

# Birding Singapore – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015

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A hazy dawn at MacRitchie Reservoir. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

Chris Gibson, a birder from Scotland, wanted to spend a morning birding in Singapore while he was in town. He was accompanied by his wife, Kirsten, and mother-in-law, Betty. We opted for an early start and so were ready at the start of the trail leading to MacRitchie Reservoir by 6.00 am. The pre-dawn rain did little to mask the burning smell of the smoke haze that had been ever present since wind directions changed and the haze from hundreds of forest fires in Sumatra got blown into Singapore. It wasn't ideal but we went ahead anyway.

Both Sunda Scops Owl and Brown Hawk Owl were heard in the darkness of the trail in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve but sadly remained out of sight. Our first bird was the fabulous Greater

Racket-tailed Drongo and this was followed by a Red-crowned Barbet perched in full view just before sunrise. At MacRitchie Reservoir, we waited and succeeded in seeing a pale morph Changeable Hawk Eagle, Glossy Swiftlet, Asian Fairy-bluebird and Forest Wagtail but the highlight here were four Black-headed Bulbuls. Back at Jelutong Tower, we ticked off Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Thick-billed Green Pigeon, Lineated Barbet, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot and 13 Common Hill Mynas in addition to the usual parakeets, swiftlets, pigeons, starlings, sunbirds and flowerpeckers. On the way out, we added Blue-throated Bee-eater, Cream-vented Bulbul, Pin-striped Tit-babbler, Dark-necked Tailorbird and a Grey Wagtail.

It was a really good morning as we recorded 47 species despite the slow start.



A Black-headed Bulbul with its breakfast at MacRitchie Reservoir. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

After breakfast, it was Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve that we visited. Rain interrupted our exploration but we still saw Western Osprey, Brahminy Kite, White-bellied Sea Eagle, dozens of Red Turtle Doves, Oriental Dollarbird, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Collared Kingfisher and waders of four species – Whimbrel, Common Redshank, Common Greenshank and Common Sandpiper.

It was a useful 90-minute stopover at Sungei Buloh as we recorded 30 species of birds, most of which were different from the forest, and saw lots of Malayan Water Monitors. Overall, we recorded 69 species. Not bad for a half day's birding!

## A Checklist of the Birds Recorded in Singapore on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Nomenclature, sequence and taxonomy follow IOC. Species highlighted in yellow indicate those that were "heard only".

#	English Name	Scientific Name
1	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
2	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
3	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
4	Japanese Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter gularis</i>
5	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
6	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
7	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichhyaetus</i>
8	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
9	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
10	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
11	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
12	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
13	Red Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
14	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
15	Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
16	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
17	Thick-billed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron curvirostra</i>
18	Sunda Scops Owl	<i>Otus lempiji</i>
19	Brown Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
20	Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>
21	Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
22	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
23	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
24	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
25	Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>
26	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
27	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>
28	Red-crowned Barbet	<i>Megalaima rafflesii</i>
29	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>
30	Laced Woodpecker	<i>Picus vittatus</i>

31	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
32	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
33	Coconut Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>
34	Blue-rumped Parrot	<i>Psittinus cyanurus</i>
35	Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
36	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
37	Pied Triller	<i>Lalage nigra</i>
38	Tiger Shrike	<i>Lanius tigrinus</i>
39	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
40	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
41	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
42	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
43	Black-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus atriceps</i>
44	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
45	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
46	Cream-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus simplex</i>
47	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
48	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
49	Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
50	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
51	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
52	Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>
53	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>
54	Abbott's Babbler	<i>Malcocincla abbotti</i>
55	Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Malcocincla malaccensis</i>
56	Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
57	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
58	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
59	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
60	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
61	Yellow-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula zanthopygia</i>
62	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
63	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>
64	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
65	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
66	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>
67	Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>
68	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>
69	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>



Chris, Kirsten and Betty at the bridge over Sungei Buloh Besar. Photo © Lim Kim Seng