

Spotted wood owls at Kent Ridge

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

Subjects identified by: Ng Wen Qing.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, National University of Singapore campus, Kent Ridge Crescent; 10 March 2015 at 1745-1800 hrs and 11 March 2015 at 1815-1830 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland amidst buildings.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: Two adult spotted wood owls were perched at about 8 to 10 m up on the branches of a rain tree (*Albizia saman*) (Fig. 1). The birds were about 4 m apart from each other, and one of them (Fig. 2) was observed grooming its left foot (Fig. 3).

Remarks: The spotted wood owl is regarded as a 'critically endangered' species in Singapore (Lim et al., 2008). This species typically inhabits forests, woodlands, and urban parkland. Although it is active during the night, it only calls at dusk (Yong et al., 2013).

This large owl has been recorded from within the campus of the National University of Singapore (Tan & Kok, 2012; Yong et al., 2013), as well as from the adjacent Clementi Woods (Tan, 2014).

The two birds featured here appear to be a pair, and they were observed to be roosting in the same tree for the past month (Ng Wen Qing, personal communication).

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. H. Chew (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. Second edition. Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 177-189.
- Tan, D. & Z. Kok, 2012. *The Birds of NUS. Spotted Wood Owl*.
<https://nusavifauna.wordpress.com/2012/07/29/spotted-wood-owl-2/> (accessed on 11 March 2015).
- Tan, R. Y., 2014. Spotted wood owl at Clementi Woods. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 279.
- Yong, D. L., K. C. Lim & T. K. Lee, 2013. *A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Singapore*. John Beaufoy Publishing. 176 pp.

Contributors: **Tan** Heok Hui & **Koh** Li Ling

Contact addresses: nhmthh@nus.edu.sg (Tan), irokll@nus.edu.sg (Koh)



Fig 1. Two spotted wood owls perched on the branches of a rain tree. One at the upper right corner of the picture, the other at the lower left. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui



Fig. 2. Frontal view of one of the birds.



Fig. 3. The same bird grooming its left foot.

Photographs by Tan Heok Hui