

Birding Singapore – 1st May 2015

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A misty Central Catchment Nature Reserve looking from Jelutong Tower. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

We got to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve in the early hours of the morning. It was a later than usual start as Jenny Peccoud, an American birder living in London, had opted to start slightly later than usual. We also met my brother who was with a couple from England. As we walked first into the muddy trail taking us to the scenic lake at MacRitchie Reservoir, we heard three Brown Hawk Owls but did not see them. At length, we arrived at MacRitchie Reservoir to be greeted by a glorious sunrise and the usual birds such as White-throated and Collared Kingfishers, Long-tailed Parakeet, Pink-necked Green Pigeon, Oriental Magpie-robin and Orange-bellied Flowerpecker.

About an hour later, we climbed Jelutong Tower to be greeted by a sea of green enveloped by swirling mists. My brother was already there with his clients. It was a fruitful spot as we saw Banded

Woodpecker, a cooperative Red-crowned Barbet, Chestnut-bellied Malkoha, three Blue-rumped Parrots, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot, a dark morph Changeable Hawk Eagle, Dark-sided Flycatcher, Common Hill Myna, Asian Red-eyed and Cream-vented Bulbul, and Van Hasselt's and Crimson Sunbirds.

We left the forest at 9.45 am, with 40 species in the bag.



A curious White-crested Laughingthrush looks at us, Bukit Batok Nature Park. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

After a quick breakfast, we dropped by the hilly park called Bukit Batok Nature Park. It was the site for the globally threatened Straw-headed Bulbul, and we found a pair without much difficulty. We also saw a pair of Common Flamebacks, Dark-necked Tailorbird, Pin-striped Tit-babbler and an active flock of six White-crested Laughingthrushes.

We arrived at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve just after noon. As it was a public holiday, we encountered many people and very little action at the visitor centre and main bridge. The tide was also high and we saw only Collared Kingfisher, Little Egret and Grey Heron. We also explored the Mangrove Boardwalk area and were happy to connect with Malaysian Pied Fantail, Ashy Tailorbird and Copper-throated Sunbird.

We had a good lunch followed by a drive to the north-east coast of Singapore. Our destination: Pasir Ris Park. We arrived at 3.15 pm and were greeted by warm and cloudy weather. We explored the park area and found Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker, Coppersmith Barbet and a surprise Crested Goshawk that flew right in front of us! Our attempts for the Spotted Wood Owl failed but we did see a noisy family party of Oriental Pied Hornbills and two Stork-billed Kingfishers to end the day on a high.

After visiting four sites, we managed to record 67 species, including some memorable highlights such as Red-crowned Barbet, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Crested Goshawk, Straw-headed Bulbul and White-crested Laughingthrush.

A List of Species Recorded on 1st May 2015

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

#	English Name	Scientific Name
1	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
2	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
3	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
4	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
5	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
6	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
7	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
8	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
9	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
10	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
11	Chestnut-bellied Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus sumatranus</i>
12	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
13	Violet Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</i>
14	Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>
15	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>
16	Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>
17	Brown Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
18	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
19	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
20	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
21	Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>
22	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>

23	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>
24	Red-crowned Barbet	<i>Megalaima rafflesii</i>
25	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
26	Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus moluccensis</i>
27	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>
28	Laced Woodpecker	<i>Picus vittatus</i>
29	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
30	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
31	Blue-rumped Parrot	<i>Psittinus cyanurus</i>
32	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
33	Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
34	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
35	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
36	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
37	Malaysian Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>
38	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
39	Straw-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i>
40	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
41	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
42	Cream-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus simplex</i>
43	Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>
44	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
45	Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
46	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
47	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
48	Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>
49	Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>
50	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>
51	Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Malcocincla malaccensis</i>
52	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolopus</i>
53	Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
54	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
55	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
56	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
57	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
58	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
59	Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>
60	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>
61	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
62	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>
63	Van Hasselt's Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma brasiliana</i>

64	Copper-throated Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma calcostetha</i>
65	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
66	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
67	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>



An adult Crested Goshawk perched nicely at Pasir Ris Park. Photo © Lim Kim Seng