



AN OBSERVATION OF *Vanellus indicus* BODDAERT, 1783 (AVES: CHARADRIIDAE) FEED ON AN EXOTIC *Laevicaulis alatae* FERUSSAE, 1821 (GASTROPODA: VERONICELLIDAE) AT A HUMAN HABITATION IN SRI LANKA

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Abstract

Red-Wattled Lapwing is a common resident bird distributed throughout Sri Lanka. *Laevicaulis alatae* is an exotic land slug found in home gardens and cultivations in the lowland wet zone and intermediate zone. *L. alatae* and other exotic snails and slugs are pests, which is a serious and growing problem in Sri Lanka. This observation describes the behaviour of Red-Wattled Lapwing feeding on the exotic land slug at the premises of the Open University of Sri Lanka, Colombo.

Key Words: Red-Wattled Lapwing, *Laevicaulis alatae*, exotic slug, feeding behaviour, predation, Sri Lanka.

Introduction

Red-Wattled Lapwing, *Vanellus indicus* Boddaert, 1783 is a common resident bird distributed throughout the edges of tanks, dry paddy fields and open lands near water bodies in the low country and lower hills of Sri Lanka (Ali & Ripley, 1980; Harrison, 1999; Henry, 1998; Legge, 1983). This bird is about the size of a domestic pigeon with a black, white and bronze-brown coloration and long, slender yellow legs. The most distinguishable character of this bird is the fleshy red wattle in front

of the eye and the red ring around the eye. Sexes are alike (Ali & Ripley, 1980; Harrison, 1999; Henry, 1998; Legge, 1983). This species take most of its food on dry ground, which consists of ground dwelling insects like beetles, grasshoppers, termites and ants, insect larvae like caterpillars and worms, mollusks, aquatic insects as well as vegetable matter (Ali & Ripley, 1980; Henry, 1998; Legge, 1983). It feed casually during the day, but feeds more actively in the early mornings, evenings and