PRELIMINARY REPORT ON BIRD SURVEY AT LATA BUJANG CAMP IN GUNONG BENOM, KRAU WILDLIFE RESERVE, PAHANG, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

A survey on birds was conducted at Lata Bujang, Gunung Benom, Krau Wildlife Reserve on the 10th until 15th of November 2009. Ten mist nets were deployed throughout four days sampling period. A total of 33 individuals representing 14 species from six families of birds were recorded. The most common species recorded is the *Malacopteron cinereum*.

Keyword: Biodiversity, Lata Bujang, *Malacopteron cinereum*, mist-nets

INTRODUCTION

Krau Wildlife Reserve (KWR) is the second largest reserve after Taman Negara National Park with the total area of 62,395 ha and comprises three districts which are Raub, Lanchang and Jerantut. KWR is gazetted on 9th June 1923 and situated adjacent to Taman Negara. It is the second most important protected area in Peninsular Malaysia after Taman Negara. The highest peak was at 2,107 m. There are three groups of indigenous communities lived in KWR and consume the forest products namely Jah Hut, Che Wong and Temuan.

Lata Bujang base camp is situated at the foothill of Gunung Benom in Krau Wildlife Reserve with the elevation of 200 m above sea level. Sungai Terboi and Lata Bujang waterfall were the main water source and the landmark for the area. As being in a wildlife reserve, Lata Bujang composed mainly of pristine tropical rainforest. There are three types of forest, namely lowland dipterocarp forest, peat swamp forest, and low montane forest. The forest may be warm by day and quite cool by night.

METHODOLOGY

The birds were captured using standard mist-nets set at understory level (Mc Clure, 1984). Ten mist nets were deployed along the trail at Lata Bujang Camp. Mist nets were opened from 0630 until 1830 hours and were checked at every two hours interval. Any captured birds were placed into the cloth bags, and later measured using caliper and weigh using Pasola balance spring. Species identification of the birds was referred to Robson (2005).

Selected species were preserved as voucher specimen in ethanol. All tissues and voucher specimens were deposited at UNIMAS Zoological museum. For every captured individuals, throat wash sample were collected for influenza study. These are done by pipetting about 700µl RNAse free water into the bird's throat. The washes were kept in -80°C for storage. The RT-PCR will be conducted in the laboratory soon.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 33 individuals with 14 species were recorded at Lata Bujang camp (Table 1). The most abundant species caught was the *Malacopteron cinereum* with eight individuals. The *Kenopia striata,* caught only with single individual, and *Stachyris maculata,* represented by two individuals, are listed as nearly threatened in the IUCN redlist of threatened species 2009.

Ineffective mist nets were reposition after two days sampling. In relation to this, the size of the sampling area was expanded, and therefore maximized the sampling effort.

The net hours and capture rate are calculated based on the formula below:-

Net hours = Hours deployed x Number of mist-net

= 12 X 10
= 120 net hours

$$\text{Capture rate} = \frac{\text{Number of birds captured}}{\text{(No. of nets) x (No. of days) x (No. hours deployed)}}$$

=33/480
=0.07

Although the sampling was conducted for four consecutive days, we can only manage to collect the data for three days. On the third sampling day, no individual was caught due to heavy rain on the previous night and continues all day long. The birds probably do not forage far from their shelter due to bad weather.

Although the fact that mist-nets were located near the river, not many birds were caught. This may also because of dense forest surrounding the survey area. Besides, the survey area has been cleared for the purpose of setting the base camp. In relation to this, the birds occupying the area may have move farther into the forest for better living environment.

Table 1. List of birds recorded in Lata Bujang Camp, Gunong Benom.

Family **Species**	**Individuals**	**Relative Abundance (%)**
Timaliidae		
Stachyris poliocephala	4	12.12121212
Malacopteran cinereum	8	24.24242424
Stachyris maculata	2	6.060606061
Malacocincla malaccensis	2	6.060606061
Kenopia striata	1	3.03030303
Muscicapidae		
Cyornis banyumas	1	3.03030303
Cyornis unicolor	1	3.03030303
Copsychus malabaricus	2	6.060606061
Terpsiphone paradisi	1	3.03030303
Nectariniidae		
Arachnothera longirostra	2	6.060606061
Alcediniidae		
Lacedo pulchella	1	3.03030303
Ceyx rufidorsus	2	6.060606061
Pycnonotidae		
Tricholestes criniger	3	9.090909091
Alophoixus phaeocephalus	3	9.090909091
Total number of individuals	33	
Number of species	14	
Number of Families	5	
Relative abundance (%)		100

CONCLUSION

This survey has documented quite a good number of bird fauna in Lata Bujang Camp, Gunong Benom. Near threatened species such as the *Kenopia striata* can still be observed and recorded in the area indicates that the area is maintaining its diversity well and may act as one of the conservation area for this specific species.

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