

Pink-headed reed snake captured by buffy fish owl

Subjects: Pink-headed reed snake, *Calamaria schlegeli* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).
Buffy fish owl, *Ketupa ketupu* (Aves: Strigiformes: Strigidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Sime forest; 22 January 2011; 2038 hrs.

Habitat: Mature secondary forest.

Observers: Contributor & Benjamin Y. H. Lee.

Observation: A buffy fish owl was observed with a headless snake, about 20 cm total length, in its talons.

Remarks: Although the prey was already beheaded, the black dorsum, white underside and short tapering tail indicate the pink-headed reed snake. The buffy fish-owl is known to feed on fish, frogs and crustaceans and even bats (Yong et al., 2013: 88). The present record shows that snakes are also included in its diet.

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



Photographs by Chan Kwok Wai

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