



Mr R K Widanagamage

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A birder and wildlife enthusiast from an early age, Mr. Widanagamage's childhood hobby of observing birds and collecting feathers later grew into an innate passion and a craving for exploration. This drew him towards pursuing his secondary education in the stream of Bio Science; where he had the opportunity to delve deeper in to the realm of flora and fauna.

With a relentless passion for the study of Birds, in year 2001 he joined the Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka, a branch of the Department of Zoology at the University of Colombo. Here, he had the fortune of attending numerous workshops and Bird Study Camps to expand and ripen his knowledge on the science of Birds.

A teacher by profession, he actively engaged himself in a Project led by Dr. Sarath Kotagama of the Field Ornithology Group of the Colombo University to initiate the establishment of Bird Study Circles in schools. Mr. Widanagamage played a vital role in this endeavor while giving leadership to the Bird Study Circle at his own school.

His deep desire to uncover the mysteries of the feathered world impelled him to undertake a solo study at the Thangamale Forest Reserve. The production of an insightful video clip featuring 23 species of Birds residing at the reserve was the culmination of Mr. Widanagamage's study, which was also endorsed by the Wildlife Conservation Department of Sri Lanka.

Combining his passion for conservation with his distinctive creativity of expression, Mr. Widanagamage joined hands with the Upper Watershed Management Project of the Asian Development Bank; to propagate the significance of the ecology in the Central Hills of Sri Lanka and the adverse effects of intrusive human activity in these areas. Numerous documentaries scripted and directed by him for this purpose have been telecast via Sri Lanka Rupavahini channel (the national television network) over the years.

Recognizing Mr. Widanagamage's profound understanding and knowledge on ornithology, wildlife and nature as a whole, CBL invited him to produce a documentary series on wildlife and nature. Having accepted this invitation, he spearheaded the production of the popular documentary series named "Journey Day" which is being telecast for 6 consecutive years via the two most popular TV channels in the country, Sri Lanka Rupavahini and Independent Television Network.

Today, Mr. Widanagamage is a renowned producer, director and a scripter of documentaries of nature for television. He is also a well-recognized Ornithologist and remains devoted to his quest as a wildlife enthusiast and explorer of the subtle mysteries of nature.