

## Barred eagle-owl at Pulau Ubin

Law Ing Sind & Joseph Lin

[lawingsind@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:lawingsind@yahoo.com.sg) (Law)

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**Subject:** Barred eagle-owl, *Bubo sumatranus* (Aves: Strigiformes: Strigidae).

**Subject identified by:** Authors.

**Location, date and time:** Pulau Ubin; 19 September 2017; around 1200 hrs.

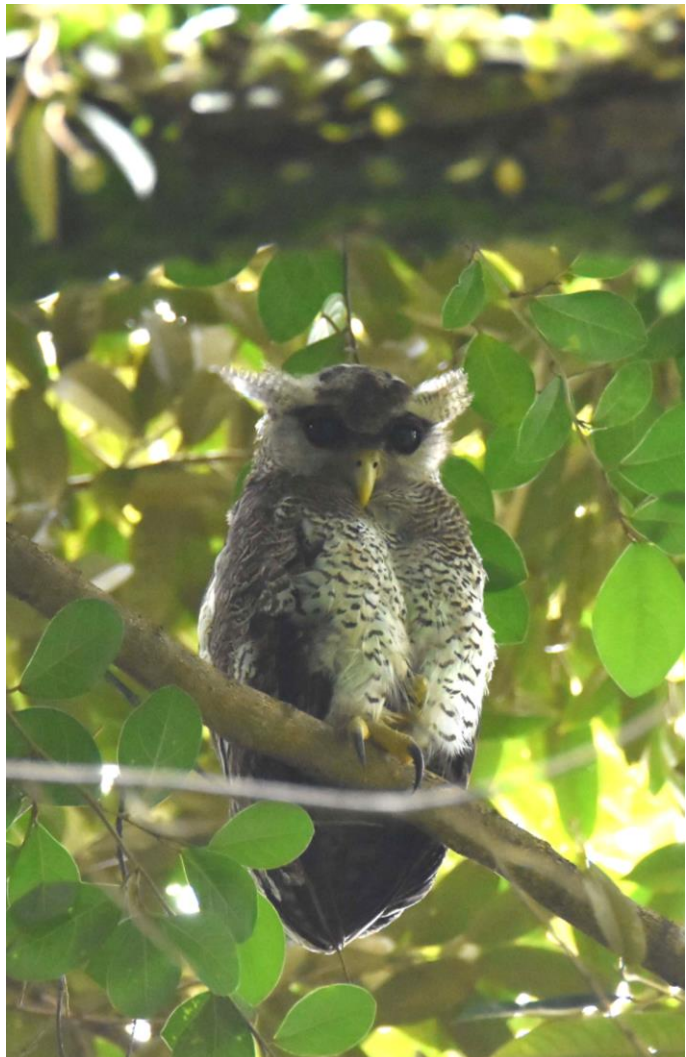
**Habitat:** Former durian plantation with regenerated forest.

**Observers:** Jonathan Tan, Raphael Siah, Zhang Xu Cheng, Serin Subaraj, Joseph Lin & Law Ing Sind.

**Observation:** An example (frontal view shown in the accompanying picture) was observed perching on a branch about 20 m high up on a durian tree (*Durio zibethinus*), making soft calls (refer to attached audio file recorded by Joseph Lin). No adults were seen in the vicinity.

**Remarks:** The featured individual is believed to be a sub-adult due to its ear-tufts being relatively short and white. It appears to be transitioning from juvenile to adult plumage. Barred eagle-owl juveniles are fluffy buffish-white with fine wavy dark-brown barring. Adults are darker and have long brown horizontal ear tufts with fine white barring (see Myers, 2009: 116).

*Bubo sumatranus* is regarded as a rare non-breeding visitor in Singapore by Lim (2017), but as a rare resident by Yong et al. (2017: 165). It is not known if this presumed subadult was hatched and fledged on Pulau Ubin.



Photograph by Joseph Lin

### References:

- Lim K. S., 2017. *Checklist of the birds of Singapore* (2017 edition). Nature Society (Singapore) Bird Group Records Committee. <https://singaporebirdgroup.wordpress.com/singapore-bird-checklist/>  
Accessed on 7 December 2017.
- Myers, S., 2009. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo*. Talisman Publishing Pte Ltd., Singapore. 272 pp.
- Yong D. L., K. C. Lim & T. K. Lee, 2017. *A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Singapore*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. John Beaufoy Publishing Limited, United Kingdom. 176 pp.