

## Parrot Count Report, 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011

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Thirteen of us braved the wet Saturday evening weather for our 1<sup>st</sup> Parrot Count. This is part of the World Parrot Count project initiated by the Parrot Researchers Group of the International Ornithological Union (IOU). The main focus of the study is on introduced parrots and their populations in their non-native locations.



*Red-breasted Parakeet by Con Foley*

We took this opportunity to count both the native and introduced parrot species. A total of eleven sites were counted (see table 1). We recorded 3 Parakeets, 2 Cockatoos, 1 Lorikeet and 1 Hanging Parrot species.

The total count of 546 parrots was on the low side partly due to the wet weather that persisted throughout most of the late afternoons and evenings of the week.

As expected the introduced Red-breasted Parakeets (*Psittacula alexandri*) tops the count with 302 counted mainly at two strongholds, Buona Vista MRT with 132 and Changi Village with 106. They were followed by our native Long-tailed Parakeets (*Psittacula longicauda*) at 183, most were seen at Brickland Road.

These numbers may suggest some displacement of our native parakeets and further studies need to be carried out to ascertain its status. The Bird Group has a small research grant available to all interested birders keen to do studies on our native bird species.

The Tanimbar Corellas (*Cacatua goffini*) were a distant third with 30 birds counted. 16 were at Changi Village and the other 12 at Malcolm Park, where the only 3 Yellow-crested Cockatoos (*Cacatua sulphurea*) were recorded. Both are introduced species.

The large flocks of Yellow-crested Cockatoos reported at Eng Neo Avenue and behind Changi Village Hotel were missing.

The usually easy to find resident Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots (*Loriculus galgulus*) were also MIA except at Buona Vista (4) and one at Malcolm Park.

Three major roosting sites were identified.

- 1) Buona Vista MRT 151 Birds/5 species
- 2) Changi Village 122 Birds/2 species
- 3) Brickland Road 148 Birds/2 species

Many of the sites which we thought were ideal roosting places have either no parrots (Bidadari Cemeteries - Ee Ling) or just one or two stragglers (Tampines Central Park and Bukit Batok Nature Park).

The other promising sites like Parsi Cemetery, One-North and Pasir Ris would have had better numbers if not for the heavy rain.

Still it was a worthwhile exercise just to get a snap shot of the local population of our parrots, both native and introduced.

Many thanks to Doreen Ang, Wing Chong, Nessie Khoo, Jane Rogers, Ding Li, Ali Jaafar, Rehan Yusoff, Willie Foo, Lim Kim Keang, Lee Ee Ling, Kenneth Kee and Alan OwYong for helping out with this count.

Report by Alan OwYong  
 Edited by Kenneth Kee

Table 1

Species / Locations	Red-breasted Parakeet	*Long-tailed Parakeet	Rose-ringed Parakeet	Tanimbar Corella	Yellow-crested Cockatoo	Rainbow Lorikeet	*Blue-crowned H. Parrot	Total	Tree Species	Counters
Buona Vista MRT	132	4	2	0	0	9	4	151	Roadside Tree	Ding Li
Changi Village	106	0	0	16	0	0	0	122		Ali Jaafar & Rehan Y.
Brickland Road	12	136	0	0	0	0	0	148		Wing Chong
Parsi Cemetery	20	30	0	0	0	0	0	50	Albizia	Kenneth Kee
Pasir Ris	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	14		Lim Kim Keang
Tampines Park	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2		Willie Foo
Jln Pelikat Kovan	1	2	12	0	0	0	0	15	Angsana	Nessie Khoo
Potong Pasir Av 1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2		Nessie Khoo
Malcom Park	2	9	0	12	3	0	1	27	Angsana	Jane Rogers
One-North Portsdown	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	Albizia	Alan OwYong
Bukit Batok NP	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		Doreen Ang
<b>Total</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>546</b>		

*\*Note: Both the Long-tailed Parakeet and Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot are native species. The rest are all introduced.*