

## Javan pipistrelles at Upper Thomson

**Subjects:** Javan pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus javanicus* (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Upper Thomson Road near junction of Yio Chu Kang Road; 18 December 2016, around 2250 hrs.

**Habitat:** Concrete apartment building in suburban area, next to the eastern boundary of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve.

**Observers:** Contributor with Sophia Sak and many others.

**Observation:** Two examples, each about 6 cm in head and body length, simultaneously landed one on top of the other, on the balcony of the apartment which faces the pool and garden area. At the time a festive gathering was underway and the apartment was well lit, noisy and full of people. It is not clear what interaction was taking place between the two bats. The upper bat promptly flew into the apartment, through the living room, along a corridor and into a spare room. The lower bat appeared somewhat dazed, and was picked up by the contributor. It was taken to the spare room and temporarily placed inside a cloth bag. The first bat, which was still circling inside the spare room, was then captured and placed inside the same cloth bag. At around midnight and after the party, the bats were taken to the balcony to be photographed (Figs. 1 & 2) and thereafter released unharmed.

**Remarks:** This is another instance of the Javan pipistrelle being observed in an urban environment, albeit next to a forested nature reserve, in Singapore. Recent records of this species have been from industrial and residential areas in Ayer Rajah (Chan et al., 2009), Paya Lebar (Yap & Chua, 2014) and Punggol (Tan, 2016). In Singapore, the Javan pipistrelle is regarded as 'widespread but uncommon' by Baker & Lim (2012: 163).

### References:

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- Kingston, T., B. L. Lim & A. Zubaid, 2006. *Bats of Krau Wildlife Reserve*. Penerbit Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. 145 pp.
- Tan S. K., 2016. Javan pipistrelle at Punggol. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2016: 107.
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Fig. 1. Frontal view of the head of one of the bats.



Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of a Javan pipistrelle photographed on a dried leaf.

Photographs by Nick Baker