David Richens visit to Sri Lanka this February

I spoke at the NNBC Members Evening last December about a previous trip to Mannar in Sri Lanka. I travel out there a couple of times a year to do pro bono work as a retired Cardiothoracic surgeon. I usually spend 2 or 3 days bird watching at the end of each trip.

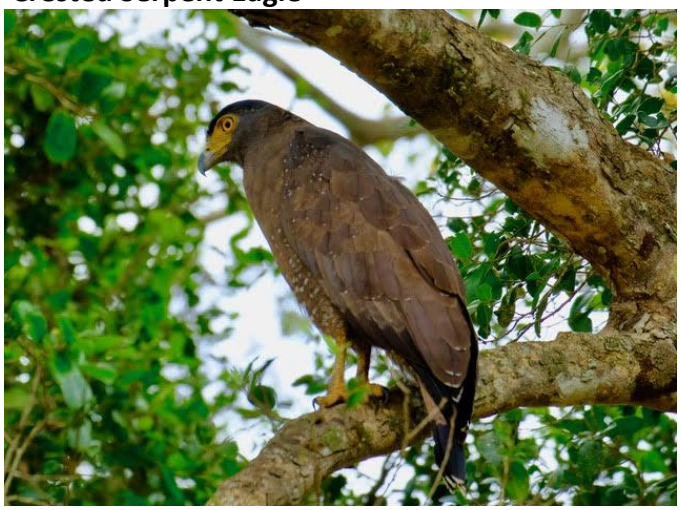
In February 2020 after 10 days work in Colombo I went to Udawalawe National Park. This is in the south of the island and is a dry zone. The park is one of the best places to see wild elephants. We stayed in a treehouse hotel which certainly allowed us to see some of the wildlife up close and personal!! The tree was growing through the bedroom and its branches served as a main road from ground to canopy for a wide range of creatures.

Here are a few pictures from the trip. The birds include :

Malabar Hornbill

Crested Hawk Eagle

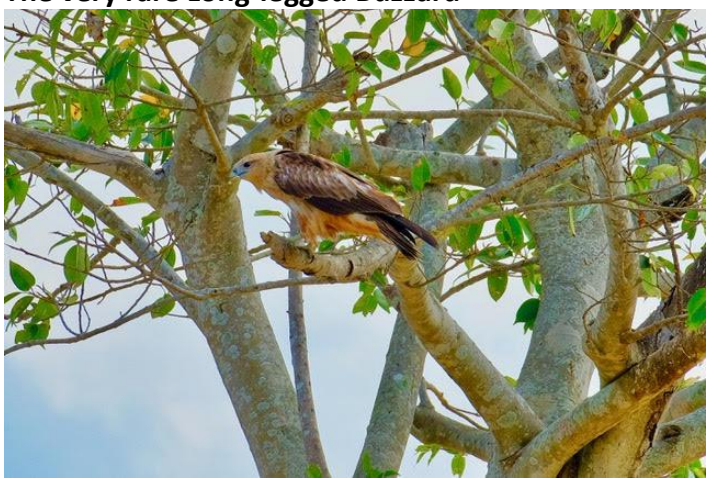
Crested Serpent Eagle



Green Bee-eater

Osprey

The very rare Long-legged Buzzard



Fish Owl

Indian Roller

White - bellied Sea Eagle

We had a thrilling encounter with an elephant just before dawn as we drove into the park on the first day and later saw an elephant swimming across the lake.

A monkey often sat on our balcony

Home to a frog

A very interesting few days of bird watching.