

Hooded pitta at Sime forest

Subject: Hooded pitta, *Pitta sordida* (Aves: Passeriformes: Pittidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Sime forest at junction near Dillenia Hut leading to Jelutong Tower; 1 March 2014; around 0800 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: An individual was observed for about 15 minutes on the forest floor foraging among the leaf litter. It seemed unafraid of the photographer who was about 3 m away and taking pictures of it without using flash.

Remarks: The hooded pitta is distributed widely over India and south-western China, eastwards through Southeast Asia and the Philippines, and south to New Guinea. In Singapore, it is an uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Although an inhabitant of forested areas, it has also been found in gardens and urban areas during migration. The present sighting coincides with the northbound passage period (March and April) for this species (Lim, 2009: 276).

Reference: Lim K. S., 2009. *The Avifauna of Singapore*. Nature Society (Singapore) Bird Group Records Committee. 611 pp.



Photograph by Christopher Ziyang Puan

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