

Singapore Raptor Report Autumn Migration, October 2009

Summary:

The surprised find for the month were the two **Greater Spotted Eagles** at Lorong Halus by Alfred Chia on 13th during his lunch break. His record was earlier than the one recorded on the 25th 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 12th by Lee Tiah Khee; a **Chinese Sparrowhawk** at Bukit Timah Summit on 11th reported by Danny Lau and Jia Sheng and a **Grey-faced Buzzard** migrating southwest on 18th 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 24th. 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 31st, 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	Oriental Honey-buzzard	42	6	Eastern Marsh Harrier	1
2	Japanese Sparrowhawk	15	7	Greater Spotted Eagle	2
3	Osprey	8	8	Common Buzzard	1
4	Peregrine Falcon	5	9	Grey-faced Buzzard	2
5	Black Baza	4	10	Chinese Sparrowhawk	1
				TOTAL	89

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

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

- 9th Lim Kim Seng reported one over at SBWR
10th Kim Seng also recorded one flying over at Pulau Ubin
14th One over at National Junior College (NJC) by Ding Li
15th A probable male was seen circling low over the grassy areas at Chinese Garden by Peter Jones
16th Could be the same OHB at NJC again by Ding Li
18th Three reported migrating SW and West at Tuas South by Martti Siponen
18th One at Sime Forest and another at Upper Bukit Timah recorded at Bird Race.
19th One over British Council at Napier Road seen by Ding Li.
19th One reported at Holland Village migrating south by Martti Siponen.
23rd Two were seen over at the Chinese Garden by Peter Jones.
24th An immature was photographed perched on an Albizia tree at Bidadari by Doreen Ang, Nessie and Ah Huay.
24th One over at Rifle Range by Danny Lau and Kok Hui
24th One over at Jurong Lake area reported by Lau Soo Yen
25th Peter Jones flushed an adult female dark morph at Chinese Garden.
25th 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)
28th A dark morph at King's Avenue by Margie Hall
31st One over at Kent Ridge Park by Horst Flotow.
31st A very interesting report by Mike Bush of 15 seen over at Thomson Road's nursery row.
31st A single bird was reported migrating NW at SBWR by Martti Siponen.

2. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (15)

- 4th One spotted circling above Changi Coast by Alan OwYong
4th Two seen at SBWR by Martti Siponen
9th Lim Kim Seng reported one at the Botanic Garden
11th Another one by Kim Seng but this time over at MacRitchie Reservoir
18th One bird each at Sime Forest and SBWR during the Bird Race
25th One was seen circling above Mt. Imbiah at Sentosa by Ali Jaffar and Sunny Yeo.
25th A male was seen hunting across the Chinese Garden by Peter Jones.
25th Another four were seen hunting en-route by Peter Jones from his condo window opposite Chinese Garden MRT.
31st One was seen flying south by Peter Jones at the Chinese Garden vicinity.
31st A single low flying seen at SBWR by Martti Siponen

3. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (8)

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

4. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (5)



Peregrine Falcon at Bishan by Sun CH.

- 9th One was reported perched on the telecom tower at Pulau Ubin by Doreen Ang
- 11th Peter Jones reported one migrating high over the Chinese Garden
- 14th 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.

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

5. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (4)

- 31st 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)

- 12th 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)

- 13th 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 25th October 1992 at Punggol.

8. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (1)

- 24th One perched on a lamp-post at Changi Coastal Road reported by Chung Cheong

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

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

10. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (1)

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

Unidentified Raptors (9)

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

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (2)

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

** 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.*

Compiled by Alan OwYong from reports sent in to the WildbirdSingapore e-forum.

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