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SPECIES COMPOSITION AND DIVERSITY OF BIRD COMMUNITIES IN TWO DRY ZONE HABITATS

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The aim of the present study was to attempt to investigate the species composition and diversity of bird communities in two dry zone habitats. The selected habitats were a damana grassland at Kandukadu and a typical semi-evergreen monsoon forest at Kosgasulpotha near Dimbulagala[1].

The bird communities were investigated using the modified line transect method[2], during the period November 1979 to June 1980. A total of 91 species were recorded belonging to 33 families. The mean number of species/transect at each site was not significantly different (Kosgasulpotha 33.5 ± 6.44; Kandakadu 32.57 ± 7.04).

However, the species composition studies revealed that 21 (23%) of the bird species were exclusive to Kosgasulpotha, 10 species (11%) exclusive to Kandakadu, while 60 (64%) of the species were common to both sites.

A prevalence analysis revealed that 14 and 11 species were very common at Kosgasulpotha and Kandakadu respectively. Of these, 7 species were common to both sites. With respect to their abundance Nectarinia seylonica, Streptopelia chinensis and Aegithinia tiphia ranked the highest at both locations.

References

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