



## BIRD MONTH 2013 – FAQ

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### 1. Why a Bird Counting Month..?

The environment around us is changing, How do we know this? One easy indicator is the common birds that visit our garden, the Magpie robin that was present may not be there any more, The Crow population in the area may be on the increase, These changes are indicators of what is to come - an inhospitable surroundings, . To be more aware of this change and to commence a method to change this trend would be to keep track of the birds in the area. - so count the birds at least once a year on the same day at the same time. \_ You are sure going to help to make the environment - more importantly your own environment better. Beyond your home, in your neighborhood, in the province and the country needs this help from you.

Bird counting month is an opportunity for you to pay attention to the birds around you, count them and record them.

### 2. Why 'December'..?

In 'December' we will be having the peak number of birds in Sri Lanka as it is middle of the migration season. December too is a holiday month, where you visit various locations, so you get more opportunity to observe birds. December is the last month of the year, so that you can also compile the records that you keep during the year and compile together.

### 3. How can I participate..?

Participation is simple.

i) Observe birds in as many places as you can. This need not necessarily be a wilderness - your home garden, school premises, workplace too are good places for starting this exercise.

ii) Keep a note about Birds. We all have the "pencil and paper". the traditional reliable device that will never get replaced. If you have access do so even electronically,

iii) Send your records to FOGSL / Department of Zoology, University of Colombo, Colombo3 or email to [migrantwatch.srilanka@gmail.com](mailto:migrantwatch.srilanka@gmail.com) / [fogsl@slt.lk](mailto:fogsl@slt.lk). You can also feed the data directly to Srilankan section of World Database for birds. [www.worldbird.com/srilanka](http://www.worldbird.com/srilanka)

### 4. Is there an Ideal time of the day to observe birds..?

Birds are most active in the morning, thus a morning count will be the best - Between 07.30 and 09.30.am.

### 5. I'm not an expert at identifying birds. Can I still participate..?

Definitely YES. We all can identify a "bird". Do not worry about what bird to start with, Just the bird. Black, blue or gold does not matter. You will be surprised at what you will see when you begin. Your own initiative will make you seek to get to know your friends, thus to identify them by name - here is the beginning - seek the help of a person or a field book at that point.

## 6. If participants are not expert, this won't be accurate..?

Do not worry about that, If you only let us know that this is your first time we will compensate that situation. The important thing is we have to be more responsible to our environment, and birds can help us be that.

## 7. Do I necessarily have to visit a jungle or wetland to observe birds..?

You do not necessarily visit a wilderness to watch birds. You can do this in your home garden, school premises or at your workplace. It is through that wetlands and rainforests carries rich bird diversity, but the home gardens in Sri Lanka too are home for many birds. First learn about these neighbors.

## 8. How many birds may I see from my Home Garden..?

From an average home garden, you can observe atleast 15 - 20 birds. Following are some of the common birds that most of the Srilankans can identify...

1. Red-vented Bulbul (කොන්ඩ කුරුල්ලා)
2. Babblers (දෙමලිච්චා)
3. Oriental Magpie-robin (පොල්කිච්චා)
4. Rose-ringed Parakeet (රන් ගිරවා)
5. Tailor Bird (බට්ටිච්චා)
6. Common Myna (මයිනා)
7. Asian Koel (කොහා)
8. Sunbird (පැණි කුරුල්ලා)
9. White-breasted Kingfisher (ළග සුදු පිලිහුඬුච්චා)
10. Spotted Dove (අලු කොබෙයියා)
11. Red-backed Woodpecker (කැරල)
12. White-bellied Drongo (කච්චා)
13. Barbets (කොට්ටොරුවා)
14. Small Flowerpecker (පිලිච්චා)
15. Black-hooded Oriole (කහ කුරුල්ලා)

This list includes the smallest bird in Sri Lanka Small Barbet and some of the best singers in like Oriental Magpie Robin. Some species of Birds of prey (*ukussa*) or owls (*bassa*) too are sometimes visiting the Home gardens.

Perhaps your Home Garden is home for many other birds, you will never know. So go out and watch the birds and participate Bird Counting Month.

## 9. Can I see Migrants too from my Home Garden..?

Yes, some of the migrants can be seen in your home gardens. This includes beautiful birds like Indian Pitta. Following is a list of migrants that can be seen in home gardens.

1. Indian Pitta (අච්චියා)
2. Forest Wagtail (වන හැලපෙන්නද)
3. Asian Paradise Flycatcher (සුදු රෙදි හොර)
4. Blue-tailed Bee-eater (නිල් පෙද බිඳුහරයා)
5. Brown Flycatcher (දුඹුරු මැසිමාර)
6. Barn Swallow (අටු වැහිලිහිනියා)

## 10. Should I submit data separately for MigrantWATCH 2013/14..?

Since all the migrants must have arrived by December, the 'first sighting' column of MigrantWATCH data sheet is not applicable. So you can use only the Bird Month data sheet to capture data. However if you mark the migrant at the end of the list, it would be easier to analyze.