

D-23 Recorded avifauna at the Kekanadura forest reserve

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Kekanadura Rain Forest Reserve, a low country wet zone forest, is situated about 2 km north-east of Matara town and extends over 400 ha. It has a wide diversity of recorded plant species. Its fauna has not been thoroughly investigated. This study was done to enhance the taxonomic information of this avifauna. Data was collected over a year (in 1995), from both the natural forest and a disturbed forest patch which has been cleared for *Pinus* plantation. Seventy two bird species including 6 endemics were recorded. These species represent 32 families, 60 genera, 67 species and 5 sub species. This included 66 breeding residents and 06 migrants. Of the breeding residents, there were 30 common, 29 very common and 4 rare species and 1 common and 2 very common sub species. Recorded endemics were *Galloperdix bicalcarata*, a rare endemic, *Ocyrceros gingalensis*, a very common breeding resident of low country, and 4 other common breeding residents of low country wet zone, *Loriculus beryllinus*, *Gracula ptilogenys*, *Pellorneum fuscocapillum* and *Eumyias sordida*. Other recorded rare breeding residents were *Ceys eritbacus*, *Chrysocolaptes lucida* and *Dicaeum agile*. The recorded migrants were *Lanius*

cristatus lucionensis, a very rare sub species, *Merops philippinus*, a very common species, *Terpsiphone paradisi paradisi*, a common sub species, and three other common species, *Muscicapa danurica*, *Phylloscopus mitidicus* and *Phylloscopus magnirostris*. The highest number of birds recorded belonged to the family Muscicapidae with 5 species and 2 sub species.

A vifauna at Kekanadura Forest Reserve represent approximately 1/3 of resident bird species and ¼ of the endemic bird species of Sri Lanka. Recorded migrants were few and it could be due to the isolated nature of this forest. A checklist of recorded bird species was prepared.

Financial assistance by Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna (Research grant RU/SF/RP 94-04) is acknowledged.