

## Singapore Raptors Report Autumn Migration, October 2008

### Summary :

This year's records for October were a surprise when compared to last year. To be fair, we only started collecting the records in the middle of the month in 2007. Many of the migrant raptors reported this month were not expected. We had an impressive total of 11 species of migrant raptors which to my best estimate came up to 59 raptors. 17 **Oriental Honey Buzzards** formed the largest group followed by **Black Bazas** with 11 counted. Ding Li had an early arrival for the **Common Kestrel** flying over at Jalan Boon Lay on the 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. Kok Hui and Danny Lau spotted our first **Chinese Sparrowhawk** on the 11<sup>th</sup> at Lower Pierce after reports of thousands over at Thailand. The **Osprey** seemed to have taken the Kranji area as their favourite haunt with the first report on the 16<sup>th</sup> by Ramakrishnan. Later on the 25<sup>th</sup>, another one was reported there by Doreen, Kim Seng & Chung Cheong during the bird race. Other teams also spotted this bird flying over Sungei Buloh and Neo Tiew. A single **Peregrine Falcon** was observed by Ee Ling at downtown Capital Square on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with a wonderful video clip of the bird tearing a pigeon apart. This was followed by sightings at Thomson, Kranji, and later at Changi and Hume Heights.



*Common Buzzard by Jimmy Chew taken at Changi Cove on the 26<sup>th</sup> October graced this month cover.*

A single **Japanese Sparrowhawk** was reported by Krishnan at Kranji Nature Trail on the 16<sup>th</sup> and by 26<sup>th</sup> there were more sightings across the island. The first **Black Baza** was spotted and photographed by Ben Lee at Bukit Batok West on the 25<sup>th</sup>, followed by a small flock of 8 birds thermaling over Sime forest the next day. We had an early **Common Buzzard** on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Lorong Halus seen by Kim Seng, Doreen and Chung Cheong. The second was reported at its favourite haunt at Changi during the bird race on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The bird was still around the next day, seen and photographed by Kim Keang & Jimmy Chew. Those who went to Changi Cove for the Bird Race were rewarded with 3 Harriers species, the common **Eastern Marsh**, and a surprised find, a **Northern (Hen) Harrier**. Gim Cheong and Con Foley got the first **Black Kite** of the season at Changi on the 31<sup>st</sup> Oct.

### **Oriental Honey Buzzard (17)**

1	5 <sup>th</sup>	One pale morph was photographed at Turf Club	KC Tsang
2	11 <sup>th</sup>	Three thermaling over Lower Pierce Reservoir	Kok Hui & Danny
3	16 <sup>th</sup>	A total of 5 Buzzards were reported at Kranji Nature Trail	Ramakrishnan
4	19 <sup>th</sup>	One reported over MacRitchie Reservoir	Kim Seng/ Doreen/ Chung Cheong
4	24 <sup>th</sup>	One seen on rooftop Goodluck Gardens, Toh Tuck Road	Daniel Ng
5	25 <sup>th</sup>	One seen at King's Avenue Garden	Margie Hall
6	26 <sup>th</sup>	One was reported at Sime, Bt Batok, Adam & Punggol.	Bird Race
7	27 <sup>th</sup>	One reported at Kent Ridge Park	KC Tsang

### **Black Baza (11)**

- 25<sup>th</sup> First record of this migrant raptor reported by Ben Lee at Bukit Batok West.  
 26<sup>th</sup> 8 birds seen on thermals near Jelutong Tower at 915am at Sime Forest by Kim Seng, Doreen & Chung Cheong. First Black Baza flock for the season.  
 26<sup>th</sup> We also had a report of the Black Baza at Lorong Halus during the bird race.  
 29<sup>th</sup> One reported over at Admiralty Park by Kok Hui

### **Japanese Sparrowhawk (8)**

- 16<sup>th</sup> Ramakrishnan of Sungei Buloh reported a single bird flying over Kranji Nature Trail. This is the first report for the season.  
 23<sup>rd</sup> One crash-landed and died at Sixth Avenue reported by Ashley Ng.  
 25<sup>th</sup> One seen diving into the bush at Sungei Buloh visitor center pond by Kim Seng & Doreen  
 26<sup>th</sup> Mike Hooper reported two at Marina East.  
 26<sup>th</sup> This Accipiter was reported at Sime Forest, Sungei Buloh, Neo Tiew, Halus, Punggol, Seletar Camp and Changi by various teams at the Bird Race.

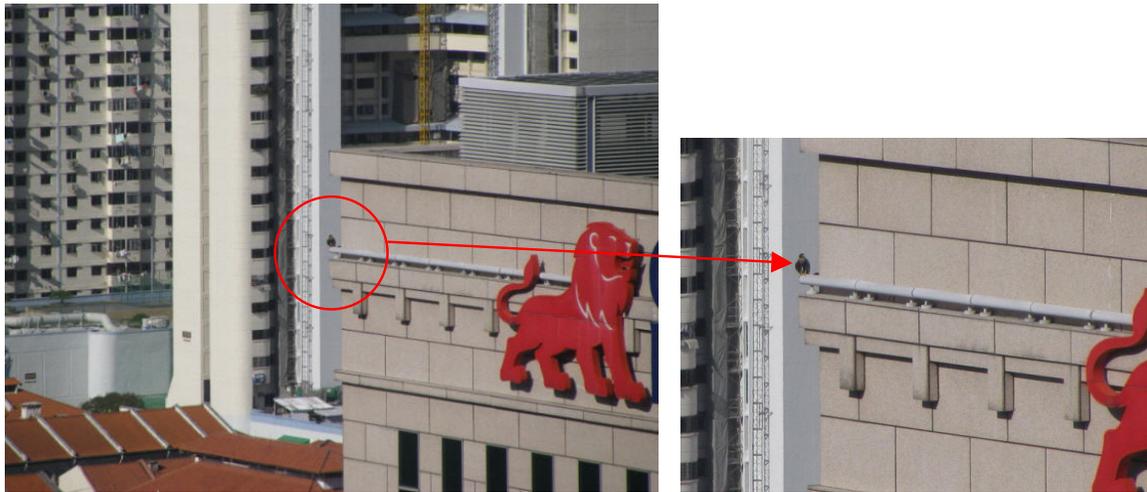
### **Chinese Sparrowhawk (5)**



*Chinese Sparrowhawk by KC Tsang*

- 11<sup>th</sup> Two were seen thermaling over Lower Pierce Reservoir by Kok Hui and Danny. First record of this accipiter after thousands being reported in Thailand.  
 26<sup>th</sup> Mike Hooper reported one perched low on a tree at Marina East. One bird was seen flying at MacRitchie Reservoir in the late morning by Kim Seng, Doreen & Chung Cheong  
 27<sup>th</sup> KC Tsang photographed an adult perched at Kent Ridge Park.

## Peregrine Falcon (5)



*Peregrine Falcon by Ee Ling at downtown central business district!*

- 7<sup>th</sup> Lee Ee Ling photographed one perched at the corner of Great Eastern Center on the 10<sup>th</sup>. This Peregrine of race *ernesti* was first seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> at Capital Square.
- 10<sup>th</sup> One reported by Chung Cheong flying above the PUB station at Neo Tiew Lane 2.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Piet Opstaele saw one flying past United Square at Thomson Road. This may be the same Peregrine seen by Ee Ling extending its range outside the Central Business District.
- 19<sup>th</sup> KC and Amy Tsang photographed a migrant *Japonensis* race perched on the BBC Towers at Turut Track.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Myron also reported one at Turut Track but did not indicate the race.
- 25<sup>th</sup> One was seen by Kim Seng, Doreen & Chung Cheong perched on the BBC towers at Neo Tiew Lane 2.
- 26<sup>th</sup> One was reported during the Bird Race at Changi.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Doreen reported one sitting on the TV Towers at Hume Heights, one of the favorite perches of this falcon. The bird reported earlier by Ee Ling at Capital Square was still around perching at various ledges feeding on pigeons. Check out her wonderful video clip at youtube here : [www.youtube.com/watch?v=OODZC\\_qfFwM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OODZC_qfFwM)

## Common Kestrel (1)

- 6<sup>th</sup> Ding Li reported a rufous brown Falcon flapping its wings at an open field along Jalan Boon Lay near Civil Defense Academy.

## Osprey (4)

- 16<sup>th</sup> Ramakrishnan reported a pair at Kranji Nature Trail.
- 25<sup>th</sup> One seen perched on the wire at Turut Track by Myron Tay. Likely to be the same Osprey in the area.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Sighting of two birds at Mandai mud flats and one at Neo Tiew Lane 2 by Kim Seng, Doreen & Chung Cheong. Another was reported flying past Sungei Buloh during the bird race.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Wing Chong reported an individual at Upper Pierce Reservoir.

## **Common Buzzard (2)**



- 19<sup>th</sup> One seen being mobbed by Black-winged Kite at Lorong Halus by Kim Seng, Doreen & Chung Chong.
- 26<sup>th</sup> One seen and counted for the Bird Race at Changi Cove.
- 27<sup>th</sup> A single Common Buzzard perched on a casuarina tree going into Changi Cove. Seen and photographed by Lim Kim Keang & Jimmy Chew. Should be the same buzzard.

*Common Buzzard by Jimmy Chew*

## **Harrier Species**



*Eastern Marsh Harrier(F) by Kim Chuah*



*Eastern Marsh Harrier(M) by Kim Chuah*

- 26<sup>th</sup> Teams covering Changi Cove during the Bird Race reported two Eastern Marsh and a Northern Harrier. This is the first record for the Northern Harrier for quite a long time.
- 31<sup>st</sup> One Eastern Marsh Harrier was also reported by Gim Cheong & Con Foley at Changi.

## **Black Kite (1)**

- 31<sup>st</sup> One seen by Gim Cheong & Con Foley at Changi, the first of the season.

## RESIDENT RAPTORS

### Summary:

Both the **White-bellied Sea Eagles** and **Brahminy Kites** as expected topped the list with 17 and 16 birds recorded. This was followed by 9 **Changeable Hawk-eagles**, confirming the healthy population of this nationally threatened *spizaetus*. This number was very similar to those recorded for September confirming a stable population. The **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** was still seen around our central catchment reservoirs. Chung Cheong had the second record for the **Crested Serpent Eagle** with a sighting of one flying over Sime Forest on the 1<sup>st</sup> October.

### White-bellied Sea Eagle (17)

1	1 <sup>st</sup>	Two perched and one circling low at Kranji Nature Trail	Margaret Yeo
2	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Two circling over Hort Park towards Telok Blangah	John Spencer
3	4 <sup>th</sup>	Two juvenile reported at Chinese Gardens near MRT	Ah Huay
4	10 <sup>th</sup>	One adult above PUB station at Neo Tiew Lane 2	Chung Cheong
5	10 <sup>th</sup>	One at the Japanese Gardens	Gim Cheong
6	11 <sup>th</sup>	An adult and one juvenile perched at Lower Pierce	Kok Hui & Danny
7	12 <sup>th</sup>	An adult was photographed at Admiralty Park	K.C.Tsang
8	13 <sup>th</sup>	One immature flying with fish at Japanese Gardens	Gim Cheong
9	16 <sup>th</sup>	One flying over NUS	Gim Cheong
12	16 <sup>th</sup>	One was seen flying over Kranji Nature Trail	Ramakrishnan
10	19 <sup>th</sup>	Two reported at Sungei Buloh	Sunny Yeo
11	19 <sup>th</sup>	Two seen over at Turut Track	KC & Amy Tsang
13	20 <sup>th</sup>	A flock of 5 juveniles and 2 adults over Kranji Dam	James Heng
14	24 <sup>th</sup>	One photographed perched on Albizia @ Blackmore Rd.	Seow Boon Quey
15	25 <sup>th</sup>	One at Bukit Batok NP	Ben Lee
16	25 <sup>th</sup>	One at Turut Track	Myron Tay
17	26 <sup>th</sup>	Reports from Kranji, Sungei Buloh, Halus and Botanics	Bird Race
18	27 <sup>th</sup>	One reported at Upper Pierce Reservoir	Wing Chong

### Brahminy Kite (16)

1	1 <sup>st</sup>	One seen flying over Hindhede N Park	John Spencer
2	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Three flying over Hort Park to roost at Kent Ridge	John Spencer
3	4 <sup>th</sup>	Three were seen at the Chinese Gardens near MRT	Ah Huay
4	10 <sup>th</sup>	One adult above PUB station at Neo Tiew Lane 2	Chung Cheong
5	11 <sup>th</sup>	Two sunning themselves on a tree at Lower Pierce	Kok Hui & Danny
6	10 <sup>th</sup>	One reported at the Japanese Gardens	Gim Cheong
7	13 <sup>th</sup>	One flying over Japanese Gardens	Gim Cheong
8	16 <sup>th</sup>	One adult and one juvenile seen at Kranji Nature Trail	Ramakrishnan.
9	19 <sup>th</sup>	Two seen at Sungei Buloh	Sunny Yeo
10	25 <sup>th</sup>	One at Turut Track	Myron Tay
11	25 <sup>th</sup>	One reported at Bt Batok N Park	Ben Lee
12	26 <sup>th</sup>	One reported at Sungei Buloh and another at Sime forest	Bird Race
13	27 <sup>th</sup>	One reported at Kent Ridge Park	KC Tsang
14	31 <sup>st</sup>	A few at Changi	Gim Cheong & Con

### **Changeable Hawk-eagle (9)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> A pale morph reported by John Spencer at Hindhede Park
- 5<sup>th</sup> KC Tsang photographed one flying at the Turf Club.
- 9<sup>th</sup> A juv pale morph seen by Doreen Ang & Ivy Tan from the lookout point at Bt Batok.
- 11<sup>th</sup> One heard at Lower Pierce by Kok Hui and Danny.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Two were reported by Ramakrishnan at Kranji Nature Trail.
- 20<sup>th</sup> A pale morph was photographed by Alan OwYong at Keppel Club mobbed by crows.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Ben Lee photographed a pale morph with a deformed leg at Bt Batok NPark.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Myron Tay reported one at Turut Track.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Ben Lee also had one at Bukit Batok West.
- 26<sup>th</sup> A pale morph adult seen and heard at MacRitchie Reservoir by Kim Seng, Doreen & Chung Cheong.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Reported by bird race teams at Sime Forest, Neo Tiew, Bt Batok and Bt Timah.

### **Black-winged Kite (4)**



- 19<sup>th</sup> KC and Amy Tsang reported two at Turut Track
- 25<sup>th</sup> Myron Tay reported one at Turut Track
- 26<sup>th</sup> One was reported at Seletar Camp during the bird race
- 31<sup>st</sup> A few at Changi reported by Gim Cheong and Con Foley

*Black-winged Kite by KC Tsang*

### **Grey-headed Fish Eagle (2)**

- 5<sup>th</sup> One was photographed at Lower Pierce by KC Tsang.
- 19<sup>th</sup> One heard at MacRitchie Reservoir by Kim Seng, Doreen & Chung Cheong.
- 26<sup>th</sup> A lone adult seen and heard all morning at MacRitchie Reservoir by Kim Seng, Doreen & Chung Cheong. Reported by other bird race teams too.

### **Crested Serpent Eagle (1)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> An individual heard and seen flying over Jelutong Tower at Sime Road by Chung Cheong.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Chung Cheong again reported hearing the call of an individual at Upper Pierce Reservoir.

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

*Compiled by Alan OwYong from reports sent in to the WildbirdSingapore Forum  
Edited and layout by Kenneth Kee. Many thanks to the numerous contributions and reports from the birders.  
Special appreciation to KC Tsang, Ee Ling, Kim Chuah and Jimmy Chew for the use of their photos.*