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Research Article

Avian Species Survey Across Urban Habitat Types in Malolos City, Bulacan, Philippines

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ABSTRACT

This study examined bird diversity across four habitat types in Malolos City, Bulacan: agricultural zones, wetlands/ near coastal areas, urban parks/institutional sites, and remnant woodlots. Standardized point counts were conducted in 16 plots (four per habitat), and diversity was evaluated using species richness, Shannon–Wiener (H′), Pielou's evenness (J′), rarefaction, and species accumulation curves. A total of 32 species were recorded. Remnant woodlots supported the highest richness (26 species) and showed the steepest rarefaction trend, while agricultural areas supported moderate richness (10 species). Wetlands and urban parks had lower but comparable richness (8 species each). Overall diversity was moderate (H′ = 1.240), with high evenness (J′ = 0.894). Results emphasize the ecological importance of remnant woodlots as key biodiversity reservoirs and the complementary role of agricultural and wetland habitats. Conservation strategies should focus on protecting woodlots, enhancing farmland and riparian vegetation, and promoting habitat heterogeneity in urban planning to sustain avian communities.

Key words: bird diversity; urban ecology; remnant woodlots; agricultural habitats; wetlands; urban parks; Malolos City