

A  publication

WETlands



Sungei Buloh Nature Park, Vol. 6 No. 3, December 1999. MITA(P) No. 142/01/99



C O N T E N T S

C O N T E N T S

"We talk about power and empowerment, but let us talk about responsibility. We talk about management of the environment, but perhaps we should be managing mankind, not the environment."

Ms Winona LaDuke,
Native American and indigenous
people's rights activist and
environmentalist.



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Picture of Long-tailed Macaque
(*Macaca fascicularis*)

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Sungei Buloh Nature Park

Wetlands December '99 Issue



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Common Tailorbird



EDITORIAL

The hunt for food, be it active or passive, is always an interesting aspect of animal life. The tug of war at life's edges never fail to fascinate many.

Life constantly revolves round the intricate web that forms a full circle. As the hunter acquires skills to hunt, the hunted develops its own form of defence mechanism to escape the hunt. The predator itself from time to time falls prey to stronger foes. High and mighty, nothing can be...

Eat and be eaten.
Turn by turn.
When the hunter becomes the hunted.
It haunts no more.

The feature of this Wetlands deals with unique "predators" from the plant as well as animal world. Catch them in action at the Park. 🐾

Linda Goh

Ranger **Charles Lim** shows the way to quit
'monkeying' around with the monkeys in the Park.

Why we should **NO**T FEED the Monkeys

Feasting Time

Did You Know?

Visitors to the Park would from time to time encounter a family of Long-tailed or Crab-eating Macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) at the Visitor Centre. Adorable, aren't they? They are a hit especially with children who cannot resist feeding them with their potato chips and popcorn. But do you know that feeding them actually causes more harm than good?

The Long-tailed Macaque can be found in Malaysia, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Philippines and many other small islands of the East Indies. Usually seen at forest edges, coastal forests, banks of water courses and mangroves, it is also known as the Crab-eating Macaque. It feeds on crabs on top of its usual diet of leaves, shoots and small animals.

In the wild, much time is spent on foraging for their favourite food, which is **nutritionally** more

balanced than food handed out by humans. However once they grow accustomed to being fed by humans, they spend their time loitering around human habitations instead of foraging. Upsetting dustbins and approaching people carrying bags, which they associate with food, become their regular activities. They may turn aggressive when food is denied. Surely, you do not want to run the risk of being scratched? In addition, with food readily available, more time will be spent on breeding. This increases the population rapidly and upsets the delicate balance of nature.

Feeding the monkeys is literally loving the animal to death. More harm is done when you feed them. When you see them again, think of them as cute, but please stop at that. They will thank you for it. 🐒

Upsetting Dustbins

What are the flight patterns of migratory birds?

Why do certain birds behave a certain way?

Adeline Chia provides more details.

Obtaining vital statistics

Bird Ringing



A bird in hand is worth 2 in the bush

Bird ringing or banding is a skill not known to many, but it is an essential skill for staff of Sungei Buloh Nature Park who regularly participate in ringing sessions throughout the year. Much can be learnt by putting a ring around the tarsus (leg) of captured birds. Simple? Much preparation has to be done before data is to be collected.

A passerine ringing session starts with a recce for a suitable ringing site and the minor pruning (if necessary) of vegetation in the area to facilitate the setting up of nets. Mist-nets are usually put up a day before the actual ringing, since a typical passerine ringing session in the Park starts at 6am! The nets are then rolled up or "closed" so that no birds get trapped before we are ready.

Understanding the habits of the birds help to increase yield. The first catch of the day is supposedly the largest as our subjects are on the way out for their first meal when dawn breaks.

Therefore it is necessary to open the nets before first light. Half asleep, we will make our way to the ringing site to open the nets. By the first net check, we are usually wide-awake and eager to ring the early birds.

For wader ringing, the ringing site is usually one of our brackish-water ponds. Nets are set up before dusk on the day itself. When night falls we plod into the ponds to open the nets with headlights and torches to guide us. Wader ringing means having to wallow in the mud since the nets are set on the mudflats. Sinking in up to the thigh, smelly and filthy fellows we become as we slosh in the mud each time we go for a net check! The catch for waders peaks at high tide when more waders fly in to the mudflats to roost.

A net round (or net check) is conducted every 30 to 45 minutes to check for birds caught in the net. Captured birds are retrieved and brought back to the 'ringing stations' whereby measurements such as wing length, moult, tarsus diameter, weight, age, sex are recorded. A

ring is also placed around the bird. Each captured bird therefore carries a unique identification number that serves to provide more information if it is recaptured. Ringed birds provide a host of data used for research, such as behaviour, migration patterns and longevity.

However, when the weather is bad and it starts to rain, you can see us scrambling to close the nets immediately! The safety of our feathered friends must never be compromised.

The ringed bird is then released. Great care is taken when handling birds to avoid any injuries. This process of net-checking, retrieving, recording data and release continues until evening before the sun sets for passerine ringing and before day breaks for wader ringing whereby the nets are closed and kept. It is another fulfilling day of work before the next ringing session comes along. 🐦

Preparation for the catch



The ringing team

"Power Rangers", Patricia Phua and Stephen Chue, explain the ins and outs of the Park's sluice gate management.

SLUICE GATE management

What is sluice gate management? A question any curious visitor would pose to understand this operation.

The practice of sluice gate management in the Park is a concept rather different from the one adopted by traditional prawn or fish farmer. The farmers stock their ponds and practice water exchanges to drain the waste and let in nutrient-rich water regularly. Before harvesting, a complete draining of the pond is required to attain the yield. At the Park, apart from one prawn pond that we use for demonstration purposes, we regulate some ponds for the migratory birds as the mudflat is a feeding and roosting ground for them.

During high tide, there will be less exposed coastal areas for the birds to feed and roost around Singapore. At the Park, we have twelve sluice gates placed at strategic points of each pond and facing the sea. Tide movements into some of these ponds are regulated. When the tide is high, at least one of three ponds in the Park will have low water level so that birds can feed and roost on the exposed mudflats. As these ponds cannot be left unattended for a long period, there is a strict schedule to follow to allow both the organic nutrients and crustaceans (of crabs, prawns and allies), different species of fishes and molluscs (of snails, slugs, mussels and clams) to procreate within the ponds. The sluice gate management ensures a flux of vibrant oxygenated water teeming with rich

minerals to rejuvenate the ponds.

This is the time Sungei Buloh Nature Park can present to the Park visitors exciting moments of viewing migratory birds by the thousands in shallow ponds. The scenario is like that of many customers enjoying their meal in a crowded seafood restaurant.

In this sluice gate operation, the method practiced here is of a conventional type and is carried out regularly at the Park. A pulley system called "Chain block" is used in this operation. The number of sluice gates stationed at each pond depends mostly on the size of the pond. It can vary from a minimum of one gate to four or more gates.

The timing to work on the sluice gate has to be right in relation to the tide movements. As we know time and tide wait for no man. When the timing is right, the job is smooth going even though it is heavy. But when the timing is out, this is the toughest job of the day. 🍀

Flock of Waders

Hunting for food will never be the same again with
Halilah Ahmad's

Lesser Known "Predators"



Pitcher Plant

Animals and plants evolved through generations to survive in the natural environment that they are in. Unlike animals that have the ability to move freely, plants are restricted in their movement. In places where food is scarce, some plants "evolved" into carnivorous plants to exploit available resources.

Carnivorous plants are those that have the ability to trap insects, digest their tissues and absorb the nutrients in the process.

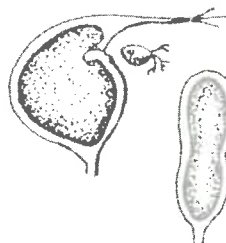
One such plant that can be found in Sungei Buloh Nature Park is the Slender Pitcher Plant (*Nepenthes gracilis*), a climber that grows on land.

Nepenthes is derived from Greek, meaning the wine cup of Helen of Troy, referring to the jar at the tip of a modified leaf while *gracilis* means slender. Insects are attracted to the sugary secretions or nectar produced by the glands or nectaries. Usually the

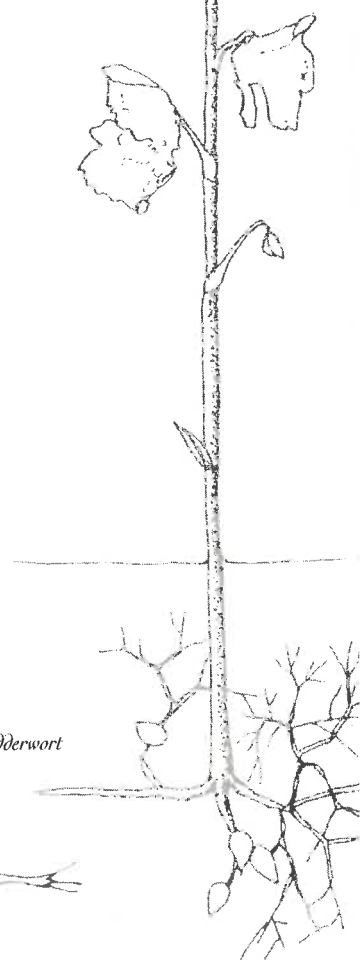
nectaries are located at the lid or at the lip of the jar. Once an insect loses its foothold and drops into the pitfall, it is trapped. It will struggle to climb out of the pitcher plant. However the inner wall of the jar is covered with loose scales of wax and is very slippery. Eventually, it dies by drowning due to exhaustion. The plant will then absorb the nutrients released by the decomposed body.

Another interesting carnivorous plant is the Common Yellow Bladderwort (*Utricularia bifida* L.). *Utricularia* in Latin means a little bag, probably referring to the little trap bags that the plant develops.

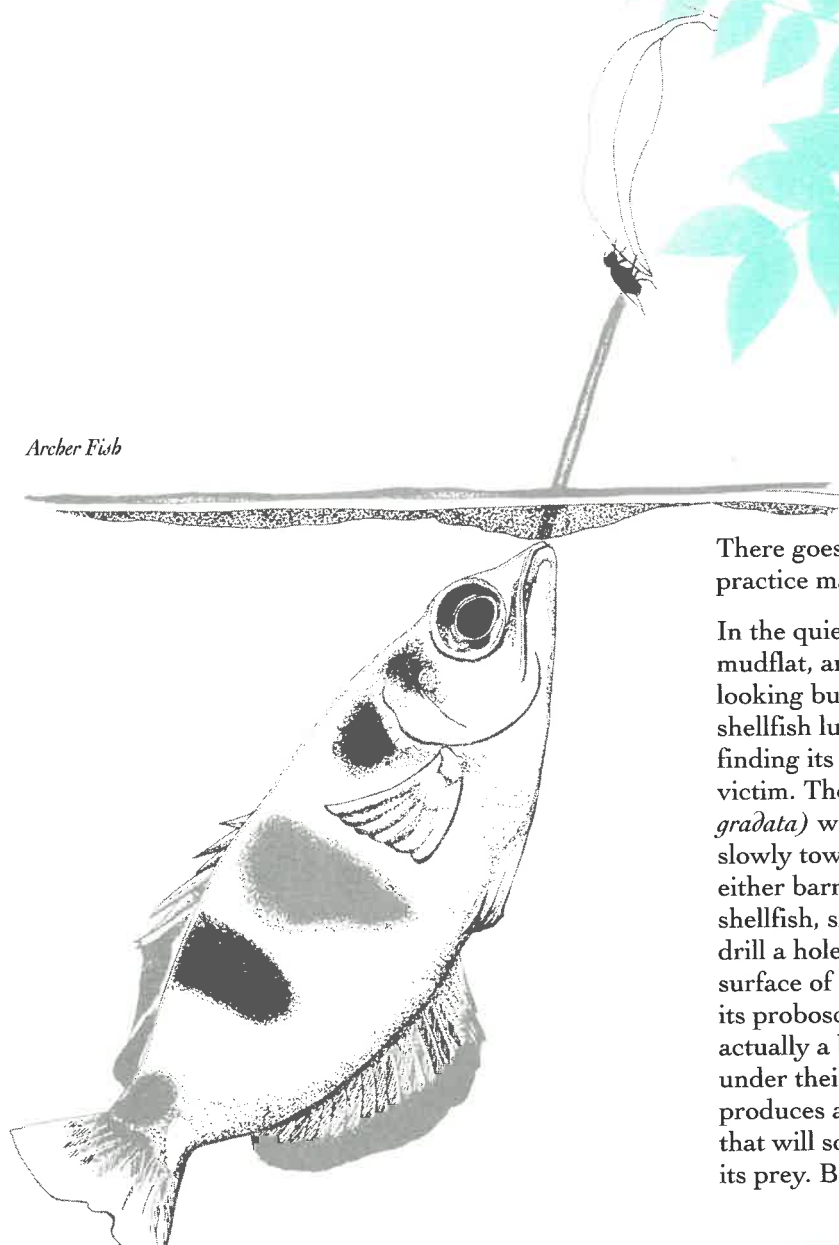
The transparent bladder trap is equipped with a trap door and stiff trigger hairs. When a small prey such as a protozoa or small insect larvae touches the trigger hair, it activates the door to contort and open for water to be sucked in with the prey. Digestive juices are then secreted and the prey is broken down.



Bladderwort



Archer Fish



There goes the saying
practice makes perfect.

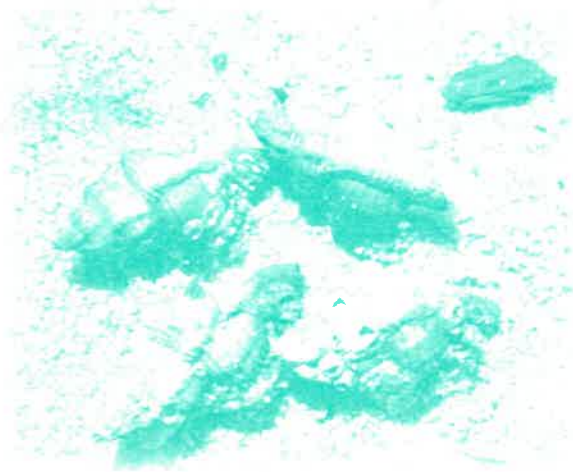
In the quiet and serene mudflat, another harmless-looking but deadly shellfish lurks around finding its way to its next victim. The Drill (*Thais gradata*) will move ever so slowly towards its victim, either barnacles or shellfish, sit on them and drill a hole into the hard surface of its victim using its proboscis which is actually a boring organ under their foot. The organ produces a carbonic acid that will soften the shell of its prey. Being a slow

moving animal, the Drill eventually gets its food only after several hours of drilling. It inserts its proboscis into the hole and consumes its hard-earned meal.

So do visit the Park as life is definitely exciting here with so much action-packed activities going on. 

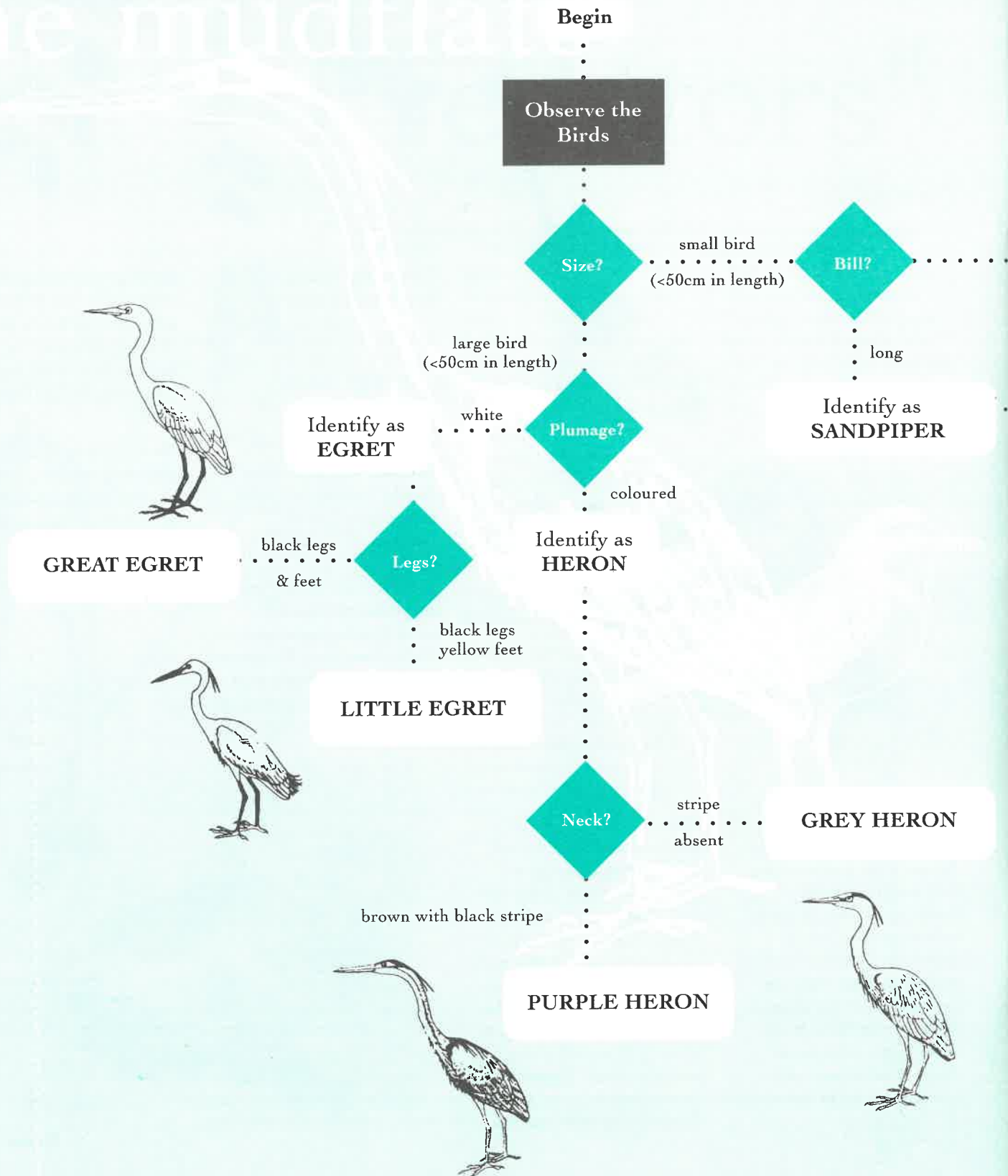
Moving on to the true predators of the Park, the Archer Fish is one with a very unique way of catching its prey. It feeds on insects that can be found on the water surface as well as those that are flying or perching close to the water surface. It can shoot a powerful jet of water at an insect, and knock it off its perch.

The Archer Fish forms a narrow tube in its mouth by pressing its tongue against a groove along the top of its mouth. It then snaps its gill covers shut, shooting a jet of water out of its mouth and through the air to hit its target. An adult can hit its prey up to about 1.5 meters above the water surface. However, it seems that the younger Archer Fish often misses!



The Drill

Lord of the Air & Hunters on the mudflats



the Mudflats

by joanna tan and halilah abmad

Identify as
PLOVER

Plumage?

overall
mottled brown

**PACIFIC GOLDEN
PLOVER**



white underparts

**MONGOLIAN
PLOVER**



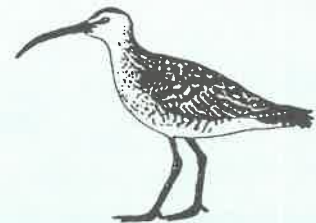
Bill?

curved down

Size?

large
(43cm length)

WHIMBREL



small
(22 cm length)

**CURLEW
SANDPIPER**



straight

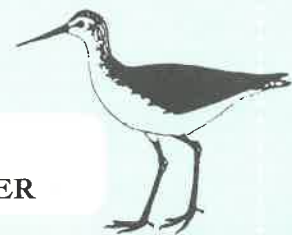
Leg Colour?

green

Bill?

straight

**MARSH
SANDPIPER**



red

**COMMON
REDSHANK**



slightly upturned

**COMMON
GREENSHANK**



A snippet of the butterfly monitoring and introduction exercise carried out by Lim Haw Chuan at the Visitor Centre.

A Report on Butterfly Monitoring & Introduction

As the Visitor Centre is the main area for viewing butterflies, regular counts (3 - 4 per month) have been conducted along a fixed transect in the Visitor Centre to monitor the populations. Table 1 shows all the butterflies encountered, arranged in the order of increasing abundance (survey period Nov 98 to June 99). Not all the species found in the Park are on this list as the Park contains a much more varied habitat than the Visitor Centre. Particularly valuable are *Curetis saronis sumatrana*, *Arhopala pseudocentaurus nakula* (Centaur Oak Blue) and *Hypolycaena eryllus teatus* (Common Tit) which are common in some areas in the Reserve. The abundance of the butterflies is very closely related to the abundance of the host plant. Some of the rarer species (those encountered in only 1-2 months) could have flown in from areas where the host plants are present.

Common Tit

Table 1

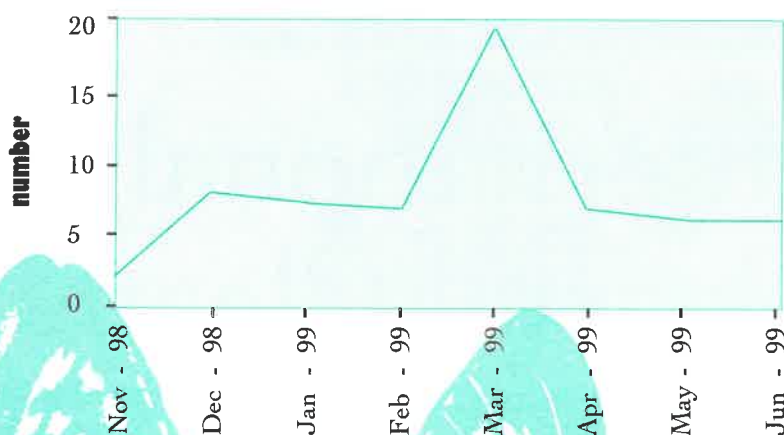
	Month encountered*	Mean**	Known food plant
Striped Albatross	1	0.029	<i>Cleome (rutidosperma)</i> - an uncommon weed here
Banded Swallowtail	1	0.036	<i>Luvunga scandens</i> , not present here, might be using other species in the <i>Rutaceae</i> family
"Sunbeam" (<i>Curetis saronis sumatrana</i>)	1	0.036	<i>Leguminosae</i> , probably <i>Derris</i>
Cabbage White	2	0.064	<i>Cleome (rutidosperma)</i> - an uncommon weed here
<i>Neptis</i> sp	2	0.071	<i>Gironiera</i> spp
Cruiser	2	0.083	<i>Adenia</i> , not present in Park
Malayan Egg-fly	1	0.095	<i>Utricaceae</i> , specific host plant not known
Lime Butterfly	3	0.167	<i>Citrus</i> and others of the <i>Rutaceae</i> family
Crow (<i>Euploea</i> sp)	4	0.214	<i>Apocynaceae</i> , <i>Asclepiadaceae</i> , <i>Moraceae</i> , <i>Aristolochiaceae</i> , <i>Compositae</i> etc
Tailed Green Jay	4	0.226	<i>Annonaceae</i> and <i>Michelia</i>
Common Mormon	4	0.405	<i>Citrus</i> and others of the <i>Rutaceae</i> family
Great Egg-Fly	6	0.531	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i> , <i>Acanthaceae</i>
Common Palmfly	6	1.537	Coconut and other palms, probably bamboo too
Glassy Tiger (<i>Ideopsis vulgaris macrina</i> c? <i>Prantica a. algeoides</i>)	8	2.081	<i>Parantica</i> - <i>Lasianthus</i> spp; <i>Ideopsis</i> - <i>Piper</i> spp
Common Grass Yellow	6	2.507	<i>Leguminosae</i> ; <i>Acacia</i> , <i>Albizia</i> , <i>Caesalpinia</i> ; <i>Cassia</i>

(* Month encountered - no. of months in which the species were encountered;

** Mean - average no. of individuals seen per count)

Figure 1 shows the total number of butterflies seen during each count. The number has increased after planting of food plants began (end of 98); there was also a peak in March. Other than these, the combined population has remained quite steady.

Fig. 1: Number of butterflies seen per transect by month



2 species were selected for the first phase of butterfly introduction. They were imported from Tropical Entomological House, Penang, Malaysia. They are the Common Mormon (50 pieces) and Great Eggfly (50 pieces). The butterflies were released into the wild after pupation. The 2 species are native to Singapore and to the Park.

The host plants are found here or are planted for the butterflies:

Lime Plant and Curry Leaf Plant for Common Mormon

Common Asystasia and Sweet Potato for Great Eggfly. 

Ongoing Research Activities

RESEARCHER	RESEARCH INSTITUTE	RESEARCH TOPICS AND ACTIVITY	DURATION
Rashid SMA PhD student	NTU, School of Science, Division of Biology	Ecology of the Malayan Water Monitor Lizard	1/98 - 1/2000
Catherine Brassaud PhD student	NUS, Tropical Marine Science Institute	Conservation measures to sedentarize and breed Smooth Otters at SBNP	10/99-10/2001
Oh Hwee Yen Masters student	NUS, Department of Geography	Pollen collection and sampling of study site	9/98-2000

An international issue. One solution. **Linda Goh** reports on Singapore's 3rd Mangrove Cleanup effort.

International Coastal Cleanup

Staying abreast of the situation



Getting Organised

"I hear and I forget
I see and I remember
I do and I understand"

The Call

Date: 20 September 1999

"A clean environment is the responsibility of not only the Government and organisation, but individuals too," said

Rear-Adm Teo Chee Hean
(The Straits Times, 20 Sept 1996,
International Coastal Cleanup).

The Close Look

Date: 4 September 1999

Time: 9am

A recce team of 10 students specially selected from St Andrew's and Temasek Junior College were briefed to identify and mark out the mangrove area for the cleanup operation two weeks before the event. After a long hard search, they settled for an area on the edge of the Park where they marked out four 10m

by 10m quadrats. Another plot had to be chosen to accommodate more requests of participation. This plot lies just outside the Park.

Time: 3pm to 4pm

To raise public awareness with regards to the purpose of this exercise, a talk was organised by the Park to furnish visitors with an insightful dose of "International Coastal Cleanup" in Singapore. Ms Kate Thome (Pioneer of this programme and from Singapore American School) delivered a powerful message that left us with a compelling urge to do our bit for the environment.

The Experience

Date: 18 September 1999

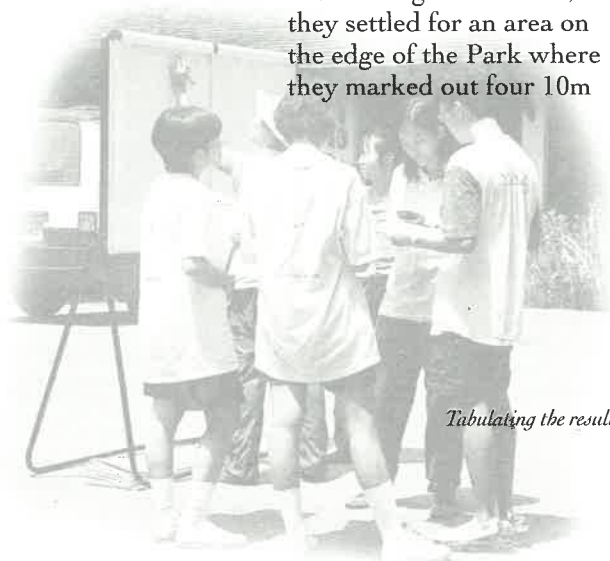
103 students from St Andrew's Junior College, Temasek Junior College, Commonwealth Secondary School and Singapore American School answered the call to challenge and plunged themselves into the cause. As they trudged through the mud for a first hand experience at the removal of waterborne rubbish in a mangrove environment, they came to understand that trash thrown in our waterways will ultimately end up on

beaches, shorelines and mangrove strand line. After three hours of toiling the land, different categories of rubbish was collected for proper disposal.

Information collected from all the different sites has been sent to the Centre for Marine Conservation in USA.

The International Coastal Cleanup, an initiative of Centre for Marine Conservation, started in the United States in 1988. This international event involves over 60 countries worldwide in a data collecting and trash clearing exercise to answer the question, what is on the world's beaches. It is however not just about ridding the sea of trash, which is so harmful to the creatures of the sea. It is also about bringing people together for a common cause. It is about community involvement, co-operation and partnership.

Through this activity at Sungei Buloh, the 103 students came to understand that they too can do their part for the environment. 🐼



Tabulating the results

Chan Su Hooi gives you an account of a recent hunting season at the Park.

Care For Nature Family Hunt 1999

"On your mark, get set, go!" Almost 1000 families gathered at Sungei Buloh Nature Park over 2 Saturdays and Sundays of July (17, 18, 24 & 25 July '99) to compete in a Family Nature Hunt, an event jointly organised by the Singapore Press Holdings, and the HSBC. Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, Senior Parliamentary Secretary of MND, set the participants in motion with the launch of the event.



Habitat Game. Kids at work

The teams comprising 2 adults and 2 children, were required to go around Route One and Route Two of the Park to look for the clues and answers related to nature in 3 hrs. They were also required to participate in some activities and games at various educational activity stations to score more points. The questions

and answers were designed such that participants will get a better understanding and appreciation of the wildlife in the Park.

The clues, answers and bonus points were all very well-camouflaged which made the hunt even more challenging. "Informers" were planted around the registration booth to brief participants on the game procedures before the start of the game while "Genies" roamed the Park to guide the lost ones. There were teams, which were amazingly 'on' and tough. They were able to finish all the questions and at the same time answered most of the answers correctly! It was a challenge for the participants while they got acquainted with nature.

The Family Nature Hunt closed with a Prize Presentation Ceremony held at Burkill Hall of the Singapore Botanic Gardens on the 1 August '99. Happy faces were all around as those who came were all winners! The Family Nature Hunt aims to provide a meaningful day out for families and allow each and every one to walk into nature and discover the beauty and mystery of Mother Nature. Judging from the happy and satisfied faces of each participant at the end of the day, we knew that we had succeeded. 🦋

Piecing together the puzzle



Admiring the works of nature



The winners

Calendar of Events

compiled by chan su hooi

Ecology Trail On-going

Let "A Window to the Big Picture" lead you through some basic concepts of Ecology. Venture from station to station along Route One and discover fascinating facts of life.



Talks

November, January, February & March 2000

We bring the flora and fauna of the Park to schools and libraries with slide talks by our Education Unit.

Clean and Green Week '99 & BirdWatch '99

November '99

Free guided tours & Bird watching at the Main Observation Hide with the guidance of experienced birdwatchers.

Nature Talks

1st Saturday of the month

Want to spend an afternoon between 3-4 pm learning and sharing knowledge? Come join us for the talk cum slide presentation on interesting topics. Do look out for more details in the "What's On" column in the Straits Times or on our website at www.sbnp.org.sg

Free Guided Tours Every Saturday

Free guided tours every Saturday at 9am, 10am, 3pm & 4pm except for public holidays.

Come discover the Park's unique flora and fauna as the guide leads you through the 'mystery walk'! See things that you might not have seen before!

Guiding service may be replaced with other interesting programs that coincide with allocated free guiding service slots.



Millennium Souvenir for every 2000th visitor

1 Dec '99 to 31 Dec 2000

Goodies! Yes, countdown to the millennium celebration. We are giving out souvenirs to every 2000th visitor to the Park from Dec '99 to Dec 2000. Don't miss this chance to bring home with you goodies that we have specially prepared for you. We take this opportunity to thank you for your support in nature conservation!

Launch of Adoption of Sungei Buloh Nature Park's Butterfly Trail

1 Nov '99

Woodlands Secondary School has formally adopted Sungei Buloh's Butterfly Trail

with the launch held on 1 November.

Students will come to the Park on a regular basis to care for this trail. Visit the Park and find out more about this new attraction.



Teachers' Workshop

23 November '99

A half-day workshop conducted for school teachers to familiarise themselves with the Park and help them plan more fruitful field trips to the Park.

Nature Diary '99

4 December '99 at 9.30am

Join us at Sungei Buloh Nature Park as we explore our living world and capture it with sketches and words. Learn how to create a nature diary that you can enjoy for years to come. Interested?

Call 794 1401 to register in advance.

For more details on our programmes, visit our website at www.sbnp.org.sg or call 794 1401

Journal of a Nature Warden: COMMON TAILORBIRD

(*Orthotomus sutorius*)

by ramakrishnan rk.

It was still dark outside when I woke up and got myself ready for a bird ringing session at Sungei Buloh Nature Park. As I walked towards the Nature Gallery, a pair of small birds on a Simpoh Air scrub caught my eye. Moving closer, I noticed that one of the birds has an elongated tail feather. This is only seen in the male Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*). Upon further investigation, I realised that this pair was actually busy building a nest!

The nests of the Common Tailorbird are found at Simpoh Air scrubs around the Park. Nest building for the Common Tailorbird is a job under-taken by the female. The male can be seen escorting the female on her material collection rounds. Using a single leaf or a cluster of leaves, the 'cover' of the nest is formed by the female who meticulously pierces an equal number of holes on each leaf edge with its finely pointed bill as a needle. Spider silk or fine grass serve as thread. Stitching back and forth through the holes, the bird joins each leaf seam together, tying knots as it sews and leaving an entrance hole at the top. Fine strands of grass are used to weave the cup nest inside the folded leaf. Once that is completed, feathers,alang and other materials are

used to line the inside of the nest that would keep the nestlings warm.

Look out for this amazing small wonder that is always active from dusk to dawn among the scrub and trees along the Park's walking trails. A word of caution though, do not get too close if they are building a nest. They may be alarmed and abandon the nest or even the nestlings.

Description of bird :

Upper parts olive green; centre of crown rufous; for female rufous colour restricted to forehead. Side of head and underparts white. Distinguished from Dark-necked Tailorbird (*Orthotomus atrogularis*) by white under-tail coverts. In breeding season the male's central tail feathers are an additional 3cm longer.

Breeding season :

Peak period during Feb to May.

No. of eggs laid:

2 to 5 pastel blue eggs speckled brown.

Incubation to Fledging:

24 Days

Voice:

a persistent loud chee-yup chee-yup, incessantly repeated.

Habitat :

Forest edge, garden, parks, open country, scrub, mangrove.

Status :

Very common resident

PARK INFORMATION

Map to the Park



Opening Hours

7.30am to 7.00pm
on weekdays

7.00am to 7.00pm
on weekends

Admission

\$1.00 per adult

\$0.50 per child/
student/senior citizen

Audio-visual Show

Mondays to Saturdays
9.00am, 11.00am,
1.00pm, 3.00pm,
5.00pm.

Sundays and
Public Holidays
Hourly from
9.00am to 5.00pm

Getting There

Mondays to Saturdays:

Board service
TIBS 925 from
Kranji MRT Station.

Alight at Kranji
Reservoir carpark
for a 15 min walk
to the Park.

Sundays and
Public Holidays:

TIBS 925 will stop at
the Park entrance.

Map of the Park



Sungei Buloh Nature Park
301 Neo Tiew Crescent
Singapore 718925

Tel: 794 1401
Fax: 793 7271

E-mail:

sbnp@pacific.net.sg

Website:

<http://www.sbnp.org>

Visitor Centre Facilities

- Theatre
- Cafeteria
- Nature Gallery
- Nature Cove
- Toilet

Park Facilities

- Boardwalk
- Route 1
- Route 2
- Route 3
- Bird Observation Hide
- Tower Hide
- Screen
- Outdoor Classroom
- Platform
- Shelter
- Binoculars
- Emergency Walkie-talkie

They're disappearing fast.
Help us lick the problem.



The Green Turtle is a magnificent creature. In the sea, it swims gracefully. And every once in a while, it will lumber up the beach to lay its precious eggs. It is a sight to behold.

Unfortunately the Green Turtle is being threatened, hunted towards extinction for its meat, its beautiful shell and its eggs. Many amphibian and reptile species are similarly endangered today because they are losing their natural habitats.

In an effort to help protect our environment and the many creatures that inhabit it, we launched the Care-for-Nature programme in 1989 to promote public awareness and action in caring for our living planet. Since then, we've helped save a beautiful coral reef from destruction – moving it piece by piece with the help of hundreds of volunteers – from the reef due for reclamation to a safe haven in Sentosa.

And to sow the seeds for a greener future, we've started a programme to involve our youths in re-introducing a variety of indigenous trees into our urban landscape. We're also continuing our efforts to help promote the Sungei Buloh Nature Park, Singapore's only wetland park as a living classroom to our school children; providing them with a learning experience and an appreciation of our environment far richer than what any text book can offer.

These are just a few of our more salient projects to help protect and preserve the environment, its wildlife and our natural heritage. You too can help

the environmental cause by supporting our latest endeavour – the sale of the 1999 Care-for-Nature Collectors' Stamp Series on amphibians and reptiles.

Every dollar and cent we receive from each Collector's Cover and Limited Edition Stamp Print Collection you buy will be donated to the Care-for-Nature Trust Fund; contributing to the financial resources needed to fund ongoing conservation projects as well as new ones in the pipeline.

With your support, our endangered wildlife may stand a better chance. Because if we can all just help to look after their habitat, nature's wildlife can look after themselves. So buy any one of the Care-for-Nature Collectors' Covers or Limited Edition Stamp Print Collection, and help lick the problem.

The Amphibian and Reptile Series

For as little as \$9.90, you can make a difference.

Care-for-Nature Collectors' Cover (\$9.90)

Special 4-in-1 print edition (\$68)

Set of 4 Limited Stamp Print Collection (\$338 with frames), (\$198 without frames)

From 13 October, the Care-for-Nature Collector's Covers are available at all HSBC branches and Post Offices. The Limited Edition Stamp Print Collection are also available at HSBC branches, Public Affairs and Advertising (HSBC Building #14-01, Tel: 530 5100) and Singapore Post (Killiney Road, Tel: 734 7899).

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