



DISTRIBUTION OF SRI LANKA DULL-BLUE FLYCATCHER (*Eumyias sordidus*) IN TROPICAL MONTANE CLOUD FORESTS OF THE HORTON PLAINS NATIONAL PARK

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ABSTRACT

Distribution of the Sri Lanka Dull-blue Flycatcher (*Eumyias sordidus*) was studied at the Montane Cloud Forests of Horton Plains National Park, situated in the highland plateau of the Nuwara Eliya District from September 2015 to May 2016. Three main habitats were identified as Cloud Forest habitat, Cloud Forest Die-back habitat and Grassland habitat. Three, 300m fixed line transects were marked in each of the habitats using a global positioning system device (GPS). Avifauna was recorded on three consecutive days each month while travelling along the transects, from 0530h to 1030h. Birds were observed through a 10x50 binocular. Opportunistic data and incidental observations were used to supplement the population estimates. Microsoft Excel™ and Minitab 14™ were used to analyze the data. 104 individuals were recorded from the Cloud Forest habitat, 60 individuals from the Cloud Forest Die-back habitat and 2 individuals were recorded from the Grassland habitat. Relative abundance of the *E.sordidus* was 2.3% in the cloud Forest habitat and they were the ninth abundant species in that habitat. In the Cloud Forest Die-back habitat relative abundance of this species was 3.21% and it was the sixth abundant species. In the Grassland habitat the relative abundance of *E.sordidus* was 0.07% and it was twenty seventh abundant species. Present study revealed that Cloud Forest is the preferred habitat of *E.sordidus*.

Keywords: Sri Lanka Dull-blue Flycatcher, Endemic Birds, Horton Plains, Distribution, Tropical Montane Cloud Forest

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