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**ASPECTS OF THE FORAGING ECOLOGY OF
SELECTED BIRD SPECIES IN
UDAWATTAKELE FOREST RESERVE, SRI LANKA.**

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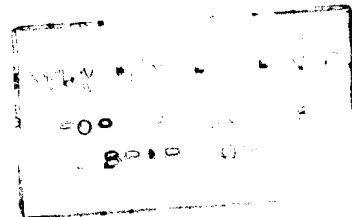
CHAMINDA S. WIJESUNDARA

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POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, SRI LANKA

*in partial fulfillment of the requirement
for the award of the degree of*

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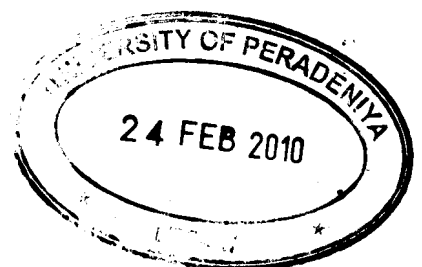


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**ASPECTS OF THE FORAGING ECOLOGY OF
SELECTED BIRD SPECIES IN
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Abstract

Several parameters of foraging ecology were studied in selected species of coexisting birds. The study was undertaken in Udawattakele Forest Reserve, Kandy, Sri Lanka, from July 2003 to July 2005. The selected species were Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus humii*, Yellow-browed Bulbul *Acritillas indica indica*, Yellow-fronted Barbet *Megalaima flavifrons*, Small Barbet *Megalaima rubricapillus rubricapillus*, Indian Hill Mynah *Gracula religiosa indica*, Red-backed Woodpecker *Dinopium benghalense psarodes*, Crimson-backed Woodpecker *Chrysocolaptes lucidus stricklandi*, Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis taprobana*, Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis capensis*, Layard's Parakeet *Psittacula calthorpeae*, Sri Lanka Lorikeet *Loriculus beryllinus*, Brown-capped Babbler *Pellorneum fuscicapillus fuscicapillus*, and White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus leggei*.

It was hypothesized that ecologically similar species are able to coexist in the same habitat due to differences in various aspects of their foraging behavior and some aspects of their foraging ecology, such as food type consumed, foraging habitat, foraging site, and foraging height.

The study revealed that the sympatric species under study were able to coexist in the same habitat due to differences in various aspects of their foraging ecology. The black bulbul and the yellow-browed bulbul showed differences in the type of food consumed, foraging site, and foraging height. The yellow-fronted barbet, small barbet, and Indian hill mynah showed differences in foraging site and foraging height. The red-backed woodpecker and the crimson-backed woodpecker showed differences in the type of food consumed and foraging site. The common kingfisher and stork-billed kingfisher showed differences in the type of food consumed, foraging habitat, foraging site, and foraging height. Layard's parakeet and Sri Lanka lorikeet showed differences in the type of food consumed, whereas the brown-capped babbler and white-rumped shama showed differences in their foraging heights.

These parameters were considered as mechanisms of coexistence of the respective pairs (or more) of ecologically similar species. The results obtained from this study were generally similar to the results from a number of previous studies carried out elsewhere (outside Sri Lanka).