

## Spotted wood owl at Clementi Woods

**Subject:** Spotted wood owl, *Strix seloputo* (Aves: Strigiformes: Strigidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Clementi Woods Park, at carpark next to Sakura restaurant; 13 September 2014; around 2235 hrs.

**Habitat:** Urban parkland, with many old trees.

**Observers:** Rashid Yusof Tan, Ismail Yusof Tan, Hanny Salim & Cannie Chua.

**Observation:** A single adult bird was seen perched on a low branch (see accompanying picture) in a tree very close to the entrance of the restaurant via the carpark. It was looking around, probably surveying the surroundings for prey animals. After a few minutes, it flew to another tree and perched there for a moment. Several minutes later it took off in the direction of Masjid Tentera Diraja (Royal Army Mosque).

**Remarks:** The spotted wood owl is regarded as a 'critically endangered' species in Singapore, and one of the largest owls to be found there (Lim et al., 2008: 181). This uncommon resident frequents relatively exposed habitats such as secondary forests, old plantations, scrub and urban parkland. There were no historical records of this species in Singapore. It appears to have colonised Singapore recently, having spread south with the widespread cultivation of oil palms in Peninsular Malaysia (Yong et al., 2013: 88).

### References:

Lim K. S., H. C. Ho, K. K. Lim, K. C. Lim, L. K. Wang & G. Davison. 2008. Birds. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. Second Edition. The Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 177-189.

Yong D. L., K. C. Lim & T. K. Lee, 2013. *A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Singapore*. John Beaufoy Publishing Limited, UK. 176 pp.



Photograph by Rashid Yusof Tan

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