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## BIRD NOTES OF BARIO

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### ABSTRACT

A systematic survey of birds in the Kelabit Highlands was conducted by Sreedharan (1995). During a preliminary survey of that area in 2002, for a project to look at seasonality in breeding of birds in the tropics, additional information of birds was collected.

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A systematic survey of birds in the Kelabit Highlands was conducted by Sreedharan (1995). During a preliminary survey of that area in 2002, for a project to look at seasonality in breeding of birds in the tropics, additional information of birds was collected.

## STUDY METHODS

Field observations were made using a pair of 10 x 50 binoculars and written down at the time of observations. Eight to ten mist nets were set up at various locations in the padi fields and sub-montane forests around Bario. All the birds caught were ringed with Sarawak National Parks rings and released. Where descriptions were lacking or differed from published documents, they were described from birds in the hand. All the records cited are from Bario, unless otherwise mentioned. Measurement methods followed that of Sreedharan (1995).

The moult score method follows Ginn & Melville (1983):

- 0 - old feather
- 1 - old feather missing or new feather entirely in pin
- 2 - new feather just emerging from sheath, to one-third grown
- 3 - new feather between one-third and two-thirds grown
- 4 - new feather more than two-thirds grown, and with remnants of waxy sheath at base
- 5 - new feather fully developed, with no sign of waxy sheath.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

## Family PHASIANIDAE

Red-breasted Partridge *Arborophila hyperythra*

At least two birds were heard duetting in the forest near the disfunctional hydro-dam on 17 July.

Great Argus *Argusianus argus*

A few fresh tail feathers were found by a local guide near Pa' Umor in July.

## Family PICIDAE

Rufous Piculet *Sasia abnormis*

One adult female was caught and ringed in June near the forest edge. It was very silent and docile when handled. When released, it flew to a nearby tree, perched for a while before flying off low and silent.

Wing	57 mm	Tail	22 mm	Bill	14 mm
Tarsus	14 mm	Weight	11.0 gm		

Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*

Often heard and occasionally seen at the forest edge in May.

## Family BUCEROTIDAE

Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros*

Loud honking from at least two birds were heard in the mornings and sometimes in the afternoon.

Helmeted Hornbill *Buceros vigil*

Uncommon. One bird was heard in the forest near Pa' Ramapoh in August. Another was heard calling from the forest behind Bario Asal.