



# Kumana

## Capturing nature in all its glory



Baya weaver

Capturing nature in all its glory is one of the prime aims of any photographer. Trapped in the concrete jungle of Colombo, I was looking for a way to focus my mind – and camera – on the splendours of nature. I got just the opportunity, on a visit to Kumana, the famed bird sanctuary in Eastern Sri Lanka.

During the few days I spent there, I was fortunate enough to capture on film or rather digital memory, the stupendous natural poses of a myriad of birds and mammals endemic to our resplendent isle.

This was a great respite for me because I was in a way exhausted due to the difficult path I traversed in my journey as a photographer.

I had experienced both the wonders and travails of the wonderful art of photography. After all, as a photo-journalist I had to take in both beautiful and ugly scenes. But then, that is life.

But in Kumana, I became one with nature. Having left behind the

polluted city and its unending traffic, I was in the midst of flora and fauna which were indescribably beautiful and amazingly diverse. I could capture their every pose, every mood.

I must express my gratitude to the Department of Wildlife Conservation and its team of dedicated officials at Kumana for their help and guidance. I too experienced the simple life they lead in Kumana.

I am especially thankful to wildlife guards Gayan, Sasi-ka, Priyantha, Nihal, Bandara and Aruna. This exhibition reflects the view through my lens, but their input is behind every frame.

I would also like to urge you, the viewers to consider what I have to say. Kumana is a dazzling showpiece for our wildlife. If you go there, do not harm any animal, do not destroy any plant, do not leave anything behind other than your footprints.

As the saying goes, take only pictures and memories. Love Kumana and its flora and fauna. None of them is as bad as we are.

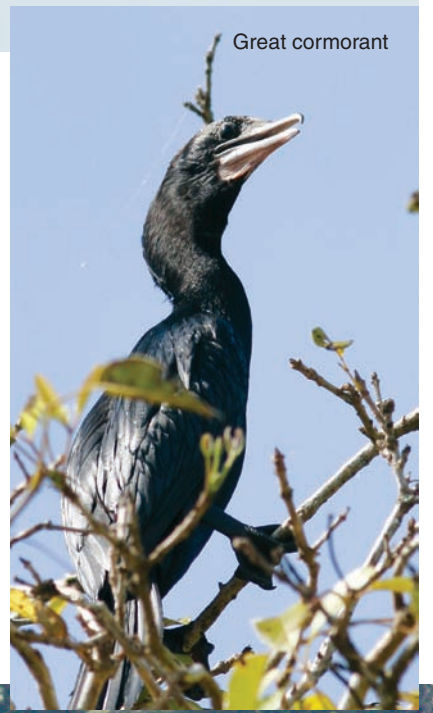
TEXT AND PIX BY MAHINDA VITHANACHCHI



Brahmini kite



Baya weaver



Great cormorant



Wild buffalo

