

Birding Singapore – 7th August 2015

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A Greater Racket-tailed Drongo at the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. Photo © Lim Kim Seng

Juan and Beatriz Perez were from Granada, Spain, and they were in Singapore to see her celebrate her fiftieth birthday. They also wanted to see some of Singapore's birds and so we arranged for a day tour. We were at our first site, the Central Catchment Nature Reserve by 6.00 am. As we entered the rocky, uneven trail, we saw the half moon and heard quite a few Sunda Scops Owls and Brown Hawk Owls. They were unfortunately distant and we missed them both.

We got to MacRitchie Reservoir and managed to see an adult Grey-headed Fish Eagle and the regulars here – Lineated and Coppersmith Barbets, Stork-billed and White-throated Kingfishers, Blue-throated Be-eater, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot, Long-tailed and Rose-ringed Parakeets, Asian Fairy-bluebird,

Large-billed Crow, Barn and Pacific Swallows, Yellow-vented and Olive-winged Bulbuls, Common and Dark-necked Tailorbirds and the usual sunbirds and flowerpeckers.

An hour later, we were at the top of Jelutong Tower looking for canopy species. We saw Changeable Hawk Eagle, Asian Fairy-bluebird, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, nine Common Hill Mynas and some sunbirds and flowerpeckers. On the way out, we saw a pair of Short-tailed Babblers in the same area as a pair of Chestnut-winged Babblers. The morning had gone well, We had recorded 44 species despite the generally dull weather.

After some congestion on the road caused holiday makers heading north into Malaysia, we made it in time for brunch in Woodlands, accompanied by a heavy thunderstorm.

At 1.00 pm, we were at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve to continue our birding. It was drizzling but we didn't mind. There was some activity at the carpark itself and we saw a pair of Common Goldenbacks followed by a family of Oriental Pied Hornbills.

We walked to the bridge over the river and saw a Stork-billed Kingfisher and a pair of squabbling Common Sandpipers that had just returned from their breeding grounds. At the main hide, we saw Common Redshank and Common Greenshank. We walked towards the coastal platform but did not see anything there other than Grey and Striated Herons. The bund itself was fairly lively and we saw Common Iora, Malaysian Pied Fantail, Ashy Tailorbird and both Brown-throated and Copper-throated Sunbirds. On the way to the main bridge, we saw a flying Whimbrel, another fresh returnee to Sungei Buloh. We left Buloh after 90 minutes with 32 species in the bag.

Next was Lorong Halus Wetland and we arrived at 3.00 pm. It was overcast and warm, and we made our way around the reedbeds in haste as there was an on-going lightning alert. The walk wasn't in vain as we added a surprise female Barred Buttonquail, Savanna Nightjar, Oriental Dollarbird and Yellow-bellied Prinia. We also drove around the outer service roads and added Brahminy Kite, Long-tailed Shrike, Baya Weaver and Paddyfield Pipit. We stayed just 45 minutes but we logged 23 species.

Our last spot was Pasir Ris Park. Upon arrival, our first birds were Red Junglefowl, Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker and Common Goldenback. We couldn't continue as there was a heavy downpour and we waited for half an hour. Once it weakened to a drizzle, we walked to the mangroves and added Black-crowned Night Heron, Stork-billed Kingfisher and Olive-winged Bulbul. We called it a day at 5.20 pm with 28 species recorded in about 90 minutes.

It was a good day despite delays caused by rain. We recorded 83 species in total including our bird of the day – Barred Buttonquail!

A Checklist of the Birds Recorded in Singapore on 7th August 2015

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	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
3	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
4	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
5	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
6	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
7	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
8	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichhyaetus</i>
9	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
10	Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>
11	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
12	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>
13	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
14	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
15	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
16	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
17	Red Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
18	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
19	Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
20	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
21	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
22	Little Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>
23	Sunda Scops Owl	<i>Otus lempiji</i>
24	Brown Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
25	Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>
26	Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
27	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
28	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
29	Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>
30	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
31	Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>

32	Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>
33	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
34	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>
35	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
36	Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus moluccensis</i>
37	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>
38	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
39	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>
40	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
41	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
42	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
43	Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
44	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
45	Pied Triller	<i>Lalage nigra</i>
46	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
47	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
48	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
49	Malaysian Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>
50	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
51	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
52	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
53	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
54	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
55	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
56	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicentris</i>
57	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
58	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
59	Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>
60	Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>
61	Chestnut-winged Babbler	<i>Stachyris erythroptera</i>
62	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>
63	Abbott's Babbler	<i>Malcoccincla abbotti</i>
64	Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Malcoccincla malaccensis</i>
65	Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
66	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
67	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
68	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
69	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
70	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
71	Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>
72	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>

73	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
74	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>
75	Copper-throated Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma calcostetha</i>
76	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
77	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
78	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>
79	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
80	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
81	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
82	Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>
83	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>



An adult Oriental Pied Hornbill at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Photo © Lim Kim Seng