing. White Fringes on Crown, Cheeks and Breast. Red Bill and Legs.

Size: 23 – 26 cm



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Columbidae (Doves and Pigeons):



Rock Pigeon (*Columba Livia*)

Wild Relative of The Feral Pigeon. Two Black Bands on Inner Wing Show as Lines on Closed Wing.

Size: 33 cm



Common Sandpiper (*Actitis Hypoleucos*)

Slender, Pink – Grey with White Spots And 'Chess – Board' Pattern on The Hind Neck. Long Wedge-Shaped Tail.

Size: 30 cm

Cuculidae (Cuckoos):



Greater Coucal (*Centropus Sinensis*)

Black Bill, Blue Sheen on Neck and Head. Bright Chestnut Wings. Striking Red Eyes.

Size: 48 cm



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Psittacidae (Parrots):



Rose-Ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)

Smaller Bill Than Alexandrine with Black Lower Mandible. No Red Shoulder Patches. Only the Male Has the Rose Collar and The Face Has A Powder Blue Tinge.

Size: 38 – 42 cm



Plum-Headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*)

Plum Coloured Head and Maroon Patches on Shoulders. Female with Blue – Grey Head, White – Tipped Tail and Yellow Collar.

Size: 34 – 36 cm

Dicruridae (Drongos):



White-Bellied Drongo (*Dicrurus caeruleus*)

Glossy, Blue – Black with White on Ventral Area.

Size: 24 cm



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Alcedinidae (Kingfishers):



Stork-Billed Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis Capensis*)

Large, Stocky with Huge Bill. Brown Head with Buff Collar. Largest of The Sri Lankan Kingfishers.

Size: 38 – 41 cm



White-Throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon Smyensis*)

Chocolate Brown Head and Underparts, White Throat and Bib. Striking Blue on Upper Parts.

Size: 28 – 30 cm



Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo Atthis*)

Orange Ear-Coverts. Brilliant Blue Above, Orange Below. Male Has Black Bill. Chestnut Ear Coverts.

Size: 16 cm



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Ramphastidae (Toucans and Barbets):



Brown-Headed Barbet (*Megalaima Zeylanica*)

Large, Pale-Streaked Brown Head and Breast. Reddish Bill and Bare Facial Skin.

Size: 25 – 27 cm

Picidae (Woodpeckers):



Sri Lanka Lesser Flameback (*Dinopium Benghalense*)

Darker Bill. White – Speckled Black Throat and Eye – Stripe. White Spots on Shoulders. Female Has Black on Forecrown Rather Than Red.

Size: 26 – 29 cm

Oriolidae (Orioles and Figbirds):



Black-Hooded Oriole (*Oriolus Xanthornus*)

Brilliant Yellow with Black Hood.

Size: 24 – 25 cm



# THE PICTORIAL GUIDE FOR BIRDS AROUND MAHAWELI REACH HOTEL

Corvidae (Crows and Jays):

Picidae (Woodpeckers):

Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins):



House Crow (*Corvus Splendens*)

Dark Brown Nape and Neck, Shading to Black on Breast.

Size: 40 – 42 cm



Jungle/ Large-Billed Crow (*Corvus Levallantii*)

Larger Than House Crow. Jet Black. Bigger Beak.

Size: 46 – 48 cm



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo Rustica*)

Deeply Forked Tail with Long Streamers. Bright Chestnut Face, Blue – Black Breast Band.

Size: 18 cm



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Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls):



Red-Vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus Cafer*)

Black Head with Dark Crest, And Red Vent. White Rump Seen in Flight.

Size: 20 cm

Sylviidae (Old World Warblers):



Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus Sutorius*)

The Chestnut Cap, Greenish Body and Upwardly Cocked Tail Make It Easy to Identify. Female Has Short Tail. Male Has Extended Central Tail Feathers.

Size: 12 – 14 cm

Timaliidae (Babblers and Parrotbills):



Yellow-Billed Babbler (*Turdoides Affinis*)

A Common Garden Bird. Yellow Bill, Pale Eye and Face. Drab Grey Plumage.

Size: 23 – 24 cm



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Sturnidae (Starlings):



Common Myna (*Acridotheres Tristis*)

Another Common Bird. Brown with Black Head and Yellow Bill. Triangle of Bare Yellow Skin Behind Eye. White Wing Patches and Tips on Tail.

Size: 24 cm

Dicaeidae (Flowerpeckers):



Pale-Billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum Erythrorhynchos*)

Small. Fine Pointed Bill. Dull Olive – Grey Above, Pale Grey Below, No Streaks on Breast.

Size: 8 cm

Nectarinidae (Sunbirds):



Purple-Rumped Sunbird (*Nectarinia Zeylonica*)

Male's Purple Rump Contrast Strongly with Uniformly Pale-Yellow Breast and Belly. Glossy Green Crown and Shoulder Patch.

Size: 10 – 11 cm



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Estrildidae (Waxbills, Grass Finches, Munias And Allies):



White-Throated Munia (*Lonchura Malabarica*)

A Small, Pale, Elegant Bird with A Long-Pointed Tail. A White Rump Contrasts with The Pale Brown Upper Parts. Dark Brown Pointed Tail.

Size: 10 – 11 cm



Pale-Billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum Erythrorhynchos*)

Small. Fine Pointed Bill. Dull Olive – Grey Above, Pale Grey Below, No Streaks on Breast.

Size: 8 cm

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits):



Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla Cinerea*)

Longer Tail and Grey on Head, Neck and Mantle. Greenish – Yellow Rump.

Size: 19 cm



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Muscicapidae (Chats and Old-World Flycatchers):



Oriental Magpie-Robin (Copsychus saularis)

A Common Garden Bird. White Patch on Wing, White Outer Tail Feathers. Female Has Greyish – Black Upper Parts and Greyish Breast.

Size: 19 – 21 cm



# THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BIRDWATCHERS:

- Avoid Disturbing Birds and Their Habitats – The Birds' Interests Should Always Come First.
- Do Not Disturb or Disrupt Any Habitant. Avoid Going Too Close to Birds or Disturbing Their Habitats – If A Bird Flies Away or Makes Repeated Alarm Calls, You Are Too Close.
- Respect the Customs and Rights of Residents and Landowners, And Do Not Enter Private Land Without Permission Unless It Is Open for Public Access on Foot.
- When Using Binoculars, Take Precautions Not to Point It at Houses and Places of Activity. Some People Do Not Like This.
- When Bird Watching, Use Only Your Eyes and Ears Not the Mouth. Silence Is Golden.
- Share Your Experience/ Observations with Other Bird Watchers.
- Repeatedly Playing A Recording of Birdsong or Calls to Encourage A Bird to Respond Can Divert A Territorial Bird from Other Important Duties, Such as Feeding Its Young. Never Use Playback to Attract A Species During Its Breeding Season.
- Leave Nests Alone, Do Not Try Touching or Watching Them Directly at Close Range.
- Animals Have the Same Rights as Humans, Please Let Them Enjoy Their Freedom.