

Rapid assessment on the abundance of bird species utilising the Kota Kinabalu Wetland Centre mangroves

Abstract

Kota Kinabalu Wetland Centre (KKWC) mangroves have an essential role as a green ecosystem in Kota Kinabalu. The aim of this study was to assess the usefulness of mangrove areas as a site for birdlife by estimating the number of bird species and family, and the population density of bird species. The most frequent bird groups found in KKWC were waders (14.70%) followed by herons, storks and bitterns (12.59%), raptors (8.15%) and bulbuls (7.41%). The population density of bird found in KKWC was between 12 – 17 birds/km². The result shows an estimated population of 3526 individuals from 83 species of birds covering an area of 24 ha. As a conclusion, this area is important as an urban bird habitat in Kota Kinabalu. Conservation of adequate and contiguous suitable mangrove habitat may provide a sanctuary for bird to live and feed between their territories. Ecological improvements of green mangrove ecosystem could be of immediate benefit to the bird population.