
ICONIC BIRD SURVEY IN KINABALU GOLF CLUB



Report Source and Information

Assessment start date (month/year)	November 2022 – January 2023
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Cost of Survey and Report Preparation	Contribution from Dr Raymond Alfred

Introduction

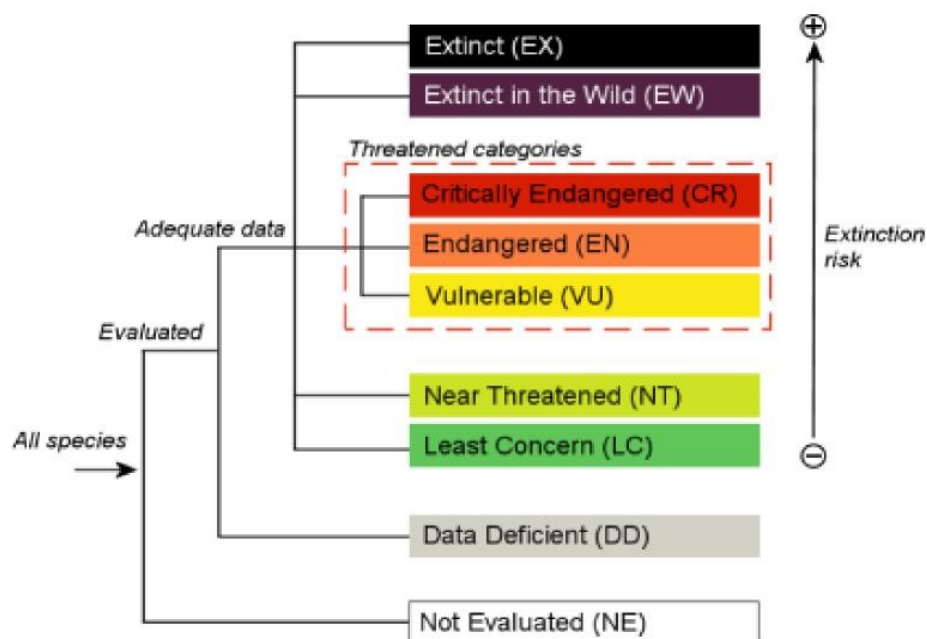
The line transects sampling technique developed by Burnham et al., (1980) and Meredith (2008) was used to determine the wildlife abundances. Line transects were systematically placed 100 meters apart along a predetermined compass bearing, oriented perpendicular to buggy roads, or streams in forested areas within KGC Golf Club area.

The identification of birds is based on the following references:

- Mammals: Payne, J. and Francis, C. (1985). A Field Guide to the Mammals of Borneo. Kota Kinabalu: The Sabah Society
- Birds: Phillipps, Q and Phillipps, K. (2009). Birds of Borneo: Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei and Kalimantan. Oxford: Beaufoy Books.

The status of bird species is based on The IUCN Red List.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information on plants, fungi and animals that have been globally evaluated using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. This system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and the main purpose of the IUCN Red List is to catalogue and highlight those plants and animals that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e., those listed as **Critically Endangered**, **Endangered** and **Vulnerable**). The IUCN Red List also includes information on plants, fungi and animals that are categorized as **Extinct** or **Extinct in the Wild**; on taxa that cannot be evaluated because of insufficient information (i.e., are **Data Deficient**); and on plants, fungi and animals that are either close to meeting the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened were it not for an ongoing taxon-specific conservation programme (i.e., are **Near Threatened**).



Results

At least 11 bird species was recorded during the survey period. The following paragraph stated the 11 bird species that is recorded in KGC landscape.

No 1
Blue-Naped-Parrot
IUCN Status – Near Threatened



The blue-naped parrot (*Tanygnathus lucionensis*), also known as the blue-crowned green parrot, Luzon parrot, the Philippine green parrot, and locally known as pikoy, is a parrot found throughout the Borneo and Philippines.

This is a medium size parrot, around 31 cm (12 in) in length, primarily green except for a light blue rear crown and nape, pale blue lower back and rump, scalloped shoulders with orange, brown on black coverts, and blackish underwings with green underwing coverts.

The species is widespread throughout the Philippines, including the Talaud Islands and islands off north and east Borneo (with introduced population in Borneo itself, e.g., Kota Kinabalu). It is found in secondary forest, at forest edges and in plantations at elevations of up to 1000 m. Flock size is usually under a dozen. The blue-naped parrot feeds on mangoes, berries, seeds, nuts and grains. It nests in tree holes

Habitat loss and trapping have made this species scarce on most islands.

No 2
Java sparrow
IUCN Status - Endangered



The **Java sparrow** (*Padda oryzivora*), also known as **Java finch**, **Java rice sparrow** or **Java rice bird**, is a small passerine bird. This estrildid is a resident breeding bird in Java, Bali and Borneo. It is a popular cage bird and has been introduced into many other countries. Some taxonomists place this and the Timor sparrow in their own genus *Padda*.

The Java sparrow is a very gregarious bird which feeds mainly on grain and other seeds. It frequents open grassland and cultivation and was formerly a pest in rice fields. The nest is constructed in a tree or building, and up to eight eggs are laid.

The Java sparrow is considered by some countries to be an agricultural pest with respect to rice cultivation. An ongoing loss of natural habitat, hunting in some areas and trapping (as a pest) in others has led to much smaller numbers in the wild and sightings in its natural range have become increasingly uncommon. The Java sparrow is now evaluated as endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species with less than 10,000 individuals remaining. It is also listed on Appendix II of CITES. The species is also severely threatened by the illegal exotic pet trade as they are sought after for their distinctive song, according to TRAFFIC.

No 3
Crested myna
IUCN Status – Least Concern



The crested myna (*Acridotheres cristatellus*), also known as the Chinese starling, is a species of starling in the genus *Acridotheres* native to southeastern China and Indochina. It is named after the tuft of feathers on its forehead that resembles a crest.

The crested myna can be found in a wide range of habitats from urban to rural areas. In cities, it can be seen in the eaves of buildings, along roads and alleys, near gardens and parks, in parking lots. It can be found under bridges, in trees, in chimneys, and on roofs. In rural areas, it can be spotted on agricultural fields, in orchards and farmyards, near manure piles. It can be seen near plowed fields to take advantage of the invertebrates found in the tilled soil. It is often seen near cattle as it eats the insects around them. It is also commonly distributed in grasslands, fields and at the edge of forests.

The range spans from southeastern and central China to northern Indochina. It is found in the Yangtze valley and the southeastern Jiangxi Province in China. The crested myna has also been recorded in Burma, Taiwan Borneo and Hainan. Since 1998, the crested myna has been rated as a species of Least Concern on the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species. It has a range that is larger than 20,000 km² and therefore, its range is too large for this bird to be considered vulnerable under the criterion of range size. Also, the population trends seem to be stable (over the last ten years or three generations) and so, this bird cannot be considered vulnerable under the criterion of population trends. Finally, it is believed that the population size exceeds 10,000 mature individuals and therefore this bird cannot be considered vulnerable under the criterion of population size.

No 4
Crested serpent eagle
IUCN Status – Least Concern



The **crested serpent eagle** (*Spilornis cheela*) is a medium-sized bird prey that is found in forested habitats across tropical Asia. Within its widespread range across the Indian Subcontinent, Southeast Asia and East Asia, there are considerable variations, and some authorities prefer to treat several of its subspecies as completely separate species.

In the past, several species including the Phillipine Serpent Eagle (*S. holospila*), Andaman Serpent Eagle (*S. elgini*) and South Nicobar Serpent Eagle (*S. klossi*) were treated as subspecies of the Crested serpent eagle. All members within the species complex have a large looking head with long feathers on the back of the head giving them a maned and crested appearance. The face is bare and yellow joining up with the ceres while the powerful feet are unfeathered and heavily scaled. They fly over the forest canopy on broad wings and tail have wide white and black bars. They call often with a loud, piercing and familiar three or two-note call. They often feed on snakes, giving them their name and are placed along with the Circaetus snake-eagles in the subfamily Circaetinae.

The crested serpent eagle is a reptile eater which hunts over forests, often close to wet grassland, for snakes and lizards. It has also been observed to prey on birds, amphibians, mammals, fishes, termites and large earthworms. It is found mainly over areas with thick vegetation both on the low hills and the plains. This species is a resident species, but in some parts of their range they are found only in summer.

No 5
Green imperial pigeon
IUCN Status – Near Threatened



The **green imperial pigeon** (*Ducula aenea*) is a large forest pigeon. The large range extends from Nepal, Borneo, southern India and Sri Lanka eastwards to southern China, Indonesia and the Philippines.

This is a forest species which is a widespread resident breeding bird in tropical southern Asia from Nepal and India east to Indonesia. It has several subspecies, including the distinctive Celebes form, chestnut-naped imperial pigeon (*Ducula aenea paulina*).

This is an arboreal dove, feeding on plant material in the tree canopy. Its flight is fast and direct, with the regular beats and an occasional sharp flick of the wings which are characteristic of pigeons in general. It builds a stick nest in a tree and lays a single white egg. The birds are not very gregarious but will form small flocks.

No 6
Brown-throated sunbird
IUCN Status – Least Concern



The **brown-throated sunbird** (*Anthreptes malacensis*), also known as the **plain-throated sunbird**, is a species of bird in the family Nectari Nectariniidae. It is found in a wide range of semi-open habitats in south-east Asia, ranging from Myanmar to the Lesser Sundas and west Philippines.

The grey-throated sunbird found in the remaining part of the Philippines is often considered a subspecies of the brown-throated sunbird, but the two differ consistently in measurements and plumage, and there is no evidence of intergradation between them

No 7
Oriental dollarbird
IUCN Status – Least Concern



The **Oriental dollarbird** (*Eurystomus orientalis*) is a bird of the roller family, so named because of the distinctive pale blue or white, coin-shaped spots on its wings. It can be found from Australia to Korea, Japan and India.

The oriental dollarbird has a length of up to 30 cm. It is dark brown but this is heavily washed with a bluish-green sheen on the back and wing coverts. Its belly and undertail coverts are light coloured, and it has glossy bright blue colouring on its throat and undertail. Its flight feathers are a darker blue. Its bill is short and wide and in mature animals is coloured orange-red with a black tip. It has very light blue patches on the outer parts of its wings which are highly visible in flight and for which it is named. The females are slightly duller than the males but overall the two are very similar. Immature birds are much duller than the adults and do not have the blue colouring on their throats. They also have brown bills and feet instead of the red of the adults.

The oriental dollarbird is most commonly seen singly with a distinctive upright silhouette on a bare branch high in a tree, from which it hawks for insects, returning to the same perch after a few seconds.

No 8

Chinese egret

IUCN Status – Vulnerable



The **Chinese egret** or **Swinhoe's egret** (*Egretta eulophotes*) is a threatened species of egret from east Asia. The species was first described by Robert Swinhoe in 1860.

The Chinese egret averages 68 cm in height. The plumage is white throughout the bird's life and resembles the little egret (*Egretta garzetta*). Outside the breeding season the bill is dusky with the basal portion being tannish peach and the lores and legs yellow green, while the iris is yellow. All individuals are similar in this season. In the breeding season the adults develop a luxuriant crest which is sometimes over 11 cm long. It also develops long lanceolate plumes on its breast and dorsal plumes extending beyond the tail, called aigrettes and similar to those of little egret. The bare parts change too, the bill becomes a bright, almost orange, yellow while the lores turn bright blue and the legs black with yellow feet.

Outside the breeding season the Chinese egret occurs in shallow tidal estuaries, mudflats and bays, occasionally visiting rice fields and fishponds. All recent breeding records have been from offshore islands.

The nuptial plumes of the Chinese egret, like other egrets, were in demand for decorating hats. They had been used for this purpose since at least the 17th century but in the 19th century it became a major craze and the number of egret skins passing through dealers reached into the millions. This is thought to have contributed to the decline of all of the white *Egretta* species. The greatest modern threat is habitat loss and reclamation of tidal flats and estuarine habitats, and through pollution.

No 9
Brown-capped babbler
IUCN Status – Least Concern



The **brown-capped babbler** (*Pellorneum fuscicapillus*) is a member of the family Pellorneidae.

The brown-capped babbler is an endemic resident breeding bird in Sri Lanka and can be found in Borneo. Its habitat is forest undergrowth and thick scrub. This species, like most babblers, is not migratory, and has short rounded wings and a weak flight.

Brown-capped babblers are usually believed to occur in pairs. Male birds make a distinctive call ("pretty dear") to attract other birds. Breeding season occurs during the first half of the year, during which time males exhibit territorial behaviour.

No 10
Common emerald dove
IUCN Status – Least Concern



The **common emerald dove** (*Chalcophaps indica*), also called **Asian emerald dove** and **grey-capped emerald dove**, is a widespread resident breeding pigeon native to the tropical and subtropical parts of the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia (Including Borneo). The dove is also known by the names of **green dove** and **green-winged pigeon**.

This is a common species in tropical forests and similar dense wet woodlands, farms and mangroves. It builds a scant stick nest in a tree up to five metres and lays two cream-coloured eggs.

Emerald doves usually occur singly, pairs or in small groups. They are quite terrestrial, often searching for fallen fruit on the ground and spending little time in trees except when roosting. They eat seeds and fruits of a wide variety of plants and are generally tame and approachable. They are rare and are usually found foraging in small groups or pairs. If there's a resource rich area, small groups will maintain a territory. Its flight is fast and direct, with the regular beats and an occasional sharp flick of the wings which are characteristic of pigeons in general. It often flies low between the patches of dense forest it prefers, but when disturbed will frequently walk away rather than fly. They are particularly good weavers when flying through forests. When flying they expose a buff underwing and a chestnut colour of their flight feathers.

No 11
Malayan night heron
IUCN Status – Least Concern



The Malayan night heron (*Gorsachius melanolophus*), also known as Malaysian night heron and tiger bittern, is a medium-sized heron. It is distributed in southern and eastern Asia

The Malayan night heron has been found in India, Sri Lanka, Borneo, Brunei, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Japan. It is a vagrant in Christmas Island and Palau. Its range size is estimated at 1,240,000 km². This bird occurs in forests, streams, and marshes

The Malayan night heron is usually solitary. It roosts in trees and feeds in open areas. The most common food items are earthworms and frogs, and it will sometimes eat fish. A study of its pellets found reptiles, snails, chilopods, arachnids, crabs and insects.

The bird has a large range, and its global population is between 2,000 and 20,000 individuals. Its population trend is not known, but it does not meet the criteria for a vulnerable species status.

Summary

11 Key Iconic Bird Species has been identified to be presence in KGC landscape. This information will be further used to identify Iconic Species for KGC. The information will be also useful to be integrated into the layout information for each Tee Box in KGC.

Sample of the Layout is illustrated in the following diagram.



