

Singapore Autumn Raptor Migration - Early Arrivals July - September 2011 (including June 2011).

Summary:

It should come as no surprise for the **Oriental Honey-buzzard** and **Osprey** to make it into the list of “early arrivals” since these two species are historically recorded every month of the year. For the migratory *orientalis* subspecies of the Oriental Honey-buzzard, <The Avifauna of Singapore> by Lim K. S. (2009) states the extreme dates as 10 Sep (for arrival) and 26 Apr (for departing); while <An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Singapore> by Wang & Hails (2007) has the same ‘early date’ but a later ‘late date’ – 22 May. The summer records were attributed to the resident *torquatus* subspecies.

The late date of the *orientalis* subspecies had already been broken in May 2011 with a pale individual seen and photographed on 31 May 2011. It is fortunate that the all the 3 OHBs reported in June this year were photographed. They were deemed to be juveniles and at least the two birds on 22 and 26 June, which had mostly uniformly worn flight feathers, were of the *orientalis* subspecies. The 5 June bird also appears to be of the *orientalis* subspecies. The ‘late date’ is therefore extended to 26 June, a whopping 35 days! These are the first sightings to indicate probable over-summering by the juveniles of the *orientalis* subspecies of the OHB, since it may be unlikely for these bird to attempt to migrate north at such a late stage. Another OHB photographed on 27 Aug was also of the *orientalis* subspecies, but an adult in various stages of moult. This record sets the ‘early date’ back by 14 days.

The single **Black Baza** recorded during the Fall Migration Bird Census on 11 Sep at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve set a new ‘early date’ for the species and beat the early dates in both Lim K. S. (2009) which has the date as 5 Oct and Wang & Hails (2007) which indicates the date as 20 Sep. The **Japanese Sparrowhawk** is the other early arrival with 3 recorded.

For the residents, the notable record was a **Crested Serpent Eagle** seen several times at Malcolm Road area.

1. Osprey

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| 17 Jun | 1 seen flying around at Singapore Quarry at 9:25am by Ulf Remahl. |
| 3 Jul | 1 seen at Mandai estuary during the Mid Year Bird Census by Lim Kim Keang & David Li |
| 17 Jul | 1 seen at Kranji Nature Trail by Danny Lau. |
| 9 Sep | 1 seen at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve by Tan Kok Hui. |
| 17 Sep | 1 seen at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve by Alan OwYong, Tan Hang Chong, Gerard Francis, Vina, Daniel Goh and Holstrom. |
| 18 Sep | 1 juvenile seen at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve by Jean-Marc CHAVATTE. |

2. Black Baza

- 11 Sep 1 recorded at SBWR during the Fall Migration Bird Census by Horst Flotow, Estella Flotow & Leow Lea Fang.
 "1 Black Baza being hassled by a crow was seen from the main hide around 8:15 am."

3. Oriental Honey Buzzard

- 5 Jun 1 juvenile pale morph photographed by "allnt".
22 Jun 1 juvenile pale morph (*orientalis*) flying over Lorong Halus, photographed by Lee Tiah Khee.
26 Jun 1 juvenile pale morph (*orientalis*) photographed at Tuas by Francis Yap.

27 Aug 1 barred adult seen at Kranji Marsh by Raj Krishnan & Angelia Teng.

11 Sep 2 recorded during the Fall Migration Bird Census.

4. Japanese Sparrowhawk

- 11 Sep 2 recorded during the Fall Migration Bird Census. 1 of them at Pulau Ubin, by Ben Lee.
Sep 1 photographed in Sep by Cheah Weng Kwong.

5. Un-identified Sparrowhawk

- Sep Wong Wan Shin saw a sparrowhawk attacking other birds at Bidadari in Sep.

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong from various e-fora and direct emails.