

# Birding Singapore – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015

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A pair of White-crested Laughingthrushes preening at Bukit Batok. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

Wilmer Fernandez, a birder from USA, and I arrived at the starting point of our journey at 6.20 am, at the entrance to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. There was a full moon and we heard quite a few Sunda Scops Owls and Brown Hawk Owls. We reached MacRitchie Reservoir to see quite a bit of activity with White-throated Kingfisher, Banded Woodpecker, Lineated Barbet and Long-tailed Parakeet showing well. The only migrant present were Barn Swallows and once again, the raptors were missing.

Back in the forest, we spent time at the top of Jelutong Tower. It was rather quiet and we only added Changeable Hawk Eagle, Asian Red-eyed Bulbul, Common Hill Myna and the usual flowerpeckers and

sunbirds. At 9.10 am, we descended the tower and bumped into a pair of Short-tailed Babblers. The walk out was otherwise uneventful. We logged 37 species in just over three hours.

After breakfast, we dropped by Bukit Batok Nature Park where an hour was enough for us to locate the globally threatened Straw-headed Bulbuls, a pair of Common Flamebacks and a flock of ten White-crested Laughingthrushes.

At 12.30 pm, we were at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. It was high tide when we stopped by the river and we saw only roosting Grey Herons. We moved over to the main hide but it was empty of birds, so we turned to the sluice gates on the left. Here, we saw a bunch of Great, Eastern Cattle and Little Egrets as well as Pacific Golden Plover, Common Redshank, Marsh Sandpiper and Common Greenshank. We spent quite a bit of time checking the shorebirds in the hope of seeing something rare but it did not happen.



A group of egrets and shorebirds at Sungei Buloh. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

After about an hour, we moved back to the bridge where we saw the deadly Shore Pit Viper coiled in a mangrove tree. We also did a loop round the mangrove boardwalk and saw the elusive Copper-throated Sunbird. It was a good 90 minute stop and we recorded 28 species despite the warm weather.

We had lunch at a nearby café before we moved on to Bishan for one last stop. We got there at 3.30 pm and moved quickly to a small community garden where we met a group of bird photographers. They showed us our target bird – a juvenile Crested Goshawk. Perhaps startled by the number of photographers, it flew ever so higher and so we decided to call it a day.

It was a day to remember with so many colourful and spectacular birds and other wildlife encountered in every place we visited.

### A Checklist of the Birds Recorded in Singapore on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015

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

#	English Name	Scientific Name
1	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</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	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
7	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichhyaetus</i>
8	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
9	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
10	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
11	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
12	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</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	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
18	Violet Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</i>
19	Sunda Scops Owl	<i>Otus lempiji</i>
20	Brown Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
21	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
22	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
23	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>



24	Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>
25	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
26	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>
27	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>
28	Laced Woodpecker	<i>Picus vittatus</i>
29	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
30	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>
31	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
32	Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
33	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
34	Pied Triller	<i>Lalage nigra</i>
35	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
36	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
37	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
38	Straw-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i>
39	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
40	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
41	Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>
42	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
43	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
44	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
45	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
46	Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>
47	Chestnut-winged Babbler	<i>Stachyris erythroptera</i>
48	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>
49	Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Malcocincla malaccensis</i>
50	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolopus</i>
51	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
52	Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
53	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
54	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
55	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
56	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
57	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
58	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>
59	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
60	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>
61	Copper-throated Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma calcostetha</i>
62	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
63	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
64	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>



A juvenile Crested Goshawk at Bishan Park. Photo © Lim Kim Seng