Department of Zoology

Faculty of Science / University of Peradeniya



Dr. Chaminda Wijesundara

B.Sc. (Hons.), M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer (Grade I)

malavi@pdn.ac.lk

spkmlv@gmail.com

+94 81 239 (4478)

+94 71 762 9953

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About Me

I received my B.Sc. Special Degree in Zoology with First Class Honors from the University of Peradeniya in 2000, and in 2001, I joined the Department of Zoology as an academic staff member. At present, I am a Senior Lecturer (Grade I) in zoology. My master's and doctoral research were carried out in avian ecology, and my current research primarily focuses on bird ecology and conservation. Here at the University of Peradeniya, I teach courses in avian and mammalian biology, wildlife management, and ecology at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. I also serve as the Head of the Department of Environmental and Industrial Sciences.

Higher Education Qualifications

Nothing to show under this subheading !!!

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Awards, Scholarships, Memberships & Fellowships

- Outstanding Doctoral Research Gold Medal, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (2025)
- National Research Council Merit Award for Scientific Research (2021)
- University Scholarship for Best Performance in Zoology (2000)
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant: Certificate of Achievement from the Biology Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa - Biology 171 Lab - Fall 2007
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant: Certificate of Achievement from the Biology Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa - Biology 101 Lab - Spring 2007
- Member of the National Geographic Society (Washington D.C., U.S.A.) since December 2009.
- Member of the National Audubon Society (New York, U.S.A.) since February 2011.
- Member of the Nature Conservancy (Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A.) since June 2009.
- Member of the Sierra Club (San Francisco, California, U.S.A.) since November 2010.

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Positions Held

- Head, Department of Environmental and Industrial Sciences, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2026)
- Senior Lecturer (Grade I) in zoology, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.- (January 2, 2018 – to date)
- Senior Lecturer (Grade II) in zoology, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya- (January 2, 2012 - January 1, 2018)
- Lecturer in zoology in the permanent staff of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (February 19, 2001 – January 1, 2012)
- Visiting Academic, for ZYU 5302 Conservation and Management of Biodiversity (3 Credits), The Open University of Sri Lanka.- (July 12 – December 31, 2019)
- Visiting Lecturer, for AS 3204 Wildlife & Ecosystems (2 Credits), Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.- (2018-2024)
- Visiting Lecturer, for ASF 3107 Wildlife Management (2 Credits), Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.- (2019-2024)
- Visiting Lecturer, for EDU 207 Biology: Organisms and Their Interactions (3 Credits), Department of Education, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya- (2016-2023)
- Visiting Lecturer, for ASF 4102 Animal Quarantine & Biosecurity (1 Credit), Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.- (2017-2023)
- Lecturer in the Board of Study in Environmental Science of the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (November 26, 2011 – to date)
- Lecturer in the Board of Study in Zoological Sciences of the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (June 23, 2014 – to date)
- Lecturer in the Board of Study in Plant Sciences of the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (April 24, 2016 – to date)
- Program Coordinator of the M.Sc. Program in Biodiversity, Ecotourism, and Environment Management of the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (September 2, 2012 – March 28, 2022)
- Secretary of the Board of Study in Zoological Sciences of the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (April 19, 2017 – April 18, 2020)
- Member of the Board of Study in Zoological Sciences of the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (April 19, 2014 – April 18, 2017 and April 19, 2017)
- Member of the Board of Study in Environmental Science of the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (October 1, 2023 - to-date)
- Secretary of the Zoology Departmental Committee, University of Peradeniya,- (2016-2020)
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My Teachings

- AS3204: Wildlife & Ecosystems (Faculty of Agriculture)
- ASF3107: Wildlife Management (Faculty of Agriculture)
- ASF4102: Animal Quarantine & Biosecurity (Faculty of Agriculture)
- BIO1032: Basic Ecology
- BIO1162: Introductory Environmental Biology
- EDU2007: Biology: Organisms and Their Interactions (Faculty of Arts)
- ENM512: Population Ecology (Postgraduate Institute of Science)
- ENM525: Wildlife Management (Postgraduate Institute of Science)
- ENM527: Sri Lanka's Ecotourism Resource Base (Postgraduate Institute of Science)
- ENS3132: Marine Resources & Marine Pollution
- ENS512: Biosphere Organization & Functioning: Ecosystems & Populations (Postgraduate Institute of Science)
- ENS513: Biodiversity - for postgraduate students
- GGY618: Environmental Impact Assessment (Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences)
- ZL411: Wildlife Management
- ZOO2222: Vertebrate Diversity
- ZOO2232: Animal Ecology
- ZOO3332: Avian & Mammalian Biology
- ZYU5302: Conservation & Management of Biodiversity (Open University of Sri Lanka)

Research Interests (Research Fields/ Projects)

Bird ecology and behavior, wildlife ecology.

Ongoing Research and Projects

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Bird 10,000 Genomes (B10K) Project

The Bird 10,000 Genomes (B10K) Project is an initiative to generate representative draft genome sequences from all extant bird species. In collaboration with the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, the B10K project in Sri Lanka aims to investigate the avian genomics of endemic birds of Sri Lanka.

Avifaunal and Bat Survey of 20MW Mannar Windscape Wind Farm (2025-2026)

Ornithological Impact Assessment of the proposed 2x10 MW wind power project in Thanankilappu-Chavakachcheri area in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Survey of key birding areas in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka for ecotourism development.

This research is directed towards measuring avian species diversity of the Northern Province, finding the distribution of avian specialties in the Northern Province, and finding potential areas suitable for avitourism in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.

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Key Publications

Ecosphere - (2018)

Divergence of morphological characters in two white-eye species (Passeriformes: Zosteropidae) in sympatry

Ceylon Journal of Science - (2017)

Diversity and conservation of waterbirds in the northern avifaunal region of Sri Lanka.

Conferences

Nothing to show under this subheading !!!

My Publications

Please goto the website.

https://sci.pdn.ac.lk/zoology/staff/Chaminda-Wijesundara

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