

Horsfield's flying squirrel at Upper Seletar

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Subject: Horsfield's flying squirrel, *Iomys horsfieldii* (Mammalia: Rodentia: Sciuridae).

Subject identified by: Naomi Kim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Upper Seletar Reservoir Park, Mandai Track 7; 7 April 2019; 2145 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest edge.

Observers: Naomi Kim & Casey Yeo.

Observation: One adult example (see accompanying picture) was observed on a tree along a pavement. It was very active, scampering up and down the branches.

Remarks: The Horsfield's flying squirrel and the red-cheeked flying squirrel (*Hylopetes spadiceus*) are the two species of small flying squirrels known to occur in Singapore. The Horsfield's flying squirrel can be distinguished from the red-cheeked flying squirrel in having an orange margin on its gliding membrane, rusty brown tail that is uniformly grizzled throughout its length, and uniformly orange-tinged whitish ventral surface. The latter species has a white margin on its gliding membrane, dark brown tail with an orange-tinged base, and underside that is white with grey and orange markings (Chua et al., 2013: 304). In Singapore, the Horsfield's flying squirrel occurs in the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves (Baker & Lim, 2012: 138), as well as in the Bukit Batok Nature Park (Chua et al., 2013: 303).

References:

- Baker, N. & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes*. Updated edition. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte Ltd. & Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.
- Chua, M. A. H., N. Baker, R. K. H. Yeo & N. Sivasothi, 2013. New locality records for two species of flying squirrels (Mammalia: Rodentia: Sciuridae) in Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*. 6: 301-305.



Latero-ventral view of flying squirrel (facing left) on a horizontal branch. Photograph by Naomi Kim