



SLNHS Field Visit Report Anavilundawa and Chilaw Sand Pits, Sri Lanka Sunday 28th January 2018



Terns at Chilaw Sand Spit

Participants

Dr. Malik Fernando, Ninel Fernando, Dharshana , Skanda , Romesh , Kamini De Soysa, Chandani Wanigatunga, Jasmine , Meena , Dharshana , Harin Hulugalle, Errol Anthonisz, Lal Motha and Sri Srikumar - a total of 18 happy souls venturing out together to visit the Anavilundawa Ramsar Wetland Reserve, the Mangrove Museum at Pambala and the Chilaw Sand Pits.

Travel Route

Colombo – Town Hall – Maradana – Kelani Bridge – Katunayake Expressway - Wattala – Ja Ela - Kandana – Negombo – Kochchikade - Chilaw – Arrachchikattuwa - Anavilundawa.

Theme

The main theme of the field visit was to observe all types of fauna in their natural habitat and the flora in these regions and to further our knowledge on mangroves in Sri Lanka.

Activities

We departed on time from Colombo at 0530 hours. Lively friendly banter prevailed all along the way and sandwiches and biscuits kept kept our hunger at bay until we reached our first stop at the P & S at Wennappuwa for breakfast. We turned off past the 89 Km post and reached the Anavilundawa Ramsar Wetland Reserve at 0825 hours. The tank was parched dry and the only bit of water left was at the far end. As such water birds and waders were very sparse in number. It appeared as if a prolonged drought had prevailed in this area or another plausible explanation was that the waters of the Deduru Oya, no longer reaching this area.

We walked along the tank observing the birds on the trees and in the tank. The overcast sky and the cool breeze made our walk quite comfortable. Many different birds were observed.



small flock of Lesser Whistling Duck (Teal)



Crested Serpent Eagle



"the not so" Common Kingfisher



Blue Tailed Bee-eater



Indian Roller



White Browed Bulbul

We drove back to Chilaw and partook of a rice and curry buffet lunch at the Chilaw Rest House. After lunch we drove along the road leading to the sand pits close to the beach and retreated due to the oppressive heat and uncertainty of access. We traveled back towards Negombo and disembarked at the Mangrove Museum and Conservation Forest at Pambala, past the 66 Km post. The Seacology Center was closed since it was a Sunday. We were informed they were open only on week days and for ½ day on Saturdays. We looked around the premises and the mangrove nursery and conversed briefly with one of their staff.

We drove back to Chilaw and those who did not wish to visit the sand pits disembarked at the Chilaw Rest House. We drove along the motor-able part of road leading to the beach and walked the rest of the way. The sun was scorching hot but the ever present sea breeze made our walk tolerable. Many shorebirds were observed including a large flock of terns feeding on the opposite bank of the estuary.



Gull billed Terns



Whimbrel



Caspian Terns (red beaks)



Greater Crested Terns (greenish yellow bill)





Chilaw Sand Pits



at Chilaw Sand Pits

e We went back for tea to the Chilaw Rest House. The evening tea/coffee was accompanied by sliced banana cake. We left on our journey back at 1715 hours reaching Colombo at XXXX hours.



SLNHS Group outside the Chilaw Rest House

Our appreciation to :-

- SLNHS and specially to Ninel for the time and effort spent in organizing the trip and the logistical arrangements
- Van driver for his careful driving and bringing us home safe and sound
- The obliging and pleasant staff at the Chilaw Rest House for providing tasty meals and serving them on time
- All our participants for their pleasant friendly companionship and camaraderie which added greatly to an enjoyable and memorable trip.



This field visit report was compiled by Sri, reviewed and added to by XX with photographs by Sri. The views expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the SLNHS. The Bird List is attached.

BIRD LIST
 SLNHS Field Visit to ANAVILUNDAWA

Common Name	Scientific Name
Asian Brown Flycather	
Asian Openbill	
Asian Paradise Flycather	
Black headed Ibis	
Black naped Oriole	
Blue faced Malkoha	
Brahminy Kite	
Brown headed Barbet	
Commom House Crow	
Common Kingfisher	
Common Myna	
Common Sandpiper	
Crested Serpent Eagle	
Grey Heron	
Indian Pond Heron	
Indian Roller	
Intermediate Egret	
Lesser Whistling Teal	
Little Cormorant	
Little Egret	
Paddy field Pipit	
Pheasant Tailed Jacana	
Pied Kingfisher	
Purple Heron	
Purple Sunbird	
Red vented Bulbul	
Rose ringed Parakeet	
Spot billed Pelican	
White Bellied Sea Eagle	
White Breasted Water Hen	
White Browed Bulbul	
White thoated Kingfisher	
Yellow billed Bablers	

Sri

BIRD LIST
SLNHS Field Visit to CHILAW SAND SPIT

Common Name	Scientific Name
Brahminy Kite	
Brown headed Gull	
Caspian Tern	
Common House Crow	
Greater Crested Tern	
Gull billed Tern	
Intermediate Egret	
Lesser Crested Tern	
Little Cormorant	
Little Egret	
Pied Kingfisher	
Whimbrel	