

Three noteworthy birds at Bidadari Park

Subjects: Oriental pied hornbill, *Anthracoceros albirostris* (Aves: Bucerotidae); Fig. 1 & 2.
Spotted wood owl, *Strix seloputo* (Aves: Strigidae); Fig. 3.
Grey parrot, *Psittacus erithacus* (Aves: Psittacidae); Fig. 4.

Subjects identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bidadari Park (formerly Bidadari Cemetery); 1 December 2013; late morning.

Habitat: Wooded parkland surrounded by urban areas.

Observers: Contributors.

Observations: One example of the Oriental pied hornbill was observed breaking off a dead branch with its beak for reasons unknown (Fig. 1 & 2).

An adult spotted wood owl was photographed perched high up in a tree, partially concealed among foliage (Fig. 3).

A grey parrot was seen flying beneath the tree canopy (Fig. 4).

Remarks: Once thought to be extinct in Singapore, the Oriental pied hornbill began to make its reappearance on Pulau Ubin since (at least) 1994. The species has presently spread throughout Singapore Island and is regarded as an uncommon resident (Lim, 2009: 67) that is 'critically endangered' (Lim et al., 2008: 266).

The spotted wood owl is also regarded as an uncommon resident in Singapore. Since 1985, this large species has been recorded from various wooded areas throughout Singapore Island, Pulau Ubin, Sentosa and Saint John's Island. It has been recorded from Bidadari Cemetery since 2002, and breeding has also been confirmed at that location (Lim, 2009: 116). Despite its widespread occurrence in Singapore, the spotted wood owl is locally classified as a 'critically endangered' species (Lim et al., 2008: 181).

The grey parrot is native to central and west Africa (Forshaw & Knight, 2010: 148) and examples seen in the wild in Singapore could be escaped captives or abandoned pets. Grey parrots have been recorded from Kent Ridge Park and Malcolm Park, but have not become an established alien species (Lim, 2009: 474).

Bidadari Park is a small patch of wooded parkland in the middle of a highly urbanised area. It is renowned for its diverse birdlife that consists of both common and rare resident and migrant species, as well as artificially introduced aliens (Yong, 2013).

References:

Forshaw, J. M. & F. Knight, 2010. *Parrots of the World*. Princeton University Press, New Jersey, USA. 328 pp.
Lim K. S., 2009. *The Avifauna of Singapore*. Nature Society (Singapore). 611 pp.
Lim K. S., H. C. Ho, K. K. Lim, K. C. Lim, L. K. Wang & G. Davison, 2008. Birds. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. Second edition. Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 177-189.
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Fig. 1. Oriental pied hornbill.
Photograph by Jeremy W. L. Yeo



Fig. 2. Oriental pied hornbill.
Photograph by Christopher Z. Y. Puan



Fig. 3. Spotted wood owl.
Photograph by Jeremy W. L. Yeo



Fig. 4. African grey parrot.
Photograph by Christopher Z. Y. Puan