

BIRDS OF TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK, KALIMANTAN TENGAH  
A PRELIMINARY LIST

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INTRODUCTION

Tanjung Puting National Park is located on the south coast of Kalimantan (Borneo) in the province of Kalimantan Tengah, between 2°35'S and 3° 20'S and 111° 50' and 112° 15'E. Tanjung Puling was first established as a game reserve in two parts during 1936 and 1937 by the Dutch colonial government and the Sultan of Kotawaringin. Consisting of 305,000 ha the reserve was established primarily for the protection of orang utans *Pongo pygmaeus*, proboscis monkeys *Nasalls larvatus* and rhinoceros *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* with the latter, however, becoming extinct in the 1940's due to severe hunting pressure for its horns. Orang utans and proboscis monkeys still remain plentiful. In 1982 the status of Tanjung puting was upgraded to National park.

The park occupies most of the swampy, alluvial peninsula between Kumai Bay and the Seruyan River. The park is very flat with the highest point no more than 30 m above mean sea level. The soils are generally very poor, heavily leached, poorly developed and very acidic. The Park is drained by a number of small black water rivers radiating from its northern and eastern parts. Ground water forms an important part of all habitats and large areas of the Park are flooded for much of the year.

VEGETATION

a) Lowland Dipterocarp Forest

While the vegetation of Tanjung puling is quite varied, approximately 40% of the Park is covered by dryland forest which approximates Lowland Dipterocarp Forest, although it differs in composition from the better known Dipterocarp Forests elsewhere in Borneo; it is forest with a "tropical heath" appearance. Rarely are dipterocarps dominant at Tanjung Puling, and nowhere do they exhibit the size and diversity found in regions of greater soil fertility. The canopy is not particularly high, being about 30-40 m. high with emergents soetimes up to 50-55 m. A wide selection of species is present including *Durio*, *Shorea*, *Castanopsis*, *Lithocarpus*, *Xylopa*, *Sindora*, *Koompassia*, *Casuarina*, etc, with ironwood *Eusideroxylon zageri* abundant near the swamp edges.

b) Peat Swamp Forests

Much of the Park, perhaps 40-50%, is characterized by various types of peat swamp forests, differentiated by degree of inundation, thickness of the peat, acidity, and frequency of species of trees. Stilt roots, pneumatophores and epiphytes are very common. The ground surface is made very uneven by roots and pneumatophores, with puddles between trees 2 m. or more deep during the wet season. Black water with a pH of 4.8 - 5.0 flows out of these forests and all over the Park. However, during the dry season the swamps totally dry up. Characteristic of these swamp forests are *Gonystylus bancanus*, *Dyera*, *Dactylocladus*, *Tetramerista*, *Ganua*, *Alstonia* and *Shorea balangeran*, although each swamp does not necessarily contain the full component of the above trees.

c) Heath Forests

Approximately 5 - 10% of the forests of Tanjung Puting are tropical heath forests which consist of pole-sized trees on leached sandy soils. These forests are frequently associated with peat swamps and the floras of the two habitat types have some affinities. *Dacrydium*, *Eugenia*, *Castanopsis*, *Hopea*, *Schima*, *Diospyros*, *Jackia*, *Licuala* and *Vatica* are characteristic. There is a mossy layer underfoot with some herbaceous vegetation. Big trees are relatively scarce, and the canopy is low and broken.

d) Secondary Forests and Old Ladangs

Approximately 10 of the Park consists of areas severely disturbed by human activity. Secondary forests with much *Macaranga* are found as are extensive old ladangs which sometimes stretch 2-3 km. in from the rivers. These old ladangs are covered with grass (*Imperata*) and ferns, and dotted with shrubs (such as *Melastoma*) and lone trees, frequently *Schima*.

e) Coastal Forests

Nowhere are the mangrove forests well developed. Sea coasts have extensive Nipa formations which extend inland and mark the extent of brackish waters. On the sandy seashores of the south coast a typical flora of *Casuarina*, *pandanus*, *Podocarpus*, *Barringtonia*, and *Scaevola* exists.

BIRDS OF TANJUNG PUTING

Kalimantan (Borneo) has approximately 420 resident bird species and 130 migrants (Smythies, 1981). Although Borneo has the most specialized bird fauna in the Halaysian subregion with 29 endemic species, bird endemism is primarily a montane phenomenon and only few species of Tanjung Puting birds are endemic. Nevertheless the park is of considerable importance for its varied bird fauna representative of the poorer soils of the coastal plain. Shallow, marshy lakes hosting bird populations are a feature of Borneo's southern portion. Tanjung Puting contains the only reported active colony from Borneo for any species of white egret or heron. Located near Buluh Besar River, one "Danau Burung" or bird lake serves thousands of large birds of at least six different species, many of them now rare in Borneo (Galdikas, et al, 1985). Other colonies reportedly also include Lesser Adjutant Storks, and it is probable that Storm's Stork also breeds in the Park. probably these colonies serve entire populations of the south-central region, but no ornithologist has yet studied in depth the bird life of any Bornean lake, one of the great gaps in our knowledge. The need to safeguard the Tanjung puting colonies as one step in the overall conservation of Kalimantan's wetland bird population is obvious. The following preliminary list is incidental to 15 years of primate research of the Orang Utan and Conservation Project (O.R.C.P.) by several observers. Our 35 sq.km. study area consists of Lowland Dipterocarp Forest (63t), peat Swamp Forest (27%), Tropical Heath Forest (5%) and secondary and ex-ladang associations (5t). Most of the sightings were made within the study area itself while others were made at the "bird lake" (Danau Burung) in 1979 (Galdikas, et al, 1985) as well as on several brief forays and patrols into the northern and eastern sides of the Park. More recently many of the species on the list have been reconfirmed by Ken Burton and Steve and Anne Nash.

Although Tropical Heath Forests and Peat Swamp Forests generally have lower species diversity than Lowland Dipterocarp Forest, the variety of habitats at Tanjung puting provides opportunity for a wide range of species. The preliminary checklist indicates 165 bird species sighted in the park; more intensive investigations will, undoubtedly, push this figure well over 200.

Some of the birds encountered at Tanjung puting such as the endemic Bald-headed Wood-Shrike *Pityriasis cyanocephala* are rare or under-recorded anywhere in Borneo. Some of the pheasants and wetland species could be endangered. Although Tanjung Puting is best known for its primates, the variety of birds already recorded in the following preliminary list enhances the intrinsic value of this important national park and gives urgency to its protection.

#### PRELIMINARY LIST

Anhinga melanogaster	Surniculus lugubris
Ardea purpurea	Chryaococcyx xanthorhynchus
Butorides striatus	Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus
Bubulcus ibis	Phaenicophaeus curvirostris
Egretta alba	Centropus sinensis
Egretta garzetta	Centropus bengalensis
Nycticorax nycticorax	Phodilus badius
Leptoptilos javanicus	Strix leptogrammica
Ciconia stormi	Otus bakkamoena
Machaeramphus alcinus	Ninox scutulata
Haliastur Indus	Bubo sumatrana
Accipiter trivirgatus	Batrachostyrus javensis
Ictinaetus roalayensis	Batrachostomus cornutus
Spilornis cheela	Eurostopodus temmincki
Ichthyophaga nana	Rhaphidura leucopygialis
Argusianus argus	Hirundapus giganteus
Lophura erythrophthalma	Apus affinis
Lophura ignita	Collocalia esculenta
Helanoperdix nigra	Collocalia maxima
Rollulus rouloul	Hemiprocne longipennis
Gallicrex cinerea	Hemiprocne comata
Tringa glareola	Harpactes kasumba
Glareola maldivarum	Harpactes duvaucelii
Treron fulvicollis	Halcyon chloris
Treron capellei	Halcyon pileata
Treron curvirostra	Alcedo neninting
Treron vernans	Pelargopsis capensis
Treron olax	Ceyx erithacus
Ducula aenea	Nyctiornia amicta
Chalcophaps indica	Merops viridis
Ptilinopus jambu	Anorrhinus galeritus
Streptopelia chinensis	Rhyticeros undulatus
Psittacula longicauda	Rhyticeros corrugatus
Psittinus cyanurus	Buceros rhinoceros
Loriculus galgulus	Anthracoceros coronatus
Cacomantis merulinus	Anthracoceros malayanus

Megalaima australis	Sitta frontalia
Megalaima rafflesii	Pellorneum capiastratum
Megalaima mystacophanos	Trichastoma malaccense
Calorhamphus fuliginosus	Malacopteron cinereum
Sasia abnormis	Macronus gularis
Picus miniaceus	Macronus ptilosus
Mulleripicus pulverulentus	Stachyris maculata
Dryocopus javensis	Stachyris erythroptera
Dinopium rafflesii	Eupetes macrocerus
Blythipicus rubiginosus	Copsychus malabaricus
Meiglyptes tukki	Copsychus saularis
Henicircus concretus	Orthotomus ruficeps
Chrysocolaptes validus	Orthotomus sericeus
Picus puniceus	Prinia flaviventris
Calyptomena viridis	Rhinomyias umbratilis
Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus	Ficedula dumetoria
Eurylaimus ochromalus	Cyornis turcosa
Pitta granatina	Rhipidura javanica
Hirundo tahitica	Hypothymis azurea
Hirundo rustica	Terpsiphone paradisi
Coracina striata	Lanius cristatus
Coracina fimbriata	Gracula religiosa
Lalage nigra	Pityriasis gymnocephala
Pericrocotus igneus	Anthreptes malaccensis
Aegithina viridissima	Antreptes singalensis
Chloropsis sonnerati	Hypogramma hypogrammicum
Chloropsis cyanopogon	Nectarinia sperata
Pycnonotus goavier	Nectarinia jugularis
Pycnonotus eutilotus	Aethopyga siparaja
Pycnonotus plumosus	Arachnothera longirostra
Pycnonotus brunneus	Arachnothera flavigaster
Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos	Prionochilus percussus
Dicrurus paradiaeus	Prionochilus thoracicus
Oriolus xanthonotus	Prionochilus maculatus
Irena puella	Dicaeum chrysorrheum
Platylophus galericuiatus	Dicaeum trigonostigma
Platysmurus leucopterus	Lonchura fuscans
Corvus enca	Lonchura malacca

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## Ringkasan

Sebanyak 165 jenis burung yang ditemukan di Taman Nasional Tanjung Puting (Kalimantan Tengah) dicantumkan dalam suatu daftar. Taman Nasional yang luasnya lk. 35 km persegi dan lk. 30 m dpl., terdiri dari hutan dipterokarp dataran rendah (63%), daerah gambut berawa (27%), hutan Kerangas (5%), serta hutan sekunder dan bekas ladang (5%). Daftar ini merupakan daftar pemula untuk jenis burung yang ditemukan di Taman Nasional tersebut.

## Deferences

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