



# SINGAPORE AVIFAUNA

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Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes* eating a crab at SBWR on 24 Oct 09 By Tan Gim Cheong



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## Bird Report

October 2009

By Lim Kim Seng

### SINGAPORE HIGHLIGHTS

October always brings that air of expectancy that forces birders out en masse into the field and this year was no different. 18 more migrants were recorded for the first time this winter, bringing the total to 61 species. Arguably the most exciting of the lot were two **Greater Spotted Eagles** seen at Lorong Halus, one of Singapore's forgotten birding spots, on 13<sup>th</sup>, a new early date by 12 days. The other "new" migrants included **Ruddy** and **Black-capped Kingfishers**, **Malaysian/Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo**, **Terek Sandpiper**, **Grey-tailed Tattler**, **Lesser Crested Tern**, **Black Baza**, **Eastern Marsh Harrier**, **Crow-billed Drongo**, **Japanese Paradise Flycatcher** (potentially our 5<sup>th</sup> record), **Siberian Thrush** (potentially our 12<sup>th</sup> record), **Brown-chested Jungle-flycatcher**, **Dark-sided Flycatcher**, **Siberian Blue Robin**, **White-shouldered Starling**, **Pale/Sand Martin** and **Red-rumped Swallow**.

Noteworthy residents seen during the month included **Lesser Whistling Duck** at Botanic Gardens, **Oriental Pied Hornbill** (Changi Village and Pulau Ubin), a high count of 13 **Glossy Swiftlets** from Bukit Batok Nature Park, **Buffy Fish Owl** (Lower Peirce Reservoir), **Crested Serpent-eagle** (King's Avenue), **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** (MacRitchie Reservoir), **Little Grebe** (Singapore Quarry), **Great-billed Heron** (Tuas) and **Black-headed Bulbul** (MacRitchie Reservoir).

The bird of the month was a lone **Silver-rumped Spinetail** seen flying above Jelutong Tower on 18<sup>th</sup>, the second recent record of this species in Singapore, if confirmed, and the first in twelve years.

October 2009 also saw some controversy in the form of the reported killing of three **White-bellied Sea Eagles** at Changi Airport by the airport authorities. The Bird Group is now working with Changi Airport Group to resolve the issue humanely.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore Bird Race saw 10 "green" teams participating without the aid of their beloved cars in a bid to achieve carbon-free birding. Participants used bicycles, walking, buses and the MRT to their birding destinations.

### JOHOR HIGHLIGHTS

Little activity in Johor due to high migrant activity in Singapore. The only records of note received were of 13 thermaling **Crested Honey Buzzards** and a single **Siberian Stonechat** at Sungei Balang, in northwestern Johor.

## SUMMARY

This report covers noteworthy bird sightings in October 2009 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 @ [ibisbill@yahoo.com](mailto: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 systematics 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:

BBNP	Bukit Batok Nature Park
CCNR	Central Catchment Nature Reserve
DFNP	Dairy Farm Nature Park
SBG	Singapore Botanic Gardens
SBWR	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

## SINGAPORE

### **KING QUAIL** *Coturnix chinensis*

2 flushed in open country on Pulau Ubin on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

### **RED JUNGLEFOWL** *Gallus gallus*

On Pulau Ubin 2 were heard on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 1 heard on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

### **WANDERING WHISTLING DUCK** *Dendrocygna arcuata*

At SBG, 1 was seen on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 2 on 18/10 (LKS/YDL) and 1 on 25/10 (LKS).

### **LESSER WHISTLING DUCK** *Dendrocygna javanica*

At SBG, 2 were seen on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 4 on 18/10 (LKS/YDL) and 6 on 25/10 (LKS).

### **RUFIOUS WOODPECKER** *Celeus brachyurus*

1 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 26/10 (AC/KK/AOY).

### **BANDED WOODPECKER** *Picus minaceus*

1 was seen at SBG on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

### **LACED WOODPECKER** *Picus vittatus*

A female at BBNP on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and a male at SBG on 25/10 (LKS).

### **COMMON GOLDENBACK** *Dinopium javanense*

At SBG, a male was seen on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and a male and a female on 25/10 (LKS).

### **LINEATED BARBET** *Megalaima lineata*

1 heard at SBG on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 25/10 (LKS) is a new locality record for this alien species. It is so far restricted to western and central Singapore but looks set to spread to the rest of the main island and should be closely watched. Another was seen close up at BBNP on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 1 heard at MacRitchie Reservoir on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**COPPERSMITH BARBET** *Megalaima haemacephala*

1 on a dead tree at Lorong Halus on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**ORIENTAL PIED HORNBILL** *Anthracoceros albirostris*

At Changi Village, 2 were seen on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 4 on 11/10 (LKS/DR).  
On Pulau Ubin, 6 were also seen on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 2 on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**COMMON KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

1 at SBG on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 2 on Pulau Ubin on 11/10 (LKS/DR), 1 on Pulau Ubin on 11/10 (LKS/DR), 1 at Clarke Quay on 12/10 (PJ), 1 at Singapore Quarry on 14/10 and 22/10 (TGC), and 2 at SBWR on 31/10 (WCC).

**BLACK-BACKED KINGFISHER** *Ceyx erithacus*

1 at Venus Drive on 27/10 (TKC) and another found dead at Rifle Range Link, CCNR, on 29/10 (TKC).

**STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER** *Perlargopsis capensis*

1 at SBWR, 1/10 (LKS/LWX/SA) and 2 quarrelling birds at MacRitchie Reservoir on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**RUDDY KINGFISHER** *Halcyon coromanda*

1 seen in a garden at Malcolm Park on 27/10 (JR).

**BLACK-CAPPED KINGFISHER** *Halcyon pileata*

1 at Singapore Quarry on 22/10 (TGC) and 1 at SBWR on 31/10 (WCC).

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

2 at Wallace Trail, DFNP, on 14/10 (WCC).

**MALAYSIAN HAWK CUCKOO** *Cuculus fugax*

An unconfirmed report of a bird at Bidadari Cemetery on 24/10 (DA/NK/PAH).

**TANIMBAR CORELLA** *Cacatua goffini*

At Changi Village 3 were seen on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 9 on 11/10 (LKS/DR).  
Also 2 at Bidadari Cemetery on 24/10 (DA/NK/PAH).

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

At SBG, 7 were seen on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 1 on 25/10 (LKS). In addition, 3 were seen at Island Club Road on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 1 at MacRitchie Reservoir on 18/10 (LKS/YDL), 1 at Jelutong Tower, CCNR, on 18/10 (LKS/YDL) and 2 over Car Park A, DFNP, on 22/10 (TGC).

**ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET** *Psittacula krameri*

1 at SBG on 25/10 (LKS).

**RED-BREASTED PARAKEET** *Psittacula alexandri*

7 counted at BBNP on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**LONG-TAILED PARAKEET** *Psittacula longicauda*

2 were seen at SBG on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS). Also 42 counted at BBNP on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**GLOSSY SWIFTLET** *Collocalia esculenta*

A good count of 13 birds at BBNP on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**SILVER-RUMPED SPINETAIL** *Rhipidura leucopygialis*

1 reported over Jelutong Tower, CCNR, on 18/10 (SBS) would, if confirmed, be the second recent record for Singapore.

**GREY-RUMPED TREESWIFT** *Hemiprocne longipennis*

20 were counted at SBG on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**BUFFY FISH-OWL** *Ketupa ketupu*

1 seen at Lower Peirce Reservoir on 17/10 (JH/LKC).

**RED TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia transquebarica*

A male at SBWR on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and a pair on Pulau Ubin on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**COMMON EMERALD DOVE** *Chalcophaps indica*

2 at SBWR on 31/10 (LKS).

**THICK-BILLED GREEN PIGEON** *Treron curvirostra*

A flock of 6 seen in a fruiting fig at Island Club Road on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

200 counted at SBWR on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**COMMON REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*

300 counted at SBWR on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 1 at Lorong Halus on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**MARSH SANDPIPER** *Tringa stagnatilis*

100 counted at SBWR on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**COMMON GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

200 counted at SBWR on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS)

**TEREK SANDPIPER** *Tringa cinerea*

1 photographed at SBWR on 14/10 (CWK).

**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Tringa hypoleucos*

1 at Singapore Quarry on 14/10 and 22/10 (TGC).

**GREY-TAILED TATTLER** *Tringa brevipes*

1 at SBWR on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 11/10 (ST), 17/10 (BL), 24/10 (CWK/TGC) and 25/10 (BL).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*

At SBWR, 1 was seen on 3/10 (LKS), 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 24/10 (TGC). Also 1 at Changi Cove on 12/10 (LTK).

**RED-NECKED STINT** *Calidris ruficollis*

At SBWR, 6 were seen on 4/10 (LKS), 2 on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 10 on 11/10 (LKS/DR) and 10 on 18/10 (LKS/YDL).

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea*

100 counted at SBWR on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER** *Limicola falcinellus*

At SBWR, 1 was seen on 4/10 (LKS), 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 18/10 (LKS/YDL) and 19/10 (TGC), and 2 on 24/10 (CWK).



Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* at SBWR on 19 Oct 09 By Tan Gim Cheong

**PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis fulva*

200 at SBWR on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**LESSER SAND PLOVER** *Charadrius mongolus*

150 counted at SBWR on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**GREATER SAND PLOVER**

*Charadrius leschenaultii*

At SBWR, 1 was seen on 3/10 (LKS), 2 on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 1 flagged bird on 11/10 (LKS/DR) and 31/10 (DL), and 1 (unflagged) on 18/10 (LKS/YDL).



Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* showing leg flag together with Lesser Sand Plovers *C. mongolus* at SBWR on 31 Oct 09 By Danny Lau

**LESSER CRESTED TERN**

*Sterna bengalensis*

2 off Kranji Nature Trail on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**SWIFT TERN** *Sterna bergii*

Off Pulau Ubin, 6 were seen on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 4 on 11/10 (LKS/DR). 6 birds were also counted at Kranji Nature Trail on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**LITTLE TERN** *Sterna albifrons*

30 counted at Kranji Reservoir on 16/10 (TGC).

**WHITE-WINGED TERN** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

At Kranji Reservoir 30 were counted on 16/10 (TGC) and several on 26/10 (AC/KK/AOY).



White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* at Kranji Reservoir on 16 Oct 09 By Tan Gim Cheong



**OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

1 over Singapore Quarry on 22/10 (TGC) and 2 over Chinese Garden on 23/10 (PJ).

**BLACK BAZA** *Aviceda leuphotes*

First arrivals: 1 over Changi Business Park on 31/10 (HB) and 3 over SBWR on 31/10 (MS).

**CRESTED HONEY BUZZARD** *Pernis ptiloryncus*

1 over SBWR on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 1 on Pulau Ubin on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 1 at MacRitchie Reservoir on 11/10 (LKS/DR), 1 at Bidadari Cemetery on 24/10 (DA/NK/PAH) and 15 thermaling over Thomson Road on 31/10 (MB). At Chinese Garden, 1 was seen on 15/10 and 2 on 23/10 (both PJ). In addition, one seen with a scope in a durian plantation at Pulau Ubin on 11/10 (LKS/DR) appeared to be an individual of race *orientalis*.

**CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE** *Spilornis cheela*

1 seen at King's Avenue on 26/10 (MH).

**EASTERN MARSH HARRIER** *Circus spilonotus*

1 seen at Changi Cove on 12/10 (LTK).

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

1 seen at MacRitchie Reservoir on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**JAPANESE SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter gularis*

1 at SBG on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 1 over MacRitchie Reservoir on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE** *Aquila clanga*

2 immatures seen at Lorong Halus on 13/10 (AC) are the first reports for the year and also beats the previous early date by 12 days.

**CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE** *Spizaetus cirrhatus*

1 heard at Mandai Orchid Garden on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 2 seen at Singapore Quarry on 14/10 (TGC), with one bird calling persistently for about an hour, 1 seen flying with a clump of grass across Lim Chu Kang Road on 16/10 (TGC) and 1 heard at Kranji Reservoir on 16/10 (TGC).

**PEREGRINE FALCON** *Falco peregrinus*

1 over Chinese Garden on 11/10 (PJ).

**LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

At Singapore Quarry, 8 were counted on 14/10 (TGC) and 5 on 22/10 (TGC).

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

At SBWR, 11 were counted on 1/10 (LKS/LWX/SA) and 71 on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS). Also 1 at Lorong Halus on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 3 over MacRitchie Reservoir on

11/10 (LKS/DR), 1 in a drain at Bukit Batok East Avenue 4 on 13/10 (ACW) and 1 at SBG on 25/10 (LKS).

**GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

2 at Lorong Halus on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS). In addition, 6 were counted at the Western Catchment on 10/10 (AOY), 25 at Pekan Quarry, Pulau Ubin on 11/10 (LKS/DR) and 1 over SBG on 25/10 (LKS).

**GREAT-BILLED HERON** *Ardea sumatrana*

1 seen flying across the Straits of Johor and landing near the Second Link, on 10/10 (AOY).

**PURPLE HERON** *Ardea purpurea*

1 at MacRitchie Reservoir on 11/10 (LKS/DR) and 1 at Kranji Dam on 31/10 (HHC/LKS).

**GREAT EGRET** *Casmerodius albus*

1 at SBWR on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

At Ecolake, SBG, an immature was seen on 18/10 (LKS/YDL) and 2 adults on 25/10 (LKS).

**BLUE-WINGED LEAFBIRD** *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*

A male photographed at Wallace Trail, DFNP, on 14/10 (LTK).

**TIGER SHRIKE** *Lanius tigrinus*

A juvenile on Pulau Ubin on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 1 at Amoy Street on 14/10 (WF) and 2 at Bidadari Cemetery on 24/10 (DA/NK/PAH).

**BROWN SHRIKE** *Lanius cristatus*

1 in open marsh at MacRitchie Reservoir on 11/10 (LKS/DR) and 1 at Choa Chu Kang Cemetery on 16/10 (TGC).

**CROW-BILLED DRONGO** *Dicrurus annectans*

1 at Bidadari Cemetery on 24/10 (DA/NK/PAH).

**GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO** *Dicrurus paradiseus*

1 at SBG on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 25/10 (LKS).

**ASIAN PARADISE FLYCATCHER** *Terpsiphone paradisi*

A female at Island Club Road on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 1 at SBG on 18/10 (LKS/YDL) and 1 at Bidadari Cemetery on 24/10 (DA/NK/PAH).

**JAPANESE PARADISE FLYCATCHER**

*Terpsiphone atrocaudata*

A bird photographed at Venus Drive, CCNR, on 24/10 (JW) is our first record for the year.

**SIBERIAN THRUSH** *Zoothera sibirica*

2 females sighted at Mt Serapong, Sentosa, on 25/10 (AC/KK) are potentially the 12<sup>th</sup> record for Singapore.

**BROWN-CHESTED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER**

*Rhinomyias brunneata*

1 photographed at Wallace Trail, DFNP, on 6/10 and 19/10 (LTK).

**DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER**

*Muscicapa sibirica*

1 at Wallace Trail, DFNP, on 25/10 (LKC).

**ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER**

*Muscicapa dauurica*

1 at SBWR, 1/10 (LKS/LWX/SA), 1 at MacRitchie Reservoir on 11/10 (LKS/DR), 3-4 at Bidadari Cemetery on 24/10 (DA/NK/PAH) and 1 at SBG on 25/10 (LKS).



Japanese Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata* at Venus Drive on 24 Oct 09  
By Johnny Wee



Brown-chested Jungle-flycatcher *Rhinomyias brunneata* at Wallace Trail on 6 Oct 09 By Lee Tiah Kee

**BROWN-STREAKED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa williamsoni*

1 worn individual seen close up at DFNP on 18/10 (LKS/YDL).

**YELLOW-RUMPED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula zanthopygia*

A female at MacRitchie Reservoir on 18/10 (LKS/YDL), 1 in mangrove at SBWR on 18/10 (LKS/YDL), a first-winter male at Bidadari Cemetery on 24/10 (DA/NK/PAH) and 1 at a carpark fig at Jurong Lake on 31/10 (AC/KK/AOY).

**SIBERIAN BLUE ROBIN** *Luscinia cyane*

A female at Wallace Trail, DFNP, on 14/10 (TGC) and another female at Rifle Range Trail, CCNR, on 18/10 (LKS/YDL).

**ORIENTAL MAGPIE ROBIN** *Copsychus saularis*

At SBWR, 1 female and 1 male were seen on 4/10 (LKS), and 2 on 18/10 (LKS/YDL). In addition, 1 was also seen at SBG on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 3 at MacRitchie Reservoir on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA** *Copsychus malabaricus*

1 at Sime Trail, CCNR, on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 1 on Pulau Ubin on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**DAURIAN STARLING** *Sturnus sturninus*

At SBG, 30 were seen on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS). Also 50 at island Club Road on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 250 at Lorong Halus on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and about 100 at Chang Business Park on 11/10 (HB).

**WHITE-SHOULDERED STARLING** *Sturnus sinensis*

A flock of 8 at Western Catchment on 10/10 (AOY).

**COMMON HILL MYNA** *Gracula religiosa*

3 were seen at SBG on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 1 on Pulau Ubin on 11/10 (LKS/DR) and 4 at Bidadari Cemetery on 24/10 (DA/NK/PAH).

**PALE/SAND MARTIN** *Riparia* spp.

1 seen flying around and drinking water at Singapore Quarry on 22/10 (TGC) is our first report of *Riparia* martins for the winter. Due to confusion between Pale and Sand Martins, it has been decided to treat all martin records as indeterminate. All observers are advised to take notes or photographs should they encounter these birds.

**RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** *Hirundo daurica*

1 over Jelutong Tower, CCNR, on 18/10 (LKS/YDL).

**STRAW-HEADED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*

2 seen at BBNP on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), up to 7 at Rifle Range Road on 18/10 (LKS/YDL) and 2 at Singapore Quarry on 22/10 (TGC).

**BLACK-HEADED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus atriceps*

At MacRitchie Reservoir, 1 bird was heard on 11/10 (LKS/DR) and at least 3 heard on 12/10 (LKC).

**RED-WHISKERED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus jocosus*

2 seen at Mandai Orchid Garden on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**ASIAN RED-EYED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus brunneus*

1 at Sime Trail, CCNR, on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**RUFOUS-TAILED TAILORBIRD** *Orthotomus sericeus*

1 seen close up at MacRitchie Reservoir on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**ARCTIC WARBLER** *Phylloscopus borealis*

1 at SBWR on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 2 at Sime Trail, CCNR, on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) and 1 at MacRitchie Reservoir on 11/10 (LKS/DR). on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**EASTERN CROWNED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus coronatus*

1 seen in mangrove at Kranji Nature Trail on 18/10 (LKS/YDL).

**WHITE-CRESTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Garrulax leucolophus*

5 seen at BBNP on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

**ABBOTT'S BABBLER** *Malacocincla abbotti*

1 seen close up at MacRitchie Reservoir on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum trigonostigma*

A male seen at SBG on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS) was a rare record from this location.

**LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER** *Arachnothera longirostris*

5 at Mandai Orchid Garden on 9/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS), 1 at Hindhede Nature Park on 16/10 (TGC) and 1 at DFNP on 18/10 (LKS/YDL).

**FOREST WAGTAIL** *Dendronanthus indicus*

1 at Rifle Range Road on 18/10 (LKS/YDL).

**BLACK-HEADED MUNIA** *Lonchura malacca*

5 at Pulau Ubin on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

**WHITE-HEADED MUNIA** *Lonchura maja*

2 in grassland at Lorong Halus on 10/10 (HF/HK/LKS/SS).

## BREEDING / NESTING REPORTS

### **ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN** *Copsychus saularis*

A juvenile at SBG on 25/10 (LKS) provides evidence of further breeding at this park.

### **ASHY TAILORBIRD** *Orthotomus ruficeps*

A juvenile was seen in the company of adults at SBWR on 4/10, 9/10 (LKS) and on 11/10 (LKS/DR).

## REPORT ON ESCAPEES

### **RED JUNGLEFOWL** *Gallus gallus*

A single male was seen in open land in the former Tang Dynasty area on 31/10 (AC/KK/AOY).

### **BLACK SWAN** *Cygnus atratus*

At SBG, 4 were seen on 18/10 (LKS/YDL) and 5 on 25/10 (LKS).

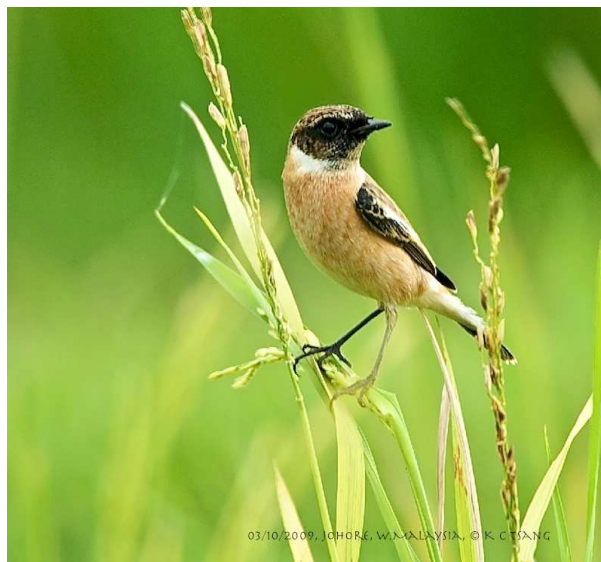
## JOHOR

### **ORIENTAL HONEY BUZZARD** *Pernis ptilorhyncus*

13 birds seen thermaling over Sungei Balang on 4/10 (AT/TKC). They were observed to head south.

### **SIBERIAN STONECHAT** *Saxicola maura*

1 photographed at Sungei Balang on 3/10 (TKC).



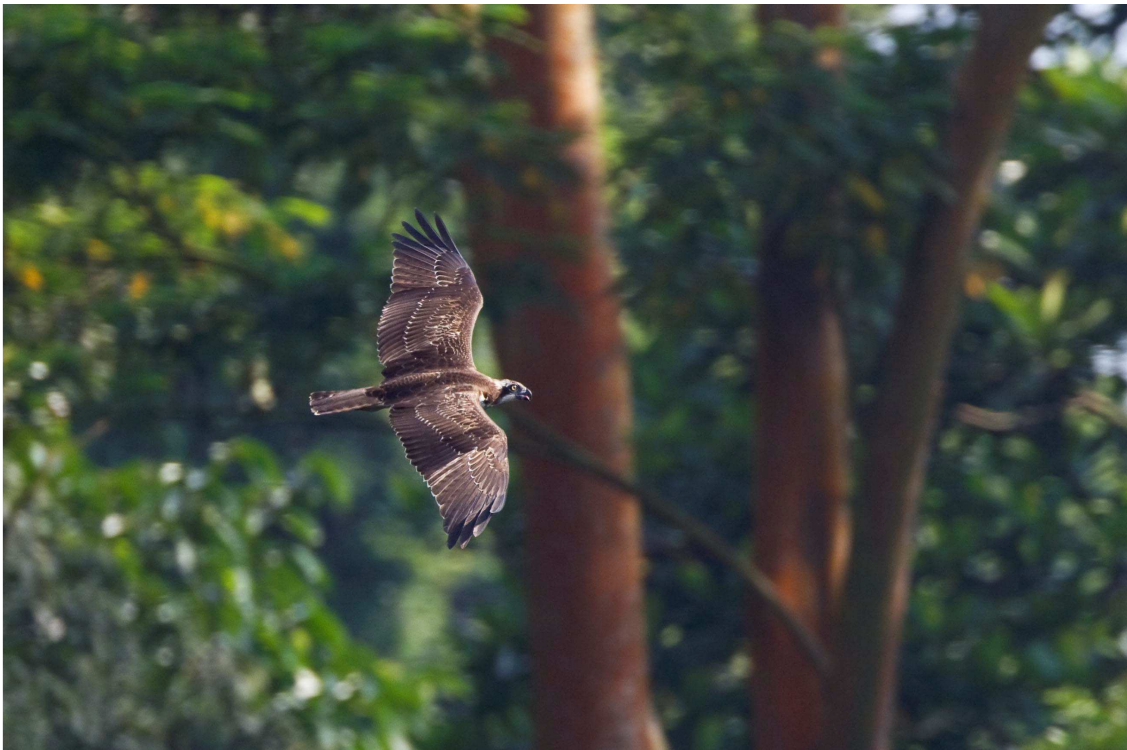
Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura* at Sungei Balang  
on 3 Oct 09 By KC Tsang

## Singapore Raptor Report Autumn Migration, October 2009

Compiled by Alan OwYong, Edited by Kenneth Kee

### Summary:

The surprise find for the month were the two **Greater Spotted Eagles** at Lorong Halus by Alfred Chia on 13<sup>th</sup> during his lunch break. His record was earlier than the one recorded on the 25<sup>th</sup> in 1992 at Punggol. As with most of this *Aquila*, they were immatures. Other first records for the season included an **Eastern Marsh Harrier** at its favourite hunting ground at Changi on 12<sup>th</sup> by Lee Tiah Khee; a **Chinese Sparrowhawk** at Bukit Timah Summit on 11<sup>th</sup> reported by Danny Lau and Jia Sheng and a **Grey-faced Buzzard** migrating southwest on 18<sup>th</sup> by Martti at Sungei Buloh (SBWR). The **Black Bazas** finally made it on the last day of the month with Howard Banwell's report of a single bird at Changi Business Park and another three over at SBWR seen by Martti Siponen. Chung Cheong had our regular **Common Buzzard** back at Changi Airport on 24<sup>th</sup>. We had 10 migrant species totaling 89 raptors for October. The **Oriental Honey-buzzards** topped the list with 42. Mike Bush had a flock of 15 over at Thomson Road on 31<sup>st</sup>, an unusual sighting of such a large group. This was followed by 15 **Japanese Sparrowhawks** and 8 **Ospreys** making the top three. The **Peregrine Falcons** gave a strong showing with 5 records including the returning ones at Pulau Ubin and Bishan. Except for 2 reports of the rare Crested Serpent Eagle, which seems to be more visible during the migration season, other resident species are not covered in this report.



An Osprey soaring over Singapore Quarry by Martti Siponen graced this month cover

**Table 1**

S/N	Species	Count	S/N	Species	Count
1	<b>Oriental Honey-buzzard</b>	<b>42</b>	6	<b>Eastern Marsh Harrier</b>	<b>1</b>
2	<b>Japanese Sparrowhawk</b>	<b>15</b>	7	<b>Greater Spotted Eagle</b>	<b>2</b>
3	<b>Osprey</b>	<b>8</b>	8	<b>Common Buzzard</b>	<b>1</b>
4	<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	<b>5</b>	9	<b>Grey-faced Buzzard</b>	<b>2</b>
5	<b>Black Baza</b>	<b>4</b>	10	<b>Chinese Sparrowhawk</b>	<b>1</b>
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>

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

### **1. Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (11)**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Lim Kim Seng reported one over at SBWR.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Kim Seng also recorded one flying over at Pulau Ubin.
- 14<sup>th</sup> One over at National Junior College (NJC) by Ding Li.
- 15<sup>th</sup> A probable male was seen circling low over the grassy areas at Chinese Garden by Peter Jones.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Could be the same OHB at NJC again by Ding Li.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Three reported migrating SW and West at Tuas South by Martti Siponen.
- 18<sup>th</sup> One at Sime Forest and another at Upper Bukit Timah recorded at Bird Race.
- 19<sup>th</sup> One over British Council at Napier Road seen by Ding Li.
- 19<sup>th</sup> One reported at Holland Village migrating south by Martti Siponen.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Two were seen over at the Chinese Garden by Peter Jones.
- 24<sup>th</sup> An immature was photographed perched on an Albizia tree at Bidadari by Doreen Ang, Nessie and Ah Huay.
- 24<sup>th</sup> One over at Rifle Range by Danny Lau and Kok Hui.
- 24<sup>th</sup> One over at Jurong Lake area reported by Lau Soo Yen.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Peter Jones flushed an adult female dark morph at Chinese Garden.
- 25<sup>th</sup> A total of seven was recorded by Peter Jones from his condo window opposite the Chinese Gardens MRT (1 juv, 1 female, 3 males and 2 not sexed).
- 28<sup>th</sup> A dark morph at King's Avenue by Margie Hall.
- 31<sup>st</sup> One over at Kent Ridge Park by Horst Flotow.
- 31<sup>st</sup> A very interesting report by Mike Bush of 15 seen over at Thomson Road's nursery row.
- 31<sup>st</sup> A single bird was reported migrating NW at SBWR by Martti Siponen.

### **2. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (15)**

- 4<sup>th</sup> One spotted circling above Changi Coast by Alan OwYong.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Two seen at SBWR by Martti Siponen.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Lim Kim Seng reported one at the Botanic Garden.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Another one by Kim Seng but this time over at MacRitchie Reservoir.
- 18<sup>th</sup> One bird each at Sime Forest and SBWR during the Bird Race.
- 25<sup>th</sup> One was seen circling above Mt. Imbiah at Sentosa by Ali Jaffar and Sunny Yeo.
- 25<sup>th</sup> A male was seen hunting across the Chinese Garden by Peter Jones.



- 25<sup>th</sup> Another four were seen hunting en-route by Peter Jones from his condo window opposite Chinese Garden MRT.  
31<sup>st</sup> One was seen flying south by Peter Jones at the Chinese Garden vicinity.  
31<sup>st</sup> A single low flying seen at SBWR by Martti Siponen.

### **3. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (8)**

- 18<sup>th</sup> One recorded over at Mandai mudflats during the Bird Race.  
22<sup>nd</sup> One was spotted flying over the Singapore Quarry by Gim Cheong.  
23<sup>rd</sup> Peter Jones had two soaring together over at Chinese Gardens.  
24<sup>th</sup> Largest number of four seen by Horst Flotow at SBWR.  
24<sup>th</sup> Two birds were seen soaring over SBWR by Danny Lau, Kok Hui & Co.  
24<sup>th</sup> Another sighting at the Singapore Quarry by Danny Lau, Kok Hui and Co.  
Also reported by Martti.  
24<sup>th</sup> One over at Jurong Lake area by Lau Soo Yen.  
24<sup>th</sup> Two at SBWR reported by Martti Siponen and again on 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **4. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (5)**



Peregrine Falcon at Bishan by Sun CH.

- 9<sup>th</sup> One was reported perched on the telecom tower at Pulau Ubin by Doreen Ang.  
11<sup>th</sup> Peter Jones reported one migrating high over the Chinese Garden.  
14<sup>th</sup> One was photographed perched on a TV antenna at Bishan by Sun Chong Hong. This *falco* seemed to be roosting near the Faber Gardens condo and was seen during most days throughout the month. It was also reported last year.

- 18<sup>th</sup> Sighted by the Bird Race teams over at Bukit Timah Summit and Sime Forest.  
28<sup>th</sup> Robert Teo reported one perched on the telecom Tower at Pulau Ubin. Probably the same Peregrine spotted by Doreen on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **5. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (4)**

- 31<sup>st</sup> First for the season, Howard Banwell sent in report of a single bird at Changi Business Park with another three reported migrating south over at SBWR by Martti Siponen. This was six days later than last Autumn.

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

12<sup>th</sup> A single bird was spotted by Lee Tiah Khee flying low at Changi, first record for the season.

**7. Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* (2)**

13<sup>th</sup> During his lunch break, Alfred drove to Lorong Halus and was surprised to find two immature Greater Spotted Eagles flying low over the drain. They then used the thermals to gain height and flew off towards Pasir Ris direction. This sighting beat the early extreme date of 25<sup>th</sup> October 1992 at Punggol.

**8. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (1)**

24<sup>th</sup> One perched on a lamp-post at Changi Coastal Road reported by Chung Cheong.

**9. Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* (2)**

18<sup>th</sup> First record for the season, one migrating SW over at SBWR by Martti Siponen.  
31<sup>st</sup> One seen flying south over Chinese Garden by Peter Jones.

**10. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (1)**

11<sup>th</sup> Danny Lau and Jia Sheng reported one at the summit of Bukit Timah in the evening, first record for the season.

**Unidentified Raptors (9)**

4<sup>th</sup> Two Sparrowhawk species were reported at SBWR Tower by Martti Siponen, one migrating and the other flying low.  
18<sup>th</sup> One Sparrowhawk species migrating SW seen at Tuas South by Martti Siponen.  
23<sup>rd</sup> An accipiter probably a Japanese Sparrowhawk flying over Chinese Garden reported by Peter Jones  
24<sup>th</sup> A raptor reported at Bidadari by Doreen Ang, Nessie and Ah Huay.  
31<sup>st</sup> Four Sparrowhawk species migrating SE and West at SBWR by Martti Siponen.

**Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (2)**

18<sup>th</sup> One was reported by Bird Race team at Sime Forest, a rare resident of the central catchment forest.  
26<sup>th</sup> Margie Hall reported one perched on a Persian Lilac Tree. Could be the same eagle returning to King's Avenue every year from Johore?

**Note:**

The numbers in brackets besides the bird name indicates the total number seen for this month. Different reports of the same raptors from the same area are discounted to prevent duplication. Many thanks to those who sent in their reports and especially to Martti Siponen and Sun CH for the use of their photographs.

## 26th Singapore Green Bird Race 2009

Reported by Kenneth Kee, Co-arbitrator Singapore Bird Race 2009



Ten teams participated in the 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore Green Bird Race 2009. There were two categories: Full Race (24hrs) and Sunday Race (10hrs). The Full Race started on 17<sup>th</sup> October at 1700hrs and ended on 18<sup>th</sup> October at 1700hrs. The Sunday Race started on 18<sup>th</sup> October at 0700hrs and ended on the same day at 1700hrs. For the first time, teams had to forego the luxury of private cars or taxis and use public buses and MRT instead or opt to race on bicycles.



Kick off of the 26<sup>th</sup> (Green) Singapore Bird Race at Dairy Farm Nature Park on 17 October 2009 By Sutari Supari



Participants in the 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore (Green) Bird Race at MacRitchie Reservoir on 18 Oct 09 By Sutari Supari

## Results

Position	Team Name	No. of Species
<b>Full Race</b>		
1	Pedal Power	106
2	Drongos	101
3	Malay Pot-bellied Laughing-thrushes	85
4	Orioles	63
5	Aquilas	38
<b>Sunday Race</b>		
1	Babblers	87
2	Falconets	76
3	Wildbirders	75
4	3 birders & 1 hot chick	52
5	The distracted Novices	28

The members of the Full Race winning team, *Pedal Power*, Lim Kim Chuah and James Heng were also the first team to record 100 species at 1534hrs, bringing home the Century Shield. Relying on their trusted bicycle and sheer human power, they pedalled all over the island covering Bukit Timah, Central Catchment, Mandai, Kranji, Sungei Buloh, Botanic Garden and right into Orchard Road. What a remarkable achievement!

The *Babblers*, comprising Lim Kim Seng and Yong Ding Li, winners of the Sunday Race, relied mainly on public buses and the MRT to cover the Central Catchment, Kranji and Sungei Buloh areas.

The prize for “Bird of the Day” was awarded to Team *Malay Pot-bellied Laughing-thrushes* led by Sutari Supari for the Silver-rumped Spinetail at Sime Forest, a rare non-breeding visitor to Singapore.

## Highlights

A total of 148 species or about 40 per cent of Singapore’s bird species were recorded by all teams at various locations. Of the 148 species recorded, about 99 (67%) were resident species, 46 (31%) were migratory and 3 (2%) were non-breeding visitors. Overall, 6 nationally near-threatened species, 15 nationally threatened species, 5 globally near-threatened species and 1 globally threatened species were recorded.

Some interesting species seen included the **Glossy Swiftlet**, **Little Grebe**, **Silver-backed Needletail**, **Brown-streaked Flycatcher**, **Hwamei** and **White-rumped Munia** (all at Dairy Farm), **Crow-billed Drongo**, **Forest Wagtail**, **Pied Imperial Pigeon** and **Silver-rumped Spinetail** (Sime Forest), **Red-wattled Lapwing** and **Common Snipe** (Warren grassland), **Dark-sided Flycatcher** (Sime Forest and Bt Batok), **Buffy Fish Owl** (Peirce Reservoir), **Red-legged Crane** (Hindhede), **Siberian Blue Robin** (Sime Forest and Bt Timah), **Eastern Crowned Warbler** (Kranji), **Indian Cuckoo** (Upper Thomson), **Broad-billed Sandpiper** and **Red-necked Stint** (Sungei Buloh), **Lesser and Wandering**

**Whistling Duck** (Botanic Garden) and our globally endangered **Straw-headed Bulbul** (Rifle Range, Jalan Asas and Dairy Farm).

Some interesting raptors sighted were the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** (Sime Forest and Bt Timah), **Osprey** (Mandai), **Japanese Sparrowhawk** (Sime Forest and Sungei Buloh), Peregrine Falcon (Bt Timah and Sime Forest), **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** (Neo Tiew), **Crested Serpent Eagle** (Sime Forest), **Black-winged Kite** (Warren grassland) and **Changeable Hawk-eagle** (various locations).

Congratulations to all the winners and participants. Thanks to our generous sponsors from Swarovski Optik and its agent Cathay Photo. Lastly to my co-arbitrator Alfred Chia for all the invaluable help.

Reported by Kenneth Kee  
Co-arbitrator  
Singapore Bird Race 2009

