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A dusky warbler at Yishun Central

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Subject: Dusky warbler, *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (Aves: Passeriformes: Phylloscopidae).

Subject identified by: Soh Hoon Looi and Simon Kee Mun Chan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Yishun Central, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Garden Plaza facing Yishun Pond; 25 December 2019; 1730-1830 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland. In a tall tree in a landscaped area (Fig. 1).

Observer: Soh Hoon Looi.

Observation: On a relatively cool evening, the featured example (Fig. 2), a small bird of about 10 cm, was observed flying about in a tall tree. It appeared to be hunting for insects as it hopped from branch to branch, intermittently flying short distances within the same tree. The bird has dark brown upperparts and there is no pale bar on the wing.

Remarks: The dusky warbler seems to be a very rare migrant in Singapore, apparently with only two previous local records which consist of single birds ringed at a grassland at Tuas in February 1994 and January 1995 (Singapore Birds Project, 2020). One example reported from Sengkang Wetlands on 22 January 2012 could not be confirmed (Lim, 2016). According to Singapore Birds Project (2020), a dusky warbler was photographed at the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital two days earlier on 22 and 23 December 2019. It is possible that they are the same individual. In Singapore, this species is regarded as a 'very rare' migrant (Yong et al., 2017: 168)

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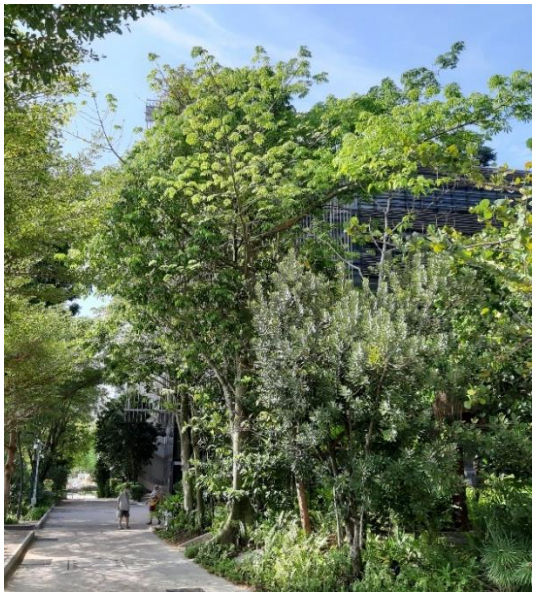

Fig. 1. View of the tall tree (in the middle) at the Garden Plaza. Photo by Simon Kee Mun Chan

Fig. 2. Latero-ventral view of dusky warbler on a tree at the Garden Plaza. Photograph by Soh Hoon Looi