
Seasonality in singing activity of birds in tropical lowland rainforest of Mount Cameroon

Jana Vokurková*^{†1}, Ondřej Sedláček¹, Michal Ferenc¹, Francis Njie², and David Hořák¹

¹Charles University in Prague (CZECH REPUBLIC) (UK) – Department of Ecology, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague, Viničná 7, CZ-12844 Prague 2, Czech Republic

²Limbe Botanic Garden – Etome Village-Limbe, Cameroon

Abstract

In relative comparison to the temperate zone, tropical areas are much more stable. This applies in particular to the temperature and the length of the daylight. Stability in environmental conditions in tropics is reflected in the relatively stable food supply throughout the year. It is thus generally expected that the breeding of tropical bird species can be spread throughout the year and is synchronized with other, less predictable environmental conditions, such as precipitation and peaks of availability of food sources. Just like the seasons, it is suggested that annual cycles of singing and breeding activity may not be clearly defined in the tropics. However, such predictions are rarely supported by empirical studies so far. This is mainly because year-round monitoring of singing and breeding activity of bird communities in the tropics using conventional methods is financially and logistically challenging. The newly developed bioacoustic approaches using automatic recording of sounds provide probably the easiest way how to obtain the data on a year-round singing activity of bird communities, even on long-term scales. In our study we focus on seasonality in singing activity of birds and comparison among different feeding guilds in tropical lowland rainforest of Mt. Cameroon. Knowledge of the distribution of reproductive effort of bird species in the tropics are a key requirement for any considerations about the differences in the evolution of life histories along latitudinal gradient.

Keywords: Bird, song, tropics, lowland forest, seasonality

*Speaker

[†]Corresponding author: jankavok@seznam.cz