

Daurian redstart at University Town

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Subject: Daurian redstart, *Phoenicurus aureus* (Aves: Passeriformes: Muscicapidae).

Subject identified by: Sandra Jia Min Chia.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, National University of Singapore Kent Ridge Campus, University Town at Education Resource Centre; 30 January 2020 at 1225 hrs.; 31 January 2020 at 1130 hrs; and 4 February 2020 at 1818 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland.

Observers: Lynette Sze Min Chia (30 January), Pei Zhen Yap (31 January) and Anlydia Enqi Ooi (4 February).

Observation: An adult male in breeding plumage was initially sighted behind the PC Commons on 30 January 2020 (Fig. 1; www.inaturalist.org/observations/38112424). He was recorded in the same location the next day (Fig. 2; www.inaturalist.org/observations/38145499) and was there again four days later on 4 February (Fig. 3 & 4; www.inaturalist.org/observations/38417074).

Remarks: The Daurian redstart is not listed by Yong et al. (2017) but has been recorded three times in Singapore since 2013. The first record was of a female at Satay by the Bay in February 2013. The second record, a male at Cashew Heights in January 2013. The third is of another male at the Singapore Botanic Gardens in November 2019 (See Toh et al., 2020). This seems to be the fourth known record of the species in Singapore.



Fig. 1 Male Daurian redstart at University Town on 30 January 2020. Photograph by Lynette Sze Min Chia



Fig. 2. Apparently same bird on 31 January 2020. Photograph by Pei Zhen

The Daurian redstart inhabits open forest, forest edge, orchards, scrub and thickets. It breeds in the southern East Palearctic region, and winters in Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam (Robson, 2008: 458). In Singapore, this species is regarded as a rare vagrant (Toh et al., 2020).



Fig. 3 (left), Fig. 4 (right). Daurian redstart at University Town on 4 February 2020. Photographs by Anlydia Ooi Enqi

References:

- Robson C (2008) *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers, London. 544 pp.
- Toh YW, Yap F & Raghav (2020) Daurian Redstart. Singapore Birds Project. singaporebirds.com/species/daurian-redstart. Accessed on 29 February 2020.
- Yong DL, Lim KC & Lee TK (2017) *A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Singapore*. 3rd edition. John Beaufoy Publishing, United Kingdom. 176 pp.

Note: These observations were a result of the educational birdwatching competition held by the NUS University Scholars Programme module, ULS2208: Biodiversity and Natural History of Singapore.