

Birding Singapore – 4th June 2017

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An adult Red-crowned Barbet with fruit at Upper Seletar Reservoir Park. Photo © Birding Singapore/Lim Kim Seng

Martin Whiting is a herpetologist from Sydney, Australia, who also happens to be keen on birds. Time was limited as we only have half a day, so we arranged a special itinerary to find some of Singapore's special birds.

Our first stop was Bukit Batok Nature Park. We got here by 7.00 am and were immediately welcomed by a flock of White-crested Laughingthrushes and a pair of Red Junglefowls. They were tame and not bothered by the hordes of people walking past. Then, I heard a Straw-headed Bulbul calling from the carpark and we rushed over. Despite a careful search, there was no sign of this globally endangered gem but we find a pair of Banded Woodpeckers. A short while later, I heard its bubbling call and traced it to a small piece of scrub across the road. We found three birds perched low and feeding on *simpoh air* seeds along with other birds. Target seen in half an hour!

Next, we headed for Dairy Farm Nature Park for some more forest birding. Unfortunately, we could not get a place in the carpark, it being a Sunday and school holiday as well. The park was full of cars with bicycles straddled on their tops. We decided to change our plans and head for another site. We did however tick off a Little Spiderhunter along the way.

It was 9.00 am when we reached Upper Seletar Reservoir Park. Here, we found a nesting Red-crowned Barbet, which gave great views and was our Bird of the Day, as it came to feed a nestling. Not wanting to disturb it, we left soon after, but not before adding Olive-winged and Cream-vented Bulbuls.



A Greater Coucal calling at Pasir Ris Park. Photo © Birding Singapore/Lim Kim Seng

Our last spot was Pasir Ris Park and we got there by 10.00 am. A fly-by Oriental Pied Hornbill greeted us as we got our gear ready. We also saw Greater Coucal, White-throated Kingfisher, Pied Triller and Black-naped Oriole in the carpark. We rewarded ourselves with some cold drinks before moving out to the park proper.

It took some finding but we managed to locate a pair of roosting Spotted Wood Owls in the middle of the park and then proceeded over to the mangroves. We stopped at a viewing platform and saw Grey

and Striated Herons, and a Blue-throated Bee-eater. We also found a swimming Dog-faced Watersnake. We stopped by the bridge over looking Sungei Tampines and managed to see the very striking Stork-billed Kingfisher perched on a high branch. Walking around the small pond, we added Malaysian Pied Fantail and a calling Blue-winged Pitta. On our walk through the boardwalk, we found a few Giant Mudskippers as well as a friendly pair of Common Flamebacks. Back at the carpark, our morning ended well with sightings of a pair of Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker.



A Stork-billed Kingfisher fishing at Pasir Ris Park. Photo © Birding Singapore/Lim Kim Seng

A Checklist of the Birds Recorded in Singapore on 4th 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	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
5	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
6	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
7	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
8	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
9	Little Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>
10	Spotted Wood Owl	<i>Strix selouto</i>
11	Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
12	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
13	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
14	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
15	Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>
16	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
17	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>
18	Red-crowned Barbet	<i>Megalaima rafflesii</i>
19	Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus moluccensis</i>
20	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>
21	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
22	Tanimbar Corella	<i>Cacatua goffiniana</i>
23	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
24	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
25	Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
26	Blue-winged Pitta	<i>Pitta moluccensis</i>
27	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
28	Pied Triller	<i>Lalage nigra</i>
29	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
30	Malaysian Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>
31	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
32	Straw-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i>
33	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
34	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
35	Cream-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus simplex</i>
36	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
37	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicentris</i>
38	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
39	Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>

40	Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Malcocincla malaccensis</i>
41	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolopus</i>
42	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
43	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
44	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
45	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
46	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>
47	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
48	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
49	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>



A well concealed Black-naped Oriole at Pasir Ris Park. Photo © Birding Singapore/Lim Kim Seng