

Observing the birds' behaviour

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While the very first morning sun's soft rays kisses the environment by melting out the mist on leaves, petals of flowers etc, *Avichchiya's* usual melodious tone *Maath kiyan...., Maath kiyan* comes out of the bushes in front of the house. Then prior to its initial hunt of the snail, partridge, *Ati Kukula's* drum-like hid-

den sound can be heard. When the sun's rays cover the cold atmosphere gradually, red Woodpecker's rough tone comes from distant tree tops. Then the Robin, Jackdow, Blue Humming bird and yellow-chested Humming bird fill the air with their melodious tones while sucking nectar from the flowers of red and white Malaysian rose apples hanging from the branches of two trees stand in front of the house.

Among those honey sucking birds, the tiny variety of purple-necked *Gira Maliththa* is a different bird. Its tone is very pleasant and low-pitched.

During some sunny days, a rare variety of the parrot family called lorikeet or hanging-parrot visits the rose apple tree abound with pollen-filled flowers. It is very shy and a silent bird.

A family of white-chested Horn Bills comes when the rose apples are ripe. Their

pecking pattern is different according to their long big beak. The bird varieties that come to the rose apple tree varies according to the flowering season and the fruit bearing season. The very tiny variety of a honey sucking bird called *Sootikka* come in flocks. While sucking nectar, they make a rhythmic chorus which is very innocent for the bird kingdom.

During the whole day a large varieties of birds can

be seen on both rose apple trees. Among them the Golden Oriole and the Jungle Pigeon popularly known as *Manilagoya* are very attractive. Observing the bird's behaviour and hearing their melodious tone is a mind-soothing hobby. Sometimes it is similar to a different meditation. Some village area people feed these flying friends with seeds, fruits, boiled rice or green gram kept in flat containers etc.



Paradise fly catcher



Blue humming bird



Hornbil



Ati Kukula



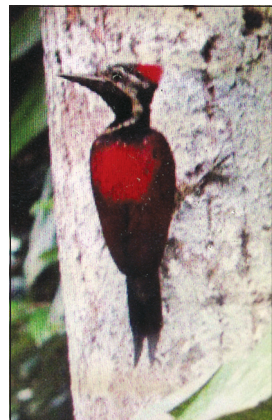
Parrot



A kind of Magpie



Jackdow



Red wood pecker



Avichchiya



Humming bird



Demalichcha



Green woodpecker



Thrush