

Short Note

Preliminary Survey of the Bird Assemblage at Tanjung Mentong, Lake Kenyir, Hulu Terengganu, Malaysia

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Malaysia has 789 bird species recorded by Avibase¹, while² lists 695 species. More than 40 bird species are considered as endemic to Malaysia and are mostly found in Sabah and Sarawak³. At least 45 species were classified as endangered largely due to habitat degradation and illegal poaching^{2,3,4}. To date, 55 IBA areas covering 5,135,645 ha (51, 356 km²) have been identified in Malaysia² including Taman Negara (National Park) includes Kenyir Lake (Tasik Kenyir).

Unfortunately, published literature on the birds of Kenyir Lake is not available, although unofficially over 230 species have been recorded. A preliminary survey of the bird fauna at Tanjung Mentong, Lake Kenyir was conducted from the 14th to the 17th June 2014. The survey was conducted with the aims to document the understorey bird species assemblage found in the survey area. A total of 18 mist-nests (2.6 m x 9 m, 30 mm mesh) were randomly deployed along and across the trail. The distance between each net was approximately 5 m to 10 m, and they were erected at least 0.5 m

above the ground. Mist-nets were tended every 2–3 h from 0730 until 1930. The total trapping efforts were 49 net-days. All captured birds were identified following^{6,7,8}.

A total of 21 individual birds comprised of 12 species belonging to 10 families and 11 genera were recorded during the sampling period (Table 1). Of the 10 families of birds recorded, only one species was represented per family except for Nectariniidae and Dicaeidae with two species each.

The bird species most frequently caught was the White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) with a total of six individuals captured, with one of the individuals was caught two times namely in second and third day of sampling period respectively. This was followed by the Purple-naped Sunbird (*Hypogramma hypogrammicum*) with three individuals, little spiderhunter (*Arachnothera longirostra*) and Strip-throated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus finlaysoni*) with two individuals, and all the other species with a single individual each.

TABLE 1. List of captured bird species at Tanjung Mentong.

No.	Family/Species	Common name	Sex	No. of Individuals	Resident/Migrant	Conservation status (IUCN 2014)
Muscicapidae						
1	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i> (Scopoli, 1788)	White-rumped Shama/ Murai Batu	M	6	R	LC
Nectariniidae						
2	<i>Hypogramma hypogrammicum</i> (Müller, 1843)	Purple-naped Sunbird	M	3	R	LC
3	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i> (Latham, 1790)	Little spiderhunter	ND	2	R	LC
Pycnonotidae						
4	<i>Pycnonotus simplex</i> (Lesson, 1839)	Cream-vented Bulbul	ND	1	R	LC
Timaliidae						
5	<i>Stachyris erythropygta</i> (Blyth, 1842)	Chestnut Winged Babbler	ND	1	R	LC
Chloropseidae						
6	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	Blue-winged leafbird	F	1	R	NA
Dicaeidae						
7	<i>Prionochilus maculatus</i> (Temminck & Laugier, 1836)	Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker	ND	1	R	LC
8	<i>Prionochilus thoracicus</i> (Temminck, 1836)	Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker	M	1	R	NT
Dicruridae						
9	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus rangoonensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	M	1	R	LC
Pycnonotidae						
10	<i>Pycnonotus finlaysoni</i> (Strickland, 1844)	Stripe-throated Bulbul	ND	2	R	LC
Strigidae						
11	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i> (Pennant, 1769)	Collared Scops-owl	ND	1	R	LC
Pellorneidae						
12	<i>Malacocinclus abbotti</i> (Blyth, 1845)	Abbot's babbler	ND	1	R	LC
Total No. of individuals				21		
Total No. of families				10		
Total No. of genera				11		
Total No. of species				12		

The number of species captured in this survey is analogous with those recorded at selected localities with a short sampling period in Terengganu at Jambu Bonglok Forest Reserve with eight species⁹, at Bukit Besar with 15 species¹⁰ and at Bukit Labohan Coastal Hill Forest with eight species¹¹.

All 12 bird species caught in this survey were classified as residents for Peninsular Malaysia¹², with a conservation status of least concern (LC) by the¹² for 11 of these species, the exceptions being for the Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker (*Prionochilus thoracicus* Temminck) (Fig. 1), which is categorized as Near Threatened (NT).



FIGURE 1. Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker: *Prionochilus thoracicus* Temminck

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