

**The Sarawak Museum Journal****Vol. LIX No. 80****December 2004****ISSN: 0375-3050****E-ISSN: 3036-0188**

Citation: Sim Lee Kheng and Daniel Kong. (2004). Avifauna. The Sarawak Museum Journal, LIX (80): 235-242

AVIFAUNA**Sim Lee Kheng¹ and Daniel Kong²**

¹Sarawak Forest Department, Wisma Sumber Alam,
93660 Kuching Sarawak, Malaysia

²33 Jalan Arang, Lorong 15, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

This paper gives an account of a series of preliminary surveys on birds carried out in the Bau Limestone Area. One hundred and twenty-nine (129) species from 40 families were recorded during the course of the project. Four main sites were identified for comprehensive survey, based on habitat contiguity and survey coverage: Doya, Kawa, Kapor and Poing. Findings are reported based on these four sites. Eighteen globally-threatened species were recorded, and 34 species listed as totally protected and protected under the Sarawak Wildlife Protection Ordinance (1998). Three endemics and five submontane species were recorded. The overall finding of the surveys is that species diversity is associated with habitat diversity, illustrated by a rather uniform species representation across the limestone sites, and increased species representation at sites where mixed dipterocarp forests occur together with karst outcrops. It may be imperative to consider the status of Bau Limestone Area once substantial data have been collected.

Keywords: bird, limestone forest

AVIFAUNA

Sim Lee Kheng¹ and Daniel Kong²¹Sarawak Forest Department, Wisma Sumber Alam,
93660 Kuching Sarawak, Malaysia²33 Jalan Arang, Lorong 15, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Abstract. This paper gives an account of a series of preliminary surveys on birds carried out in the Bau Limestone Area. One hundred and twenty-nine (129) species from 40 families were recorded during the course of the project. Four main sites were identified for comprehensive survey, based on habitat contiguity and survey coverage: Doya, Kawa, Kapor and Poing. Findings are reported based on these four sites. Eighteen globally-threatened species were recorded, and 34 species listed as totally protected and protected under the Sarawak Wildlife Protection Ordinance (1998). Three endemics and five submontane species were recorded. The overall finding of the surveys is that species diversity is associated with habitat diversity, illustrated by a rather uniform species representation across the limestone sites, and increased species representation at sites where mixed dipterocarp forests occur together with karst outcrops. It may be imperative to consider the status of Bau Limestone Area once substantial data have been collected.

Key Words: bird, limestone forest

Sim, L.K. and D. Kong (2004) Avifauna. In: *Sarawak Bau Limestone Biodiversity* (eds H.S. Yong, F.S.P. Ng and E.E.L. Yen). *The Sarawak Museum Journal* Vol. LIX, No. 80 (New Series); Special Issue No. 6: 235-242.

INTRODUCTION

The Bau Limestone Area, as one of six limestone biodistricts in Sarawak (SBC, 2000), lies within the latitude of 1°21'N to 1°24'N and longitude of 110°2'E to 110°11'E. It is located about 40 km southeast of Kuching. It is subjected to humid tropical conditions, which means plenty of sunshine and rain throughout the year. The area experiences an annual rainfall between 3,000 mm to 5,000 mm (Hazebrook and Abang Morshidi, 2000).

Not much has been documented on the area except for a comprehensive geological survey report for the purpose of gold mining. The Bau Limestone is estimated to be between upper Jurassic to Cretaceous age (Wolfenden,