



SINGAPORE AVIFAUNA

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A note from the Editors

You may not realize this but each time you go to the field to watch or photograph birds, you are also making observations and monitoring the state of our bird life. The little observations you make may help to piece together our knowledge of our birds. The records you keep today are very important as they may and can be valuable information for future generations of birders, scientists and conservationists. These people will need to know what's present so that they have something to compare tomorrow. But where are they going to find this information if nothing is published.

We are proud that the NSS Bird Group through this bulletin and the sheer hard work of many volunteers, have been diligently capturing and publishing such bird records for the past 22 years! There is no other publication or organization in Singapore that is doing this.

However it must also be mentioned that the work of this group of people would be futile if nobody submits their records. Hence the NSS Bird Group would like to thank all those who have supported the group through the years by submitting their records and sharing their observations.

We would like to encourage all of you out there to jot down your observations, sightings and photographs and submit them to us for publication. There are far more potential uses for your sightings and observations if published and shared than if they sit in your notebooks. I'm sure that future generations of birders, scientists and conservationists will truly be thankful and appreciate what all of you have done.

We look forward to receive more of your records and observations!

Lim Kim Chuah
Lim Kim Seng
Yong Ding Li



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Bird Report

FEBRUARY 2008

Highlights

Singapore

February 2008 was the month of the “**White-faced**” **Plover**. Following an initial count of 6-8 birds over the Lunar New Year weekend, a team was put together to attempt to mist-net this “mystery” plover. Although they were unfortunately unsuccessful in this endeavor, a high count of 14 birds on 17 February 2008 on a tiny stretch of beach currently makes Singapore the most important site in the World for this bird, whose taxonomic & conservation status remains unknown.



*“White-faced” Plover at Changi Cove on February 2008
Photo © Simon Cockayne*

Not to be outdone by this new avian discovery, the grasslands & shores of Changi continued to attract rarities in spite of the recent disturbances as a result of the inaugural Singapore Air Show. Observers resourceful enough to enter the site observed among a multitude of uncommon waders & shorebirds up to three **Pied Harriers** & more significantly a handsome **Oriental Plover** in breeding dress, just one of a handful of local records.

Hindhede Park continued to be a focal point in the local birding scene this month, with specialties like **Red-legged Crake**, **Orange-headed Thrush** & **Hooded Pitta** all showing well. In addition to this, a female **Crimson-winged Woodpecker** was observed at this site as well. This local avian enigma joins the Eagle Owl from last month as a species which has been recorded from the same area for some time now but whose provenance remains open to debate.

Elsewhere around the country, two **Watercocks** from the Kranji Marshes were reported, as well as one **Oriental Pratincoles**. In the east, the **Siberian Stonechat** was still present in the Marina East grasslands early in the month, while in the west another **Pied Harrier** was reported from Tuas grasslands.

February was also a good month for residents, with numerous reports of uncommon locals. These included a single **Yellow-vented Flowerpecker** at Bukit Batok Nature Park, both **Black-crested** and **Black-headed Bulbuls** in the Central Catchment Forests, a high count of 20 **Black-crowned Night Herons** on Pulau Ubin which included observations of nesting, and most interestingly a **Grey-headed Fish-eagle**, a nationally & globally threatened species, was observed fishing around the small park of "Little Guilin", located along the fringes of the Bukit Gombak Housing Estate & a new locality record.

As the migrants started to return north & the migration season draws to a close, some local birdwatchers took the opportunity to head north to the nearby Pantı Forest Reserve where the breeding season is still in its infancy.

Nevertheless, in addition to the usual bonanza of forest specialties, various interesting species of note were reported.

Johor

Highlights for the month of February included a flock of 5 **Bushy-crested Hornbills**, an increasingly rare sight in Pantı Forest, **Grey-chested Jungle Flycatcher**, a nesting **Blyth's Hawk-eagle** & a **Banded Pitta** heard calling at the 5km Stream in Bunker Trail but unfortunately remained unseen.



*Bushy-crested Hornbill at Pantı on 16 February 2008
Photo © Jia Sheng*

Summary

This report covers noteworthy bird sightings in February 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 @ denislim@starhub.net.sg or Lim Kim Chuah @ pitalover@yahoo.com.sg or Yong Ding Li at 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 systematics follow K.S. Lim's (2007) "Pocket Checklist of the birds of the republic of Singapore" for Singapore, 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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In addition, we would like to thank Jia Sheng, Lin Yangchen, Mike Hooper, Peter Ericsson and Simon Cockayne for allowing us to use their photos in this report.

Abbreviations used:

BBNP: Bukit Batok Nature Park
BTNR: Bukit Timah Nature Reserve
CCNR: Central Catchment Nature Reserve
CC: Changi Cove
PFR: Panti Forest Reserve
SBWR: Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

SINGAPORE

BARRED BUTTONQUAIL (*Turnix suscitator*)

2 observed at Pulau Punggol 23/2 (LWT/LJS)

BANDED WOODPECKER (*Picus miniaceus*)

A lone bird was observed singing repeatedly in open woods at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 10/2 (LKS). It was not seen subsequently.

CRIMSON-WINGED WOODPECKER (*Picus puniceus*)

A female seen and heard repeatedly at Hindhede Nature Park on 16/2 (LKS) is continued evidence of the presence of this mystery woodpecker in Singapore. This species is classified under Category D in the Singapore Checklist.

LINEATED BARBET (*Megalaima lineata*)

3 at BBNP, 6/2 (DA/LKS) and 2 at Hindhede Nature Park on 16/2 (LKS).

ORIENTAL PIED HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros albirostris*)

On Pulau Ubin on 8/2 (LKS/PR), 2 were seen at Pekan Quarry and one foraging in a *Sonneratia* tree at the jetty.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus sumatranus*)

2 at Jelutong Tower, 8/2 (LKS/PR).

TANIMBAR CORELLA (*Cacatua goffini*)

1 at Botanic Gardens on 7/2 (LKS) and 2 at Changi Village on 8/2 (LKS/PR).

BLUE-CROWNED HANGING PARROT (*Loriculus galgulus*)

1 pair observed over Norfolk Road 1/2(TSK). 3-4 at BBNP, 6/2 (DA/LKS), 2 over MacRitchie Reservoir, 7/2 (LKS), 1 over Bukit Brown on 7/2 (LKS), 1 over Jelutong Tower on 8/2 (LKS/PR) and 1 over Corporation Road on 22/2 (LKS). 3 at Sime Forest 23/2 (LWT/LJS)

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET (*Psittacula krameri*)

1 at Bukit Brown on 17/2 (LKS).

RED-BREASTED PARAKEET (*Psittacula alexandri*)

1 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 10/2 (LKS).

GLOSSY SWIFTLET (*Collocalia esculenta*)

6 counted at BBNP, 6/2 (LKS).

BROWN HAWK-OWL (*Ninox scutulata*)

1 seen and 3 heard at Sime Road on 8/2 (LKS/PR).

BUFFY FISH OWL (*Ketupa ketupu*)

A lone bird at Lower Peirce Reservoir on 8/2 (LKS/PR).

SAVANNA NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus affinis*)

2 flushed at Tuas Grassland on 8/2 (LKS/PR). 2 flushed & photographed at CC 7/2 (CF).

MALAYSIAN EARED NIGHTJAR (*Eurostopodus temminckii*)

1 at MacRitchie Reservoir, 8/2 (LKS/PR).

THICK-BILLED GREEN PIGEON (*Treron curvirostra*)

A male seen at Jelutong Tower on 8/2 (LKS/PR). 2 reported from Sime Forest 23/2 (LWT/LJS)

RED-LEGGED CRAKE (*Rallina fasciata*)

1 seen creeping under pepper bushes at Hindhede Nature Park on 11/2 (LKS). A family of 2 adults & 2 chicks were seen at the Botanic Gardens on 10/2 (PE) & again on 17/2 (GSR).



Red-legged Crakes at Singapore Botanic Gardens on 10 February
Photo © Peter Ericsson

RUDDY-BREASTED CRAKE (*Porzana fusca*)

At least 5 observed including 1 photographed at Pulau Punggol 23/2 (LWT/LJS)

WATERCOCK (*Gallicrex cinerea*)

2 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 11/2 (LKS).

PURPLE SWAMPHEN (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

4 observed at Neo Tiew Lane 2 29/2 (CC)

PIN-TAILED SNIPE (*Gallinago stenura*)

3 flushed at Tuas Grassland on 8/2 (LKS/PR) and 3 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 11/2 (LKS).

COMMON SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*)

2 seen including 1 photographed in the grass patch adjacent to the Venus Drive carpark 23/2 (LWT/LJS)

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

100 at SBWR, 8/2 (LKS/PR).

COMMON REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*)

100 at SBWR, 8/2 (LKS/PR).

COMMON GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)

70 at SBWR, 8/2 (LKS/PR).

TEREK SANDPIPER (*Tringa cinerea*)

1 at CC 8/2 (SC/MK)

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*)

12 counted 15/2 (DB/AN/SC/MK/WLK)

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis fulva*)

150 counted at CC 8/2 (SC/MK)

GREY PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

A high count of 50 at CC 8/2(SC/MK). 11 counted at CC 15/2 (DB/SC/MK/AN/WLK)

KENTISH PLOVER (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

About 5 at CC 8/2 (SC/MK)

MALAYSIAN PLOVER (*Charadrius peronii*)

10 at CC 8/2 (SC/MK)

LESSER SAND PLOVER (*Charadrius mongolus*)

250 counted at CC 8/2 (SC/MK)

ORIENTAL PLOVER

(*Charadrius veredus*)

1 in summer plumage photographed at CC 17/2 (DB/LYC/SC/MK/RK) is only the 5th Singapore Record. It was observed associating with a flock of Pacific Golden Plovers.



Oriental Plover at Changi Cove on 17 February
Photo © Lin Yangchen

“WHITE-FACED” PLOVER (*Charadrius sp.*)

8 were initially observed at CC 7/2 (CF/RS). 6-8 counted on 8/2 (SC/MK) and the number swelled to a high of 14 17/2 (DB/LYC/MK/RK/SC)

RED-WATTLED LAPWING (*Vanellus indicus*)

7 counted at Tuas Grassland on 8/2 (LKS/PR). 1 photographed at CC 7/2 (CF).

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE (*Glareola maldivarum*)

4 observed flying north over CC 8/2 (SC/MK). 2 seen flying over Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 10/2 (LKS).

SWIFT TERN (*Sterna bergii*)

4 off Pulau Ubin on 8/2 (LKS/PR).

BLACK-NAPED TERN (*Sterna sumatrana*)

6 seen off Loyang on 8/2 (LKS/PR).

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*)

8 counted off CC 8/2 (SC/MK)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)

One at Upper Seletar Reservoir on 5/2 (SA/LKS/LWH/LWX), one off Pulau Ubin on 8/2 (LKS/PR) and 2 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 10/2 (LKS). 1 seen at Turut Track 9/2 & 1 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 10/2 (TKC) could all refer to the same bird.

BLACK BAZA (*Aviceda leuphotes*)

4 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 10/2 (LKS).

GREY-HEADED FISH EAGLE (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*)

1 seen at Lim Chu Kang Cemetery 6/2 (LKC). 1 seen fishing at the lake at "Little Guilin" Bukit Gombak 17/2 (DA) is probably a new locality record. 1 was seen in the Springleaf area 23/2 (WF/HHC/JL)

PIED HARRIER (*Circus melanoleucos*)

1 female seen at CC 7/2 (CF). 3 seen at CC on 16/2 (DB/SC/MK/LYC/RK) included probably the same female and a sub-adult. Another female observed and photographed at Tuas grasslands 17/2 (LWT/LJS)

CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*)

1 heard at MacRitchie Reservoir on 7/2 (LKS) and 1 seen at Jelutong Tower on 8/2 (LKS/PR).

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*)

1 of race *japonensis* observed at Upper Pierce Reservoir 5/2 (TKC). 1 observed on Pulau Ubin 10/2 (BL)

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)

70 counted at SBWR, 8/2 (LKS/PR) and a few at Pekan Quarry, Pulau Ubin on 8/2 (LKS/PR).

GREY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*)

10 at SBWR, 8/2 (LKS/PR) and 100 at Pekan Quarry, Pulau Ubin on 8/2 (LKS/PR).

PURPLE HERON (*Ardea purpurea*)

One at Upper Seletar Reservoir on 5/2 (SA/LKS/LWH/LWX) and one at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 10/2 (LKS).

GREAT EGRET (*Casmerodius albus*)

3 at SBWR, 8/2 (LKS/PR) and 1 at Pekan Quarry, Pulau Ubin, 8/2 (LKS/PR).

YELLOW-BILLED EGRET (*Mesophoyx intermedia*)

3 at Neo Tiew lane 2 on 10/2 (LKS).

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

102 counted at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 10/2 (LKS).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

20 including 4 in nests at Pekan Quarry, Pulau Ubin on 8/2 (LKS/PR).

YELLOW BITTERN (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)

At Neo Tiew Lane 2, 1 on 10/2 (LKS) and 3 on 11/2 (LKS).

HOODED PITTA (*Pitta sordida*)

1 observed at Hindhede Park 23/2 (LKC/GS/MS). Seen Again 24/2 (LKC)

BLUE-WINGED PITTA (*Pitta moluccensis*)

1 probable seen near Jelutong Tower, CCNR 19/2 (JH)

LESSER GREEN LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*)

A male at Jelutong Tower, 8/2 (LKS/PR) and 2 at Jering Trail, MacRitchie Reservoir on 17/2 (DA/JC/LKS).

BLUE-WINGED LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*)

A male at Jelutong Tower, CCNR 8/2 (LKS/PR). 2 reported from Sime Forest 23/2 (LWT/LJS).

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE (*Lanius schach*)

1 at Old Lim Chu Kang Road on 8/2 (LKS/PR).

ASHY MINIVET (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*)

A flock of 15 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 10/2 (LKS).

ORANGE-HEADED THRUSH (*Zoothera citrina*)

A male seen at Hindhede Nature Park on 16/2 (LKS) appears to be of subspecies *innotata*. The same bird was probably observed on 8/2 & 17/2 (WF) & 26/2 (JH).

YELLOW-RUMPED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula zanthopygia*)

1 female at Sime Forest 23/2 (LWT/LJS)

ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN (*Copsychus saularis*)

2 at MacRitchie Reservoir on 7/2 (LKS).

WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA (*Copsychus malabaricus*)

1 seen near Jelutong Tower, CCNR 3/2 (CC). A female seen in scrub at MacRitchie Reservoir on 8/2 (LKS/PR) and one heard on Pulau Ubin on 8/2 (LKS/PR).

SIBERIAN STONECHAT (*Saxicola maura*)

1 female still present at Marina East grasslands 2/2 (MH) & 5/2 (JH)



Siberian Stonechat at Marina East grassland on 5 January
Photo © Mike Hooper

DAURIAN STARLING (*Sturnus sturninus*)

A flock of 20 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 10/2 (LKS).

COMMON HILL MYNA (*Gracula religiosa*)

2 at Pulau Ubin, 8/2 (LKS/PR) and 2 at Hindhede Nature Park on 16/2 (LKS).

STRAW-HEADED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*)

4 seen at the quarry pond at BBNP on 6/2 (DA/LKS), 1 heard at Bukit Brown on 7/2 (LKS) and a group of 6 at Pulau Ubin, 8/2 (LKS/PR).

BLACK-CRESTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus melanicterus*)

1 at MacRitchie Reservoir on 7/2 (LKS).

BLACK-HEADED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus atriceps*)

1 seen at Jering Trail, MacRitchie Reservoir on 17/2 (LKS).

RED-EYED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus brunneus*)

2 at Jelutong Tower, CCNR 8/2 (LKS/PR).

ARCTIC WARBLER (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

1 individual in very worn out plumage was first observed at CCNR on 1/2 (JH) and initially thought to be Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*). The bird was subsequently photographed by LKC and later found to be Arctic instead.

WHITE-CRESTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax leucolophus*)

A flock of 5 at BBNP on 6/2 (DA/LKS).

YELLOW-VENTED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum chrysorrheum*)

1 seen at the lower viewpoint at BBNP on 6/2 (DA/LKS).

ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum trigonostigma*)

1 male at BBNP, 6/2 (DA/LKS).

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla cinerea*)

2 in summer plumage at Upper Pierce Reservoir on 8/2 & 9/2 (JH). 1 in wintering plumage on 10/2 (JH) same locale.

BLACK-HEADED MUNIA (*Lonchura malacca*)

6 at Tuas Grassland, 8/2 (LKS/PR).

WHITE-HEADED MUNIA (*Lonchura maja*)

2 at Tuas Grassland, 8/2 (LKS/PR).

ESCAPEES

BRAHMINY STARLING (*Sturnus pagodarum*)

1 observed at Marina East Grasslands 2/2 (MH)

YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY (*Serinus mozambicus*)

3 observed at Marina East Grasslands 2/2 (MH) & 1 observed singing atop a Casuarina Tree CC 7/2 (CF)

JOHOR

GREAT ARGUS (*Argusianus argus*)

2 heard 9/2 (SC) & 3+ heard 23/2 (SC) Bunker Trail

CRIMSON-WINGED WOODPECKER (*Picus puniceus*)

1 pair at Bunker Trail 23/2 (SC)

CHECKER-THROATED WOODPECKER (*Picus mentalis*)

1 at Bunker Trail 16/2 (LWT/LJS)

ORANGE-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Reinwardtipicus validus*)

1 observed 9/2 Bunker Trail (SC)

BLACK HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros malayanus*)

2 at Bunker Trail 16/2 (LWT/LJS)

BUSHY-CRESTED HORNBILL (*Anorrhinus galeritus*)

A flock of 5 at Trail 270 PFR 16/2 (LWT/LJS)

SCARLET-RUMPED TROGON (*Harpactes duvaucelii*)

3 observed at Bunker Trail 16/2 (LWT/LJS)



Scarlet-rumped Trogon at Panti on 16 February 2008
Photo © Jia Sheng

RUFOUS-BACKED KINGFISHER (*Ceyx rufidorsa*)

1 at Bunker Trail 16/2 (LWT/LJS)

RED-BILLED MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus javanicus*)

1 at Bunker Trail 16/2 (LWT/LJS)

GOULD'S FROGMOUTH (*Batrachostomus stellatus*)

1 heard 9/2 270 Trail PFR (SC)

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

1 observed at a known nest site 270 Trail PFR on 9/2 & 23/2 (SC)

BANDED PITTA (*Pitta guajana*)

1 heard at the stream 5km into Bunker Trail 16/2 (LWT/LJS)

DUSKY BROADBILL (*Corydon sumatranus*)

2 observed carrying nesting material 270 Trail PFR 16/2 (LWT/LJS)

BANDED BROADBILL (*Eurylaimus javanicus*)

1 pair observed at Bunker Trail 23/2 (SC)

BLACK-AND-YELLOW BROADBILL (*Eurylaimus ochromalus*)

1 pair observed at Bunker Trail 9/2 & 23/2 (SC)

BLACK MAGPIE (*Platysmurus leucopterus*)

2 seen at Bunker Trail 16/2 (LWT/LJS) 2 heard at the same site 23/2 (SC)

RUFOUS-WINGED PHILENTOMA (*Philentoma pyrhopterum*)

2 seen at Bunker Trail 16/2 (LWT/LJS)

GREY-CHESTED JUNGLE FLYCATCHER (*Rhinomyias umbratilis*)

1 photographed at Bunker Trail 16/2 (LWT/LJS)

GREY-BELLIED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus cyaniventris*)

3 seen at Bunker Trail 23/2 (SC)

RUBY-CHEEKED SUNBIRD (*Anthreptes singalensis*)

1 pair at 270 Trail PFR 23/2 (SC)

SPECTACLED SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera flavigaster*)

1 seen feeding in a fruiting tree 270 Trail PFR 23/2 (SC)

RAPTOR REPORT

February 2008

Summary

As expected the numbers of migrating raptors dropped to 82 from 123 in January, for this transition month. Again the **Black Bazas** (59 reported) accounted for 72% of the total. The largest roosting flock of 25 was reported by Tsen Thauming at Admiralty Park. Total species stayed at 7 boosted by an **Eastern Marsh Harrier** at Changi Cove reported by Ding Li. The bird of the month was a Female **Pied Harrier** at Tuas by Danny Weng and Jia Sheng. This rare winter visitor could be attracted by the new reclaimed land at the western part of Singapore. The **Crested Honey Buzzard** reports came in from all over the island numbering 10 in total. The **Peregrine Falcon** was reported at the Japanese Gardens, Upper Pierce reservoir and Pulau Ubin. Besides the usual sightings of **Ospreys** at Kranji area, Willie Foo had one perched at Lower Pierce reservoir.



By Lee Tiah Khee

Black Baza by Lee Tiah Khee

The resident raptors numbers (57) stayed almost the same as January (56) with the **White-bellied Sea Eagle** and **Brahminy Kite** maintaining their top two positions. The Crested Serpent Eagle seemed to have returned to the Sime Forest. The nationally and globally threatened **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** was seen by Doreen, at our urban forest at Little Guilin, outside their core forest surroundings. What could be the implication of this sighting? Nesting activities of our resident raptors came in with some of the sightings but were left out in this report.

Table 1

No	Migrating Raptors	Total for the month
1	Black Baza	59
2	Crested Honey-buzzard	10
3	Peregrine Falcon	3
4	Japanese Sparrowhawk	2
5	Eastern Marsh Harrier	1
6	Osprey	4
7	Pied Harrier	1
	Unidentified	2
	Total	82

Table 2

No	Resident Raptors	Total for the month
8	White-Bellied Sea Eagle	26
9	Brahminy Kite	19
10	Changeable Hawk-eagle	5
11	Black-winged Kite	3
12	Crested Serpent Eagle	1
13	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	3
	Total	57

Note : The total numbers in Table 1 & 2 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.

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

1. Black Baza

Date	No.	Location	Reported by.
2nd	7	Marina East	Mike Hooper
8th	2	Bukit Timah NR	Lim Kim Chuah
9th	4	Seen flying over Turuk Track	KC Tsang
9th	1	Botanic Gardens	Con Foley
10th	4	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Lim Kim Seng
12th	11	This flock was reported roosting at Admiralty Park	Kok Hui
14th	7	Lorong Halus	Lee Tiah Khee
17th	5	Seen perched at Springleaf during NSS outing	Willie, Ee ling and HHC
17th	1	Flying around Sungei Buloh	Ee Ling
18th	25	Admiralty Park (could be part of the roosting group)	Tsen Thauming
23rd	1	Bukit Timah	Ben Lee
24th	2	Kranji countryside	Sunny Yeo



Black Baza by KC Tsang



Crested Honey-buzzard by KC Tsang

2. Crested (Oriental) Honey-buzzard

Date	No	Location	Reported by
7th	2	Pulau Ubin	Con Foley
10th	1	Bukit Timah Quarry	Alan and Kenneth Kee
12th	2	Upper Pierce Reservoir, 1 pale and 1 dark morph	Gim Cheong
15th	1	Upper Pierce Reservoir	KS Tsang
25th	1	Over NUS	Ding Li
28th	1	Lower Pierce Reservoir	Con Foley
28th	1	Flying over Macpherson and later perched	Gloria Seow
29th	1	Keppel Club	Alan OwYong

3. Peregrine Falcon



Peregrine Falcon by KC Tsang

- 3rd Ee Ling seen one perched high up at Japanese Gardens. Could be the same raptor that was wintering there
- 5th KC Tsang photographed a flying Peregrine at Upper Pierce reservoir.
- 10th Ben Lee reported that the Peregrine was still wintering at Pulau Ubin.

4. Japanese Sparrowhawk

- 2nd Mike Hopper reported one flying over Marina East
- 13th James Heng sighted an individual flying over Sime Forest

5. Osprey



Osprey by KC Tsang

- 9th One was seen flying over Turuk Track by KC Tsang. Willie Foo had one perched at Lower Pierce Reservoir.
- 10th One was seen flying over Neo Tiew Lane 2 by KC Tsang. Kim Seng had two sighted over the same area later.
- 17th One was reported fishing at the Kranji Reservoir by Sunny Yeo.

6. Eastern Marsh Harrier

- 2nd Ding Li reported a female hunting at Changi Cove.

7. Pied Harrier

17th Danny and Jia Sheng photographed a female perched after hunting at the Tuas Grassland (shown on the next page). This is the first record for the season. It is good to see the Harrier returning to the western part of the island.

RAPTOR OF THE MONTH



Female Pied Harrier taken at Tuas by Danny Weng

Unidentified

10th One pale and one dark unidentified raptor reported by KC Tsang at Neo Tiew Lane 2.

RESIDENT RAPTORS

8. White-bellied Sea Eagle

Date	No	Location	Reported by
?	4	Pioneer JC	Jia Sheng
2nd	1	Juvenile seen at Changi Cove	Ding Li
3rd	1	Woodlands Ave 7	Cyril Ng
3rd	1	Flying over Japanese Gardens	Ee Ling
6th	1	Circling over Bedok Reservoir	Willie Foo
9th	2	Flying over Turuk Track	KC Tsang
10th	1	Perched by the side of Pierce Reservoir	Willie Foo
16th	1	Flying over Bukit Timah Hill	Alan OwYong
16th	1	Chestnut Drive	Ben Lee
17th	1	Juvenile at Sungei Buloh	Ee Ling
17th	1	Springleaf	Willie Foo
17th	2	Kranji Countryside	Sunny Yeo
20th	1	Flying over Clementi Area	Alan OwYong
24th	1	At CCK Cemeteries	Alan & Kenneth Kee
24th	1	Flying over Springleaf during NSS outing	Ee Ling & HHC
24th	1	Juvenile at Upper Pierce	Ben Lee
24th	1	Kranji area	Sunny Yeo
29th	3	In flight over Neo Tiew Lane 2	Chung Cheong
29th	1	Hindhede Park	Lim Kim Chuah

9. Brahminy Kite

Date	No	Location	Reported by
2nd	1	Adult at Changi Cove	Ding Li
3rd	1	Flying over Japanese Gardens	Ee Ling
4th	4	Soaring over Tuas	Kenneth Kee
5th	1	Photographed at Upper Pierce with an elongated beak	KC Tsang
8th	1	Juvenile at BTNR	Lim Kim Chuah
10th	3	Counted at Pulau Ubin	Ben Lee
10th	1	Flying over Chinese Gardens	Ee Ling
11th	1	Flying over Alexandra Road	Alan OwYong
16th	1	Upper Pierce	Ben Lee
16th	1	Chestnut Drive	Ben Lee
17th	1	Kranji	Sunny Yeo
17th	1	Flying over Sungei Buloh	Ee Ling
20th	1	Clementi	Alan OwYong
24th	1	CCK Cemeteries	Alan & Kenneth

10. Changeable Hawk-eagle

- 10th One dark morph reported by Willie Foo at Lower Pierce.
13th One heard at Sime Forest by James Heng
19th One reported by Doreen at Neo Tiew Lane 2
24th Two reported by Ee Ling seen perched at Springleaf area during the NSS outing.

11. Black-winged Kite

- 10th Two reported at Neo Tiew Lane 2 by Lim Kim Seng.
24th One was seen flying towards Poyang at CCK Cemeteries by Alan and Kenneth.

12. Crested Serpent Eagle

- 3rd One heard at Sime Forest ranger's station by Chung Cheong. Could be the same individual reported by James Heng at Venus Drive last month.

13. Grey-headed Fish Eagle

- 6th One was seen by Kim Chuah at the LCK Cemeteries
17th A surprised find by Doreen at Little Guilin, Bukit Gombak. One was seen fishing at the lake, probably a first record for the area.
23rd One was reported at the Springleaf area by Willie, Joe Lim and Hua Chew.

Compiled by Alan OwYong from postings on WildbirdSingapore e-group. Edited and layout by Kenneth Kee. Many thanks to the numerous contributions and reports from the birders and photos from KC Tsang, Lee Tiah Khee and Danny Weng.

Bird in Focus

MANGROVE PITTA

Pitta megarhyncha



Mangrove Pitta at Pulau Ubin on 25 April 2008
Photo © Lee Tiah Khee

Order PASSERIFORMES
Suborder EURYLAIMI
Family PITTIDAE

Some Cool Facts

- According to the Handbook of the Birds of the World Volume 8, there are 30 species of pitta in the world of which most are concentrated in Asia.
- Singapore has three species namely Mangrove Pitta, Blue-winged Pitta and Hooded Pitta. Of these, only Mangrove is resident.
- Some authors consider Mangrove Pitta to be conspecific with Blue-winged Pitta but the fact they live in very different habitat, difference in morphology and plumages and no apparent interbreeding where ranges come into contact suggest that they are best treated as separate species.

Distribution

- The west coast of Myanmar and Malay Peninsula from Tenasserim the north to Singapore in the south, East Sumatra, Riau Archipelago and Bangka Island
- In Singapore, found on Pulau Ubin and Pulau Tekong. Last recorded on the mainland in 1979-80 in Tanjong Karang, Jurong. There is one unconfirmed record from Sungei Buloh in 2001.

Description

- Medium size pitta
- Top of head grey brown
- Broad black band from lores back to nape
- Upperparts dull greenish with bright glossy violet-blue wing coverts
- Underparts buff with crimson vent
- Differentiated from Blue-winged Pitta by longer and stronger bill, no supercilium or only thin line behind eye

Sound

- Loud and clear double “tu-will tu-will” – first syllable “tu” rising and second “will” is even and about 2 seconds long and repeated at about 4 seconds interval.

Habitat

- Coastal mangroves.

Food

- Molluscs as well as ants and other insects. Diet is thought to consist largely of crabs, the reason for the large bill.

Behaviour

- Forages on mud around mangrove roots and in adjacent drier areas.
- Sometimes call from the top of trees.
- Very vocal during breeding season and generally silent the rest of the season.

Breeding

- April to August
- Domed nest about 45 cm in diameter, constructed of sticks dead leaves, grass and coconut fibres. Usually placed on ground.

Conservation Status

- Globally near-threatened. The main threat being large clearance of mangrove for charcoal production and fuel wood and being replaced by fish and shrimp ponds.

Acknowledgement

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Mangrove Pitta at Pulau Ubin on 25 April 2008

Photo © Lee Tiah Khee