IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF SELECTIVE LOGGING ON UNDERSTOREY BIRDS IN ULU MUDA FOREST RESERVE, KEDAH, MALAYSIA

ZAMRI BIN ROSLI

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IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF SELECTIVE LOGGING ON UNDERSTOREY BIRDS IN ULU MUDA FOREST RESERVE, KEDAH, MALAYSIA

By

ZAMRI BIN ROSLI

Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master Science in the Faculty of Forestry Universiti Putra Malaysia

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DEDICATION

Teristimewa Buat:
Isteri Tercinta (Zainah Mukhtar)
Terima kasih di atas pengorban dan kesebaranmu
Sepanjang pengajian abang
Juga buat puteri tersayang Ummi Syafiqah Aysha

Bonda (Hasni), Ayahanda (Rosli) dan Mertua sekeluarga
Jasa dan budi kalian akan tetap dalam ingatan...
Moga harapan dan doa kalian di makkulkan tuhan..amin

Buat kakak (Masura dan keluarga, Rohaya dan keluarga, Romzi) dan
adik-adik (Rohana dan keluarga, Mohd. Asri dan keluarga, Rohani,
Jadikan kejayaan ini sebagai anugerah buat kita sekeluarga

Ikhlas dari:
ZAMRI ROSLI
2001
Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement of the degree of Master of Science

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November 2001

Chairman: Mohamed Zakaria Hussin, Ph.D.
Faculty: Forestry

This study was carried out to determine understorey bird species composition before and immediately (less then one year) after logging. The main objectives were to determine: (i) the trophic structure related to the feeding guild, (ii) the diversity in terms of species diversity, species richness and species evenness) and (ii) to generate a species list for understorey bird population before and immediately after logging. The study was conducted in compartment 28/29, Ulu Muda Forest Reserve, Kedah, Malaysia. This area is a hill forest covering an area of 791.2 ha. It was harvested using selective logging method in 1997 and harvesting was completed at the end of 1999.

Mist-netting method was used to obtain the information on understorey bird species. A total of 75 species with 175 individuals were recorded before logging and 61 species with 385 individuals were recorded immediately after logging. The Babblers group decreased immediately after logging. However, the bulbul and spiderhunters increased immediately after logging.
The Insectivore group was found to dominate the forest before logging followed by insectivore/frugivore and frugivore groups. However, the insectivore/frugivore group dominated the area immediately after logging, followed by insectivore and nectarivore/insectivore/frugivore groups. The analysis of feeding guild also showed that the arboreal foliage gleaning insectivore guild dominated the primary forest in terms of species composition and number of individuals, but their numbers decreased immediately after logging. The arboreal foliage gleaning insectivore/frugivore was found to be higher in terms of the number of species and individuals immediately after logging.

The values of species diversity index (H'), species richness index (R) and species evenness index (E) were also significantly higher before logging compared with the values immediately after logging.

The changes in forest vegetation and microclimate were the main factors which affected the composition and diversity of understorey bird species. Thus, logging has changed the composition, the trophic and feeding guild structures as well as the diversity of understorey bird species.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

KESAN SEGERA PEMBALAKAN TERPILIH KE ATAS BURUNG PERINGKAT BAWAH DI HUTAN SIMPAN ULU MUDA, BALING, KEDAH, MALAYSIA

Oleh

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Fakulti: Perhutanan


Nilai index kepelbagaian spesies (H'), index kekayaan spesies (R) dan index keserataan spesies (E) juga tinggi sebelum pembalakan berbanding dengan nilai sejurus selepas pembalakan.

Perubahan terhadap vegitasi hutan dan iklim mikro merupakan faktor utama yang memberi kesan kepada komposisi dan kepelbagaian spesies burung.
peringkat bawah. Oleh yang demikian pembalakan telah didapati mengubah komposisi, struktur tropik dan kumpulan pemakanan serta kepelbagaian spesies burung peringkat bawah.
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May Allah Bless us all
Wassalam
I certify that an Examination Committee met on 20\textsuperscript{th} November 2001 to conduct the final examination of Zamri Rosli on his Master of Science thesis entitled "Immediate Effects of Selective Logging on Understorey Birds in Ulu Muda Forest Reserve, Kedah, Malaysia" in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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ix
This thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science.

AINI IDERIS, Ph.D.
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Dean of Graduate School,
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:
DECLARATION FORM

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

ZAMRI BIN ROSLI

Date:
TABLE OF CONTENTS

| DEDICATION                                      | ii  |
| ABSTRACT                                        | iii |
| ABSTRAK                                         | vi  |
| ACKNOWLEDGMENTS                                 | x   |
| APPROVAL SHEETS                                 | xi  |
| DECLARATION FORM                                | xiii |
| LIST OF TABLES                                  | xvi |
| LIST OF FIGURES                                 | xvii|
| LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS                           | xviii|

CHAPTER

I  INTRODUCTION
   Problem Statement 3
   Justification 4
   Objectives 5

II  LITERATURE REVIEW
   General Introduction 6
      Lowland Rainforest 7
   Logging System in Malaysia 9
      Selective Logging System 10
   Wildlife Habitat 11
      Loss of Habitat 12
      Loss of Species 14
      Changes in the Forest Vegetation 15
      Changes in the Microclimate 16
      Effects of Microclimate Changes 18
      Effects of Logging on Forest Stands 19
      Some Effects of Logging on Wildlife 21
   Tropical Birds Diversity 22
      Understorey Birds 24
      Feeding Guilds 25
      Effects of Logging on Bird Species 27
      Effects of Logging on Bird Food Resources 28
      The Importance of Bird Species 31

III  METHODOLOGY
   Study Area 33
Topography and Soil Type 36
Climate 37
Materials and Methods 39
  Sites Location and Sampling Points 40
  Bird Netting 42
  Bird Identification and Measurement 42
  Microhabitat and Microclimate Data Collection 43
Data Analysis 44
  Statistical Analysis 44
  Diversity Analysis 44
    Species Diversity Index 45
    Species Richness Index 46
    Species Evenness Index 46

IV RESULTS
Species Composition Before and Immediately After Logging 47
Comparison on Species Composition Before and Immediately After Logging 53
Species Diversity 54
  Species Richness 55
  Species Evenness 57
Changes in Trophic Structure and Feeding Guild 58
Changes in Vegetation Before and Immediately After Logging 62
Microclimate Changes Before and Immediately After Logging 63

V DISCUSSION
Immediate Effect of Logging on Understorey Birds Before and Immediately After 65
Immediate Effects of Logging on Trophic Structure and Feeding Guild of Understorey Birds 70
Effects of Logging on Understorey Bird Species Diversity 73
Effects of Changes in Vegetation and Microclimate on Understorey Birds 75

VI CONCLUSION 78
REFERENCES 81
APPENDICES 94
BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR 113
# LIST OF TABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Monthly rainfall (millimetre/year) of Sg. Weng, Ulu Muda Forest Reserve, Baling</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Number of species and the total number of individuals recorded for each group before logging</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Ranking of the 10 most abundant species before logging</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Number of species and the total number of individuals recorded for each group immediately after logging</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Ranking of 10 most abundant species immediately after logging</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Comparison between species diversity indices ($H'$) before and immediately after logging</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Number of expected species [$E(Sn)$] before and immediately after logging in compartment 28/29</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Number of species and individuals of understorey birds before and immediately after logging according to their trophic structure and feeding guild</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Map showing the location of Sg. Weng sub-catchment, Ulu Muda Forest Reserve, Baling, Kedah</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Location of compartment 28/29 in Sg. Weng sub-catchment, Ulu Muda Forest Reserve</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Distribution of mean monthly rainfall of Sg. Weng sub-catchment</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Example of sampling point of net placed in selected habitat</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Location of selected habitats</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ten (10 x 10) m² sampling plots in selected habitats on microhabitat and microclimate data collection</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Number of species and individuals of understorey birds netted before and immediately after logging in Ulu Muda Forest Reserve, Kedah</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Number of species expected using rarefraction curves before and after logging in compartment 28/29</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dbh</td>
<td>Diameter at Breast Height</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C28/29</td>
<td>Compartment 28/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOA</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DWNP</td>
<td>Department of Wildlife and National Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDPM</td>
<td>Forest Department of Peninsular Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sp</td>
<td>Species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sg.</td>
<td>Sungai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS</td>
<td>Malayan Uniform System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMS</td>
<td>Selective Management System</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The tropical rainforest has the most diverse and richest assemblage of plant and animal species in the world. Most wildlife species in the tropical regions depend on the forest for their existence. The forest ecosystem provides the basic necessities such as shelter, refuge and feeding and breeding grounds for them to survive and reproduce.

A large proportion of the forested areas remaining are either logged-over or degraded forest (secondary forest) (Anon, 1990). The size of the primary tropical rainforest is shrinking at a rapid rate. Primary forest is being destroyed at an alarming rate of 1.28 million ha per year. On the other hand, the size of secondary forests is expanding (Lambert, 1992). It is thus important to understand the effects of habitat disturbance or changes on the population of wildlife in secondary forest (logged forest).

Mammals and avians are particularly vulnerable to forest disturbances and clearings for several reasons: a majority of these species depend on primary or tall secondary forests for their existence (Medway, 1983; Stevens, 1968). Many species require extensive areas of forest because of their large home range and all species must maintain their gene pools to a sufficient size as to
ensure their existence in the future. Eighty-four percent of endemic birds (birds that are not found anywhere else) are found in natural forests. Natural forests also make up eighty percent of the endemic bird area.

One of the important impacts of primary forest destruction on bird population is a decrease in species number and change in bird community (Nordin and Zakaria 1997, Blankespoor, 1991). Understorey species have been suggested to be affected mostly when the forest structure is altered (Nordin and Zakaria, 1997). This is because understorey species are highly sensitive to high temperature and light intensity. Johns (1988) reported that a number of large bird species such as hornbills has also been shown to decline in logged forest. This was probably due to the decrease in their preferred big trees that supply them with food and nesting sites. In the process of timber felling and extraction many mature fruit-bearing trees were likely to be damaged (Johns, 1988).

The high demand for timber offers an opportunity to enhance the timber quality of typically overstocked and low quality of forest land in Peninsular Malaysia. However, intense felling, homogeneous felling, removal of potential cavity trees could substantially alter composition and structure of the forest. The destruction of forest habitat will affect avian communities such as bird species composition. It is essential to identify the effects of logging activities on bird communities so that more effective forest and wildlife management strategies and decisions can be made.
Problem of Statement

Issues relating to forest degradation and its effects on wildlife conservation in tropical forests have become a worldwide debate (Anon, 1990). Over exploitation of forest and uncontrolled deforestation are among the main factors contributing to these issues. Land development such as plantations, dam sites, agriculture and the need for timber, has forced the government to obtain land from forest reserve areas with such vigour that these forests, which at one time appeared vast, are in danger of being reduced to fragments. As a result, the wildlife composition is affected and many wildlife species become endangered. For example, in Tekam Forest Reserve, more than seventy-two percent of bird species that occur in the primary forest disappeared after logging ceased (Johns, 1987). Furthermore, some big mammals such as Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*), and Malayan tiger (*Panthera tigris*) are seriously affected by logging (Collins et al. 1991).

The forests of Peninsular Malaysia has 10.4 km of road constructed for every square kilometre of logged forest (Burgess, 1973). Some areas, especially in the northern border of Peninsular Malaysia, such as the Ulu Muda Forest Reserve in Kedah, have hardly been studied since the surrender of communists in 1985. It has an area of 29,987.62 ha and was originally gazetted in September 24, 1932 as a forest reserve in Peninsular Malaysia. The forest was logged in the middle of 1997 and the remaining area was planned to be logged based on the controlled logging method early in the
year 2000. Studies on wildlife in this area started in the year of 1995. It is important to know the status of wildlife species and the immediate effects (less than one year) after logging particularly on avian species.

Justification

There have been many studies on the effects of logging on bird species in this region, such as those conducted by Johns (1987, 1988 and 1989), Dayang (1995), Nordin and Zakaria (1997), Wong (1985), Zakaria (1994) and Zakaria and Francis (1999). However, most of these studies were carried out a few years after the logging had ceased. The studies conducted by Mat Desa (2000) and Jamalul (2000) in Sungai Lalong Forest Reserve were the most recent studies conducted in two different compartments: five-year-old and ten-year-old logged forest. Both studies stated that certain species of understorey birds (e.g. Babblers and Flycatchers) decreased in logged areas. However, the studies also showed that species such as bulbul (e.g.: *Pycnonotus brunneus*, *P. simplex* and *P. erythropthalmus*) and spiderhunter (e.g.: *Arachnothera longirostra*) increased in great numbers after five and ten years after logging. It is important to improve our knowledge on understorey bird species because it will help us to monitor their status, especially those belonging to the category of rare species. Surprisingly, most of understorey birds belong to the insectivore group (e.g.: Babblers and Flycatchers) that feed mainly on insects (Zakaria, 1994). Thus, these species help to control the insect population in the forest (Wong, 1985). The decreasing number of
understorey insectivores will thus affect the balance in the forest ecosystem due to the increase in insect population (Saunders, 1995). Consequently, many trees were destroyed by the insects. The knowledge and continuous research on bird species will help us determine the status of the avians. Moreover, it provides the information for the proper management and planning of the avian species, particularly, the understorey bird species.

Objectives

The general objective of this study is to determine the species composition of understorey birds before and immediately after (less than one year) logging. The specific objectives of the study are:

i) To determine the trophic structure related to the feeding guild of understorey birds before and immediately after logging.

ii) To determine the diversity (species diversity, species richness and species evenness) before and immediately after logging and

iii) To generate a species list of understorey bird population for further research and knowledge.
CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

General Introduction

Tropical rainforest covers about 12 percent of the total global land surface and known as the most suitable habitat for various plant and wildlife (Anon, 1990). Tang et al. (1981) estimated 25,000 species of flowering plants which is about 10 percent of the world's flora. One hectare of tropical forest may contain 400 trees of different species while a typical temperate forest contains a mere 10 to 15 trees per ha (Anon, 1990). There are about 1200 species of birds, 293 species of mammals, 294 species of reptiles, 171 species of amphibians and 449 species of fresh water fishes in Malaysian rainforest (Groombridge, 1996). About ninety percent of mammals and nearly 9000 species of birds in the world can be found in the tropical rain forest (Davison, 1990). Destruction of the tropical rainforest is an irreversible process and if a large area is removed or destroyed, most of the plant and animal species would disappear forever (Bierregaard et al., 1992).

The tropical rainforest of South-East Asia is the oldest and most complex plant society with a very stable equilibrium among the various components of plants and wildlife. It is the most species-rich terrestrial ecosystem in the
Tropical rainforests have between 400-1000 individuals of trees above 10.0 cm diameter at breast height per ha. (Soepadmo and Kira, 1977). Almost thirty percent of trees in tropical rainforests are considered as fruit trees, such as those belonging to the families Anacardiaceae (Mangifera spp.), Moraceae (Arthocarpus spp.), Fagacae (Lithocarpus spp.), Lauraceae (Canarium spp.) and Euphorbiaceae (Pitcellbium spp.). In addition, tropical rainforests are rich in medicinal plants (at least 6,500 species) and ornamental species such as Orchidaceae (nearly 850 species) (Collins et al., 1991).

Malaysia is endowed with extensive areas of valuable natural tropical rainforest, which is extremely rich in species with complex ecosystems as compared to similar areas in Africa and South America. For example, 176 families and nearly 8,500 species of flowering plants can be found in Peninsular Malaysia (Whitmore, 1984). Strange and Jeyarajasingam, 1993 reported that about 638 species of birds and 216 species of mammals, including 81 species of bats can be found in Peninsular Malaysia ().

Lowland Rain Forest

The lowland rainforest has the most diverse and complex ecosystem compared to other forest types. This forest can be classified into five vertical zones, namely ground storey, lower storey, middle storey, upper storey or canopy and emergent. The characteristics of these five zones are different
from each other. The species from the family of Dipterocarpaceae such as *Dipterocarpus oblongifolius* is the most common genus in this forest whereas the *Shorea* species such as *Shorea leprosula* and *S. curtisii* is the most dominant one (Zamri, 1998). Moreover, the distribution of tree species also shows the difference according to their ecological range. Many of the lowland dipterocarp forest tree genera are present in lowland rainforests but with different species composition.

Most of the wildlife species such as birds (babblers, flycatchers and broadbills), big mammals (tigers, elephants and rhinoceros) and primates (gibbons, macaque and langurs) in the tropical rain forest prefer to occupy the lowland rainforests as their primary habitat (Johns, 1983b, 1986, 1987 and 1997; Medway, 1983; Zakaria and Nordin, 1998). Although most of the primary forest in the world is being destroyed everyday and will become a secondary forest, the regeneration rates will remain a long time, however, the forest is still able to provide food source and shelter for many wildlife species to survive (Zakaria, 1994). The destruction of this lowland forest could decrease the number of population of those species.