

Birding Singapore – 2nd May 2015

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Egrets at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

It had been raining since late the previous night and the rain petered out when we got to the rainforest. Magnus Salmi, a birder from Sweden, was keen to experience birding in Singapore. He also brought along his friend, who like him, is a geologist. The prolonged rain had turned the trails into streams and some stretches were flooded. It was very quiet on the walk in other than the squishing of water in our boots. We did flush a soaked Sunda Scops Owl but otherwise the resident owls were quiet. We did have the consolation of seeing three Large-tailed Nightjars at the golf course just as it was getting light.

At sunrise, we were standing on the edge of a very misty MacRitchie Reservoir. The action took some time to arrive as swiftlets moved in. Eventually, we connected with White-throated Kingfisher, Long-tailed Parakeet, Pink-necked Green Pigeon, Oriental magpie-robin and Orange-bellied Flowerpecker.

Then, it happened. Rain came and we retreated to the old pumphouse. It stopped after half an hour and we walked to Jelutong Tower to continue our birding. Fortunately, the tower proved very productive, with Red-crowned Barbet, Chestnut-bellied Malkoha, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot, Asian Red-eyed Bulbul, Arctic Warbler and Van Hasselt's Sunbird present.

We were out of the forest by 9.30 am having recorded a total of 36 species despite the weather.

After a quick breakfast, we headed for a wetland experience at Sungei Buloh. It was high tide at the river and so we moved on to the main pond where we saw quite a few waterbirds. Little, Intermediate and Eastern Cattle Egrets were around as were a single Whimbrel and two Common Redshanks. We also saw two Stork-billed Kingfishers. We also explored the mangrove boardwalk and added Ashy Tailorbird and Copper-throated Sunbird to end our wetland experience with 23 species.

In all, we recorded 51 species during our half day tour including a unique rainforest and wetland experience and lots of fantastic birds.



The dazzling male Copper-throated Sunbird at Sungei Buloh. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

A List of the Birds recorded in Singapore on 2nd May 2015

Species highlighted in yellow indicate those that were “heard only”. Sequence, taxonomy and nomenclature follow IOC.

#	English Name	Scientific Name
1	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
2	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
3	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
4	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
5	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
6	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
7	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
8	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
9	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
10	Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
11	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
12	Chestnut-bellied Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus sumatranus</i>
13	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
14	Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>
15	Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>
16	Sunda Scops Owl	<i>Otus lempiji</i>
17	Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>
18	Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
19	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
20	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
21	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
22	Red-crowned Barbet	<i>Megalaima rafflesii</i>
23	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>
24	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
25	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
26	Coconut Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>
27	Blue-rumped Parrot	<i>Psittinus cyanurus</i>
28	Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
29	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
30	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
31	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
32	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
33	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
34	Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>
35	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
36	Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>

37	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
38	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
39	Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>
40	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>
41	Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Malcocincla malaccensis</i>
42	Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
43	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
44	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
45	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
46	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
47	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>
48	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
49	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>
50	Van Hasselt's Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma brasiliana</i>
51	Copper-throated Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma calcostetha</i>



A female Copper-throated Sunbird at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Photo © Lim Kim Seng