

Short Notes – Temiar Bird Names

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Peninsular Malaysia is home to at least 25 groups of indigenous people, collectively known as the Orang Asli (Lye 2001). Most of the Orang Asli still live in forested landscapes and have a close connection with nature. Thus, they often have complete sets of names for the plants and animals that they encounter (Skeat and Blagden 1906, Harrison et al. 1955, Rambo 1979, Nicholas 2012). These vocabularies open the door to traditional knowledge that can be of interest to various fields of research including biologists and social-scientists. These lists of plant and animal names illustrate indigenous taxonomic systems and can help biologists to work with Orang Asli guides in identifying species. For this reason, Dentan (1970) appeals to biologists to collect the vernacular names of species they are studying.

The Temiar are a large and well-known group of the Orang Asli. They number around 24,900 (Benjamin 2012), and are found in forested landscapes in the states of Perak, Kelantan, and in part of northern Pahang (Fig. 1). The Temiar practise swidden farming supplemented by fishing, trapping and collecting of forest products such as rattan and agarwood.

With the aim of preserving the traditional knowledge of the Orang Asli, we compiled a selection of local names of birds found in the territory of the Temiar (Table 1). This included 61 names from existing sources (including Roseman (1991), Means (1998) and Benjamin (2014)), as well as 111 new names from interviews with around 15 respondents from seven villages in Kelantan and Perak, making reference to Davison and Yeap (2010), Robson (2005) and Jeyarajasingam (2012). Our orthography follows Benjamin (2014).

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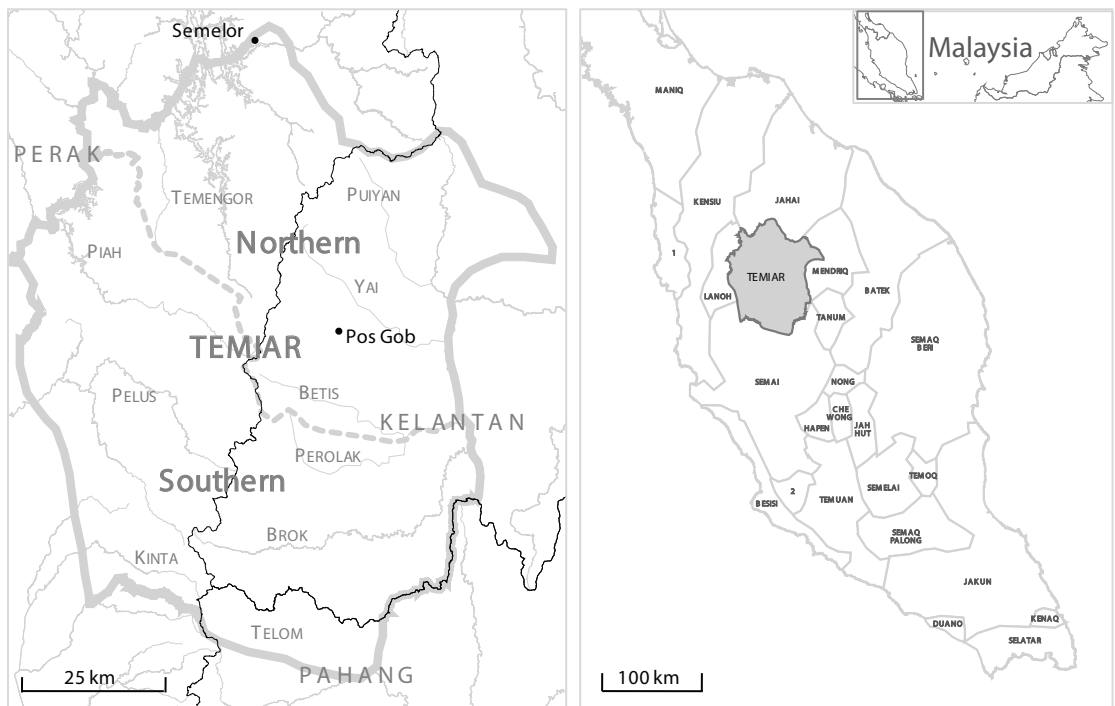


Figure 1. The approximate distribution of Northern Temiar and Southern Temiar dialects in relation to other language groups of the Peninsula prior to the arrival of the Malays (adapted from Benjamin 1983). 1-‘Low-Country Semang’; and 2-‘Sakai of Ulu Langat’ are both now extinct.

Table 1. Temiar bird names¹

ʔakul	<i>Harpactes duvaucelii</i>	ciyok	<i>Passer</i> spp.
ʔambood	<i>Ketupa ketupu</i>	ciyɔŋ	<i>Gracula religiosa</i> (S: niong)
ʔambuj	<i>Argusianus argus</i>	cooŋ	<i>Harpactes duvaucelii</i>
ʔatan	<i>Gallus gallus</i> (also ʔayam, manɔʔ) (cf. denak)	coris	<i>Ceyx rufidorsa</i>
ʔegʔag	<i>Corvus</i> spp., <i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	cucɔŋ	<i>Phaenicophaeus javanicus</i>
ʔeŋʔiŋ	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	curɔɔw	<i>Eurylaimus ochromalus</i>
ʔesʔees	<i>Alophoixus ochraceus</i> (B: ʔesʔāās)	denak	Family: Phasianidae
ʔubaʔ	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i> (also kuba)	dəkuug	<i>Buceros vigil</i> (M: dekub, dekuy, dekuyu)
baliyek	<i>Anorrhinus galeritus</i> (also malik)	dəduh	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
baŋau	Order: Ciconiiformes	dəŋdoŋ	<i>Ducula badia</i>
barpəl	Family: Phasianidae	dəŋpadəŋ	<i>Luscinia ruficeps</i>
bayan	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	duwag	<i>Phaenicophaeus sumatranus</i>
bəənəg	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>	gagoob	<i>Serilophus lunatus</i>
bəətəl	<i>Phaenicophaeus curvirostris</i>	gerəes pəŋkul	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
bəkooh	Family: Columbidae (B: bəkəg, bakəh ; M: behko)	gəralog	<i>Pycnonotus finlaysoni</i>
bəlatɔək	Family: Picidae (M: bêt-wal, “a woodpecker”)	gəroyoj	<i>P. melanicterus</i>
bəliŋkəŋ	<i>Gallinago stenura</i> (M: be-lîng-kêng, “snipe”)	həlaaŋ	<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i> (S: ngàng)
bəraglag	see: jəraglag	hənwāāŋ	<i>B. bicornis</i>
bərelkuul	<i>Harpactes</i> spp.	həʔhə	<i>Cissa</i> spp.
bəroduk	Family: Turdidae	həj	Family: Passeridae/ Fringillidae, (cf. lankeŋ)
bərweł	<i>Treron</i> spp. (B: bərweł)	hər	<i>Pycnonotus squamatus</i>
bərleəŋ	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>	hohēēw	<i>Rollulus rouloul</i>
bərobəh	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>	hohuy	<i>Bubo</i> spp.
bətəg	<i>Phaenicophaeus sumatranus</i>	holdək	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i> (R: huldək)
büirig	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	hɔəŋ	<i>Eupetes macrocerus</i> (R: hoonŋ)
biray	<i>Copsychus saularis</i> (B: beraay ; M: payeh; R: bəraay ; also puk ʔaluy biray)	jawiyer	Family: Apodidae/ Hirundinidae (M: jayer, jaweer, yayer, yiyer, yoyer; also layanŋ)
biyɔy	<i>Eurylaimus ochromalus</i>	jəkəŋ	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
cagu	<i>Alcedo</i> spp. (also cagɔʔ)	jəŋwer	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>
caŋwɔəj	Family: Tytonidae (also caŋwɔəj)	jəraglag	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i> (also bəraglag)
cekum	<i>Lophura ignita</i>	kaampik	<i>Caloenas nicobarica</i> , <i>Lophura erythrophthalma</i> (B: pəgər)
cəmog	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>	kahāār	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
cəriyēj	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i> (also cəp rəp)	kahkuu	<i>Aceros comatus</i> (B: kakeh)
cəhcad	<i>Arachnothera</i> spp. (B: cəhceh, cəhcah)	keruduk	<i>Pomatorhinus montanus</i> (B: huldək)
cəp	Class: Aves	kədor	<i>Sitta</i> spp.
cəp rəp	see: cəriyēj	k. ʔəŋkuk	<i>S. azurea</i>
cərwar	Family: Eurylaimidae	kəlaŋ ʔala	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
cəw	<i>Pteruthius flaviscapis</i>	kəməlwak	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
cicar	<i>Pteruthius melanotis</i>	kərkər	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
cicor	<i>Luscinia ruficeps</i>	kəwɔək	<i>Argusianus argus</i> (S: kuok)
cintap	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	kəkog	<i>Nyctyornis amictus</i> (also səŋog)
		kikud	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>
		klaak	Generic term for birds of prey

<i>k. bajaw</i>	<i>Spizaetus alboniger</i>	<i>sejog</i>	<i>Nyctyornis amictus</i> (also <i>kekog</i>)
<i>k. cēpiyew</i>	<i>S. nanus</i>	<i>siyey</i>	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
<i>k. kālēēj</i>	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	<i>sohsēēw</i>	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
<i>k. kārəhuy</i>	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	<i>sorah</i>	<i>Gampsorhynchus rufulus</i>
<i>k. kurukuu</i>	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	<i>taʼēj</i>	<i>Anthraceros albirostris</i> (also <i>taʼəəy</i>)
<i>k. səwaʼ</i>	<i>Microhierax fringillarius</i>		<i>Lanius tigrinus</i>
<i>k. səmpəl</i>	<i>Butastur indicus</i>	<i>tabaar</i>	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>
<i>kuaʼ</i>	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	<i>tagut</i>	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>
<i>kuba</i>	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i> (also <i>ʼubaʼ</i>)	<i>tahud</i>	<i>Picus spp.</i>
<i>kucəj</i>	<i>Phaenicophaeus javanicus</i>	<i>tahwah</i>	<i>P. mentalis</i>
<i>kuhkor</i>	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	<i>t. rahreh</i>	<i>P. miniaceus</i>
<i>lankej</i>	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i> (also <i>hej</i>)	<i>t. tahtoh</i>	<i>Pycnonotus atriceps</i>
<i>lawar</i>	<i>Peterochelidon spp.</i>	<i>tajar</i>	<i>Eurylaimidae spp.</i>
<i>layaj</i>	see: <i>jawiyer</i>	<i>tambəj</i>	<i>Oriolus cruentus</i>
<i>malik</i>	see: <i>baliyek</i>	<i>tantas</i>	<i>Phodilus badius</i> (M: tangkoi wōjh)
<i>manəʼ</i>	see: <i>ʼatan</i>	<i>tanjəwəj</i>	<i>Pericrocotus spp.</i>
<i>mankeek</i>	<i>Alophoixus spp.</i>		Family: Caprimulgidae (M: tibau; also <i>təgtebaw</i>)
<i>məwaaʼ</i>	<i>Pavo muticus</i>	<i>tanjkiig</i>	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
<i>məjut</i>	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	<i>taptibaw</i>	<i>Calyptomena viridis</i>
<i>nuk ʼaluy biray</i>	see: <i>biray</i>		<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> (M: kaku)
<i>pahəj</i>	<i>Melanoperdix niger</i>	<i>tayet</i>	<i>Motacilla spp.</i>
<i>payeh</i>	<i>Trichastoma bicolor</i>	<i>təkrəw</i>	<i>Psilopogon pyrolophus</i> (also <i>təraah</i>)
<i>pədlaj</i>	<i>Irena puella</i> (also <i>pətlajj, pətlaj</i>)	<i>təkukur</i>	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
<i>pələew</i>	<i>Minla cyanouroptera</i>		<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>
<i>pənecad</i>	<i>Arachnothera spp.</i>	<i>təntadeh</i>	<i>Megalaima franklinii</i>
<i>pərakak</i>	<i>Halcyon spp.</i> (M: bə-ra-kah)	<i>təraad</i>	<i>Prionochilus maculatus</i>
<i>pəroko</i>	<i>Garrulax spp.</i> (also <i>rukəw</i>)	<i>təray</i>	<i>Dicrurus spp.</i> (also <i>təjtəwək</i>)
<i>poʼajəl</i>	<i>Coracina javensis</i> (also <i>puyeel</i>)	<i>tərak</i>	<i>Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus</i>
<i>pohweh</i>	<i>Tricholestes criniger</i>	<i>təwal</i>	<i>Anthraceros albirostris</i>
<i>popooy</i>	<i>Lophura ignita</i>	<i>təgtəg</i>	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i> (also <i>terhir</i>)
<i>puyuh</i>	Sub-family: <i>Perdicinae</i>	<i>təjtaaj</i>	<i>Megalaima faiostriata</i>
<i>raab</i>	<i>Aegithina viridissima</i>	<i>təjtonj</i>	<i>Myiomela leucura</i>
<i>rahreh</i>	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>	<i>təraaj</i>	see: <i>taptibaw</i>
<i>rempual</i>	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	<i>terher</i>	<i>Megalaima henricii</i>
<i>rəs</i>	<i>Seicercus montis</i>		<i>Hypothymis azurea,</i> <i>Oriolus chinensis,</i> <i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>
<i>rukəw</i>	<i>Garrulax spp.</i> (also <i>pəroko</i>)	<i>teruud</i>	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
<i>sāāy bayas</i>	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	<i>tiŋtaʼ</i>	<i>Macropygia ruficeps</i>
<i>sakoo</i>	<i>Oriolus xanthonotus</i>	<i>təgtebaw</i>	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>
<i>saŋʼəd</i>	<i>Philentoma pyrhoptera</i>	<i>togrəh</i>	<i>Malacocincla malaccensis</i>
<i>səmelwak</i>	<i>Dicrurus spp.</i>	<i>wedwaad</i>	<i>Centropus sinesis</i>
<i>səmerluŋ</i>	<i>Platysmurus leucopterus</i>		<i>Calyptomena viridis</i>
<i>sejwəēj</i>	Super-family: <i>Dicaeioidea</i> (also <i>senven</i>)		
<i>sərawel</i>	<i>Heterophasia picaoides</i>	<i>w. saŋʼəd</i>	
<i>sərid</i>	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	<i>wegwoog</i>	
<i>sərtəej</i>	<i>Rhizothera longirostris</i>	<i>wəjy</i>	
<i>sərawiyeg</i>	<i>Heterophasia picaoides</i>	<i>yaktəbaʼ</i>	
<i>səwariyek</i>	<i>Pericrocotus spp.</i>	<i>yegʼiij</i>	
<i>səlsəel</i>	<i>Enicurus ruficapillus</i>	<i>yehʼyud</i>	
<i>səmpoŋ</i>	<i>Chloropsis spp.</i> (also <i>sejhəj</i> and <i>sejlok</i>)		

¹‘B’—Benjamin (2014); ‘M’—Means (1998); ‘R’—Roseman (1991); ‘S’—Skeat and Blagden (1906).