

## A congregation of grey herons at Tengeh Reservoir

**Subjects:** Grey heron, *Ardea cinerea jouyi* (Aves: Coraciiformes: Ardeidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Tengah Reservoir, Raffles Country Club; 18 October 2013, 1000 hrs.

**Habitat:** Estuarine reservoir with granite rock bunds and open expanse of freshwater.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** 17 examples were sighted along a rock bund by the water's edge (see accompanying picture). They did not appear to be hunting as they were standing erect. Some of them had their wings partially spread out horizontally on the sides, with the underside of the wings facing upwards. They seemed to be sunning.

**Remarks:** Except at a heronry during the breeding season, grey herons are usually solitary or sometimes occurring in pairs (The Birds of Singapore website). The gathering of herons on the rock bund is unusual for the birds did not seem to be hunting or interacting with one another. The purpose of such a congregation could not be ascertained. In Singapore, the grey heron is listed as regarded as a vulnerable species (Lim et al., 2008).

### References:

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 and Animals of Singapore. 2nd Edition*. The Nature Society (Singapore), Singapore. Pp.177-189.  
The Birds of Singapore website - [http://singaporebirds.net/npassers\\_04/grey\\_heron.html](http://singaporebirds.net/npassers_04/grey_heron.html) (accessed 5 June 2014).



Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

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