

**SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF SRI LANKA DULL-BLUE FLYCATCHER  
(*Eumyiassordidus*) IN THE HORTON PLAINS NATIONAL PARK**

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**ABSTRACT**

Seasonal distribution of endemic, Sri Lanka Dull-blue Flycatcher (*Eumyiassordidus*) was studied at Horton Plains National Park, situated in the highland plateau of the NuwaraEliya District, during January 2016 to December 2016. Three main habitats were selected as Cloud Forest habitat, Cloud Forest Die-back habitat and Grassland habitat. Three, 100m fixed line transects were marked in each of the habitats using a Global Positioning System (GPS) device. Population of *E. sordidus* was recorded on three consecutive days in each month while travelling along the transects, from 0530h to 1030h. Individuals were observed through a 10x50 binocular. Kestrel TM 4000 weather tracker was used to obtain environmental parameters. Highest abundance,  $15.27 \pm 11.05$  (Mean  $\pm$  Standard deviation) was recorded during South-west monsoon season from May to September. Abundance of *E. sordidus* did not differ significantly among other climatic seasons (Kruskal-Wallis Test,  $p > 0.05$ ). During the South-west monsoon season the environmental temperature was  $17.48 \pm 3.77^{\circ}\text{C}$  (M $\pm$ SD), relative humidity was  $83.20 \pm 10.62\%$  (M $\pm$ SD), wind speed was  $14.29 \pm 12.80\text{Kmh}^{-1}$  (M $\pm$ SD) and rainfall was  $143.5 \pm 137.3\text{mm}$  (M $\pm$ SD). There was a positive correlation between relative humidity and *E.sordidus* abundance (Pearson correlation  $r = 0.991$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). Relationship between the wind speed and *E.sordidus* abundance too was positive (Pearson correlation  $r = 1.000$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). Present study revealed that *E. sordidus* preferred high humid and low temperature environmental conditions.

**KEY WORDS:** Sri Lanka Dull-blue Flycatcher, endemic birds, Horton plains, seasonal distribution, tropical montane cloud forest.