

BREEDING BIRDS AT THE KUMANA VILLU

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Studies of Phillips, Atukorale and Colombo-Aberdeen expedition have been the only published counts of birds made at the Kumana villu, situated within the Yala East National Park.

During the year 1983, six visits were made to the villu to count the breeding bird population. Counts were made of the roosting birds, and the breeding birds. The number of dominant birds estimated were : Pelicans 510-565 individuals, with 128 nests, Painted Storks 1,040, with 520 nests, Ibis 13-16, Egrets 167-247 (except in September/October - 609). The clutch size of Painted Storks at Kumana was 2 (73% of the nests), differing from the recorded 3-4 by Henry (1955). The study indicates that birds nest in sequence.

The study was supported by the University of Colombo Research Grant AP/3/ii/82/5/19

References

1. Atukorale, V. (1949) Notes on birds collected at Kumana Sanctuary on 17th May 1949 from the Dehiwela Zoo. Loris 5 87
2. Phillips, W.W.A (1945) Kumana Sanctuary in 1938 Loris 4 278
3. Report of Universities of Aberdeen-Colombo Expedition to Ruhuna National Park in 1979