

Mantas, Dolphins & Coral Reefs – A Maldives Cruise

Naturetrek Tour Report

13 – 22 February 2015



Spinner Dolphins by Peter Johnson



Manta Ray by Trevor Dudley



Evening snorkel by Kerrie Porteous



Giant Moray & Powder-blue Surgeonfish by Kerrie Porteous

Report compiled by Kerrie Porteous



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Tour participants: Kerrie Porteous (tour leader), Dr Charles Anderson (local guide & naturalist) together with 15 Naturetrek clients

Summary

Our week cruising around the beautiful Maldives islands and atolls was filled to bursting with sea life, including a dazzling selection of colourful reef fish, Manta Rays, Stingrays, dolphins, an exciting variety of sharks, three species of turtle, and absolutely pristine coral reefs. For the keen naturalist, snorkelling enthusiast, or anyone wishing to escape the northern winter, we all agreed that a week of cetacean watching and snorkelling in the Maldives in February really is living the dream!

Days 1 - 2

Friday 13th – Saturday 14th February

The majority of the group set off eagerly from London Heathrow, collecting Steve & Jacky en route in Dubai, and then Steve & Ruth who were awaiting our arrival in Male. It didn't take long to locate the crew from MV Carina who had come to meet us, and our guide for the week, Chas, very shortly thereafter. Once on board the dhoni (tender), it was just a 10 minute trip to MV Carina, our home for the next week. Here, we discarded our shoes (which wouldn't be needed for the next week), had a quick introduction from Chas, and settled into our cabins. We moved a short distance away from the airport to moor near the island resort of Kurumba (to which we would return in a week's time), and after dinner most of the group opted for an early night after a long couple of flights.

Day 3

Sunday 15th February

We were all up and raring to go at 7am this morning. After a quick biscuit and cup of tea, we were ready with our snorkelling gear at 7.30am, eager to see what was swimming in the beautiful blue waters beneath us. We spent the next hour snorkelling over one of Kurumba's house reefs, and enjoying our first insight into the Maldivian reef fish that we were going to get to know extremely well over the next week.

Early highlights included a large school of Batfish just as soon as we entered the water, and two Giant Morays, plus Powder-blue Surgeonfish, Coral Rabbitfish, Moorish Idols, Longnose Butterflyfish, and Meyer's Butterflyfish (to name but a few!). A turtle was spotted off the back of the boat (though a little too distant to be sure of an identification, it was probably a Hawksbill Turtle), and our first dolphins – Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins – were spotted nearby; so we set off in the dhoni to enjoy a closer look.



Dolphin watching from the front of Carina by Kerrie Porteous

Back on board the Carina we began our crossing to South Ari Atoll, and soon enough the bell was rung as we came across our first pod of Spinner Dolphins. The bell is rung for meals, cetacean sightings, and emergencies - some decided to don their life jackets just to be on the safe

side - but this momentary confusion soon gave way to the thrill of seeing our first Spinner Dolphins up close. They did a little of what their name suggests, but mainly contented themselves with bow riding and playing alongside our boat. Eventually we left them behind, and it wasn't too long before we came across another big group of around 100 Spinner Dolphins. We very much enjoyed watching a young Spinner trying (unsuccessfully) to rid itself of a firmly attached remora. The remora had clearly worked out what was happening and was holding on for dear life, no matter how hard the little dolphin spun! Soon it was time for lunch, and just as we finished, the third of today's pods of Spinner Dolphins appeared; a similar size again.

Arriving in the late afternoon in South Ari Atoll, we moored near the local island of Dhangethi. Saunders's, Little and Black-naped Terns were all seen, and Richard spotted a turtle (we thought it was most likely a Green Turtle this time) off the front of the boat whilst we were anchoring.

We enjoyed another evening snorkel, and Fish Club members were beginning to get to grips with some of the key species. Some highlights today were Slender Grouper, Kashmir Snappers, Bennett's Butterflyfish (the one with the big splodge) and Triangular Butterflyfish (the one with the red face). Chas gave a talk this evening about some of the most common species of Dolphin here in the Maldives, some of which we had enjoyed watching today!

Day 4

Monday 16th February

We enjoyed another great morning snorkel first thing, and on our return to Carina we saw a little pod of Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins looking a bit full after their breakfast. Today, we crossed to Faafu Atoll, a little further to the south. It was quite breezy out on the water which made cetacean spotting a little tricky. In the windiest part of ocean we found some Spinner Dolphins, who looked like they were genuinely having fun surfing amongst the big waves! Thereafter everything went quiet until Chas noticed some fishing boats in the distance. In the hope that they were fishing for Yellowfin Tuna, we started to chase them down. Sure enough, as we got close, some fins were clearly visible behind the boats. These were Spotted Dolphins, which Chas explained like to swim with the



Tuna fishing by Kerrie Porteous

Yellowfin Tuna. We had a brief view of them before they moved on, and enjoyed watching the local fisherman at work catching the Tuna with the traditional pole and line method. We had quickly realised that tuna is a major staple of the Maldivian diet, and it was nice to enjoy it at meal times knowing that it had all been caught locally in an environmentally and dolphin friendly manner!

We moved on towards our anchorage for the night, next to the uninhabited island of Minimassali. We were keen to get straight into the water, and the dhoni crew dropped us onto a nearby reef. The highlight for some was an extremely close encounter with a Hawksbill Turtle, plus lots of Yellow-headed Butterflyfish, both Triangular and Chevron Butterflyfish, Regal Angelfish and the rather fine Imperial Angelfish. Other fishes spotted by various members of the group included Elongate Surgeonfish, Trumpetfish in various shades, Black Spotted Pufferfish and the new class favourite, Clown Triggerfish.

Once back on the Carina, showered, and with beers in hand, Chas gave us another talk on dolphins and fisheries – particularly topical as we had witnessed the interactions of Spotted Dolphins and Yellowfin Tuna early today.



From left: Hawksbill Turtle, the reef at Minimasgali, Oval Butterflyfish, by Kerrie Porteous

Day 5

Tuesday 17th February

This morning we took the dingy over to Minimasgali. Some chose to walk around the island first, noting the Grey Herons, Maldivian Little Herons (Striated Herons), and the dragonflies which Chas later explained had arrived from India. Others went straight onto the reef for what was to be a simply stunning morning snorkel. In some places we had to breathe in whilst swimming over the reef as it wasn't deep, but the water was perfectly clear and absolutely brimming with life. Just a few highlights were Spotted Boxfish, Blue-faced Angelfish, the lovely Long-nosed Filefish, pretty much every Butterflyfish we had seen so far, and out on the edge of the reef, plenty of Snappers and Fusiliers. It was an absolutely incredible reef, and it was a challenge to drag everyone back to the

beach, and even harder to believe that all this had happened before we'd even had breakfast!



Taking the dingy to Minimasgali by Kerrie Porteous

Once the crew had fired up Carina's engines we went chasing fishing boats once again, this time with more success. We spent a very enjoyable morning with the fishing boats and their associated Spotted Dolphins, this time with the odd Spinner Dolphin included, which naturally decided to perform for us. Helen then briefly took to the wheel, before handing control of Carina back to our captain who gradually steered us back to Minimasgali and our evening snorkel over the reef.

This evening Chas' talk took place on the roof of the boat in order to include a little star-gazing. We saw Orion, the Seven Sisters, and, fittingly, the constellation of Carina (the 'False Cross'). Those of us that returned to the top deck a little later in the evening to look for the Southern Cross also enjoyed lying down on the top deck gazing at Jupiter and, through the binoculars, spotting two of its moons.

Day 6

Wednesday 18th February

We scoured the reef around the larger adjacent island this morning, as Manta Rays had been seen early the previous morning and we thought it worth trying our luck. There were no Mantas to be found just now, but we had a good snorkel on a 'Spur and Groove' reef, a very different type of reef to those we had experienced to date. Most of us saw White-tipped Reef Shark, and there were some interesting new fish for the Fish Club to later discuss and identify, including Wedge-tailed Triggerfish, Sabre Squirrelfish, Silverspot Squirrelfish, Surge Hawkfish and Masked Bannerfish.

Next we returned in the dhoni to the reef next to Minimasgali, and here we were once again on the lookout for Mantas. We were in luck – a Manta was spotted! – and Elaine didn't waste a second before throwing herself into the water for a closer look. Alas, it was moving quickly, so we pulled her out and tried again. We repositioned the dhoni, and this time all got into the water, but again, the Mantas were on the move and we couldn't see them through the plankton-filled water. Third time lucky we hoped, and it was for a few members of the group. We positioned the dhoni so we were ahead of the Mantas, slid in, and powered towards them. Peter and Amelia both enjoyed fabulous close up views, though others were quite not close enough. Back on the dhoni, as if teasing us,



Manta Ray by Amelia Breckons

the Mantas appeared again, letting us all enjoy good views of them swimming past the boat.

After breakfast a quick recce was made to check if the Mantas were still about for another swimming attempt, but with no sign of them it was time for today's cetacean search to get underway. Although the wind had dropped and the sea was flat and calm, whales and dolphins were still surprisingly few and far between. There was a brief excitement when a lone fin was spotted directly in front of the boat, but the owner

dived before we could identify who it belonged to. Chas thought there was a reasonable chance that it was a Dwarf Sperm Whale, so we spent half an hour scanning the area in case it resurfaced. It wasn't to be though, and as the lunch bell sounded, we decided it was time to move on.

This afternoon we focused our attention on a section of reef famed for its Whale Sharks – this is where juvenile males come to hang out at this time of year. We chugged very slowly along the reef but they were nowhere to be seen (though we did enjoy seeing the world's only marine insect - the Ocean Strider! Not quite what we were hoping for, but interesting all the same). A pod of Spinner Dolphins turned up to keep us entertained until it was time to go and anchor near the island of Dhigurah, which in Maldivian, means 'long island' (and it was, indeed, long).

This evening's snorkel was another fantastic experience. Swimming the length of a reef, we had excellent encounters with a huge Black-blotched Stingray, both Black and White-tipped Reef Sharks, lots of Clown Triggerfish, a lovely Crescent Bigeye and some Batfish for a few members of the group.

Back on board Carina this evening, Chas was giving us a very enjoyable talk on reef fish when one of the crew ran into the bar and shouted “QUICK QUICK, THERE’S A MANTA OFF THE BACK OF THE BOAT!” We hurried to the back of the boat to see that the crew had turned on the spotlight, shining it into the water off the back of the boat, bringing in bait fish, and an incredibly beautiful Manta Ray had followed. The rest of the evening was dominated by watching this huge, graceful Manta Ray, feeding, swooping and barrel-rolling right off the back of the boat, within touching distance. A second, much whiter Manta joined, and for some time we watched the two of them. Then, if Chas’ talk had been upstaged by the huge Mantas, it’s possible that the huge Mantas were themselves upstaged by a tiny juvenile Jack! This tiny yellow fish associates with the ocean giants, and watching him desperately staying ahead of his Manta friend, swimming with all his might, was just wonderful.



Manta Ray from the top deck by Kerrie Porteous

This evening our fabulous chef had prepared a delicious spread of food for us up on deck, though some of us struggled to stay sat down for long enough to enjoy it! We needn't have worried though, because the Mantas stayed with us all evening, and although it was hard to tear ourselves away, we finally disappeared to bed, one by one. What a magical evening.

Day 7

Thursday 19th February

This morning, rather than heading off in the dhoni for our morning snorkel, instead we stayed on board the Carina and relocated to a nearby site that our divemaster, Latif, knew of. He told us that this particular site is a favourite spot of Hawksbill Turtles, as they come here to feed on the abundant sponges. En route we saw a little pod of Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins, and then anchored and boarded the dhoni. We slid into the water and straight away spotted our first turtle, and proceeded to watch them swim and feed for the next hour. It wasn't just the turtles though that made this a fantastic snorkelling site, but lots of exciting new fish including Blotched Porcupinefish, Spotted Pufferfish, Scribbled Pufferfish, Scribbled Filefish, thousands of Red-toothed Triggerfish,



The great Olive Ridley Turtle rescue! by Kerrie Porteous

Vlaming’s Unicornfish, a free swimming Moray, Maldives Anemonefish and lots of little Three-spot Dascyllus.

As the ocean had been quiet in this area, we decided to cross back to Vaavu Atoll today, to try our luck over there. The first thing we spotted was what looked like a rock, then we thought maybe a bit of floating plastic, which as we got close we eventually saw was actually a turtle. It didn't seem to be moving, so we decided to go in for a closer look. It was a good job we did, as when we got closer we could see that the poor thing, though alive, was tangled in a fishing net and unable to move.

The Carina Crew quickly launched the dingy and embarked on a rescue operation, pulling it out of the water and bringing it back to the Carina. There was a slight ripple of panic when our chef appeared with a huge kitchen

knife...but we all enjoyed a closer look at the turtle as the chef turned his skills towards freeing the turtle from the fishing lines. This was an Olive Ridley Turtle, and it was certainly its lucky day. Once free, Steve released it back into the water and it quickly swam away - to the cheers of the Naturetrek group and the crew!

Next we spotted a single (we think maybe lost) Common Bottlenose Dolphin (a new species, different to the Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins that we had been seeing so far this week). We were then accompanied for a while on our crossing by our now familiar friends, the Spinner Dolphins, but a lack of other cetaceans meant we made good time and went a little further across the atoll than had previously been planned. This meant that we were able to anchor for the night near a small Italian resort called Alimathaa. Whilst there were hordes of Italian men and ladies parading along the beach, our crew had other ideas in mind. At this island the dive school collects fish remains from the kitchen and puts them over the jetty into the water, bringing Stingrays and Nurse Sharks in to feed. Those staying on the resort come to watch this at sunset, but before that, we took advantage. In the late afternoon we set off in the dhoni to just up-current of the jetty, and floated down. Sure enough, it didn't take long to spot our first Stingray, and soon after, a very reasonably sized Nurse Shark. In fact, there were numerous Stingrays, mostly Whiptail Stingrays, but also one Black-blotched Stingray. We stayed with them, watching them swim gracefully through the water, for as long as we could. Another fantastic snorkelling experience, and one not to be forgotten in a hurry!



Nurse Shark by Kerrie Porteous

Chas' talk this evening was enjoyed on the top deck of Carina under a starry sky, and as we stared into the heavens, we learned of atolls, underwater volcanoes, wars between the French and Portuguese, navigation by Jupiter's planets (we whipped out our binoculars at this point for a quick demo), the discovery of longitude, and of pirates and shipwrecks.

Day 8

Friday 20th February

This morning's snorkel on an adjacent reef was again excellent, with various snorkellers spotting Black-tip Reef Sharks, a Nurse Shark snoozing in a cave, the very cute Sharpnose Saddled Puffer, our now familiar friend the Two-eyed Monocle Bream, Gold-striped Emperors, Humpback Red Snappers, and four of the group followed a Hawksbill Turtle down the reef for a good twenty minutes.

Our plan had been to cruise up towards Male along the outside of the atoll; back in deep water trying our luck one last time for the ever elusive whales. However, the forces of nature seemed to be against us on this one, and with a strong wind picking up even in the middle of the atoll, sticking inside seemed to be the better plan.

Up ahead the dhoni reported dolphins, so we decided to go and investigate. Our old friends the Spinner Dolphins were busy playing in the beautiful turquoise water near the resort island of Dhiggiri. We watched them from the Carina for a little while, before moving to the dhoni for a closer look. As it was approaching lunchtime, and we

were due a late morning snorkel today, we slipped into the water hoping the dolphins might swim past whilst we enjoyed the fish along the reef. The wind was still quite strong, mixing some of the sand into the water and making the visibility a little poorer than usual. Sometimes we could hear the dolphins as they communicated with each other on the way past, and just before we got out, a couple of the group were lucky enough to watch the dolphins swimming beneath them. Of course, no sooner had we got out of the water than we were absolutely surrounded! It was fantastic to watch the dolphins up close from the dhoni, once again spinning and jumping around us. Trevor had perhaps enjoyed the best position of the day, staying aboard the dhoni whilst we swam, with his own personal dhoni crew escorting him around the lagoon to get the best shots of the Spinners!



Spinner Dolphin by Pete Johnson

After lunch, we cruised north towards Male, and our anchorage for the evening. We arrived back at Male in the late afternoon and, once moored, turned our attention to getting organised for the next day. By popular request, Chas finished his reef fish talk, Clive delivered a wonderful thank you speech to our fantastic crew, and after a final session of Fish Club, it was time to retire to bed for the last time on board the Carina.

Day 9

Saturday 21st February

After breakfast we bid farewell to the crew on board Carina, and Chas and Team Dhoni transported us to the nearby island resort of Kurumba. Next we bid goodbye to Chas, whose company we had very much enjoyed and from whom we had learned so much over the last week. On arrival at Kurumba we turned our attention to the welcome coconut ice cream, which served as an ideal second breakfast. Most then headed to their rooms, although



Queen Coris by Kerrie Porteous

those that were keen met up for a snorkel along the reef. Walking into the warm blue lagoon from the white sandy beach and swimming out to the reef was bliss, and we enjoyed yet another fantastic snorkel, with Fish Club gaining yet more confidence in their identification skills, and some interesting new fish to add into the mix too! New highlights were perhaps a Queen Coris, 'Clive's Lunar Friend' (aka Lunar-tailed Grouper), and the one and only sighting this week of Black-saddle Coral grouper. Jacky & Steve also spotted a Black-tip Reef Shark and a Stingray before heading in.

This afternoon we enjoyed a little relaxation, a little luxury and another afternoon snorkel. After a week on board the boat, we all reveled in the semi-outdoor bathrooms with unlimited hot water and plenty of lotions and potions to be enjoyed! We met in the buffet restaurant for our final meal together, which we all agreed was rather excellent, with a delicious selection of sushi, roast beef, curry, salad, coconut panna cotta...and so much more. With full stomachs, bed was calling.

Day 10

Sunday 22nd February

Helen, Richard, Peter, Jacky and Steve were all staying on at Kurumba, and some were already off snorkelling before breakfast this morning. After breakfast the rest of us transferred the 10 minutes to Male airport, where we bid farewell to Phil and Clive who were heading south to Biyadoo. We checked in easily, and next, in Dubai, Amelia, Ruth and Steve went off to their respective hotels. The final six of us continued on to London Heathrow - and back to a typical grey February afternoon in the UK!

So, thank you to Chas for his proficient leadership and navigation through the wonderful Maldivian atolls, for his brilliant cetacean spotting skills, insightful talks, seemingly limitless knowledge, and great company. Thank you also to the wonderful crew of MV Carina who looked after us so well, both on board and in the water, and kept us well fed at all times!



Enjoying an early morning snorkel by Kerrie Porteous

And finally, thank you to all of you who travelled on Naturetrek's Spinner Dolphin Special Tour of February 2015. We shared some fantastic moments: the Mantas off the back of the boat, the

great Olive Ridley Turtle rescue, snorkelling with Stingrays and Nurse Sharks, the incredible coral reef off Minimasgali, and countless encounters with the wonderful Spinner Dolphins. In fact, we enjoyed 22 separate cetacean sightings during our week on the Carina, and we all agreed that it was a fantastic holiday filled with countless memories to treasure.

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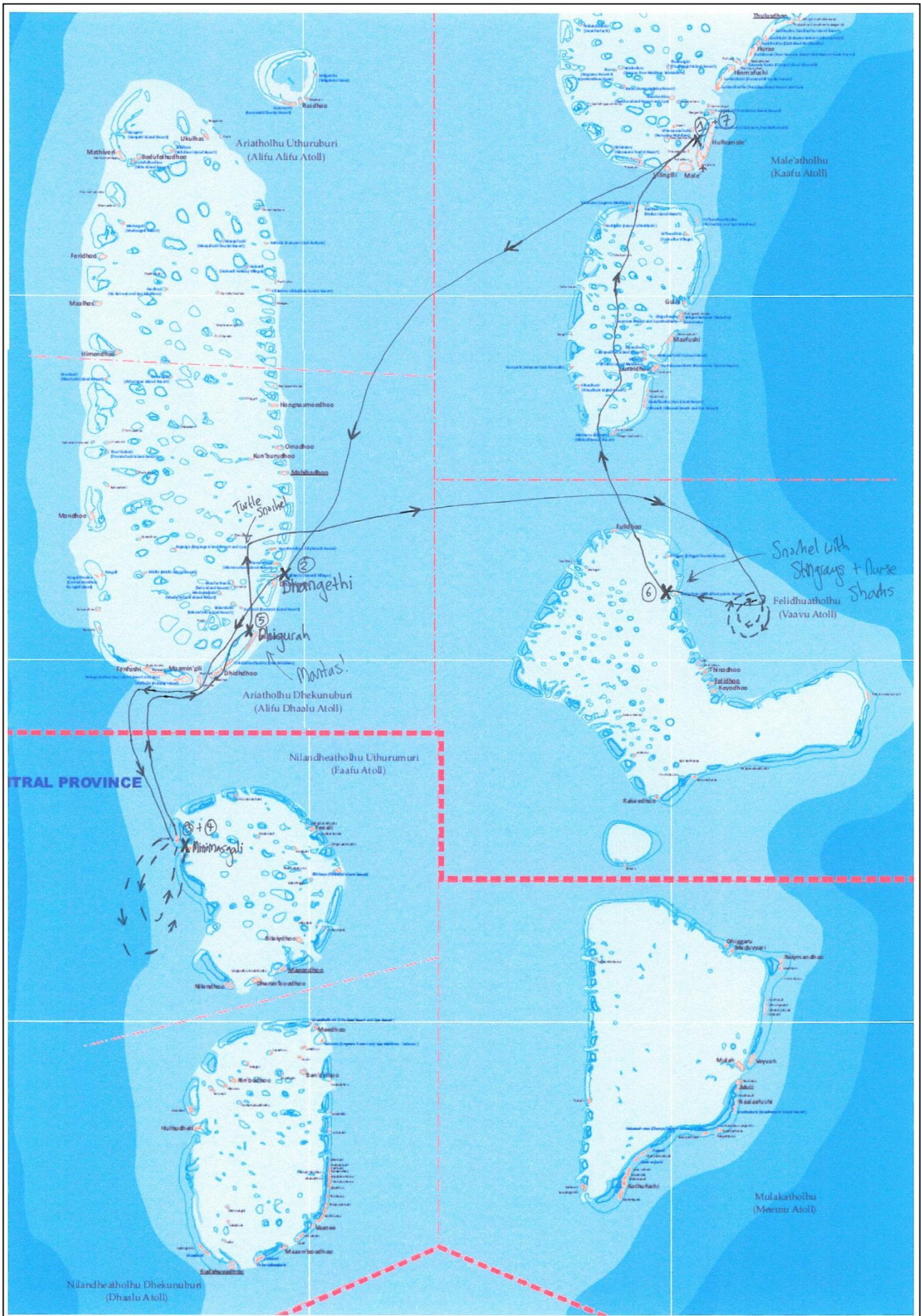
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Our final route:



Species Lists

Cetaceans (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Scientific name	Common name	February							
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1	Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
2	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	✓	✓			✓			
3	Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>							✓	
4	Pan-tropical Spotted Dolphin	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>		✓	✓					

Fish

1	Black-tipped Reef Shark	<i>Carcharinus melanopterus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	White-tipped Reef Shark	<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Nurse Shark	<i>Nebrius ferrugineus</i>				✓	✓	✓		
4	Black-blotched Stingray	<i>Taeniura meyeni</i>					✓			
5	Manta Ray	<i>Manta alfredi (formerly birostris)</i>				✓				
6	Spotted Eagle Ray	<i>Aetobatus narinari</i>	✓							
7	Whiptail Stingray	<i>Himantura fai</i>					✓			
8	Mobula Ray	<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>		✓						
9	Giant Moray	<i>Gymnothorax javanicus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
10	Needlefish	<i>Tylosaurus crocodilus</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓	
11	Smooth Flutemouth	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
12	Trumpetfish	<i>Aulostomus chinensis</i>	✓	✓					✓	
13	Splendid Soldierfish	<i>Myripristis botche</i>			✓					
14	Blotcheye Soldierfish	<i>Myripristis murdjan</i>			✓					
15	Violet Soldierfish	<i>Myripristis violacea</i>				✓		✓		
16	White-tail Squirrelfish	<i>Sargocentron caudimaculatum</i>			✓	✓	✓			
17	Sabre Squirrelfish	<i>Sargocentron spiniferum</i>				✓				
18	Common Lionfish	<i>Pterois volitans</i>		✓						
19	Spotfin Lionfish	<i>Pterois antennata</i>		✓						
20	White-line Lionfish	<i>Pterois radiata</i>			✓	✓		✓		
21	Squaretail Coral Grouper	<i>Plectropomus areolatus</i>			✓					
22	Black-saddle Coral Grouper	<i>Plectropomus laevis</i>							✓	
23	Peacock Rock Cod	<i>Cephalopholis argus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
24	Slender Grouper	<i>Anyperodon leucogrammicus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
25	Lunar-tailed Grouper	<i>Variola louti</i>							✓	
26	Four Saddle Grouper	<i>Epinephelus spiloticeps</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
27	Yellow-tailed Basslet	<i>Pseudanthias evansi</i>			✓	✓	✓			
28	Orange Anthias	<i>Pseudanthias squamipennis</i>		✓	✓	✓				
29	Crescent-tail Bigeye	<i>Priacanthus hamrur</i>				✓			✓	
30	Narrowstripe Cardinalfish	<i>Apogon angustatus</i>	✓							
31	Singlestripe Cardinalfish	<i>Apogon fraenatus</i>	✓							
32	Bluefin Jack	<i>Caranx melampygus</i>				✓	✓		✓	
33	Small-spotted Dart	<i>Trachinotus baillonii</i>			✓				✓	
34	Striped Remora (Slender Suckerfish)	<i>Echeneis naucrates</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
35	One-spot Snapper	<i>Lutjanus monostigma</i>	✓							
36	Kashmir Snapper	<i>Lutjanus kasmira</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
37	Two-spot Red Snapper	<i>Lutjanus bohar</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
38	Humpback Red Snapper	<i>Lutjanus gibbus</i>				✓		✓	✓	
39	Blacktail Snapper	<i>Lutjanus fulvus</i>	✓							

	Scientific name	Common name	February							
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
40	Midnight Snapper	<i>Macolor macularis</i>			✓					
41	Black-and-white Snapper	<i>Macolor niger</i>	✓							
42	Lunar Fusilier	<i>Caesio lunaris</i>			✓	✓				
43	Yellow-back Fusilier	<i>Caesio xanthonota</i>			✓	✓				
44	Neon Fusilier	<i>Pterocaesio tile</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
45	Striped Fusilier	<i>Pterocaesio trilineata</i>	✓							
46	Variable-lined Fusilier	<i>Caesio varilineata</i>			✓					
47	Yellowtail Fusilier	<i>Caesio teres</i>			✓					
48	Oriental Sweetlips	<i>Plectorhinchus orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Harlequin Sweetlips	<i>Plectorhinchus chaetodonoides</i>		✓						
50	Blackspot Emperor	<i>Gymnocranium harak</i>			✓	✓			✓	
51	Gold-striped Emperor	<i>Gnathodentax aureolineatus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
52	Orange-striped Emperor	<i>Lethrinus obsoletus</i>				✓				
53	Two-lined Monocle Bream	<i>Scolopsis bilineatus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
54	Yellowstripe Goatfish	<i>Mulloidichthys flavolineatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
55	Yellowfin Goatfish	<i>Mulloidichthys vanicolensis</i>							✓	
56	Yellow-saddle Goatfish	<i>Parupensis cyclostomus</i>	✓						✓	
57	Barred Goatfish	<i>Parupeneus trifasciatus</i>			✓	✓				
58	Dash-dot Goatfish	<i>Parupeneus barberinus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
59	Lagoon Goatfish	<i>Upeneus taeniopterus</i>							✓	
60	Threadfin Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon auriga</i>				✓		✓	✓	
61	Bennett's Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon bennetti</i>		✓				✓	✓	
62	Spotted Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon guttatissimus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
63	Citron Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon citrinellus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
64	Collared Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon collare</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
65	Double-saddle Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon falcula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
66	Klein's Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon kleinii</i>				✓		✓	✓	
67	Racoon Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon lunula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
68	Madagascar Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon madagaskariensis</i>						✓		
69	Blackback Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon merlannotus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
70	Meyer's Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon meyeri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
71	Ornate Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon ornatissimus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	Oval butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon trifasciatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	Triangular Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon triangulum</i>			✓	✓		✓		
74	Chevron Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon trifascialis</i>			✓	✓		✓		
75	Teardrop Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon unimaculatus</i>	✓							
76	Yellow-head Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon xanthocephalus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
77	Long-nose Butterflyfish	<i>Forcipiger flavissimus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	Very Long-nose Butterflyfish	<i>Forcipiger longirostris</i>						✓		
79	Black Pyramid Butterflyfish	<i>Hemitaenichthys zoster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
80	Reef Bannerfish	<i>Heniochus acuminatus</i>	✓						✓	
81	Indian Bannerfish	<i>Heniochus pleurotinia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
82	Schooling Bannerfish	<i>Heniochus diphreutus</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	
83	Masked Bannerfish	<i>Heniochus monoceros</i>				✓				
84	Blue-face Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus xanthometopon</i>			✓	✓				
85	Emperor Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus imperator</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
86	Three-spot Angelfish	<i>Apolemichthys trimaculatus</i>					✓			
87	Regal Angelfish	<i>Pygoplites diacanthus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
88	Multispine Angelfish	<i>Centropyge multispinis</i>			✓					
89	Hybrid Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus sp.</i>				✓				
90	Forster's (Blackside) Hawkfish	<i>Paracirrhites forsteri</i>			✓	✓	✓			

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			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
91	Surge Hawkfish	<i>Cirrhitus pinnulatus</i>		✓		✓				
92	Green Damselfish	<i>Amblyglyphidodon batunai</i>						✓		
93	Blackfoot or Maldive Anemonefish	<i>Amphipron nigripes</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
94	Clark's Anemonefish	<i>Amphipron clarkii</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
95	Sergeant Major	<i>Abudefduf vaigiensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
96	Chocolate-dip Chromis	<i>Chromis dimidiata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
97	Golden Chromis	<i>Chromis ternatensis</i>						✓		
98	Blue-green Chromis	<i>Chromis viridis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
99	Surge Damselfish	<i>Chrysiptera brownriggii</i>		✓						
100	Humbug Dascyllus	<i>Dascyllus aruanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
101	Threespot Dascyllus	<i>Dascyllus trimaculatus</i>					✓		✓	
102	Neon Damselfish	<i>Pomacentris caeruleus</i>	✓							
103	Redbreasted Maori Wrasse	<i>Cheilinus fasciatus</i>		✓						
104	Yellowtail Wrasse	<i>Anampses meleagrides</i>					✓			
105	Diana's Hogfish	<i>Bodianus diana</i>		✓						
106	Bird Wrasse	<i>Gomphosus caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
107	Adorned Wrasse	<i>Halichoerus cosmetus</i>			✓				✓	
108	Checkerboard Wrasse	<i>Halichoerus hortulanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
109	Moon Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lunare</i>	✓	✓				✓		
110	Blunthead Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma amblycephalum</i>	✓			✓	✓			
111	Six-barred Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma Hardwicke</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
112	Fivestripe Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma quinquevittatum</i>	✓		✓			✓		
113	Cleaner Wrasse	<i>Labroides dimidiatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
114	Barred Thicklip Wrasse	<i>Hemigymnus fasciatus</i>		✓	✓					
115	Blackeye Thicklip Wrasse	<i>Hemigymnus melapterus</i>		✓	✓					
116	Queen Coris	<i>Coris Formosa</i>						✓	✓	
117	Bicolour Parrotfish	<i>Cetoscarus bicolour</i>					✓		✓	
118	Roundhead Parrotfish	<i>Chlorurus strongylocephalus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
119	Bullethead Parrotfish	<i>Chlorurus sordidus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
120	Bridled Parrotfish	<i>Scarus frenatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
121	Dusky Parrotfish	<i>Scarus niger</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓	
122	Spot-tailed Sandperch	<i>Parapercis hexopthalma</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	
123	Brown-blotched Sandperch	<i>Parapercis millepunctata</i>								
124	Maldivian Sandperch	<i>Parapercis signata</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	
125	Circular Batfish	<i>Platax orbicularis</i>	✓							
126	Longfin Batfish	<i>Platax teira</i>							✓	
127	Starry Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus stellatus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
128	Coral Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus corallines</i>	✓					✓	✓	
129	Moorish Idol	<i>Zanclus cornutus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
130	Powder-blue Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus leucosternon</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
131	Lined Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus lineatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
132	Elongate Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus mata</i>		✓			✓			
133	Eye-stripe Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus nigricauda</i>		✓	✓			✓		
134	Convict Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus triostegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
135	Lined Bristletooth Surgeonfish	<i>Ctenochaetus striatus</i>		✓	✓					
136	Humpback Unicornfish	<i>Naso brachycentron</i>					✓		✓	
137	Orange-spine Unicornfish	<i>Naso lituratus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
138	Big-nose (Valming's) Unicornfish	<i>Naso vlamingii</i>							✓	
139	Spotted Unicornfish	<i>Naso brevirostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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140	Brushtail Tang	<i>Zebрасoma scopas</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
141	Sailfin Tang	<i>Zebрасoma desjardinii</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
142	Bigeye Barracuda	<i>Sphyaena forsteri</i>								✓
143	Flying Fish	<i>Exocetus spp</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
144	Scribbled Filefish	<i>Aluterus scriptus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
145	Long-nose Filefish	<i>Oxymonacanthus longirostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
146	Clown Triggerfish	<i>Balistapus conspicillum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
147	Orange-Striped Triggerfish	<i>Balistapus undulates</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
148	Yellow-margin Triggerfish	<i>Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus</i>								✓
149	Titan Triggerfish	<i>Balistapus viridescens</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
150	Picasso Triggerfish	<i>Rhinecanthus aculeatus</i>	✓			✓				✓
151	Wedge-tailed Triggerfish	<i>Rhinecanthus rectangulus</i>				✓				
152	Red-toothed Triggerfish	<i>Odonus niger</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
153	Indian Triggerfish	<i>Melichthys indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
154	Boomerang Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen bursa</i>								✓
155	Half-moon Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen chrysopterus</i>							✓	
156	Bridled Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen fraenatum</i>								✓
157	Yellow Boxfish	<i>Ostracion cubicus</i>								✓
158	Black or Spotted Boxfish	<i>Ostracion meleagris</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
150	Bennett's Sharpnose Puffer	<i>Canthigaster bennetti</i>		✓						
160	Black-spotted Pufferfish	<i>Arothron nigropunctatus</i>	✓							✓
161	Guineafowl Pufferfish	<i>Arothron meleagris</i>	✓							
162	Saddled Sharpnose Pufferfish	<i>Canthigaster valentini</i>	✓					✓	✓	
163	Blotched Porcupinefish	<i>Diodon liturosus</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		
164	Reef Squid	<i>Sepioteuthis lessoniana</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				

Birds

1	Tropical Shearwater	<i>Puffinus bailloni</i>			✓					
2	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata albolimbata</i>			✓	✓	✓			
3	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>				✓				
4	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
5	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>		H	H					✓
6	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					✓			✓
7	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				✓				✓
8	Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>		✓		✓				
9	Lesser Noddy	<i>Anous tenuirostris</i>						✓	✓	
10	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>			✓					
11	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>				✓	✓			
12	Saunders's Tern	<i>Sternula saundersi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
13	Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>				✓				
14	Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
15	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>		H		H	H		H	✓
16	Maldivian House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens maledivicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓

Other Taxa

1	Fruit Bat	<i>Pteropus giganteus aerial</i>	✓	✓	✓					
2	Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>		✓						
3	Hawksbill turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Olive Ridley Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>						✓		
5	Ghost Crab	<i>Ocypod sp</i>			✓					