

Birding Singapore – 31st August 2015

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Adult Grey-headed Fish Eagle at MacRitchie Reservoir. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

There it is! Alex Cruz, a biology professor from Colorado, USA, and I had been waiting for something to happen and it did! Perched on a dead tree just 20 metres from us was the magnificent Grey-headed Fish Eagle. It ignored our presence and we were able to get some good photographs before it got nervous and flew off to the opposite bank of MacRitchie Reservoir. This was the highlight of an otherwise quiet morning in the rainforests of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. We also got good looks at Lineated Barbet and Common Flameback as well as a single Black-headed Bubul, a locally endangered species.

We climbed to the top of Jelutong Tower to scan for canopy birds but it was one of the quieter mornings and we did not see anything exceptional other than the usual bulbuls, flowerpeckers and sunbirds. Coming down from the tower, we stopped to rest at the mid-point and were surprised to see a pair of Blue-winged Leafbirds and a very well concealed Red-crowned Barbet. After taking some photos, we left the tower and walked out to the carpark. The walk was quiet but we did encounter a cooperative Little Spiderhunter and a shy Forest Wagtail. Despite the hazy weather, we managed a respectable 42 species.

It was breakfast time and we opted for *roti prata* and tea at a coffee shop in Bukit Timah. After that, we decided to explore the nearby hill park of Bukit Batok. We spent almost ninety minutes here to see a good variety of interesting birds including a pale morph Changeable Hawk Eagle, Glossy Swiftlet, a family of Straw-headed Bulbuls and the spectacular Crimson Sunbird.



The spectacular Crimson Sunbird at Bukit Batok Nature Park. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

Next, we moved north to Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. The tide was high and so the river was rather empty except for Grey Heron and some escaped storks. We stopped by the main pond and found a large group of Great and Little Egrets and many shorebirds, mainly Common Redshanks. Back at the visitor centre, we saw several large Malayan Water Monitors and a male Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker. We also

explored the mangrove boardwalk and added Oriental Dollarbird and Copper-throated Sunbird. It was a good stop as we logged 34 species in just ninety minutes.

Lunch was next and we stopped by a seafood restaurant by the scenic Woodlands Waterfront. The food was good and we enjoyed the sea breeze.

We had one final stop so we moved on to Bishan Park. We arrived at 4.30 pm and spent some time exploring the stream and the parkland. We were delighted to see 3-4 Grey-rumped Treeswifts and an immature Slat-breasted Rail to conclude the day's birding. Overall, we had recorded some 72 species of birds and also some interesting wildlife such as Long-tailed Macaque, Malayan Box Tortoise, Clouded Monitor and Common Treeshrew.

A Checklist of the Birds Recorded in Singapore on 31st August 2015

Nomenclature, sequence and taxonomy follow IOC. Species highlighted in yellow indicate those that 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	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
7	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichthyaeus</i>
8	Slaty-breasted Rail	<i>Gallirallus striatus</i>
9	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
10	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
11	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
12	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
13	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
14	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
15	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
16	Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
17	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
18	Sunda Scops Owl	<i>Otus lempiji</i>
19	Brown Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
20	Grey-rumped Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>
21	Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>
22	Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
23	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>

24	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
25	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
26	Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>
27	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
28	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>
29	Red-crowned Barbet	<i>Megalaima rafflesii</i>
30	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
31	Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus moluccensis</i>
32	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>
33	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
34	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
35	Coconut Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>
36	Blue-rumped Parrot	<i>Psittinus cyanurus</i>
37	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
38	Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
39	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
40	Pied Triller	<i>Lalage nigra</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	Straw-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i>
45	Black-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus atriceps</i>
46	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
47	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
48	Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>
49	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
50	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
51	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
52	Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>
53	Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>
54	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>
55	Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Malcocincla malaccensis</i>
56	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolopus</i>
57	Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
58	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
59	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
60	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
61	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
62	Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>
63	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>
64	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>

65	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>
66	Copper-throated Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma calcostetha</i>
67	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
68	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
69	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>
70	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
71	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
72	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>



A female Grey-rumped Treeswift at Bishan Park. Photo © Lim Kim Seng