

Birding Singapore – 16th April 2016

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Male Long-tailed Parakeet feeding on the flower buds of *simpoh air* at MacRitchie Reservoir. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

It was still dark when Paul Gatenby, a retired professor from Canberra, Australia, and I took the trail into the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. The owls weren't cooperative as they were either distant or high up in the trees and we missed them. We did however hear two separate calling Blue-winged Pittas. Eventually, we arrived at MacRitchie Reservoir where we waited for sunrise and bird activity. Our first bird was a handsome male Red Junglefowl walking on the forest floor and it was followed quickly by a flock of noisy Long-tailed Parakeets that landed to feast on *simpoh air* buds. We also picked out a pair of White-throated Kingfishers to be followed by a noisy pair of Stork-billed Kingfishers as the sun came out. We also explored the fig trees at the golf course and picked out Banded Woodpecker, Pink-necked and Thick-billed Green Pigeons, several Asian Fairy-bluebirds, Asian Red-eyed Bulbul and Common Iora.

Back in the forest by 8.15 am, we climbed up Jelutong Tower and waited for bird activity. There was quite a crowd at the tower but we still picked out Asian Fairy-bluebird, Common Hill Myna, Cream-

vented Bulbul, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Arctic Warbler, Orange-bellied Flowerpecker, and Brown-throated, Van Hasselt's and Crimson Sunbirds. The walk out was uneventful.



Grey-headed Fish Eagle flying over Sungei Buloh. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

Our next spot was Bukit Batok Nature Park. We spent just fifteen minutes here as we located a family of Straw-headed Bulbuls fairly quickly along with some Van Hasselt's Sunbirds. Breakfast followed and was followed by a short drive north to Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Our first birds when we got there was a family of Buffy Fish Owls. They had just one chick and it was developing rapidly. After getting great looks at the owls, we visited the river and the main pond. Waterbirds were not very noticeable but we were delighted by the presence of a Western Osprey and a circling Grey-headed Fish Eagle. We also checked out the Coastal Trail where we saw Ashy Tailorbird and Copper-throated Sunbird.

Lunch was next and it was followed by a drive east to Pasir Ris Park. Our main target was the Spotted Wood Owl and we managed to see one after some neck-breaking work. Other birds of interest here included Collared Kingfisher, Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker and Common Flameback.

Our final stop was the open country at Lorong Halus. We spent time exploring a roadside ditch and added Grey and Purple Herons, Chinese Pond Heron, a bathing Slaty-breasted Rail, Sooty-headed Bulbul and Baya Weaver.

It was a great day with 84 species recorded including two big owls at their day roosts.



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

A Checklist of the Birds Recorded in Singapore on 16th April 2016

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

#	English Name	Scientific Name
1	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
2	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
3	Chinese Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>
4	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
5	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
6	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
7	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
8	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
9	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
10	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichhyaetus</i>

11	Slaty-breasted Rail	<i>Gallirallus striatus</i>
12	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
13	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
14	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
15	Red Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
16	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
17	Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
18	Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
19	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
20	Thick-billed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron curvirostra</i>
21	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
22	Little Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>
23	Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>
24	Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>
25	Sunda Scops Owl	<i>Otus lempiji</i>
26	Buffy Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa ketupu</i>
27	Spotted Wood Owl	<i>Strix selouto</i>
28	Brown Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
29	Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>
30	Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
31	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
32	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
33	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
34	Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>
35	Red-crowned Barbet	<i>Megalaima rafflesii</i>
36	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
37	Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus moluccensis</i>
38	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>
39	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
40	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
41	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
42	Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
43	Blue-winged Pitta	<i>Pitta moluccensis</i>
44	Golden-bellied Gerygone	<i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>
45	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
46	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
47	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
48	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
49	Straw-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i>
50	Sooty-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>
51	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>

52	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
53	Cream-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus simplex</i>
54	Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>
55	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
56	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
57	Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
58	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicentris</i>
59	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
60	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
61	Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>
62	Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>
63	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>
64	Abbott's Babbler	<i>Malcocincla abbotti</i>
65	Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Malcocincla malaccensis</i>
66	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolopus</i>
67	Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
68	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
69	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
70	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
71	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
72	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
73	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa latirostris</i>
74	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>
75	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
76	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>
77	Van Hasselt's Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma brasiliana</i>
78	Copper-throated Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma calcostetha</i>
79	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
80	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
81	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
82	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
83	Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tschutschensis</i>
84	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>