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Fauna in the Javanese culture

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Various animal species commonly featuring in the life of Javanese in Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces have been studied. To collect the faunal diversity in the daily life of nearly 35 million people in those provinces, a literature review was conducted. The Javanese books for elementary school, junior high school and senior high school, including song book, were reviewed. At least 120 species of nearly 13 classes – with mammals (25%) and insects (21%) being the two largest groups – of which 93,5% are terrestrial species and 67,4% vertebrates were recorded. As much as 92 species have a local name for their offspring, up to 38 species are used to identify human body language or human relationships, and their local name is based on their voice. There are local names for at least 5 inbred animals, and different words to call animals. Besides, 30 species were mentioned in about 25 traditional songs and puzzles, 21 species have local name synonyms, and at least 13 species are used in Javanese proverbs.

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