

ECOLOGY STATUS AND BIOLOGY OF THE AVIFAUNA AT SINHARAJA  
RAIN FOREST

I. ANALYSIS OF DAILY TALLY RECORDS

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The daily tally records of birds sighted/heard at the western section of Sinharaja from July 1983 to December 1984 were analysed to obtain an 'Abundance index' and a 'Prevalence index'.

Of the 139 birds recorded upto July 1983 at Sinharaja, 126 birds have been seen or heard during the study period, while three new species were added to the list. The results indicate that the sub-species Terpsiphone paradisi ceylonensis (Sri Lanka race of the Paradise flycatcher) and the disputed Dicrurus paradiseus ceylonicus (Raquet tailed Drongo of the dry zone) were not present in the study area. A further 14 species were not seen or heard during the study period.

Of the 126 birds, 90 belong to Resident-non endemics (72%), 19 to endemics (15%), and 17 migrants (13%). With respect to the three habitats of the study area, 18% belong to 'Forest' habitat, 36.5% to 'Forest-Village' habitat, and 9.5% to 'Village' habitat. The indicies reflect these categories well.

The highest number of birds belong to the 'rare-less abundant' category (36) and the 'common-less abundant' category (36). Of the 54 'very common' birds,

68% are 'forest' birds, while 29% belong to 'Forest-Village' species. The study has given more information on the avifauna at Sinhharaja, and the effect of changing habitats, along the western section.

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