

## Trip Report - NSS Bird Watching at Bukit Brown on 23 August 2009

Reported by Trip Leader: Wing Chong

Despite the heavy downpour with gusty wind on the early morning, 16 members turned up for this trip. And later we learned that the pay-off for this persistence was good, as the birds were seemed to be very hungry after the heavy downpour and many turned up to feed in the morning. Most of them were so busy feeding that they stayed rather long on a location and this provided the members some very good opportunities to observe the birds.

At the assembly point we spotted a flock of 4 Thick-billed Green Pigeon feeding on a Fig tree. From there, we also spotted a few Long-tailed Parakeets, Asian Glossy Starlings and Spotted Doves, Yellow-vented Bulbuls, on some dry branches. Besides calls of those common birds, Bubbly calls of Straw-headed bulbuls were heard in the distance.

We headed towards the Straw-headed Bulbul calls but each time we were got nearer the calls stopped and there was absolutely no sight of those birds. The birds were heard at least twice at 2 different locations.

It was still quite gloomy during the early part of the walk. Most birds appeared blackish in color when viewed under poor lighting. Later the sky was clearer and we were able to appreciate the beauties of the nature better.

A few large fruiting Fig trees had turned into gigantic feeding cafes for assorted species of birds. Pink-necked Green Pigeon were seen everywhere. On one of the tree, there were no less than 50 of them, busy feeding. There were many others stood sunning or preening on adjacent trees.

Rarer species like Red-whiskered Bulbul also appeared at 2 separate locations.

There were a total of no less than 10 individuals of Think-billed Green Pigeons spotted, at 4 separate locations. Some of them were on the open branches, affording very good view for observation and photography opportunities.

Two Chestnut-bellied Malkohas joined the morning feeding sessions by first appearing on an African Tulip tress and later on a Terengtang tree. One of the birds stayed long enough but far away to tease our field skills. As it was quite far away actively hunting under shades, it challenged the members to work hard with binoculars, for a good look of the bird. We didn't leave until most of the members had viewed this bird's distinctive red diamond-shaped eye-shadow through telescope.

Next, an unexpected female Asian Fairy Bluebird captured our attention. Again this bird was busy feeding. It perched on some branch and will suddenly flew out, caught

something in the air and looped back to where it had stood. It did this a few times, very much like the feeding behavior of Dollar Birds. It was still there, feeding, when we decided to move on.

As a whole, birds were aplenty on this morning. Unexpected appearance of so many Thick-billed Green Pigeon in the opens and acrobatic show of the Asian Fairy Bluebird had made the morning trip very fruitful. Needless to say the walk was pleasant with cool after-rain air and good companions.

**Bird-list:**

Babbler, Striped-Tit – a few  
Barbet, Coppersmith - heard  
Barbet, Lineated - heard at 2 locations  
Bluebird, Asian Fairy – 1 female  
Bulbul, Re-whiskered – 4 at 2 locations  
Bulbul, Straw-headed - heard at 2 locations  
Bulbul, Yellow-vented - many  
Coucal, Lesser - 1  
Dove, Spotted - a few  
Dove, Peaceful - 1  
Drongo, Greater-racket-tailed – 3  
Eagle, Changeable-hawk – heard only  
Flower-pecker, Scarlet-backed - 2  
Iora, Common - 3  
Junglefowl, Red - heard only  
Kingfisher, Collared - 3  
Malkoha, Chestnut-bellied - 2  
Myna, Javan – many  
Oriole – Black-naped – a few  
Parakeet, Long-tailed – a few  
Pigeon, Pink-necked Green – plenty  
Pigeon, Rock – 4  
Pigeon, Thick-billed - 12  
Starling, Asian-glossy - many  
Sunbird, Crimson - 1  
Sunbird, Olive-backed – 3  
Swiftlets, unidentified – many  
Swallows, unidentified - many  
Tailorbird, Common - 1  
Tailorbird, Dark-necked – 2  
Waterhen, White-breasted – heard only  
Woodpecker, Banded - 1  
Woodpecker, Common-flamebacked - 4  
Woodpecker, Laced - 1  
Woodpecker, Sunda Pygmy -1