

## **Early Autumn Raptor's report**

### **25<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

#### **Crested(Oriental) Honey-buzzard**

As early as 24<sup>th</sup> August, I observed a single **Crested Honey-buzzard** flying at Mandai Gardens. On 27<sup>th</sup> August, Ding Li sent me his record of 4 Honey-buzzards soaring at the NTU. John Spencer reported a single buzzard at Telok Blangah Hill on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. During our FMBC census on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept, Wing Chong noted one at Bukit Batok West. Another individual was photographed by Philip Tang just outside the Japanese Gardens on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept.

#### **Rufous-bellied Eagle**

On 7<sup>th</sup> Sept, KC Tsang reported the dramatic encounter of a juvenile **Rufous-bellied Eagle** taking and eating a pigeon at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Kim Seng had recorded an early arrival of this eagle on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2002 at Bukit Kallang but thinks that these may be dispersants rather than migrants. Interestingly Doreen, Nessie and Jane Rogers may have seen a **Rufous-bellied Eagle** on the 21<sup>st</sup> Sept flying across Sime Forest.

#### **Resident Raptors**

I took advantage of the Fall Migration Bird Census on the 14<sup>th</sup> Sept to collect and compiled records of raptors in Singapore to see what kind of numbers of migrating raptors and species before the main migration.

The surprised finding: only one raptor migrant, the Honey-buzzard was recorded by the counters over 12 sites across the island. However there were healthy reports of our resident raptor species.

The **White-bellied Sea Eagle** came up tops with 16 birds counted. The largest number of 4 was from Neo Tiew Lane 2 by Nessie and Jane Rogers.

The **Brahminy Kite** came in next at 15 birds with 3 reported by Kim Seng and Richard Carden at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve.

The **Changeable Hawk-eagle** is doing well with a total of 9 counted with 4 at its stronghold at Khatib Bongsu reported by Hua Chew, Cyril and Ee Lin.

There were 5 **Black-winged Kites** reported from Lorong Halus and Neo Tiew Lane although there is a small population at Changi Cove.

The **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** is still foraging at Little Guilin with Myron Tay's report on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. The next day Frankie sent in a photo of a parent bird bringing back nesting material.

It seems that the **Crested Serpent Eagle** that visits the Jurong Lake area at this time of the year is back with a reported sighting by Ender on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept at the Chinese Gardens.

*Compiled by Alan OwYong from reports sent in to the WildbirdSingapore Forum.*

*Edited by Kenneth Kee.*

*Our thanks to all of you who send in your reports.*