



Kalamatiya – The Birds



Kalamatiya on the southern coast is well known as a bird sanctuary recording many species of birds, of which 54 are migratory, offering a biologically rich and ecologically diverse experience to the serious bird watcher and discerning traveller.

There are four nationally threatened birds found within the Sanctuary - Indian Reef Heron, Glossy Ibis, Sri Lankan Jungle Fowl and Black-capped Purple Kingfisher. The Sri Lankan Jungle Fowl is the Sri Lankan National Bird and is the only endemic bird.



There are 38 species of reptiles, a large number of which are nationally and globally threatened.



41 species of fish are in the waters.

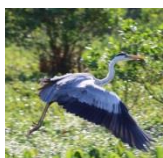


20 species of mammals also live there including 4 endemic mammals: a Shrew, the Toque Macaque, a Spiny Rat and a Tree Mouse.



A large number of plants are recorded.

In 1938, the bird sanctuary was declared a wildlife sanctuary but this was abolished in 1946 to be re-declared in 1984.



Karukalli Saltern, the Lunama and Kalamatiya lagoons and the surrounding marshy areas are within the sanctuary and offer a unique paddling experience to view the abundant birds and wildlife.