



**Sri Lanka Blue Magpie**  
(*Urocissa ornata*)  
**Size:** Body length, 42 - 47 cm; wing length, 15.5 - 17 cm  
**Weight:** Approx. 196 g  
**Habitat:** Central mountains and foothills of the wet zone of Sri Lanka  
**Surviving number:** Estimated at 14,000

*Photographed by  
L.J.Mendis Wickramasinghe*

# WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Master of mimicry. The Sri Lanka blue magpie uses mimicked alarm calls to make other birds believe a predator is in the vicinity. As these rivals fly away, the magpie helps itself to their food. It's such a good trick that drongos have learned to imitate the magpie's call and achieve the same effect. Foraging in groups of up to seven birds, the magpie hops from branch to

branch searching for crickets, caterpillars, beetles and more. But as habitat loss and fragmentation take their toll, the master's calls are fading away.

As Canon sees it, images have the power to raise awareness of the threats facing endangered species and the natural environment, helping us make the world a better place.



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