



Birds of Pelong Rocks. M. Wong & H. M. bin H. Ibrahim, 1996. 70 pp. Brunei Museum, Brunei Darussalam.

This book is the first in the series on the Natural History of Brunei Darussalam and reports some natural history observations made by authors on Pelong Rocks. Pelong Rocks are a group of small rocky islands in South China sea. The book aims to give a brief introduction to some of the birds recorded on the island and is primarily aimed at non-scientific readers. It starts with a brief introduction to the geology, habitat types, and vegetation of the rocks. Then it gives natural history notes on resident (the Reef Egret, *Egretta sacra*; terns, *Sterna* spp. and *Chlidonias* spp.; and the Pied Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula bicolor*) and migratory bird species (the White-bellied Sea Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucogaster*; White-collared Kingfisher, *Todirhamphus chloris*; and Blue Rock Thrush, *Monticola solitarius*). The book ends with brief notes on how, why, and where to study birds (applicable both to Pelong Rocks and Brunei Darussalam).

Considering that the natural history data are lacking for most of Southeast Asian bird species, this book could be useful both to scientists and non-scientists. I hope that similar books would be published from other areas of Southeast Asia so that notes made by people studying natural history are properly documented.

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