

Birding Singapore – 3rd June 2017

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A pair of White-crested Laughingthrushes foraging at Bukit Batok Nature Park. Photo © Birding Singapore/Lim Kim Seng

Diane and Brian Cooke are keen birders from the UK and they wanted to experience what Birding Singapore was like, so a trip was arranged. We were in the forest by 6.00 am and as we walked the undulating trail in the moonlight, we were entertained by an orchestra of insects. No owls were heard and the sky brightened eventually. We decided to explore the edges of MacRitchie Reservoir. It was scenic and we were soon entertained by Pink-necked Green Pigeons, a male Long-tailed Parakeet, Oriental Magpie Robins and Greater Racket-tailed Drongos.

It got warm quickly and we were glad to be back in the forest by 8.00 am. We climbed up Jelutong Tower and waited for bird activity. Highlights seen from the 20-metre tower included Blue-throated Bee-eater, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot, five species of bulbul including the unexpected Red-whiskered,

an oversummering Barn Swallow, 3 Common Hill Mynas, a female Greater Green Leafbird followed by a pair of Blue-winged Leafbirds, and the tiny Van Hasselt's Sunbird. The walk out was uneventful. It was a good morning still as we recorded 35 species despite the cloudy and warm weather. We also added Long-tailed Macaque, Slender and Plantain Squirrels, and Black-bearded Gliding Dragon to our list of interesting wildlife encountered.

After breakfast, we dropped by Bukit Batok Nature Park in our quest for birds. The speciality here was the globally endangered Straw-headed Bulbul, the largest in the world, and we saw them easily. There were five of them but they were flighty and did not allow close approach. We also saw the clowns of the park – White-crested Laughingthrushes. They were ten of them and we were soon surrounded by them! Also seen here were a tame Clouded Monitor and a Sumatran Gliding Lizard, our second *Draco* lizard of the day! After a quick check of the quarry pond, where we added Glossy Swiftlet, we left the park, with the main mission of seeing the park's special birds achieved!

Next was a short drive to the famed Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve located in the north of Singapore. Our first spot was the visitor centre where we counted 25 roosting Common Fruit Bats and the usual Malayan Water Monitors. At the river, we saw three Estuarine Crocodiles, a Grey Heron and a Striated Heron. The hide at the main pond was devoid of birds so we detoured to the mangrove boardwalk where we had great looks at a male Copper-throated Sunbird and a female in its nest. Also seen here were the regulars from the zoo – Painted and Milky Storks. As we left the reserve, Diane spotted an Oriental Pied Hornbill in the visitor centre to add some spectacle to an already great day.

Lunch was next and it was followed by a 30-minute drive to Pasir Ris Park. It was 3 pm but very warm still. We saw a shy Plaintive Cuckoo, lots of Collared Kingfishers, a Pied Triller and Oriental White-eyes but the main attraction of the park was a pair of roosting Spotted Wood Owls, the birds of the day! We explored the mangroves and then returned to the carpark, where we were greeted by a feast of woodpeckers. It started with the brilliantly coloured Common Flamebacks, followed by a pair of Sunda Pygmy Woodpeckers and ended with a pair of Rufous Woodpeckers. What a treat!

What a fitting finale to a wonderful day of birding! Despite the lack of migrants, we managed to record 64 species of birds, as well as some interesting wildlife.



A well concealed Spotted Wood Owl staring at us at Pasir Ris Park. Photo © Birding Singapore/Lim Kim Seng

A Checklist of the Birds Recorded in Singapore on 3rd June 2017

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

#	English Name	Scientific Name
1	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
2	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
3	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
4	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
5	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
6	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
7	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
8	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
9	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>

10	Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>
11	Spotted Wood Owl	<i>Strix selouto</i>
12	Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>
13	Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
14	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
15	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
16	Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>
17	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
18	Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus moluccensis</i>
19	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>
20	Laced Woodpecker	<i>Picus vittatus</i>
21	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
22	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>
23	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
24	Blue-rumped Parrot	<i>Psittinus cyanurus</i>
25	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
26	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
27	Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
28	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
29	Pied Triller	<i>Lalage nigra</i>
30	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
31	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
32	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
33	Straw-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i>
34	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
35	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
36	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
37	Cream-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus simplex</i>
38	Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>
39	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
40	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
41	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
42	Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>
43	Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>
44	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>
45	Abbott's Babbler	<i>Malcocincla abbotti</i>
46	Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Malcocincla malaccensis</i>
47	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolopus</i>
48	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
49	Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
50	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>

51	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
52	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
53	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
54	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
55	Greater Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis sonnerati</i>
56	Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>
57	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>
58	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
59	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>
60	Van Hasselt's Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma brasiliانا</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	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>



A female Rufous Woodpecker in a tembusu tree at Pasir Ris Park. Photo © Birding Singapore/Lim Kim Seng