



# SINGAPORE AVIFAUNA

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## SINAV

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Mendis Tan 08

Nordmann's Greenshank at Sungei Buloh wetland Reserve on 15 September 2008. Photo © Mendis Tan



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## Bird Report

November 2008

By Andrew Chow and Lim Kim Chuah

### Highlights

### SINGAPORE

Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve continued to be the “hottest” place in November. The floodgate opened with the arrival of 8 **Great Knot**. This was followed by a bird not seen in Singapore for the past 27 years in the form of the globally threatened and many birders’ dream – the much sought-after **Nordman’s Greenshank**. While this mega-bird took most of the attention away, other no less interesting sightings included a **Grey-faced Buzzard** and a **Grey-tailed Tattler** which remarkably still had the green tag on its leg intact, indicating that it was tagged at Buloh some 4-5 years ago.



Grey-tailed Tattler at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve on 20 Nov 2008.  
Photo copyrighted Mendis Tan.

Elsewhere Jurong Lake area also produced its load of exciting finds. Photographers were particularly active here. One lucky photographer photographed a rare hepatic morph **Oriental Cuckoo** and a handful managed to photograph the uncommon and stunning **Ruddy Kingfisher**. We had the first record of the **Ferruginous Flycatcher** in this area, a bird more often seen in the forest rather than a “sanitized” park. And one Hooded Pitta continued to hang around the park area.

Over in the new hot-spot at Bidadari, interesting finds included a **Booted Eagle**, **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo**, **Asian Drongo Cuckoo** and a **Dark-sided Flycatcher**. Moving further east at Changi Cove, interesting birds included a **Siberian Stonechat**, an increasing difficult to find **Black Drongo**, the beautiful **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** and an amazingly huge number of some 300 **Oriental Pratincole**. The **Eastern Marsh Harrier** also continued to spend its winter in the grassland here. Finally over in the island of Ubin, a lone female **Blue-rumped Parrot** was the first record here.



Black Drongo at Changi Cove on 17 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Lee Tiah Khee

## **JOHOR**

Over across the causeway, a trip to the rice field at Sungei Balang produced some stunning images of **Greater Spotted Eagle** and **Pied Harrier**. And at Pantl, besides the usual resident, a first winter male **Blue-and-white Flycatcher** was also photographed and the rather uncommon **Ashy Bulbul**.

## **Summary**

This report covers noteworthy bird sightings in November 2008 for Singapore and the surrounding region. In general, the report will include but are not limited to the following categories: rarities, breeding or nesting records, arrival and departure dates for migratory species, new locality records, escapees and unusual behaviour.

In addition, contributors are also advised to be as precise as possible concerning records. Please remember to include details such as how many birds were seen, the plumage, sex and age of the birds, the type of habitat in which they were observed, the food they were eating (if possible, identify the plant or animal), the weather encountered (what was the



wind direction, tide conditions, etc.). Although it is not necessary to have such details for all record submissions, it is a good habit to cultivate and is normally required for very rare or unusual species.

Please send all your records of interest to Lim Kim Seng @ [Lim Kim Seng @ ibisbill@yahoo.com](mailto:LimKimSeng@ibisbill@yahoo.com) or Lim Kim Chuah @ [pittalover@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:pittalover@yahoo.com.sg) or Yong Ding Li at [zoothera@yahoo.com](mailto:zoothera@yahoo.com). Alternatively you can also post your sightings at the NSS Bird Group website at <http://wildbirdsingapore.nss.org.sg> Please send your records no later than one week after the end of every month. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

Unless stated otherwise, nomenclature and systematic follow K.S. Lim's (2007) "Pocket Checklist of the birds of the Republic of Singapore (Second Edition)", K.S. Lim & K.C. Lim's (1999) "Pocket checklist of the birds of Johor, Peninsular Malaysia" for Johor, and B.L. Monroe Jr. & C.G. Sibley's (1993) "A World Checklist of Birds " for the rest of the region.

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#### **Abbreviations Used:**

CCNR	Central Catchment Nature Reserve
NTL2	Neo Tiew Lane 2
SBG	Singapore Botanic Gardens
SBWR	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve
TBHP	Telok Blangah Hill Park

## SINGAPORE

**RUFIOUS WOODPECKER** (*Celeus brachyurus*)

1 heard at Hindhede Nature Park, 30/11 (LKC)

**LACED WOODPECKER** (*Picus vittatus*)

1 male at Hindhede Nature Park, 30/11 (LKC)

**COMMON GOLDENBACK** (*Dinopium javanense*)

3 birds in scrub at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS).

**LINEATED BARBET** (*Megalaima lineata*)

2 seen 11/11 and 14/11 on a fruiting fig tree at Jurong Lake Park (TGC) could be an indication that this species is expanding its range in Singapore.

**COPPERSMITH BARBET** (*Megalaima haemacephala*)

1 on tembusu at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS).

**ORIENTAL PIED HORNBILL** (*Anthracoceros albirostris*)

1 near the town centre on Pulau Ubin, 15/11 (LKC)

**ORIENTAL DOLLARBIRD** (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

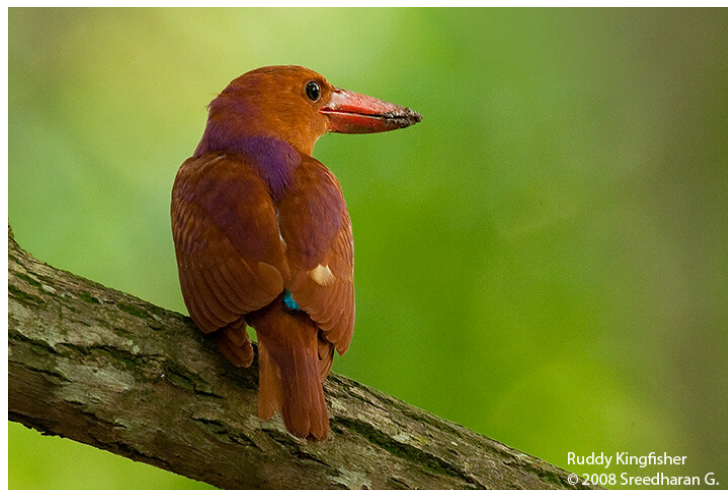
2 at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS).

**COMMON KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo atthis*)

3 seen 11/11 at Jurong Lake Park (TGC). 4 seen 23/11 at Jurong Lake Park (SY). 1 seen 24/11 at NTL2 (WCC).

**RUDDY KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon coromanda*)

1 seen 9/11, 16/11 and heard 30/11 at Jurong Lake Park (SrG).



Ruddy Kingfisher at Jurong Lake Park on Nov 2008.  
Photo copyrighted Sreedharan G

**BLACK-CAPPED KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon pileata*)

1 seen 7/11 and 24/11 at NTL2 (WCC), perched on the railing of a drain. 1 seen 17/11 at SBWR (TGC). 1 seen 19/11 at Jurong Lake Park (TGC).

**BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER** (*Merops philippinus*)

3 seen 9/11 at TBHP (KK). 6 seen 18/11 at Turut Track (TGC). 1 seen 24/11 at NTL2 (WCC). 3 at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS). About 20 birds at Changi Cove, 2/11 (LKC/YDL).

**BLUE-THROATED BEE-EATER** (*Merops viridis*)

4 at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS). One of them was seen eating a large blue dragonfly.

**CHESTNUT-WINGED CUCKOO** (*Clamator coromandus*)

1 seen on 2/11 at Changi Cove (LKC/YDL). 1 seen 7/11 at Changi Cove (LKC/LTK). 1 seen 29/11, at Jurong Lake Park (SrG). 1 seen 30/11 in the Ginger Garden at SBG (RC).

**HODGSON'S HAWK-CUCKOO** (*Hierococcyx nasicolor*)

2 juveniles seen on 29/11 at Bidadari Cemetery (CMS/CIC). 1 seen 29/11 at Jurong Lake Park (GYW/WF/SY).

**INDIAN CUCKOO**

(*Cuculus micropterus*)

1 juvenile seen 6/11 at Bidadari Cemetery, feeding alongside the Asian Brown Flycatcher (FL). 2 seen 10/11 at Jurong Lake Park (TGC) and 11/11 (LJS/TGC). 1 seen 16/11 outside Chinese Garden (FW). 1 adult male and 1 sub-adult female at 29/11 at Bidadari (CMS/CIC). 1 at Japanese Garden, 20/11 (LKC/LTK)

**ORIENTAL CUCKOO**

(*Cuculus saturatus*)

1 hepatic morph seen 15/11 at Jurong Lake Park (MC).

**RUSTY-BREASTED CUCKOO**

(*Cacomantis sepulcralis*)

1 seen 29/11 at Bidadari Cemetery (CMS/CIC).

**LITTLE BRONZE-CUCKOO**

(*Chrysococcyx minutillus*)

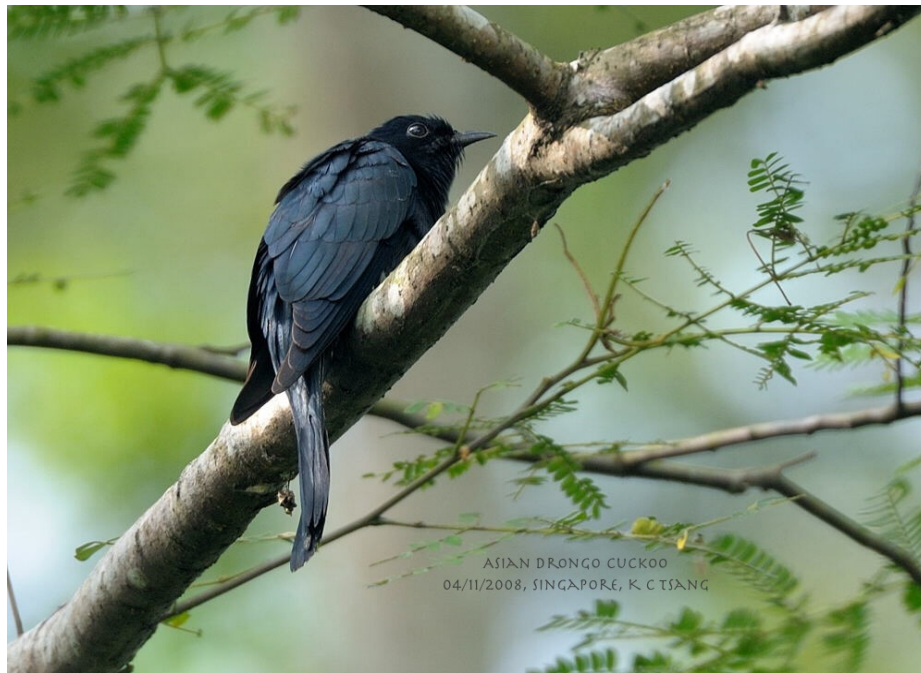
1 heard at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS).



Oriental Cuckoo at Jurong Lake Park on 15 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Mark Chua

**ASIAN DRONGO CUCKOO** (*Surniculus lugubris*)

1 seen and photographed 4/11 at NTL2 (TKC). 1 seen on 10/11 near Jelutong Tower, CCNR (GD). 1 juvenile seen 10/11 at Jurong Lake Park (TGC) and 11/11 (TGC/JS).



Asian Drongo Cuckoo at Neo Tiew Lane on 4 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted KC Tsang

**BLUE-RUMPED PARROT** (*Psittinus cyanurus*)

1 female at Chek Jawa, Pulau Ubin on 15/11 (LKC). Bird was observed flying from the direction of Johor.

**BLUE-CROWNED HANGING PARROT** (*Loriculus galgulus*)

2 seen 9/11 at TBHP (KK). 1 seen 19/11 at Choa Chu Kang St 64 and few seen 29/11 at SBG (FW).

**LONG-TAILED PARAKEET** (*Psittacula longicauda*)

3 seen at 7/11 and about 20 seen 24/11 at NTL2 (WCC). 20 seen 18/11 at Turut Track (TGC).

**FORK-TAILED SWIFT** (*Apus pacificus*)

5 seen 9/11 at TBHP (KK). 2 over TBHP on 9/11 (LKC/LKS). 1 at Changi Cove, 29/11 (LKC/AC)

**SPOTTED WOOD OWL** (*Strix seloputo*)

1 seen 16/11 outside Chinese Garden (FW).

**RED TURTLE DOVE** (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*)

2 seen 24/11 at NTL2 (WCC).



**COMMON EMERALD DOVE** (*Chalcophaps indica*)

1 female at SBWR, 16/11 (LKS).

**RED-LEGGED CRAKE** (*Rallina fasciata*)

1 seen 18/11 at Hindhede Nature Park (AC).

**WHITE-BROWED CRAKE** (*Porzana cinerea*)

1 seen 30/11 at NTL2 (LTK).

**WATERCOCK** (*Gallicrex cinerea*)

2 seen 23/11 (SC). 2 adult male (breeding plumage) seen 22/11 (WCC/LKC) and 1 seen 24/11 (WCC) and 1 photographed 30/11 (LTK). All reports from NTL2.



Watercock at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 22 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Lee Tiah Khee

**PURPLE SWAMPHEN** (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

1 seen 1/11 (FW), 7/11 (WCC), with dull plumage, 1 on 23/11 (SC) and 1 on 22/11 (LKC). All records from NTL2.

**COMMON REDSHANK** (*Tringa totanus*)

30 at SBWR, 20/11 (LKS).

**MARSH SANDPIPER** (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

80 at SBWR, 20/11 (LKS).



**COMMON GREENSHANK** (*Tringa nebularia*)

1 at SBWR, 20/11 (LKS).

**NORDMANN'S GREENSHANK** (*Tringa guttifer*)

1 seen 15/11 (DL/LKC/LKS/LJS/LWT/TKH/MeT/TGC) and 2 seen 16/11 at SBWR (HB/AC/THC/SY). 1 seen 22/11 (LJS/TKH/THC /FW) and 1 seen 23/11 (HF/LBW) at SBWR. According to David Bakewell, both birds are in 1<sup>st</sup> winter plumage as they show juvenile wing feathers. This globally threatened bird was last recorded at Changi Coast in 1981, a good 27 years ago.



Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer*, Hide 1C, SBWR, 15 November 2008 © TAN Gim Cheong

**WOOD SANDPIPER** (*Tringa glareola*)

3 at Changi Cove, 16/11 (LKC/YDL)

**TEREK SANDPIPER** (*Tringa cinerea*)

1 seen 18/11 at SBWR (TGC).

**COMMON SANDPIPER** (*Tringa hypoleucos*)

1 seen 24/11 at NTL2 (WCC).

**GREY-TAILED TATTLER** (*Tringa brevipes*)

1 seen 18/11 (DA/LKK/WC) and 20/11 (DL/Krish/MT) at SBWR. This bird was tagged as Krish estimated, 4 to 5 years ago at the Reserve.

**GREAT KNOT** (*Calidris tenuirostris*)

7 seen and photographed 14/11(MeT) and 8 on 15/11 at SBWR (DL/KK/TGC/THC/LKS). 8 on 16/11 (LKS). This is the largest flock recorded in SBWR. 4 seen 23/11 at SBWR (HF/LBW).



Great Knot at SBWR on 14 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Mendis Tan

**RED-NECKED STINT** (*Calidris ruficollis*)

3 birds feeding by small scattered inland puddles of water at Changi Cove, 2/11 (LKC/YDL)

**LONG-TOED STINT**

(*Calidris subminuta*)

2 seen feeding in small scattered inland puddle of water at Changi Cove, 16/11 (LKC/YDL)

**CURLEW SANDPIPER**

(*Calidris ferruginea*)

45 at SBWR, 20/11 (LKS)

**PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER**

(*Pluvialis fulva*)

A number seen 18/11 at SBWR (TGC)

with one still in summer plumage. At least 100 resting on cleared areas of red earth at Changi Cove, 2/11 (LKC/YDL). Another 300 in the same area on 16/11 (LKC/YDL)



Pacific Golden Plover at SBWR on 18 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Tan Gim Cheong

**GREY PLOVER** (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

5 at Chek Jawa, Pulau Ubin on 15/11 (LKC)

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** (*Charadrius dubius*)

1 at Changi Cove, 29/11 (LKC/AC)

**MALAYSIAN PLOVER** (*Charadrius peronii*)

1 pair at Changi Cove, 29/11 (LKC/AC)

**LESSER SAND PLOVER** (*Charadrius mongolus*)

Several at Changi Cove, 29/11 (LKC/AC)

**GREATER SAND PLOVER** (*Charadrius leschenaultia*)

1 at SBWR, 20/11 (LKS). Also several at Changi Cove, 29/11 (LKC/AC)

**RED-WATTLED LAPWING** (*Vanellus indicus*)

2 at Changi Cove, 29/11 (LKC/AC). The birds appeared to be very territorial and chased away an Eastern Marsh Harrier that came too close. Also they were obviously uncomfortable with our presence and kept circling and calling. This may be an indication that the birds were nesting.

**ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE** (*Glareola maldivarum*)

185 seen 1/11 at SBWR (MS). At least 300 seen 2/11 at Changi Cove (LKC/YDL). 5 seen 7/11 at Changi Cove, foraging as they flying randomly and low over the scrubland together with Swiftlets, House Swift, Red-rumped Swallows and Barn Swallows (LKC/LTK). About 5 again on 16/11 (LKC/YDL), several on 29/11 (LKC/AC) and 1 drinking water by a inland pool, 14/11 (LTK)

**LITTLE TERN** (*Sterna albifrons*)

15 seen 23/11 (SC), 7 on 24/11 (WCC) and 15 on 22/11 (LKC). All records from NTL2.

**WHITE-WINGED TERN** (*Chlidonias hybridus*)

2 seen 7/11 (WWC). 1 photographed on 22/11 (TKC). 4 seen 23/11 (SC) and 1 seen 24/11 (WCC). All records from NTL2.

**OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*)

1 seen on 1/11 and 9/11 at SBWR, 2 seen 2/11 and 1 seen 8/11 at Pulau Ubin (MS). 2 seen 1/11 in flight at Turut Track (FW/YDL). 1 seen 7/11 at NTL2 (WCC), perched on BBC tower feeding. 1 seen 18/11 at Turut Track in flight with a fish (TGC). 2 seen soaring 21/11 at Punggol Grassland (AC). 1 seen 23/11 (TKH) and 2 seen 23/11 at SBWR (HF). 3 seen 24/11 at NTL2 (WCC).

**BLACK BAZA** (*Aviceda leuphotes*)

2 seen 1/11 and 1 seen 9/11 at SBWR (MS). 32 seen 8/11 at Pulau Ubin (MS). 1 seen and photographed 3/11 at Bidadari Cemetery (TKC). 3 seen at NTL2 (TKC). 11 seen 5/11 at eastern region of Pulau Ubin, flying towards mainland Singapore (BL). 4 seen



6/11 at Bidadari Cemetery (FL). 2 seen 7/11 at NTL2 (WCC), taking short flight from tree to tree. 2 seen 8/11 at Pulau Punggol (TKH/LJS/LWT). 6 seen 8/11 at Bidadari Cemetery (TKC). 2 seen 9/11 at Pulau Ubin (AvC). 19 seen 19/11 at Changi (TGC). 3 seen 22/11 (TKH) and 4 seen 23/11 (HF) at SBWR. 4 seen 22/11 at Kent Ridge Park (HF). 10 seen 23/11 (SC) and 1 seen 24/11 at NTL2 (WCC). 9 over Telok Blangah Hill on 9/11 (LKC/LKS/ST/TJL/TTC), 1 at SBWR, 20/11 (LKS) and 2 at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS). 12 seen at Japanese Garden, 20/11 (LKC/YDL).

**CRESTED HONEY-BUZZARD** (*Pernis ptilorhyncus*)

55 seen 1/11 and 1 seen 9/11 at SBWR, 1 seen 2/11 and 3 seen 8/11 at Pulau Ubin and 7 seen 12/11 at Tuas South Ave 9 (MS). 1 seen and photographed 8/11 at Balestier area perched on a HDB block (RL). 1 pale morph seen 8/11 (TKH/LJS/LWT). 1 *torquatus* race seen 10/11 at Toa Payoh (GS/LTK). 2 seen 22/11 at Kent Ridge Park (HF). 2 at Telok Blangah Hill on 9/11 (LKC/LKS/ST/TJL/TTC).

**BLACK-WINGED KITE** (*Elanus caeruleus*)

At least 5 seen 2/11 at Changi Cove, with one pair observed copulating (LKC/YDL)

**GREY-HEADED FISH EAGLE** (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*)

1 seen 23/11 at SBWR (HF) is an unusual record for the reserve.

**CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE** (*Spilornis Cheela*)

1 seen 29/11 at Woodlands Ave 2 (WaJ) in the morning, perching on a lamp post.



Crested Serpent Eagle at Woodlands Ave 2 on 29 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Walad J

**EASTERN MARSH HARRIER** (*Circus spilonotus*)

1 male and 1 female seen 1/11 at SBWR (MS). At Changi Cove: 1 juvenile male photographed on 14/11 (LTK); 1 female seen and photographed 29/11 (TKC); 1 male on 7/11 (LKC/LTK); 2 on 29/11 (LKC/AC)



Eastern Marsh Harrier (adult female) on 29 Nov 2008 at Changi. Photo copyrighted KC Tsang

**CHINESE SPARROWHAWK** (*Accipiter soloensis*)

1 male seen 8/11 at Pulau Punggol (TKH/LJS/LWT).

**JAPANESE SPARROWHAWK** (*Accipiter gularis*)

1 seen 1/11 and 4 seen 9/11 at SBWR, 1 seen 2/11 and 2 seen 8/11 at Pulau Ubin (MS). 1 juvenile seen 19/11 at Changi (TGC). 1 seen 21/11 at Bidadari Cemetery (TKC). 1 seen 22/11 at SBWR (THK). 1 seen 23/11 at NTL2 (SC).

**GREY-FACED BUZZARD** (*Butastur indicus*)

1 seen 1/11 at SBWR (MS).

**COMMON BUZZARD** (*Buteo buteo*)

1 pale morph juvenile with very whitish face was seen on 9/11 and another seen 11/11 along Changi Coast Road (AC). Both were seen perched atop a lamp post. 1 seen 22/11 at Kent Ridge Park (HF).

**BOOTED EAGLE** (*Hieraaetus pennatus*)

1 adult pale morph seen and photographed 5/11 at Bidadari Cemetery (TKC). 1 seen 22/11 at Kent Ridge Park (HF).



Booted Eagle at Bidadari Cemetery on 5 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted KC Tsang

**CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE** (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*)

2 seen 1/11 and 9/11 at SBWR and 2 seen 8/11 at Pulau Ubin (MS). 1 seen 2/11 at Changi Cove, perched on a lamp post (LKC/YDL). 1 pale morph seen 7/11 at NTL2 (WCC). 1 seen 9/11 at Pulau Ubin (AvC). 1 Juvenile Pale Morph seen 20/11 at Marina Sands (TGC), mobbed by a House Crow. 1 seen 22/11 at Kent Ridge Park (HF), hassled by an unidentified sparrowhawk. 1 dark morph at Hindhede Nature Park, 30/11 (LKC). Bird was calling from the top of an Albizia tree early at dawn.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** (*Falco peregrinus*)

1 seen 1/11 at Church Street area (WF). The same individual was videoed 4/11 at Church Street area, feeding on a pigeon on the ledge below the roof of Capital Square (EL). 1 seen 1/11 at Turut Track, perched on tall red tower (FW/YDL). 1 seen 2/11 and 8/11 at Pulau Ubin (MS). 1 seen on 14/11 (LTK) and 23/11 at the Japanese Gardens (DT/SY) feeding on a White-vented Myna.

**LITTLE EGRET** (*Egretta garzetta*)

1 seen 23/11 at Jurong Lake Park (SY). 30 at SBWR, 20/11 (LKS) and 1 at Sg Cina, Admiralty Park, a new locality record, on 29/11 (LKS).



**CHINESE EGRET** (*Egretta eulophotes*)

1 at Changi Cove, 16/11 (LKC/YDL). The bird was actively foraging by the coast.

**PACIFIC REEF HERON** (*Egretta sacra*)

1 dark morph at Chek Jawa, Pulau Ubin, 15/11 (LKC)

**GREY HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*)

1 seen 23/11 at Jurong Lake Park (SY). 1 at SBWR, 20/11 (LKS).

**GREAT-BILLED HERON** (*Ardea sumatrana*)

1 seen on Jurong Island, 25/11 (LKC).

**PURPLE HERON** (*Ardea purpurea*)

1 seen 23/11 at Jurong Lake Park (SY). 1 at Changi Cove, 29/11 (LKC/AC)

**GREAT EGRET** (*Casmerodius albus*)

2 seen 23/11 at Jurong Lake Park (SY). 2 at SBWR, 20/11 (LKS).

**YELLOW-BILLED EGRET** (*Egretta intermedia*)

5 seen 7/11 at BBC field, NTL2 (WCC).

**POND HERON** (*Ardeola spp.*)

1 seen and photographed 14/11 at Bidadari Cemetery (TKC). It was observed to hunt around for grasshoppers and other insects. 1 at NTL2, 22/11 (LKC)



Pond Heron at Bidadari Cemetery on 14 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted KC Tsang

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**

(*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

1 seen 4/11 at SBWR (TKC). More than 24 seen 23/11 at Jurong Lake Park (SY).

**YELLOW BITTERN**

(*Ixobrychus sinensis*)

1 seen 7/11 at NTL2 (WCC), near the pond. 3 seen 23/11 at NTL2 (SC). 1 seen 23/11 at Jurong Lake Park and 1 at Japanese Gardens (SY).



Von Schrenck's Bittern at Tuas on 15 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Lau Jia Sheng

**VON SCHRENCK'S BITTERN**

(*Ixobrychus eurhythmus*)

1 juvenile male seen and photographed 15/11 at Tuas (LJS).

**HOODED PITTA** (*Pitta sordida*)

1 seen 30/11 at Jurong Lake Park (SG). It spent most of the time up on several different trees.

**BROWN SHRIKE** (*Lanius cristatus*)

1 seen 7/11 at NTL2 (WCC).

**LONG-TAILED SHRIKE**

(*Lanius schach*)

1 seen 7/11 and 24/11 at NTL2 (WCC). 2 at Woodlands Crescent on 27/11 (LKS) and 1 seen chasing off a Paddyfield Pipit at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS).

**LARGE-BILLED CROW**

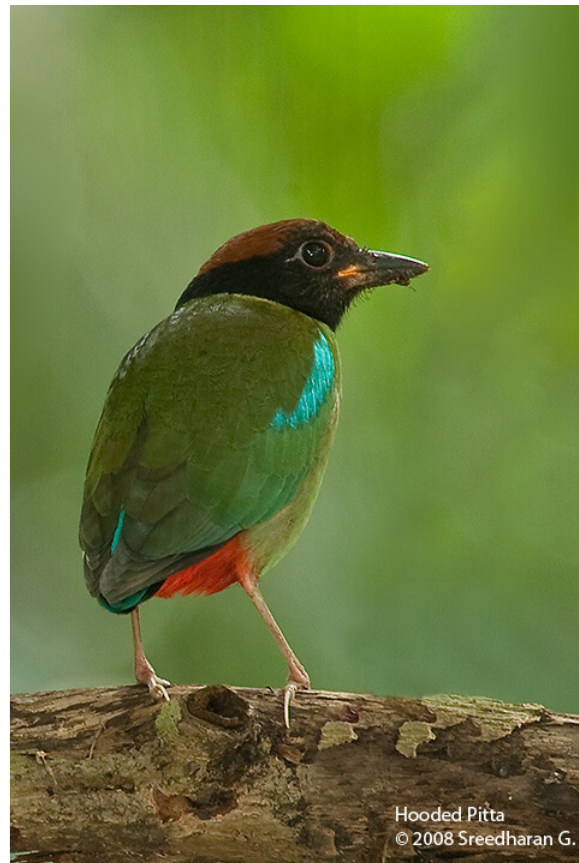
(*Corvus splendens*)

2 at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS). This species is increasingly scarce and a review of its country-wide status is overdue.

**ASHY MINIVET**

(*Pericrocotus divaricatus*)

4 seen 6/11 at Bidadari Cemetery, in mix flock with a Crow-billed Drongo and 3 Asian Brown Flycatcher (FL). About 30 seen 24/11 at NTL2 (WCC). A flock of 12 over Telok Blangah Hill on 9/11 (LKS/TJL), 1 at Woodlands Crescent on 27/11 (LKS) and 5 at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS).



Hooded Pitta at Jurong Lake Park on 30 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted sreedharan G.

**BLACK DRONGO** (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)

1 seen 2/11 at Changi Cove (LKC/YDL) and 29/11 (LKC/AC). 1 seen and photographed 17/11 at Changi Cove (LTK)

**CROW-BILLED DRONGO** (*Dicrurus annectans*)

1 first-winter seen 6/11 at Bidadari Cemetery in a mixed flock with 4 Ashy Minivet and 3 Asian Brown Flycatcher (FL). 1 photographed 8/11 at Bidadari Cemetery (TKC). 1 seen 11/11 at Jurong Lake Park (TGC). 1 juvenile 24/11 at NTL2 (WCC), feeding on a brown caterpillar. It was observed bashing it against a branch several times.

**DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa sibirica*)

1 seen 28/11 at Bidadari Cemetery (TKC)



Dark-sided Flycatcher at Bidadari Cemetery on 28 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted KC Tsang

**ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa dauurica*)

1 seen 23/11 at Jurong Lake Park (SY). 1 at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS).



**FERRUGINOUS FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa ferruginea*)

1 seen and photographed 30/11 near the entrance to Japanese Gardens (VL).



Ferruginous Flycatcher at Japanese Gardens on 30 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Vincent Luar

**MUGIMAKI FLYCATCHER** (*Ficedula mugimaki*)

1 first winter male seen and photographed 25/11 at SBG (JW).



Mugimaki Flycatcher at SBG on 25 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Johnny Wee

**SIBERIAN BLUE ROBIN** (*Luscinia cyane*)

1 heard at Hindhede Nature Park, 30/11 (LKC)

**ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN** (*Copsychus saularis*)

1 male at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS)

**SIBERIAN STONECHAT** (*Saxicola maura*)

1 male seen 17/11 at Changi (LTK)



Siberian Stonechat at Changi Cove on 17 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Lee Tiah Khee

**DAURIAN STARLING** (*Sturnus sturninus*)

A number seen 15/11 at Bidadari Cemetery (TKC). A small flock 23/11 at Jurong Lake Park (SY).

**WHITE-SHOULDERED STARLING** (*Sturnus sinensis*)

3 seen 2/11 at Changi Cove (LKC/YDL).

**COMMON HILL MYNA** (*Gracula religiosus*)

2 seen 29/11 at SBG (FW).

**SAND MARTIN** (*Riparia riparia*)

1 seen 18/11 at Hindhede Park (AC).

**BARN SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*)

Several seen 7/11 at Changi Cove (LKC/LTK). 1 seen 23/11 at Jurong Lake Park (SY). 2 on Pulau Ubin, 15/11 (LKC).

**RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** (*Hirundo daurica*)

Several seen 7/11 at Changi Cove (LKC/LTK). 2 at Telok Blangah Hill 9/11 (LKC/LKS)

**STRAW-HEADED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*)

2 heard duetting at Telok Blangah Hill, 9/11 (KK). 1 at Hindhede Park, 1/11 (DA). 4 at Hindhede Nature Park, 18/11 (AC) and 3 on 30/11 (LKC). 4 on Ubin, 15/11 (LKC).

**RED-WHISKERED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)

1 seen in a park at Woodlands Crescent on 27/11 (LKS). Another heard at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS).

**ARCTIC WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

2 seen 23/11 at Jurong Lake Park (SY).

**WHITE-CRESTED LAUGHINTHRUSH** (*Garrulax leucolophus*)

2 seen 30/11 at Mount Faber Park (JL).

**FOREST WAGTAIL** (*Dendronanthus indicus*)

1 seen 1/11 at SBWR (MS) at the mangroves.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla flava*)

1 seen 17/11 at Changi Cove (LTK) and several on 29/11 (LKC/AC)



Yellow Wagtail at Changi Cove on 17 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Lee Tiah Khee



**GREY WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla cinerea*)

1 seen flying over Sg Cina, Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS)

**ESCAPEES**

**NARCONDAM HORNBILLI** (*Aceros narcondami*,)

1 seen 28/11 at Bidadari Cemetery (TCK). It was first seen 6/11.

**PINTAIL WHYDAH** (*Vidua microura*)

1 at Changi Cove, 29/11 (LKC/AC)

**BREEDING / NESTING REPORTS**

**WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN** (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)

An independent juvenile at Admiralty Park on 29/11 (LKS).

**GREY HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*)

4 nests seen on Pulau Ubin, 15/11 (LKC)

**WHITE-VENTED MYNA** (*Acridotheres javanicus*)

2 juveniles seen with 2 adults at Yishun Street 61 on 19/11 (LKS).

**ZITTING CISTICOLA** (*Cisticola juncidis*)

A pair seen going in and out of a glassy patch with nesting material, 29/11 (LKC/AC)

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**JOHOR**

**WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER** (*Dryocopus javensis*)

1 heard at Panti Bunker Track, 23/11 (LKC/LTK)

**ORANGE-BACKED WOODPECKER** (*Reinwardtipicus validus*)

1 female at Panti Bunker Track, 23/11 (LKC/LTK)

**PIED HARRIER** (*Circus melanoleucos*)

1 juvenile and 1 adult female seen 25/11 at Sungei Balang, Johor (TGC)



Pied Harrier at Sungei Balang on 25 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Tan Gim Cheong

**GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE** (*Aquila clanga*)

1 seen at Sungei Balang, Johor 25/11 (TKC)



Greater Spotted Eagle at Johor on 25 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted KC Tsang

**BLYTH'S HAWK EAGLE** (*Spizaetus alboniger*)

1 at Pantı Bunker Track, 23/11 (LKC/LTK)

**PEREGRINE FALCON** (*Falco peregrinus*)

One flying over Danga Bay, JB, on 24/11 (LKS)

**GREAT CORMORANT**

(*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

One roosting at Lido Beach, in Johor Bahru, on 3/11 (LKS)

**LESSER ADJUTANT**

(*Leptoptilos javanicus*)

1 seen 25/11 at Johor (TKC)

**DUSKY BROADBILL**

(*Corydon sumatranus*)

5 at Pantı Bunker Track, 23/11 (LKC/LTK)

**BANDED BROADBILL**

(*Eurylaimus javanicus*)

1 heard at Pantı Bunker Track, 23/11 (LKC/LTK)

**BLUE-AND-WHITE FLYCATCHER**

(*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*)

1 first winter male at Pantı Bunker Track, 23/11 (LKC/LTK)

**SIBERIAN BLUE ROBIN** (*Luscinia cyane*)

1 heard at Pantı Bunker Track, 23/11 (LKC/LTK)

**ASHY BULBUL** (*Hemixos flavala*)

1 at Pantı Bunker Track, 23/11 (LKC/LTK)

**EVERETT'S WHITE-EYE**

(*Zosterops everetti*)

A flock of about 50 feeding on white flowers at Pantı Bunker Track, 23/11 (LKC/LTK)

**SCARLET SUNBIRD**

(*Aethopyga mystacalis*)

1 male at Pantı Bunker Track, 23/11 (LKC/LTK)



Blue-and-white Flycatcher at Pantı Bunker Track on 23 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Lim Kim Chuah



Ashy Bulbul at Pantı Bunker Track on 23 Nov 2008. Photo copyrighted Lim Kim Chuah



## Singapore Raptors Report Autumn Migration, November 2008

Reported by Alan OwYong and edited by Kenneth Kee

### Summary

November again proved to be the main month for raptors migrating over Singapore. We recorded a total of **11 species** (9 in Nov 07) numbering approximately **288** individuals (compared to 240 in November 07) with **Black Bazas** predictably topping the count with 137 (122 in Nov 07) followed by **Oriental Honey Buzzards** at 77 (58 in Nov 08). I have excluded the records from the full-day raptor count on the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov so as not to confuse the report. An exciting record for the month was a sighting of a juvenile **Oriental Honey Buzzard** of the *torquatus* race at Toa Payoh spotted by Gloria Seow. This is a race of the Oriental Honey Buzzard is resident in South-East Asia with known breeding records from Malaysia. What are the chances of this race staying and breeding in Singapore in the future? Martti Siponen, a visiting birder and keen raptor watcher spent 5 days in the earlier half of November birding at Sungei Buloh, Pulau Ubin and Tuas. He sent in a personal record of **157** migrating raptors for the month. He had the distinction of seeing the largest flock of migrating Oriental Honey Buzzards (**55**) ever recorded in Singapore, at Sungei Buloh on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. Following this, he documented an excellent record of 44 Black Bazas migrating over Chek Jawa on the 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. We also had our first records of two Black Bazas and a Changeable Hawk-eagle seen on Pulau Tekong by Avian Chia while serving National Service on this restricted island. Both the **Ospreys** and **Peregrine Falcons** were enjoying their winters here at Kranji and Jurong areas respectively.



*Peregrine Falcon tearing up a White-vented Myna by Lee Tiah Kee taken at Japanese gardens on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov*

Four **Eastern Marsh Harriers** congregated over the Changi Cove reclaimed land, a favourite haunt for our Harriers together with two **Common Buzzards**. An odd Common Buzzard was seen outside the Changi area migrating over Kent Ridge Park by Horst Flotow. While we had reports of only two **Chinese Sparrowhawks** over the month, we counted 12 on the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov during our full-day raptor count. The **Grey-faced Buzzard (1)**, **Booted Eagle (2)** and **Pied Harrier (1)** made up the rest of the migratory raptor species, albeit in low numbers.

## **MIGRANT RAPTORS**

**Table 1**

No	Species	Count	No	Species	Count
1	Black Baza	137	8	Common Buzzard	3
2	Oriental Honey Buzzard	71	9	Booted Eagle	2
3	Japanese Sparrowhawk	12	10	Grey-faced Buzzard	1
4	Osprey	11	11	Pied Harrier	1
5	Eastern Marsh Harrier	6	12	Unidentified Accipiter	21
6	Peregrine Falcon	4	13	Unidentified Raptor	5
7	Chinese Sparrowhawk	14		Total	288

*Note : The total numbers are just an indicative figure for this report only as there could be a possibility of double-counting the same bird in a small island like Singapore.*

### **Black Baza (137)**

Again the largest migrating raptor species with sizeable flocks of 44 birds reported at Chek Jawa, 12 at Lor Halus, 19 over Changi and 10 each at Neo Tiew Lane and Punggol.

- 1 Nov Two on migration reported by Martti Siponen.
- 4 Nov Three reported in flight over Neo Tiew Lane 2 (NTL2) by Ding Li
- 4 Nov One over Sungei Buloh (SBWR) by Charlie Moores.
- 5 Nov KC Tsang shot an underside view of one at Bidadari Cemetery
- 5 Nov KC Tsang reported seeing 3 birds at NTL2.
- 5 Nov Ben Lee reported 11 hovering over east Ubin, the biggest flock so far flying towards the mainland.
- 6 Nov Four birds reported at Bidadari Cemetery by Leslie Fung
- 7 Nov Two reported at Punggol by Jia Sheng, Danny and Con Foley.
- 8 Nov A day total of 32 migrating birds counted by Martti Siponen at Chek Jawa and another flock of 12 birds flying down into the forest.
- 9 Nov A rare record from P.Tekong of 2 Bazas by Avian Chia
- 9 Nov Just one bird reported at SBWR by Martti Siponen.
- 12 Nov A flock of 12 reported by KC Tsang at Lor. Halus.
- 15 Nov One seen perched at Jurong Lake by Kok Hui, Jia Sheng and Danny.

- 18 Nov Seven reported by John Spencer at SBWR. Also reported by Wing Chong, Kim Keang and Doreen.  
19 Nov A flock of 19 soaring over Changi reported by Gim Cheong  
22 Nov Four reported circling at Kent Ridge Park by Horst Flotow.  
22 Nov Three reported by Kok Hui at SBWR.  
24 Nov A flock of 10 reported by a very wet Simon Cockayne at NTL2.  
29 Nov Three thermaling over Changi Coastal road by Kok Hui and Danny.  
29 Nov Kok Hui and Danny were also in Punggol to report a flock of 10.

### **Oriental Honey Buzzard (71)**

- 1 Nov The biggest migrating flock of 55 over at SBWR reported by Martti Siponen.  
2 Nov One seen migrating over P.Ubin by Martti Siponen  
5 Nov One seen by Ding Li flying over Batok Ave 6.  
  
8 Nov Richard Lim's son took a photo of one sitting at a HDB block at Balestier.  
  
8 Nov One pale morph at Punggol by Jia Sheng, Danny and Con Foley.  
  
9 Nov One migrating over SBWR by Martti Siponen.  
  
10 Nov Gloria Seow was alert enough to track down a juvenile torquatus SEA resident race outside her flat at Toa Payoh. Both she and Tiah Khee were able to get good sets of photos for ID.  
  
12 Nov Seven over Tuas South reported by Martti Siponen.  
  
15 Nov One with tattered wings over *OHB Torquatus race by Gloria Seow.* SBWR by Kok Hui and company.  
  
22 Nov Two over Kent Ridge Park seen by Horst Flotow.





### **Japanese Sparrowhawk (12)**

- 1 Nov One migrating over SBWR by Martti Siponen.
- 2 Nov One over at P.Ubin reported by Martti Siponen.
- 4 Nov One seen in flight at NTL2 by Felix Wong and Yong Ding Li.
- 8 Nov Two seen migrating over Chek Jawa by Martti Siponen.
- 9 Nov Four migrating over SBWR by Martti Siponen.
- 17 Nov One seen over SBWR by John Spencer.
- 18 Nov Maybe the same accipiter at SBWR by John Spencer and also seen by Wing Chong, Lim Kim Keang and Doreen.
- 19 Nov One juvenile at Changi reported by Gim Cheong.
- 21 Nov KC Tsang photographed one flying over Bidadari Cemetery.
- 22 Nov One reported at SBWR by Tan Kok Hui. Maybe the same visiting accipiter.
- 24 Nov One seen hunting at NTL2 by Simon Cockayne.
- 29 Nov One over Punggol was reported by Tan Kok Hui and Danny Lau

### **Osprey (11)**

Osprey sightings were well distributed. There were two birds at P.Ubin/Chek Jawa, two at open fields at Turut Track, one or two over at SBWR, a single bird at Lorong Halus, one at Upper Seletar, one at Changi Cove and another two birds in the Punggol area.

- 2 Nov Two seen by Martti Siponen at Pulau Ubin
- 4 Nov The two wintering Ospreys were still seen at Turut Track by Felix Wong.
- 4 Nov One was reported from SBWR by Charlie Moores.
- 7 Nov One was seen perched at BBC Towers feeding on its prey by Chung Cheong
- 8 Nov One seen by Martti Siponen over at Chek Jawa tower in P.Ubin.
- 9 Nov One still around at SBWR reported by Martti Siponen.
- 12 Nov One reported at Lor Halus by KC Tsang
- 15 Nov One reported by Kok Hui and company flying over SBWR main bridge.
- 15 Nov John Spencer reported one at Upper Seletar Reservoir.
- 18 Nov One with fish in its claws at Turuk Track reported by Gim Cheong.
- 22 Nov One reported by Tan Kok Hui at SBWR. Could be the same bird.
- 23 Nov Two flying to the coast and one perched at tower at NTL2 by Chung Cheong
- 29 Nov One over at Changi Cove reported by Tan Kok Hui and Danny Lau.
- 29 Nov Two at P.Punggol with one of them on the ground by Tan Kok Hui and Danny Lau.
- 29 Nov Two still wintering at NTL2 reported by Chung Cheong and Tiah Khee.

### **Eastern Marsh Harrier ( 6)**

From the reports received, it appears that there were up to four Eastern Marsh Harriers (one male, two females and one juvenile) at Changi Cove.



*Female Eastern Marsh Harrier by Lim Kim Chuah*

- 1 Nov One male and one female on migration over SBWR reported by Martti Siponen.
- 14 Nov Both Kim Chuah and Tiah Khee photographed an adult female EMH at Changi Cove.
- 21 Nov Another female photographed by Tiah Khee at Changi Cove.
- 29 Nov A male sub-adult, 1 female and 1 juvenile at Changi Cove reported by Kok Hui and Danny.

### **Peregrine Falcon (4)**

One bird wintering at Neo Tiew and Turut track area, an individual of the race *japonensis* was seen at P.Ubin, Another was seen feeding on a Javan Myna at the Japanese Gardens (photos by Tiah Khee and David Tan) and one flying over Queenstown.

- 1 Nov One at Turut Track reported by Felix Wong.
- 2 Nov One at P.Ubin Jetty reported by Martti Siponen.
- 4 Nov Felix Wong and Ding Li reported one at the telecom towers at Turut Track, possibly the same one seen earlier.
- 5 Nov One photographed by Tiah Khee at Japanese Gardens. He followed up with dramatic photos of the same Falcon tearing up its prey on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- 8 Nov A *japonensis* Peregrine Falcon perched on tower at P.Ubin by Soo Yen.
- 16 Nov One reported flying over Queenstown MRT by John Spencer.
- 23 Nov One was still around the Japanese Gardens feeding on a White-vented Myna as reported by Sunny Yeo.
- 24 Nov More photos from David Tan of the same Peregrine feeding on WV Myna.
- 29 Nov One still wintering at NTL2 from Chung Cheong and Tiah Khee's report.

### **Common Buzzard (3)**

- 4 Nov This Buzzard was still wintering at Changi from Gim Cheong's report.

- 11 Nov Another one but this was a pale morph juvenile at Changi Coastal Rd by Alfred.  
22 Nov One was seen circling with similar size buzzard over Kent Ridge by Horst Flotow.

### **Chinese Sparrowhawk (2)**

- 8 Nov Jia Sheng, Danny and Con Foley reported a sighting at Punggol.  
15 Nov One seen flying over Jurong Lake by Kok Hui, Jia Sheng and Danny.

### **Booted Eagle (2)**

- 5 Nov KC Tsang sent in dramatic photo of underside shots of this rare winter visitor taken at Bidadari Cemetery. This was the first record of this raptor this season and also one at a sub-urban area as well.  
22 Nov One reported by Horst Flotow at Kent Ridge Park.

### **Grey-faced Buzzard (1)**

- 1 Nov The only record was of one on migration over SBWR by Martti Siponen.

### **Unidentified Raptor ( 21)**

- 2 Nov Eight unidentified buzzard-like raptors were seen migrating in one flock over P.Ubin by Martti Siponen.  
8 Nov Two unidentified eagles and one unidentified buzzard (Grey-faced Buzzard?) was seen at Chek Jawa.  
9 Nov An unidentified eagle over at SBWR.  
12 Nov 17 Buzzards (Oriental Honey Buzzard?) over at Tuas South reported by Martti Siponen.  
12 Nov One at Lor Halus reported by KC Tsang.  
22 Nov An unidentified Falcon was seen flushing waders at SBWR by Kok Hui.  
28 Nov A blurred photo of an *Aquila* -type eagle taken at Bukit Gombak sent in by Fam Shun Deng.

### **Unidentified Accipiter ( 5)**

- 4 Nov Gim Cheong reported one flying over Punggol  
8 Nov One reported by Jia Sheng, Danny and Con Foley.  
8 Nov One over at Chek Jawa reported by Martti Siponen.  
12 Nov One Sparrowhawk species over at Tuas South by Martti Siponen.  
15 Nov One reported flying across Jurong Lake by Kok Hui, Jia Sheng and Danny.



## **RESIDENT RAPTORS**

### **Summary:**

Both **Brahminy Kites** (43) and **White-bellied Sea-Eagles** (35) made up about 73% of all the **107** resident raptors reported. Their numbers were a big jump from last month's count of 17 and 16 birds respectively, mainly due to more birdwatchers in the field. But it still showed a very healthy national population, especially over at Punggol for the Kites. The **Black-winged Kites** (15) was also showing a remarkable surge over at Changi Cove with a population of about 10 birds being recorded there. The **Changeable Hawk-eagles** (12) was well spread out with good records coming from Kranji. KC Tsang had a new location for the single record of a **Grey-headed Fish-Eagle** at Clementi Woods. Walad of Naturepixels had a shot of a **Crested Serpent Eagle** at Woodlands.

### **Brahminy Kite (43)**

- 1 Nov A total of five birds reported at SBWR by Martti Siponen.
- 2 Nov Five birds reported soaring over the Marina Barrage by Felix Wong
- 2 Nov Four birds counted by Martti Siponen at P.Ubin.
- 4 Nov Gim Cheong reported 4 adults and 1 juvenile at Changi.
- 4 Nov Two reported by Charlie Moores at SBWR.
- 6 Nov Leslie Fung reported 2 birds at Bidadari Cemetery.
- 6 Nov One photographed by KC Tsang at Clementi Woods.
- 8 Nov A total of 10 juveniles and 2 adults were reported at Punggol by Jia Sheng, Danny & Con Foley.
- 8 Nov Two recorded by Martti Siponen at Chek Jawa.
- 9 Nov Four recorded by Martti Siponen at SBWR. Could be the same birds there.
- 10 Nov One reported over Jurong Lake by Gim Cheong.
- 15 Nov A pair of adults at Jurong Lake by Kok Hui, Jia Sheng and Danny Lau.
- 15 Nov One seen in flight over Tuas by Kok Hui and company.
- 15 Nov An adult in flight over SBWR by Kok Hui, Jia Sheng and Danny.
- 16 Nov One soaring at Japanese Gardens reported by Felix Wong.
- 18 Nov One bird mobbed by 2 CHE reported at SBWR by John Spencer, Wing Chong, Kim Keang and Doreen.
- 19 Nov Two at Changi reported by Gim Cheong.
- 19 Nov Two at Jurong Lake reported by Gim Cheong.
- 22 Nov Four birds counted by Horst Flotow at Kent Ridge Park.
- 22 Nov Two adults reported at SBWR by Kok Hui.
- 23 Nov One reported by Sunny Yeo at Japanese Gardens.
- 23 Nov Could be the same bird seen soaring at Jurong Lake by Felix Wong.
- 24 Nov Two circling over at NTL2 reported by Chung Cheong
- 29 Nov One pretending to be a Harrier at Changi Cove by Kok Hui & Danny.
- 29 Nov One at Punggol reported by Kok Hui and Danny,
- 29 Nov A large flock of 11 at P. Punggol reported by Kok Hui and Danny. Could be the same group reported on 8 Nov by Jia Sheng, Danny and Con Foley.

**White-bellied Sea-Eagle (35)**

- 1 Nov Four reported at SBWR by Martti Siponen.  
1 Nov Two juveniles reported at NTL2 by Felix Wong and Ding Li.  
4 Nov A pair of sub-adults was observed locking talons over NTL2 by Felix. Another adult was seen by Ding Li one the same day. Another reported at SBWR by Charlie Moores.  
4 Nov One adult and two immatures of different ages reported by Gim Cheong over at Changi.  
6 Nov One juvenile harassed by crows at Bidadari Cemetery by Leslie Fung  
7 Nov One adult and one juvenile flying over BBC field and reservoir with another juvenile perched by Chung Cheong.  
8 Nov An unusual large group of six juveniles reported at Punggol by Jia Sheng, Danny and Con Foley.  
8 Nov Four counted by Martti Siponen at Chek Jawa.  
9 Nov Three at SBWR reported by Martti Siponen, part of the residents there.  
11 Nov One adult catching fish at Jurong Lake by Gim Cheong.  
12 Nov Three seen by KC Tsang at Lor. Halus.  
15 Nov One in flight over Jurong Lake by Kok Hui, Jai Sheng and Danny.  
15 Nov An adult in flight over SBWR by Kok Hui, Jia Sheng and Danny.  
15 Nov Two reported by John Spencer at Upper Seletar Reservoir.  
17 Nov Two adults over SBWR reported by Gim Cheong  
18 Nov Same bird at Turuk Track reported by Gim Cheong.  
19 Nov One at Changi reported by Gim Cheong.  
19 Nov Two at Mandai reported by Gim Cheong  
20 Nov One over the Marina Barrage reported by Gim Cheong.  
23 Nov One juvenile reported at Japanese Gardens by Sunny Yeo.  
24 Nov One juvenile at NTL2 by Chung Chung.  
26 Nov A sub-adult seen flying from Ubin to Changi by Felix Wong.  
29 Nov One juvenile at Changi Cove reported by Kok Hui and Danny  
29 Nov One at P. Punggol reported by Kok Hui and Danny  
29 Nov Two still being seen at NTL2 by Chung Cheong and Tiah Khee.

**Black-winged Kite (15)**

- 1 Nov One at NTL2 reported by Felix Wong and Ding Li  
2 Nov A pair was observed copulating at Changi Cove by Ding Li and Kim Chuah. They reported seeing at least 5 birds there.  
4 Nov One reported at Punggol by Gim Cheong  
4 Nov One reported by Charlie Moores at SBWR.  
7 Nov One photographed by Tiah Khee at Changi Cove.  
12 Nov One at Tuas South reported by Martti Siponen.  
15 Nov One seen perched at Tuas by Kok Hui, Jai Sheng and Danny.  
19 Nov Three reported at Changi by Gim Cheong.  
29 Nov About 10, the largest for one location was seen at Changi Cove by Kok Hui and Danny.  
29 Nov One at Punggol reported by Kok Hui and Danny.

**Changeable Hawk-eagle (12)**



*Changeable Hawk-eagle by Lim Kim Chuah*

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 1 Nov  | Two birds reported at SBWR by Martti Siponen                                      |
| 2 Nov  | One seen perched on a lamp post at Changi Cove by Kim Chuah and Ding Li.          |
| 6 Nov  | One heard at Bidadari Cemetery by Leslie Fung                                     |
| 6 Nov  | One photographed by Tiah Khee at PIE Lornie exit.                                 |
| 7 Nov  | One pale morph perched at NTL2 by Chung Cheong                                    |
| 8 Nov  | Two seen at Chek Jawa by Martti Siponen.  |
| 9 Nov  | Two seen at SBWR could be referring to those seen on 1 Nov by Martti Siponen.     |
| 9 Nov  | A confirmed sighting of one at P.Tekong by Avian Chia.                            |
| 17 Nov | A pale morph photographed by KC Tsang at Punggol.                                 |
| 18 Nov | Two pale morph reported by John Spencer, Wing Chong, Kim Keang and Doreen at SBWR |
| 20 Nov | A pale morph being mobbed by crows at Marina Sands by Gim Cheong                  |
| 22 Nov | One mobbed by an unidentified Sparrowhawk at Kent Ridge Park by Horst Flotow.     |

**Grey-headed Fish-Eagle (1)**

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 6 Nov | One was seen and photographed at Clementi Woods by KC Tsang. Possibly a new area record. |
|-------|--|

**Crested Serpent Eagle (1)**

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 29 Nov | Walad of Naturepixels managed to photograph one perched on a lamp-post at Woodlands while driving home. Possibly a new area record. |
|--------|---|

*\*The numbers in brackets besides the bird name indicates the total number of raptor seen during the month. Different reports of the same species in the same area are discounted to prevent duplication.*

*Compiled by Alan OwYong from reports sent in to the WildbirdSingapore e-forum.  
Editing and layout by Kenneth Kee. Special thanks to all those who sent in their records and especially to Gloria Seow, Lim Kim Chuah, Lee Tiah Khee and KC Tsang for the use of their photos.*



## Autumn Raptor Migration Report

### Full-day Raptor Count - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Reported by Alan OwYong and edited by Kenneth Kee

This was our first full day count for migrating raptors in Singapore. Five groups totaling 37 counters fanned out across the island to capture as wide a front as possible. The locations covered were Lorong Halus and Punggol in the North, Telok Blangah Hill in the South, Bukit Timah Hill in Central, Japanese Gardens in the West and Changi in the East.

The thunder storm in the early morning and overcast weather during the day did not help with the numbers of raptors recorded. There were hardly any thermals in the morning for the raptors to soar. We had 6 migrants and 4 resident species totaling 106 birds, which were not bad, considering the weather.

Telok Blangah Hill recorded the highest count with 44 raptors followed by 24 at Lorong Halus and Punggol. Even the Japanese Gardens had 23 raptors. The surprise was at Bukit Timah, where Ding Li had the lowest count of 7 raptors with none in the morning! This was less than 10% of what he got last year on 6th Nov.



The largest species number counted were the Black Bazas (22) followed by Oriental Honey Buzzards (20). Both the Japanese and Chinese Sparrowhawks contributed 12 each.

The bird of the day must be the Booted Eagle at Punggol Grasslands with a Common Buzzard and a Harrier Sp at Changi adding to the mix.

*Black Baza flying over Telok Blangah Hill by KC Tsang*

Looking at the times when the raptors were sighted, the peak periods were from 10 -11am with 22 counted. As expected, when the ground heats up in the afternoon, good numbers were recorded from 12 till 4pm with between 17-19 raptors every hour.

John Spencer meticulously recorded the direction of flight of each raptor at Japanese Gardens and it was interesting to see that 75% of the raptors flew generally towards the West (WNW/NW/W). Were they flying there to join the main flock from Malaysia?

We will include Tuas for next year's count and try to get access to Changi Cove for a proper count. The end of the barrage near Marina East would be another good location as it offers an all round view.

We finished the day with a get together at Chantilly Rise Condo, tuck into a yummy Indian buffet while comparing the days sighting and lap up the stunning all action slide show by Lee Tiah Khee.

Many thanks to all who spent the Sunday UV tanning and squinting their eyes trying to ID the dark shape flying overhead. Con Foley, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui, John Spencer, Lim Kim Keang; Alfred Chia, Yong Ding Li, Richard Carden and Kaori, Ee Ling and sister, Shun Deng, Gloria Seow, Clive Harris, Tom Yua, Felix Wong, Tan Gim Cheong, Mohd. Walad B. Jamaludin, Peter Cheong, Tan Siew Kwang, Ali Jaffar, Kenneth Kee, Ian and Freda Rickwood. KC and Amy Tsang, Tay Boon Hui, Chung Cheong, Alan OwYong, Lim Kim Seng, Tan Ju Lin, Lim Kim Chuah, Soe Tint, Tan Teck Chye and Family.

We would also like to thank Lee Tiah Khee for the wonderful slide show, Lim Kim Chuah for the use of his Condo's club house and KC Tsang for his photo.

Table 1 : Summary of full-day raptor count

Locations	Halus	Punggol + Halus	Telok Blangah Hill		Japanese Gardens		Bt Timah Hill		Changi	
Wind Speed			0 to 1		1	1				
Wind Direction			Variable		SW	SW				
Temperature			32°C		23 - 25°C	25 - 28°C				
Cloud Cover			90 – 100%		100%	75 – 100%	100%	75 – 90%		
Visibility			10 – 15 Km		8 – 10 Km	10 Km				
Precipitation			0 – 1		0	0				
Time	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	
Species :										Total
Black Baza	4	4	5	9						22
Oriental Honey Buzzard	8			2	1	6		3		20
Japanese Sparrowhawk	1		1	3		7				12
Chinese Sparrowhawk			7			3		2		12
Booted Eagle		1								1
Common Buzzard									1	1
Unidentified Accipiter		1			1	1	1			4
Unidentified Harrier									1	1
Unidentified Raptor		1	4	3						8
White-bellied Sea Eagle				1				1		2
Brahminy Kite		2	3	4	2	2			3	16
Changeable Hawk Eagle	1		1	1						3
Black-winged Kite	1								3	4
Total	15	9	21	23	4	19	1	6	8	106

*Reported by Alan OwYong*

*Edited by Kenneth Kee*