

Singapore Raptor Report Autumn Migration, October 2010

Summary for migrant species:

A total of 139 migrant raptors from 8 species were recorded this month. **Oriental Honey Buzzards** took the top spot with 108 birds. Peter Jones counted 62 of these birds in a 45 minutes period from 11:45am to 12:30pm at Tuas on 24 October. **Japanese Sparrowhawks** came in second in terms of numbers with a total of 12. The third placing was a surprise as it went to the uncommon **Chinese Sparrowhawk**. Present in small numbers were the **Ospreys**. Sun Chong Hong had been expecting the **Peregrine Falcon** that he had seen in Spring 2009, Autumn 2009 and Spring 2010 in Bishan. The falcon arrived on the 11th and perched, as usual, on top of a high rise building. For 3 species, there was only a single sighting. A juvenile **Eastern Marsh Harrier** was seen at Changi on the 9th by Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau and Con Foley. The **Common Buzzard** made it into this month with a single bird at the usual hangout – Changi – on the 30th, by Danny Lau and Lau Jia Sheng. On the last day of the month, Alfred Chia recorded 2 **Black Bazas** at Seletar West.



Chinese Sparrowhawk, male, at Seletar West on 30/10/10, by Danny Lau

Highlights for sedentary species:

The Bird Race on Pulau Ubin on the 24th produced two interesting records for resident raptors. A rare **Crested Serpent Eagle** was seen by Alan Owyong and his team, flying across Ubin's main village just after noon. The other notable record was that of 2 **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** – a juvenile and a sub-adult. This appears to be the first record of this species for Pulau Ubin. An even greater rarity – the **Crested Goshawk** – re-appeared at the Singapore Zoo. The last sighting of this species at the same location was that of a juvenile. This time it was an adult.



Crested Goshawk at Singapore Zoo on 16/10/10, by Angelia Teng

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	5			
2	Black Baza	2		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
3	Oriental Honey Buzzard	108	9	Black-winged Kite	3
4	Eastern Marsh Harrier	1	10	Brahminy Kite	39
5	Chinese Sparrowhawk	6	11	White-bellied Sea Eagle	14
6	Japanese Sparrowhawk	12	12	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	5
7	Common Buzzard	1	13	Crested Serpent Eagle	1
8	Peregrine Falcon	4	14	Crested Goshawk	1
			15	Changeable Hawk-eagle	6
				<i>Unidentified</i>	
			16	Unidentified Raptors	3
Total for Migrants		139	Grand Total		213

Note: The total numbers are indicative only with similar species in the same area discounted to prevent duplication.

1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
17	1	Pulau Ubin	Jean-Marc Chavatte
18	2	Western Catchement	Lau Jia Sheng
19	1	West of Singapore	Mike Tan
23	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, 11am, heading south	Peter Jones
31	1	Kranji Marsh	Alfred Chia
31	1	Seletar West	Alfred Chia

2. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
31	2	Seletar West	Alfred Chia

3. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (108)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	2	Parc Oasis	Peter Jones
2	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, flying low	Lim Kim Seng
17	1	Chinese Gardens MRT, flying by	Peter Jones
17	1	Kent Ridge, pale morph, probably coming to roost	Alan Owyong
19	4	Parc Oasis	Peter Jones
23	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, 3pm, heading north (probably to avoid incoming storm)	Peter Jones
23	1	Japanese Gardens	Nicholas Tan
23	1	PIE / Paya Lebar junction, 12:25pm	Fang Sher Chyet
24	14	Condo in Jurong, 0950-1045 hrs	Peter Jones
24	62	Tuas Link 4 <i>“from 11:30am - 12:15pm a total of 62 OHBs before rain from SW stopped play. Largest flock was 17 birds. OHBs were seen to climb on thermals above the rain clouds so possibly the passage continued out of sight.”</i>	Peter Jones
24	2	Pulau Ubin, during Bird Race	Alan Owyong
24	1	Pulau Ubin, during Bird Race	Jeremy Lewis
26	3	Condo in Jurong	Peter Jones
26	1	Stevens Road	Fang Sher Chyet
30	1	Singapore Quarry	Lim Kim Seng
30	1	PIE, in flight	Danny Lau & Lau Jia Sheng
31	2	Seletar West	Alfred Chia



Oriental Honey Buzzard, dark morph, at Japanese Gardens, 231010, by Nicholas Tan

4. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
9	1	Changi, juvenile	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau & Con Foley

5. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
17	1	Chinese Gardens MRT, female flying by	Peter Jones
24	4	Pulau Ubin, during Bird Race	Jeremy Lewis
30	1	Seletar West, adult male	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

6. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (12)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	2	Chinese Gardens	Peter Jones
2	2	Japanese Gardens, 7:15 – 9:00 am	Jeremy Lewis
2	1	SBWR, adult	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng & Tan Kok Hui
14	1	Bukit Batok Nature Park, female in flight, 10:20am	Lee Tiah Kee
16	1	Tampines Woods, 10:30am	Fang Sher Chyet
17	1	Chinese Gardens, female	Doreen Ang, Ah Huay & Nessie
23	1	Seletar West, juvenile	Danny Lau & Lau Jia Sheng

24	1	Condo in Jurong, 0950-1045 hrs	Peter Jones
24	2	Pulau Ubin, during Bird Race	Alan Owyong
24	3	Pulau Ubin, during Bird Race	Jeremy Lewis
24	1	Punggol, adult female	Francis Yap
31	1	Seletar West	Alfred Chia

7. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
30	1	Changi, feeding on rodent	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

8. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
10	1	Pulau Ubin	Jeremy Lewis
11	1	Bishan, perched on tv aerial of 25 storey building. Also reported in spring 2009, autumn 2009 (Oct-Dec) and spring 2010. <i>“As anticipated, the PF has returned yesterday (11 Oct). I was looking up the sky at 5.16 pm just when it flew overhead from the direction of Lower Peirce Reservoir towards the 25-storey residential building. A few seconds later it landed at its regular perch on the TV antenna. It started preening itself for a few minutes before looking around for preys..... After I got back to the ground level, I saw the PF leaving the perch. A short while later, it disappeared behind a building. Just then I heard the sharp shrill call of a Javan Myna. I am now familiar with this call. It signals that the PF is pursuing its prey. I look up immediately and saw two birds diving. Before I could identify the birds within the split second, the view was again blocked by buildings and trees. A few seconds later, I saw the PF flying back to its perch, empty-handed.”</i>	Sun Chong Hong
24	1	Pulau Ubin, during Bird Race	Jeremy Lewis
26	1	Condo in Jurong <i>“adult female - hunting before passing south”</i>	Peter Jones
30	1	Pulau Ubin. Single at a telecom tower near the jetty	Lim Kim Seng
31	1	Kranji Marsh	Alfred Chia

Resident raptors

9. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
9	2	Changi, juveniles	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau & Con Foley
30	1	Tanah Merah Coast	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

10. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur Indus* (39)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Singapore Straits	Con Foley
2	1	SBWR, adult	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng & Tan Kok Hui
9	5	Changi, all juveniles	Tan Kok Jui, Danny Lau & Con Foley
10	3	Pulau Ubin	Jeremy Lewis
15	1	Kent Ridge	Lam Hon Pui
17	3	Pulau Ubin	Jean-Marc Chavatte
18	2	Western Catchment	Lau Jia Sheng
23	1	Tuas Scrambler Track	Danny Lau
23	5	Tuas South	Danny Lau & Lau Jia Sheng
24	3	Pulau Ubin, during Bird Race	Jeremy Lewis
30	1	Tanah Merah Coast	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
31	3	Jurong Lake	Azmi Mohamed
31	16	Seletar West, flying in to roost	Alfred Chia

11. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (14)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Singapore Straits	Con Foley
10	2	Pulau Ubin	Jeremy Lewis
10	1	Johor Straits	Con Foley
16	1	Singapore Quarry	Tan Kok Jui, Danny Lau & Con Foley
17	1	Chinese Gardens, adult	Doreen Ang, Ah Huay & Nessie
17	3	Pulau Ubin	Jean-Marc Chavatte
18	1	Western Catchment	Lau Jia Sheng
23	2	Singapore Quarry, 2 birds seen regularly	Ulf Remahl
24	3	Pulau Ubin, during Bird Race	Jeremy Lewis
27	2	Fort Canning Park, seems to be nesting on telecoms mast	Graham Rice
30	1	Tanah Merah Coast	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

31	1	Jurong Lake	Azmi Mohamed
31	3	Seletar West	Alfred Chia

12. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Bukit Batok Nature Park, an adult attempting to build a nest from scratch.	Ulf Remahl
3	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Yoshio Yamane and Margaret Yeo
24	2	Pekan Quarry, Pulau Ubin during Bird Race. 1 juvenile perched and 1 sub-adult flying off the waters south of Ubin	Alan Owyong
23	1	Bukit Batok Nature Park, an adult breaking branches to build a nest. <i>“To my amazement the bird I saw a while back was still hard at work trying to build something. I presume it is the same one! What was most interesting this Saturday morning was to see how the eagle got hold of a big branch. This adult bird was sitting in a big tree seemingly looking everywhere. Suddenly it dove with 45 degrees angle down towards the quarry pond. To my amazement it then hit a fairly big dry branch I hadn’t noticed before. She grabbed the branch with her feet and followed that by throwing her full body weight at full speed against it. The branch snapped. It all happened very fast. The piece she got hold of was massive not much short of 4 foot plus. It must have been close to the limit what the eagle could carry as the bird never gained any height before half crashing into another tree on the other side of the quarry. I call the bird she even if I haven’t a clue what sex this adult bird has. The eagle during the rest of the time I stayed just moved from one perch to another.”</i>	Ulf Remahl
30	1	MacRitchie Reservoir	Lim Kim Seng
31	1	MacRitchie Reservoir	Lim Kim Seng

13. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
24	1	Pulau Ubin, during Bird race. Flying across the town area just after noon	Alan Owyong

14. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
16	1	Zoo. <i>“Was at the zoo, when at about 5pm Angelia Teng saw this accipiter land on a tree near the primate section. It stayed for about 15 mins before flying north towards the reservoir.”</i>	Raj Krishnan

15. Changeable Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
9	1	SBWR, heard only	Tan Kok Jui, Danny Lau & Con Foley
10	1	Western Singapore, pale morph	Mike Tan
16	1	BBNP, dark morph, circling	Tan Kok Jui, Danny Lau & Con Foley
16	1	SBWR, heard only	Tan Kok Jui, Danny Lau & Con Foley
23	2	Singapore Quarry, 1 pale and 1 dark morph seen regularly	Ulf Remahl
30	1	Tanah Merah Coast, pale morph	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

16. Unidentified Raptors (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
15	2	IBP, thermalling, 9am	Pat Chan
26	1	Condo in Jurong	Peter Jones

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong

Note:

The numbers in brackets beside the bird names indicates the total number seen for this month. Different reports of the same raptors from the same area have been discounted to prevent duplication.

Many thanks to those who have sent in their reports and especially to Danny Lau, Angelia Teng and Nicholas Tan for the use of their photos.