

Philippine Hanging Parrot/Parakeet

Local Name: 'Bolibising' (Ilocano); 'Kulasisi' (Tagalog)

Distribution: Philippines distributed from Luzon to Mindanao (IUCN, 2001).

Habitat: Lives in lowland to upland forests, coconut and fruit tree plantations, parks, and sparsely wooded farm areas

Characteristics: Philippine Hanging Parrots are the smallest parrots in the Philippines. As observed during the day, they forage singly or in pairs by clinging up and down on branches of trees in parks, farms, lowland, and upland forests. These birds are easily attracted to their similar species; thus, they are easily trapped by bird collectors. Their breeding season is summer. The male is distinguished from the female in terms of its red color on its throat while female does not have this color.

Foods: Birds found in BSU were observed to be sucking nectar from coral trees and calliandra flowers but also feed on different kinds of fruits, seeds, and larvae.



Figure 35. Philippine Hanging Parrot/Parakeet (front of CF building, BSU, La Trinidad)

Pycnonotidae

The birds under Pycnonotidae family are represented by 27 genera distributed across Africa, Middle East, tropical Asia, Indonesia, Japan, and the Philippines. Some birds under Family Pycnonotidae are found in various habitats but African species are predominantly found in rainforests. Birds under Pycnonotidae feed on variety of fruits, seeds, nectar and insects (Fishpool & Tobias, 2016).

Philippine Bulbul

Distribution: Endemic to the Philippines (IUCN, 2001).

Habitat: The Philippine Bulbul lives in lowland subtropical or tropical moist lowland forest and

subtropical or tropical moist montane forests.

Characteristics: As observed during the day, these birds roam around singly or in pairs in search for food. It was observed in La Trinidad, Benguet that these birds perch on branches of high trees.

Food: Feeds on varieties of insects and ripe forest berries.



Figure 36. Philippine Bulbul (Calliandra stand at the back of the CF building)

Yellow Vented Bulbul

Local Name: 'Piroroca' (Ilocano)

Distribution: South East Asia including Philippines from Luzon to Mindanao.

Habitat: Lives in open areas with clumps of trees and shrubs (IUCN, 2001).

Characteristics: As observed during the day, these birds move by pairs or sometimes in groups of 2-3 pairs. They forage during early sunrise and before sunset. These birds are used to following their foraging route. In La Trinidad, Benguet, these birds are seen every morning and afternoon foraging nectar of calliandra. Yellow Vented Bulbul mate during any month of the year. Their nests are made of dry grasses and leaves.

Food: Yellow Vented Bulbul was observed in La Trinidad feeding on strawberries, fruits of trees, seeds, nectar, and insects.



Figure 37. Yellow Vented Bulbul Male and Female (BSU Strawberry Farm, La Trinidad)



Rallidae

The Rallidae family is represented by small to medium-sized ground-living birds like crakes, coots, and gallinules. Many species under Rallidae inhabit wetlands, rivers, creeks, and lakes. They are especially fond of dense vegetation and feed on various types of food such as crustaceans, worms, insects, spiders, seeds, and small fishes (BirdLife International, 2015).

Buff Banded Rail

Distribution: These species and several subspecies are found throughout the South-west Pacific region, including the Philippines, New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, and numerous smaller islands (IUCN, 2001).

Habitat: These birds are resident birds mostly found on wetlands, creeks, and rivers surrounded by grasses and other vegetation (Birdwatch.ph, 2009).

Characteristics: In Benguet, Buff Banded Rails are mostly seen walking along river banks searching for food. They are shy types of birds preferring to run and hide among bushes.

During nesting season, they build their nest in dense grassy vegetation close to the water.

Food: The Buff Banded Rail is an omnivorous bird feeding on worms, crustaceans, insects, spiders, seeds, small fishes, and ripened fallen fruits.



Figure 38. Buff Banded Rail (Balili River near BSU farms in Balili, La Trinidad)

Common Moorhen

Local Name: 'Tokling' (Kankanaey/Ilocano); 'Ulok' (Tagalog)

Distribution: Philippines, Taiwan, China, Indonesia, Thailand, and other countries and islands of the Pacific (IUCN, 2001).

Habitat: These species of birds are seen along freshwater swamps, rivers, and creeks sheltered by tall bushes and other vegetations. Common Moorhens were observed inhabiting a creek surrounded by Napier grasses in the agricultural

areas of the Benguet State University Strawberry Farm and Balili River in La Trinidad, Benguet.

Characteristics: The Common Moorhen is a black-colored water bird a bit smaller than the chicken with a red ring on both feet and frontal shield. Common Moorhens do not have webbed feet but they can swim and dive under water very well. As observed, they favor mating near the onset of the rainy season because food is abundant during these months. They build nests from grasses and twigs and are placed in between vegetation raised above the ground to avoid flooding.

Food: Common Moorhen feeds on earthworms, crustaceans, mollusks, different kinds of insects, spiders, small fishes, tadpoles, algae, mosses, aquatic plants, and were also observed in La Trinidad eating ripened strawberry fruits.



Figure 39. Common Moorhen (BSU Strawberry Farm, La Trinidad, Benguet)

White-Breasted Waterhen/Swamphen

Local Name: 'Tokling' (Ilocano/Kankanaey); 'Salikuak' (Tagalog)

Distribution: Distributed in Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent. In the Philippines, waterhens are found in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao areas (IUCN, 2001).

Habitat: In the Philippines, waterhens are residents of marshes, creeks, rivers, and small canals surrounded by grasses and other vegetations.

Characteristics: Waterhens have white face, breast, and belly. They are observed during the day slowly walking with their tail moving up and down along rivers or marshy areas. They belong to crepuscular animals being active during twilight and dawn. They are noisy, producing croaking calls during the breeding season, usually after first rainfall at the onset of rainy season. These birds build their nest using grasses placed at the base of grasses close to or raised a few inches from the ground.

Food: Eats water plants, seeds, fallen berries, small fishes, beetles, small snails, and invertebrates.





Figure 40. White-Breasted Swampphen and her chick (Balili River, La Trinidad)

Rhipiduridae

The Rhipiduridae family is represented by all fantails found in many Pacific Ocean islands. Fantails are easily identified with their tails that fold and open, forming an arc-like fan, and whistle as they move (Andersen, Hosner, Filardi, & Moyle, 2015).

Blue-Headed Fantail

Common Name: Blue-headed Fantail

Local Name: 'Labey' (Kankanaey)

Distribution: Endemic to the Philippines (IUCN, 2001).

Habitat: Lives in the lowlands, pine, and mossy forests.

Characteristics: This bird is endemic to where it is found. It was observed that sometimes the Blue-Headed Fantail is noisy, bringing out a series of 'chip-chip-chip-chip' sounds. It spreads its fantail as it moves from one tree to another.

Mating season for Blue-Headed Fantail is during the end of rainy season and nests on branches of trees or shrubs (BirdLife International, 2012_p).

Food: Feeds on different kinds of small insects.



Figure 41. Blue-Headed Fantail (Tabangaoen Forest, Balili, La Trinidad)

Sittidae

Nuthatches, sittellas, and the wall creeper are under Family Sittidae within the Passeriformes. The nuthatches have a large head, short tail and neck, strong feet, sharp chisel-shaped bill, blue-gray feathers above the body and white or brownish below, with white stripe over the eye. Nuthatches feed on small fruits, seeds, and insects (BirdLife International, 2012_p).

Sulphur-Billed Nuthatch

Distribution: Endemic to the Philippines (IUCN, 2001).

Habitat: Lives in subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests and subtropical or tropical moist montane forests. These are seen in Benguet pine and mossy forests in Benguet.

Characteristics: These birds are seen in the forest moving singly or in pairs, climbing up and going down on stems and branches of trees searching for food. These birds breed during summer time (Harrap, 2016).

Foods: These birds feed on insects hiding in mosses attached to branches and trunk of trees like small beetles and small flies. These birds also feed on spiders and different larvae found in stems of trees.



Figure 42. Sulphur-billed Nuthatch (Pine Forest, Wangal, La Trinidad)

Strigidae

Of the two families of owls, Family Strigidae has more representative species. Owls of the Strigidae family have sharp, hooked bills and talons, large heads and forward-facing eyes, round faces, flexible necks, long bodies, and soft, thick feathers. Owls occupy various habitats. They eat small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, eggs, and fishes. Majority of them have cryptic coloration that camouflage them from their prey (Sahney, Benton, & Paul, 2010).

