

Vertebrates of Resak (Tambahan) Forest Reserve and Its Adjacent Area, Pahang

*Mohammad Shahfiz Azman**, *Noor Faradiana Md Fauzi*, *Nor Hazwani Ahmad Ruzman*, and *Muhammad Syaridzwan Baharudin*

Zoology Branch, Forest Biodiversity Division, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) 52109 Kepong, Selangor, Malaysia.

Abstract. Southeast Pahang Peat Swamp Forest (SEPPSF) covers four forest reserves (FRs) namely Pekan FR, Nenasi FR, Kedondong FR and Resak FR. Previously, 204 species of birds, 56 species of mammals, and 47 species of herpetofauna have been recorded at SEPPSF. Recently, a rapid assessment using binoculars was carried out for two days from 18-19 May 2023 covering Resak (Tambahan) FR and its adjacent areas including oil palm plantations and Rompin town. A total of 52 species of birds from 25 families and one species of reptile were recorded. Of these, 36 species are classified as Totally Protected while eight species are Protected species according to Wildlife Conservation Act 2010. There are four Vulnerable (VU) species that were recorded namely Black Hornbill, Lesser Adjutant, Large Green-Pigeon, and Javan Myna. This result indicates a “snapshot” of vertebrates of the forest complex due to the short duration of the survey. Therefore, more intensive survey is needed to update the dynamics of the wildlife community in this area.

*Corresponding author: shahfiz@frim.gov.my

1. Introduction

The Southeast Pahang Peat Swamp Forest (SEPPSF) comprises 60% of the remaining peat swamp forest cover in Peninsular Malaysia [2]. SEPPSF covers several forest reserves including Pekan Forest Reserve (FR), Nenasi FR, Kedondong FR and Resak FR. Previously, there were 204 species of birds, 63 species of mammals and 47 species of herpetofauna recorded in SEPPSF [1]. These figures were cumulative checklist from previous studies that were carried out in 1998, 1999, 2002 and 2003.

Some interesting findings were the present of tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and other threatened species including elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Otter civet (*Cynogale bennettii*), Lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) and Painted terrapin (*Batagur borneensis*) [1]. However, little study has been carried out in Resak (Tambahan) Forest Reserve which located in between Nenasi FR (north) and Resak FR (south). Therefore, a preliminary survey was conducted at Resak (Tambahan) Forest Reserve including the adjacent areas (oil palm plantations and Rompin town).

2. Methodology

2.1 Field Methods

This preliminary survey was conducted at Resak (Tambahan) Forest Reserve and its adjacent areas including the oil palm plantations and Rompin town by using binoculars. Binoculars (Minox 10 X 42) were used for two consecutive days (18-19 May 2023) starting from 0730 until 1830 daily. Overall, approximately 30km trip were covered daily from Rompin town to Compartment 28 in Resak (Tambahan) Forest Reserve. All species observed were identified and documented in being divided in two columns, namely, Rompin Town-Oil Palm Plantation, (RTOP) and Resak (Tambahan) Reserve, (RTFR). There was no mist netting or other methods applied during this assessment. The species identifications were based on descriptions in Robson [4] for birds and Norhayati [3] for herpetofauna.

3. Results and Discussion

Based on the two-day observation, a total of 52 species from 25 families of birds were recorded. There were 30 species recorded at RTOP, and 34 species were recorded at RTFR (Table 1). Both sites documented 19 families respectively. Cisticolidae, Monarchidae, Nectariniidae, Picidae, Rhipiduridae and Turnicidae were the six families that were not documented at RTOP. Meanwhile, Coraciidae, Cuculidae, Meropidae, Oriolidae, Phasianidae and Ploceidae were the six families that were not documented at RTFR. Of these, 36 species are classified as Totally Protected while eight species are Protected species according to Wildlife Conservation Act 2010. There are four Vulnerable (VU) species that were recorded namely Black Hornbill, Lesser Adjutant, Large Green-Pigeon, and Javan Myna.

According to Figure 1, Accipitridae recorded 5spp at RTOP while only one species was recorded at RTFR. As for RTFR, species from Nectariniidae (5spp) were recorded in RTFR while no species from this family was recorded at RTOP. Urban birds or common inhabitants for secondary forests and plantations can be seen at RTOP including Zebra dove, Oriental magpie robin, House crow, Black-naped oriole, White-throated kingfisher, and Oriental-pied hornbill. While more “forest” species can be seen inside the forest

reserve including Asian paradise flycatcher, White-rumped shama, Laced woodpecker, Bar-winged flycatcher shrike and Black hornbill.

There were 204 species of birds recorded previously in SEPPSF based on primary and secondary data. According to MDA Report, a total of 23 days of samplings were carried out primarily by observations (sightings and calls) and supplemented by the mist-netting technique used by the mammal research team [1]. Therefore, this present study is just a “snapshot” of avifauna composition in these areas, especially in RTFR. Standardizing and robust data collection by using different methods which cover diurnal and nocturnal species is recommended. Areas to be sampled also need to be multiplied to represent RTFR.

These recommendations are also applied to other taxa groups. From this survey also, there was only one species of reptile recorded – Monitor lizard which is a common species in secondary forests and plantations. It is expected more amphibian’s species can be detected once observations at night were carried out.

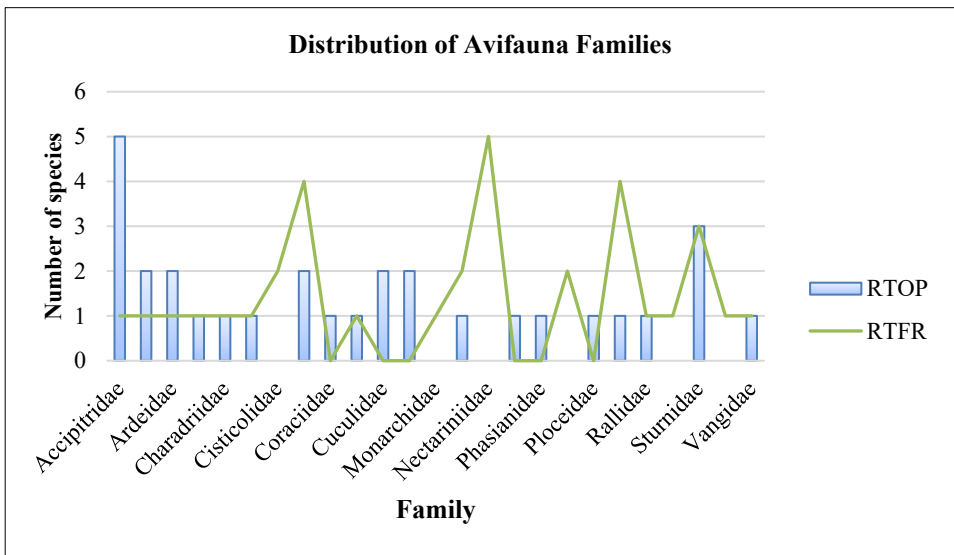


Fig 1. Distribution of families between RTOP and RTFR

Table 1. Checklist of birds recorded during this survey.

No.	Family	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	RTOP	RTFR	Overall
1.	Accipitridae	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	LC	/		/
2.	Accipitridae	Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	LC	/	/	/
3.	Accipitridae	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliaeetus indus</i>	LC	/		/
4.	Accipitridae	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	LC	/		/
5.	Accipitridae	Lesser-Fish-Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	NT	/		/
6.	Alcedinidae	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	LC	/	/	/
7.	Alcedinidae	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	LC	/		/
8.	Ardeidae	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	LC	/		/

9.	Ardeidae	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC	/	/	/
10.	Bucerotidae	Oriental Pied-Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>	LC	/		/
11.	Bucerotidae	Black Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros malayanus</i>	VU		/	/
12.	Charadriidae	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	LC	/	/	/
13.	Ciconiidae	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	VU	/	/	/
14.	Cisticolidae	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	LC		/	/
15.	Cisticolidae	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	LC		/	/
16.	Columbidae	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	LC		/	/
17.	Columbidae	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	LC		/	/
18.	Columbidae	Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>	LC	/	/	/
19.	Columbidae	Pink-necked Green-pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>	LC	/		/
20.	Columbidae	Large Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron capellei</i>	VU		/	/
21.	Coraciidae	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	LC	/		/
22.	Corvidae	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	LC	/	/	/
23.	Cuculidae	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	LC	/		/
24.	Cuculidae	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	LC	/		/
25.	Meropidae	Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>	LC	/		/
26.	Meropidae	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	LC	/		/
27.	Monarchidae	Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	LC		/	/
28.	Muscicapidae	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	LC	/	/	/
29.	Muscicapidae	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	LC		/	/
30.	Nectariniidae	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>	LC		/	/
31.	Nectariniidae	Copper-throated Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma calcostetha</i>	LC		/	/
32.	Nectariniidae	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>	LC		/	/
33.	Nectariniidae	Temminck's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga temminckii</i>	LC		/	/
34.	Nectariniidae	Spectacled Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera flavigaster</i>	LC		/	/
35.	Oriolidae	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	LC	/		/
36.	Phasianidae	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	LC	/		/
37.	Picidae	Laced Woodpecker	<i>Picus vittatus</i>	LC		/	/
38.	Picidae	Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>	LC		/	/
39.	Ploceidae	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	LC	/		/
40.	Pycnonotidae	Black-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus atriceps</i>	LC		/	/
41.	Pycnonotidae	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>	LC	/	/	/
42.	Pycnonotidae	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>	LC		/	/

43.	Pycnonotidae	Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>	LC	/	/	/
44.	Rallidae	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>	LC	/	/	/
45.	Rhipiduridae	Malaysia Pied-Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>	LC	/	/	/
46.	Sturnidae	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	LC	/	/	/
47.	Sturnidae	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	LC	/	/	/
48.	Sturnidae	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>	VU	/	/	/
49.	Sturnidae	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	LC	/	/	/
50.	Turnicidae	Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>	LC	/	/	/
51.	Vangidae	Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>	LC	/	/	/
52.	Vangidae	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	LC	/	/	/
Total number of species				30	34	52	
Total number of families				19	19	25	

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, there are 52 species from 25 families of avifauna and one species of reptiles were recorded during this survey. However, this is not representing the whole area as this survey was conducted for two days based on observations. It is recommended that standardized and robust data collection must be adopted in future assessments. Thus, strategic conservation measures can be formulated once this information is gathered to conserve the vulnerable peat swamp ecosystem, especially at the southeast of Pahang.

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