



THE ORIENTAL PIED

Issue 52 Oct 2022 (Editor: Chan Kai Soon)

Branch E-mail: mnsperak@gmail.com

Chairperson: Leow Kon Fah

Vice Chair: Zaharil Dzulkafly

Hon. secretary: Georgia Tham Yim Fong

Hon. treasurer: Har Wai Ming

Committee members: Mah King Wah, Robert Christopher Percival, Tou Jing Yi, Dr. Komala A/P Thirumalai, Dr. Chan Kai Soon, Lee Yuat Wah.

Bird Group Coordinator: Dr. Chan Kai Soon

Education Group Coordinator: Lee Yuat Wah

Hon. Auditor: Lim Swee Cheng, Liew Chin Chow

Snail mail: The Malaysian Nature Society, MNS Perak Branch

Meeting venue: No.70, Jln. Chan Chee Keong, Ipoh Garden South, 31400 Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia

Map: <https://mnsperak.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/branch-building.jpg>

Branch Website: <https://mnsperak.wordpress.com/>

Contents

- 1) Message from the Editor
- 2) Survey on Birds of Rehabilitated Mangroves (Mar-Aug 2022)
- 3) Clements 2022 Updates (Malaysian Summary) by Tou Jing Yi
- 4) Comments for Terms of Reference for Proposed 4280 Hectares Plantation in Kledang Saiong Forest Reserve
- 5) Comments in Regards to Forest Management Certification in Perak by SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd
- 6) Ipoh High Court rejects cement company's bid to evict Kanthan Sakyamuni Caves monastery occupants
- 7) Enzymes in worm saliva may help ease plastic pollution
- 8) Report: eBird Global Big Day 8th Oct 2022
- 9) Report: Raptor Watch (Bukit Bankong Chemor) 10th Oct 2022
- 10) Event: WhatsApp Chat Group for Birding

Message from the editor

Dear members,

This is the 52nd issue of the branch newsletter and the Covid-19 pandemic scenario in Malaysia appears to be worsening again due to another new strain. It will add to the problems faced by our branch even though there is no tightening of the SOPs on Covid. Coupled with other problems such as closure of all Taman Eko Rimbas it will be a challenge for us to conduct more activities. In fact, some of our committee meetings (bird groups as well as branch exco meetings) had been conducted on the electronic platform or a combination of electronic plus physical attendance.

As you might have already known, a new MNS president had been elected in the recent September national AGM and a new team of council members will be running MNS. Due to my work pressure and lack of free time, I had not been able to produce this issue of the newsletter on time and I would like to apologize for this delay. I am finding it more and more difficult to produce the newsletter

and hopefully someone with the time can take over the preparation of the newsletter eventually when I am not able to continue to be the editor.

Love Life, Love Nature
Chan Kai Soon
TOP editor / Bird Group Coordinator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / NEWS / UPDATES

Survey on Birds of Rehabilitated Mangroves (Mar-Aug 2022)

The sixth and last survey is still pending since the centre is still closed for renovation and also all recreational parks managed by Perhutanan Perak are closed till end of the year. The project manager (Sonny Wong) had been informed and we await further news of the reopening of the centre so that the last survey could be completed or we cancel the last survey if instructed by FRIM.

Clements 2022 Updates (Malaysian Summary) by Tou Jing Yi

There were only 6 species added for the Malaysian checklist due to splits, all 6 were contributed by the different forms in Borneo, including:

1. Crestless Fireback (Pegar Bertam) is split into Malayan Crestless Fireback (Pegar Bertam) and Bornean Crestless Fireback (Pegar Dada Lekir)
2. Crested Fireback (Pegar Tatera) is split into Malayan Crested Fireback (Pegar Tatera) and Bornean Crested Fireback (Pegar Perut Coklat)
3. Sabah Partridge (Seruk-Bukit Sabah) is split off from Chestnut-necklaced Partridge (Seruk-Bukit Kaki Kuning)
4. Chestnut-winged Babbler (Kekicau-Kecil Kelip) is split into Chestnut-winged Babbler (Kekicau-Kecil Kelip Biasa) and Gray-hooded Babbler (Kekicau-Kecil Kelip Borneo)
5. White-crowned Shama (Murai-Hutan Uban) is split off from White-rumped Shama (Murai-Hutan Biasa)
6. Bornean Forktail (Cegar Raya Borneo) is split off from White-crowned Forktail (Cegar Raya Biasa)

On top of that, some species have their names updated due to splits and merges, some with changes in English names, some with Malay names, and some both. We only have 1 form in the country, so it does not affect species count, including:

1. Asian Woolly-necked Stork (Upih Leher Putih Asia)

is split from Woolly-necked Stork (Upih Leher Putih)

2. Siamese Pied Starling (Perling Telinga Putih Biasa) is split off from Asian Pied Starling (Perling Telinga Putih)

3. Bornean Shortwing (Murai-Kerdil Bercelak Borneo) is split off from the now collapsed White-browed Shortwing (Murai-Kerdil Bercelak Biasa)

4. Malaysian Blue-banded Kingfisher is split from Blue-banded Kingfisher, Malay name unchanged as "Rajaudang Bukit Melayu"

5. Sunda Scimitar-Babbler is split from Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler, Malay name unchanged as "Kekicau-Melengkung Bercelak Melayu"

6. Vinous-breasted Starling (Gembala-Kerbau Topeng Hitam) is split as renamed in Malay as "Gembala-Kerbau Topeng Hitam Timur"

7. Blyth's Shrike-Babbler is merged back into reunited White-browed Shrike-Babbler, Malay name unchanged as "Cekup-Kekicau Bercelak Biasa"

8. Sunda Bush Warbler is merged into Abberant Bush Warbler, Malay name unchanged as "Cekup-Semak Biasa"

Some taxonomical changes took place:

1. Spotted Dove is now placed in genus *Spilopelia*

2. Both Dusky Eagle-Owl and Barred Eagle-Owl were moved to genus *Ketupa*

3. Striated Grassbird is now moved to *Cincloramphus* by mistake, it will be reverted back to *Megalurus* in 2023 update.

And some minor changes to the English name, including removal of hyphens from all "Jungle-Flycatcher" and "Palm-Swift", plus Tabon Scrubfowl is renamed to "Philippine Megapode".

So far these are the updates I found, if I missed out any, please kindly inform me. Thanks.

Editor note: For a complete details of the update, please follow this link:

https://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/updateindex/october-2022/updates-corrections-october-2022/?_hstc=60209138.4716f330d5773954ce020ca5512f4225.1656584465189.1666768965051.1667121425489.11&_hssc=60209138.1.1667121425489&_hsfp=2525672310&_gl=1%2Awpjl9c%2A_ga%2AMTg5NDkzMzUxNC4xNjU2NTg0NDY0%2A_ga_QR4NVXZ8BM%2AMTY2NzEyMTQyMi40LjAuMTY2NzEyMTQyMi42MC4wLjA.&_ga=2.124656842.1172086137.1667121423-1894933514.1656584464

Comments for Terms of Reference for Proposed 4280 Hectares Plantation in Kledang Saiong Forest Reserve

On 30th August 2022, the branch received a letter from Department of Environment. It was for the branch to give comments for terms of reference (TOR) for proposed 4280 ha plantation in Kledang Saiong Forest Reserve. TOR is a document where key matters are identified before environmental impact assessment (EIA) is carried out. The proposed project is huge in size and one of

the nearest to Ipoh city. Such projects of turning forested forest reserves into plantations (although the land status remains as forest reserves), are not favourable and the followings were the branch's comments:

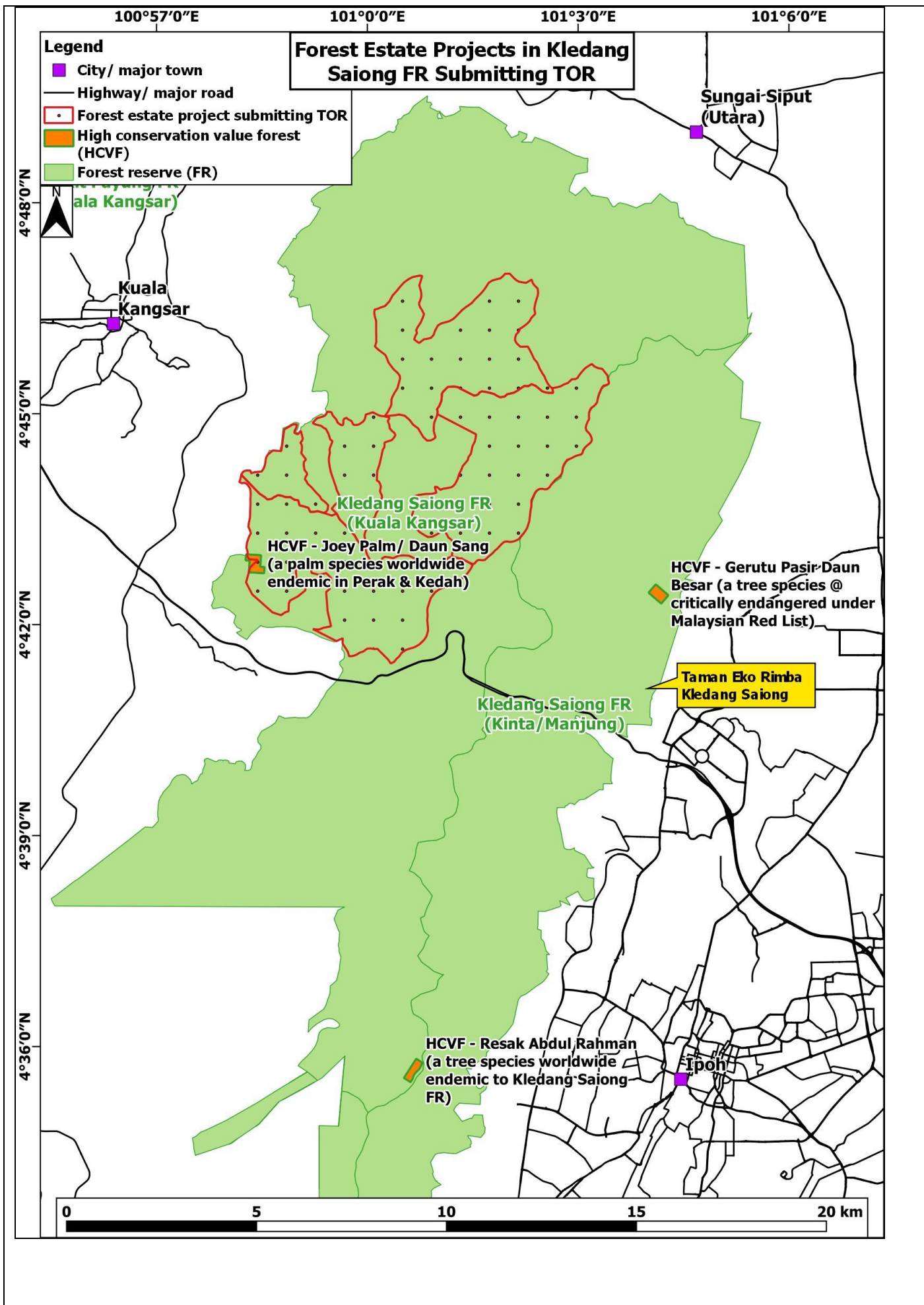
A. Comments in General, Not Referring to Terms of Reference (TOR)

We would like to seek the authorities to reconsider the proposed projects for the following reasons:

1. At a total of 4280 ha in a forest reserve, the proposed project is going to have high impacts, including on ecology;
2. It's a general knowledge that deforestation could cause habitat loss, biodiversity loss, climate change, risk of extinction etc., and yet it's keep continuing;
3. Kledang Saiong Forest Reserve (FR) is already a fragmented forest by city, town etc. with the proposed projects located in between the Perak's state capital (Ipoh) and royal city (Kuala Kangsar);
4. Kledang Saiong FR is habitat to an endemic palm species known as Joey Palm/ *Daun Sang* (*Johannesteijmannia perakensis*). Globally, the palm has been recorded in a few pristine forests in Perak and Kedah only. Additionally, there is a small plot on the western border of Rimba Kembara site, where a High Conservation Value (HCV) Forest is known to had been allocated for the Joey Palm. Kledang Saiong FR is also known two be allocated for another two HCVF, although they are some distance away from the proposed projects. Both are for flora species with one for Gerutu Pasir Daun Besar (*Parashorea globose*) and *Resak Abdul Rahman* (*Vatica abdulrahmaniana*);
5. Another critical species present in Kledang Saiong FR is Siamang, which is totally protected, endangered and a strictly arboreal primate. In Mainland Asia, this species is present only in Peninsular Malaysia and southern tip of Thailand. It's usually present in mountains and hills and its presence in Kledang Saiong FR is quite special;
6. The four proposed project sites are going to fragment an area of Kledang Saiong FR in the middle of them (estimated to be about 400 ha);
7. There would be an unpleasant sight and loss of aesthetic value from Kuala Kangsar township and PLUS Highway, when a FR area close to 4,000 is made barren and terraced;
8. Based on general observation, many projects, including plantations in forest reserves, don't implement much mitigation measures proposed in EIA reports;
9. Taman Eko Rimba Kledang Saiong is located just at the fringe of 5 km from the proposed projects. It is a recreational forest/ tourists spot with one of frequent visitors to photograph birds is DYAM Raja DiHilir Perak. The proposed projects may impact the bird's population and other fauna, which are attractions to the park.

B. Comments on TOR

Page	Comments
TOR 2, TOR 4, ESI 81 & ESI 89	For 'Development Stage', there is one environmental impact is missing, namely ecological impact, which includes habitat loss, flora and fauna loss including roadkill, poaching, human-wildlife conflict, extinction risk especially for endemic species. This impact should be included and mitigation measures proposed.
ESI 25	Figure 2.8 (a map) mentions 'Phasing' but no phasing is shown in the map.
ESI 40, item 2.8.3.3.3	Heading mentions 'Insects' but many other subjects are actually mentioned in the paragraph such as fungi, rats, squirrels, monkeys and wild pigs. There is no hedgehog in Malaysia.
ESI 40, Table 2.15	Pesticides would be another impact to ecology and should be elaborated.
ESI 45, Table 2.21	Environmental officer (EO), assistant EO, wildlife officer and wildlife rangers seem to be missing.
ESI 47, item 3.2	The text ““No Project” option is not necessary the better option”. The same could be said that “With Project” is also not necessarily the better option.
ESI 47, Table 3.1	The texts “No additional revenue earnings”. Should mention intangible value from ecosystem services, carbon sequestration, climate regulation, biodiversity stock, aesthetic value etc.
ESI 67	The texts “Ten cameras will be deployed for one month...” For a total of 4280 ha project, 10 camera traps for one month are insufficient. At least 25 should be used for at least two months. It was noted from two approved EIAs before this, where the terrestrial fauna lead assessor never shared any photos/ videos of camera trapping in the EIAs. This time photos/ videos must be share d.Red List of Mammals for Peninsular Malaysia (version 2, 2017) is missing.
ESI 74	R & R Sungai Perak is missing.
ESI 87, item 8.5	For 'Waste Management', urging to elaborate a little bit on 3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) and highly urge to be practised.
ESI 87, item 8.6	The texts “Camera traps (20 units) will be deployed...” Urging to deploy at least 25 camera traps.



Comments in Regards to Forest Management Certification in Perak by SIRIM QAS International Sdn. Bhd.

On 13th October 2022, the branch received a letter from SIRIM QAS International Sdn. Bhd. It was for the branch to provide comments in regards to forest management certification in Perak. The entity is a certification body but did not enclose any document about the certification, except for link to their website with information on certification, just in general. Below are the brief comments that were able to be provided by the branch:

In general, we find it hard to give a good and comprehensive comments on the matter if there is no document about the matter is shared first. Anyway, looking at the size of the FMU for certification being at 987,675.832 ha, we believe that it covers all the dry inland forest in the state. We believe that this includes more than 32, 000 ha that had been allocated for forest plantation projects. These forest plantation projects within forest reserves, are downright not in line with Selective Management System (SMS) claimed to be used. Despite continuous reminder in the media, documentary etc. on the negative effects of deforestation (especially clearing felling in forest reserves for forest plantation projects) such as biodiversity loss, extinction, climate change, global warming and threat to food security, these projects seem to be continuously approved by the authorities. Hence, we urge that no certification is accorded for any of the areas involving forest plantations. In case the 987,675.832 ha also includes mining, quarrying etc. projects within forest reserves, which cause long term or permanent forest and biodiversity loss, we urge that the certification excludes such areas, although they are usually relatively small in size.

Ipoh High Court rejects cement company's bid to evict Kanthan cave monastery occupants

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2022/10/04/ipoh-high-court-rejects-cement-companys-bid-to-evict-kanthan-cave-monastery-occupants#.Yzu1kAFvltU.whatsapp>



Sakyamuni Caves Monastery Gunung Kanthan

Chemor, Malaysia

4 OCT 2022 —

Dear Supporters, Devotees and Heritage/Conservationists,
We are pleased to announce today's news to all who pledge to save Gunung Kanthan and the Caves Monastery.

The Ipoh High Court has dismissed the application by APMC (subsidiary of YTL Cement) that tried to evict the occupants of the Sakyamuni Caves Monastery. Judicial commissioner YA Bhupindar Singh Gurcharan Singh Preet made the decision after reviewing the submissions by both parties in the courtroom here on Tuesday (Oct 4).

Sakyamuni Caves Monastery is truly grateful for YB Leong Cheok Keng and Mr Leong Cheok Lung (Parti Bangsa Malaysia) for their genuine effort, and thoughtfulness in the preservation of Gunung Kanthan and caves monastery. Last but not least, our deepest gratitude to Mr Chan Kok Keong and Ms Ginger Goh as our lead counsel and solicitor had contributed tremendously to the success of this case.

For further details please refer to link above (The Star).

For more background information on this issue, please refer to previous issues of the newsletter Issue 22 Oct 2017 and Issue 45 Aug 2021

Enzymes in worm saliva may help ease plastic pollution

Below is an extract from an interesting online article. We hope that further research and bio-engineering can create some practical solution to this major threat to the environment.

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/leisure/2022/10/05/enzymes-in-worm-saliva-may-help-ease-plastic-pollution/>

October 5, 2022 7:59 PM

Enzymes contained in the saliva of the wax worm moth (*Galleria mellonella*) can act in only a few hours. (Envato Elements pic)

PARIS: Enzymes found in the saliva of wax worms can degrade one of the most common forms of plastic waste, according to research published Tuesday that could open up new ways of dealing with plastic pollution.

Humans produce some 400 million tonnes of plastic waste each year despite international drives to reduce single-use plastics and to increase recycling.

Around a third is polyethylene, a tough plastic thanks to its structure, which traditionally requires heating or radiation before it starts to break down.

There have been several studies showing that microorganisms can release enzymes that start the degradation process on polyethylene, but the process has until now taken months each time.

Researcher Federica Bertocchini, an avid beekeeper, said she originally stumbled on the idea that this small caterpillar had unusual powers when storing honeycombs a few years ago.

"At the end of the season, usually beekeepers put some empty beehives in a storage room, to put them back in the field in the spring," she told AFP.

"One year I did that, and I found my stored honeycombs plagued with wax worms.

In fact, that is their habitat.”

Bertocchini cleaned the honeycombs and put the worms in a plastic bag. When she returned a short time later, she found the bag “riddled with holes”.

Poured over plastics

“That raised the question: is it the result of munching or there is a chemical modification? We checked that, doing proper lab experiments, and we found that the polyethylene had been oxidised,” she told AFP.

In her latest research Bertocchini, from Madrid’s Margarita Salas Centre for Biological Studies (CIB) and her colleagues analysed proteins in the wax worm saliva and identified two enzymes that could break polyethylene down into small polymers in only a few hours at room temperature.

Writing in the journal Nature Communications they explained how they used another worm’s saliva as a control experiment, which produced no degradation compared with the wax worm.

Bertocchini said her team were still trying to figure out precisely how the worms degraded the plastic.

While the study authors stressed that much more research was needed before Tuesday’s findings could be implemented at any meaningful scale, there were a number of possible applications.

“We can imagine a scenario where these enzymes are used in an aqueous solution, and litres of this solution is poured over piles of collected plastic in a waste management facility,” said Bertocchini, who said her team were still trying to figure out precisely how the worms degraded the plastic.

“We can also imagine small amounts that can reach more remote locations, like villages or small islands, where waste facilities are not available.”

She said that further down the line the solution could be used in individual houses, where each family could degrade their own plastic waste.

EVENTS REPORT

eBird Global Big Day (GBD) 8th Oct 2022

Due to very heavy work pressure, I was not able to do a full day of birding for this GBD. Eventually I only did birding in TER Kledang Saiong and Malim Nawar Wetlands. I recorded only 18 species in the former site and 34 species in the latter. The habitat condition in Malim Nawar is particularly disappointing. Beside difficult of access to our usual spots, the ponds had also been drained and overgrown with vegetation making is unsuitable for waterbirds. It is expected that we will not be birding much in Malim Nawar because of these problems..



(Left: Wood Sandpiper, Centre: Greater Painted-snipe, Right: White-throated Kingfisher in mist net)



(Left: Otter, Centre: Brown Shrike, Right: Grey Heron)

Raptor Watch Bukit Bangkong (Chemor) / Mossey Hills (Kledang)

I did a recce to this hill near Chemor popular for the locals to do jogging. It is perhaps as popular as Kledang Hill for this purpose. The jogging track pass through some oil palm plantation at its lower end with some view points over the town facing north. Hence, it was thought that this site might be good for observing migrating raptors. However, I found on four migrating Oriental Honey-buzzard and a pair of resident Crested Serpent-eagle. The lack of migrating raptors was probably because it was not yet the peak of migration since little migrating raptors were reported from other places.



Left: Bukit Bangkong entrance, Centre: Crested Serpent-eagle, Right: Migrating Oriental Honey-buzzard)

COMING EVENTS

It is expected that there will be few or no overnight nature trips for the time being. If there is any last-minute organized birding trip, it will be announced via the dedicated chat group for birding.

WhatsApp Chat Group for Birding

Administrator: Chan Kai Soon chankaisoon@hotmail.com 0125315670

Members interested in birding are requested to add their phone numbers to this special WhatsApp group so that they can be notified when birding trips are organized. Members who are keen on birds should join in to benefit from reading the postings or participate in the discussions. Please send your requests to the administrator of this group who is also the bird group coordinator.

Calling for articles

If you have any article, essay or rants about anything on nature, please feel free to submit to the editor chankaisoon@hotmail.com. Any reader comments or suggestions about the running of the branch or the newsletter is also most welcome.