

AN ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF PULAU TIOMAN, PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT. - This study is based on bird surveys of the island of Pulau Tioman made between 1986 and 1998. The surveys were conducted between 7-10 April 1986, 2-4 April 1996, 24-30 June 1996, 24-27 June 1997, 20-22 August 1997, 23-27 February 1998, 7-11 September 1998 and 10-13 October 1998. Attempts were made to sample all habitat types of the island. We recorded 106 bird species of which 38 species are probably new records for the island. Based on our observations and previous three published checklists, a total of 138 bird species have been recorded on the island.

KEY WORDS. - Pulau Tioman, birds, inventory, endemic fauna.

INTRODUCTION

Pulau Tioman is an island of approximately 100 km² in area, lying 20 km off the south eastern coast of the Malay Peninsula. The avifauna of the island has been previously documented with three published inventories (Medway, 1966; Lee et al., 1977; Bransbury, 1993) and numerous reports (Wells, 1986, 1990a, 1990b; Csorba et al., 1997). Taxonomically, eight subspecies of birds (*Treron vernans adina*, *Pycnonotus plumosus chirolethis*,

Pycnonotus brunneus zapolius, *Orthotomus atrogularis major*, *Gracula religiosa prasiocara*, *Aplonis panayensis heterochlorus*, *Dicrurus paradiseus microlophus*, and *Stachyris nigriceps tionis*) have been distinguished from the forms found on Peninsular Malaysia (Medway, 1966). *S. n. tionis* is probably endemic to the island (Medway, 1966).

The number of bird species recorded for Pulau Tioman has progressively increased since the first recorded expedition to the island which was in 1899 (Medway, 1966). The first formal checklist of birds for Pulau Tioman cited 53 species (Medway, 1966) while the most recent list published by Bransbury (1993) contained a total of 87 species. The progressive intensities of the surveys carried out coupled with possible immigration are probable explanations for the apparent increase in the diversity of bird species on the island. We here report 38 possible new bird records for Pulau Tioman. We also present a checklist of birds seen or heard during our surveys. We hope that this updated list of birds that occur on the island will serve as a precursor for more detailed avian studies on the island.

METHODS AND STUDY SITES

Numerous visits (7-10 April 1986, 20-22 August 1997, 23-27 February 1998, 7-11 September 1998, and 10-13 October 1998) have been made to Tioman over the past twelve years and many of its coastal areas have been surveyed. The interior of the island is difficult to penetrate except for a few steep trails on the west side into the hill forest located at Paya Village, Lalang Village and Tekek Village. The latter trail extends right across the island to Juara. Surveys were made from Lalang to Tekek and on to Ayer Batang Village on the west coast. Surveys were conducted on a random basis and only numbers of species were recorded. Observations of Renggis Island during these periods were made at dusk and dawn and large numbers of frigate birds were recorded.

Between 2-4 April 1996, birds were observed anecdotally in village Tekek. Between 24 and 30 June 1996 four different habitat types (lowland rain forest, mangroves, plantations [predominantly banana plantations], and roads) in villages Tekek and Paya were surveyed. Each habitat type was surveyed by two to four observers by slowly walking along fixed length transects (100 m). However, no transects were established in mangroves and this habitat type was surveyed on two mornings (0700 h to 0900 h; 25 and 28 June) and one afternoon (1400 h to 1600 h; 27 June) by walking along the habitat edge and recording birds. Surveys of the other habitat types were conducted from 25 June to 30 June 1996 during the mornings between 0700 h and 1000 h. Species that were not recorded during morning surveys but were recorded during other times of the days at the study sites are also included in the following list. All birds seen or heard were recorded at all sites. Doubtful sightings were confirmed by prolonged observations involving note-taking and drawings which later were identified using various field guides (e.g., Lekagul & Round, 1991; Strange & Jeyarajasingam 1993; Davison & Chew, 1995). All surveys were done during fair weather (no heavy winds and rain). The lowland rain forest (along Tekek-Juara trail), plantations, and roads were found in the vicinity of Tekek whereas the mangroves were located in Paya. Between 24-27 June 1997, various habitat types were surveyed in villages Asah, Paya, Juara, and Tekek. All surveys were made between 0700 h and 1000 h and all birds seen or heard were recorded.

ANNOTATED LIST

We recorded the following bird species. New records and endemic subspecies for Pulau Tioman are indicated with '•' and '*', respectively. The nomenclature follows Inskipp et al. (1996).

- COMMON FLAMEBACK *Dinopium javanense*
- DOLLARBIRD *Eurystomus orientalis*
- COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*
- BLACK-CAPPED KINGFISHER *Halcyon pileata*
- COLLARED KINGFISHER *Todirhamphus chloris*
- ASIAN KOEL *Eudynamis scolopacea*
- CHESTNUT-BREASTED MALKOHA *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*
- GREATER COUCAL *Centropus sinensis*
- BLACK-NEST SWIFTLET *Collocalia maxima*
- EDIBLE-NEST SWIFTLET *C. fuciphaga*
- HOUSE SWIFT *Apus affinis*
- BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*
- PACIFIC SWALLOW *H. tahitica*
- RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *H. daurica*
- COLLARED SCOPS-OWL *Otus bakkamoena*
- EURASIAN SCOPS-OWL *O. scops*
- ROCK PIGEON *Columba livia*
- SPOTTED DOVE *Streptopelia chinensis*
- EMERALD DOVE *Chalcophaps indica*
- * PINK-NECKED GREEN-PIGEON *Treron vernans*
- LITTLE GREEN-PIGEON *T. olax*
- LARGE GREEN-PIGEON *T. capellei*
- GREEN IMPERIAL-PIGEON *Ducula aenea*
- MOUNTAIN IMPERIAL-PIGEON *D. badia*
- PIED IMPERIAL-PIGEON *D. bicolor*
- WATERCOCK *Gallicrex cinerea*
- WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
- GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*
- MALAYSIAN PLOVER *Charadrius peronii*
- COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*
- GREY-TAILED TATTLER *Heteroscelus brevipes*
- ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE *Glareola maldivarum*
- BLACK-NAPED TERN *Sterna sumatrana*
- BRIDLED TERN *S. anaethetus*
- BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE *Elanus caeruleus*
- BRAHMINY KITE *Haliastur indus*
- WHITE-BELLIED FISH-EAGLE *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
- CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE *Spilornis cheela*
- JAPANESE SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter gularis*
- CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
- LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*
- PACIFIC REEF-EGRET *E. sacra*
- GREAT-BILLED HERON *Ardea sumatrana*
- GREAT EGRET *Casmerodius albus*

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*
 CHINESE POND HERON *Ardeola bacchus*
 LITTLE HERON *Butorides striatus*
 YELLOW BITTERN *Ixobrychus sinensis*
 CINNAMON BITTERN *I. cinnamomeus*
 LESSER FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata ariel*
 CHRISTMAS ISLAND FRIGATEBIRD *F. andrewsi*
 ••ASIAN FAIRY-BLUEBIRD *Irena puella*
 BROWN SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus*
 ••HOUSE CROW *Corvus splendens*
 LARGE-BILLED CROW *C. macrorhynchos*
 BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE *Oriolus chinensis*
 ••ASHY MINIVET *Pericrocotus divaricatus*
 ••SCARLET MINIVET *P. flammeus*
 ••BLACK-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE *Hemipus hirundinaceus*
 BLACK DRONGO *Dicrurus macrocercus*
 * GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO *D. paradiseus*
 ••PIED FANTAIL *Rhipidura javanica*
 ••BLACK-NAPED MONARCH *Hypothymis azurea*
 BAR-BELLIED CUCKOOSHRIKE *Coracina striata*
 GREEN IORA *Aegithina viridissima*
 ••COMMON IORA *A. tiphia*
 ORIENTAL MAGPIE ROBIN *Copsychus saularis*
 WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA *C. malabaricus*
 * ASIAN GLOSSY STARLING *Aplonis panayensis*
 COMMON MYNA *Acridotheres tristis*
 * HILL MYNA *Gracula religiosa*
 ••STRIPED-THROATED BULBUL *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*
 * OLIVE-WINGED BULBUL *P. plumosus*
 ••CREAM-VENTED BULBUL *P. simplex*
 * RED-EYED BULBUL *P. brunneus*
 ••SPECTACLED BULBUL *P. erythrophthalmos*
 HAIRY-BACKED BULBUL *Tricholestes criniger*
 ••ASHY BULBUL *Hemixos flava*
 ORIENTAL WHITE-EYE *Zosterops palpebrosus*
 ••ORIENTAL REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus orientalis*
 * DARK-NECKED TAILORBIRD *Orthotomus atrogularis*
 ••RUFIOUS-TAILED TAILORBIRD *O. sericeus*
 ••ASHY TAILORBIRD *O. ruficeps*
 ••WHITE-CHESTED BABBLER *Trichastoma rostratum*
 ••FERRUGINOUS BABBLER *T. bicolor*
 ••ABBOTT'S BABBLER *T. abbotti*
 ••SHORT-TAILED BABBLER *Malacocincla malaccensis*
 MOUSTACHED BABBLER *Malacopteron magnirostre*
 STREAKED WREN-BABBLER *Napothera brevicaudata*
 ••GREY-THROATED BABBLER *Stachyris nigriceps*
 ••STRIPED-TIT BABBLER *Macronous gularis*
 ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum trigonostigma*
 SCARLET-BACKED FLOWERPECKER *D. cruentatum*
 ••YELLOW-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER *Prionochilus maculatus*

CRIMSON-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER *P. percussus*

• PLAIN SUNBIRD *Anthreptes simplex*

BROWN-THROATED SUNBIRD *A. malacensis*

PURPLE-THROATED SUNBIRD *Nectarinia sperata*

• COPPER-THROATED SUNBIRD *N. calcostetha*

OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD *N. jugularis*

• LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER *Arachnothera longirostra*

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

PADDYFIELD PIPIT *Anthus rufulus*

RED-THROATED PIPIT *A. cervinus*.

WHITE-RUMPED MUNIA *Louchura striata*

• WHITE-BELLIED MUNIA *L. leucogastra*

During our surveys, we did not record the following birds that were listed in the previous published avifaunal reports for Pulau Tioman (Medway, 1966; Lee et al., 1977; Wells 1986, 1990a, 1990b; Bransbury, 1993; Anonymous, 1995; Csorba et al., 1997):

Ruddy Kingfisher (*Halcyon coromanda*)

White-throated Kingfisher (*H. smyrnensis*)

Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo (*Cuculus fugax*)

Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*)

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo (*C. sepulcralis*)

Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)

Silver-rumped Spinetail (*Rhaphidura leucopygialis*)

Silver-backed Needletail (*Hirundapus cochinchinensis*)

Grey Nightjar (*Caprimulgus indicus*)

Large-tailed Nightjar (*C. macrurus*)

Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*)

Cinnamon-headed Green-pigeon (*Treron fulvicollis*)

Jambu Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus jambu*)

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temmincki*)

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

Greater Sand-Plover (*C. leschenaultii*)

Great Crested-Tern (*Sterna bergii*)

Blyth's Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus alboniger*)

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*)

Golden-bellied Gerygone (*Gerygone sulphurea*)

Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)

Mugimaki Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*)

White-shouldered Starling (*Sturnus sinensis*)

Black-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus atriceps*)

Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

Chestnut-winged Babbler (*Stachyris erythroptera*)

Brown Fulvetta (*Alcippe brunneicauda*)

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*)

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

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