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The conservation value of tea plantations on bird diversity was assessed at eight plots in Pasgoda DS Division over six months, in 1997. Point scan line transect technique was employed to obtain population variables on species richness and their abundance. A total of 6374 birds of 67 species, representing 30 families, or 3.98 birds per observation, were recorded during 1600 5 –min observation.

Recorded avifauna constituted an important assemblage of habitat specialists, in having 8 endemic, 2 rare, 6 nationally threatened and 46 forest dwelling species. The most

abundant species were village crows (14.92%), spotted doves (9.19%) and common mynahs (7.92%). The percent contribution by these dominant species to the total abundance was very low (2.53%-3.77%). Species composition of bird communities between plots was similar (SÖrensen's index >60%).

Species richness, their abundance and diversity have not shown any significant difference between plots. Habit preferences, revealed that tea plantations were dominated by forest dwelling birds (46 sp.-54.58%). According to the food preferences, frugivores (22 sp.-41.58%), insectivores (27 sp.-23.97%) and omnivores (2 sp. - 16.90%) were found in large numbers. Tea plantations were not favorable for grassland birds.

The presence of many habitat specialists in the study area emphasizes the conservation value of tea plantations on bird diversity. Tea plantations are closed, continuous and heterogeneous habitats with a high density of tea bushes, shade trees, cover crops and variety of tree species in non-tea growing areas. Vegetation structure and diversified nature of landscape with drains and terraces provide suitable stable sites for birds for perching, nesting, feeding and drinking.