

# Birding Singapore – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015

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Light rain at sunrise at MacRitchie Reservoir. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

It was still raining when Peter and Andy, birders from England, and I got to the central Catchment Nature Reserve for a day's birding. It was an ominous start but we just got on with it. It was tough going as we were only hearing rain although we did hear two Brown Hawk Owls. At length, we got to MacRitchie Reservoir where we managed to see a Large-tailed Nightjar. It took a long time for the sky to brighten enough for us to look for birds. A noisy Stork-billed Kingfisher cheered us up as did a solitary Changeable Hawk Eagle, a group of Oriental Magpie-robins and a male Yellow-rumped Flycatcher.

After an hour, we retreated to Jelutong Tower where our luck changed for the better. It was still drizzling but we managed to see Red-crowned Barbet, Blue-throated Bee-eater, a pair of Chestnut-

bellied Malkoha, a male Jambu Fruit Dove, a male Lesser Green Leafbird and several van Hasselt's Sunbirds.

We were surprised to leave the forest, still drizzling, with a total of 41 species.



Great-billed Heron on the hunt at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

The rain had stopped by the time we got to our second spot – Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. It was high tide at the bridge so we stopped to look around in the flooded mangroves. We saw Collared Kingfisher, roosting Common Redshanks, Grey Heron, Little Egret and a small Estuarine Crocodile. We proceeded on to the main hide and added Great Egret, Striated Heron and a sub-adult White-bellied Sea Eagle. The highlight of the morning was seeing a Great-billed Heron fly in which we managed to approach for closer shots. It fished using different stalking techniques but without much success. At length, we returned to the visitor centre where a rather noisy crowd had gathered. We moved on to the Coastal Trail where we stumbled on a group of photographers shooting a Copper-throated Sunbird. We joined in the fun for a while and then climbed to the top of the Coastal Trail for a bird's eye view of the Straits of Johor and the Malaysian coast. It was getting warm but we lingered adding Sunda Pygmy



Woodpecker, Oriental Dollarbird, Common Iora, Ashy Tailorbird and Oriental White-eye to our growing list. We left with a list of 32 species.

After lunch, we headed east to Lorong Halus Wetland, an open country and wetland on the north-east coast of Singapore. We spent an hour exploring the quiet country roads, the reedbeds and a polluted ditch, tallying 29 species despite the generally unproductive time of the day. Good birds seen here Purple Heron, 2 full summer-plumaged Chinese Pond Heron, Brahminy Kite, Savanna Nightjar, Rose-ringed and Red-breasted Parakeets, Long-tailed Shrike, Paddyfield Pipits and Baya Weavers attending to their pendulous nests.

Our last site was close by – Pasir Ris Park. We got there in ten minutes. This was an area of coastal parkland and mangrove further east of Lorong Halus. A drizzle had started and this had the effect of making the birdlife quieter than normal. Still, we managed to see Red Junglefowl, Collared Kingfisher, Common Iora and Asian Brown Flycatcher. At the mangroves around Sungei Tampines, we added Black-crowned Night-heron, Laced Woodpecker and a family of Oriental Pied Hornbills to end our hour-long birding here on 24 species.



A male Baya Weaver tending to its nest at Lorong Halus Wetland. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

Overall, we did very well despite the wet weather, clocking a total of 85 species of birds spanning a range of diverse habitats, as well as other wildlife such as Long-tailed Macaque and Estuarine Crocodile.

### A List of Species Recorded on 26<sup>th</sup> April 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	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
3	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
4	Chinese Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
6	Great-billed Heron	<i>Ardea sumatrana</i>
7	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
8	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
9	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
10	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
11	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
12	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
13	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
14	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
15	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
16	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
17	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
18	Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
19	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
20	Jambu Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus jambu</i>
21	Chestnut-bellied Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus sumatranus</i>
22	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
23	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>
24	Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>
25	Brown Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
26	Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>
27	Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>
28	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
29	Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
30	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>

31	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
32	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
33	Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>
34	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
35	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>
36	Red-crowned Barbet	<i>Megalaima rafflesii</i>
37	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
38	Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus moluccensis</i>
39	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>
40	Laced Woodpecker	<i>Picus vittatus</i>
41	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
42	Tanimbar Corella	<i>Cacatua goffiniana</i>
43	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
44	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
45	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
46	Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
47	Golden-bellied Gerygone	<i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>
48	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
49	Pied Triller	<i>Lalage nigra</i>
50	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
51	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
52	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
53	Sooty-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>
54	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
55	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</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	Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Malcoccincla malaccensis</i>
65	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
66	Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
67	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
68	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
69	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
70	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
71	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>



72	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa latirostris</i>
73	Yellow-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula zanthopygia</i>
74	Lesser Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cyanopogon</i>
75	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>
76	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
77	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>
78	Van Hasselt's Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma brasiliana</i>
79	Copper-throated Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma calcostetha</i>
80	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
81	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
82	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
83	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
84	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
85	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>



Long-tailed Shrike at Lorong Halus Wetland. Photo © Lim Kim Seng