



# SINGAPORE AVIFAUNA

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Masked Finfoot *Heliopais personata* at Upper Seletar Reservoir on 11 January 2010 by Lee Tiah Kee



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## Bird Report

January 2010

By Lim Kim Seng

### SINGAPORE HIGHLIGHTS

January 2010 marked the start of a new year and decade and there was much reason to celebrate among the local birding community as well.. Bird of the month easily went to a male **Masked Finfoot** that was present at Upper Seletar Reservoir Park between 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January and captivated hordes of birders and photographers. This was the third confirmed record for Singapore. Next up were a trio of raptors beginning with a **Jerdon's Baza** that turned up at Singapore Quarry on the 9<sup>th</sup>, potentially our tenth record, a single **Himalayan Vulture** that flew over MacRitchie Reservoir on 15<sup>th</sup>, potentially our sixth record, as well as two **Blyth's Hawk-eagles** at Kent Ridge Park on 30<sup>th</sup>, potentially our fifth post-war record.

However, the first bird to really excite the birding community was also a raptor, in this instance a juvenile **Oriental Hobby** reported flying over Kranji Dam and Sungei Buloh on the 4<sup>th</sup>, potentially the second record for Singapore. Elsewhere around the island, the Singapore Botanic Gardens remained a hotspot for rarities which included both **Blue-winged** and **Hooded Pittas** on the 1<sup>st</sup>, and a **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** was sighted at the Western Catchment, also on 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, a **Ruddy Kingfisher** was sighted at Venus Drive on the 18<sup>th</sup>, a **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo** at Bukit Batok on the 24<sup>th</sup>, two **White-faced Plovers** and a male **Pied Harrier** at Changi Cove on the 17<sup>th</sup>, a white morph **Booted Eagle** at Lower Seletar on the 24<sup>th</sup>, a female **Common Kestrel** (Changi Cove), **Malayan Night-Heron** (Botanic Gardens and Sungei Buloh), **Orange-headed Thrush** (Botanic Gardens), and **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** (Kranji Marsh). Also notable were high counts of 1,160 **Lesser Sand Plovers** from Sungei Mandai on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 22 **Sanderlings** at Changi Cove on the 17<sup>th</sup>, one of which was leg-flagged and showed that it had travelled over 4,000 km from its China stopover!

Although the month was dominated by migrants, resident species also featured well with a high count of 33 **Malaysian Plovers** recorded at Changi Cove on the 17<sup>th</sup> and our first record of **Cotton Pygmy Goose**, represented by two females at Kranji Marsh on the 29<sup>th</sup>, in recent years. Also notable was a breeding record of **Red-legged Crake** from Botanic Gardens.

### JOHOR HIGHLIGHTS

Newsworthy sightings came from two places: three **Black Kites**, two **Greater Spotted Eagle** and a count of 33 globally threatened **Lesser Adjutants** haunting the open fields of Sungei Balang on 31<sup>st</sup>, and a suite of interesting finds at Bunker Trail, Panti Forest Reserve, that included **Orange-backed Woodpecker**, **Grey-and-buff Woodpecker**,

**Red-naped Trogon, Lesser Fish Eagle, Dusky and Green Broadbills, Grey-bellied Bulbul, Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker and Red-throated Sunbird.**

**SUMMARY**

This report covers noteworthy bird sightings in January 2010 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 systematic follow K.S. Lim's (2009) "The Avifauna of 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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### **ABBREVIATIONS USED:**

BBNP	Bukit Batok Nature Park
BTNR	Bukit Timah Nature Reserve
CCNR	Central Catchment Nature Reserve
DFNP	Dairy Farm Nature Park
KM	Kranji Marsh
PFR	Panti Forest Reserve
SBWR	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve
SBG	Singapore Botanic Gardens
Sev obs	Several observers
TPNP	Tanjong Piai National Park

## **SINGAPORE**

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

8 seen at SBG on 2/1 (LKS).

### **COTTON PYGMY GOOSE** *Nettapus coromandelianus*

2 females seen flying over a freshwater pond at KM on 29/1 (LKS/DS) are the first report of this species for many years.

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

A female seen at SBG on 2/1 (LKS).

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

A pair seen at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS) and 30/1 (OEE/FW).

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

1 at Singapore Quarry on 1/1 (AW/EW), 1-2 heard at Eng Neo Avenue on 9/1(DA/NK/PAH/FR/IR), 1 seen at BBNP on 24/1 (WC), 3 seen in a fruiting Indian Rubber Tree at MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS) and 1 seen at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**COPPERSMITH BARBET** *Megalaima haemacephala*

New locality: 1 seen in a tree at Woodlands Crescent Park on 17/1 (LKS). Also 1 heard at Tractor Road on 12/1 (WCC) and 2 seen at MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**ORIENTAL DOLLARBIRD** *Eurystomus orientalis*

1 at Upper Seletar Reservoir Park on 10/1 (sev obs), 1 at MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS) and 1 at Jelutong Tower, CCNR, on 29/1 (LKS/DS). In addition, 4 birds were seen taking part in aerial feeding, possibly on termites, with a Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus* at Seletar Expressway and later 8 birds doing the same thing at Bukit Timah Expressway, both on 16/1 (TGC).

**COMMON KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

1 at Upper Seletar Reservoir on 10/1 (sev obs), 1 at SBWR on 24/1 (LKS/YM) and 1 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 30/1 (OEE/FW).

**STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER** *Pelargopsis capensis*

1 seen at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK), and 1 at SBWR on 24/1 (LKS/YM) and 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**RUDDY KINGFISHER** *Halcyon coromanda*

1 seen at Venus Drive on 18/1 (STYW) is the first reported for the year and an argument for wintering by this species.

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

1 seen at KM on 30/1 (OEE/FW).

**CHESTNUT-WINGED CUCKOO** *Clamator coromandus*

1 seen and photographed eating a caterpillar of the Privet Hawk Moth *Psilogramma menephron* at Western Catchment on 1/1 (DL). Also 1 at SBWR on 4/1 (CO/UR) and 1 at Eng Neo Avenue on 9/1(DA/NK/PAH/FR/IR).

**HODGSON'S HAWK-CUCKOO** *Hierococcyx nisicolor*

1 photographed at BBNP on 24/1 (WC).



Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo at BBNP on 24 January 2010 by Wing Chong

**INDIAN CUCKOO** *Cuculus micropterus*

1 adult female seen at SBWR on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**BANDED BAY CUCKOO** *Cacomantis sonnerati*

2 heard in an albizia tree at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 30/1 (OEE/FW).

**RUSTY-BREASTED CUCKOO** *Cacomantis sepulcralis*

1 juvenile seen at SBWR on 4/1 (CO/UR). Another was heard at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 30/1 (OEE/FW).

**LITTLE BRONZE CUCKOO** *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

1 seen in mangrove at SBWR on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**ASIAN DRONGO-CUCKOO** *Surniculus lugubris*

1 heard at BBNP on 24/1 (WC).

**CHESTNUT-BELLIED MALKOHA** *Phaenicophaeus sumatranus*

1 seen crossing Mandai Lake Road to Upper Seletar Reservoir on 10/1 (sev. obs.) and 1 at Wallace Trail, DFNP, on 14/1 (LKS).

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

100 birds counted at SBG on 2/1 (LKS), 2 over MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS) and 2 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

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

7 at Toh Tuck Woods on 4/1 (DA), 1 at Eng Neo Avenue on 9/1 (DA/NK/PAH/FR/IR), and 2 over MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**BARN OWL** *Tyto alba*

2 seen at Tanjong Rhu Road on 16/1 (LBW).

**COLLARED SCOPS-OWL** *Otus lempiji*

1 heard at Loewen Road on 16/1 (LBW), 1 seen and 3 more heard at Lower Peirce Reservoir on 16/1 (LBW) and 1 seen at Sime Trail, CCNR, on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**BUFFY FISH OWL** *Ketupa ketupu*

1 seen at Lower Peirce Reservoir on 16/1 (LBW) and 1 seen perched on an old building near a stream at Sime Trail, CCNR, on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**SPOTTED WOOD-OWL** *Strix seloputo*

1 seen and another heard at Loewen Road on 16/1 (LBW).

**BROWN HAWK-OWL** *Ninox scutulata*

2 seen at Lower Peirce Reservoir on 17/1 (LBW).

**LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus macrurus*

3 seen foraging over a cricket field at Loewen Road on 16/1 (LBW).

**COMMON EMERALD DOVE** *Chalcophaps indica*

1 at Upper Seletar Reservoir on 10/1 and 11/1 (sev obs), 1 at Wallace Centre, DFNP, on 24/1 (LC) and 1 at MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**MASKED FINFOOT** *Heliornis personata*

An adult male seen and photographed at Upper Seletar Reservoir Park on 9/1 (HK) constitutes the third confirmed record of this globally threatened species for Singapore. It was seen again on 10/1 (sev obs) and 11/1 (sev obs).

**RED-LEGGED CRAKE** *Rallina fasciata*

1 photographed at SBG on 1/1 (AW/EW). See also Nesting Report this issue.



Red-legged Crake at SBG on 1 January 2010 by Akihiko & Eiko Watanabe

**SLATY-BREASTED RAIL** *Gallirallus striatus*

1 seen at Eng Neo Avenue on 9/1(DA/NK/PAH/FR/IR) and 2 seen at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**WATERCOCK** *Gallixrex cinerea*

1 winter bird seen at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**PURPLE SWAMPHEN** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

3 seen, including an apparent juvenile, at KM on 30/1 (OEE/FW).

**COMMON MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

An immature bird was seen foraging in the freshwater pond at the SBWR visitor centre on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**PIN-TAILED SNIPE** *Gallinago stenura*

1 flushed at Tuas Grassland on 1/1 (AW/EW) and 1 at Eng Neo Avenue on 9/1(DA/NK/PAH/FR/IR).

**SNIPE** *Gallinago* spp.

2 unidentified snipes were seen along the roadside at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 30/1 (OEE/FW).

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

At SBWR, 70 were counted on 24/1 (LKS/YM) and 80 on 29/1 (LKS/DS). Also 235 counted at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK).

**COMMON REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*

At SBWR, 100 were counted on 24/1 (LKS/YM) and 50 on 29/1 (LKS/DS). Also 35 counted at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK).

**MARSH SANDPIPER** *Tringa stagnatilis*

6 were counted at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK). At SBWR, 1 was counted on 24/1 (LKS/YM) and 10 on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**COMMON GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

48 were counted at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK), 1 at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK), and 100 counted at SBWR on 24/1 (LKS/YM) and 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Tringa hypoleucos*

1 was counted at Kranji Marsh on 16/1 (ACh/LWH/WCC), 20 at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK), 3 at Ubin West on 16/1 (WF), 14 at Lower Seletar Dam on 17/1 (DA/LKS/MY), 4 at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK) and 3 at SBWR on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*

8 were counted at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK).



**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

22 were counted at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK). 1 member of this flock had a flag which showed that it was captured in Bohai Bay, China, in late July 2009; the distance between this site and Changi is 4,336 km with a bearing of 203 degrees (per DaL).



Flagged, Sanderling at Changi Cove on 17 January 2010 by Jimmy Chew

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

34 were counted at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK).

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea*

1 were counted at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK).

**PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis fulva*

70 were counted at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK) and 74 at SBWR on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola*

21 were counted at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK).

**KENTISH PLOVER** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

2 were counted at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK).

**WHITE-FACED PLOVER** *Charadrius dealbatus*

2 were counted at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK).

**MALAYSIAN PLOVER** *Charadrius peronii*

A high count of 33 was made at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK).

**LESSER SAND PLOVER** *Charadrius mongolus*

1,160 birds were counted at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK), 202 at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK) and 100 counted at SBWR on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**GREATER SAND PLOVER** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

1 was counted at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK).

**RED-WATTLED LAPWING** *Vanellus indicus*

12 were counted at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK).

**ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE** *Glareola maldivarum*

7 were counted at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK).

**SWIFT TERN** *Sterna bergii*

2 were seen off Lower Seletar Dam on 17/1 (DA/LKS/MY).

**OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

At SBWR, 2 were seen on 1/1 (DA/HFH/FR/IT/IR/AW/EW), 1 on 3/1 (BL) and 3 on 9/1 (PJ/MS). Also 1 at KM on 16/1 (ACh/LWH/WCC) and 27/1 (LTK), 1 at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK) and 1 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 24/1 (HF/MP). See Raptor Report this issue for more details.

**JERDON'S BAZA** *Aviceda jerdoni*

1 seen and photographed at Singapore Quarry on 9/1 (PJ/MS) constitutes the 10<sup>th</sup> record for Singapore if accepted by the NSS Bird Group Records Committee.

**BLACK BAZA** *Aviceda leuphotes*

At SBWR, 2 were seen on 1/1 (DA/HFH/FR/IT/IR/AW/EW), 4 on 9/1 (PJ/MS) and 6 on 24/1 (LKS/YM). Also 50 at Upper Jurong on 9/1 (MT), 6 at KM on 16/1 (ACh/LWH/WCC), 4 at Bt Serapong, Sentosa, on 23/1 (AC/WF), 5 over Lower Seletar Dam on 24/1 (DL/LJS), 1 over Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS), 14 at Singapore Quarry near Jalan Asas on 30/1 (UR) and 1 at Lower Seletar Reservoir on 31/1 (WC). See Raptor Report this issue for more details.

**CRESTED HONEY BUZZARD** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

1 was seen east of SBWR on 9/1 (PJ/MS), 1 over Lower Seletar Reservoir on 13/1 (WC) and 1 at Kent Ridge Park on 15/1 (LHP). See Raptor Report this issue for more details.

**BLACK KITE** *Milvus migrans*

1 was seen over Lower Seletar Dam on 24/1 (DL/LJS) and 30/1 (DL/LJS/TKH).

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

2 seen together at SBWR on 1/1 (DA/HFH/FR/IT/IR/AW/EW), 1 seen at Kranji Reservoir on 9/1 (HHC), 1 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 24/1 (HF/MP) and 1 seen with a fish at

MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS). Birds were also regularly seen at Singapore Quarry. See Raptor Report this issue for details.

**HIMALAYAN VULTURE** *Gyps himalayensis*

1 photographed flying over MacRitchie Reservoir on 15/1 (LF) would be the sixth record for Singapore if accepted by the NSS Bird Group Records Committee.

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

1 was seen at Mandai Road on 14/1 (AC), 1 at Springleaf Woods on 23/1 (DL/TKH) and 1 at SBWR on 23/1 (JS).

**EASTERN MARSH HARRIER** *Circus spilonotus*

A male was at Tuas South on 13/1 (MS). At Changi Cove, at least 4 counted on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK), 5 on 23/1 (NT) and a sub-adult male on 29/1 (LTK/LKC).

**PIED HARRIER** *Circus melanoleucos*

A male was seen at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK).

**CRESTED GOSHAWK** *Accipiter trivirgatus*

1 seen with an unidentified bird in its talons at Singapore Quarry on 23/1 (MS).

**CHINESE SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter soloensis*

A female at SBWR on 9/1 (PJ/MS). See Raptor Report this issue for more details.

**JAPANESE SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter gularis*

1 at SBWR on 3/1 (BL), 1 at Dairy Farm Road on 7/1 (LKS) and 1 at SBG on 29/1 (PJ). See Raptor Report this issue for more details.

**COMMON BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

2 at Changi Cove on 2/1 (CF/DL/LJS/TKH) and 2 at Changi Airport on 19/1 (NT). Also a dark morph seen over Bt Serapong, Sentosa, on 23/1 (AC/WF).

**BOOTED EAGLE** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

A pale morph seen and photographed over Seletar West on 23/1 (DL/TKH) and 24/1 (DL/LJS), and a pale morph and 2 dark morphs on 30/1 (DL/LJS/TKH).

**CHANGEABLE HAWK EAGLE** *Spizaetus cirrhatus*

A pair seen feeding on an unidentified prey item at Singapore Quarry on 3/1 (AOY), a pale morph bird at Toh Tuck Woods on 4/1 (DA), 1 dark morph at BBNP on 9/1 (WC), a pale morph bird at Sime Trail, CCNR, on 9/1 (WC), 1 seen at Upper Seletar Reservoir on 10/1 (sev obs), a dark morph at Singapore Quarry on 14/1 (LKS), a pale morph bird at KM on 27/1 (LTK), both a pale morph bird and dark morph bird seen circling over Wallace Education Centre, DFNP, on 28/1 (LKS), a bird heard calling at SBWR on 29/1 (LKS/DS) and a pale morph bird seen at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

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

2 birds were seen at Kent Ridge Park on 30/1 (HF). If accepted by the NSS Bird Group Records Committee, this would be the fifth recent record of this very rare raptor, which is probably a vagrant from Malaysia.

**COMMON KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

A female was seen at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK) and 29/1 (LTK/LKC).

**ORIENTAL HOBBY** *Falco severus*

A report of a juvenile seen flying at Kranji Dam and again at SBWR on 4/1 (CO/UR). If accepted by the NSS Bird Group Records Committee, this would be only the second record for Singapore.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** *Falco peregrinus*

1 at SBWR on 9/1 (PJ/MS), 1 flying over Lower Seletar Dam on 17/1 (DA/LKS/MY), 1 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS), 1 over KM on 27/1 (LTK) and 1 over Jurong East Avenue 1 on 30/1 (PJ).

**LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

4 were seen at Singapore Quarry on 14/1 (LKS).

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

5 were counted at Ubin West on 16/1 (WF), 48 at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK) and 16 birds on mudflats at Lower Seletar Dam on 17/1 (DA/LKS/MY). At SBWR, 41 were counted on 24/1 (LKS) and 25 on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

65 birds counted at Ubin West on 16/1 (WF), 38 at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK), 11 at Lower Seletar Dam on 17/1 (DA/LKS/MY) and 1 at Kranji Dam on 29/1 (LKS/DS). Also at SBWR, 3 were counted on 24/1 (LKS) and 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

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

1 was seen at Ubin West on 16/1 (WF).

**PURPLE HERON** *Ardea purpurea*

1 at Upper Seletar Reservoir on 10/1 (sev obs) and 1 at MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS). At KM, 2 were seen on 16/1 (Ach/LWH/WCC) and 1 on 30/1 (OEE/FW).

**GREAT EGRET** *Casmerodius albus*

11 seen at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK), 2 at Lower Seletar dam on 17/1 (DA/LKS/MY) and 1 at SBWR on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**YELLOW-BILLED EGRET** *Mesophoyx intermedia*

3 at Kranji Marsh on 16/1 (Ach/LWH/WCC), 1 at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK), 1 at Lower Seletar Dam on 17/1 (DA/LKS/MY), 1 at SBWR on 24/1 (LKS/YM) and 1 at Kranji Dam on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus ibis*

25 counted at Ubin West on 16/1 (WF).

**POND HERON** *Ardeola* sp.

1 at KM on 16/1 (ACh/LWH/WCC) and 5 at Sungei Mandai on 16/1 (DaL/LKK).

**MALAYAN NIGHT-HERON** *Gorsachius melanolophus*

A juvenile seen at SBG on 17/1 (JeL) and 18/1 (MP). Another juvenile was also photographed in a public carpark at SBWR on 18/1 (JG per DaL).

**YELLOW BITTERN** *Ixobrychus sinensis*

At KM, 10 were counted on 16/1 (ACh/LWH/WCC) and 1 on 30/1 (OEE/FW). Also 1 seen at Lower Seletar Dam on 23/1 (WC) and 1 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**HOODED PITTA** *Pitta sordida*

At SBG, 1 was seen on 1/1 (AW/EW), 2 were seen on 17/1 (JeL) and 1 on 23/1 (LKS/LWH/LWX/SA). 1 was seen hopping around in the carpark of a chemical plant on Jurong Island on 26/1 (TBC).



Hooded Pitta at SBG on 1 January 2010 by Akihiko & Eiko Watanabe

**BLUE-WINGED PITTA** *Pitta moluccensis*

1 photographed at SBG on 1/1 (AW/EW) and 1 heard at dawn at MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS).



Blue-winged Pitta at SBG on 1 January 2010 by Akihiko & Eiko Watanabe

**ASIAN FAIRY-BLUEBIRD** *Irena puella*

2 at Wallace Trail, DFNP, on 14/1 (LKS) and a male and a female at Venus Drive on 8/1 (STKW).

**TIGER SHRIKE** *Lanius tigrinus*

1 seen at Venus Drive on 3/1 (LTK/LKS), 1 catching and eating a praying mantis at Singapore Quarry on 3/1 (AOY) and 1 at Dairy Farm Quarry on 28/1 (LKS) and 30/1 (WC). All birds were immature.

**BROWN SHRIKE** *Lanius cristatus*

3 were seen at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**LONG-TAILED SHRIKE** *Lanius schach*

1 was seen at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**ASHY MINIVET** *Pericrocotus divaricatus*

10 were seen at Lower Seletar Reservoir on 31/1 (WC).

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

1 was seen catching and eating a forest cockroach at SBG on 18/1 (MP).

**ORANGE-HEADED THRUSH** *Zoothera citrina*

At SBG, 2 were seen on 16/1 (TKC), 1 on 17/1 (JeL) and 2 on 18/1 (MP).

**ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa dauurica*

1 at Venus Drive Trail on 3/1 (LKS), 2 at Venus Drive on 18/1 (STWS), 2 at MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS), and 1 at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS) and 30/1 (OEE/FW).

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

A pair at SBG on 23/1 (LKS/LWH/LWX/SA), 3 interacting birds seen at MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS), and 1 at SBWR on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

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

A female seen at Hillview Avenue on 1/1 (UR) was probably an escape. 1 was also heard at MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

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

3 seen flying over Lower Seletar Dam on 17/1 (DA/LKS/MY), an unknown number seen at Changi Cove on 17/1 (JC/AC/WF/DaL/LKK/TSK) and 1 over Woodlands Crescent park on 17/1 (LKS).

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

1 heard at SBWR on 4/1 (CO/UR), 1 seen at Eng Neo Avenue on 9/1 (DA/NK/PAH/FR/IR), 1 heard at Mandai Lake Road on 10/1 (sev obs), 2 at Venus Drive on 18/1 (STWS), and 4 seen at Dairy Farm Quarry on 28/1 (LKS).

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

3 seen at Lower Seletar Reservoir on 31/1 (WC).

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

3-5 birds were seen at BBNP on 10/1 and 24/1 (WC).

**ASHY BULBUL** *Hemixos flavala*

2 were seen at Wallace Trail, DFNP, on 14/1 (LKS).

**ORIENTAL WHITE-EYE** *Zosterops palpebrosus*

5 were seen at BBNP on 24/1 (WC).

**PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella certhiola*

1 was heard in dense reeds at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**ORIENTAL REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus orientalis*

2 seen in reeds at KM on 30/1 (OEE/FW).

**ARCTIC WARBLER** *Phylloscopus borealis*

1 was present at BBNP on 9/1 and 24/1 (WC), 2 seen at Venus Drive on 18/1 (STWS), 1 at Lower Peirce Reservoir on 28/1 (MN) and 1 seen at MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

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

1 was heard at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 30/1 (OEE/FW).

**COPPER-THROATED SUNBIRD** *Nectarinia calcostetha*

A pair was seen at SBWR on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

**LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER** *Arachnothera longirostris*

2 were seen at Dairy Farm Road on 7/1 and 28/1 (LKS). Also 1 at Venus Drive on 18/1 (STWS)

**FOREST WAGTAIL** *Dendronanthus indicus*

1 at Lower Seletar Reservoir on 23/1 (WC).

**YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava*

1 seen at KM on 16/1 (Ach/LWH/WCC)

**BAYA WEAVER** *Ploceus philippinus*

2 females were seen on reeds at KM on 30/1 (OEE/FW).

**BREEDING / NESTING REPORTS**

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

2 adults were observed tending to a juvenile in a dead tree at Choa Chu Kang Jewish Cemetery on 11/1 (AC). The adults brought food but did not chase away potential raiders such as White-vented Myna and Asian Glossy Starling nor did they protect the juvenile when it was harassed.

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

A pair was seen digging a nest hole on a dead tree next to Singapore Quarry on 3/1 (AOY).



**RED-LEGGED CRAKE** *Rallina fasciata*

A family of two adults and three chicks were seen foraging for food over 30 minutes at SBG on 30/1 (OEE/FW). FW writes, “Over that period, the adult caught earthworms on 2 occasions. The 1st time, it ran into the undergrowth and fed the earthworm to the chicks. The 2nd time, it fed itself with the earthworm. At around 7pm, 1 adult was seen uttering the typical territorial call, believe it's the male. The female will always utter some soft nasal contact notes to gather the chicks. The adults were tame but the chicks were more wary of human presence.”



Red-legged Crake family at Singapore Botanic Gardens on 30 January 2010 By Felix Wong

**BRAHMINY KITE** *Haliastur indus*

An adult was seen carrying a stick at MacRitchie Reservoir on 29/1 (LKS/DS) may have been nesting.

**WHITE-BELLIED SEA EAGLE** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

An adult was seen carrying nest material over Hume’s Heights on 3/1 (AOY).

**WHITE-VENTED MYNA** *Acridotheres javanicus*

1 collecting nest material at Woodlands Street 82 on 1/1 (LKS) and 1 adult seen with 2 juveniles at Yew Tew Point on 2/1 (LKS). Another seen collecting nest materials at Dairy Farm Road on 7/1 (LKS) and yet another seen emerging from a rooftop with possible faecal sac at Burgundy Drive on 19/1 (DA).

**OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD** *Nectarinia jugularis*

A pair was seen displaying to each other in mangrove at SBWR on 29/1 (LKS/DS). At one stage, the male was perched on a nest suspended just above the water. The male displayed by showing off his bright yellow pectoral tufts and bright metallic blue throat to the admiring female.

## REPORT ON ESCAPEES

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

3 males and 1 female were seen at Dairy Farm Road on 26/1 (LKP) and 1 heard at SBWR on 29/1 (LKS/DS).

### **PAINTED STORK** *Mycteria cinerea*

1 flying over Upper Seletar Reservoir on 11/1 (LKS).

## JOHOR

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

1 heard in mangrove at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

### **WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER** *Dryocopus javensis*

A male was seen on a dead tree at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

### **CHECKER-THROATED WOODPECKER** *Picus mentalis*

1 was seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

### **ORANGE-BACKED WOODPECKER** *Reinwardtipicus validus*

4 birds were seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM). 2 females, including an apparent juvenile, were also seen here on 31/1 (JaL et al).

### **GREY-AND-BUFF WOODPECKER** *Hemicircus concretus*

1 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

### **RED-CROWNED BARBET** *Megalaima rafflesii*

3 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

### **BLUE-EARED BARBET** *Megalaima australis*

A few heard at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

### **BROWN BARBET** *Calorhamphus fuliginosus*

A flock of 6 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

### **RED-NAPED TROGON** *Harpactes kasumba*

1 male seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

### **BANDED KINGFISHER** *Lacedo pulchella*

1 heard at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

### **BANDED BAY CUCKOO** *Cacomantis merulinus*

1 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**BLACK-BELLIED MALKOHA** *Phaenicophaeus diardi*

1 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**CHESTNUT-BELLIED MALKOHA** *Phaenicophaeus sumatranus*

1 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**BUFFY FISH OWL** *Ketupa ketupu*

1 flushed at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (JC/LKK).

**RED-WATTLED LAPWING** *Vanellus indicus*

5 seen at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

2 at Parit Jawa on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**COMMON REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*

80 counted at Parit Jawa on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**COMMON GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

1 seen at Parit Jawa on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**TEREK SANDPIPER** *Tringa cinerea*

50 counted at Parit Jawa on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**LESSER SAND PLOVER** *Charadrius mongolus*

About 50 at Parit Jawa on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**CRESTED HONEY BUZZARD** *Pernis ptilorhyncus*

1 seen flying over the Mersing-Kota Tinggi Road on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**BLACK KITE** *Milvus migrans*

3 seen at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**LESSER FISH-EAGLE** *Ichthyophaga humilis*

1 flying high over Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

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

2 were seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM), 1 feeding on unidentified prey at Bunker Trail on 31/1 (JaL et al) and 1 adult at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**JAPANESE SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter gularis*

1 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM) and 1 at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE** *Aquila clanga*

2 immatures of this globally threatened species were seen at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

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

1 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM) and 31/1 (JaL et al).

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

30 counted at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

10 counted at Parit Jawa on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL) and 1 at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**PURPLE HERON** *Ardea purpurea*

3 seen at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**GREAT EGRET** *Casmerodius albus*

3 seen at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**YELLOW-BILLED EGRET** *Mesophoyx intermedia*

20 counted at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus ibis*

About 50 seen at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**POND HERON** *Ardeola* spp.

30 birds seen at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL). All were in winter plumage.

**LESSER ADJUTANT** *Leptopilos javanicus*

6 counted at Parit Jawa on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL) and 33 at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**DUSKY BROADBILL** *Corydon sumatranus*

2 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**GREEN BROADBILL** *Calyptomena viridis*

1 male seen at Bunker Trail on 31/1 (JaL et al).

**LESSER GREEN LEAFBIRD** *Chloropsis cyanopogon*

2 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**TIGER SHRIKE** *Lanius tigrinus*

1 immature seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM) and 31/1 (JaL et al).

**DARK-THROATED ORIOLE** *Oriolus xanthonotus*

2 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**SCARLET MINIVET** *Pericrocotus flammeus*

A female seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**BLACK DRONGO** *Dicrurus macrocercus*

2 seen at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**GREEN IORA** *Aegithina viridissima*

1 at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

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

10 seen at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

**GREY-BELLIED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus cyaniventris*

2 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**SPECTACLED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus simplex*

2 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**SOOTY-CAPPED BABBLER** *Malacopteron affine*

1 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**CHESTNUT-RUMPED BABBLER** *Stachyris maculata*

3 seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**SCARLET-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER** *Prinophilus thoracicus*

A male at Bunker Trail on 31/1 (JaL et al).

**RED-THROATED SUNBIRD** *Anthreptes rhodolaema*

1 male seen at Bunker Trail on 24/1 (LKS/YM).

**YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava*

3 seen at Sungei Balang on 31/1 (DL/LL/LKC/LKS/LWW/YDL).

## Singapore Raptor Report Spring Migration, January 2010

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong

### SUMMARY

Compared with previous years, January 2010 was a good month with 196 raptors from 14 migrant species reported. Amazingly, this number is almost thrice the total number (66) reported last month when 9 migrant species were reported. Black Bazas continued to be the most numerous at 130 birds, with a flock of 50 reported by Mike Tan at Upper Jurong. Oriental Honey Buzzards came in second in terms of numbers with a total of 27. Three migrant species were recorded for the first time this season. January 2010 also marked the month when a good haul of 3 rare sedentary (resident/non-breeding visitor) raptors were reported.



Jerdon's Baza with snake in talons at Singapore Quarry on 090110, by Martti Siponen



Himalayan Vulture, juvenile, in flight at MacRitchie on 150110, by Leslie Fung

### Highlights for migrant species

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month, a rare **Jerdon's Baza** was seen by Peter Jones and Martti Siponen at Singapore Quarry. It was even photographed flying with a green snake (likely an Oriental Whip Snake)! This enigmatic species is distributed disjointedly across India and Southeast Asia. Little is known about the nature of its movements. Following an

advisory of 7 Himalayan Vultures for Thailand in December 2009 by Chaiyan of the Thai Raptor Group, a lone **Himalayan Vulture** was finally seen and photographed by Leslie Fung at MacRitchie on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. On the same day at Tuas, 4 huge raptors whose size and wing position recalled vultures in glide were seen but they were gone before Martti Siponen could retrieve his binoculars for a thorough identification. There are only a small number of records for this rare scavenger and most of the previous sightings have been in the month of January as well. Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng and Tan Kok Hui reported the first sightings, this season, of the uncommon **Black Kite** at Seletar West. Thus, the 3 migrant species recorded for the first time this season are Jerdon's Baza, Himalayan Vulture and Black Kite.

Seletar West seems to be the favoured wintering area for **Booted Eagles**, with a total of 3 reported by Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau and Lau Jia Sheng. Over at Changi Cove, a single female **Common Kestrel** first reported by Alfred Chia & pals and again 12 days later by Lee Tiah Kee & Lim Kim Chuah added to the month's highlights. Alfred Chia & pals also recorded the lone **Pied Harrier** sighting for this month at Changi Cove.

### Highlights for sedentary species

For the sedentary species, it was an exciting month with 3 rare species reported. The first rarity was a **Crested Goshawk** seen and photographed in flight on 23 Jan 2010 by Martti Siponen at Singapore Quarry. It was carrying an avian prey in its talons! Also on 23 Jan 2010, the second rarity, the **Crested Serpent Eagle**, was reported at different locations indicating that 2 individuals were present. One was seen at Springleaf by Danny Lau and Tan Kok Hui while the other was seen at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve by John Spencer. The third rarity was not one but 2 **Blyth's Hawk-eagles** seen at Kent Ridge on 30 Jan 2010 by Horst Flotow while walking his dog! This is only the fifth record for this species in Singapore. They are rare non-breeding visitors and may be dispersants from Johor.

A one-day count of 4 **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** (1 adult, 2 second/third year birds and 1 juvenile) at one location – Singapore Quarry – may represent the highest density at a single location ever reported for this species. With a good count of 18 **Changeable Hawk-eagles**, we hope that this species will continue to thrive in Singapore. However, the population of **Black-winged Kites** seems to have reduced, with only 6 individuals of this formerly very common species reported this month.

**Table 1**

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	7			
2	Jerdon's Baza	1		<b>Residents / Sedentary Species</b>	
3	Black Baza	130	15	Black-winged Kite	6
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	27	16	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	11
5	Black Kite	1	17	Crested Serpent Eagle	2
6	Himalayan Vulture	1	18	Crested Goshawk	1
7	Eastern Marsh Harrier	6	19	Changeable Hawk-eagle	18
8	Pied Harrier	1	20	Blyth's Hawk-eagle	2

9	Chinese Sparrowhawk	3			
10	Japanese Sparrowhawk	6			
11	Common Buzzard	3			
12	Booted Eagle	3			
13	Common Kestrel	1			
14	Peregrine Falcon	6			
<b>Total for Migrants</b>		<b>196</b>			
				<b>Unidentified</b>	
21	Unidentified Raptors		8		
22	Unidentified <i>Accipiters</i>		2		
			<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>246</b>	

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

### 1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (7)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, morning	Doreen Ang, Ho Fee Hian, Ian & Freda Rickword, Ivy Tan, Eiko & Akihiko Watanabe
1	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, afternoon	Sunny Yeo
2	1	Neo Tiew Lane	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui, Con Foley
9	3	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve / Johor Straits	Peter Jones & Martti Siponen
16	1	Kranji Bund, 2 sightings probably of the same bird	Wong Chung Cheong
16	1	Mandai	David Li & Lim Kim Keang
16	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Kenneth Kee, Jeremy Lewis & Amanda
20	1	Western Part of Singapore, bird seen fishing in the late evening	Mike Tan
24	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Mick Price & Horst Flotow
27	1	Kranji Reservoir	Lee Tiah Kee
30	2	Seletar West	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
30	1	Kranji Marsh Walk	Sreedharan G.
31	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, morning, mobbed by Large-billed Crows	See Toh

### 2. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
9	1	Singapore Quarry, seen flying with a snake in its talons.	Martti Siponen & Peter Jones



		<p><i>“Today when birding at Singapore Quarry with Pete Jones we noticed a raptor carrying a snake circling above us at 13:30. I got some shots before it was landing to one tree on other side of the quarry. From the photos we got the working identification of Jerdon's Baza. Didn't have any books with us.</i></p> <p><i>After one hour it took back to the wings and I got some more shots. It disappeared to the direction of Bukit Batok.”</i></p>	
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**3. Black Baza** *Aviceda leuphotes* (130)

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
1	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, morning	Doreen Ang, Ho Fee Hian, Ian & Freda Rickword, Ivy Tan, Eiko & Akihiko Watanabe
1	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, afternoon	Sunny Yeo
2	7	Changi Cove	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui, Con Foley
2	1	Singapore Quarry	Martti Siponen
3	11	Jurong Lake, morning	Sunny Yeo
9	2	Saddle Club, Eng Neo Avenue	Doreen Ang, Nessie Khoo, Peng Ah Huay, Ian & Freda Rickword
9	4	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Peter Jones & Martti Siponen
9	50	Upper Jurong, the flock was seen flying towards Lim Chu Kang Cemetery	Mike Tan
10	10	Singapore Quarry, leaving the forest at 8.50am heading west	Martti Siponen
11	8	Jalan Bahtera	Alfred Chia
12	1	Kranji Expressway, single bird in flight, 10.15am	Tan Gim Cheong
13	1	West Coast	Low Choon How
15	1	Kent Ridge Park	Lam Hon Pui
15	5	West Coast Park	Henry Koh
16	6	Kranji Bund, afternoon, riding on thermals	Wong Chung Cheong
16	3	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Kenneth Kee, Jeremy Lewis & Amanda
18	6	Bidadari, noontime	Fang Sher Chyet

23	1	Springleaf	Tan Kok Hui & Danny Lau
23	4	Serapong, Sentosa	Alfred Chia & Willie Foo
23	3	Chinese Garden, 10am	Fang Sher Chyet
23	1	Evolution Garden, Singapore Botanic Gardens	Sreedharan G.
23	1	Singapore Botanic Gardens, morning	Martti Siponen
23	1	Choa Chu Kang Cemetery	Alfred & Avian Chia
24	5	Seletar West	Danny Lau & Lau Jia Sheng
27	1	Kranji Reservoir	Lee Tiah Kee
27	2	Kranji Expressway, overflight at 5.15pm	Martti Siponen
29	11	Choa Chu Kang, 7pm, flying just above trees	Tan Gim Cheong
30	7	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng & Con Foley
30	7	Seletar West	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
30	14	Jalan Asas to Singapore Quarry, early morning, suspected roosting site	Ulf Remahl
31	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, morning	See Toh

**4. Oriental Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (27)



Oriental Honey Buzzard, dark morph, blind in right eye, at West Coast, by Chris Lee

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	4	Bidadari	Con Foley

2	4	Changi Cove, 1 pale morph adult, 1 pale morph juvenile, 1 dark morph adult and 1 dark morph immature	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui, Con Foley
2	1	Singapore Quarry	Martti Siponen
6	1	Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5, pale morph, 2pm	Fang Sher Chyet
9	1	East of Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Peter Jones & Martti Siponen
10	1	Upper Seletar Reservoir, light morph adult, soaring	Tan Gim Cheong
10	2	Simpang	Tan Kok Hui
10	1	Aljunied Park, OHB being chased by a crow at 6.30pm	Lena Chow
15	4	Alexandra Road, 5.45pm	John Spencer
17	1	Chinese Garden, pale morph	Fang Sher Chyet
17	1	Choa Chu Kang Avenue 4	"vbs1979"
23	1	West Coast, dark morph adult, blind on right eye	Chris Lee
23	1	West Coast, pale morph, afternoon	Henry Koh
23	1	Chinese Garden	Low Choon How
30	2	Seletar West, 1 pale morph and 1 dark morph	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
30	2	Kent Ridge	Horst Flotow
30	1	Serangoon Gardens Estate	Wong Loong Tat

### 5. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
24	1	Seletar West	Danny Lau & Lau Jia Sheng
30	1	Seletar West	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

### 6. Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
15	1	MacRitchie Reservoir, with photo. <i>"pic was taken at MacRitchie park multi-storey car park at about 1130am, 15/1/10. It was seen flying southwards and somewhere above Caldecott Hill turned and overflew me as I was walking to my car heading east. The weather was overcast and windy. No other observers as I was alone. No noticeable behaviour, just gliding along.....it was over very quickly."</i>	Leslie Fung

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

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
13	1	Tuas South, 1 male hunting over the fields, 4.30-5pm	Martti Siponen
17	4	Changi Cove	Alfred Chia, Lim Kim Keang, David Li, Willie Foo, Jimmy Chew, Siew Kwang
23	5	Changi Cove, mid-morning, 1 adult and 4 immatures	Nicholas Tan
29	1	Changi Cove, sub-adult male	Lee Tiah Kee & Lim Kim Chuah



Nicholas Tan  
Eastern Marsh Harrier, male, in flight at Changi Cove on 23 Jan 10, by Nicholas Tan

**8. Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucos* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
17	1	Changi Cove, male	Alfred Chia, Lim Kim Keang, David Li, Willie Foo, Jimmy Chew, Siew Kwang

**9. Chinese Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter soloensis* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Changi Cove, adult	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny

			Lau, Tan Kok Hui, Con Foley
9	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, female	Peter Jones & Martti Siponen
30	1	Seletar West, adult male	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

**10. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (6)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Changi Cove, juvenile	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui, Con Foley
9	2	Kent Ridge Park, a smaller- sized Jap Sparrowhawk attacked a larger-sized one.	Alan OwYong
9	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Peter Jones & Martti Siponen
10	1	Simpang	Tan Kok Hui
29	1	Botanic Gardens	Peter Jones
30	1	Botanic Gardens, morning	John Spencer

**11. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (3)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	2	Changi Cove	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui, Con Foley
19	2	Changi Airport, noon	Nicholas Tan
23	1	Serapong, Sentosa, dark morph	Alfred Chia & Willie Foo

**12. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* (3)**



Booted Eagle, dark morph, at Seletar West, by Danny Lau



Booted Eagle, pale morph, at Seletar West, by Lau Jia Sheng

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
23	1	Seletar West, 1 pale morph	Tan Kok Hui & Danny Lau
24	1	Seletar West, 1 pale morph	Danny Lau & Lau Jia Sheng
30	3	Seletar West, 1 pale morph and 2 dark morph	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

**13. Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (1)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
17	1	Changi Cove, female	Alfred Chia, Lim Kim Keang, David Li, Willie Foo, Jimmy Chew, Siew Kwang
29	1	Changi Cove, female	Lee Tiah Kee & Lim Kim Chuah



Common Kestrel, female, at Changi Cove on 290110, by Lee Tiah Kee

**14. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (6)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
9	1	East of Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Peter Jones & Martti Siponen
17	1	Lower Seletar Dam	Lim Kim Seng, Doreen Ang &

			Margaret Yeo
21	1	Sengkang, perched on HDB flat	Jase Foo
21	1	Tuas South, 8.50am	Martti Siponen
23	1	Seletar West, <i>japonensis</i>	Tan Kok Hui & Danny Lau
27	1	Kranji Reservoir	Lee Tiah Kee
30	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng & Con Foley
30	1	Seletar West, <i>japonensis</i>	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
30	1	Jurong East Avenue 1	Peter Jones



Peregrine Falcon at Kranji Reservoir on 270110, by Lee Tiah Kee

### Resident raptors

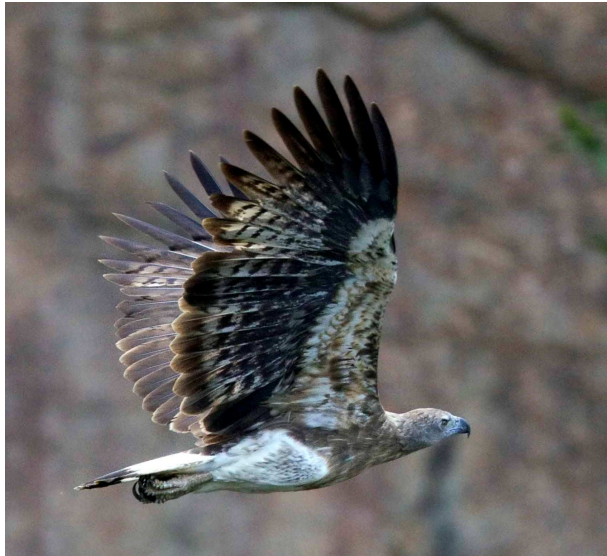
Note: For resident raptors, the counts for the 2 very common resident raptors – Brahminy Kite and White-bellied Sea Eagle were not tabulated.

### 15. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (6)

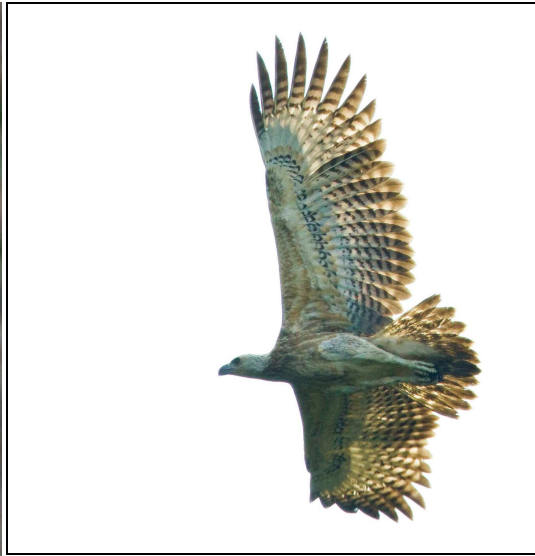
Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
9	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, morning	Peter Jones & Martti Siponen
9	1	Singapore Quarry, afternoon	Peter Jones & Martti Siponen

30	2	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Sreedharan G.
30	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Con Foley
30	1	Seletar West	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
31	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, mobbed by bigger unidentified raptor	See Toh

**16. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* (11)**



Grey-headed Fish Eagle, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> year bird at Singapore Quarry, by Martti Siponen



Grey-headed Fish Eagle, juvenile, at Singapore Quarry, by Martti Siponen

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, morning, 2 perched together	Doreen Ang, Ho Fee Hian, Ian & Freda Rickword, Ivy Tan, Eiko & Akihiko Watanabe
1	1	Poyan, mobbed by 2 White-bellied Sea Eagles	Danny Lau
2	2	Singapore Quarry, 1 adult and 1 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> year bird	Martti Siponen
9	1	Singapore Quarry, 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> year bird	Peter Jones & Martti Siponen
10	2	Singapore Quarry, noon, 1 adult and 1 immature	Sunny Yeo, with Martti Siponen
10	4	Singapore, 1 adult, 2 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> year bird, 1 juvenile	Martti Siponen
10	1	Mandai Lake, afternoon, perched high on tree	Sunny Yeo
12	1	Upper Seletar Reservoir, morning, perched on tree	Alfred Chia
23	1	Springleaf, adult	Tan Kok Hui & Danny Lau



23	1	Singapore Quarry, adult	Tan Kok Hui & Danny Lau
23	1	Singapore Quarry, adult	Martti Siponen
24	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Mick Price & Horst Flotow
28	1	National Junior College	Yong Ding Li
30	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, heard only	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng & Con Foley
31	2	Singapore Quarry	Martti Siponen

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

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
23	1	Springleaf, adult	Tan Kok Hui & Danny Lau
23	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, morning.	John Spencer

**18. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (1)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
23	1	Singapore Quarry, in flight, with avian prey in talons	Martti Siponen



Crested Goshawk with prey in talons at Singapore Quarry on 230110, by Martti Siponen

**19. Changeable Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus* (18)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	3	Poyan	Danny Lau

2	2	Changi Cove	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui & Con Foley
2	3	Singapore Quarry, 1 pale morph, 1 dark morph, 1 juvenile	Martti Siponen
9	1	Saddle Club, Eng Neo Avenue, chased by a lone crow	Doreen Ang, Nessie Khoo, Peng Ah Huay, Ian & Freda Rickwood
9	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Peter Jones & Martti Siponen
9	1	Singapore Quarry, pale morph	Peter Jones & Martti Siponen
10	1	Bukit Batok Nature Park, morning	Sunny Yeo & Wing Chong
10	1	Singapore Quarry, dark morph, noon	Sunny Yeo
10	2	Singapore Quarry, 1 dark morph & 1 pale morph	Martti Siponen
23	2	Singapore Quarry, heard only	Tan Kok Hui & Danny Lau
23	1	Seletar West, dark morph	Tan Kok Hui & Danny Lau
23	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, dark morph	John Spencer
24	4	Singapore Quarry, 2 dark morph & 2 pale morph	Martti Siponen
26	1	Tengah Air Base, pale morph	Avian Chia
27	1	Krani Reservoir, pale morph	Lee Tiah Kee
29	2	Dairy Farm, 1 dark morph & 1 pale morph	Ben Lee
30	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, pale morph adult	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng & Con Foley
30	1	Seletar West, pale morph adult	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
30	1	Pulau Semakau, dark morph	Lee Ee Ling
31	3	Singapore Quarry, 1 pale morph, 1 dark morph, 1 juvenile	Martti Siponen

## 20. Blyth's Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus alboniger* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
30	2	Kent Ridge <i>“Around 11AM saw one hawk coming over the tree-line and start thermalling up. Quite pale underneath with some barring, slate greyish black on top, the tail had one prominent black band across, with the tip of tail (1-2 cm)</i>	Horst Flotow

		<i>being pale. I reckon Blyth's Hawk-eagle, seen it plenty of times before (in Malaysia). A few minutes later it was joined by a second individual</i>	
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**21. Unidentified Raptors (8)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
1	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, morning	Doreen Ang, Ho Fee Hian, Ian & Freda Rickword, Ivy Tan, Eiko & Akihiko Watanabe
15	4	Tuas. <i>"I ... had an interesting sight of a flock of 4 big raptors sliding over my Tuas working place at about 11:45am on Friday the 15th. I was just at our car park but didn't have my binoculars with me. With bare eyes I immediately got the feeling of vultures due the size, wing position as griffon vultures in glide (slightly arched wings with moderately drooping hand as Dick Forsman describes in his excellent book), no wing beats at all."</i>	Martti Siponen
23	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, morning. <i>"one unidentified Kite, all dark, upper view only as it quickly vanished over the trees heading East. Could have been a young Brahminy but it didn't look right, would have called it a Black Kite if they were common, but the view was too brief to be sure."</i>	John Spencer
26	1	Holland Rise, probable Oriental Honey Buzzard	Yong Ding Li
31	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, unidentified eagle	See Toh

**22. Unidentified Accipiters (2)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
24	1	Seletar West	Danny Lau & Lau Jia Sheng
28	1	National Junior College, probable Chinese Goshawk	Yong Ding Li

**Note**

*The numbers in brackets beside the bird names indicates the total number seen for this month. Different reports of the same raptors from the same area have been discounted to prevent duplication. Many thanks to those who have sent in their reports and especially to Martti Siponen, Leslie Fung, Chris Lee, Nicholas Tan, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng and Lee Tiah Kee for the use of their photos.*

## Further Notes on the Foraging Behaviour of Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* in Singapore

By Gloria Seow, Tan Gim Cheong and Lim Kim Seng

### Introduction

The Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* is resident in Australia and Tasmania and migrates throughout Australia through to New Guinea, Wallacea, Greater Sundas and Southeast Asia, with a single outlying record from Christmas Island (Wells 1999). It is a rare migrant to mainland Southeast Asia (Robson 2009), with all known records from its southern extreme, viz. Singapore and Peninsular Malaysia (Lim 2008a, b). A summary of the ten acceptable records in Singapore was provided by Lim (2008a, b).

On 14 June 2009, Gloria Seow and Timothy Pwee observed an adult bird at Tuas Grassland (1° 20'N, 103° 39'É), in western Singapore (Figure 1). Following this sighting, Tan Gim Cheong observed the same bird on 16 and 20 July 2009, thereby recording the longest stay by this species from the previous record of seven days to the new record of 37 days. On all dates, observations were made of the foraging behavior of the lone bird, an adult. Studies of photographs taken in June and July indicate that the bird is probably the same individual.



Figure 1: Adult Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* at Tuas Grassland on 14 June 2009 (Gloria Seow)

### Foraging Behaviour

GS and TP first found the bird at Tuas Grassland on 14 June 2009 at 11h15. They had spent the morning birding there, and were about to leave when the bird dropped in at the site – a cluster of Acacias *Acacia auriculiformes* in the middle of an uneven grassy field. Here, it hunted for caterpillars at close range, never more than 6 m from them. At times, it came as close as 2 m,

always staying near or on the ground, giving them an unparalleled opportunity for some easy camera action with a 100-400mm lens (Figures 2 & 3). When it did fly up to a tree to feed, it was never more than 2.5 m above their heads (since the tree was not a tall one anyway).

It appeared to prey exclusively on caterpillars and nothing else, catching about four to five of the larvae in 25 minutes of observation.



Figure 2 Adult Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* feeding on a caterpillar of the Tawny Coster Butterfly *Acraea violae* picked from the ground at Tuas Grassland on 14 June 2009 (Gloria Seow)



Figure 3 Adult Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* feeding on a caterpillar of the Tawny Coster Butterfly *Acraea violae* near the ground at Tuas Grassland on 14 June 2009 (Gloria Seow)

The hunting technique of the cuckoo is worth elaborating. It would angle its head to gaze upwards at the undersides of leaves where caterpillars usually hide, wearing a somewhat quizzical expression (Figure 4). Upon spotting its prey, it would use its beak to stab-grab the caterpillar, flinging the squirming mass vigorously from side to side to kill it. Then it would swallow its meal whole.



Figure 4: Adult Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* hunting for caterpillars on an Acacia tree at Tuas Grassland on 14 June 2009 (Gloria Seow)

On 16 July 2009, TGC visited the site and found the cuckoo at 10h00. It was perched on an Acacia tree, at eye level. Unfortunately, the bird flew off when he raised his camera to attempt a photograph. It landed about 5 m up in the crown of a tree about 50 m away. Despite further searches, it was not relocated.

On 20 July 2009, at 11h45, at an area 200 m from his 16 July 2009 sighting, TGC saw the same bird perched low, scanning its surroundings. On this occasion, the bird was tamer and he managed to shadow the bird as it foraged. Perhaps it was more concerned about finding food. It was observed to fly from tree to tree, sometimes returning to the same tree and it kept to within approximately 100 m from where it was first encountered. Hunting from a low perch, it caught nine prey items in about 1.5 hours (Figure 5). Most of the prey were small hairy caterpillars, with at least one small centipede. Scanning from a low perch, it would sometimes tilt its head to have one eye looking at the ground and the other eye pointing into the sky. When it found something, it would drop to the ground to capture the prey. All of the prey was taken from the ground. After catching the prey, it would either remain on the ground or fly to a low perch. It would shake the prey from side to side several times before swallowing them whole. There were no attempts to wipe away the 'hairs' on the hairy caterpillars.

### Catch rate and type of prey

Prey items were observed on 14 June and 20 July 2009. A maximum of 5 caterpillars were eaten in 25 minutes, or a catch rate of one prey every five minutes in June 2009, and nine prey items in 90 minutes, or a catch rate of one prey every 10 minutes in July 2009. The change in catch rate may have been caused by a reduction in prey population, as it foraged almost exclusively within a 400 m radius of its original site of discovery. All prey items were consumed after vigorous shaking.

Of the maximum of 14 prey items captured, 13 were butterfly larvae. The caterpillars have been confirmed to be Tawny Coster Butterfly *Acraea violae* (family Nymphalidae), a widespread native of the Indian Subcontinent (Kehimkar 2008). It apparently naturally established in Singapore in 2006 and is now locally common in grasslands, parks and gardens (Gan & Chan 2007). The Tawny Coster is a butterfly that parasitizes *Passiflora foetida* creepers. It is also most likely to be the caterpillars Doreen Ang, Lim Kim Chuah and Lim Kim Seng observed being consumed at Changi Beach Park in July 2008 (Lim 2008).

The 14<sup>th</sup> prey item was an unidentified small centipede. The only other prey identified in Singapore is the caterpillar of another butterfly, the Lemon Emigrant *Catopsilla pomona* (Lim 2008).



Figure 5: Adult Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* feeding on a caterpillar of the Tawny Coster Butterfly *Acraea violae* at Tuas Grassland on 20 July 2009 (Tan Gim Cheong)

## Conclusion

This is the eleventh record of Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo for Singapore and the first from the western end of mainland Singapore. It is also the longest documented stay by this species, totalling up to 37 days, or a full month longer than the previous record of 7 days, suggesting that birds spend their winter in Singapore. This report also confirms the prey item first observed in Singapore in July 2008. Observations on its foraging behavior in June and July 2009 show that it has a consistent affinity for foraging on or near the ground. Interestingly, this record, like the previous ten records, was also within one km of the sea (Lim 2008a) and implies that coastal scrub may be a preferred habitat.

## Acknowledgements

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