

## A white-crested laughingthrush in a canteen at Kent Ridge

**Subject:** White-crested laughingthrush, *Garrulax leucolophus* (Aves: Passeriformes: Timaliidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Kent Ridge, National University of Singapore campus, Prince George's Park; 25 April 2015, around 1300 hrs.

**Habitat:** Canteen in concrete building and adjacent yard in parkland.

**Observers:** Contributor, with Yeo Jing Teng, Charlene Fong Hui Hua & Ong Yi Ying.

**Observation:** An exceptionally bold example was observed during lunch time, moving about in and around the canteen occupied by human diners. It was jumping from one chair to another inside the canteen, possibly foraging for food (see attached photographs).

**Remarks:** The white-crested laughingthrush is an introduced species in Singapore that is presently widespread across wooded areas in the western part of the main island. It is gregarious, foraging in parties of between four to six individuals (Yong et al., 2013: 132). The individual featured here may have been separated from its group. Its apparent fearlessness of people and enclosed dining area also suggests that it may have been somebody's pet.

**Reference:** Yong D. L., K. C. Lim & T. K. Lee, 2013. *A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Singapore*. John Beaufoy Publishing, Oxford, England. 176 pp.



Photographs by Sylvester Lim Jian Ming

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