By Lo Chun Fai and Ho Wing Tung (lchunfai@live.hk)

Flight and Hotel
We took CX 659, after a bit delaying, the plane departed at 0145 and arrived Singapore at 0555 on 21 April. On the way back, we took CX 636 and arriving Hong Kong at 2355 on 25 April. For CX 659, the new airbus A350 was used. For the 4 nights, we stayed in Swissotel the Stamford Singapore (http://www.swissotel.com/hotels/singapore-stamford/), located at the City Hall MRT station. The trip package was booked through expedia.hk.

Traffic and Weather
Singapore’s public transport is very convenient. We bought an ezLink card in airport and we could take MRT to different parks, like Singapore Botanic Garden, Pasir Ris Park and Chinese Garden. For the other birding spots, we were guided by Singapore birding friends. Many thanks indeed!
Like other tropical region, Singapore is a hot country, rain and thunderstorms were common throughout the 5 days.

Field Guide
Although it is not covering the Malaysian Peninsula, the book Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago: Greater Sundas and Wallacea by James A. Eaton was used, due to the detailed taxonomy description.

Acknowledgement
Once again, many thanks to Alan, Jane and Terry, Jacky and his friend for the guiding and useful information in these days.
General Itinerary

Day 1
Since we arrived Singapore in early morning, well before the check-in time, we left our luggage in hotel’s lobby first. Then we headed to Singapore Botanic Garden to see if the two long-staying Pitta (Hooded and Blue-winged) were still around or not. However, due to the heavy rain, we were only able to see the Hooded Pitta. Apart from other common garden birds, an adult Grey-headed Fish Eagle was also seen in the garden. In the afternoon, we went Marina Barrage for the near-threatened Malaysian Plover, without success, then we walked around Garden by the Bay then backed to the hotel. We had a great dinner with friends in Singapore in China Town.

Day 2
We met Jacky and went to Pasir Ris Park, aimed for the Spotted Wood Owl, however, owl could not be found but a Buffy Fish Owl was seen, a rather uncommon species when comparing to Spotted Wood. A group of Smooth-coated Otters Lutrogale perspicillata were also seen in the Park. Then we headed to Changi Village for local parrots, and Bidadari to see any migrant species. Bidadari is famous for Spotted Wood Owl and migrants Cuckoos, but once again we had no luck for them. At night, we went to the famous Merlion and Lau Pa Sat.

Day 3
Our major target in this trip is the endangered Straw-headed Bulbul, where Singapore is a stronghold for this species. We went to Bukit Batok Nature Park in the morning, and we heard one once we arrived. We finally able to see 4 birds in the nature park. We also went to Diary Farm and Bukit Timah Nature Reserve for some local forest species. In late afternoon, we got news of a Violet Cuckoo, so we went to Jurong Eco Garden but without success. At night, we went to Garden by the Bay, enjoying a lighting show and Lau Pa Sat again for the local food.

Day 4
We spent most of the day in Jelutong Tower for the local forest birds, and we tried Pasir Ris Park again in late afternoon for the Wood Owl, but we dipped once again. At night, several Large-tailed Nightjar showing very well in the park.

Day 5
As the last day, we did not have much time for birding so we went to Chinese and Japanese Garden for a 2-hour walk in early morning. Not many new birds but we did enjoy excellent close view of Laced Woodpecker and Water Monitor Varanus salvator. We did shopping in Ngee Ann City before heading to airport.
Lighting show in Garden by the Bay

Trip List:

*(Taxonomy following the HBW Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World)*

B - Bidadari
BB - Bukit Batok Nature Park
BT - Bukit Timah Nature Reserve
C - Changi village
CG - Chinese Garden
DF - Dairy Farm
GB - Garden by the Bay
JEG - Jurong Eco Garden
JG - Japanese Garden
JT - Jelutong Tower
MB - Marina Barrage
PRP - Pasir Ris Park
SBG - Singapore Botanic Garden

(H) - Heard only
(*) - Remark
Red Junglefowl  
*Gallus gallus*  
Common in SBG, PSP, 2 in BB, 1 heard in BT, common in JT

Rock Dove  
*Columba livia*  
Everywhere

Eastern Spotted Dove  
*Spilopelia chinensis*  
Everywhere

Zebra Dove  
*Geopelia striata*  
Common

Pink-necked Green Pigeon  
*Treron vernans*  
Everywhere

Asian Emerald Dove  
*Chalcophaps indica*  
1 in JT

Pied Imperial Pigeon  
*Duacula bicolor*  
1 seen in flight in SBG, 1 perched bird near BB

Chestnut-bellied Malkoha  
*Phoenicophaeus sumatranus*  
A pair seen building nest in JT

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo (H)  
*Clamator coromandus*  
1 heard in PRP

Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo (H)  
*Surniculus lugubris*  
2 heard in DF, 3 heard in JT

Banded Bay Cuckoo (H)  
*Cacomantis sonneratii*  
1 heard in JEG

Plaintive Cuckoo  
*Cacomantis merulinus*  
A male seen and heard in JT

Little Bronze Cuckoo  
*Chrysococcyx minitillus*  
1 seen and 1 heard in PRP

Asian Koel  
*Eudynamys scolopaceus*  
Common

Grey-rumped Treeswift  
*Hemiprocnne longipennis*  
3 in JT

Black-nest Swiftlet (*)  
*Aerodramus maxima*  
Common

Germain’s Swiftlet (*)  
*Aerodramus germani*  
Everywhere

Large-tailed Nightjar  
*Caprimulagus macrurus*  
1 in B during daytime, 5-6 heard and seen in PRP at night

Slaty-breasted Rail  
*Lewinia striata*  
1 immature in PRP

White-breasted Waterhen  
*Amaurornis phoenicurus*  
Very common

Common Sandpiper  
*Actitis hypoleucos*  
2 in MB

Black-naped Tern  
*Sterna sumatrana*  
1 in MB

Yellow Bittern  
*Ixobrychus sinensis*  
2 in PRP, 1 in CG

Great-billed Heron  
*Ardea sumatrana*  
2 distant bird in C

Grey Heron  
*Ardea cinerea*  
Uncommon

Little Egret  
*Egretta garzetta*  
Common in PRP

Pacific Reef Egret  
*Egretta sacra*  
1 dark morph in MB

Striated Heron  
*Butorides striata*  
3 in MB, 1 in JG

Black-crowned Night Heron  
*Nycticorax nycticorax*  
Common in PRP, 1 immature in JEG

Changeable Hawk Eagle  
*Nisaetus limnaeetus*  
1 heard in SBG, 1 heard in DF, 1 immature seen in JT

White-bellied Fish Eagle  
*Icthyophaga leucogaster*  
2 adult in PRP, 1 in C, 1 immature in BT, 1 adult in CG

Grey-headed Fish Eagle (*)  
*Icthyophaga ichthyaetus*  
1 adult in SBG

Brahminy Kite  
*Haliastur indus*  
1 adult in SBG, 1 immature in GB,

Japanese Sparrowhawk  
*Tachypia gularis*  
1 adult male in JT

Buffy Fish Owl (*)  
*Bubo Ketupu*  
2 in PRP

Oriental Pied Hornbill (*)  
*Anthracoceros albirostris*  
2 in PRP, 1 male in C

Lineated Barbet  
*Psilopogon lineatus*  
Uncommon in SBG, 1 in B

Red-crowned Barbet (H)  
*Psilopogon rafflesii*  
1 heard in BT

Coppersmith Barbet  
*Psilopogon haemacephalus*  
Commonly heard in B, BB, BT, a pair seen in CG
<p>| Common Flameback | <em>Dinopium javanense</em> | Common in PRP, 1 male seen in JEG |
| Rufous Woodpecker | <em>Micropterus brachyurus</em> | A pair seen building nest in JT |
| Banded Woodpecker | <em>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</em> | 1 pair seen in SBG, 1 pair seen in BT, 1 in JT, commonly heard in JT |
| Laced Woodpecker | <em>Picus vittatus</em> | 1 pair seen in PRP, 1 adult male seen in CG |
| Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker | <em>Picoides moluccensis</em> | Common in PRP, 1 pair seen in C, common in CG |
| White-breasted Kingfisher | <em>Halcyon smyrnensis</em> | 2 in SBG, 1 in B, 1 in PRP |
| Collared Kingfisher | <em>Todiramphus chloris</em> | Everywhere |
| Stork-billed Kingfisher | <em>Pelargopsis capensis</em> | 1 heard and seen in PRP, 1 seen in BT, 1 heard in CG |
| Blue-throated Bee-eater | <em>Merops viridis</em> | 3 in B, 7 in DF |
| Dollarbird | <em>Eurystomus orientalis</em> | Uncommon |
| Tanimbar Cockatoo | <em>Cacatua goffiniana</em> | 2 in C |
| Red-breasted Parakeet | <em>Psittacula alexandri</em> | Very common |
| Long-tailed Parakeet | <em>Psittacula longicauda</em> | A small flock in SBG, 3 in DF |
| Rose-winged Parakeet | <em>Psittacula krameri</em> | Small flocks in B, PRP and CG |
| Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot | <em>Loriculus galgulus</em> | 1 adult male in DF, 1 seen in flight in JT |
| Hooded Pitta (<em>) | <em>Pitta sordida</em> | 1 in SBG |
| Blue-winged Pitta | <em>Pitta moluccensis</em> | 1 heard and seen in flight in PRP |
| Golden-bellied Gerygone | <em>Gerygone dorsalis</em> | 3 in C, 1 heard in CG |
| Black-naped Oriole (</em>) | <em>Oriolus chinensis</em> | Everywhere |
| Common Iora | <em>Aegithina tiphia</em> | Very common |
| Malayan Pied Triller | <em>Lalage striga</em> | Uncommon in PRP, 1 in JEG |
| Malaysian Pied Fantail | <em>Rhipidura javanica</em> | A pair in SBG, a pair in PRP, 1 in JEG, 1 in CG |
| Greater Racket-tailed Drongo | <em>Dicrurus paradiseus</em> | Very common in BB, DF, BT and JT |
| Brown Shrike | <em>Lanius cristatus</em> | 1 adult in PRP, 1 in CG |
| Tiger Shrike | <em>Lanius Tigrinus</em> | 1 adult in DF |
| Southern Jungle Crow | <em>Corvus macrorhynchos</em> | 4 in PRP |
| House Crow | <em>Corvus splendens</em> | Very common in urban |
| Pacific Swallow | <em>Hirundo tahitica</em> | Very common |
| Sunda Yellow-vented Bulbul | <em>Pycnonotus analis</em> | Everywhere |
| Olive-winged Bulbul | <em>Pycnonotus plumosus</em> | 2 in PRP, common in BB, BT and JT |
| Straw-headed Bulbul (*) | <em>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</em> | 2 heard in BB, 4 seen in BB, 1 heard in BT |
| Cream-vented Bulbul | <em>Pycnonotus simplex</em> | 1 in DF, common in JT |
| Asian Red-eyed Bulbul | <em>Pycnonotus brunneus</em> | 1 in BB, 2 in DF |
| Pin Striped Tit Babbler | <em>Mixornis gularis</em> | Very common in BB, DF, BT and JT |
| White-crowned Laughingthrush | <em>Garrulax leucolophus</em> | Very common in BB |
| Oriental White-eye | <em>Zosterops melanurus</em> | Uncommon |
| Arctic Warbler | <em>Phylloscopus borealis</em> | 1 in SBG, 2 in PRP, 1 in B, 1 in BT, 1 in JT, 2 in CG |
| Common Tailorbird | <em>Orthotomus sutorius</em> | Common |
| Dark-necked Tailorbird | <em>Orthotomus atrogularis</em> | 1 heard in PRP, 1 seen in BB, common in JT, 1 seen in CG |
| Rufous-tailed Tailorbird (H) | <em>Orthotomus sericeus</em> | 1 heard in DF |
| Ashy Tailorbird | <em>Orthotomus ruficeps</em> | Uncommon |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Prinia (*)</td>
<td><em>Prinia flaviventris</em></td>
<td>2 in PRP, 2 in JEG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Glossy Starling</td>
<td><em>Aplonis panayensis</em></td>
<td>Very common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Hill Myna</td>
<td><em>Gracula religiosa</em></td>
<td>2 in SBG, 1 in B, 2 in DF, 3 in JT, 2 in PRP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Myna</td>
<td><em>Acridotheres tristis</em></td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Javan Myna</td>
<td><em>Acridotheres javanicus</em></td>
<td>Everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriental Magpie Robin</td>
<td><em>Copsychus saularis</em></td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Fairy Bluebird</td>
<td><em>Irena puella</em></td>
<td>1 adult male in JT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange-bellied Flowerpecker</td>
<td><em>Dicaeum trigonostigma</em></td>
<td>Uncommon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker</td>
<td><em>Dicaeum cruentatum</em></td>
<td>Commonly heard, 1 male seen in flight in JT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown-throated Sunbird</td>
<td><em>Anthreptes malacensis</em></td>
<td>Very common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Hasselt's Sunbird</td>
<td><em>Leptocoma brasiliana</em></td>
<td>2 male, 1 female and 2 juvenile in BB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimson Sunbird (*)</td>
<td><em>Aethopyga siparaja</em></td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive-backed Sunbird (*)</td>
<td><em>Cinnyris ornatus</em></td>
<td>Everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-headed Munia</td>
<td><em>Lonchura maja</em></td>
<td>4 in PRP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Tree Sparrow</td>
<td><em>Passer montanus</em></td>
<td>Everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddyfield Pipit</td>
<td><em>Anthus rufulus</em></td>
<td>Very common in MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Swan</td>
<td><em>Cygnus atratus</em></td>
<td>Pet bird in SBG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mute Swan</td>
<td><em>Cygnus olor</em></td>
<td>Pet bird in SBG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowerpecker species</td>
<td><em>Dicaeum sp.</em></td>
<td>Commonly heard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leafbird species</td>
<td><em>Chloropsis sp.</em></td>
<td>1 distant male bird seen in BT, either Lesser or Greater Green Leafbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Chloropsis cyanopogon / sonnerati)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parrakeet species</td>
<td><em>Psittacula sp.</em></td>
<td>Commonly seen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitta species</td>
<td><em>Pitta sp.</em></td>
<td>1 heard in PRP, probably Mangrove Pitta (<em>Pitta megarhyncha</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiftlet species</td>
<td><em>Aerodramus sp.</em></td>
<td>Unidentified swiftlet seen everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tern species</td>
<td><em>Sterna sp.</em></td>
<td>5 unidentified terns seen in MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treeswift species</td>
<td><em>Hemiprocne sp.</em></td>
<td>1 seen in flight in SBG, probably Grey-rumped Treeswift (<em>Hemiprocne longipennis</em>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Remarks:

Black-nested Swiftlet *Aerodramus maxima*
Germain's Swiftlet *Aerodramus germani*
Identifying dark swiftlet is always challenging. The Black-nested and Germain's are the two major commonest swiftlet in Singapore. A darker, with longer wing, bulkier with little tail notch swiftlet was identified as Black-nested Swiftlet while a pale-rumped with more obvious tail notch was identified as Germain's Swiftlet. Identification is not safe even with photos.

Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Icthyophaga icthyaetus*
The large near-threatened raptor was seen in Swan Lake in SBG.

Buffy Fish Owl *Bubo Ketupu*
A total of two owls were seen near the carpark in PRP. One bird was blind with only one eye left.

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*
The local subspecies *convexus* is sometimes considered as Sunda Pied Hornbill.

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*
The first ever pitta in our life list was seen in rainforest trail in SBG. The local subspecies *mulleri* is sometimes considered as Oriental Hooded Pitta.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*
The local subspecies *maculatus* is sometimes considered as Sunda Golden Oriole.

Straw-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*
This songbird has been recently uplisted to Endangered due to illegal trapping and pet trade, and hence, making this as our major target and bird of the trip. A total of 2 heard in BB carpark, then later on 4 were seen in Cliff in BB, including one immature. Later on 1 more was heard in BT quarry. This species is less common in Singapore than we expected.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*
The local subspecies *rafflesi* is sometimes considered as Raffles's Prinia.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*
The local subspecies *siparaja* is sometimes considered as Greater Crimson Sunbird.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris ornatus*
The local subspecies *ornatus* is sometimes considered as Ornate Sunbird.
Day - Crimson Sunbird, an unofficial national bird of Singapore

Night - Large-tailed Nightjar in PRP