



Emerald Dove - *Chalcophaps indica*

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind
 – October 2013 –

October is here and the North East Monsoon does not appear to really have “broken” because we haven’t seen the migrant bird population explode as it usually does at this time of the year. However, we know it won’t be long before the flocks of migrant avians make their presence felt again.



Parakeet flower (*Heliconia psittacorum*)—common at HPH

We haven’t done anything spectacular to the surroundings of HPH recently. However, we have begun to consolidate some of the agricultural rehabilitation that has been in progress over the last few years and our efforts are being rewarded with visible signs of progress particularly in the matter of new and replacement pepper vines and the largest (and longest-running) nutmeg season in recent memory – we’ve been harvesting the fruit off these wonderfully green-garbed trees for a couple of months now and it has provided us with not only the nutmegs that most are familiar with but, also,

the fantastically bright red Mace used in pharmaceuticals and in other applications. A less-recognized by-product is the husk/outer covering that provides the raw material for Arlene’s now-famous Nutmeg Jelly! Interestingly, we had an unannounced visitor the other day seeking a supply of nutmegs because it seems we have become, for whatever reason, “famous” for that tropical spice even though we don’t produce it in what could be considered “commercial” quantities in any other tropical country that grows nutmegs as a major plantation crop.

The Butterfly Garden – courtesy of (Dr) George and Nancy van der Poorten – is coming along steadily and has become the specific responsibility of Arlene and her “No. 1 garden assistant,” Mallika both of whom know exactly which plants were introduced for the benefit of the butterfly population and which are “intruders” in that particular patch of garden!



The Clipper butterfly (*Parthenos sylvia*)—resident at HPH

As I type this with my morning cup of “plain tea” by my laptop keyboard, the Red Vented Bulbuls are voicing their displeasure at the fact that their supply of papaya on our

balcony has not been replenished! That means that I have to acknowledge priorities around these parts and go find some ripe papaya of a quality that satisfies their palates this morning. Otherwise, the din is going to grow until they leave the feeding platter in high dudgeon!

So until the month before Christmas, Arlene and I will have to say adieu to our growing list of friends who do seem to get some enjoyment out of my monthly scribbles!

Warm wishes!
Arlene & Emil

For the month of October, each visiting group continues to receive what has become one of the best-received touches of HPH hospitality, the complimentary “Surprise Basket” of HPH “goodies”

AND

we are extending last month’s “Special” of 20% off meals for ALL visitors and their drivers or guides.



TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

HPH is highly recommended on Trip Advisor. See what our previous guests have had to say!

www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g304138-d2057765-Reviews-Halgolla_Plantation_Home-Kandy_District_Central_Province.html

We are also on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/HalgollaPlantationHome>

& Airbnb

<https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/906073>



Sunset at HPH



The fragrant flowers of Glory Bower (*Clerodendrum chinense*)

Sri Lanka – rated as a top tourist destination for 2011, 2012 & 2013.

The Lonely Planet

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/sri-lanka>

Condé Nast Traveller

www.cntraveller.com/news/2011/december/destinations-to-watch-in-2012/sri-lanka

The New York Times

www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/travel/10places.html

National Geographic

<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/best-trips-2012/sri-lanka-photos/>

Upcoming events in Sri Lanka

October

The migrant birds start to arrive!

Oct. 6. The Colombo Marathon

Surfing at Arugam Bay, one of the top ten spots in the world, continues to November

Kitesurfing at Kalpitiya continues through to November

November

Nov. 3. Deepavali, the Festival of Lights, is one of the most important festivals for Hindus. Among the activities is the lighting of small clay lamps to signify the triumph of good over evil.

The whale and dolphin watching season starts at Kalpitiya on the west coast

White-water rafting at Kitulgala

Hot Air Balloon Rides at Dambulla and Sigiriya