

106**Historical changes in number of Endemic birds in Sri Lanka from 1852 to 2006**

C D Kaluthota and S W Kotagama

Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka, Department of Zoology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Number of endemic bird species, which is special interest among the wildlife enthusiasts for all the time, continuously fluctuated in the ornithological history of Sri Lanka.

To clarify the number of endemic species present in Sri Lanka and to study the change of this number in the history of Ornithology in Sri Lanka, systematic literature survey was done. Twenty major publications including field guides and checklists that are published from 1854 to 2006 were considered.

The number of endemics has changed from a maximum of 47 to a minimum of 20 from 1854 to 2006. Sixty two of the present species were endemic at least once in the history although there are only 26 species are to be considered as definite endemics at present.

Many of the species considered as endemic to the island were discovered before these publications. Only nine species were discovered in or after 1852 but before 1872. And one species was described very recently in 2004. However, only 11 species excluding newly discovered Serendib scops owl, have appeared in all these publications as endemics. Four species were discovered in 1870 and 1972 and those were in all the publications as endemics after the discovery. Although discovered in 1850, White-faced Starling was added to the list in 1872 and remained continuously. Hence, these 16 species can be accepted as endemics without any argument.

Main reasons for changes in numbers are upgrades of existing subspecies and downgrade to subspecies level. Six of the present endemic species fluctuated in species and subspecies levels in the history. Another 30 species including 7 proposed endemic species need taxonomic studies since those were changed between species and subspecies levels.

Sri Lanka Red faced Malkoha was removed twice and Yellow-cared bulbul was also removed once from the endemic list due to unconfirmed sight records from South India. Sri Lanka Wood pigeon was removed from the list by Murray (1890) due to misidentification as Nilgiri Wood Pigeon.

Representation of present endemic species in each of the publication ranges from 61.54% in Blyth (1852) to 100% in Rasmussen and Anderton (2005). However, second highest percentage (92.31%) was represented in Legge (1880) and Murray (1890), more than a century ago.

107**A study on tree diversity in lowland, sub-montane and upper montane forest formations along the Hapugastenna nature trail in the Peak Wilderness sanctuary**

R M A P M Rajatewa and B M P Singhakumara

Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

Hapugastenna nature trail is one of sixth access way to peak "Sri-pada" that running through Peak Wilderness sanctuary. It starts at the middle way of southern boundary of the sanctuary between Rathganga and Waleboda and runs North-Western direction.

This study examined the tree diversity in different forest formations along the trail. Twelve plots (each 5 x 100 m) were laid in lowland (6), sub-montane (4) and upper montane (4) forest formations, respectively. Altitudinal range of lowland plots were below 1000 m, sub-montane plots were between 1000 -1550 m and montane plots were above 1550 m. All tree species over 10 cm dbh were selected for the study. Important value index (IVI) and Shanon's diversity index were calculated. IVI was calculated for each family, genera and species separately.