

# Birding Singapore – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015

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A friendly White-crested Laughinthrush at Bukit Batok Nature Park. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

There it is! After half an hour of stumbling in darkness and getting our feet wet from walking in trails soaked with days of torrential rain, Mark Piazzzi, a birder from Munich, Germany, were about to have our first contact with a Sunda Scops Owl. It was giving a hissing call, indicating that it was a young bird. After some maneuvering, we got good torch views of two birds moving ever so higher up the trees. Job done! Our first owl of the day! We made our way to MacRitchie Reservoir where we saw, for the first time in two weeks, a lone Grey-headed Fish Eagle, giving us fantastic views as it swooped in and landed on a tree. Other birds seen here included Stork-billed Kingfisher, Long-tailed Parakeet, Oriental Magpie-robin and Orange-bellied Flowerpecker. Another spot that was very productive was Jelutong Tower. This was where we added Banded Woodpecker, Red-crowned Barbet, Blue-throated Bee-eater, Fork-tailed Swift, Thick-billed Green Pigeon, Asian Fairy-bluebird and van Hasselt's Sunbird.

We left the forest at 10.00 am with 37 species in the bag, followed by a quick breakfast. After that, we dropped by Bukit Batok Nature Park, where we spent an hour birding and looking for its specialties. We saw Lineated Barbet, a lone Straw-headed Bulbul, Pin-striped Tit-babbler and a flock of seven friendly White-crested Laughingthrushes.

Next was Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, where we arrived at 1.00 pm to be greeted by a noisy Oriental Pied Hornbill. We proceeded to the bridge and main hide but found only Collared Kingfisher, Grey Heron and Little Egret. A detour to the mangrove boardwalk produced a surprise female Von Schrenck's Bittern, 4-6 Ashy Tailorbirds and two pairs of Copper-throated Sunbirds. We finished our visit with a walk around the Coastal Trail, adding Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker, Baya Weaver and Scaly-breasted Munia to finish our birding here on 27 species.

We were hungry and so, stopped for a well-earned lunch. After half an hour's drive, we arrived at Lorong Halus Wetland where we saw Little Bronze-cuckoo, Red-breasted and Rose-ringed Parakeets, Little Tern, Yellow Bittern, Sooty-headed Bulbul and Paddyfield Pipit.



A sleepy Spotted Wood Owl at Pasir Ris Park. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

There was still one more spot – Pasir Ris Park. We were hoping for a great ending to the day and we got it in the form of a family of Spotted Wood Owls. They were easy to see as they perched high in an open tree.

It was a fantastic day of birding with great weather and we recorded 78 species of birds and experienced the variety of habitats that Singapore had to offer.

### List of Species Recorded on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015

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

| #  | English Name                | Scientific Name                    |
|----|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1  | Yellow Bittern              | <i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>         |
| 2  | Von Schrenck's Bittern      | <i>Ixobrychus eurhythmus</i>       |
| 3  | Striated Heron              | <i>Butorides striata</i>           |
| 4  | Grey Heron                  | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>               |
| 5  | Great Egret                 | <i>Ardea alba</i>                  |
| 6  | Little Egret                | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>            |
| 7  | Grey-headed Fish Eagle      | <i>Haliaeetus ichthyaeus</i>       |
| 8  | White-breasted Waterhen     | <i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>      |
| 9  | Little Tern                 | <i>Sternula albifrons</i>          |
| 10 | Rock Dove                   | <i>Columba livia</i>               |
| 11 | Red Turtle Dove             | <i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>  |
| 12 | Spotted Dove                | <i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>        |
| 13 | Zebra Dove                  | <i>Geopelia striata</i>            |
| 14 | Pink-necked Green Pigeon    | <i>Treron vernans</i>              |
| 15 | Thick-billed Green Pigeon   | <i>Treron curvirostra</i>          |
| 16 | Violet Cuckoo               | <i>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</i> |
| 17 | Little Bronze Cuckoo        | <i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>     |
| 18 | Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo | <i>Surniculus lugubris</i>         |
| 19 | Sunda Scops Owl             | <i>Otus lempiji</i>                |
| 20 | Spotted Wood Owl            | <i>Strix selouto</i>               |
| 21 | Pacific Swift               | <i>Apus pacificus</i>              |
| 22 | House Swift                 | <i>Apus nipalensis</i>             |
| 23 | Oriental Dollarbird         | <i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>       |
| 24 | Stork-billed Kingfisher     | <i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>        |
| 25 | White-throated Kingfisher   | <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>          |
| 26 | Collared Kingfisher         | <i>Todiramphus chloris</i>         |

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|----|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 27 | Blue-eared Kingfisher        | <i>Alcedo meninting</i>          |
| 28 | Blue-throated Bee-eater      | <i>Merops viridis</i>            |
| 29 | Oriental Pied Hornbill       | <i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i> |
| 30 | Lineated Barbet              | <i>Megalaima lineata</i>         |
| 31 | Red-crowned Barbet           | <i>Megalaima rafflesii</i>       |
| 32 | Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker       | <i>Dendrocopus moluccensis</i>   |
| 33 | Banded Woodpecker            | <i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>   |
| 34 | Laced Woodpecker             | <i>Picus vittatus</i>            |
| 35 | Common Flameback             | <i>Dinopium javanense</i>        |
| 36 | Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot  | <i>Loriculus galgulus</i>        |
| 37 | Rose-ringed Parakeet         | <i>Psittacula krameri</i>        |
| 38 | Red-breasted Parakeet        | <i>Psittacula alexandri</i>      |
| 39 | Long-tailed Parakeet         | <i>Psittacula longicauda</i>     |
| 40 | Golden-bellied Gerygone      | <i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>        |
| 41 | Common Iora                  | <i>Aegithina tiphia</i>          |
| 42 | Black-naped Oriole           | <i>Oriolus chinensis</i>         |
| 43 | Greater Racket-tailed Drongo | <i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>       |
| 44 | Malaysian Pied Fantail       | <i>Rhipidura javanica</i>        |
| 45 | House Crow                   | <i>Corvus splendens</i>          |
| 46 | Straw-headed Bulbul          | <i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i>     |
| 47 | Sooty-headed Bulbul          | <i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>     |
| 48 | Yellow-vented Bulbul         | <i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>       |
| 49 | Olive-winged Bulbul          | <i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>       |
| 50 | Asian Red-eyed Bulbul        | <i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>       |
| 51 | Barn Swallow                 | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>           |
| 52 | Pacific Swallow              | <i>Hirundo tahitica</i>          |
| 53 | Arctic Warbler               | <i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>     |
| 54 | Yellow-bellied Prinia        | <i>Prinia flavicentris</i>       |
| 55 | Common Tailorbird            | <i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>       |
| 56 | Dark-necked Tailorbird       | <i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>    |
| 57 | Rufous-tailed Tailorbird     | <i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>       |
| 58 | Ashy Tailorbird              | <i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>       |
| 59 | Pin-striped Tit-Babbler      | <i>Macronous gularis</i>         |
| 60 | White-crested Laughingthrush | <i>Garrulax leucolopus</i>       |
| 61 | Oriental White-eye           | <i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>     |
| 62 | Asian Fairy-bluebird         | <i>Irena puella</i>              |
| 63 | Asian Glossy Starling        | <i>Aplonis panayensis</i>        |
| 64 | Common Hill Myna             | <i>Gracula religiosa</i>         |
| 65 | Javan Myna                   | <i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>    |
| 66 | Common Myna                  | <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>      |
| 67 | Oriental Magpie-Robin        | <i>Copsychus saularis</i>        |

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|----|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 68 | Orange-bellied Flowerpecker | <i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i> |
| 69 | Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker | <i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>    |
| 70 | Brown-throated Sunbird      | <i>Anthreptes malacensis</i> |
| 71 | Van Hasselt's Sunbird       | <i>Leptocoma brasiliana</i>  |
| 72 | Copper-throated Sunbird     | <i>Leptocoma calcostetha</i> |
| 73 | Olive-backed Sunbird        | <i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>    |
| 74 | Crimson Sunbird             | <i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>    |
| 75 | Eurasian Tree Sparrow       | <i>Passer montanus</i>       |
| 76 | Baya Weaver                 | <i>Ploceus philippinus</i>   |
| 77 | Scaly-breasted Munia        | <i>Lonchura punctulata</i>   |
| 78 | Paddyfield Pipit            | <i>Anthus rufulus</i>        |



A swollen MacRitchie Reservoir after days of torrential rain. Photo © Lim Kim Seng