

Weights of some birds from the Malaysian forest floor

PHILIP MCGOWAN

There are very few data on the weights of ground-dwelling birds from Sundaic rainforest. Collectors such as Herbert Robinson and Frederick Chasen laid the foundations of knowledge of bird distributions in the region, but although they routinely took morphological measurements of specimens, they did not record weights. The lack of information on the Black Partridge, for example, led Johnsgard (1988) to estimate its weight at 260 g and give only the average weight of several captive Crested Partridges.

During a study on the Malayan Peacock Pheasant, a number of ground-dwelling birds were trapped and weighed in forest adjacent to the Kuala Lompat Ranger Post, Peninsular Malaysia in 1988 and 1989. This site lies at the south-east edge of the Krau Wildlife Reserve and comprises lowland dipterocarp forest over fairly flat land between the confluence of the Lompat and Krau Rivers. Weights were made with Pesola spring balances.

The weights obtained are given below (Table 1), together with other published data, where known

Table 1 Weights of some ground-dwelling bird species from Malaysia

Species	Date	Sex	Weight (g)	Published data	
Malayan Peacock Pheasant <i>Polyplectron malacense</i>	16 May 1988	Female	540	1 male: 680 g (Riley 1938)	
	17 May 1988	Male	630		
	17 May 1988	Male (juv.)	600		
	4 February 1989	Female	455		
	15 February 1989	Male	650		
Crested Partridge <i>Rollulus rouloul</i>	16 May 1988	Male	260	Males 225-285 g Female 225 g (sample size not given: Hume and Davison 1878)	
	16 May 1988	Male	280	2 males 250 & 280 g 1 female 275 g (Davison 1979)	
	17 May 1988	Male	300		
	17 May 1988	Male	265		
	17 May 1988	Female	245		
	17 May 1988	Female	235		
	18 May 1988	Male	280		
	18 May 1988	Male	280		
	Black Partridge <i>Melanoperdix nigra</i>	25 June 1988	Male	280	
	Emerald Dove <i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	18 May 1988	?	150	
19 May 1988		?	125		
21 May 1988		?	145		
Garnet Pitta <i>Pitta granatina</i>	16 May 1988	?	70		

? indicates sex unknown

REFERENCES

- Davison, G. W. H. (1979) A survey of terrestrial birds in the Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak. *Sarawak Museum* 7: 283-293.
- Hume, A. O. and Davison, W. (1878) A revised list of the birds of Tenasserim. *Stray Feathers* 6: i-vii + 1-524.
- Johnsgard, P. A. (1988) *The quails, partridges and francolins of the world*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Riley, J. H. (1938) Bird from Siam and the Malay Peninsula in the United States National Museum collected by Drs Hugh M. Smith and William L. Abbott. *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 172: i-iv + 1-581.

Philip McGowan, WWT Wetland Centre, Castle Espie, Ballydrain Road, Comber, Newtownards, BT23 6EA, U.K.