

Birding Go Green

Bird Watching at Bukit Panjang / Zheng Hua Park Connector with Willie Foo

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All ready to go at Segar LRT Station

On the morning of 24th May 2009, 19 members joined Willie Foo in this first Go-Green Bird Watching trip. It was few members' first ride on the West LRT Loop line and was pretty fascinated by those relatively un-heard names of LRT stations like Phoenix and Segar. It was a fresh experience for many.



At Bukit Panjang Park Connector

The first few hundred meters of walk along the canal were rather unexciting. Besides **Eurasian Tree Sparrows** and **White-vented Mynas**, a single **Paddyfield Pipit** was spotted perched on a sign board in the grass field. No bird was spotted along or in the canal.

When we turned into the first stretch of the Bukit Panjang Park Connector we were greeted with bird-lives. Many **Eurasian Tree Sparrows** were chirping and actively moving around. **Yellow-vented Bulbuls** and **Pink-necked Green Pigeons** were also present. **Oriental White-eyes** were active near the junction of Bukit Panjang Park Connector and Zhenghua Park. One was seen picking up some nesting materials. A half-completed nest on a Coral Tree was initially thought to be belonged to Yellow-vented Bulbul. But an Oriental White-eye flew in to show us that she was the rightful owner.



. Oriental White-eye with nesting material

A very urbanized female **Olive-backed Sunbird** was seen dancing around the railings of a multi-story car-park. She later drank from a fire sprinkle head in the car-park to show us how well she had learned about the resources there. Members were thrilled to have learned something more about 'bird-brain'.

The trip continued along the narrow stretch of buffer green between the BKE and the HDB flats. Common garden birds like Olive-backed Sunbird, **Common Iora**, Yellow-vented Bulbul, **Zebra Dove**, **Black-naped Oriole**, **Asian Glossy Starlings**, and Oriental white-eyes were active there.

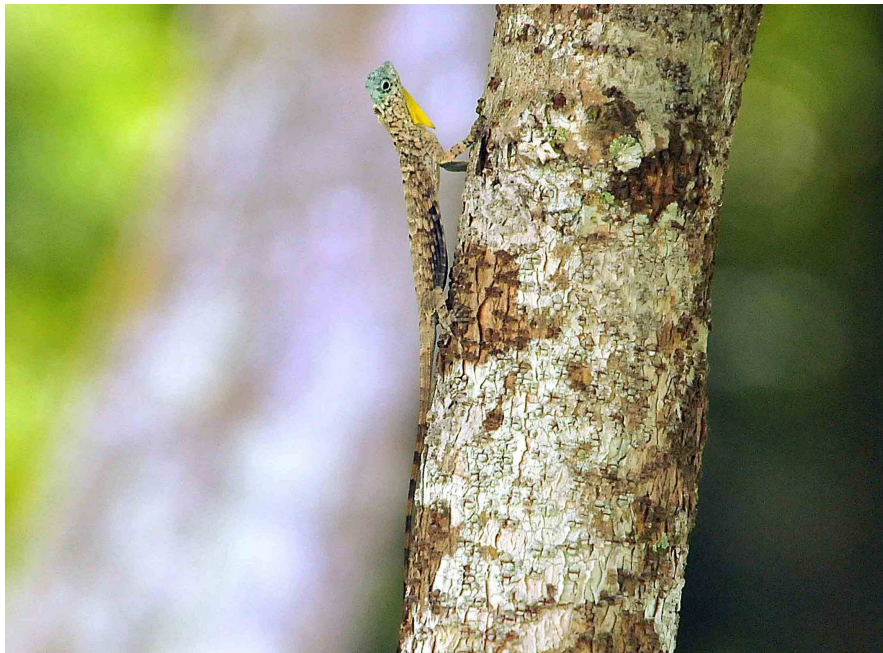
A pair of male **Asian Koel** were seen fighting among a huge rubber tree. Initially, we thought it was a territory fight. Later, at a nearby tree, we spotted a perched and calling female Asian Koel. Then, we realized that probably the

female bird was the real reason for the fight. She stayed, fully exposed on the bare branches despite we were just about 10 meters away. Many photos were taken for this unusually bold, attention seeking female bird.



Female Koel that caused a fight

Besides birds we noted that there was good presence of lizards. We spotted 3 species of lizards including a few Changeable Lizards, a Common Flying Dragon and two Green Crested Lizards.



Common Flying Dragon



Green Crested Lizard

The walk ended at the junction of the Zhenghua Park with Bukit Panjang Road.

Bird-list:

Bulbul, Yellow-vented – many
Crow, House – x2
Dove, Spotted – x2
Dove, Zebra - x2
Kingfisher, White-throated - x2
Koel, Asian - x3
Heron, Gray - x1 (flew past)
Iora, Common – a few
Myna, white-vented - many
Oriole, Black-naped – a few
Pigeon, Pink-necked Green - many
Pipit, Paddyfield – x1
Sparrow, Eurasian-tree – many
Starling, Asia-glossy - many
Sunbird, Olive-backed – a few
Swallow, Pacific – a few
Tailorbird. Common x 2
White-eye, Oriental – x5 (including 1 chick with mom)
Scaly-breasted Munia - x4