



Gracula religiosa



Myristica fragrans



Musa paradisiaca

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- January 2012 -

A wet and busy December has come and gone. A particular feature of the bird song in the garden has been the really loud celebration of the rainy weather by the grackles (*Gracula religiosa*) in the large trees around the house. They make such a joyous sound in celebration of the precipitation and bring back great memories of some of the sounds of our youth that we thought, for a time there, we had bid adieu to!

The single biggest “social” event of the year at HPH was successfully navigated yet again. We had the largest number yet

big game! The nutmegs (*Myristica fragrans*) get harvested and cut open, with some seed going to a local spice plant nursery and some to the local plantation produce dealer. The bunches of bananas (*Musa paradisiaca*) get taken to market: at least those we can save from the macaque monkeys!

We had a pleasant surprise in late December, in finding that several of our mango trees had, concealed in their foliage, an unexpectedly large number of off-season fruit that the squirrels – all three varieties of them – hadn’t **completely** discovered!



at our annual Christmas Get-Together for our workers, their children, some of our friends and their domestic aides and their progeny. There was little doubt that a good time was had by all, substantially assisted by the strains of the harmonium (*seraphina*) music of Karunaratna, HPH’s Field Supervisor! We hope that the pictures in this newsletter capture some of its gaiety.

On the land, much of the ‘routine’ work continues. We fight the seemingly never-ending battle against the high grass alongside our approach road that threatens to make negotiating that track something similar to traversing the veldt without the attendant

While the flavor wasn’t at its peak, a mango is still a mango!

We look forward to 2012 in the hope that all our friends and neighbours enjoy those things that we traditionally wish for them and ourselves at this time of the year: health, wealth and happiness!

Most important of all, we hope we’ll have the pleasure of your company at HPH in 2012.

Warm wishes, Emil & Arlene

For information or to book your accommodation, contact us at:

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Upcoming events in the country

January

January 15: Thai Pongal – Tamils in Sri Lanka celebrate this harvest festival with various activities. The celebrations give thanks to the Sun God for a good harvest.



No date: Kala pola: an open air art feast in Colombo featuring the art of very talented Sri Lankans



January 18-22: The 6th annual HSBC Galle Literary Festival featuring a wide variety of local and international authors and other events.

February

February 4: Independence day

February 7: Navam Full Moon Poya holiday and the Navam Perahera in Colombo.

March

Cricket: England in Sri Lanka for two test matches starting March 26.

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