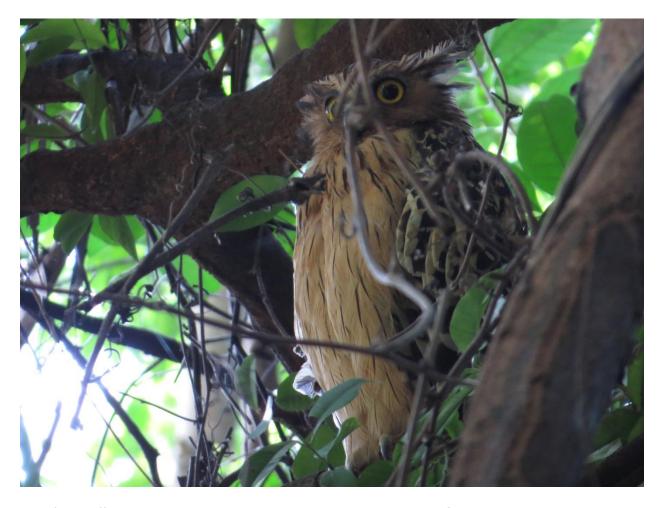
## Birding Singapore – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Text & Photos by Lim Kim Seng (<a href="mailto:ibisbill@yahoo.com">ibisbill@yahoo.com</a>)



One of two Buffy Fish Owls encountered at Singapore Botanic Gardens. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

Scott Olle, a birder from California, USA, was in town for a meeting but still wanted to bird even though he had only the afternoon free. It wasn't ideal but it was the only period that he was available to do some birding on his first trip to Singapore. We arranged to meet at 1.30 pm and, as it was raining, opted to start our birding at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. We got there at 2.00 pm and were happy to see the rain petering out as we saw our first birds in the new carpark. Yellow-vented Bulbuls were out and about, together with a Black-naped Oriole and some Javan Mynas.

We walked over to the visitor centre where we saw a large Malayan Water Monitor, several Plantain Squirrels and a White-breasted Waterhen. At the bridge overlooking Sungei Buloh Besar, we discovered that it was high tide and birds were largely absent, so we moved on to the main hide. The ponds were

exposed but there were no shorebirds. We did see a Collared Kingfisher, two Striated Herons, and several Giant Mudskippers. As it was generally quiet, we decided to walk on the bund to the coast, where there is an observation platform. The walk was filled with birds as we saw a female Oriental Magpie-robin, a pair of Common Ioras and another pair of Malaysian Pied Fantails. We reached the Platform and saw lots of Grey and Striated Herons, Little Egrets but no Great-billed Herons. Also present here were some Little Terns. After a while, we walked back to the visitor centre and then dropped by the mangrove boardwalk. Despite the gloomy sky, we saw Ashy Tailorbird and a pair of Copper-throated Sunbirds. We lingered a while around the cherry trees at the visitor centre and saw the resident pair of Scarlet-backed Flowerpeckers and a pair of Crimson Sunbirds.

Our next spot was Bukit Batok Nature Park and we got there around 4.00 pm. The first bird to greet us was a Lineated Barbet. We walked down to the quarry pond and picked up without too much effort, Glossy Swiftlet, Blue-throated Bee-eater, the much desired and globally threatened Straw-headed Bulbul, Pin-striped Tit-babbler and the charming White-crested Laughingthrushes. The key birds seen, we left the park after just 30 minutes.

Our last spot was the Singapore Botanic Gardens, newly minted as Singapore's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. We got there at 4.45 pm and saw lots of people. Fortunately, the people didn't bother the birds as one of our first birds there was a pair of Buffy Fish Owls. We also saw a roosting Sunda Scops Owl, Oriental Dollarbird, a pair of Banded Woodpecker, a Common Hill Myna and several Eurasian Treesparrows. Birds weren't the only wildlife of interest as we saw a Clouded Monitor and lots of Plantain Squirrels.

We finished the half day tour at 5.30 pm. It was brief but very successful in terms of the birds and other wildlife encountered. In total, we recorded 51 species of birds for Scott's first foray into the birds of Singapore.

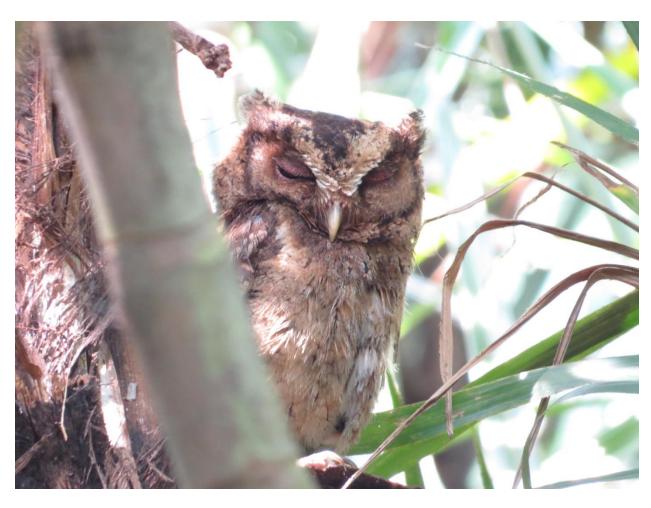
## A Checklist of the Birds Recorded in Singapore on 26st July 2015

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

#	English Name	Scientific Name
1	Striated Heron	Butorides striata
2	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea
3	Great Egret	Ardea alba
4	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
5	White-bellied Sea Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster
6	White-breasted Waterhen	Amaurornis phoenicurus
7	Little Tern	Sternula albifrons

8	Rock Dove	Columba livia
9	Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis
10	Common Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps indica
11	Zebra Dove	Geopelia striata
12	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	Treron vernans
13	Sunda Scops Owl	Otus lempiji
14	Buffy Fish Owl	Ketupa ketupu
15	Glossy Swiftlet	Collocalia esculenta
16	Oriental Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis
17	Stork-billed Kingfisher	Pelargopsis capensis
18	Collared Kingfisher	Todiramphus chloris
19	Blue-throated Bee-eater	Merops viridis
20	Lineated Barbet	Megalaima lineata
21	Banded Woodpecker	Chrysophlegma miniaceum
22	Laced Woodpecker	Picus vittatus
23	Common Flameback	Dinopium javanense
24	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	Loriculus galgulus
25	Coconut Lorikeet	Trichoglossus haematodus
26	Common Iora	Aegithina tiphia
27	Pied Triller	Lalage nigra
28	Black-naped Oriole	Oriolus chinensis
29	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus paradiseus
30	Malaysian Pied Fantail	Rhipidura javanica
31	House Crow	Corvus splendens
32	Straw-headed Bulbul	Pycnonotus zeylanicus
33	Red-whiskered Bulbul	Pycnonotus jocosus
34	Yellow-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus goiavier
35	Olive-winged Bulbul	Pycnonotus plumosus
36	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica
37	Pacific Swallow	Hirundo tahitica
38	Dark-necked Tailorbird	Orthotomus atrogularis
39	Ashy Tailorbird	Orthotomus ruficeps
40	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	Macronous gularis
41	White-crested Laughingthrush	Garrulax leucolopus
42	Oriental White-eye	Zosterops palpebrosus
43	Asian Glossy Starling	Aplonis panayensis
44	Common Hill Myna	Gracula religiosa
45	Javan Myna	Acridotheres javanicus
46	Oriental Magpie-Robin	Copsychus saularis
47	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	Dicaeum cruentatum
48	Brown-throated Sunbird	Anthreptes malacensis

49	Copper-throated Sunbird	Leptocoma calcostetha
50	Olive-backed Sunbird	Cinnyris jugularis
51	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus



A roosting Sunda Scops Owl at Singapore Botanic Gardens. Photo © Lim Kim Seng