

MIST NETTING OF BIRDS IN FOUR DIFFERENT HABITATS
IN THE WASGOMUWA NATIONAL PARK

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Four selected habitat types in the Wasgomuwa National Park were studied using mist nets, during the period of April 1988 to May 1989 i.e. Dry Zone undisturbed forest, Riverine forest, Riverine mixed forest and Scrub jungle.

A plot of one hectare (100x100m), representing the typical habitat was selected for nesting. 30 mist nets were placed, at 20 m intervals line transects with each line having 5 nets placed at approximately 20 meters intervals. The nets were placed in alternative position in adjacent to cover the entire area. Nets were opened in the morning at 6am. and closed in the evening at 4pm. All birds caught were individually marked, and biometrics (Length of beak and tarsus, Weight, Colour of irides tarsus and beak and Molting) were recorded.

the data were analyzed, as

- (a) per 60 netting hours (All birds captured for first six days. ie. 10 hours for a day x 6 days) and
- (b) per 100 captured (100 nos. of birds captured)

The highest number of capture was recorded in the Dry Zone undisturbed forest followed by Mixed Riverine and Scrub, while the lowest capture was in the Riverine Forest.

Species composition varied with habitat types. The dominant species for each habitat type were Bronze wing pigeon, (Riverine Forest) White Backed Munia (Riverine mixed forest) Black Capped Bulbul (Dry Zone undisturbed forest) and Black fronted Babbler (Scrub jungle) respectively.