

26th Singapore Green Bird Race 2009



Ten teams participated in the 26th Singapore Green Bird Race 2009. There were two categories: Full Race (24hrs) and Sunday Race (10hrs). The Full Race started on 17th October at 1700hrs and ended on 18th October at 1700hrs. The Sunday Race started on 18th October at 0700hrs and ended on the same day at 1700hrs. For the first time, teams had to forego the luxury of private cars or taxis and use public buses and MRT instead or opt to race on bicycles.

Results

Position	Team Name	No. of Species
Full Race		
1	Pedal Power	106
2	Drongos	101
3	Malay Pot-bellied Laughing-thrushes	85
4	Orioles	63
5	Aquilas	38
Sunday Race		
1	Babblers	87
2	Falconets	76
3	Wildbirders	75
4	3 birders & 1 hot chick	52
5	The distracted Novices	28

The members of the Full Race winning team, *Pedal Power*, Lim Kim Chuah and James Heng were also the first team to record 100 species at 1534hrs, bringing home the Century Shield. Relying on their trusted bicycle and sheer human power, they pedalled all over the island covering Bukit Timah, Central Catchment, Mandai, Kranji, Sungei Buloh, Botanic Garden and right into Orchard Road. What a remarkable achievement!

The *Babblers*, comprising Lim Kim Seng and Yong Ding Li, winners of the Sunday Race, relied mainly on public buses and the MRT to cover the Central Catchment, Kranji and Sungei Buloh areas.

The prize for “Bird of the Day” was awarded to Team *Malay Pot-bellied Laughing-thrushes* led by Sutari Supari for the Silver-rumped Spinetail at Sime Forest, a rare non-breeding visitor to Singapore.

Highlights

A total of 148 species or about 40 per cent of Singapore's bird species were recorded by all teams at various locations. Of the 148 species recorded, about 99 (67%) were resident species, 46 (31%) were migratory and 3 (2%) were non-breeding visitors. Overall, 6 nationally near-threatened species, 15 nationally threatened species, 5 globally near-threatened species and 1 globally threatened species were recorded.

Some interesting species seen included the Glossy Swiftlet, Little Grebe, Silver-backed Needletail, Brown-streaked Flycatcher, Hwamei and White-rumped Munia (all at Dairy Farm), Crow-billed Drongo, Forest Wagtail, Pied Imperial Pigeon and Silver-rumped Spinetail (Sime Forest), Red-wattled Lapwing and Common Snipe (Warren grassland), Dark-sided Flycatcher (Sime Forest and Bt Batok), Buffy Fish Owl (Peirce Reservoir), Red-legged Crake (Hindhede), Siberian Blue Robin (Sime Forest and Bt Timah), Eastern Crowned Warbler (Kranji), Indian Cuckoo (Upper Thomson), Broad-billed Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint (Sungei Buloh), Lesser and Wandering Whistling Duck (Botanic Garden) and our globally endangered Straw-headed Bulbul (Rifle Range, Jalan Asas and Dairy Farm).

Some interesting raptors sighted were the Oriental Honey Buzzard (Sime Forest and Bt Timah), Osprey (Mandai), Japanese Sparrowhawk (Sime Forest and Sungei Buloh), Peregrine Falcon (Bt Timah and Sime Forest), Grey-headed Fish Eagle (Neo Tiew), Crested Serpent Eagle (Sime Forest), Black-winged Kite (Warren grassland) and Changeable Hawk-eagle (various locations).

Congratulations to all the winners and participants. Thanks to our generous sponsors from Swarovski Optik and its agent Cathay Photo. Lastly to my co-arbitrator Alfred Chia for all the invaluable help.

Reported by Kenneth Kee
Co-arbitrator
Singapore Bird Race 2009
Email : trogon@pacific.net.sg



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK



CATHAY
PHOTO