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A BRIEF STUDY ON BIRDS AT GUNUNG SILAM, SABAH, MALAYSIA**Mustafa Abdul Rahman, Isa Sait and Besar Ketol****INTRODUCTION**

An assessment of the understory birds was conducted in September 1995 at Gunung Silam located on the eastern end of Segama Highlands, east of Sabah, Malaysia. The site selected for the study was near the telecommunication transmission tower. Twenty mist-nets with four shelves (2.5m x 12 m, 35 mm mesh) were deployed during the study period that made up 1,060 net units. A total of 28 birds were caught (including two recaptures) comprising 11 species. 62% of the birds were captured in the morning and 32% in the afternoon. Great Argus (*Argusianus argus*) calls were heard from three different locations. Owls were spotted three times during the spotlighting survey.

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by

Mustafa Abdul Rahman, Isa Sait and Besar Ketol

Abstract

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INTRODUCTION

Gunung Silam is located at 5°N, 119°E at the eastern end of Segama Highlands. It is a small coastal hill made up of ultra basic rocks and its peak is about 884 m asl. This primary forest is made up of vegetation that is sparse and stunted due to poor soils which could contain toxic elements such as, magnesium, chromium, cobalt and nickel. Studies on environment, forest structure and processes on Gunung Silam were presented by Proctor *et al.* (1988) and Proctor *et al.* (1989). Hydrological observations of Gunung Silam were carried out by Bruijnzeel *et al.* (1993) and the account of invertebrates in the litter and soil of Gunung Silam was presented by Leahey *et al.* (1987).

The climate of Gunung Silam is influenced by sea and there is no marked dry or wet season. Mean annual rainfall recorded near sea level from a weather station at the base of Gunung Silam for 1971 to 1983 was 2,011 mm (Proctor *et al.*, 1988). The mean minimum temperature