

ECOLOGY, STATUS & BIOLOGY OF AVIFAUNA AT  
SINHARAJA RAIN FOREST  
II. ANALYSIS OF BIRD RINGING

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Ringling of birds is a widely employed method for the study of avian ecology, and was first attempted in Sri Lanka in 1963 (Munidasa Pers.com.).

From July 1983 to April 1986, birds were captured using mist nets and ringed using standard coloured plastic rings on resident species, and BNHS metal rings and colour rings on migrants. The nets were erected around the MAB research station in disturbed open areas. A total of 207 captures were made. Of this, 164 birds belonging to 32 species were marked. The species richness of the avifauna was analysed according to the system proposed by Karr. This indicated a species richness of 24 species. The trophic signature<sup>1</sup> was 8 at Sinharaja. This is higher than that of Malaysia (6).

Of the total marked, 37.5% of the species were recaptured. The recaptures showed that Hysipetes indicus, and Hypsipetes madagascariensis were confined to small home ranges in the forest. Three migrant species namely Muscicapa muttii, Erithacus burnneus, and Lanius cristatus were recaptured at the same locality after their return from their breeding grounds during subsequent migratory seasons. This confirms that these species are site specific during their short stay in Sri Lanka.

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#### References

1. Karr, James R. (1980) Geographical variation in the avifaunas of Tropical Forest undergrowth. Auk 97 283-298.
2. Wong, Marina (1985) Understorey birds as indicators of regeneration in a patch of selectively logged West Malaysian Rain forest. pp 249-263. In Conservation of Tropical forest birds. ICFP Technical Publication 4.