

# Report on a Bird Survey at Mount Dulit, Bintulu (Sarawak, Malaysia)

16–20 May & 25–27 June 2018



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# INTRODUCTION

- Mount Dulit has a high level of biological endemism
- 40 species of birds, representing about  $2/3^{\text{rd}}$  of the 62 Bornean endemics have been recorded here.

- For Example:

Dulit Partridge

(Rare, named after the place, has not been seen or recorded since 1937, 80 years)

# Other highly-sought endemics

- Dulit Frogmouth (*Arborophila hyperythra*)
- Bornean Frogmouth (*Batrachostamus mixtus*)
- Bornean Ground Babbler (*Ptilocichla leucogrammica*)
- Bornean Ground Cuckoo\* (*Carpococcyx radiceus*)

NOTE: \* = indicates that the species is rare

# Conserving Mount Dulit

- Mount Dulit has high conservation values
- Must be protected
- Can be a top birding/ecotourism destination in Sarawak



*Figure 1: Location of Mount Dulit in Sarawak, Malaysia*

- 30-km ridge, south of Sungai tinjar in Ulu Baram, North Sarawak
- 300m asl to 1400 asl

Comprises:

- Logged over Mixed Dipterocarp Forest
- Intact Lower Montane
- Intact Highland Heath Forest
- Secondary Alluvial, south of the mountain

# METHODS

- Walked along forest trails and logging roads
- Drove up to high elevation of the mountain, stopped to observe birds
- Survey was conducted day and night
- Bird sounds were recorded and photographed
- Sporadic use of call playbacks to confirm bird responses

# RESULTS

- 156 species were recorded at different altitudinal zones
- In this survey, 21 Borneon endemics were recorded
- This survey added a further 71 species to the list of birds ever recorded in Mount Dulit, summing up the confirmed species to 168.
- The combined check list of 2016 (97 species) and this survey 2018 (71 species) now has 168 species
- Bird species recorded by past surveys were not recorded in this survey
- Future surveys will reveal even more unrecorded species (???)

# MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommended for conservation as a national park

## Reasons:

- HCV and huge potential for avifauna tourism
- Spectacular views
  
- Do not allow steep terrain and highland forests to be logged
- 2 logging camps operating in the area
- Monitor hunting activities
- Stop large scale clearing activities

NOTE: There is a separate page on “Mount Dulit as a Birding Destination” attached to the full report.



Figure (i): Heath forest at higher altitude of Mount Dulit



Figure (ii): Heath forest at upper Mount Dulit



Figure (iii): Old logging road at upper Mount Dulit



Figure (iv): Local hunters with their dogs along the logging track



Figure (v): Forests clearings can be observed along the logging road, presumably for shifting agriculture activities. Date: 25 June 2018.



Figure (vi): Oil palm seedlings placed along the logging road, ready to be planted.



Figure (vii): Sungai Asap Longhouse, with potentials to be developed into proper homestay for ecotourism



Figure (viii): Inside view of rooms at homestays, Sungai Asap Longhouse

THANK YOU