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# Avian diversity in Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape, Philippines

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## Abstract

The Philippines is known as a treasure trove of biodiversity in terms of species richness and level of endemism. However, the diversity of birds in some forested areas in the country remains poorly studied. This study was conducted to assess the species diversity and endemism of birds in Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape (MMPL). A combination of mist netting and transect walk methods was done in the six sampling sites of MMPL. Eighty-one bird species belonging to seven orders and 30 families with 35 endemic species (43.21% endemism) were documented. Species richness, abundance, and endemism were recorded to be higher in site 4 (undisturbed lowland dipterocarp forest) while higher species diversity was recorded in site 2 (disturbed montane forest). The brown tit babbler, a Philippine endemic species, was the dominant and most abundant species. Bray-Curtis cluster analysis showed that sites 3 and 6 had the highest similarity percentage (48%) while Kruskal-Wallis test showed no significant difference between samples in disturbed and undisturbed sites. One vulnerable species was recorded in sites 2 (disturbed montane forest), 4(undisturbed lowland dipterocarp forest), and 5 (montane forest). Hunting and conversion of forest to farmland were the observed threats to the birds of MMPL. The presence of vulnerable species, the moderately high number of endemic species, and the presence of disturbance indicate the strong need to strengthen protection of the bird fauna and bird habitats in MMPL.

**Keywords:** bird, biodiversity, endemism, forest, vulnerable

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