

Birding Singapore - 24th April 2015

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Common Redshanks preening at the main pond at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

It was dark when Richard (Dick) and Lois Miller, birders from California, USA, followed me into the darkness of the rainforest just after 6.05 am. The first half an hour was quiet with only cicadas for company. As dawn approached, we heard only two distant Brown Hawk Owls and no Sunda Scops Owl at all. Eventually, we arrived at MacRitchie Reservoir to be greeted by a glorious sunrise. It was cloudy and the birds took a while to arrive. Soon, Long-tailed Parakeets were making their presence felt as were White-throated and Collared Kingfishers. We also found a dark morph Changeable Hawk Eagle preening in a tree. We also explored the fig trees at the golf course and found one with orange fruits that appealed to several Pink-necked Green Pigeons, Lineated Barbets, Black-naped Oriole and Asian Glossy Starlings. We were also very pleased to see three of the locally rare Greater Green Leafbirds.

At 9.00 am, we were standing on top of Jelutong Tower looking for canopy species. We duly saw our Brown-throated, Van Hasselt's and Crimson Sunbirds, and Orange-bellied Flowerpeckers as well as Blue-

throated Bee-eaters, Greater Racket-tailed Drongos and Common Hill Mynas. Half an hour later, we were done and trekked back to the carpark. Along the way, we saw a lone Chestnut-bellied Malkoha and the highlight of the morning, a female Green-backed Flycatcher, a locally rare migrant.



A close up of a male Pink-necked Green Pigeon at Sungei Buloh. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

After a quick breakfast, we moved on to nearby Bukit Batok Nature Park. Unfortunately, the park was very still and we only added Pin-striped Tit-babbler and better looks at the gorgeous Crimson Sunbird. Undeterred, we moved on to our third spot, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. At the visitor centre, we found lots of activity at a cherry tree and stopped to admire the birds. Pink-necked Green Pigeons, Yellow-vented Bulbuls and Scarlet-backed Flowerpeckers were flitting in and out despite the presence of human visitors. There were also quite a few Water Monitors to capture on film as well. We were caught by surprise as a single Oriental Pied Hornbill flew in only to disappear into a thickly-foliaged tree.

Moments later, we were at the bridge overlooking Sungei Buloh. The tide was coming in fast but we managed to locate an Estuarine Crocodile and several egrets and herons. We also saw some shorebirds coming in to roost. These include Whimbrel, Common Redshank and Common Greenshank. The best bird at the main pond was a distant circling Grey-headed Fish Eagle, our second raptor of the day.

We also spent some time exploring the newly opened Coastal Trail and encountered several Common loras, Ashy Tailorbird and an Arctic Warbler despite the increasingly warm conditions.

We stopped for lunch at a nearby café and then drove east to our last spot for the day – Pasir Ris Park. It was gloomy when we got there. Fortunately, there was some activity as we located Coppersmith Barbet, Collared Kingfisher, Asian Koel, Red-breasted Parakeet, Black-naped Oriole, Common lora and Oriental White-eye. An hour later, we were back at the hotel after a great day of birding. We had seen 58 species and heard 15 more, for a total tally of 73 species. Dick managed to photograph quite a few new birds and both he and Lois were thrilled to have the opportunity to savour some of Singapore's most exciting wild places and their wildlife.



A male Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker enjoying a cherry at Sungei Buloh. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

A List of the Birds Recorded During the Singapore Birding Tour of 24th April 2015 (IOC)

Note: Species highlighted in yellow were heard only.

#	English Name	Scientific Name
1	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
2	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
3	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
4	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
5	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
6	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichhyaetus</i>
7	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
8	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
9	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
10	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
11	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
12	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
13	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
14	Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
15	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
16	Chestnut-bellied Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus sumatranus</i>
17	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
18	Little Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>
19	Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>
20	Brown Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</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	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
30	Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus moluccensis</i>
31	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>
32	Laced Woodpecker	<i>Picus vittatus</i>
33	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
34	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
35	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
36	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
37	Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
38	Golden-bellied Gerygone	<i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>
39	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
40	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>

41	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
42	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
43	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
44	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
45	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
46	Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>
47	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
48	Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
49	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicentris</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	Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Malcocincla malaccensis</i>
55	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</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	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
61	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
62	Green-backed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula elisae</i>
63	Greater Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis sonnerati</i>
64	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>
65	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
66	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>
67	Van Hasselt's Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma brasiliana</i>
68	Copper-throated Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma calcostetha</i>
69	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
70	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
71	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>
72	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
73	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>