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MALAYAN NATURE SOCIETY

SINGAPORE BRANCH BIRD GROUP

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SINGAPORE AVIFAUNA

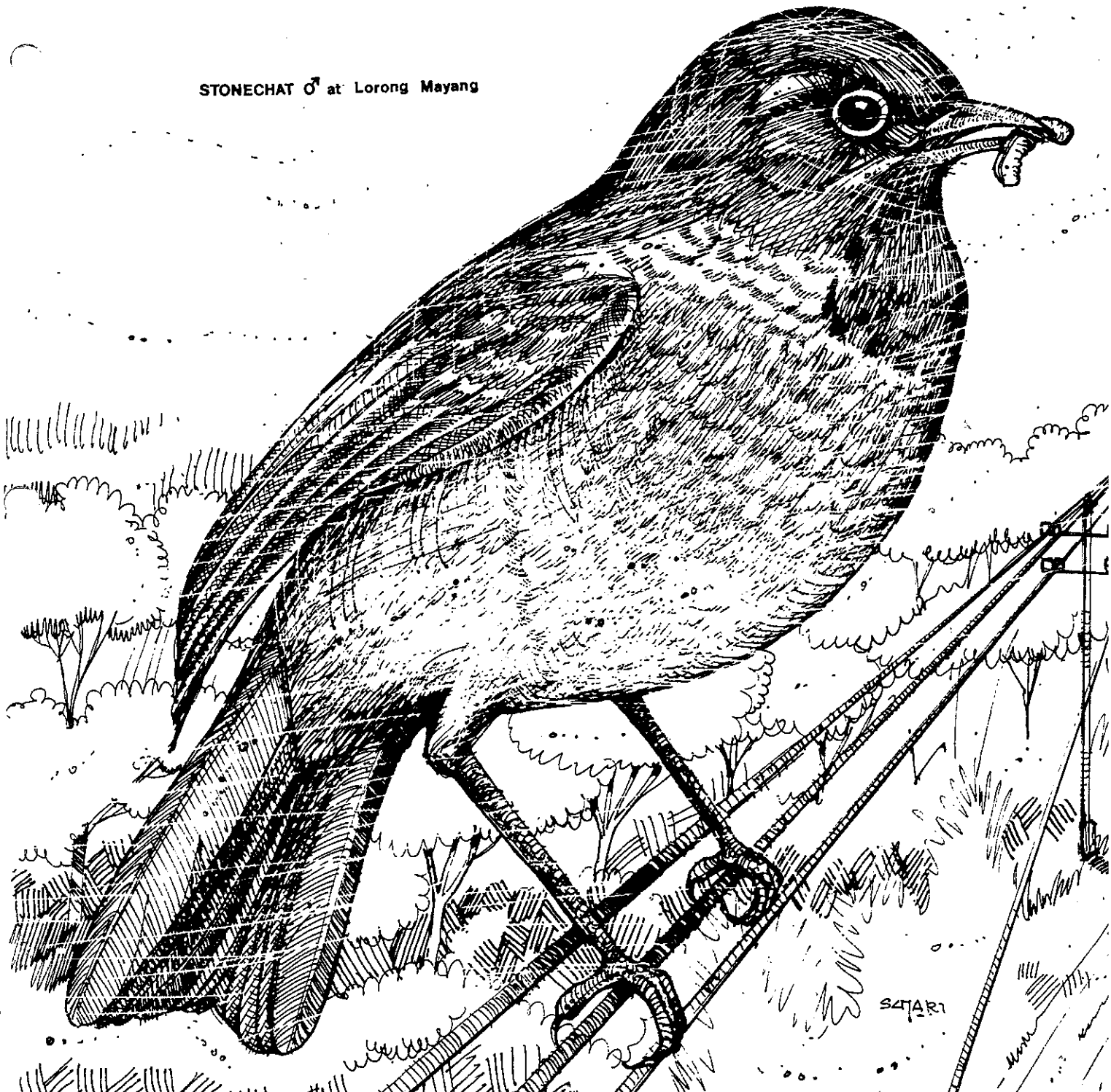
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MARCH '90

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STONECHAT ♂ at Lorong Mayang



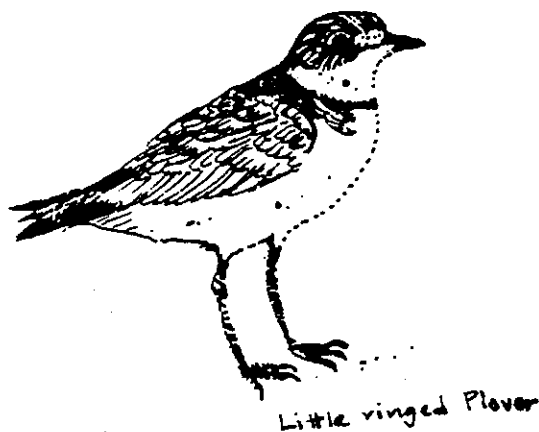


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A. RECENT REPORTS

Unless otherwise stated, these are largely unchecked, not authenticated reports submitted by independent and reliable observers throughout Singapore. The accuracy of these reports depends largely on the observers' own field experience, quality of optics, existing field conditions as well as the 'identifiability' of the species concerned. Contributors are therefore advised to exercise caution in order to avoid or minimise inaccuracies.

Birdwatchers, who have unusual sightings or reports are encouraged to summarise them at the end of every month, in systematic order, and send them as soon as possible to the Editor at the address displayed on the newsletter head. Reports of rarities, of which a complete list is appended to every issue of SINGAPORE AVIFAUNA, should be accompanied by good field notes, sketches and, if possible, photographs for eventual assessment by the Bird Records Committee. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

Below is the compilation for March 1990.

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Note : Many of the sightings were made on 25/3, the date of our Annual Bird Census. Where day totals cover several zones, no individual or group acknowledgements will be made. Instead a simple "c" will be used to indicate that this was a combined census count.

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1. GREAT-BILLED HERON Ardea sumatrana
1 on Lazarus Island, 3/3 (SR).

2. GREY HERON Ardea cinerea
99 were counted on 25/3 (c) with the bulk of 80 from Kranji Bund (YSH/SY).
3. PURPLE HERON Ardea purpurea
1 seen flying over Mount Imbiah, Sentosa on 4/3 (LKS/NBC/SHL) is apparently the first record for the island. In addition, 67 were counted on 25/3 (c) with 32 from Kranji Bund (YSH/SY). See also Nesting Report this issue.
4. CHINESE POND-HERON Ardeola bacchus
At Marina South, 5 (1 summer) were seen on 19/3 (LKS), 2 on 24/3 (JOD/HHC) and 4 on 25/3 (MA/KK/JS/GV). At Senoko, 2 (1 summer) were seen on 21/3 (GC/SR) and 1 on 25/3 (JOD/DAS/SR) while at Ponggol, 1 (summer) was seen on 21/3 (GC/LL/SR) and 2 on 25/3 (LKK/NBC).
5. CATTLE EGRET Bubulcus ibis
45 (11 summer) at Ponggol, 21/3 (GC/LL/SR). 71 were counted on 25/3 (c) with 70 from Ponggol (LKK/NBC) and 1 from Marina South (MA/KK/JS/GV).
6. PACIFIC REEF-EGRET Egretta sacra
1 dark morph was observed feeding in a drainage canal at Yishun Ring Road on 17/3 (LKS/SHL). Also 5 whites in mangrove at Sungei Seletar, 25/3 (LKS/SHL).
7. GREAT EGRET Egretta alba
49 were counted on 25/3 (c).
8. PLUMED EGRET Egretta intermedia
1 at Sungei Buloh, 8/3 (SR); 1 at Changi Reservoir, 22/3 (FY); and 1 at Senoko, 25/3 (LKS/SHL).
9. LITTLE EGRET Egretta garzetta
176 were counted on 25/3 (c), including 111 from the north-west.
10. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON Nycticorax nycticorax
"Crepuscular" sightings at MacRitchie Reservoir, with 1 on 21/3 (GC/LL/SR), 2 on 24/3 (JOD/DAS/SR) and 1 on 25/3 (JOD/DAS/SR). These sightings show that night herons do feed in the catchment lakes and may have been overlooked in the past because of its crepuscular habits. See also Nesting Report this issue.
11. SCHRENCK'S BITTERN Ixobrychus eurhythmus
1 at MacRitchie Reservoir, 24/3-25/3 (JOD/DAS/SR).
12. BLACK BITTERN Ixobrychus flavicollis
1 at Sungei Buloh, 8/3 (SR).

13. WANDERING TREEDUCK Dendrocygna arcuata
At Marina South, 7 were seen on 24/3 (JOD/HHC) and 8 on 25/3 (MA/KK/JS/GV).
14. LESSER TREEDUCK Dendrocygna javanica
At Marina South, 4 were seen on 19/3 (LKS) and 11, including a pair with 6 chicks, on 25/3 (MA/KK/JS/GV). See SINAV 4:2 Nesting Report and also Nesting Report this issue. Also 1 at Senoko, 21/3 (GC/LL/SR).
15. GARGANEY Anas querquedula
At Marina South, 8 (including 3 full summer males and 1 partial summer male) were seen on 19/3 (LKS), "about 8" on 24/3 (JOD/HHC) and 10 on 25/3 (MA/KK/JS/GV).
16. BLACK BAZA Aviceda leuphotes
Several sightings. 6 over Jalan Kedai, 3/3 (LKS/SHL); 7 over Mandai Road, 8/3 (SR); 10 at Lorong Mayang, 17/3 (LKS/SHL); 1 at Sime Road, 18/3 (LKS/NBC/SHL); and 1 at Fort Canning Park, 24/3 (SR).
17. CRESTED HONEY-BUZZARD Pernis ptilorhyncus
3 over Senoko, 3/3 (LKS/SHL); 1 over Stadium Road, 19/3 (SR); 1 at Kent Ridge Park, 25/3 (CB); and 2 at the Botanic Gardens, 29/3 (SR).
18. BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE Elanus caeruleus
1 pair, including the aberrant white-shouldered male, at Marina South, 19/3 (LKS).
19. GREY-HEADED FISH-EAGLE Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus
At MacRitchie Reservoir, 2 were heard on 3/3 (LKS/SHL) and 1 sighted on 25/3 (JOD/DAS).
20. CRESTED GOSHAWK Accipiter trivirgatus
1 was seen in a tree at the Orchid Enclosure, Botanic Gardens on 29/3 (SR). This is our first report of the goshawk here since March 1988 when 1 pair attempted nesting (see SINAV 2:3 Recent Reports).
21. COMMON BUZZARD Buteo buteo
An unconfirmed sighting of one at Sentosa, 25/3 (IE/TE).
22. PEREGRINE FALCON Falco peregrinus
1 at Sentosa, 25/3 (IE/TE).
23. RED JUNGLEFOWL Gallus gallus
17, including a hen with 5 chicks, were counted at Tg. Tajam, Pulau Ubin on 17/3 (SBS/TKP). See also Nesting Report this issue. In addition, 8 were also counted on Pulau Ubin on 25/3 (MC/LKW/RBO/SBS/TKP).

24. SLATY-LEGGED CRAKE Rallina eurizonoides
1 adult seen moving along the edge of a ditch at Ponggol on 24/3 (JOD/DAS/SR) would, if accepted, be the third record for Singapore and only the second this century (see SINAV 3:4 Recent Reports). Notes from SR : Size around Slaty-breasted Rail but bill short. Above, brown; below, from neck to breast, pale orangy-rufous; wings - no barrings or markings; barred belly and flank, fairly broad; legs, greyish; head, also pale rufousy; some moult on back.
25. RUDDY-BREASTED CRAKE Porzana fusca
2 at Ponggol, 24/3 (JOD/DAS/SR).
26. WATERCOCK Gallicrex cinerea
1 at Sungei Buloh, 8/3 (SR). At Ponggol, 1 was seen on 21/3 (GC/SR) and 2 on 24/3 (JOD/DAS/SR). In addition, 18 were counted on 25/3 (c), with 15 from the north-east.
27. GREATER PAINTEDSNIFE Rostratula benghalensis
At Ponggol, a pair was seen on 21/3 (GC/SR) and 3 on 24/3 (JOD/DAS/SR).
28. PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER Pluvialis fulva
369 were counted on 25/3 (c) with the bulk of 191 from the north.
29. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER Charadrius dubius
2 seen at Senoko (LKS/SHL) were the only birds encountered on 25/3 (c).
30. MONGOLIAN PLOVER Charadrius mongolus
1 seen at Changi North (LT) was the only bird encountered on 25/3 (c).
31. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT Limosa limosa
2 at Sungei Buloh, 25/3 (KGB/RWH/GSG/MS).
32. COMMON REDSHANK Tringa totanus
208 counted on 25/3 (c) including 137 from the north-west.
33. MARSH SANDPIPER Tringa stagnatilis
348 were counted on 25/3 (c) including 195 from the north-east.
34. COMMON GREENSHANK Tringa nebularia
162 were counted on 25/3 (c), including 92 from the north.
35. WOOD SANDPIPER Tringa glareola
129 were counted on 25/3 (c), including 115 from the north-east.

36. COMMON SANDPIPER Actitis hypoleucos
163 counted on 25/3 (c), including 64 from the north-west.
37. RUDDY TURNSTONE Arenaria interpres
1 at Sungei Buloh, 31/3 (RWH).
38. PINTAIL SNIPE Gallinago stenura
On 8/3 (SR), 2 were seen at Sungei Buloh and 2 at Kranji Bund. Also "a couple" at MacRitchie Reservoir, 21/3 (GC/LL/SR) and 4 at West Coast Park, 25/3 (CB). At Ponggol, "a few" were seen on 21/3 (GC/SR) and 24/3 (JOD/DAS/SR).
39. COMMON SNIPE Gallinago gallinago
3 flushed from a pond at Senoko, 3/3 (LKS/SHL).
40. RUFOUS-NECKED STINT Calidris ruficollis
"A few" at Ponggol, 21/3 (GC/LL/SR).
41. LONG-TOED STINT Calidris subminuta
"A few" at Ponggol, 21/3 (GC/LL/SR). In addition, 58 were counted on 25/3 (c), including 56 from Senoko (LKS/SHL).
42. ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE Glareola maldivarum
A flock of "about 100" was seen at Changi Airport on 17/3 (FY).
43. WHITE-WINGED TERN Chlidonias leucopterus
1120 were counted on 25/3 (c), including 850 at Kranji Bund (YSH/SY) and 200 at Sungei Seletar (LKS/SHL).
44. LESSER CRESTED TERN Sterna bengalensis
5 seen at Sungei Seletar Dam, 25/3 (LKS/SHL).
45. JAMBU FRUIT-DOVE Ptilinopus jambu
1 at Kent Ridge Park, 25/3 (CB).
46. PINK-NECKED PIGEON Treron vernans
132 were counted on 25/3 (c).
47. FERAL PIGEON Columba livia
163 were counted on 25/3 (c), with 107 from the north.
48. RED TURTLE-DOVE Streptopelia tranquebarica
1 male at Yishun Heronry, 17/3 (LKS/SHL) and 1 pair at Senoko, 25/3 (LKS/SHL).
49. SPOTTED DOVE Streptopelia chinensis
269 were counted on 25/3 (c).
50. ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET Psittacula krameri
At Senoko, 2 were seen on 3/3 (LKS/SHL) and 1 on 25/3

(JOD/DAS/SR). Also, 2 at MacRitchie Reservoir, 3/3 (LKS/SHL); 3 over Changi Prison, 9/3 (SR); and 1 over Roberts Barracks, Changi on 10/3 (SR).

51. RED-BREASTED PARAKEET Psittacula alexandri
25, including "several" juveniles, at King Albert Park, 31/3 (TML/YSH).
52. BLUE-RUMPED PARROT Psittinus cyanurus
3 seen at Nee Soon, 10/3 (TML/YSH). Also 1 heard along Rifle Range Road, 12/3 (LKC) and another heard at Sime Road, 25/3 (JOD/DAS/SR).
53. LESSER SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO Cacatua sulphurea
4 at the Botanic Gardens, 25/3 (RB/CC/HC/KL/KY).
54. GOFFIN'S COCKATOO Cacatua goffini
On 25/3 (c), 3 were seen at the Botanic Gardens (RB/CC/HC/KL/KY) and 1 at Sentosa (IE/TE).
55. CHESTNUT-WINGED CUCKOO Clamator coromandus
1 at Marina South, 25/3 (MA/KK/JS/GV).
56. INDIAN CUCKOO Cuculus micropterus
1 adult at MacRitchie Reservoir, 3/3 (LKS/SHL).
57. BANDED BAY CUCKOO Cuculus sonneratii
1 at Bukit Timah, 25/3 (HUB).
58. PLAINTIVE CUCKOO Cuculus merulinus
1 heard on Pulau Ubin, 17/3 (SBS/TKP).
59. INDONESIAN CUCKOO Cuculus sepulcralis
1 at Bukit Timah, 25/3 (HUB).
60. VIOLET CUCKOO Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus
1 seen in flight over Sime Road, 18/3 (LKS).
61. MALAYAN BRONZE CUCKOO Chrysococcyx minutillus
1 heard in belukar opposite the cable car station on Sentosa, 4/3 (LKS/NBC/SHL) is the first record for the island. Another was also heard at Senoko, 25/3 (LKS/SHL).
62. DRONGO CUCKOO Surniculus lugubris
1 at Sime Road, 27/3 (KGB/RWH).
63. COLLARED SCOPS-OWL Otus bakkamoena
1 was seen with a snake in its talons at Sime Road in the pre-dawn hours of 25/3 (JOD/DAS/SR).
64. SPOTTED WOOD-OWL Strix seloputo
At MacRitchie Reservoir, 2 were heard on 3/3 (LKS/SHL), 1

- seen and 1 heard on 24/3 (SR) and 2 heard on 25/3 (JOD/DAS/SR).
65. MALAYSIAN EARED NIGHTJAR Eurostopodus temminckii
1 at MacRitchie Reservoir, 24/3 (JOD/DAS/SR).
 66. WHITE-VENTED NEEDLETAIL Hirundapus cochinchinensis
1 seen with 15 House Swifts at Senoko on 25/3 (LKS/SHL) is both a new site record and a new late date for Singapore. The old late date was 19 March.
 67. BARN SWALLOW Hirundo rustica
157 were counted on 25/3 (c).
 68. PACIFIC SWALLOW Hirundo tahitica
170 were counted on 25/3 (c).
 69. ASHY MINIVET Pericrocotus divaricatus
5 seen over MacRitchie Reservoir, 25/3 (JOD/DAS/SR). Calls were also heard at Island Club Road on 18/3 (LKS/NBC/SHL).
 70. COMMON IORA Aegithina tiphia
25 were counted on 25/3 (c).
 71. BLUE-WINGED LEAFBIRD Chloropsis cochinchinensis
2 sighted at Sime Road, 25/3 (SSL). Calls were also heard at Mount Imbiah and the Sentosa Coralarium on 4/3 (LKS/NBC/SHL).
 72. STRAW-HEADED BULBUL Pycnonotus zeylanicus
On Pulau Ubin, 4 were counted on 17/3 (SBS/TKP) and 11 on 25/3 (MC/LKW/RBO/SBS/TKP).
 73. BLACK-HEADED BULBUL Pycnonotus atriceps
1 seen at the Botanic Gardens on 25/3 (RB/CC/HC/KL/KY) was probably an escapee.
 74. RED-WHISKERED BULBUL Pycnonotus jocosus
Several sightings. At Seaside Park, 2 were seen on 20/3 and 1 on 27/3 (both SR) while at Senoko, 3 were sighted on 21/3 (GC/LL/SR) and 1 on 25/3 (LKS/SHL). At Fort Canning Park, 13 were seen on 22/3 and 2-3 on 24/3 (both SR). Also 2 at Kranji Dam, 25/3 (SY).
 75. YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL Pycnonotus goiavier
172 were counted on 25/3 (c). See also Nesting Report this issue.
 76. RED-EYED BULBUL Pycnonotus brunneus
1 at Sime Road, 25/3 (JOD/DAS/SR).
 77. CROW-BILLED DRONGO Dicrurus annectans
1 "being pursued by a Greater Racket-tailed Drongo" at

MacRitchie Reservoir, 21/3 (GC/LL/SR).

78. BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE Oriolus chinensis
124 were counted on 25/3 (c).
79. HOUSE CROW Corvus splendens
156 counted on 25/3 (c).
80. WHITE-CHESTED BABBLER Trichastoma rostratum
1 heard in Acrostichum thicket at Senoko, 25/3 (LKS/SHL).
81. STRIPED TIT-BABBLER Macronous gularis
48 counted on 25/3 (c).
82. HWAMEI Garrulax canorus
On 4/3 (LKS/NBC/SHL), 1 was seen and another heard at Mt. Imbiah while another was also heard at the Sentosa Coralarium. Also 1 at Nee Soon, 25/3 (CSL/HHC/LTH).
83. SIBERIAN BLUE ROBIN Erithacus cyane
1 female seen at Hampstead Hut, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve on 24/3 (JOD/HHC) is our first record for the year.
84. MAGPIE ROBIN Copsychus saularis
At Sentosa, 3, including a pair, were counted on 4/3 (LKS/NBC/SHL) and 1 pair seen on 11/3 (TML/YSH). Also, 1 seen in belukar at NTL on 4/3-5/3 (KGB) and 1 female at Tg. Tajam, Pulau Ubin on 17/3 (SBS/TKP). At MacRitchie Reservoir, 1 was seen on 21/3 (GC/LL/SR) and 1 heard on 25/3 (JOD/DAS/SR) while another was also heard at the Botanic Gardens on 18/3 (LKS/SHL). In addition, only 4 were counted on 25/3 (c), including 2 from the Botanic Gardens (RB/CC/HC/KL/KY), 1 from Senoko (LKS/SHL) and 1 from Pulau Ubin (MC/LKW/RBO/SBS/TKP). Also 1 pair at King Albert Park, 31/3 (TML/YSH).
85. STONECHAT Saxicola torquata
1 winter male seen in open grassland at Lorong Mayang, a new locality, on 25/3 (LKS/SHL) is our first for the year.
86. BLACK-BROWED REED-WARBLER Acrocephalus bistrigiceps
2 at Ponggol, 24/3 (JOD/DAS/SR) and 1 at Kranji Bund, 25/3 (YSH/SY).
87. PALLAS'S WARBLER Locustella certhiola
2 at Ponggol, 24/3 (JOD/DAS/SR).
88. DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER Muscicapa sibirica
1 seen near the summit of Bukit Timah, 24/3 (JOD/HHC). Another was seen at Nee Soon, 25/3 (CSL/HHC/LTH).

89. FERRUGINOUS FLYCATCHER Muscicapa ferruginea
1 at Jalan Kutu, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve on 24/3
(JOD/HHC).
90. MANGROVE WHISTLER Pachycephala cinerea
1 on Pulau Ubin, 25/3 (MC/LKW/RBO/SBS/TKP).
91. FOREST WAGTAIL Dendronanthus indicus
1 seen at Bukit Kalang, 18/3 (LKS/NBC/SHL). Also 2 at Sime
Road, 21/3 (GC/LL/SR) and 25/3 (JOD/SSL/DAS/SR); and 1 at
Jalan Kedai, 25/3 (LKS/SHL).
92. TIGER SHRIKE Lanius tigrinus
1 at Nee Soon, 25/3 (CSL/HHC/LTH).
93. LONG-TAILED SHRIKE Lanius schach
At West Coast Park, 1 was seen on 2/3 (CB), 1 on 22/3 (DF)
and 2 on 25/3 (CB). Also 1 at Yishun Ring Road, 17/3
(LKS/SHL) and 1 at Yishun Central, 25/3 (LKS).
94. PHILIPPINE GLOSSY STARLING Aplonis panayensis
305 counted on 25/3 (c).
95. WHITE-SHOULDERED STARLING Sturnus sinensis
7 seen in a casuarina at Changi Airport, 21/3 (FY).
96. PURPLE-BACKED STARLING Sturnus sturninus
4 flocks consisting of about 600, 100, 300 and 200
respectively were observed flying over King Albert Park on
2/3 (TML/YSH) and noted heading south-west to Clementi between
1650 and 1710 hours.
97. BLACK-WINGED STARLING Sturnus melanopterus
1 on St. John's island, 25/3 (IE/TE).
98. COMMON MYNA Acridotheres tristis
232 counted on 25/3 (c).
99. WHITE-VENTED MYNA Acridotheres javanicus
791 were counted on 25/3 (c).
100. SCALY-BREADED MUNIA Lonchura punctulata
107 were counted on 25/3 (c).
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